

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – February 2004

1. *Take Care - Corporate Environmental Projects (Nigel Clarke; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Stephanie Weller; Richard Morgan, Jo Fagan and Francie Pedersen)*

Each year the Department plans and runs a minimum of five events for businesses and other large organisations, such as government departments, to get involved in caring for the environment. Two of these have occurred in the last six weeks. On 27 February a group from the Environmental Risk Management Agency did a day's work re-vegetating a wetland in the Horokiri Stream catchment (near Pauatahanui).

A second group from Schering Plough spent a day working on the Silverstream railway Hulls Creek care group site on 19 March. This group mulched and in-fill planted a previously revegetated area alongside the stream.

2. *Take Action (Eleanor Phillips; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan;)*

Term 1 Schools doing *Take Action* are Featherston Primary, Taita Central School, and Plateau School from Upper Hutt. With the disruption caused by rain and flooding in February, many of the trails had to be re-scheduled and, with that, the remaining school meetings and action projects. However, the team dealt with this very well and worked hard to meet the schools' needs, with the result that all classes will complete their action projects on schedule. The weather was a test for our health and safety procedures and I am pleased to say the procedures worked perfectly.

Featherston School has been working on action projects based around creating native gardens within the school grounds. Some children are also setting up worm bins, writing articles for the local newspaper or 'Elements' and doing litter surveys.

Taita Central School are planting native trees in the school grounds, setting up a worm bin, doing a litter clean up, painting a mural, writing newsletters, a play and doing a car wash demonstration.

Plateau School students are setting up a recycling scheme once they have done a waste audit. The school's recent gala had an environmentally friendly focus with waste being recycled

A stream side clean up and planting close to the school site is planned for next term. Staff and students will encourage the school's neighbours to bring their garden waste to the school to compost, instead of the current practice of dumping it on the stream side.

Students are also altering the school bushwalk and adding signs to inform visitors about native flora and fauna.

3. Coastal Dune Vegetation Network Conference (Jo Fagan; Nigel Clarke)

This conference was held at Te Papa during 10-13 March. It was organised by Jo and Nigel, along with staff from the Parks and Forests Department. The conference provided an opportunity to showcase the dune restoration work being done in the Region and by care groups supported by Greater Wellington. Some of our care group members attended the conference and were able to learn from the practical demonstrations, others' experiences, as well as a number of more scientific papers. The conference was the largest ever for the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network, of which Greater Wellington is a partner, and was very well received.

4. Appointment

I am pleased to say that Catherine Pates has joined the Department as an environmental educator on the Take Action programme. Catherine trained as an art teacher and is passionate about environmental education.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – March 2004

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plans (Murray McLea)

The draft changes to the Regional Coastal Plan that relate to noise in the port area (to be consistent with upcoming changes in the Wellington City Council District Plan) are still on hold. The City Council wished to adopt their inner city noise plan change before progressing the port noise plan change.

Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan is being drafted. It is the final step in setting minimum flows and water allocation for the Mangatarere Catchment. A non-statutory Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment was approved by the Rural Services Wairarapa Committee on 2 February 2004. Approval for statutory notification of Plan Change 2 will be sought from the Policy, Finance, and Strategy Committee at its 20 April 2004 meeting.

1.2 Coastal Matters (Stephen Karaitiana)

The moratorium on marine farming applications, which was to expire on 25 March 2004, is being extended to 31 December 2004. As a result of local government concerns, an Aquaculture Working Group has been established to look at the policy, legislation and implementation of the aquaculture reforms. Greater Wellington is a part of this group which includes the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Conservation and local government representatives.

We received 10 submissions on our aquaculture discussion document. A paper recommending a way forward is being prepared for the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

The foreshore and seabed issue was the subject of a recent Councillor workshop. Oceans Policy work is on hold as a result of the Governments proposals for consultation on the foreshore and seabed. The Oceans Policy Secretariat is unable to confirm a timetable for this work at this time.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

Greater Wellington organised and ran a national wetland symposium in partnership with Action Bio-Community and the National Wetland Trust. Over 100 people attended *Restoring Wetlands – a practical forum* and the feedback has been very positive. The National Wetlands Trust are now looking to hold a similar event every two years.

The weather is causing delays to in implementing the Wetland Incentives Programme. While the occasional flood is good for wetlands, weed control work requires fine weather and low water levels.

2.2 Freshwater (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

Riparian Management Strategy: A booklet, *Mind the stream*, is nearly ready for publication. It has information about how to look after the margins of urban and rural streams with streamside planting. Urban Streams: Work on urban streams planned for this year has been delayed due to the amount of rainfall in February and March. Work is now planned to be carried out during April and May in streams in the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast.

2.3 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)

A study on the beaches and estuaries of Wellington Harbour and Cook Strait is currently being undertaken as the final part of work on the three year case study *Our Harbour, Our Strait*. A paper on this project will be reported back to the next meeting of the Committee, including a recommended way forward with this programme.

2.4 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

A number of internal workshops have taken place to look at the process, structure and content of the next state of the environment report (2005) and how this will lead into the review of the Regional Policy Statement.

3. Iwi matters (Rawiri Faulkner)

Ara Tahī last met on 24 March. The Ara Tahī meeting scheduled for Friday 20 February was cancelled because of flooding.

Current projects are:

- Taranaki Whanui Iwi Management Plan;
- Wellington Tenth Trust GIS project;
- Whakarongotai water monitoring project;
- Rangitaane o Wairarapa GIS project

4. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)

Work continues on the development of the Internet portal for hazard information – one of the main recommendations from our user needs analysis.

Rylee has given a number of talks to school children about hazards, and has also been updating the information displayed at Te Papa about hazards.

We have recently received a copy of the national coastal hazards survey that looked into peoples knowledge about and preparedness for a variety of natural hazards - erosion and tsunami etc. A report on the findings will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

5. Other (John Holmes)

Greater Wellington hosted a meeting of Energy Wise Regional Councils in late January, in collaboration with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). The meeting sought to uncover ways that regional (and unitary) authorities might act both as role models for more sustainable energy management and provide guidance for other agencies and businesses on good practice.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report - March 2004

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

The Resource Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

19 January 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks, Centre Ridge
21 January 2004	Rainfall: Wainui, Wayne's Mistake, Orongorongo Swamp, TVL, Seton Nossiter Park Water level: Leonard Wood Park, Birchville, Porirua, Te Marua, Mangaroa, Waiwhetu, Manuka Track
27 January 2004	Rainfall: Kaitoke
1 February 2004	Rainfall: Wayne's Mistake, Horokiri Water level: Porirua.
4 February 2004	Rainfall: Kapakapanui:
10 February 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks
11 February 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks, Cemetery, Waikanae, McIntosh, Kapakapanui, Oriwa, Warwicks, Transmission Lines, Taungata, Otaki Depot, Kaitoke Water level: Otaki, Te Marua, Waikanae, Birchville, Cemetery, Waitohu, Mangaone.

12 February 2004	Rainfall: Orongorongo Swamp, Cemetery, Te Marua, Seton Nossiter Park. Water level: Te Marua, Cemetery, Mangaroa, Taita Gorge.
14 February 2004	Rainfall: Orongorongo Swamp, McIntosh.
15 February 2004	Rainfall: Orongorongo Swamp, Wainui. Water level: Leonard Wood Park, Manuka Track, Waiwhetu, Porirua, Birchville, Te Marua, Mangaroa, Otaki.
16 February 2004	Rainfall: TVL, Taungata, McIntosh, Cemetery, Otaki depot, Te Marua. Water level: Waikanae, Waitohu, Taita Gorge, Mangaone, Cemetery.
17 February 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks, Orongorongo Swamp, Kapakapanui. Water level: Porirua, Waikanae, Birchville.
19 February 2004	Rainfall: Cemetery, Horokiri, Waikanae, Kaitoke. Water level: Waikanae.
20 February 2004	Water level: Cemetery, Taita Gorge, Mangaroa, Porirua, Te Marua.
28 February 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks, Kapakapanui, Horokiri, Kaitoke, Taungata, McIntosh, Oriwa. Water level: Porirua, Birchville, Otaki.
2 March 2004	Rainfall: Seton Nossiter Park.
17 March 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks.

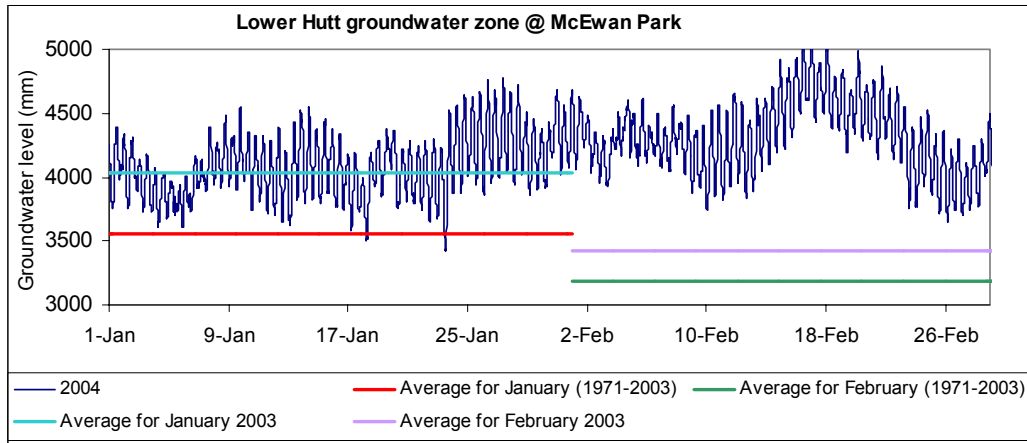
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

The aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore during January was above the long-term average for January, but was similar to January 2003 (see graph below). However, aquifer pressure increased in the middle of February, when a decline usually occurs. The levels in February were well above the long-term average for February, and significantly higher (about 1 metre higher) than February last year. Although aquifer pressure has declined slightly since the peak of the rainfall in the middle of February, levels for March are still significantly higher than usual for this time of year.



Kapiti Coast

The relatively dry spring and start of summer meant that groundwater levels in the deep monitoring bore on the Hautere Plain were slightly below average during January. However, with the extremely high rainfall during February, levels have now recovered and are currently just above average for this time of year (mid March), and about 900 mm above the level at this time last year.

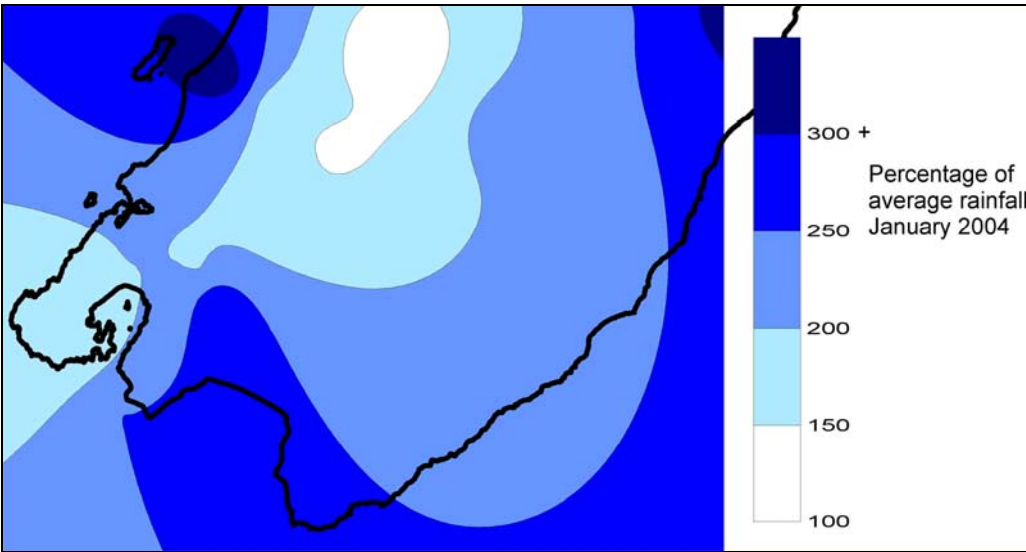
2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Throughout January and February 2004 the weather was unsettled, with an unusually high number of depressions developing to the south and intensifying as they passed over New Zealand. The result was several storm events that caused flooding, wind damage, and landslides in the Wellington Region. A hydrological summary of the main storms during February can be found in report 04.144; monthly summaries of the rainfall and river flows are below.

Rainfall

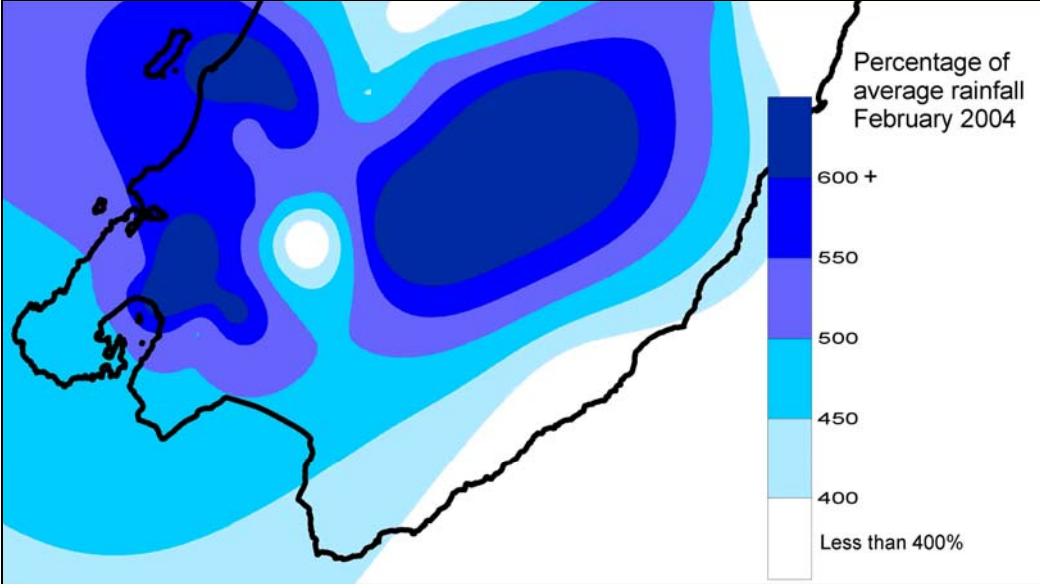
All parts of the Region received above average rainfall during January (Figure 1). Wellington city, Porirua, the Hutt Valley and central Wairarapa received one-and-a-half to two times the average rainfall for the month. The Kapiti Coast and parts of the eastern Wairarapa hill country were even wetter, with rainfall being about three times the average January total. However, rainfall in the Tararua ranges was only slightly above usual for the month. Although January's weather was unsettled throughout, much of the rainfall for the month was received during a storm event between 19 and 21 January.

Figure 1: Rainfall received during January 2004 as a percentage of usual January rainfall



After a wet January, February was even wetter. Some parts of the Region (Waikanae, Lower Hutt, Orongorongo, central Wairarapa plains, and parts of the eastern Wairarapa hills) received more than six times the usual rainfall for February (Figure 2). At all our rainfall stations this February was the wettest on record. Records go back to 1969 in Waikanae, 1956 in Wellington and eastern Wairarapa, 1890 in Wainuiomata, and 1879 in Karori.

Figure 2: Rainfall received duration February 2004, as a percentage of usual February rainfall



River flows

The well-above average rainfall during January and the record high rainfall for February resulted in much higher river flows than usual in all our monitored

rivers. This meant that all rivers had flows well above their minimum flows, avoiding the need for water restrictions this summer. For example, by the end of January the base flow in the Waikanae River was about three times higher than the flow at the same time last year.

A heavy rainfall event between 19 and 21 January resulted in a 5-year return period flood in the Wainuiomata River and elevated flows in all other rivers in the western Wellington Region. During February there were three storms that resulted in high river flows; these were on 11-12 February, 15-16 February and 19 February. The hydrology of the largest event (15-16 February) is summarised in report 04.144.

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

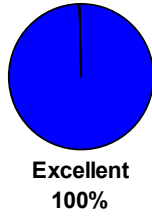
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the Past Two Months at Upper Hutt

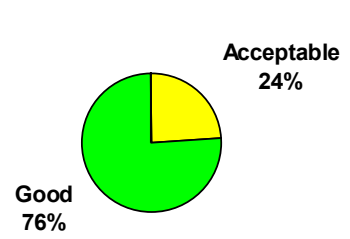
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

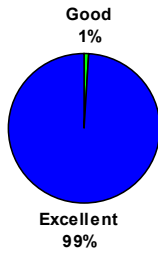


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

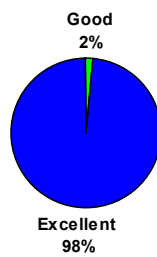


Results for the Past Two Months at Lower Hutt

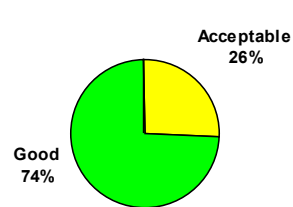
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt

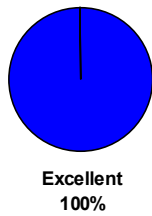


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt



Results for the Past Two Months at Masterton

8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton

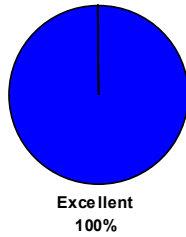


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



Results for the Past Two Months at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



3. Pollution control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Chatham Island's Seafoods Ltd. Decision

We have recently received a decision from the Environment Court relating to the appeal of an abatement notice and infringement notice issued to Chatham Islands Seafood's Ltd. for unauthorised works in a wetland on Orongorongo Station.

The Court upheld both our notices and directed the appellant to comply with the abatement notice and to pay the infringement fee.

The course of this hearing provided clarification of the meaning of "diversion" under the RMA. The interpretation made by the court means that the act of excavating a hole in a wetland to create a pond is in effect a diversion of water.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – March 2004

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 17 March 2004 we received 448 consents. This compares with 272 consents received for the same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2003/2004 year have been completed within statutory time frames.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals and Objections

CentrePort met with GW on 11 February 2004 and again on 2 March 2004. The aim of the meetings was to get the appeals moving, as they have been stationary since August last year. CentrePort has responded in writing to our proposals and we are currently working through the issues raised.

There are no other appeals outstanding at present.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

The Advisors are continuing to undertake annual compliance visits as well as initial compliance inspections. Below is a summary of incidents we are currently investigating:

- apparent breach of consent to place a ford in Makara Stream
- apparent breach of a consent to discharge sediment from sediment control ponds in Whitby
- apparent breach of a discharge to air consent at Ngauranga Gorge
- apparent breach of a restricted coastal activity permit, Wellington

3.2 Abatement notices

We have not issued any abatement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued two infringement notices since the last meeting. However, after the consent holder committed to put additional measures in place, both notices were withdrawn.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecutions or enforcement orders on-going at present.

4. Other

There is no other information to report at this time.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01- 02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01- 02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station.	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
CentrePort	To dredge inner harbour berths and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	9		11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Granted with conditions – under appeal.
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	20/05/03	13		25/06/03- 27/06/03 and 18/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	04/07/03	Granted with Conditions – currently under appeal
Moa Point Sewage Treatment Plant	To treated and screened wastewater from the long outfall	8/12/03	5/02/04	14		10 – 11 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart Miria Pomare		
Silverstream Landfill	Consents associated with the development of Stage 2 of the landfill	26/11/03	29/01/04	12					
Mangaroa Metal Company ²	To construct two culverts and to discharge water from a sediment retention structure in association with a quarry operation.	21/11/03	23/01/04	4		1 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Aka Arthur Hugh Barr		

¹ These applications were heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council

² This consent is being processed using limited notification.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Wharfe Quarry ³	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	6/11/03	not yet notified	57 plus 2 late					
Onyx	To discharge contaminants to air associated with the operation of a waste processing facility.	19/12/03	12/02/04	4		22 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Glen Evans Aka Arthur		

³ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - April 2004

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactory.

A diving inspection on Barrett Reef buoy mooring chains on 18 January 2004 revealed that the bearing surfaces in some chain links were badly worn due to the chains becoming tangled near the seabed.

We employed diving contractors on 31 January 2004 that made some temporary re-securing arrangements. This work was well timed before the severe southerly storm of 14 and 15 February.

On 9 February the spare Barrett Reef buoy was given a final coat of paint, and preparations were made to effect a buoy change-over.

New green neon lights were fitted to Kings Wharf pile light on 27 February, much brighter than the previous lights fitted there.

An overhauled diesel-generator was replaced onto the Rear Lead light on 11 March.

2. Oil pollution response

The Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) held a Regional Field Operators Training Course in Wellington on 24 and 25 March. Some Greater Wellington staff attended this course, and some of our trained staff assisted the MSA with holding the course. It is the first time that such a course has been held in Wellington instead of at the normal venue of Te Atatu, Auckland. The course benefited local training.

3. Events

A meeting of the Harbour Masters/Mangers Special Interest Group was held in Wellington on 4 February 2004 to discuss some of the implications and work associated with the Port & Harbour Safety Review.

A workshop concerning Harbour Risk Assessments was held in Wellington on 24 and 25 February. It was organised by the Maritime Safety Authority as part of the Port & Harbour Safety Review. Similar workshops were later held in Tauranga, Dunedin and Nelson.

4. Maritime problems caused by bad weather during February

- The yacht *Brainwave* ran aground on Somes/Matiu Island during strong northerlies on the afternoon of 14 February. It was salvaged and refloated the next day.
- A drowning occurred in York Bay on the night of 14 February when a 35 year old man was reported to have gone out in bad weather in a small dinghy to check crab pots. The boat was reported to be poorly equipped and no lifejackets were worn or taken. His body was recovered from the shoreline on 16 February.
- The bad weather conditions caused by a southerly storm of 65 knots, gusting up to 80 knots, on 15 and 16 February caused further maritime problems:
 - Ferries were disrupted and cancelled and some other shipping was rescheduled.
 - A small dredger sank off Mana Marina in Porirua Harbour on the evening of 15 February. It was salvaged on 20 February.
 - The fishing vessel *Scorpio* broke adrift from its mooring and drifted ashore onto Island Bay beach and was salvaged by its owner on 16 February.
 - The launch *Taiaroa* broke adrift from its mooring and drifted ashore near Cog Park, Evans Bay, with slight oil pollution from its diesel tanks. After several attempts, it was lifted ashore by crane on 18 February.
 - A few other recreational craft also suffered less-serious problems.
- The heavy rain associated with the storm caused high river levels and some flooding in the Hutt River area. Numerous trees and other debris were carried down river into Wellington Harbour, causing numerous navigational hazards, and most of this eventually washed ashore on beaches at Petone or the eastern side of the harbour.

Three large trees were left protruding vertically from the sea in the Seaview area, and posed a danger to navigation, and were removed. Contractors did this on 8 and 9 March. The biggest tree was offshore from the old Point Howard wharf, sitting in about twelve metres of water, with about two

metres of branches above water. It was a complete tree and root system sitting on the seabed.

5. Recreational events

- On 26 February we held a function for our Honorary Enforcement officers. This is a tangible “thank you” to them for their work during the year, and an opportunity for informal discussion about events, trends, etc. (Greater Wellington has about forty persons appointed as Honorary Enforcement Officers, which terminology replaced the previous “Honorary Launch wardens”). They provide useful bylaws education in the course of their boating recreation or work to those seen in need of it.
- Jetski National Racing Championships were held on the Onepoto Arm of Porirua Harbour on 27, 28 and 29 February.
- The annual Dragon Boat regatta was held between Queens Wharf and Taranaki Street Wharf on 6 and 7 March.
- The New Zealand Offshore Powerboat Race was held in Lambton Harbour and Evans Bay on the afternoon of 6 March.
- The Powerboat/Hydroplane Racing Regatta was held on the Onepoto Arm of Porirua Harbour on 6 and 7 March.
- The New Zealand Water Ski Racing National Championships were held on 27 and 28 March.
- Numerous other yacht regattas were held (including the Royal Port Nicholson Regatta-Line 7 in Wellington between 19 and 22 February), but only the above required public notices.

All these events are enjoyed by their participants and spectators, and ensure that Wellington and Porirua harbours receive some favourable media coverage.

We ensure those event organisers adequately consider the water safety aspects of the events, help to ensure co-ordination between other harbour users, and publish timely Public Notices advising of the events.

6. Casualty report

On 12 March 2004 the Transport Accident Investigation Commission released its report into the collision between the ferry *Aratere* and fishing vessel *San Domenico* in Wellington on 5 July 2003.

The report found that the master of the ferry that collided with the fishing boat was suffering from a sleep disorder aggravated by anti-depression medication.

New rules for doctors treating seafarers are being introduced as a result of the findings.

The *Aratere* was trying to berth in Wellington Harbour in windy weather when it hit the moored *San Domenico* about 9pm on 5 July, causing thousands of litres of diesel to pour into the sea.

The report found that the ship's master was “most probably” experiencing the effects of chronic loss of sleep at the time of the accident. Anti-depressants that caused insomnia contributed to his condition, it said.

The incident occurred when the *Aratere* was trying to reberth after making room for another ferry. The *Aratere* tried to avoid colliding with the port's long arm after the ferry ahead (*Arahura*) had stopped, when it swung into the *San Domenico* at its moorings. Three crew from the fishing boat scrambled ashore unhurt.

The collision smashed a hole in the *San Domenico*'s starboard side and several holes opened on its port side as it was pushed into the wharf.

Given the adverse weather, the *Aratere* should have waited until the other ferry was well clear before trying to berth, the report said.

A sleep specialist consulted by investigators found the man's insomnia was having an impact on his waking function, and he had only had three hours sleep in the past 24 hours.

“It is thus highly likely that the master was experiencing the cumulative effects of chronic sleep loss at the time of the accident.”

The specialist suggested the man should never have been given the medication by the Maritime Safety Authority approved doctor.

“... prescribing an older shift worker medication for depression that has insomnia as a common side-effect, and then treating that insomnia with hypnotics... does not seem appropriate. It seems particularly surprising, given the highly responsible, safety critical nature of the master's work”

Also criticised was a lack of any reference to sleep disorders or shift work difficulties for ageing workers in the maritime rules.

As a result, the Maritime Safety Authority is adopting new rules for its doctors, employers and seafarers.

Approved doctors must be given training on the difficulties of shift work, sleep disorders, fatigue, prescribed medications and their impact on seafarers. They must also consider evidence of any sleep disorder when examining patients.

Employers and employees must also be given training on stress-related problems including fatigue, medical conditions and the impact of medication.

The Director of Maritime Safety said the recommendations would be implemented during 2004-2005.

There were no recommendations made in the report that adversely affected Greater Wellington Regional Council's harbour management or Beacon Hill Signal Station activities.

Extracts from the report are as follows:

1.1.13 *The Police and Fire Service attended the scene of the collision under the guidance of the regional harbourmaster."*

The regional harbourmaster and staff monitored the significant oil spill in the harbour caused by the collision.

2.10 *In instructing the second officer to contact the duty manager at Interisland Line terminal to arrange for the emergency services after the collision, the master was able to concentrate on his actions. However, it may well have been prudent for the master to have instructed the second officer to have contacted Wellington Harbour Radio (Beacon Hill) on the designated working channel. This would have reduced the possibility of miscommunication and may have provided a quicker response as Harbour Radio operators are prepared to accept this type of call. On an open radio channel call any other vessels in the vicinity (or persons ashore) monitoring the channel would have been warned of the situation and could have provided assistance if required.*

The latter comment is appropriate, as both the regional harbourmaster and a harbour ranger were already working at the harbour at that time responding to another weather-related incident.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – April 2004

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan

The draft strategic part of the CDEM Group Plan has been completed. This is in keeping with the specified timeframe for the Plan.

All emergency management agencies were involved in Plan development through workshops, targeted meetings, and reviews of draft documentation.

Further changes to the strategic part of the Plan are likely. In particular, it will need to be reviewed after the operational and administrative components are completed to ensure consistency.

Work on the operational and administrative parts of the Plan will be carried out between April and September 2004.

1.2 CDEM Group Work programme

The following programmes have been specifically scheduled so that their findings can be incorporated in the operational part of the CDEM Group Plan:

- emergency water supply
- road access restoration
- commuter management
- urban search and rescue capability enhancement
- emergency fuel supply
- CDEM Group response capability development
- medical logistics

The other programmes (regional reconnaissance, emergency communications, external logistics supply, public education and hazard analysis) will form part of the CDEM Group Work programme in order to achieve the objectives and targets specified in the CDEM Group Plan.

2. Flooding events

Heavy rain again hit the Wellington Region in mid-February. This time it was smaller streams that burst their banks causing general flooding of lower lying areas. Stormwater systems just could not handle the amount of water and debris that went through them.

The Wellington Region was isolated a couple of times during the week of 15 - 21 February. This emphasised the vulnerability of the Wellington Region because its access routes and its cities and districts (and suburbs within districts) can be very easily isolated.

Formal de-briefing meetings are planned to take place over the next few weeks - Masterton District Council on 26 March, and the Hutt City Council on 5 April 2004.

2.1 Kapiti Coast

- The biggest problem was the rocks and stones coming down Paekakariki Hill and blocking culverts and roads.
- The emergency services (Police, Fire, Civil Defence Emergency Management) and other emergency responders (contractors, etc.) responded well. The Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) was put into practice.

2.2 Porirua

- The new 'Incident' Room was activated.
- A forward base was established by the emergency services at Pauatahanui.
- A couple of evacuations took place.
- No serious damage was reported.
- Rural roads were blocked because of fallen trees and minor slips.

2.3 Wellington

- No flooding except for a few isolated cases.
- Many roads in Wellington were blocked because of fallen trees and minor slips.
- On Tuesday, 17 February, there was some localised flooding in Miramar. The Wellington Rural Fire Service was utilised to pump water from basements in the area and no evacuations were necessary.

2.4 Hutt City

- The entire Hutt City area was hit by extensive flooding.
- It was a short and sharp event with a massive impact.
- The Riverside Drive area where the Waiwhetu stream topped its banks resulted in more than 100 families being evacuated. These people were taken to the Town Hall where the necessary welfare arrangements were in place to accommodate them. As of today, 83 of those houses are still uninhabitable. Most of these residents have made their own arrangements and only a small number are still being billeted.
- Five hundred people had to be evacuated from the Hutt Park Motor Camp. The evacuees were taken to the Petone Working Mens Club. By the same evening all of the evacuees were taken back to the Camp to collect their belongings.
- Extensive flooding also took place in Wainuiomata where the Moores Valley Road was washed out and power cut. This affected a hundred homes.
- Several slips, (some major), and fallen trees occurred throughout the district blocking many access roads (Stokes Valley, Eastern Hill suburbs, Western Hill suburbs, Taita, Eastbourne, and State Highway 2).

2.5 Upper Hutt

- The Upper Hutt EOC was activated just after 4am on Monday, 16 February.
- A major slip occurred in Pinehaven.
- The Akatarawa and Rimutaka Hill Roads were both closed because of slips and fallen trees.
- Many rural roads were flooded.
- Whitemans Valley Road was closed due to a bridge washout.
- There was much minor flooding across the district.
- Threatened houses were protected by sandbagging.
- Aerial reconnaissance was undertaken at 11:00am.
- Continuous power outages were experienced.

2.6 Masterton

- Only the Tinui and Mauriceville areas suffered moderate flooding.
- Three houses evacuated.
- Several minor slips and fallen trees caused road closures in the rural areas.
- Masterton District Council's EOC was activated and operated under CIMS.

2.7 Carterton

- Isolated flooding and some rural roads blocked by slips and fallen trees.
- The town itself was not impacted.
- Carterton EOC arranged for one evacuation.
- One family was isolated for five days.

2.8 South Wairarapa

- The district was severely impacted by the floods.
- Four houses got flooded but residents evacuated themselves.
- The district was isolated from the rest of the Wairarapa because of closed roads, slips and fallen trees.
- Many power outages – in some areas up to three days without power.
- The town's drinking water supply was cut due to flooded wells.
- A notice regarding the boiling of all drinking water was distributed to all the residents of Martinborough. The notice stayed in force for three days.
- Because of the closed and flooded roads, no milk could be transported from the dairy farms.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 15 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS.

No earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Thirty-two (up to 22nd March) Special Weather Bulletins (17 for heavy rain and 15 for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. All the relevant agencies were notified.

Extensive flooding occurred in the Hutt Valley and South Wairarapa while Kapiti Coast, Porirua, Masterton and Carterton experienced several flooding incidents (*see Section 2 of this report*).

3.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 29 February 2004

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the eight-month period ended 29 February 2004.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 29 February 2004</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
		<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	5,093.5	5,093.5	--	7,640.2
Other Revenue	1,368.8	1,289.8	79.0 F	1,947.7
Total Revenue	6,462.3	6,383.3	79.0 F	9,587.9
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	5,273.1	5,435.2	162.1 F	8,599.7
Indirect Expenditure	862.0	843.2	18.8 U	1,271.8
Total Operating Expenditure	6,135.1	6,278.4	143.3 F	9,871.5
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	327.2	104.9	222.3 F	(283.6)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances remain in a better than expected position with an operating surplus of \$327,000 recorded for the period. Our budgets provide for an operating surplus of \$105,000 for the corresponding period.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$222,000, comprising increased revenue of \$79,000, and reduced expenditure of \$143,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$6,462,000 is some \$79,000 above our budget target of \$6,383,000. During the period some large notified consents were completed. The most significant of these were CentrePort's resource consent applications for harbour dredging (\$95,000) and the Lyall Bay Reef Charitable Trust (\$23,000).

Further, the Department of Conservation contributed \$31,000 towards our biodiversity strategy during the period. This is the first instalment of a grant that amounts to \$79,000 in total. This revenue was not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$6,135,000 is some \$143,000 less than our budget. The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly under budget by \$22,000. As expected, staff movements over the last few months have more than offset the shortfalls reported in prior months.
- Consultant costs were over budget by \$49,000.

We have incurred some large legal bills in relation to the consent application by CentrePort to dredge the harbour (\$20,000) and the successful prosecution of KCDC for breaching its consent for the Waikanae River (\$18,000).

In addition, some of the funds received from Department of Conservation have been used on projects such as the eradication of the unwanted plants between the Paekakariki Escarpment and Pukerua Bay (\$13,000), and near the Pateke lagoon, Te Haupua Road (\$7,000).

- Internal charges were under budget by \$115,000.

Most of the underspend arises because of changes in our contractors for laboratory services in connection with our freshwater programmes, which in turn, has been offset by unbudgeted spend on consultants.

5. Capital Expenditure

Overall our capital expenditure programme is slightly behind with an underspend of \$16,000 for the period. However, we consider that this is temporary and we expect that this shortfall will be eliminated before year-end.