

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – May 2004

1. Pauatahanui Inlet Sediment Cores (Tim Porteous)

Sedimentation is one of the most significant problems besetting estuaries in New Zealand, and the Pauatahanui Inlet is no exception. In *Towards Integrated Management – the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan*, the effects of sediment from the catchment around the Inlet, and the impact of changing land uses on the ecological health of the Inlet, are flagged as key problems requiring further investigation and suitable management responses. The review of scientific knowledge about the Inlet which arose from *Towards Integrated Management*, put a priority on the need for greater awareness of the sources, spatial variability, and rates of sedimentation so that the ecological acceptability of changes in the system might be assessed and better managed.

In 2003 work commenced on a project to understand more about this issue through research into sediment cores that would be taken from the Inlet at various sites. Each core is essentially a time capsule, recording in its make-up and varying layers the history of surrounding land uses and major events in the life of the catchment. This project involved Greater Wellington, the Porirua City Council, and the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust. In October of last year, the Pauatahanui Inlet Science Workshop confirmed accelerated sedimentation and its effects on estuarine biota as possibly the key problem for the Inlet, along with the impacts of contamination or pollution, and roading.

Good progress has recently been made with the sediment coring project. After an extensive tendering process, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) was commissioned to undertake the study. NIWA has considerable experience in estuary sedimentation. The project is a joint one between the two Councils and NIWA, the latter being able to apply Government research funds to the project and extend the range of analyses undertaken.

The purpose of the project is to identify the volume of sediment entering the Inlet, where it is coming from, and where it is being deposited. It will tell us the rate of sediment accumulation in varying parts of the estuary and which land uses have or are contributing to that accumulation. It will compare the effects of the urban and rural catchments around the estuary and provide some answers to questions about the effects of future urban development. It will also help answer the question, “how quickly is the inlet filling up”, and provide a basis for

discussions on the management of the ecosystem, whether the amenity afforded by the Inlet is changing or under threat, the impact on recreational uses, and so on. There is considerable public debate about the degree to which the inlet is filling and how long it will be before it's ecological functioning is seriously impaired or becomes an 'eye-sore'. By providing sediment accumulation rates off the river mouths that drain into the Inlet, we will be in a much better position to tailor our management response to the rivers concerned.

It is widely believed that sediment is having a deleterious effect on the ecological health of the estuary ecosystem. This study will contribute to our understanding of the nature of the problem the biota must contend with and the species most likely to be affected (species have varying abilities to cope with sedimentation). It will also provide us with historical information about the presence of metals in the sediment, which will enable us to put into context the results of the current contamination studies being done by the Resource Investigations Department.

Sediment cores were taken from nine sites around the Inlet in the last week of April. However, it will be some time before the results are available as the analysis is time consuming. Final results from this work are not expected until March 2005. We will keep the Committee informed of progress.

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

Term 2 Schools doing Take Action are Johnsonville School, Miramar Central School, and Sacred heart School. The schools have just commenced the programme, with trails being run in the first week of May.

The *Take Action* resource book, which teachers use to do the programme, has been revamped and re-branded. This should be printed within the next fortnight. Work is also progressing well on the additional resources for teachers to help them undertake more effective action projects. These resources are a significant project in their own right and have required a lot of effort by the team during those times when their schools have been on holiday and not doing the programme.

3. Biodiversity Condition Fund Grants (Tim Porteous)

On behalf of the Regional Land Protection Forum, we have been successful in obtaining \$68,450 from the Government's Biodiversity Condition fund for weed and pest control on a number of existing QE II (and DOC) covenants. This is in addition to the \$79,000 obtained in the last funding round for similar projects. As before, these funds are not directly for Greater Wellington activities. We act as a "clearing house" for the funds, and co-ordinate the work, but the funding contributes significantly to the overall state of the covenants and reduces the demand on Greater Wellington to fund this work itself.

4. Staffing

I am sorry to report that our Environmental Education Co-ordinator, Ellie Phillips, has resigned and will be leaving Greater Wellington on 21 May. Ellie is returning to England to live. She has made a significant contribution in her time with us, leading her team in the field and working tirelessly on the production of the new resources to enhance the uptake and effectiveness of *Take Action*.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – April 2004

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plan Changes

A consent order on one of Transit New Zealand's references to the Environment Court has been sent to Transit and we are waiting for it to be signed. The reference related to whether or not Transit can carry out maintenance activities on roads that cross floodways.

Discussions on Transit's second reference are continuing. Transit would like washdown water to be included in the definition of stormwater.

Another reference was lodged by Mr Barton on a new stopbank rule in the Regional Freshwater Plan. It replaces a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan, which is being withdrawn. Mr Barton wants driving heavy vehicles on stopbanks to be a permitted activity. Our new rule makes it discretionary.

A recent Environment Court judgement and legal advice that we have received clarifies that Mr Barton needs separate written consent from the Operations Department as the Requiring Authority for a Designation in the South Wairarapa District Plan. The Designation is for soil conservation and river control purposes. This means we can amend the new rule so that it does not apply to Mr Barton, which will satisfy his reference. However, we will not act on this until progress has been made on Mr Barton's written consent under the designation provisions of the RMA.

The plan change to include the Mangaterere Catchment in the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation) has been publicly notified.

1.2 Coastal Matters

A paper recommending a way forward for aquaculture in the Region was approved at the last meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

A joint Aquaculture Working Group which includes Local Government New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Conservation has been established. The Group has recommended a number of changes to the proposed aquaculture legislation and

suggested improvements to how it will be implemented. Greater Wellington is represented on this Group.

A summary of the Foreshore and Seabed Bill was included in a recent Councillors' Information Bulletin. We are now looking at what this will mean for Greater Wellington.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Wetland Action Plan

There has been a lot of demand from landowners wishing to be involved in our wetland incentives programme. Thirty three landowners have received advice about wetlands on their properties since the programme began. Twelve landowners have received further assistance (weed control, fencing etc).

We have been advised by the Department of Conservation that our application for funding to establish Wetland Hydrology Guidelines was successful. We have been approved funding to the level of \$13,481, which is \$5,000 more than was requested. The funding comes from the Biodiversity Advice Fund.

2.2 Freshwater (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

The consultants doing the urban stream assessments in the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast have completed the fieldwork and will be giving us a report covering all the streams in the Western part of the Region by 30 June. One of the main purposes of this work is to provide background information so that we can develop more specific guidance about urban stream management for consents staff.

Catchment fact sheets are being developed. There will be a fact sheet for each of the twelve priority catchments selected for assistance under the riparian management programme. The fact sheets will be given to landowners and will explain why Greater Wellington is giving these catchments high priority and how streamside management can help.

2.3 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)

The field sampling part of the study on the beaches and estuaries of Wellington Harbour and Cook Strait has been completed. Work is now being done to analyse the results. The consultants are also defining and mapping habitats and looking at the activities which could potentially have an impact on the animals present. A report on the study will be presented to the next meeting of the Environment Committee, along with recommendations for the future of this programme.

2.4 Other

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

3. Iwi matters (Rawiri Faulkner)

A joint iwi/councillor workshop was held on 7 April. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss developing a process that will enable Greater Wellington to meet the requirements for Māori in the Local Government Act 2002. Feedback from the workshop will be presented to the 26 May meeting of Ara Tahi.

Current projects are:

- Taranaki Whanui Iwi Management Plan;
- Wellington Tenth's 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. The database has been developed and is waiting for a the new website to be developed.

A Flooding Hazard – Hutt Valley fact sheet has recently been printed and distributed. Work on the Flooding Hazard – Kapiti and Natural and Human-made Hazards fact sheets is in progress. These are the last of the series of hazard fact sheets have been developed over the last two years. The hazard fact sheets translate our technical information about natural and human-made hazards into information that people understand. They also give advice about what people can do to be prepared.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report - May 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:

2 April 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Oriwa
6 April 2004	<i>River level:</i> Birchville
13 April 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Waikanae <i>Water level:</i> Porirua

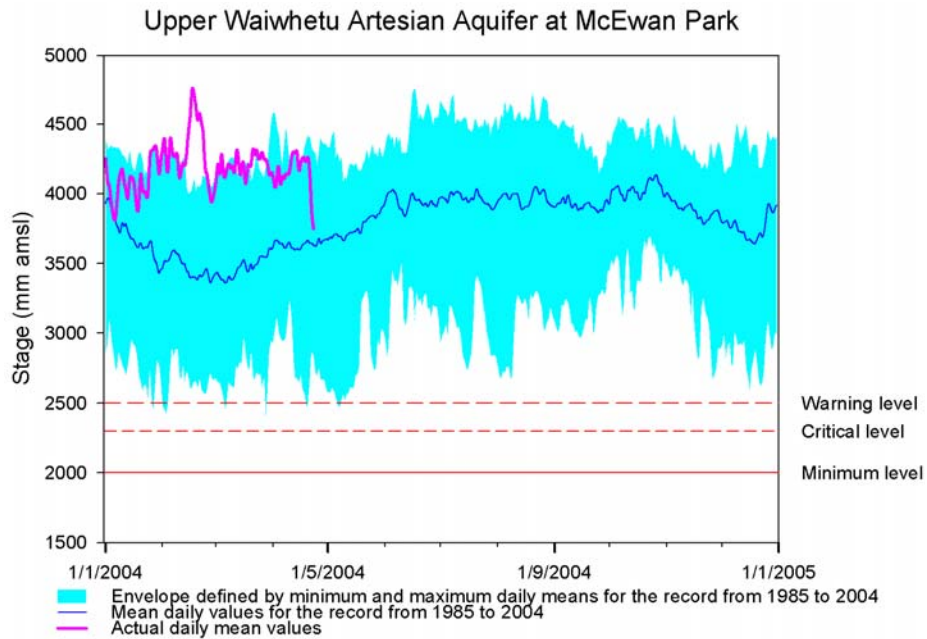
2. Resource Analysis

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

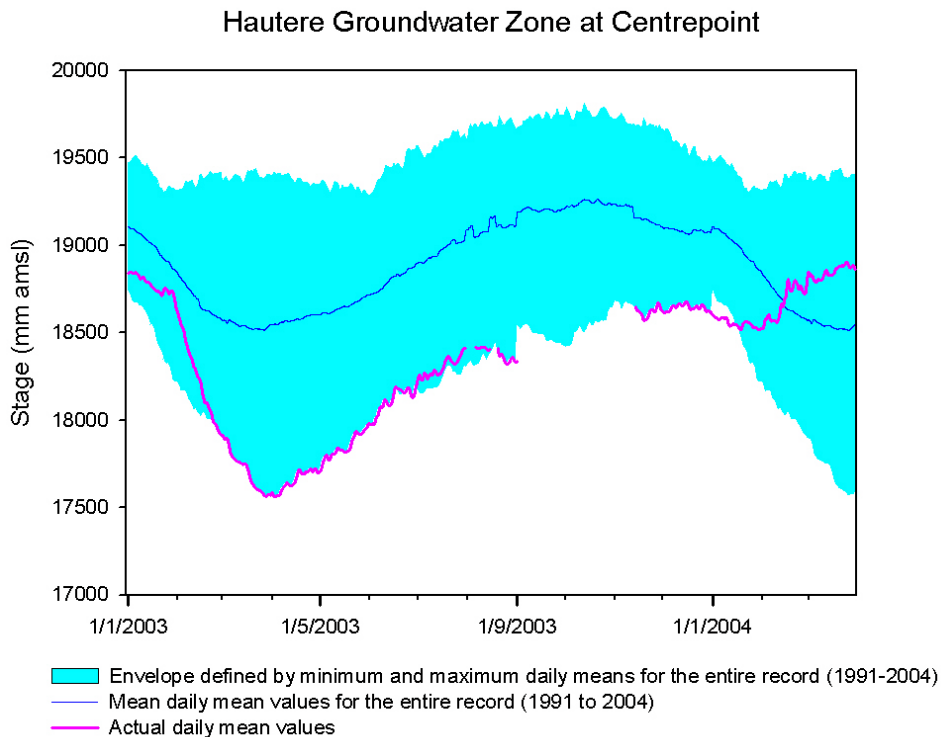
Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is currently at the long-term average level after being at record high levels for the early part of the year. The recent decline in level is due to extra pumping by the Utility Services Division at the Waterloo Well-field to compensate for the temporary closure of the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant.



Kapiti Coast

River recharged aquifers are at 'average' to 'above average' levels for this time of year. Shallow rainfall recharged aquifers are also at relatively high levels compared with other years. This is because of the wet summer.

Deeper rainfall recharged aquifers are only now showing some recovery after being at record low levels for most of 2003. The record from our monitoring on the Hautere Plain is shown below. The effect of the wet summer is shown by the marked water level increase in late February 2004.



2.2 Rainfall and river flows

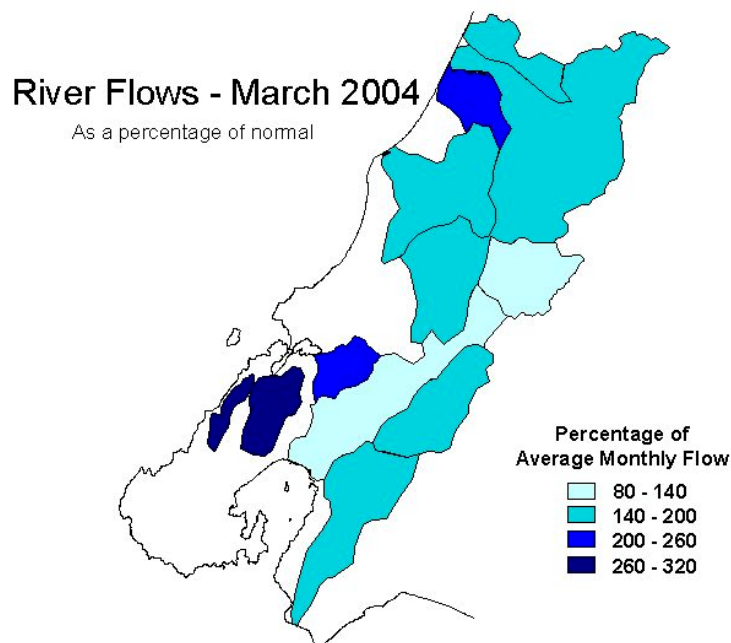
Rainfall

The weather pattern during March and April was much more settled than January and February. Autumn has been generally cooler and drier than normal, due to more frequent depressions to the south and east of New Zealand producing more frequent westerlies and south-westerlies over the country.

After a record-breaking wet February, rainfall during March 2004 tended to be below average in the Wellington region. Although rainfall was about normal in Wellington and Porirua, the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast received about 80% of the average rainfall total. Similarly, rainfall in parts of the Tararua ranges was well below normal with only 60% of the usual March rainfall received. Rainfall during April to date has been slightly below normal for this time of the year.

River flows

The record-high February rainfall resulted in high river base-flows during March 2004. The Figure below shows that flows in the Hutt River were around normal for the month, but flows were significantly above average in all other monitored rivers in the western Wellington region, despite the lower than average rainfall. Flows in the south-western part of the region (Porirua Stream, Mill Creek and Pauatahanui Stream) were particularly high for the month, with the average flow being about two to three times higher than usual for March.



The lack of heavy rainfall events during April has meant that river flows have been gradually receding. However, the river flows are still normal or slightly above normal for this time of the year.

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.

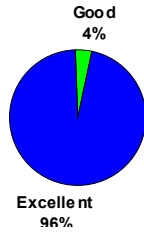
The following graphs represent air quality at the locations indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

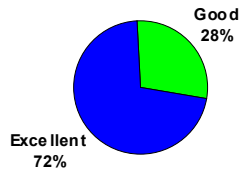
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past six weeks at Upper Hutt

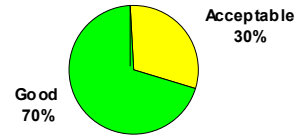
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

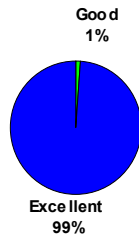


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

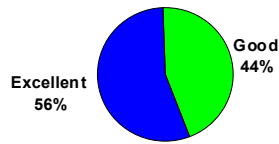


Results for the past six weeks at Lower Hutt

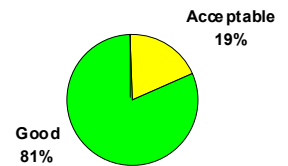
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

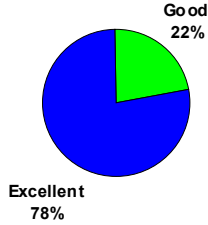


Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

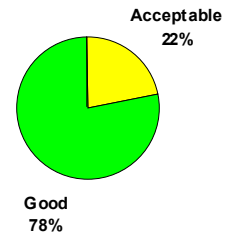
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



2.4 Stormwater

NIWA have been commissioned to undertake a sediment quality investigation in Pauatahanui Inlet. The results of this investigation will provide a baseline for assessing trends in sediment quality when repeat sampling is undertaken. To compliment this work cockle samples have also been taken from various sites around the Inlet and will be analysed for a range of contaminants.

Staff are currently organising a stormwater workshop with territorial authority staff to be held on 11 June 2004. This workshop will focus on the development of issues, actions and outcomes which will provide the basis for developing a regional stormwater action plan.

Further monitoring of stormwater discharges will occur as weather conditions allow.

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.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – May 2004

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 26 April 2004 we received 481 consents. This compares with 348 consents received for the same period last year. The increase in the number of consents we have received does not have a particular pattern. Bore applications have increased, but this only accounts for about 20% of the total increase.

All consents processed in the 2003/2004 year have been completed within statutory time frames. Furthermore the median processing time is sitting at nine working days. This is very impressive given the increase in the number of consents received and considering for much of the year we have not been fully staffed.

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

2. Appeals and Objections

The CentrePort appeals are progressing. CentrePort is currently assessing their options with regard to the dredging and disposal of material from the inner berths.

The decision to grant the Mangaroa Metals consents has been appealed by Mr Mears. This was the Department's first limited notified application. At the time of writing this report we intend to request mediation in the first instance, to try and resolve this issue.

The Department has received notice of a mediation date for the Transit State Highway 58 consents. These consents have been under appeal since 2001. The initial date for mediation has been given as 31 May 2004.

TCB Ltd has objected to charges relating to its notified application for sediment discharge to Duck Creek, in association with the development of the old golf course. We are currently working through this issue with the applicant, with the intention of bringing the objection to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Annual compliance visits are being undertaken, as well as initial compliance inspections. Below is a summary of key incidents we are currently investigating:

- apparent breach of a consent to discharge wastewater to the Hutt River from Mary Huse Pump Station,
- apparent breach of consent to control sediment, Lower Hutt,
- apparent breach of consent to discharge dairy effluent to water, Otaki.

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. Both of these were issued to T&T Cleanfill, Happy Valley in respect of two incidents of non-cleanfill material being deposited and buried at the site.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

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

4. Other

Jeanette Gibbons joined the Department as a Resource Advisor on 26 April 2004.

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. Mediation scheduled 31 May 2004
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	31 March 2004	Granted – under appeal
Silverstream Landfill	Consents associated with the development of Stage 2 of the landfill.	26/11/03	29/01/04	12	-	Presented to Environment Committee 13 May 2004			

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

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
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	22 March 2004	Granted – under appeal
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	-	Hearing not yet scheduled. Application on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.			
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		Granted – still in appeal period

² This consent is being processed using limited notification.

³ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - May 2004

1. Harbour navigation aids

Barrett Reef buoy was changed-over on 28 April 2004. The “old” buoy was removed from the water for cleaning and refurbishment work so it will be ready for future use at the next scheduled change-over in about three years.

There are actually two identical buoys; both supplied from the U.K. in 1944. They have been maintained, modified and upgraded over time, and both are now fitted with solar power and modern navigation lanterns/lens. The change-over operation involves obtaining and preparing new heavy mooring chains and shackles, checking and preparing the electrical equipment, managing and liaising with the numerous contractors involved in the operation. Also, we issue appropriate navigation warnings to shipping.

The contract work on the repainting of the steel structure of the Front Lead Light is still progressing, with the majority of the work down to the waterline completed. Final completion is weather and tide dependant.

2. Oil pollution response

The Manager, Harbours attended the Maritime Safety Authority’s (MSA) Oil Pollution Advisory Committee (OPAC) meeting in Wellington on 23 April.

This committee is appointed by the Minister of Transport and provides advice to the MSA on all matters associated with the New Zealand Marine Oil Spill Response Strategy and National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan. It also provides advice on the use of the Oil Pollution Fund and on the fixing and levying of Oil Pollution Levies. Members represent various industry and response groups (loosely termed “the payers” and “the spenders”). Regional Councils’ interests are represented by Paul Dell, Environment Bay of Plenty (management issues) and Mike Pryce (operational issues).

Two minor oil spill reports were investigated during the period.

3. Events

The Manager, Harbours gave a short presentation at the Maritime Law Association of Australia & New Zealand seminar at Wairakei Resort on 3 April about the Port & Harbour Safety Review from a Regional Council.

The Deputy Harbourmaster, attended the Hazardous Technical Liaison Committee meeting on 28 April.

Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committees (HSTLCs) grew out of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into a chemical incident in Parnell in 1973. The Royal Commission recommended setting up formal meetings between the emergency services within regions. These are known as emergency services co-ordinating committees (ESCCs). At their first meeting, the national ESCC realised that they had come together because of a chemical incident but no one on the committee had sufficient technical knowledge about chemicals. It was therefore decided to form a sub-committee, comprising toxic substance inspectors from the Department of Health, dangerous goods inspectors from both Occupational Safety and Health and territorial authorities, and the former Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Their role was purely to provide technical advice to the emergency services. The participation of enforcement agencies in HSTLCs has been relatively informal.

While historically the focus has been on being an advisory body - to give advice to the lead agency dealing with a particular response - the committees have also been used as a forum to clarify roles in preparation for particular emergencies (e.g., which agency will take the lead in which circumstances). HSTLCs have also set up communication systems so those agencies know which of their colleagues to notify when particular incidents occur. HSTLCs operate with some success in some regions.

The New Zealand Fire Service commissioned a report in November 2003 to:

- ensure there was a national capability for HSTLCs
- review roles and functions
- ensure HSTLCs are able to function within the emergency management structure.

A recent survey (undertaken by New Zealand Fire Service) shows that most HSTLCs are operating at a level appropriate to their needs.

Harbours involvement is specifically because of the risk of incidents during cargo operations on board ships in port.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – May 2004

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group)

1.1 Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) meeting, 22 March 2004 and Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) meeting, 22 April 2004

The following matters were discussed at the CDEM Group meeting on 22 April 2004:

1.1.1 CDEM Group Plan Progress: Draft Plan (Strategic Part)

The CDEM Group endorsed the draft of the strategic section of the Plan and noted that the preparation of the Plan is proceeding according to the approved timetable. The CDEM Group also noted with gratitude, that a wide range of interested parties are contributing to the development of the Group Plan.

1.1.2 CDEM Group Communications Activities

Some communication activities will be required in the interim period, prior to finalisation of the Group Plan, e.g. branding, education/information publications and media opportunities. These will be managed as and when they arise and will be reported to the CEG and CDEM Group where necessary.

A CDEM Group website has been developed. It is maintained by the CDEM Group Office. The website focuses on Group work programmes and the Group Plan. The CDEM site requires further development. The site address is www.wrcdemg.govt.nz

1.1.3 CDEM Group Work Programme Progress

Twelve CDEM Group work programmes have been established and the programmes are either progressing or have now been completed. Some of the programmes (emergency water, road access, commuter management, urban search and rescue, emergency fuel, CDEM Group response capability enhancement, external supply of resources, and medical logistics) have also been specifically scheduled so that their findings can be incorporated in the operational section of the CDEM Group Plan.

Particular note was made of the following:

- “The Earth Rocks”, an exhibition that was held at Te Papa during Easter weekend, provided an excellent opportunity to promote the need to store water (see item 2).
- The Emergency Communications Programme has moved into phase two, the purchase of a communications system. A suitable system has been identified by Consultel Associates Ltd and will be purchased after 1 July 2004.
- Contact has been made with the Auckland Region to progress work on the external logistics supply project.

1.1.4 Representation on the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)

Expressions of interest to participate in the Wellington Region’s Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) have been received from various organisations.

The CDEM Group decided that the current composition of the Co-ordinating Executive Group be maintained, especially as the Emergency Management Committee structures and representation will be reviewed as part of the CDEM Group Plan preparation process.

1.1.5 CDEM Group Financial Arrangements

As it is too early to make a final decision about cost sharing for the CDEM Group because the CDEM Group Plan is still being developed.

Some guiding principles have been developed for the interim period:

- Each member of the CEG will provide staff resources at their own cost.
- If and when external assistance is required, costing over and above \$10,000, those costs will be split on the basis of 50% regional council and the remaining 50% split amongst the constituent territorial authorities on a pro rata by population basis.
- All costs to be shared will be pre-approved by the CEG.
- Exceptions to be brought before the CEG for decision.

1.1.6 February 2004 Flooding Events

Presentations were made to the CDEM Group about the lessons learned from the Manawatu-Wanganui and Hutt City events.

1.2 CDEM Group Plan

The operational and administrative parts of the Plan will be completed for the August 2004 meeting of the CEG. The CEG is scheduled to meet in October

2004 to give its final approval for the Plan. The CDEM Group will approve the draft Plan for public consultation in November 2004. The Plan will be operative in May 2005.

2. “The Earth Rocks”

Over Easter weekend, 9 – 11 April, the Ministry for Civil Defence Emergency Management, Greater Wellington, territorial authorities in the Region, emergency services and volunteer groups joined forces to tell the public about emergency management in the Region and to show them how to prepare themselves for a major earthquake in Wellington.

The event was held at Te Papa between 11.00am and 3.00pm each day. It included static displays, demonstrations, lectures, celebrity appearances, film archives, and lots of fun activities for the children.

More than 21,000 people attended and emphasis was placed on encouraging people to store more emergency water. Ten litre water containers, sponsored by Greater Wellington, Wellington City, Hutt City and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management, were given away to the public.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 31 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS.

The following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

2004	Apr	26	Mag.:	3.8	Depth:	25 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	17	Mag.:	3.7	Depth:	25 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	04	Mag.:	3.5	Depth:	30 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	3.8	Depth:	30 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	3.4	Depth:	25 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	3.6	Depth:	30 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	4.6	Depth:	30 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	4.6	Depth:	25 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>
2004	Apr	03	Mag.:	3.9	Depth:	30 km	<i>within 5 km of Upper Hutt</i>

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Five (up to 27th April) Special Weather Bulletins (four for heavy rain and one for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. All the relevant agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.

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: 31 March 2004

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the nine-month period ended 31 March 2004.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 31 March 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	5,730.2	5,730.2	--	7,640.2
Other Revenue	1,616.6	1,485.4	131.2 F	1,947.7
Total Revenue	7,346.8	7,215.6	131.2 F	9,587.9
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	6,036.7	6,193.3	156.6 F	8,599.7
Indirect Expenditure	948.9	950.4	1.5 F	1,271.8
Total Operating Expenditure	6,985.6	7,143.7	158.1 F	9,871.5
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	361.2	71.9	289.3 F	(283.6)

2. Surplus

We are pleased to report that the Division's finances are in a better than expected position as we enter the last quarter of the year. The Division posted an operating surplus of \$361,000 for the period. This compares favourably with our budget, which provided for an operating surplus of \$72,000 for the corresponding period.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$289,000, comprising increased revenue of \$131,000, and reduced expenditure of \$158,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$7,347,000 is some \$131,000 above our budget target of \$7,216,000. During the period some large notified consents were completed. The most significant of these were CentrePort's resource consent applications to dredge the harbour's entrance and near the vessel berths in the inner harbour (\$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 \$6,986,00 is some \$158,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly under budget by \$35,000. As expected, staff movements over the last few months have more than offset the shortfalls reported in prior months.
- Materials, Supplies and Services were less than budget by some \$56,000. There are significant costs in the pipeline. The *Take Action* resources book is being revised and reprinted and additional resource to help teachers undertake *Take Action* projects will be printed in the latter part of the year. The Barrett Reef buoy, was changed over in April.

- Travel and Transport costs are slightly under budget by \$22,000.

Overall the spend on motor vehicles is less than we expected, in part because we did not need to hire any vehicle for the temporary harbour ranger. The sale of a vehicle was held over so that the harbour ranger could use it.

- Consultant costs were over budget by \$96,000.

We have incurred some large legal bills in relation to consent applications (e.g. CentrePort harbour dredging) and the successful prosecution of KCDC for breaching its consent for the Waikanae River.

Further, we have taken to account the full amount that we provide for administrative support to the Iwi (\$15,000 payable to each) in the Region. However, in some instances Iwi are yet to take up their full entitlement.

5. Capital Expenditure

Overall our capital expenditure programme is some \$76,000 under budget. Another Division has completed some capital work for which charges are outstanding. In addition, progress on the Ecobus has been slower than expected.