

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environmental Education Department Report – September 2004

1. *Take Action* (Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan; Cate Pates)

The term three schools doing Take Action are Houghton Valley School, Fraser Crescent School and Discovery School. The schools have moved onto their action projects. Fraser Crescent School (Upper Hutt) children are:

- writing an article for a local newspaper and putting posters in pet shops encouraging aquarium owners not to dispose of oxygen weed in the environment but return it to the shop
- making posters for petrol stations to promote used oil recycling
- investigating recycling and compost options for the school's waste
- seeking permission to place a “drains to streams” image on storm water drains
- printing tee-shirts, posters and a mural with messages promoting clean water.

At Discovery school (in Porirua) the students want to replant the stream that runs alongside their playground and set up a recycling scheme. The children have written to Porirua City Council to ask for funds to buy trees and assistance with clearing silt out of the storm drains. Students are presenting a puppet show and a big book to the neighbouring kindergarten about caring for the stream. Another group of students are making a video to show to their own parent community. Regular stream cleanups are planned in addition to Discovery School's annual participation in Clean Up New Zealand Week.

At Houghton Valley, a compost bin has been built and students are gathering materials for building a worm farm. Students will work with Environmental Studies students from Victoria University to maintain and restore native vegetation in the school grounds. As part of meeting their visual arts curriculum objectives, students are creating posters for the junior school about keeping storm drains clean.

After operating *Take Action* for two and a half years, it has become clear that larger primary schools and intermediates are not making as much use of the programme as smaller schools. This is largely because the teaching syndicates the large schools operate can comprise up to eight classes and their planning horizons are much longer than those of small schools (i.e. small schools can adapt their timetables to accommodate *Take Action* more quickly). Consequently we are now taking a proactive approach to these schools and have adapted the programme to enable larger schools to participate. Karori Normal is now investigating the programme for next year. There has also been interest from Ferguson Intermediate in Upper Hutt.

We are also making a bigger effort to get small rural schools to join the programme. Richard has been talking with Wairarapa rural school principals and Kahutara School is doing *Take Action* in the fourth term this year.

In the Kapiti area, the Kapiti Coast District Council has made some officer time available to work with local schools doing the programme and to help self-guided schools. We are currently training this person and will be making a special effort to encourage schools to take up this opportunity.

We have also been making more of an effort to use *Take Action* to promote other Council activities. We now supply students with sign up forms for their families for Be the Difference and actively promote the regional parks and their services and facilities. As part of our multimedia presentation we give students information to take home about storing emergency water. In this way they can start to “take action” from the first day we meet them. This is in addition to our efforts to get schools to work more closely with care groups in their area.

We are currently in the process of informing all schools about *Take Action* and inviting them to apply for 2005 and 2005, or do the programme self-guided. All schools will receive copies of the new resources designed to assist self-guided schools and a flier promoting the services and assistance we offer for schools which want to do the programme on their own.

2. *Take Care* (Nigel Clarke et al.)

Report 04.489 on the implementation of *Take Care* in the last financial year is included in this Order Paper.

This year’s application round is currently open and will close on the 23rd September.

3. *New Staff Member*

I am pleased to inform the Committee that Kerryn Penny has taken up the vacant position in the *Take Action* team. Kerryn is a teacher and environmental educator, with experience in leading her students and fellow teachers to make changes in their environmental behaviour.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – September 2004

1. **Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans**

1.1 **Regional Plan Changes**

We have commenced Court-assisted mediation on a reference from Transit New Zealand. Transit would like wash down water to be included in the definition of storm water in the Regional Freshwater Plan.

The Barton reference was heard at the Environment Court on 8 July 2004 and we are now awaiting a decision. Mr Barton lodged the reference on a new stop bank rule in the Regional Freshwater Plan. This will replace a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan. Mr Barton wants driving heavy vehicles on stop banks to become a permitted activity. Our new rule makes it discretionary.

A staff report is currently being prepared on the plan change, which will include the Mangaterere Catchment in the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation).

1.2 **Other**

We are working on the first draft of a stormwater action plan, following a workshop with territorial authorities in June. A second workshop is being organised for September to confirm the issues and actions in the draft plan. We will also be looking at timelines for future actions.

2. **Regional Plan and RPS Implementation**

A summary of the work being done to implement our regional plans and a Regional Policy Statement was presented to the last meeting of this Committee.

We have been developing and beginning to implement a Programme of Work leading to the ten-year review of the Regional Policy Statement, which has been operative since 1995. The first step in this process is the next State of the Environment Report, which is to be completed at the end of next year.

4. Hazards

The Kapiti Flooding fact sheet has been printed and distributed. This is the last of the series of 17 hazard fact sheets, which were 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.

5. Other

5.1 National Environmental Standards

To improve how drinking water is managed at source, the Ministry for the Environment is proposing to develop and implement a national environmental standard under the RMA for the monitoring, grading and reporting of drinking water sources. Greater Wellington's Utility Services and Environment Divisions are providing comments on the standards. We will make a formal submission when the proposed standard is publicly notified.

5.2 The Aquaculture Reform Bill

This has now been released and submissions are due on 27 September. The Bill is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – September 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:

6 August 2004	Rainfall: ; Oriwa
11 August 2004	Rainfall: Orongo Swamp, Horokiri, Otaki Depot;
15 August 2004	Rainfall: Horokiri, Wainui Reservoir, Wayne's Mistake, Kapakapanui River level: , Porirua
17 August 2004	River level: Wainuiomata at Leonard Wood Park
18 August 2004	Rainfall: Wainui Reservoir, Orongo Swamp. River level: Porirua, Mangaroa, Manuka Track, Birchville.

2. Resource Analysis

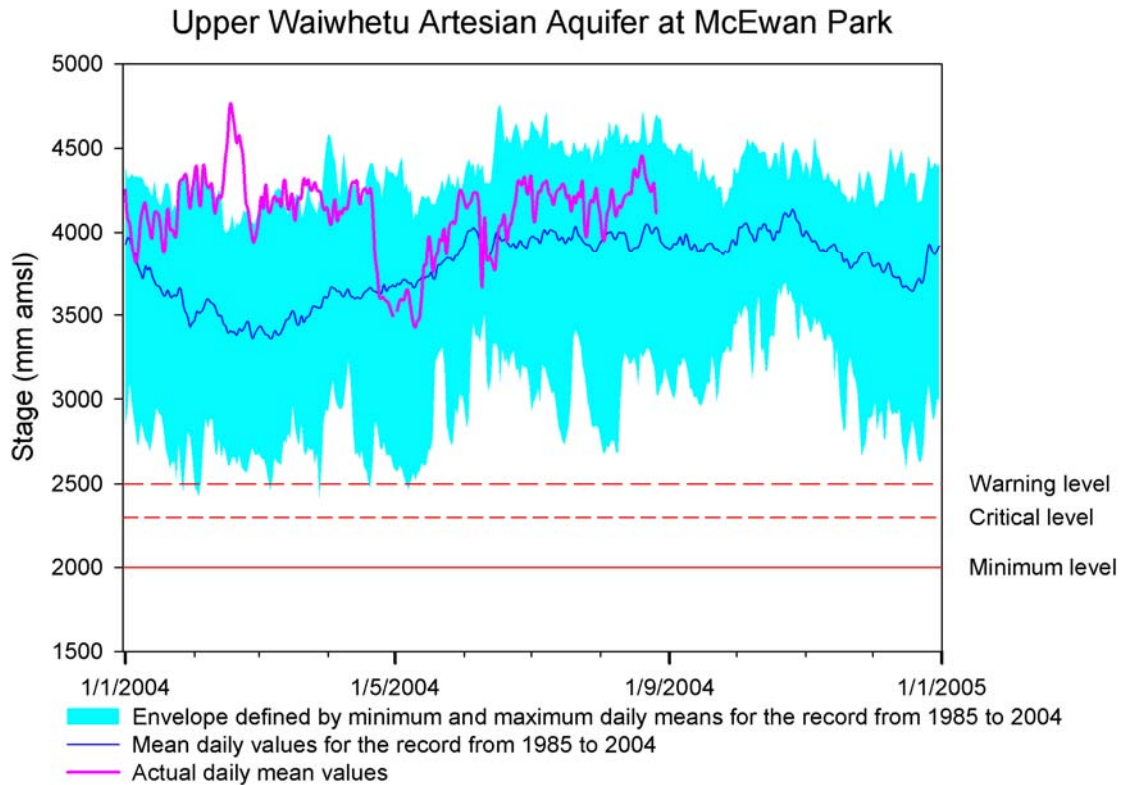
2.1 Groundwater levels

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 above the long-term average and well above the first seawater intrusion alarm level.



Kapiti Coast

River recharged aquifers are at average levels for this time of year. Shallow rainfall recharged aquifers are also at relatively high levels compared with other years. Deeper rainfall recharged aquifers have recovered from low levels during 2003 and are at ‘above average’ levels for this time of year.

2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Rainfall

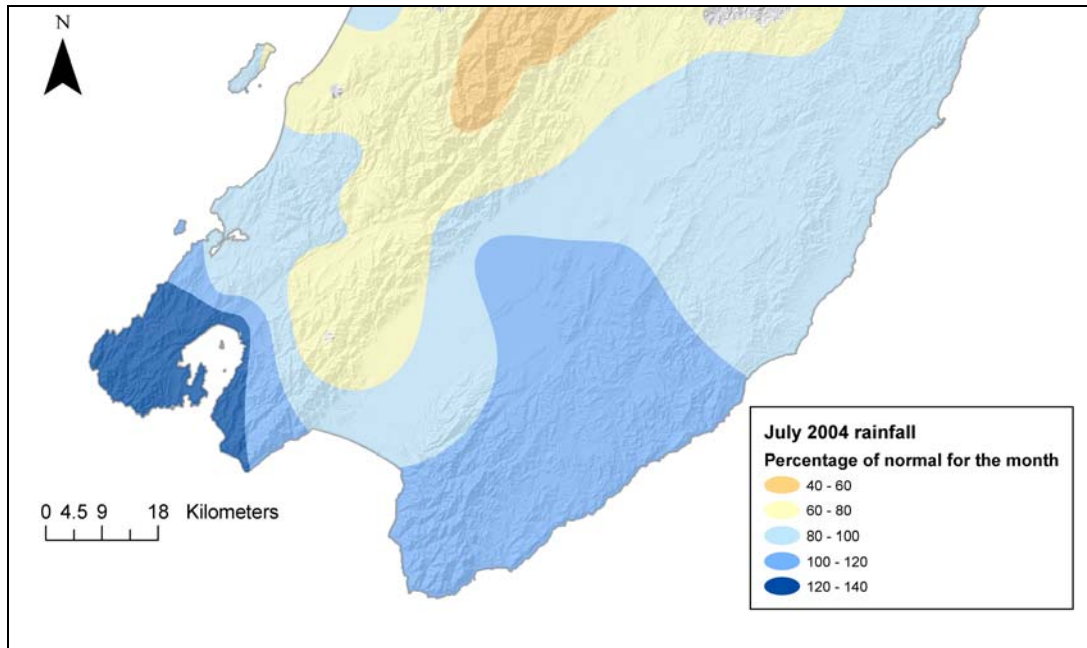
Rainfall during August 2004 has been high, due to several southerly fronts that occurred mid-August. The rainfall total for the month is likely to be 1.5 to 2 times higher than usual for August.

River flows

In contrast to the rainfall during June, July’s rainfall tended to be slightly above average in the south and east of the region. As shown by the map below, Wellington City, Porirua, Wainuiomata and most of the Wairarapa received normal to slightly above normal rainfall totals for the month. However, the

Tararua ranges and most of the Kapiti Coast had less rainfall than usual for July, with some of the gauges in the Tararua ranges receiving only about half of the average rainfall for the month. Due to the lower than average rainfall in the ranges, river flows in the western Wellington region tended to be slightly below average for the month.

Figure 2: Rainfall received during July 2004 as a percentage of average for the month



2.3 Hydrology of the 18 August 2004 storm

Storm meteorology

MetService provided the following description of the storm event:

Overnight between Sunday 15 August and Monday 16 August a large, deep trough of low pressure moved eastwards across the North Island. The strong northwest flow ahead of the trough had brought northerly gusts at Kelburn of 109 kph and 117 kph at 5am on Sunday 15 August, and 130 mm of rain at Angle Knob in the Tararua Ranges. Only about 10 mm fell in the Wellington City area.

As the trough moved east of the North Island on Monday, a deep depression began to form and move slowly south. The very cold southerly airstream on the western side of the depression brought snow to low levels in eastern parts of the South Island, and to 300 - 400 metres in the Rimutaka Ranges, Wairarapa, Taihape and southern Hawke's Bay.

On Tuesday 17 August the depression remained nearly stationary east of the North Island while pressures rose over the south of the South Island. This situation increased the already strong southeast airstream over eastern North Island and central New Zealand. During Tuesday evening the depression

moved closer to the North Island and overnight a warm front moved onto central New Zealand bringing widespread heavy rain in Nelson, Marlborough, and the southern half of the North Island. The strongest winds in Wellington occurred on Wednesday 18 August between midnight and early afternoon, gusting to 118 kph at the Airport. Later on Wednesday the depression weakened and began moving off to the northeast.

Rainfall

The rainfall during the storm event was not particularly heavy, but the rainfall totals were high due to the sustained nature of the storm. The map below shows 3-day rainfall totals for 17 to 19 August 2004. The most rain fell in Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, the Aorangi ranges and eastern Wairarapa hills, with the highest recorded total for the period being 305 mm at Wainuiomata Reservoir. The rain in Wellington city and the Kapiti Coast was very low in comparison, with up to 60 mm over the three days.

Figure 3: Rainfall measured between 17 and 19 August 2004

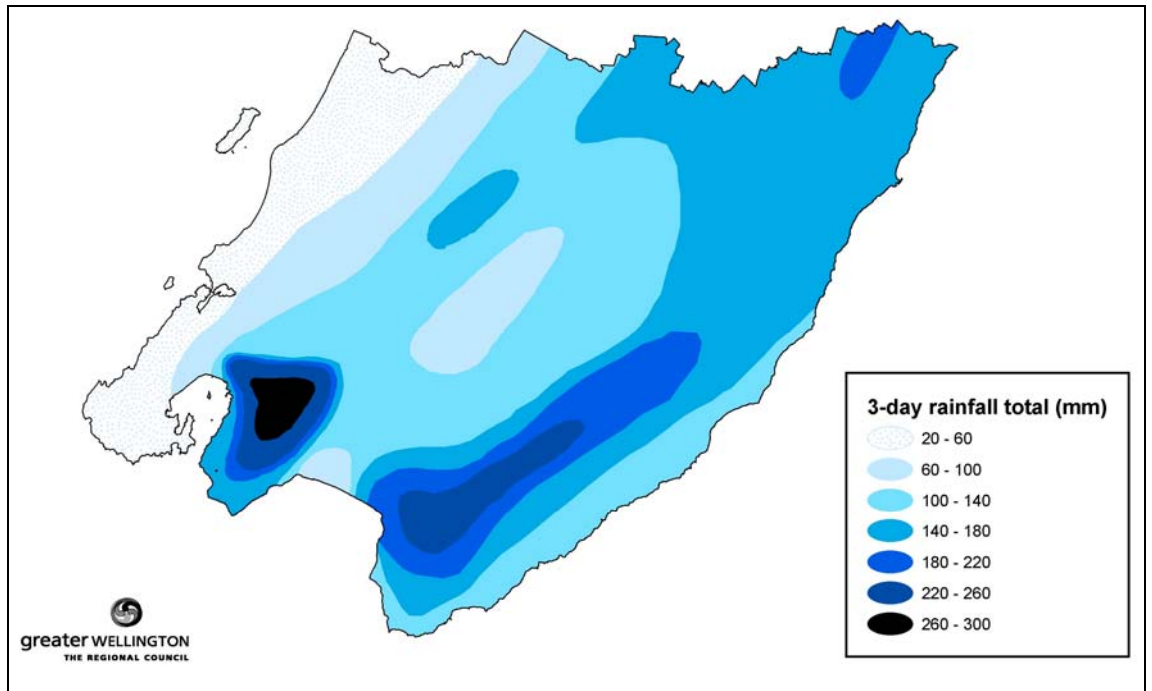


Table 1 shows the rainfall depths for the areas where the highest rainfall totals occurred. The rainfall for durations of 1 to 2 hours had return periods of between 2 and 6 years in these areas. Because the rainfall was sustained for a long duration, the totals over 1 to 2 days were very significant, with estimated return periods of up to 60 years in Lower Hutt, 18 years in Orongorongo, 15 years in Wainuiomata, and 8 years in eastern Wairarapa.

Table 1: Rainfall depths at selected rainfall stations, 17 – 19 August 2004

Station		1 hour	2 hours	6 hours	12 hours	24 hours	48 hours
Birch Lane (Lower Hutt)	Depth (mm)	16.5	29.5	72.0	135.0	204.0	244.0
	Return period	< 2 years	3 years	8 years	30 years	60 years	60 years
Wainuiomata Reservoir	Depth (mm)	13.0	24.5	64.5	121.5	201.0	283.0
	Return period	2 years	4 years	6 years	15 years	15 years	15 years
Orongorongo Swamp	Depth (mm)	22.5	44.0	108.0	167.0	230.0	284.0
	Return period	2 years	6 years	24 years	30 years	18 years	11 years
Masterton	Depth (mm)	8.0	14.2	36.0	57.0	81.0	106.5
	Return period	< 2 years	< 2 years	3 years	5 years	6 years	8 years
Tanawa Hut (eastern Wairarapa)	Depth (mm)	18.5	31.5	64.5	103.5	141.0	183.5
	Return period	3 years	4 years	5 years	8 years	8 years	6 years

In general the rainfall was not as heavy as during the February storms, although over a 24-hour duration Lower Hutt received more rain than in the February event.

River flows

Table 2 shows the maximum flows recorded at the Greater Wellington river flow monitoring stations during the August 2004 storm. Significantly high river flows were recorded in the Waiwhetu Stream, Wainuiomata River and Porirua Stream, where the return periods were 4 to 7 years. This corresponds approximately to the return period of the short-duration rainfall (1 to 6 hours) in these areas.

Table 2: Peak flows in Wellington region's rivers, 18 – 19 August 2004

Site	Maximum stage (mm)	Maximum flow (m ³ /s)	Estimated return period (years)
Hutt River @ Birchville	3916	394	< 2
Hutt River @ Taita Gorge	27053	390	< 2
Mangaroa River @ Te Marua	2991	105	< 2
Akatarawa River @ Cemetery	1627	56	< 2
Waiwhetu Stream @ Whites Line East	1969	17.4	4
Wainuiomata River @ Manuka Track	2262	40	3 – 4
Wainuiomata River @ LWP	2572	115	6 – 7
Porirua Stream @ Town Centre	1315	37	3
Waikanae River @ Water Treatment Plant	3142	68	< 2
Otaki River @ Pukehinau	3721	235	< 2
Mangaone Stream @ Ratanui	1351	3.4	< 2
Waitohu Stream @ Water Supply Intake	466	5.6	< 2
Ruamahanga River @ Mt Bruce	1752	98	< 2

Ruamahanga River @ Wardells	4490	550	4
Ruamahanga River @ Gladstone	3627	792	7
Ruamahanga River @ Waihenga	5127	1603	15
Waingawa River @ Gorge	1755	90	< 2
Waiohine River @ Gorge	2182	211	< 2
Mangatarere River @ Gorge	1661	38	< 2
Waipoua River @ Mikimiki	1591	111	3
Kopuaranga River @ Palmers	4737	54	2
Tauherenikau River @ Gorge	2042	138	< 2
Huangerua River @ Hautotara	4533	302	n/a
Tauweru River @ Te Weraiti	12631	456	25

Due to the sustained rainfall in eastern Wairarapa, high river flows were recorded in the Huangerua and Tauweru Rivers, with an estimated return period of about 25 years. The Tauweru River was the only monitored waterway which experienced a higher flow than in the February storm, making this event the third highest flood on record (records began in 1969). The input from the eastern rivers to the Ruamahanga River and rainfall on the Wairarapa plains resulted in a significantly high peak flow in the Ruamahanga River at Waihenga (estimated to have a return period of 15 years).

The Hutt River, Otaki River and Waikanae River did not experience particularly high river flows because of the lack of heavy rainfall in the western Tararua ranges (most precipitation there during the storm event was snowfall).

Summary

The August 2004 storm was caused by a depression to the east of the North Island, which resulted in strong southeasterly winds and a warm front moving over the Wellington region. Over the three days between 17 and 19 August the most rain fell in eastern Wairarapa, Wainuiomata and Lower Hutt. Although the rainfall was not particularly heavy, the rainfall over durations of 24 to 48 hours has an estimated return period of up to 60 years in Lower Hutt, 18 years in Orongorongo, 15 years in Wainuiomata, and 8 years in eastern Wairarapa. The 24-hour rainfall depth in Lower Hutt (204 mm in the 24 hours from 8pm on Tuesday 17 August) is the highest 24 hour rainfall depth on record, and is 4.5 mm more than recorded in the February 2004 storm event.

The rainfall totals over short durations (1 to 6 hours) are more important for causing flooding in urban areas. During this storm the rainfall was not particularly heavy; the estimated return period of the 6-hour rainfall total was 8 years in Lower Hutt and 6 years in Wainuiomata. The rainfall in Wellington city, Porirua and the Kapiti coast was not significant compared to other events on record.

The large rivers of the region did not tend to have high flood flows during the August 2004 storm. However, the Tauweru River in eastern Wairarapa had its highest flow on record (estimated return period of 25 years) causing the Ruamahanga River in its lower reaches to reach a significantly high flow. The Waiwhetu Stream, Porirua Stream and Wainuiomata River had flood flows of 3 to 7 year return periods. Apart from the peak flow in the Tauweru River, all recorded flows were less than during the February 2004 floods.

2.4 Air quality monitoring

2.4.1 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). The effects of transport emissions are monitored at the corner of Vivian and Victoria Streets. We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

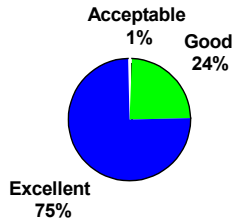
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

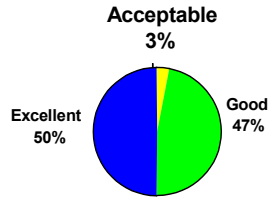
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past six weeks at Upper Hutt

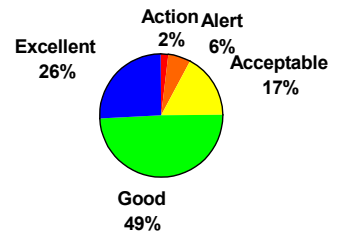
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

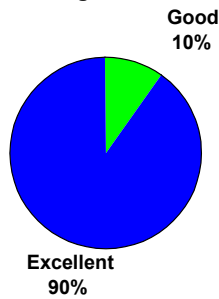


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

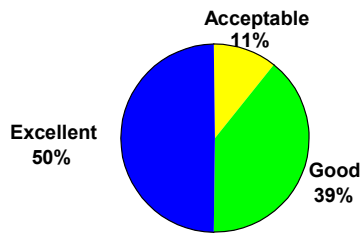


Results for the past six weeks at Lower Hutt

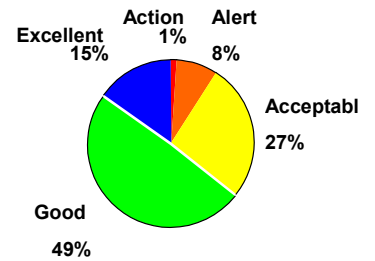
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average PM at Lower Hutt

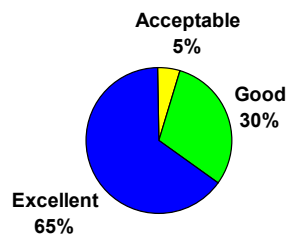


Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton

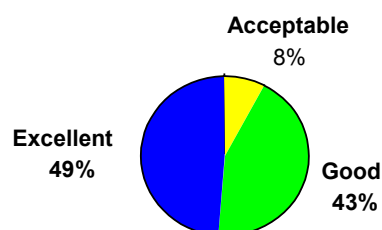


Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

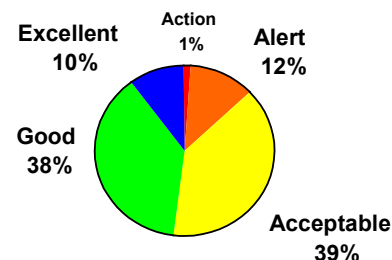
No data since the analyser has been out of service since 6 July 2004.

Results for the past two months at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

8-Hour Average CO at Corner Vic



24-Hour Average PM10 at Corner Vic



2.5 Contaminated Site Management

Bruce Croucher has been holding a series of workshops with territorial authorities to discuss a range of issues related to contaminated sites management. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Contaminated Land Management Guideline No. 4: Classification and Information Management Protocols which was recently released by the Ministry for the Environment. This guideline provides a nationally consistent method for managing information about contaminated sites.
- The on-line contaminated site enquiry web page developed by Greater Wellington for use by territorial authority officers. Until recently territorial authorities have had to rely on regular updates from Greater Wellington to gain information about contaminated sites. With the development of this new web site territorial authority staff can get the most up to date information about a site by making an on-line enquiry.
- The adequacy of territorial authority responses to requests for LIMs (Land Information Memoranda) and PIMs (Project Information Memoranda) with respect to contaminated site matters. When responding to requests for LIMs and PIMs many Councils simply refer the enquiry to Greater Wellington. We believe that this approach does not fulfil their obligations under the relevant legislation and could expose the Councils to some liability. We sought, and shared, legal advice about how Councils should be responding to requests of this nature.

The workshops were well received and should lead to better practice in sharing information about, and management of contaminated sites in the Wellington region.

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.

4. Staff

Brent Watson, an Environmental Monitoring Officer with our Resource Information team has resigned. He has accepted a job as Senior Hydrological Technician with Horizons Regional Council. He leaves us in early October.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – September 2004

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 25 August 2004 we have received 54 consent applications. This compares with 75 received for the same period last year.

In the period to 25 August 2004 we have processed 65 consents. This compares with 63 processed over same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2004/2005 year have been completed within statutory time frames.

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

2. Appeals and Objections

2.1 Appeals

I sent proposed amendments to the appealed Harbour dredging consents to CentrePort on 26 August 2004. At the time of writing this report I was waiting for CentrePort's comments. If CentrePort is amenable to the proposed changes, then Greater Wellington's lawyer can arrange preparation of a consent order.

A consent order has been signed for the Mangaroa Metals consents. The appellants and the applicants have agreed to the installation of bridges rather than the consented culverts. The applicant will have to apply for further consents to construct the bridges because the existing consents do not cover this type of activity.

Mediation was held for the appealed Moa Point consent. All parties reached agreement and a recommendation has been sent to the Minister for Conservation for his approval. We are expecting a response from the Minister by the middle of September 2004.

The Courts have finally set a mediation date for the appealed Onyx discharge to air consents.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Some of my staff have been trailing a different way of dealing with breaches of resource consents. Normally, we write a “please explain” letter and give the consent holder at least a couple of weeks to respond. In many cases this has been frustrating because responses to the letters have either been non-existent or have not addressed all the issues raised. Instead we are now undertaking formal interviews with the consent holders in question. This appears to be working quite well as we are getting answers to our queries much quicker. So far all the consent holders concerned have been quite willing to come to the office to discuss matters and therefore problems are being resolved faster.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have issued two abatement notices since the last Committee meeting. One to Wainiomata Golf Course for unauthorised works in a riverbed and the other to Terry Doran, Judgeford for the incorrect installation of flood protection works.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued three infringement notices since the last Committee meeting:

- Nuplex Environmental – for an unauthorised discharge to land;
- URS Ltd – for drilling a bore without resource consent; and,
- Wainuiomata Golf Club – for unauthorised works in the bed of a river.

All three infringement notices have been paid.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

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

4. Other

The Consents Management Department undertook its biennial customer satisfaction survey in April and May 2004. The results from this are being formally presented to the department on 1 September 2004.

In addition to the Customer Satisfaction Survey, the CMD has also recently completed the biennial Ministry for the Environment survey. It is not clear when these results will be available, but based on past years it seems that the Ministry takes about a year to publish their findings.

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
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 discharge 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. Recommendation sent to Minister.
Mangaroa Metal Company ¹	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. Consent order signed.
Wharfe Quarry ²	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	6/11/03	4/02/04	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 – under appeal. Mediation set for 04/09/04.

¹ This consent is being processed using limited notification.

² This application will be jointly heard with Porirua 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
Hutt City Council	To discharge wastewater to the Waiwhetu Stream in times of extreme wet weather.	18/03/04	14/7/04	100+	10/08/04	13 September 2004	Ian Buchanan Glen Evans		
T&T Landfills ³	To vary conditions of an existing consent with respect to payment of a bond, construction of a drainage system and payment of levies.	19/04/04	14/07/04	1	-	1 September 2004	Ian Buchanan		
Silverwood Subdivision ²	To undertake a 162 lot residential subdivision and associated earthworks, discharges and reclamation.	7/05/04	Not yet notified						On hold under s92.
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take water from the Waikanae River for public water supply.	4/08/04	16/09/04						
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take groundwater from the Kapiti bore field for supplementary public water supply.	4/08/04	16/09/04						

³ This consent is being processed using limited notification.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - September 2004

1. Harbour navigation aids

The exposed southern navigation aids were inspected at the first opportunity after the severe southerly storm in Wellington that peaked on 18 August 2004, but all navigation aids remained operational, with no damage, except for a cracked lens at Pencarrow Light. However, Pencarrow Light subsequently became defective over the period of 27 to 31 August before being fully restored to normal operation.

2. Oil pollution response

The Manager, Harbours, was advised on 4 August that he had passed the Regional On Scene Commander oil spill revalidation course attended in Auckland during May 2004 (this is the only pass/fail training course for oil pollution).

On 5 and 6 August, Jenny Rodgers, Wairarapa office, attended the Fundamentals of Marine Oil Pollution Response Course in Auckland.

Between 23 and 27 August, Harbour Rangers Grant Nalder and Greg Meikle attended Spillcon (Oil Spill Conference) in Brisbane.

Two very minor oil spill reports were received during this period, but neither needed clean-up action.

3. Port & Harbour Safety Review

The final version of the New Zealand Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code and the Risk Assessment & Safety Management Systems documents were posted on the MSA website on 30 August 2004.

Ports/harbours are required to complete risk assessments for marine operations within pilotage areas by June 2005 and are required to introduce a Safety Management System (SMS - a set of formal procedures) based on the completed risk assessments by June 2006.

The Manager Harbours of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) (the Harbourmaster) is responsible for producing the "harbour" section, whilst

CentrePort Wellington's Marine Manager is responsible for producing the "port" section of these risk assessments. Both will have team support.

The Harbours Department and CentrePort Wellington intend to work very co-operatively and take a joint approach to the risk assessments. We anticipate starting this process around November 2004.

A group meeting of marine managers and harbourmasters from ports/harbours around New Zealand was held with U.K. based specialist company, Marico Marine, in Wellington on 30 August. The Harbours Department and CentrePort Wellington met with them again on 6 September to discuss costs. Both organisations have budgeted similar amounts for this, and are probably going to use Marico Marine's specialist computer programme - "Hazman" - to assist, as well as Marico Marine's skills.

Following the group meeting on 30 August, it appears that the majority of New Zealand ports/harbours are taking the same approach, which is very sensible and should deliver some consistency.

The Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) have acquired the same Marico Marine "Hazman" programme, and as MSA will eventually be approving our risk assessments and safety management systems, it makes sense not to be different.

Although there are specific deadlines to be met for the above process, the Code requires that safety management systems be continually reviewed and updated in the future to keep up with technology and physical changes and port/harbour trading patterns.

The successful introduction of a working Port & Harbour Safety Management System is not a small task and the time-scales needed to achieve this should not be underestimated.

4. Events

- On 9 August Manager Harbours attended the official opening of the MSA's Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) at Avalon, Lower Hutt. This provided a good opportunity to view the operation of the new centre.
- Early in the morning on 11 August the large drilling rig *Ocean Patriot* passed through Cook Strait and south of Wellington, bound in tow from South Africa to the Wairarapa Coast for oil drilling exploration activities. *Ocean Patriot* was positioned offshore from the Akitio coastal region on 30 August.
- Following a northerly storm on 14 and 15 August, Wellington was lashed by a severe southerly storm on 18 August, with driving rain and sleet. Wind gusts in excess of 130 kms/hr were recorded at Beacon Hill and a maximum swell height of 13.3 metres was recorded at the wave rider buoy off Baring Head.

- Ferry services were progressively cancelled and did not resume until 19 August. The storm was reported as one of the worst storms in forty years and stranded tens of thousands of commuters and travellers with planes, ferries and trains brought to a halt.
- Prior to the suspension of ferry services, ferries that arrived in Wellington were berthed with the assistance of one or two CentrePort tugs. Despite the severity of the weather conditions, there were no casualties or incidents involving commercial shipping.
- During this period, much use was made of information from the waverider buoy off Baring Head and the webcam <http://www.gw.govt.nz/beaconhill/> located at Beacon Hill to ascertain weather conditions.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – September 2004

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan Progress

The first draft of the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan has been completed. It was submitted to the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) for discussion on 23 August 2004. The CEG recommended that the CDEM Group Plan be submitted to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's meeting scheduled for 30 September 2004.

The final CDEM Group Plan will be discussed at the meetings of the CEG (8 November) and CDEM Group (25 November 2004) respectively.

In getting the CDEM Group Plan ready for the public consultation process and before submitting it to the Minister for final approval, the following steps still need to be undertaken:

- Incorporate changes and feedback from the CEG and CDEM Group meetings.
- Make and incorporate CDEM Group appointments (Group Controller, Local Controllers, Group Recovery Facilitator, Lifelines Co-ordinator and alternates for each).
- Agree and incorporate inter-Group Memoranda of Understanding.
- Finalise required delegations.
- Prepare a Consultation Plan for when the CDEM Group Plan is publicly notified. This includes the process for receiving and hearing submissions.
- Prepare the CDEM Group Plan for printing.

1.2 Regional CDEM Managers meeting – 25 August 2004

Greater Wellington hosted a meeting of the Regional CDEM managers and planners and the Ministry for Civil Defence Emergency Management on 25 August 2004. The main idea was to determine where each CDEM Group was with their Group Plan and to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The following was discussed:

- update from each group on their planning progress
- way forward - where to once the plans are signed off
- the need for standard messages in a disaster
- memoranda of understanding
- peer support networks
- identifying significant hazards
- financial claims
- hazards template
- local arrangements
- recovery facilitator or recovery manager
- local government elections and CDEM groups
- consultation process
- monitoring and review
- supporting documents
- section 57 reviews.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Website – 18 August storm

Following the February floods, it was decided that the CDEM Group website would hold regional situation updates and information, with a link from the Greater Wellington Regional Council site. Pages on the CDEM Group website have been developed that would be activated during an emergency event.

Strong southerly winds and heavy rain affected the Wellington region on 18 August. Wellington, Hutt City, Upper Hutt, Porirua, Kapiti Coast and the Wairarapa were all affected by the storm.

The Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated early on 18 August and the emergency management staff and three volunteer civil defence staff of the Council staffed the centre. The main focus was the management of the Lifelines Co-ordination System.

Information regarding road closures, sewerage problems, power outages, surface flooding, damage to the Wellington Airport, evacuations, landslides, school closures, disruption of air and train services etc, were posted to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group website.

The CDEM Group website was linked to the websites of the other territorial local authorities in the region and by 5.00pm on 18 August, we had received more than 8,500 hits.

The EOC also prepared several (five) situation reports during the day which were distributed to local authorities, the Ministry for Civil Defence Emergency Management, emergency services, the Chairperson of the CDEM Group, Chairperson of Greater Wellington and other senior staff within the Council.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 26 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS.

Four earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

2004 Aug 31 **Mag.:** 3.9 **Depth:** 30 km *10 km west of Otaki*

2004 Aug 30 **Mag.:** 4.0 **Depth:** 30 km *Within 5 km of Waikanae*

2004 Aug 23 **Mag.:** 4.4 **Depth:** 100 km *70 km north-east of French Pass*

2004 Jul 31 **Mag.:** 4.5 **Depth:** 60 km *20 km north-west of Wellington*

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Nineteen (up to 18th August) Special Weather Bulletins (eight for heavy rain, seven for strong wind and four for heavy snow) were received since the last Committee meeting. Widespread flooding occurred across the region, which severely impacted on South Wairarapa, Masterton, Upper Hutt, Hutt City, Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti Coast.

3.3 Communications

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