



Report **04.679**
Date 26 November 2004
File WS/08/05/01

Committee **Rural Services and Wairarapa**
Author **Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa**

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 31 August 2004.

2. Divisional Matters

2.1 New Triennium

A welcome, on behalf of the Wairarapa Division staff, to both new and returning members of the Committee.

In my view, the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee is a little different to the other standing committees of the Council in that it has the responsibility for a broad range of activities, and the Committee membership includes several appointees to add another dimension to the discussion.

I trust that you will find this triennium to be both interesting and satisfying.

Please do not hesitate to ask the relevant manager or staff member if, at any time you require further information or an explanation on any aspect of a report or our activities.

2.2 Clean Streams Accord

A function is being held on a South Wairarapa dairy farm on the afternoon of 6 December to mark the first year of progress with the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.

This Accord is a partnership between Fonterra, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Regional Councils, aimed at reducing the impact on dairying on New Zealand's waterways.

This function has been organised by the Ministry for the Environment and Fonterra, and Council will be represented by the Chairman, several Councillors and staff.

Implementation of the Accord is proceeding according to the agreed action plan for this region, and there is a further mention of this project later in this report.

2.3 Kiwi Release

Councillor Long and I represented Greater Wellington at a release of kiwi into the wild at Mt Bruce in late October.

This further release of kiwi is a direct result of the success of the Pukaha – Mt Bruce Project. This pest control/biodiversity project is a partnership between DoC, Rangitaane, Horizons Regional Council, and Greater Wellington. Already there have been several releases of birds back into the wild that have not been seen in the region for many decades.

2.4 Wairarapa Irrigation Study

Work on this Go Wairarapa project in recent months has largely focused on endeavouring to quantify the economic and social benefits of the proposed schemes.

There has been a lot of work undertaken by farm consultants on the economics for individual farms. Efforts are also being made to undertake a regional economic and social benefit study in conjunction with a similar study on the as built Opuha Dam irrigation scheme in South Canterbury.

A meeting of the steering committee for the project is being held on 9 December and Councillors Buchanan and Long have been members of that committee.

2.2 Staffing

Jenny McGuire has been appointed as Hazard Analyst, replacing Sam Barrow. She has a Masters Degree in Environmental Impact Assessment and a Diploma in Teaching.

Susannah Dymock has taken up a one year contract position as Resource Advisor in the Policy and Planning Section while Karen Williams is on maternity leave.

Tim Baker has been promoted to the new Groundwater Scientist position in the Resource Investigations Section.

Tessa Bunny, Mark Beattie and Sam McColl have been employed over the summer vacation assisting with field monitoring work in the Resource Investigations and River Management Sections.

Sara Moylan has been appointed to the position of Biosecurity Officer at the Upper Hutt office replacing Jenny Rodgers who has travelled overseas.

Chris Ladd has been appointed to the position of Works Supervisor in the Land & River Operations Department. At the same time Phil Cooper has been appointed to the permanent staff as Works Assistant.

Mike Longworth has been appointed as River Engineer (Northern), replacing Widana Gamage who has taken up a position with the Franklin District Council. Mike Longworth has spent 33 years with the Masterton District Council and will take up his appointment with Greater Wellington in mid-January 2005.

Roger Wood is currently on sick leave and is not expected to return to work duties until some time in the New Year.

3. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)

3.1 Environmental Incidents

<i>Date</i>	<i>Complaint</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
12 August	Waste dumped on riverbed, rural Masterton.	Removed by staff
13 August	Milk spilled from tanker on roadside, urban Masterton.	Stormwater drain blocked by staff to prevent entry into stormwater.
16 August	Concern about operation of truckwash, rural South Wairarapa.	Inspected, found to be complying with resource consent.
18 August	Water alleged to have been diverted illegally, causing flooding of complainant's property.	Person responsible for the diversion removed the obstruction.
18 August	Sewage overflowing from manhole, urban Masterton.	"Please explain" letter written to District Council. Contractors employed to clean sewer to increase capacity.
18 August	Quarry alleged to be causing erosion, and water pollution, rural South Wairarapa.	Quarry has been required to apply for consent. Still being worked on by staff and management.
20 August	Water from roadside causing flooding, rural Masterton.	Investigated. Found to be natural, caused by wetter than average winter.
27 August	Traffic accident, urban Masterton, caused oil to be spilled.	Cleaned up by staff and other agencies.
6 September	Air pollution from emissions at dry cleaners premises, urban Masterton	Company have modified their point of discharge. No further problems reported.
7 September	Water pollution reported, rural Carterton.	Staff unable to trace source. Pollution was reported the day after it was noticed. No longer present when staff investigated.
13 September	Three cars reported abandoned in river bed, South Wairarapa	Removal arranged by staff.
13 September	Artificial wetland causing waterlogging problems in upstream neighbours paddocks, rural Carterton.	Agreement has been reached on appropriate level for the consented dam to feed wetland.
13 September	House reported being built over drain, rural Masterton	Owner has agreed to dig alternative drain around house.
17 September	Concern over truckwash effluent in rural South Wairarapa	Inspected, found to be complying with resource consent.

28 September	Calf in stream, visible from train, South Wairarapa.	Farmer removed carcass.
1 October	Dump site reported on the roadside, Palliser.	Investigated. Impossible to tell who is dumping the material. Staff still considering preventative options.
5 October	People demolishing house in rural South Wairarapa burning all sorts of toxic material.	Staff called NZ Fire service, who attended the scene. The fire had burned out by then, and further demolition material was carted away.
12 October	Unconsented cross blading in the Ruakokopatuna river.	Infringement notices issued to contractor and land owner.
13 October	Weed problem reported in rural Masterton stream. Weeds floating down from upstream.	Upstream landowners had been clearing the stream of weed, and letting the weeds drift instead of removing them. Letter written asking for removal in future.
13 October	340 litres of waste oil (17 x 20l containers) found dumped on DOC land, Carterton.	Staff and DOC investigating. Little hope held of finding who was responsible.
20 October	Stream had suddenly dried up, urban Masterton	Found to be temporary diversion to allow sewer to be installed in urban sub-division. Warning given.
21 October	Illegal dam in Makoura stream, rural Masterton	Landowner agreed to remove dam, and neighbouring landowner has agreed to remove trees from stream bed.
22 October	Serious smoke pollution caused by burning large volume of green shelter belt trimmings on orchard, rural Masterton	Orchard owner has been spoken to, written to, and is to wait until trimmings are dry and weather conditions favourable before burning the remainder.
2 November	Dairy effluent flowing out onto roadside, rural South Wairarapa.	Inspected, farmer to fix the problem with digger.
22 November	Dust from timber yard, urban Masterton.	Water cart had been out of action for the day. It is now fixed and operating.
24 November	Waste oil has been used on rural South Wairarapa road for dust suppression.	Under investigation
24 November	Weed problem reported in urban Masterton stream	Yet to be investigated
24 November	Large scale extraction of gravel appears to have been undertaken without resource consent, rural South Wairarapa.	Under investigation.

3.2 Notified Consents

<i>Consent Application</i>	<i>Status</i>
Water Races - Carterton District (2)	Further information awaited from CDC now that definitive judgement has been given on the Alexander case.
Water Races - South Wairarapa District (2)	Conditions agreed with SWDC. Currently being considered by submitters. If not agreed, hearing will be scheduled.
Featherston Sewage – discharge	Activity now to be changed to incorporate a summer discharge to land trial. New application awaited from SWDC.
East Leigh Ltd – Riversdale. 140 lot subdivision. Land Use Consents (3), Water Permit, Discharge Permits (3)	Sewage component of application withdrawn and revised proposal provided by applicant. The revised proposal has been notified and submissions closed on 26 November 2004. Application is to be jointly determined with Masterton District Council as the lead agency.
Coastal protection works - Castlepoint - Masterton District (5)	Notified on 12 June 2004. Submissions closed on 9 July 2004. Further information has since been provided by MDC. Proceeding to a hearing in the New Year.
Sewage discharge. – Lake Ferry settlement – South Wairarapa District (3)	Application received 17 June 2004. Additional information requested from SWDC and expected shortly.
Resited stopbank – Land and River Operations Department - Greater Wellington	New stopbank has been constructed under RMA emergency provisions. Consent is required for the ongoing effects. Submissions closed on 29 September 2004. Pre hearing meeting held on 30 November 2004.

3.3 Enforcement

Abatement Notices

None issued.

Infringement Notices

- Notices were issued to the Land and River Operations Department for activities in the bed of the Enaki Stream. Objections have been received and are currently under consideration.
- Notices were issued to a farmer and contractor for activities in the bed of the Ruakokopatuna River.

3.4 Appeals

I Alexander

The Environment Court decision on the appeal by Ian Alexander against an abatement notice was made in the Council's favour on 25 May 2004. The Court's decision in relation to costs is awaited. Advice on the status of Mr Alexander's appeal to the Environment Court decision is also awaited. Consents were issued to

Mr Alexander on 15 November 2004, allowing for irrigation, but with restrictions at times of low flow.

J Barton

Mr Barton has applied for \$31,000 costs in relation to the Environment Court hearing into costs associated with his withdrawn consent application for dairy tanker stopbank access. Greater Wellington has submitted that it would be inappropriate for the Court to make an award of costs in this instance.

3.5 Mangatarere Water Allocation Plan

A prehearing meeting has been held with the four objectors; Department of Conservation, Carterton District Council, Enaki Investments Ltd, and Fish and Game. The meeting proved useful in establishing a way forward to inclusion in the Freshwater Plan. Additional flow information will be obtained this summer that should enable the change to proceed with agreement.

3.6 Review of Municipal Wastewater Monitoring Conditions

At its meeting on 22 July 2004, the Committee endorsed the proposal to apply the NZ Municipal Wastewater Monitoring Guidelines to municipal discharges within the Ruamahanga catchment. A review of relevant consent conditions is now proceeding on a non-notified basis, with submissions from district councils closing on 10 December 2004 and a decision due before 13 January 2005.

Following provision of formal notice of the review, a meeting with the three councils has been held to explain the proposals. Individual discussions have also taken place.

3.7 Clean Streams Accord

Implementation of the Regional Action Plan is now underway with inspections and discussions taking place on each of the 205 dairy farms in the Wellington Region. This year a compliance inspection of discharge to land consents is being undertaken on each farm. At the same time, an assessment of stream crossings/bridges/culverts is being made. Once the regional picture with crossings has been ascertained, the need for strategies can be ascertained and progress towards targets monitored.

The initial Fonterra environmental survey for 2003/04 indicated that the 65 farms have streams with crossings that are not bridged or culverted.

3.8 Annual Compliance Report

The annual report on consent compliance has been published and will be tabled at the meeting for appointed members information. Councillor members will have this already.

3.9 Annual Report Cards

The Annual Report Cards reviewing the state of the environment for the Region have been published and will be provided to appointed members.

3.10 Unwanted Chemicals

A two year campaign for the collection and safe disposal of unwanted chemicals was operated by the Council during 2002 and 2003. Currently the Council has no specific programme or funding provision for dealing with surplus or unwanted chemicals in the Wairarapa.

New Zealand is a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants, which comes into operation next year. Coinciding with this, Federated Farmers national office issued a media release suggesting that farmers may be liable for the costs of disposal of unwanted chemicals. It urged them to get rid of unwanted chemicals before this Christmas.

The outcome of this publicity has been over 30 calls from farmers and a volume of chemicals being brought to the office. The chemicals are being taken for storage at a safe depot and now require identification, sorting and packaging, followed by proper disposal. Ministry of Environment advise that they will meet the cost of disposal, however this is only a small part of the costs. Only some Regional Councils have an ongoing unwanted chemical collection and disposal programme in place.

There are many unsatisfactory aspects to the current situation;

- Chemicals need to be identified and properly packaged on the farm.
- It is illegal to transport many of these chemicals without proper licensing, containment and identification.
- The work needs to be undertaken by properly trained and equipped personnel (the approach used previously).
- No budget provision exists for this work.
- If the Council is going to continue in this role, it needs to be properly programmed, ongoing, resourced, and publicised.

3.11 Hydrology

Rainfall

(November's figures were not available at time of writing.)

Rainfall totals in the Wairarapa for October were above average in the Tararua Ranges and in the eastern hill country, and about average in the valley.

For the valley and eastern hills the monthly totals were up on September, especially in the eastern hills at Tanawa Hut - up from 80mm to 136mm (66% to 144%). Angle Knob's total of 894mm was above average but not as high as the 1084 mm recorded in September.

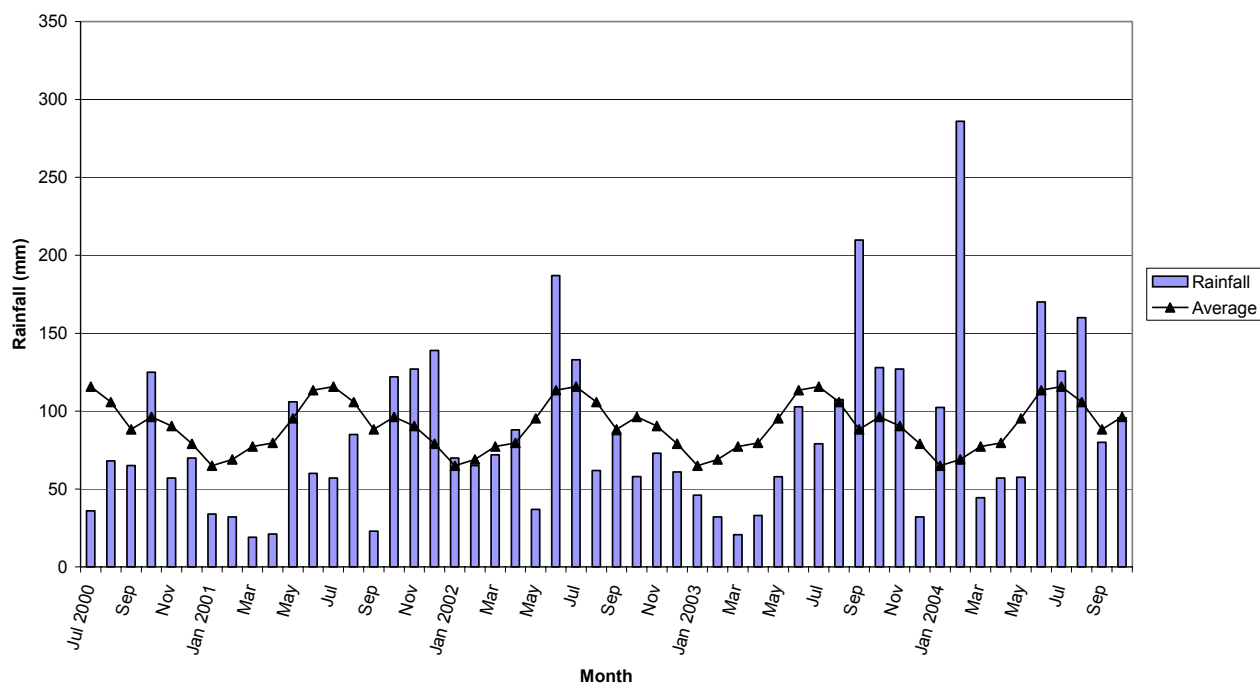
October rainfalls for three representative sites were:

Site	Location	October		September		October	September
		mm	Average	mm	Average	% of average	
Angle Knob	Tararuas	894	725	1084	612	123	177
Alloa	Middle Valley	96	96	80	88	100	91
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	136	94	80	120	144	66

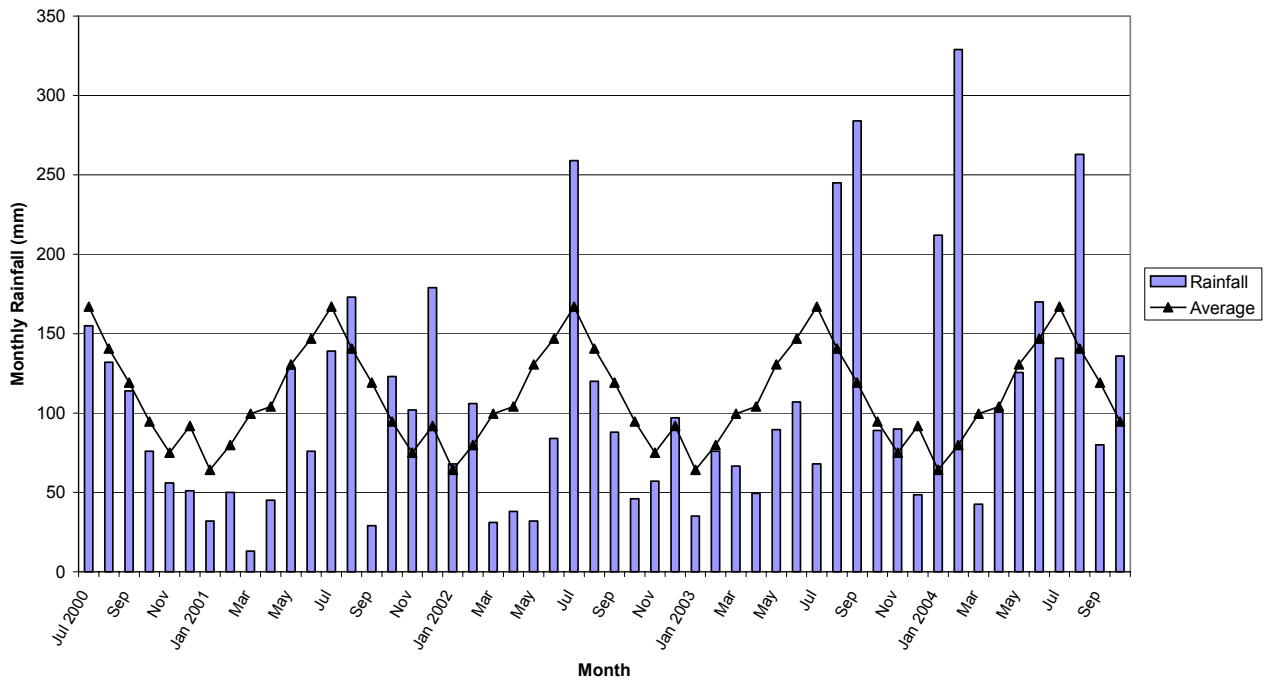
During the storm event of 16 October, Angle Knob recorded 430mm of rain in 24 hours. This was 48% of the monthly total and gave rise to a reasonable flood event in the Ruamahanga catchment.

The monthly rainfall totals for Alloa and Tanawa Hut since July 2000 against the long-term average for each month are as follows:

Alloa Rainfall



Tanawa Hut Rainfall



Rivers

This report is based on river data up to and including 29 October only.

River flows for October were above average for both the Tararua and valley catchments as shown in the following table:

Site	October		September		October	September
	Cumecs	Average	Cumecs	Average	% of average	
Waiohine	56	33.1	50	28.4	170	175
Waihenga	178.8	106.9	160	113.4	167	141

A flood occurred on 16 October which had a six year return period at Waihenga. All Lower Valley floodways operated and the affected roads were closed for durations of between 8 and 15 hours.

Floodwarning

There were two events during October in which warnings were issued to 11 lists. The number of flood events and warning lists issued is slightly up on last year, with 10 flood events occurring since 1 July 2004.

Groundwater Model

Work is proceeding well on the development of a conceptual model of the underground water resources of the Wairarapa valley. The project team is led by Ted Taylor and includes both Wellington and Wairarapa staff, with consultants used as appropriate. A large part of the required information has been assembled and briefs are being prepared for the geological and hydrogeological models that will input into

the numerical model. A brief for the initial work on the numerical model is also being prepared.

Telemetry

The budgeted upgrade of the Wairarapa telemetry system is near completion. The Iquest programme has been upgraded and work is proceeding well with the upgrading of each field recording site. The budgeted cost of the upgrade is \$150,000 with the replaced equipment installed in 1993.

4. Land & River Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)

4.1 Tauanui Logging

Roadline logging in the Tauanui Soil Conservation Reserve has been completed for the summer.

At the end of October 7,755 tonnes had been logged for the year for a net return of \$285,000 for the year to date. This equates to an average of \$36.74 per tonne. It is anticipated that a further 1000 tonnes would have been logged in November and that this will generate a further \$30,000 - \$40,000 net return.

Road formation work will commence late December to build the road access to the areas to be logged next winter.

4.2 Scaddens Stopbank Upgrade – Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Leakage in this section of stopbank developed to a serious level over successive floods. Consequently, a decision was made in September after receiving technical advice on the vulnerability of the structure, to reconstruct a new stopbank 20 metres inland under the emergency provisions of the Resource Management Act. This replacement stopbank is now complete and the bank has been sown in grass. As required we have to apply for a resource consent. A pre-hearing meeting is due shortly to meet with John Barton, the one submitter against the proposal.

4.3 Rule 49A – Regional Freshwater Plan

Most members of the Committee will be aware that Proposed Rule 49A had been developed to prevent unlimited access of heavy trucks along the stopbanks. The rule was appealed by John Barton. He was successful in the Environment Court and therefore has unlimited access rights along the stopbank and does not even to repair it should he damage it. An appeal has been lodged against the decision. In the interim there will be further discussions with our lawyer to clarify the significance of the decision, especially as ultimately we wish to designate all the stopbanks and floodways in the Wairarapa. The focus of the proposed designation, which would be included in the new Combined Wairarapa District Plan, would be the structural integrity of the stopbanks.

4.4 Flood Damage Repairs

Significant progress is being made with flood damage repairs from the February and August floods. As indicated elsewhere in this report, they are ongoing. At one of the worst affected areas, Shelton's in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, work has commenced. It is a very large job with up to 5 bulldozers working to achieve the design alignment at this location.

4.5 Te Whiti Stopbank – Upper Ruamahanga River

The first stage of the upgrade of the Te Whiti stopbank has been completed. The ongoing high river levels have hampered progress. Setting the stopbank at the downstream end 20 metres inland and achieving the design alignment upstream has resulted in reduced flooding at the Pike-Lamb Partnership property. The rating classification needs to be adopted. Staff will monitor how the new stopbank operates to assess the merits of lifting the stopbank level and extending the stopbank upstream.

4.6 Horizons Regional Council – Flood Damage Impact

The Land & River Operations and Flood Protection Departments went on a joint trip to Horizons Regional Council to see first hand the impact of the February floods. The scale of the flooding and the size of the damage certainly surprised most staff. There was concern expressed at the government spending recovery monies in some of the upper catchments where clearly current practices are unsustainable. There are now some questions in our minds as to how the Wairarapa might cope with a “200” year flood event.

4.7 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review

Successful meetings have been held with landowners from the Tauherenikau River and the Ruamahanga River upstream of Waihenga Bridge to the Waiohine River junction. Generally at this time the landowners do not want to accept the cheapest flood management option. They are looking for what is the most effective option dollar-wise. We are still waiting for the hydraulic model of the lower section of the Ruamahanga River to perform. It is expected there will be one more meeting prior to Christmas with the eastern and western tributary landowners.

An engineering student has been employed to map tree densities along the river and stopbank condition over the summer months.

4.8 Technical Services - Tasks Completed for the last quarter include:

- Completion of LIDAR & Geoid survey for second half of Lower Valley project
- 5 Yearly resurvey of Waipoua River
- Surveys of erosion at the Shelton and Guscott properties and rock work set out
- Updated aerial photography for Waingawa, Waiohine, Turanganui & Taunui with images referenced to GIS.

5. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)

Pest Animals

5.1 Application for Biodiversity Advice Funds

An application was lodged in September this year for funding through the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds programme administered by the Department of Conservation (DoC). The funding (\$44,960) is being sought to allow the employment of a dedicated Key Native Ecosystem Co-ordinator for a short-term contract. The contract is to advance the ground truthing surveys of the top one hundred native bush sites on private land that have potential for biodiversity investment.

The KNE Co-ordinators role would include the following objectives:

1. To work co-operatively to develop long-term positive relationships between private landowners and Greater Wellington in respect of the 'Top 100' sites.
2. To work closely with other relevant agencies such as QE II National Trust, DoC and local Territorial Authorities to ensure landowners are made aware of the full range of support available to them.
3. To confirm the accuracy of the computer model by field checking the 'Top 100' to assess type and quality of forest.

The field surveys will assess the accuracy of the prioritisation model by reviewing site information, protection status, fencing, land use, terrestrial structure, vegetation composition, forest condition and species present. The survey will provide opportunity to identify rare/threatened plants and animals and enable an assessment of other biodiversity management needs such as pest plant or animal control.

Advice about the success (or otherwise) of the application should be received in mid December this year.

5.2 Rook Control

Aerial nest baiting of all known breeding rookeries was undertaken during the rook breeding season of September and October. The baiting procedure was preceded by an aerial survey of the rookeries to determine the breeding stage of the nesting rooks. This information is critical to set the optimum timing for the actual control work.

As in past years media releases and other forms of advertising were utilised to encourage land owners and the public to notify Greater Wellington of rook sightings.

In total there were 182 nests treated at 14 sites. This equates to a total of approximately 637 rooks for the region (based on a formula that each nest represents 3.5 birds) and indicates a reduction of 15% in comparison to last years programme.

There are 14 known rookeries, although some only have two to three nests. Only two of these rookeries are outside the Masterton District. The objectives for rooks outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy are:

- have no active breeding rookeries outside the containment zone (Masterton District) by 2006; and
- have no more than five breeding rookeries within the containment zone by 2006.

These objectives are still thought to be attainable using the nest baiting method.

It is pleasing to report that the Horizons Regional Council undertook an extremely large baiting programme this year targeting rookeries in the Tararua District. This should prove helpful in stemming rook migration into our region. However, it will be necessary to maintain a high level of surveillance and to continue with ground baiting programmes should the opportunity arise. As reported previously, the summer of 2003/04 was the first time that the Biosecurity Department was not required to undertake rook control for crop damage.

5.3 Technical Transfer Seminar

The National Possum Control Agencies (NPCA) annual Technical Transfer Seminar was held in Wellington on 24 and 25 November. The seminar's themes were based on 'new research that makes a difference' and 'better results from existing control technology'. There were approximately 120 attendees many of whom were representatives of private possum and predator control companies. The essence of the themes were divided in a series of presentations on multi species vertebrate pest control, traps and toxins, regulations for vertebrate pest control, making better use of existing technology, maintaining the gains created through the Animal Health Board's Bovine Tb Control programmes, monitoring and a trade workshop.

Seven staff from the Biosecurity Department attended the forum. Ken Wright gave a presentation on the benefits of possum and predator control in urban areas and highlighted the return of native flora and fauna to metropolitan Wellington.

The keynote speakers were Dr Morgan Williams (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment) whose subject was 'Farming Trends – are the current ones our destiny or signals for change' and William McCook (CEO, Animal Health Board) with 'An Overview of the National Pest Management Strategy (Bovine Tb) – progress to date and issues for the future'.

Bovine Tb

5.4 2004/05 Programme

The Animal Health Board have approved the following programme for the 2004/05 year:

	AHB Approved Hectares
Possum control	349,767
Ferret control	35,467
Surveys	89,668
Total	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 474,902

This represents 58.4% of the total land area of the Wellington Region thus giving an indication of the size of the programme.

5.5 South East Wairarapa Stage 3 Progress

Unfortunately, little progress has been made since meetings with landowners and affected parties were concluded. Discussions with Animal Health Board (AHB) staff indicate that no formal response from DoC has been received since the letter to Hugh Logan (Director General, DoC) was forwarded in mid August. The letter was subsequently forwarded to the Minister of Conservation accompanied by explanatory information from DoC staff. Only the Minister has the authority to approve such operations on the DoC Estate.

DoC Conservancy staff have recently advised that the Minister referred the matter back to the Regional Conservator for an interim response to the AHB. The Minister is currently unable to provide a view. He has asked both the National Conservation Authority and DoC Legal Section for views. The legal issue relates to whether the Minister has discretion to allow this activity in a gazetted Recreational Hunting Area. The Minister is unlikely to have the information provided until late November, at the earliest. It is possible that the Minister may approve the use of deer repellent additive on 1080 bait but each application would go through the DoC Regional Manager approval process.

Council staff have received a number of enquiries from Stage 3 landowners, and NZ Deer Stalkers Association members, asking why the programme has been stalled. It is very unfortunate that the momentum has been lost. The six meetings that were held in July and August raised expectations that work was going to commence in the near future. With significant delays now occurring, it is likely that another round of consultation will be required when work approvals are finally received. This is only adding to costs and straining relationships with stakeholders.

5.6 Review of 2004/05 Vector Control Programme

Representatives of AHB, Agri-Quality (Disease Managers) and GW met on the 6 October to review the 2004/05 programme, and consider control options for 2005/06 and beyond. A significant number of changes were proffered at the review, following the receipt of new vector monitoring and disease risk information. Significant changes are listed below:

- ◆ Inclusion of a new Wainuiomata South operation (3,327ha) in 2004/05 – this area includes 4 infected herds;
- ◆ Remove control from – Martinborough (2 strata), Whangaehu (3 strata), Ponatahi Longbush (3 strata), Mt Bruce Waipoua (3 strata), Otaki Buffer (2 strata), Bideford (2 strata), Featherston, Holdsworth Carterton (3 strata), Kahutara Pirinoa (3 strata);
- ◆ New wildlife surveys for Castlehill, Tinui, and Taueru Maungaraki;
- ◆ Revised performance targets for Mangaroa Kaitoke (2 strata), Wairongomai (2 strata), Taueru Maungaraki (1 stratum), SE Wairarapa Stage 2 (3 strata), Carterton Flats (1 stratum), SE Wairarapa Stage 1 (1 stratum), Martinborough (2 strata), and Kahutara Pirinoa(2 strata);
- ◆ New trend monitors included for Carterton (3 strata) & Greytown Flats.

The combined savings from these changes totals \$826,700, while new requests total approximately \$125,000.

Whilst the removal of vector control results in 2004/05 savings, there will be increased budget requirements for 2005/06 as these deferred operation are reconsidered. Historically, however, we have been able to maintain a high annual savings total, enabling the budget to remain reasonably consistent over time.

5.7 2004/05 Control Hectares

The table below outlines work allocated to various contractors to date:

	Possum (ha)	Ferret (ha)	Survey (ha)	Total
GWRC BioWorks	111,527	22,094	12,845	146,466
Professional Guiding	39,561	2,874	4,308	46,743
J McCaslin	32,127		8,376	40,503
Target Pest Control	2,519			2,519
Horizons Regional Council	10,052	5,068		15,120
Central Trappers				
Trappersnz	4,654			4,654
Others			3,000	3,000
Control Removed	86,449	5,431	1,465	93,345
Totals	286,889	35,467	29,994	352,350

Virtually all operations for vector control or surveys have now either been let or tendered. Final tenders close on the 10 December 2004. The only exception is South East Wairarapa – Stage 3 (33,180 ha).

Pest Plants

5.8 Perennial Nettle – Matiu/Somes Island

A joint control programme is being undertaken between the Pest Plant Section and DoC to eradicate perennial nettle from Matiu/Somes Island. Initial work is due to start on 30 November and is expected to take seven people two days to complete.

5.9 Darwin's barberry

A contract to undertake survey work on Darwin's barberry in the Mauriceville area has been awarded to BioWorks. The initial contract is for 40 hours, but if successful, further work may be offered.

Although Darwin's barberry is a service delivery species, we are reluctant to undertake full scale control until a comprehensive survey is undertaken, as indications are that the infestations may be more widespread than initially thought.

5.10 Boneseed

A second boneseed contract has been undertaken at Riversdale Beach. This second contract has now virtually eliminated all mature boneseed in this area.

A joint programme has been undertaken at Lake Ferry with the Pest Plant Section contracting the removal of boneseed from the rear of the village and South Wairarapa District Council purchasing native species for replanting the area.

The YMCA Conservation Corp have taken on the responsibility of weeding the plantings to allow establishment.

Good progress has also been made on the control of boneseed in the Kapiti area. We are now confident that, given time, eradication of boneseed from Kapiti and Wairarapa is achievable.

5.11 Plant Identification Workshops

A series of plant identification workshops have been held around the region. These involved invitations to various individuals and organisations. The first workshop was held at Upper Hutt Depot on 19 October and was attended by 20 people, being predominately field staff from Wellington City Council and Hutt City Council.

A further two workshops were held in Masterton and attended by 30 people from Wairarapa TLA's, DoC, Greater Wellington and a local lawn mowing/garden franchise.

On 21 October a workshop was held for 15 staff from Kapiti Coast District Council and a final workshop was held for 15 Porirua City Council staff.

As a result of the workshops, a number of new Eradication and Vigilance (potential new pest species) plant sites have been reported.

The workshop involved a PowerPoint presentation, live plant display and a coloured handout for future field reference.

5.12 Key Native Ecosystems

Tenders are currently being called for the control of wandering jew, old man's beard and sycamore in the Tauherenikau Racecourse Bush area. It is anticipated that initial control will begin in January 2005.

Initial talks with Porirua City Council about commencing a long-term integrated pest management plan for Porirua Scenic Reserve has been very positive with a financial commitment being offered by them for the next few years.

5.13 Cross Boundary Issues

A second meeting with Horizons Regional Council staff has been held in Palmerston North to discuss various matters relating to cross boundary issues with pest plants. It is hoped that these meetings will help us to establish some common ground when the respective strategies are reviewed.

Among the issues that have been discussed:

- the need to provide boundary protection where a species has a classification in one region, but not the other;
- more use of common terminology
- a review of some of the species in the various categories, in particular, Vigilance species.

5.14 Aquatic Awareness

On 17 August 2004 a national meeting was held in Wellington to discuss the issues of aquatic pests. Representatives from nearly all Regional Councils, Ministry for the Environment, The Federation of Aquatic Societies, New Zealand eelers, various DoC staff and members of hydro-electric generating companies attended.

The group discussed various means in which to raise awareness and to stop the spread of aquatic pests.

With our input, DoC is producing a regionally focused pest fish/weeds pamphlet. It is hoped production of this pamphlet can begin prior to Christmas.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa