



Report 05.481
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 8 July to 19 August 2005

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the western Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

These pollution control initiatives provided are summarised below:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium-sized industry.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Strategic context

Pollution Control activities contribute to the following Take 10 targets:

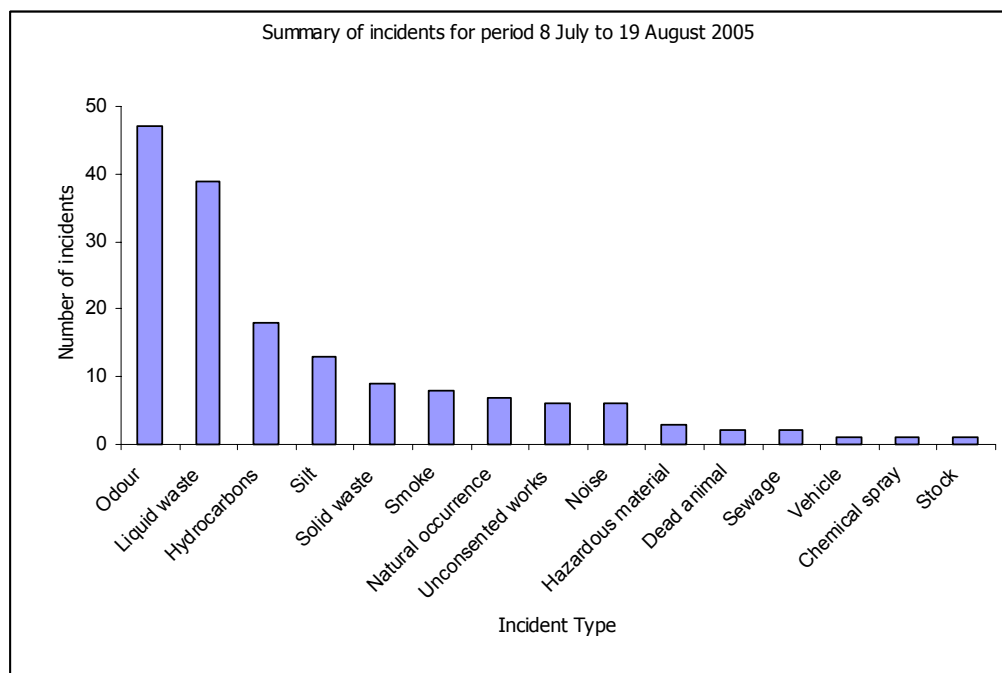
- Reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- The water quality of our five most polluted streams improves;
- There will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams;
- There will be no overall deterioration in the health of our soils.

4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary

A total of 163 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in Attachment 1.

Odour was again the predominant incident class, with a total of 47 incidents. The majority of odour incidents (38%) were for Carey's Gully, 21% for the Wainuiomata landfill and 9% for fish processing facilities in Petone. Incidents involving liquid included discharges to land and surface water from commercial properties, residential properties and construction sites.



The most significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- Trench dewatering by KCDC contractors in Waikanae resulted in a major discharge of silt-laden water into the Waimeha Stream. Greater Wellington required modifications to the process, resulting in substantial improvements to the quality of the discharge. Costs were recovered from KCDC.
- Installation of a 30 metre stream culvert by C & D Landfills Limited resulted in severe discoloration of the Owhiro Stream. The Pollution Control Team is currently considering enforcement action for this unconsented reclamation work and the associated environmental effects.
- Several noise complaints were received about noise from the bar on board the F69 frigate at around 3am. Pollution Control officers have spoken with the bar manager and are monitoring noise levels at the residential boundary to determine compliance with the Regional Coastal Plan.

- Several complaints of industrial air pollution were attributed to pollen accumulating on paved surfaces and in watercourses. This is a recurring natural event at this time of the year, and was dealt with via a media release.
- Leachate from a closed landfill at Raroa caused discoloration of the Ngauranga Stream. Wellington City Council is currently undertaking maintenance work to stop the discharge.
- Surface water drainage from the Winstone Aggregates quarry in Belmont led to discoloration of the Hutt River. The Pollution Control Team has required site managers to upgrade their erosion and silt control measures.
- A diesel spill from a Cityline bus affected several kilometres of roadway and caused a slick in the Stokes Valley Stream. A Pollution Control Officer attended the site clean-up, and is currently working with Cityline to prevent a recurrence.

4.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all incident response targets were met.

Table 1: Response time summary

| Target response time | Mean response time |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Red (60 minutes) | 51 minutes |
| Yellow (24 hours) | 8.7 hours |
| Blue (7 days) | 2.6 days |

5. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

| Regulatory tool | Number issued |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Advisory Notices | 7 |
| Infringement Notices | 1 |
| Abatement Notices | 0 |
| Enforcement Orders | 0 |
| Prosecutions [information's laid] | 0 |

An infringement notice was issued to Richard Cade, who carried out works in an Ohariu Valley stream without an appropriate resource consent.

The Pollution Control Team is currently considering regulatory options for other environmental incidents that occurred during this reporting period.

6. Take Charge

The Pollution Control Officers have completed assessments for a total of 33 businesses along the southern end of Ihakara Street in Paraparaumu, which have the potential to be polluting the adjacent Drain 6. This work area represents approximately half of the Drain Six catchment.

Pollution Control Officers also revisited seven service station sites to evaluate progress in implementing recommendations for environmental improvements.

7. Special projects

Muddy Waters

A series of documents have been prepared and distributed to Territorial Authorities to assist them in dealing with pollution from subdivision sites. The documents include a site inspection form, standard consent conditions, and checklists for the evaluation of resource consent applications. These items will be discussed at a regulator workshop to be held in October.

8. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. receive this report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary