

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – February 2005

1. Take Action

With schools on holiday in December and January, the *Take Action* team have been working on:

- increasing the number of self-guided schools
- teacher training; and
- updating our parts of Greater Wellington's web site.

1.1 Schools taking action

In term one of 2005, the schools doing *Take Action* with the Action Crew are:

- Otari School (Wellington)
- St Francis Xavier School (Tawa); and
- Totara Park School (Upper Hutt).

By the time the Committee meets, the schools will have seen the multi-media presentation and most will have completed their day out testing streams and learning about stream life.

1.2 Self-guided schools

At the end of January around 40 teachers from nine schools, half of which are in Upper Hutt, attended our training day for the self-guided version of *Take Action*. The schools will be doing the programme at different times throughout the year. The teachers were very enthusiastic about the programme.

Over the last two months we have produced a number of information sheets and guidance notes for self-guided schools, so that teachers can lead the programme with confidence. These were presented at the teacher training day.

The self-guided schools for this term are:

- Silverstream School
- Birchville School
- Oxford Crescent School
- Ponatahi Christian School; and
- Greytown School.
- Clyde Quay School

Other self-guided schools later in the year are Waikanae School, St Brendan's School (Upper Hutt) and St Joseph's School (Upper Hutt).

1.3 Upper Hutt emphasis

The uptake of *Take Action* in Upper Hutt this year is very strong. In addition to the self guided schools listed above, Ferguson Intermediate School will do the guided programme in terms two to four and Totara Park in term one.

We intend to use this concentration of schools to reinforce (to families and the community) *Take Action's* messages about looking after water and the environment. We will be promoting the children's action project efforts through the relevant media for much of the year.

1.4 *Take Action* on the Greater Wellington web site

In the past, *Take Action* featured on Greater Wellington's website in the form of children's games with a water theme, and teachers' resources for the programme. However, the navigation was overly complicated and the written content somewhat daunting (due to its volume). Over the last three months we have been reworking our parts of the new Greater Wellington website and have greatly simplified and updated the content. We have also provided a considerable amount of additional information for teachers who want to extend environmental education in their schools beyond *Take Action*.

The old site also contained a segment (developed many years ago) called Wonderful Water. This material was of an educational nature and focused in part on water treatment, but also on many other aspects of water in the environment. It sat in the Utility Services part of the site. Much of this material is still useful so we are currently reworking it with the Utility Services Division. In due course it will appear under the Environmental Education (*Take Action*) heading in the new site as extension activities for children and additional information for teachers.

1.5 Enviroschools awards

In early December the first annual Wellington region "Enviroschools awards" was held at Greater Wellington. The awards were presented to the children by Councillor Turver.

The Enviroschools programme is a whole school approach to environmental education with the aim of creating a sustainable school environment. Schools

embarking on the three-year programme are assisted by a co-ordinator, supported by their local council and Greater Wellington.

The Enviroschools awards complement the facilitated programme and are open to all schools, not just those that have embarked on the programme. The awards serve as an incentive to encourage schools to become actively involved in environmental education and make a difference in their communities. The actions of schools that have undertaken *Take Action* for Water stand them in good stead for achieving an award.

Seven of the 11 awards went to schools that have been involved in *Take Action* or in Greater Wellington's Trees for Survival initiative.

The Enviroschools programme itself has been growing steadily in the region. There are now four facilitated Enviroschools in the Wairarapa - Douglas Park, Fernridge, Lakeview and Carterton school. These join Pukerua Bay and Glenview Schools in Porirua and the Wa Ora Montessori School in the Hutt Valley.

2. Take Care

The summer is usually a quiet period for care groups, with group members on holiday and conditions suitable primarily for weeding and maintenance.

One highlight has been a planting day on the Owhiro Stream, organised by the "Friends of Owhiro Stream". A large contingent of children from a Brooklyn school holiday programme spent the day planting and stream testing, with their efforts featuring in the Dominion Post!

The Owhiro Stream group has only just completed its first year of activity but it has already made quite an impact. A display about the group (which was set up at a local event to recruit new members) can be seen in the Committee Room on the day of the Committee meeting.

2.1 Web site

Take Care staff have also been working on improving the profile of their groups on the new Greater Wellington web site. Most of the 30-plus groups supported by Greater Wellington have their activities described on the site. The benefits and application information for the programme are also provided.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – February 2005

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

Regional Plan Changes

The outstanding appeal by Transit NZ is close to resolution. Transit wants to include washdown water in the definition of stormwater in the Regional Freshwater Plan. Instead, agreement has been reached on the wording of a permitted activity rule for washdown water from roads. The agreement is subject to consent being granted to Transit for discharging washdown water to land. Progress with the consent is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

We have appealed the decision from the Environment Court on the second appeal to the proposed changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. A new rule (which replaces a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan) makes driving heavy vehicles on stopbanks a discretionary activity. The appellant would like it to be a permitted activity. The Environment Court was satisfied that the stopbank is suitable for heavy vehicle use in certain areas and that an exemption from the proposed rule is warranted.

A pre-hearing meeting was held on the plan change to include minimum flows and allocation for the Mangaterere Catchment in the Regional Freshwater Plan. All five submitters attended the meeting. We have agreed to gather further information on flows in the tributaries of the Mangaterere River.

An information pamphlet has been sent out to residents, businesses and other interested parties about upcoming changes to the port noise provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan and Wellington City District Plan. Greater Wellington made a commitment in the Regional Coastal Plan to align its noise provisions with provisions in the Wellington City Council and Hutt City Council operative district plans. This recognises that the adverse effects of port noise (originating in the coastal marine area) are generally felt on land and promotes integrated management of activities across land and coastal boundaries. The pamphlet has been developed jointly with Wellington City Council, and forms part of our consultation on the draft plan changes.

2. Water

Waiwhetu Stream

Four out of five of our applications to the Ministry for the Environment's Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund for further studies of the Waiwhetu Stream were successful. The studies are:

- The extraction and analysis of 75 sediment cores from the contaminated reach of the stream to determine the extent and nature of the contaminants;
- The digging of a number of test pits adjacent to the stream to determine the chemical and geotechnical characteristics of this land;
- Water quality sampling and flow monitoring to establish the relative significance of contaminant inputs from historic in-stream sediments and those currently entering the stream via stormwater from the Gracefield area; and
- An investigation to establish the significance of contaminated groundwater infiltration as a source of contaminant export to the Waiwhetu Stream.

Taupo Stream fish pass

A resource consent has been obtained for a fish pass in the Taupo Stream (downstream of Taupo Swamp) that will be constructed in March. Greater Wellington is project managing the work which will be paid for by Transit. Other supporters of the project are QE II Trust, Porirua City Council, DoC and Ngati Toa.

3. Other

Legislative Update

The following are now in force:

- Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004
- Resource Management (Foreshore and Seabed) Amendment Act 2004
- Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004; and
- Aquaculture Reform (Repeals and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004.

Greater Wellington's submission on the Resource Management and Electricity Legislation Amendment Bill will be presented to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee on 15 February.

Staff

Helen Grant has joined the Department as our Hazards Analyst. Helen previously worked for Environment Canterbury.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – February 2005

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.

Details of alarms received are provided to the Committee to fulfil reporting requirements set out in the Annual Plan.

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

11 November 2004	Rainfall: Kapakapanui.
12 November 2004	Rainfall: Centre Ridge
15 November 2004	Rainfall: Horokiri, Warwick's, Kaitoke Headwork's, Kapakapanui, McIntosh, Otaki Depot. Water Level: Otaki,
16 November 2004	Water Level: Waitohu, Otaki, Porirua Town.
23 November 2004	Rainfall: Warwick's, Kapakapanui.
5 December 2004	Rainfall: Orongorongo Swamp
16 December 2004	Rainfall: Wainui Reservoir, Orongorongo Swamp, Kapakapanui, Taungata, Oriwa, Warwick's, Transmission Lines, Horokiri, Wayne's Mistake.
19 December 2004	Rainfall: Kapakapanui.
30 December 2004	Rainfall: Wayne's Mistake, Kapakapanui, Horokiri, Seton Nossiter Park, Warwick's, Wainui Reservoir, Orongorongo Swamp, Cemetery, Te Marua.
5 January 2005	Rainfall: Warwick's, Oriwa, Transmission Lines, Taungata, Horokiri, Orongorongo Swamp, TVL, Wayne's Mistake, Cemetery, Wainui Reservoir, McIntosh, Regional Council, Oriwa, Kaitoke Headwork's, Te Marua, Waikanae, Kapakapanui.

	Water Level: Otaki, Waikanae, Porirua Town, Waiwhetu, Manuka Track, Waitohu, Leonard Wood Park, Cemetery, Mangaroa, Te Marua, Birchville.
6 January 2005	Water Level: Taita Gorge
8 January 2005	Rainfall: Horokiri, Wayne's Mistake, Wainui Reservoir, Orongorongo Swamp, TVL, Cemetery, Seton Nossiter Park, Centre Ridge, Te Marua. Water Level: Porirua Town, Waiwhetu, Leonard Wood Park, Mangaroa.
9 January 2005	Rainfall: Kapakapanui.
27 January 2005	Rainfall: Seton Nossiter Park.

Our water level recorder on the Akatarawa River was badly damaged by the January floods and is currently being rebuilt.

1.2 South East Asian Tsunami

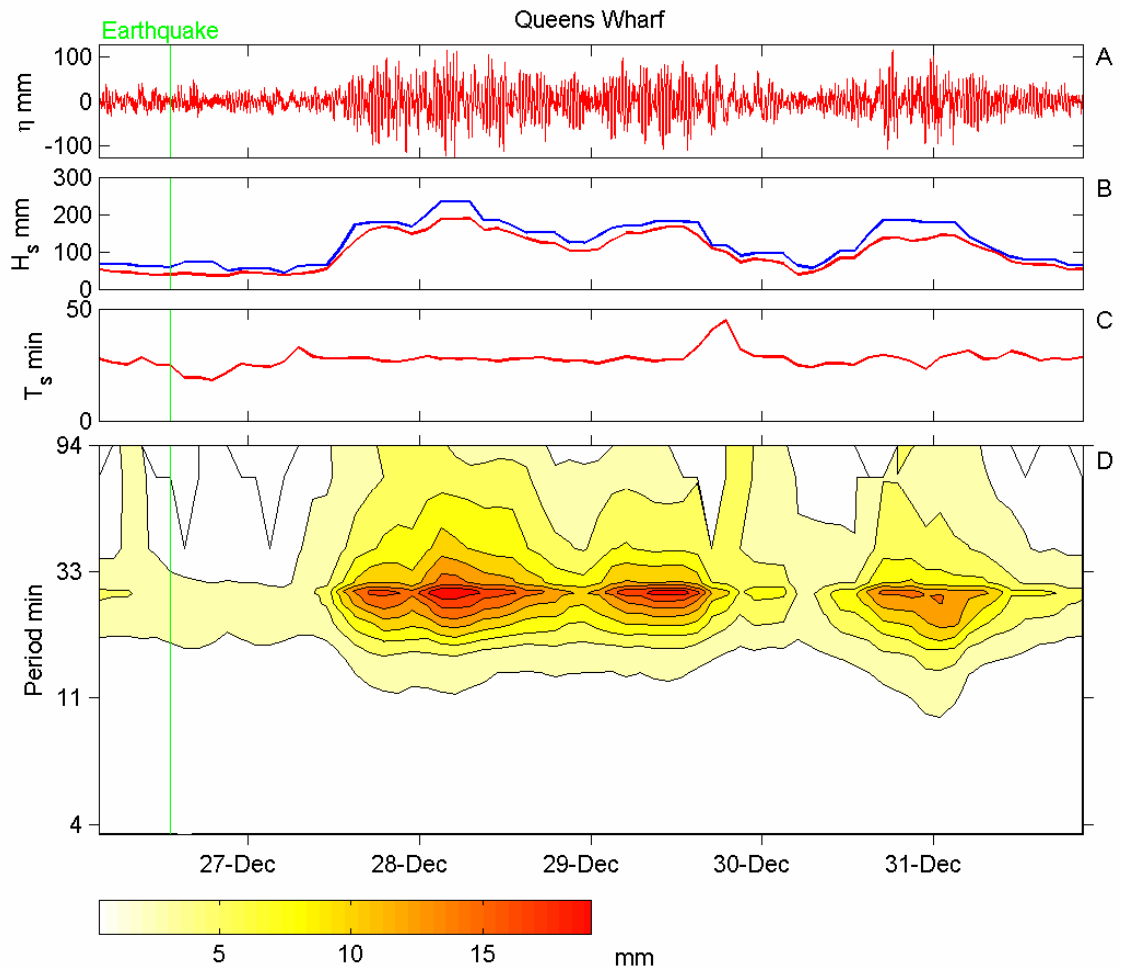
Our tide monitoring site at Queens Wharf recorded the effect of the Boxing Day tsunami in Wellington Harbour. Derek Goring from Mulgor Consulting Ltd in Christchurch has analysed this data and provided the following summary of what happened.

Sumatra Tsunami at Wellington

Time of arrival of first wave*	24.3 hours
Time of arrival of highest wave*	51.9 hours
Height of the highest wave	235 mm
Period of the highest wave	31 mins

* hours after the earthquake.

The following figure shows the long wave record; significant (red) and maximum (blue) wave heights; the period of significant waves, and the distribution of significant wave heights with time and period.



The tsunami waves caused a seiche in the harbour (an oscillation in the water level) which lasted for several days. However, the seiche waves were pretty small and had a wave period of 26 minutes. A second group of waves arrived on 30 December, but these could not be distinguished from the meteorological generated long waves.

Further information on Derek’s analysis of the tsunami can be found at his website www.mulgor.co.nz.

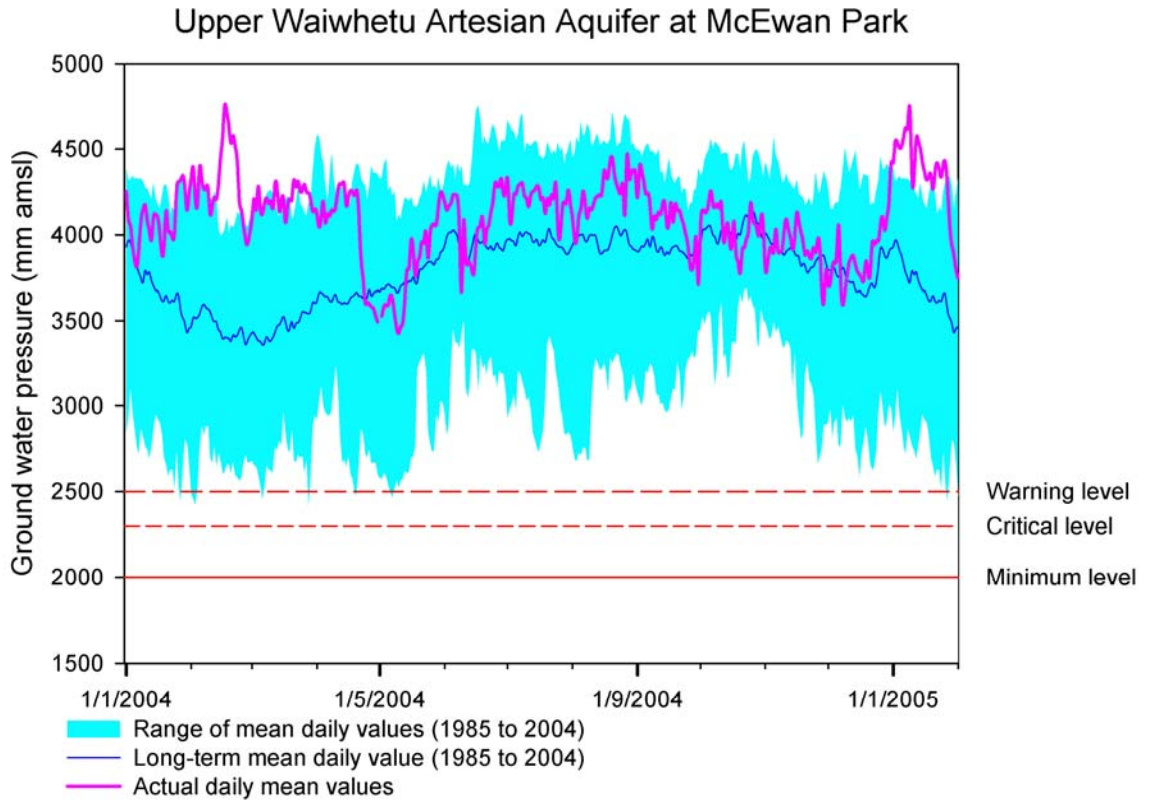
2. Resource analysis

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. Records from these two bores and a synopsis of the situation are provided to the Committee at each meeting.

2.1.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

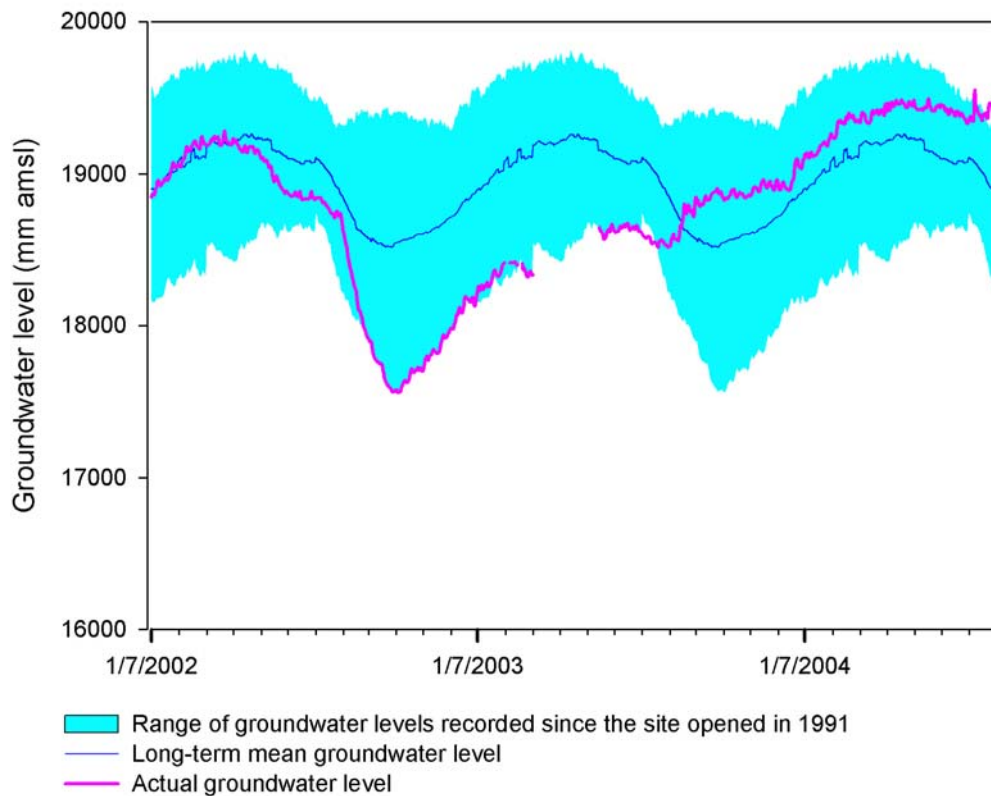
Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is just above the long-term average value and well above the first seawater intrusion alarm level. The aquifer pressure rose to very high levels in January in response to the abundant rainfall that raised the level of the Hutt River. An increase in the use of the Waterloo wellfield at the start of February has caused the recent decline in aquifer pressure.



2.1.2 Kapiti Coast

Kapiti aquifers also benefited from the above average January rainfall and groundwater levels are high for this time of year. The hydrograph below shows record high January groundwater levels for the deep aquifer under inland Te Horo.

Monitoring bore S25/5208 at Te Horo, Kapiti

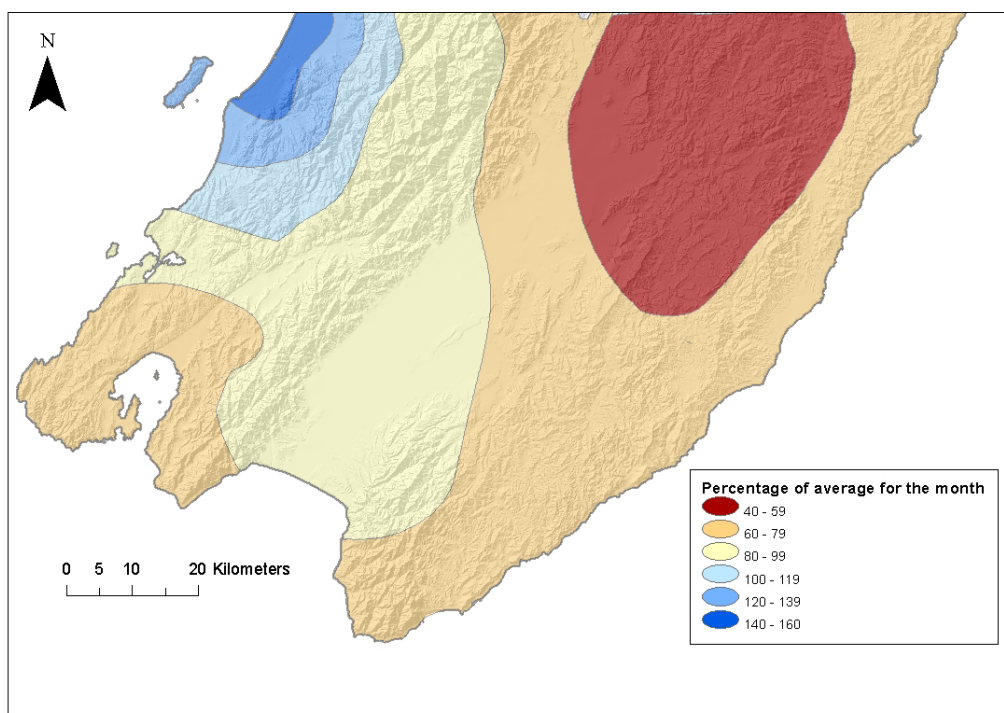


2.2 Rainfall and river flows

2.2.1 Monthly summaries

The climate pattern for November was dominated by frequent westerly and north-westerly airflows, caused by highs to the east of the Chatham Islands. The result was relatively dry, windy conditions typical of that time of the year. Although the north-westerly weather lead to slightly higher than average rainfall on the Kapiti Coast, in the rest of the Region rainfall was normal to slightly below normal, and only about half of the average in parts of the eastern Wairarapa (Figure 1).

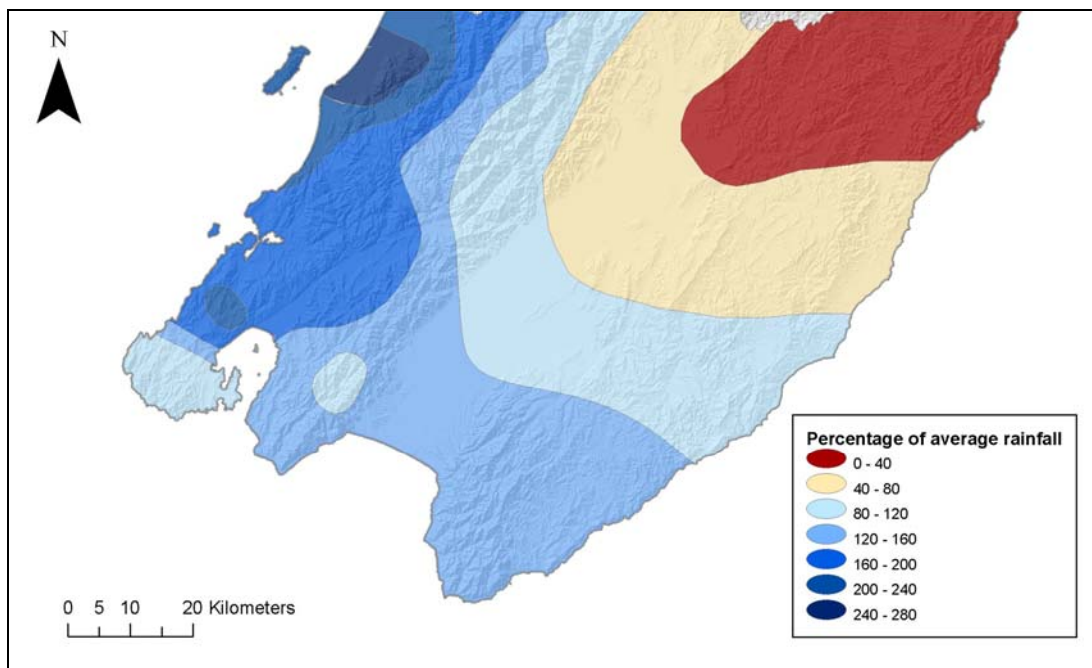
Figure 1: November 2004 rainfall compared to the average rainfall for November



December 2004 was colder than normal, and frequent southerlies lead to a wet month. The dominance of southerly flows was caused by frequent lows south of the Chatham Islands. The result was average to above average rainfall for the month throughout the Region.

Although January 2005 started off wet with a north-westerly storm in the Wellington Region (see report 05.35) there was very settled weather for the remainder of January. However, due to the high rainfall totals during the 5-6 January storm in the western part of the Region, rainfall for the month was significantly above average in the Tararua range and on the Kapiti coast and above to slightly above normal in most other parts of the Region (Figure 2). However, in the north eastern Wairarapa rainfall was extremely low for the month, with totals only about a quarter of the January average in some places.

Figure 2: January 2005 rainfall compared to the average rainfall for January



Due to the dry weather of the last few weeks river flows are starting to drop. However, in the western Wellington Region flows are still slightly above average for this time of the year. If the dry weather continues, restriction levels on resource consents to take water could be enacted in the next few weeks.

2.2.2 Projects

In the last few months several projects have been initiated in conjunction with the Wairarapa Division. These are:

- Technical investigations to assess minimum flow requirements of the Otakura Stream and Tauweru River (both in the Wairarapa);
- A review of Greater Wellington's regional hydrological network; and
- Development of a framework for Greater Wellington to follow when assessing in-stream flow requirements.

The outcomes of these projects will be reported to the Committee in due course.

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

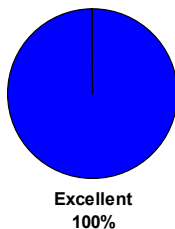
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

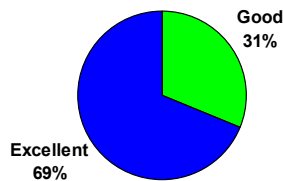
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past two months at Upper Hutt

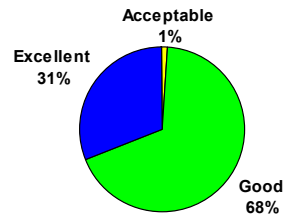
8-Hour average CO



24-Hour average NO₂

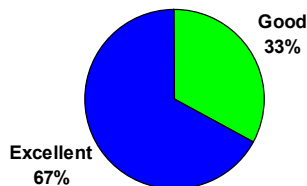


24-Hour average PM₁₀

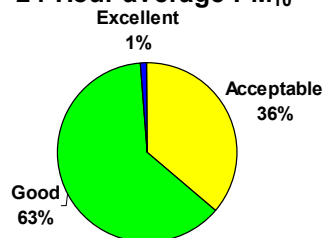


Results for the past two months at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

8-Hour average CO

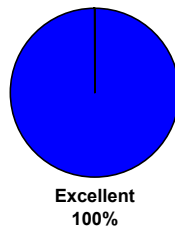


24-Hour average PM₁₀

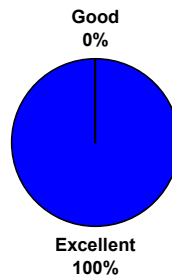


Results for the past two months at Masterton

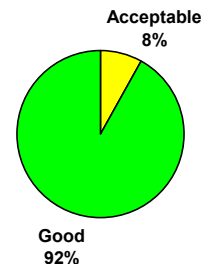
8-Hour average CO



24-Hour average NO₂

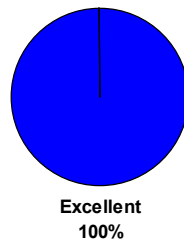


24-Hour average PM₁₀



Results for the past two months at Te Aro

8-Hour average CO

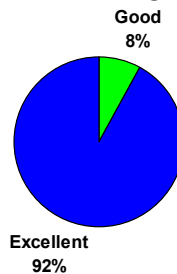


Results for the past two months at Lower Hutt

8-Hour average CO



24-Hour average NO₂



24-Hour average PM₁₀



2.3.2 New monitoring stations

Two new monitoring stations are currently being developed. A meteorological monitoring site has been completed in Wainuiomata. This will enhance our understanding of episodes of poor air quality in this air shed.

The first mobile traffic emissions monitoring station is nearing completion. This will be deployed at key points around the Region to assess the air quality impacts of vehicles.

2.4 Stormwater

An issues and options paper on stormwater is near completion. This will provide the basis for consultation with territorial authorities as we work

towards the development of a Regional Action Plan for Stormwater Management.

Consultants have been commissioned to complete a technical report summarising the results of stormwater investigations undertaken by the Resource Investigations Department over the past three years.

An investigation into the quality of marine sediments in Porirua Harbour has been completed and is reported as Report 05.42

2.5 Contaminated sites management

Last year we developed a web based tool which allows territorial authorities to access information on our Selected Landuse Register (SLUR). This is the database which contains information about the contamination status of sites throughout the Region. The information kept on SLUR is used by the territorial authorities to meet their responsibilities for alerting the public to the likely presence of hazardous substances when issuing Project Information Memoranda (PIMs) and Land Information Memoranda (LIMs).

This web tool is proving to be very effective and to date we have received 3989 hits from territorial authority staff gathering this information.

3. Pollution Control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

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

3.1.1 Infringement notice review

The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a review of the use infringement notices. Staff prepared a technical submission on this matter. The major thrust of our submission was the need to keep the infringement notice system simple and uncomplicated.

4. Staff

Two staff have left the Department since the last meeting of the Committee. Rita O'Brien, one of the Pollution Control Team has left to take up a position with Kapiti Coast District Council. Gary Stephenson has left to resume his environmental consulting business. Replacements for both these staff are currently being sought.

Nigel Corry
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – February 2005

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 7 February 2005 we have received 268 consent applications. This compares with 401 received for the same period last year.

In the period to 7 February 2005 we have processed 215 consents. This compares with 303 processed over same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2004/2005 year have been completed within statutory time frames and the median processing time is currently 11 working days.

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

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

The appeal between GW and CentrePort has finally been resolved. We are now just waiting for the final consent order from the Environment Court and will then be able to issue the consent certificates. Two of the 12 consents are for Restricted Coastal Activities so we will need to get approval from the Minister of Conservation before these can be issued.

There are no other appeals outstanding at present.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

We are still processing less consents this year than at similar stages during 2003/04 with the result that our compliance workload for smaller one-off land use consents is also less. We have recently reallocated some of our on-going compliance amongst the Resource Advisors and are trying to use this period of fine weather to complete as much of our annual compliance workload as possible. We are also working hard to ensure that we are managing our relationships associated with all the larger compliance issues, many of which continue to be very time consuming.

3.2 Abatement notices

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

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued one infringement notice since the last Committee meeting which was to Nuplex Environmental Limited for the discharge of an offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary of their property.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

In early January of this year Michael Mears applied for an interim enforcement order in relation to the Mangaroa Metals consent WGN040179. Mr Mears had earlier appealed the original GW consent allowing the construction of culverts in Cooleys Stream, Whitemans Valley, with the issue being resolved by Environment Court mediation in September of last year. However, Mr Mears applied to the court for an interim enforcement order on 25 January 2005 seeking that GW enforce the conditions of the consent order that resulted from the mediation agreement. GW's position was that all conditions were being suitably enforced. Based on evidence provided to Judge Kenderdine on 28 January, the enforcement order sought by Mr Mears was not made by the court. We will continue to work with all parties to ensure that the matter is successfully managed.

4. Other

4.1 Muddy Waters workshop

In conjunction with staff from the Resource Investigations Department, Consents Management held a 'Muddy Waters' workshop on 7 and 15 December for staff from Territorial Authorities on the western side of the region. The workshop covered issues surrounding erosion and sediment control in the Wellington Region, and looked at examples of best practice, overlaps in jurisdiction between GW and TA's, approaches to compliance, effects assessment and consent conditions. These workshops form part of an ongoing communication and information sharing exercise between GW and TA's to help raise awareness surrounding sediment issues in the region and to ensure that both TA's and GW work with applicants and contractors to promote best practice and improved environmental results. A paper covering our work with TA's and contractors will be presented to the Committee later in the year.

4.2 Proactive odour monitoring

We have recently recommenced our proactive odour monitoring work at both the Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston sites. While this monitoring programme had always been scheduled to occur at this time of year, it is particularly timely given the recent spell of relatively calm and warm weather. As is typical for this time of year, the number of complaints we have received has increased, but they are well down on the levels previously experienced during the December-

February period. We continue to work proactively with the Wellington City Council and Taylor Preston and to ensure that all complainants are informed of both GW and consent holder actions.

4.3 Staff issues

Kirsty Ferguson's last day with the Department was on Friday 2 February. Kirsty had been with the department for nearly four years and her experience and expertise will be missed. However, we hope to have recruited a very experienced person to start in the position of Senior Resource Advisor which will ensure that overall departmental experience is retained at an adequate level.

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	06/05/03	9	-	11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Awaiting consent order from Environment Court.
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	Awaiting consent order from Environment Court.
Wharfe Quarry ¹	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	06/11/03	04/02/04	57 plus 2 late	-	Hearing not yet scheduled - on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.			
Silverwood Subdivision ²	To undertake a 162 lot residential subdivision and associated earthworks, discharges and reclamation.	07/05/04	03/11/04	17	-	Hearing scheduled for 28 February/1 March.			

¹ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

²This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

³This application will be jointly heard with Wellington 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
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take water from the Waikanae River for public water supply.	04/08/04	16/09/04	4	-	4 November 2004	Chris Turver Terry McDavitt Aka Arthur	23/11/04	Granted – no appeals.
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take groundwater from the Kapiti bore field for supplementary public water supply.	04/08/04	16/09/04	10	-	26 October 2004	Chris Turver Ian Buchanan Aka Arthur	04/11/04	Granted – no appeals.
Ridvan Garden Development ³	To lay culverts and discharge contaminated stormwater as part of a residential subdivision development in Crofton Downs.	23/12/04	25/02/05						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – February 2005

1. Harbour navigation aids

The northern starboard channel marker at Porirua was fitted with a new solar powered lantern on 14 January 2005.

All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution response

- Eight reports of oil spills were received and investigated, but none required any clean-up action.
- Patrick Attwood and Greig Meikle attended an Oil Spill Workshop for Regional Councils at MSA in Auckland on 22-23 November 2004.
- The Harbours Department assisted with the response to a spillage of twenty tonnes of latex carpet glue onto Kings Wharf and into the harbour on 6 December 2004.

3. Events

- San Domenico hulk

The plastic hulk of the fishing vessel *San Domenico* was towed out of Wellington for scuttling on 4 December 2004 in the Explosives Dumping area in Cook Strait off Baring Head.

- Arrow hulk

Previously of Wellington, and subsequently half-scrapped at Port Tarakohe, the steel hulk of the large 60-metre fishing trawler *Arrow* was scuttled in the Explosives Dumping area in Cook Strait off Baring Head on 21 December 2004.

- **Summer Harbour Rangers**

Ollie Muller started with us again on 22 November 2004 as our temporary additional summer harbour ranger. There was a possibility that he might need to leave in mid-January 2005, which would have left us without an additional harbour ranger.

A tentative-replacement was John Tattersall and he commenced on 9 January 2005 so that he could receive some training whilst Ollie Muller was still with us.

- Manager Harbours attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee at Te Atatau on 25 November 2004.
- The annual function was held for our Honorary Enforcement Officers in the Museum of Wellington, City and Sea on 8 December 2004.
- Manager Harbours attended the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Auckland on 10 December 2004.

4. On-water events

For two days over the Wellington Anniversary weekend, Harbour Rangers Grant Nalder and Greg Meikle took part in a Ministry of Fisheries operation on the Wairarapa coast. The fisheries officers inspected catches and the Harbour Rangers inspected boats for lifejackets and safety equipment. They also gave out safe boating packs.

A “Chinese New Year” fireworks display was held from barges/pontoons moored in Lambton Harbour on the evening of 5 February 2005, after the completion of the Rugby Sevens in the Stadium.

The “Global Challenge” yachts started the Wellington to Sydney leg of the race on the afternoon of 6 February 2005.

Both of the above events were blessed with calm, fine and hot weather conditions, which helped to attract thousands of spectators, these included many recreational craft out on the harbour. With good organisation and co-operation between various marine groups, the on-harbour activities went smoothly. Harbour Rangers Grant Nalder and Greg Meikle were on-scene for the departure of the Global Challenge yachts with our newly-signwritten work-boat *Seacare* and our jet-ski respectively, helping to guide activities. Beacon Hill Communications Station kept all advised with suitable radio broadcasts.

5. Wellington Harbour - Risk Assessment

The final version of the New Zealand Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code was posted on the MSA website on 30 August 2004. The Code aims to promote good practice in the conduct of safe marine operations in ports and harbours. This Code is not law. The Code is a statement of good practice based on a practical interpretation of New Zealand law.

The Code requires that Greater Wellington and CentrePort:

- Complete a risk assessment for the operation of marine operations within the Pilotage areas of Wellington Port and harbour by June 2005.
- Develop a Safety Management System (SMS - a set of procedures) based on the completed risk assessment for Wellington Port and harbour by June 2006.

Greater Wellington is responsible for the "Harbour" aspect of the risk assessment and CentrePort is responsible for the "Port" aspect of the risk assessment.

There is a significant amount of work required to complete the risk assessment satisfactorily and within the timeframe.

To assist Greater Wellington, we intend to engage the services of Marico to undertake this assignment. CentrePort have endorsed our view that Marico are the preferred consultant.

We are currently finalising a formal contract with Marico and, subject to this, anticipate commencing this work in late February 2005.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – February 2005

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan Progress

The Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan has been publicly notified on 1 December 2004 and submissions on the Plan were called for.

Fourteen formal submissions were received, plus one informal submission.

A Hearings Committee was appointed by the CDEM Group at its meeting of 25 November 2004 to hear and decide on submissions on the Plan. The Hearing meeting took place on 14 February 2004.

The final Group Plan will be tabled at the next Co-ordinating Executive Group meeting scheduled to take place on 14 March. The Plan will then be submitted for Ministerial review before formal approval of the Plan is sought from the CDEM Group on 5 May 2005. It is envisaged that the Group Plan will become effective on 13 May 2005.

1.2 CDEM Training for Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

A comprehensive training programme was developed to train the 30+ council volunteer staff in managing the GEOC. The training included setting up the operations centre, receiving, processing and distributing emergency information, managing the desks of logistics, planning and intelligence, operations, welfare and lifelines co-ordination. Further training is scheduled throughout the year and will include communications management, co-ordinated incident management, operating the mobile command centre, etc.

Our volunteers are highly motivated and able to assist with the management of emergencies in the GEOC.

1.3 CDEM Group Work programme

The current work programme of emergency water supply, emergency communications, emergency fuel, urban search and rescue, commuter management, supply of external resources, regional reconnaissance, sewerage disposal and medical logistics are on track and most of the information will be utilised in the preparation of local CDEM Operating Procedures. These procedures need to be finalised by 30 June 2005.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Emergency Preparedness

The Manager, Emergency Management, has been invited by Isola Productions (TV Company in Auckland) to take part in a Civil Defence documentary about emergency management in New Zealand.

A live studio discussion will take place in Auckland on 12 March 2005. The documentary will be broadcasted by TV One on 10 April 2005.

The Group Office is also working with Dave McLouglin (Dominion Post) to produce an article on the storage of emergency water, not just for residential households, but also for all other organisations, such as emergency services, care centres, hospitals, medical centres, doctors' surgeries and consulting rooms, schools, etc.

A 'Tsunami' flyer has been developed which was made available to the public.

2.2 Emergency Planning Guide

Markat Promotions of Christchurch has offered to produce another booklet for our region by September 2005.

We are also in the process of negotiating an 'emergency preparedness' booklet/brochure that would be provided to every household in the Wellington Region. Our Communications department is assisting us in this.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 33 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS.

Nineteen earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

Feb 01 2005 **Magnitude:** 5.4 **Depth:** 20 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 31 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.3 **Depth:** 30 km Within 5 km of Masterton
Jan 28 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.7 **Depth:** 50 km 30 km west of Paraparaumu
Jan 23 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.6 **Depth:** 30 km Within 5 km of Upper Hutt
Jan 22 2005 **Magnitude:** 4.2 **Depth:** 30 km Within 5 km of Upper Hutt

Jan 21 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.6 **Depth:** 30 km Within 5 km of Upper Hutt
Jan 21 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.7 **Depth:** 25 km Within 5 km of Upper Hutt
Jan 21 2005 **Magnitude:** 5.5 **Depth:** 30 km Within 5 km of Upper Hutt
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.9 **Depth:** 15 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 5.2 **Depth:** 25 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.8 **Depth:** 20 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 5.3 **Depth:** 20 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.6 **Depth:** 15 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.8 **Depth:** 15 km 40 km s-east of Martinborough
Jan 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 4.4 **Depth:** 50 km 30 km north-west of Porirua
Jan 15 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.4 **Depth:** 30 km 20 km s-west of Martinborough
Dec 5 2004 **Magnitude:** 3.6 & 4.0 **Depth:** 25 km 20 km s-east of Dannevirke
Dec 2 2004 **Magnitude:** 4.1 **Depth:** 40 km 30 km north-west of Wellington
Nov 25 2004 **Magnitude:** 3.5 **Depth:** 25 km 10 km east of Eketahuna

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Nineteen Special Weather Bulletins (13 for heavy rain and six for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. The relevant agencies were notified and some minor problems were experienced, but they were managed well by the relevant local authorities.

3.3 Communications

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

We are still waiting for the launch of the VSAT satellite from Thailand before we are in a position to purchase the new satellite communications system. It is anticipated that the launch will now take place in February or March 2005. We have already made contact with the providers, Ericsson and Telecom NZ, and we have entered into negotiations regarding our set up.

Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant
Financial Position: 31 December 2004

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the period ended 31 December 2004.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 31 December 2004</u>				
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Full Year</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	4,100	4,100	--	8,199
Other Revenue	966	1,025	59 U	2,113
Total Revenue	5,066	5,125	59 U	10,312
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	4,155	4,276	121 F	9,017
Indirect Expenditure	654	651	3 U	1,354
Total Operating Expenditure	4,809	4,927	118 F	10,371
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	257	198	59 F	(59)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and in accordance with our budgets generally. For the period an operating surplus of \$257,000 was recorded, which is slightly above our budget for the corresponding period. The budget provides for an operating surplus of \$198,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$59,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$59,000, and offset, to an extent, by lower than expected expenditure of \$118,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$5,066,000 is some \$59,000 short of our budget target of \$5,125,000. The shortfall has been caused by a lower number of notified consents processed in the first half of the year than budgeted, as well as a one-off feature – the remit of costs for a notified consent. In addition, changes to the internal arrangements for the after-hours message service have resulted in a loss of revenue. Previously Beacon Hill staff provided the service.

However, we received \$30,000 from the Department of Conservation towards our biodiversity initiatives for landowner assistance, which has buoyed the revenue line. This contribution was not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$4,809,000 is some \$118,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly over budget by \$30,000. Recruitment costs (\$48,000) are the main cause of the variance. However, we expect that this variance will be eliminated with staff movements in the latter half of the year.
- Consultant costs were less than budget by \$94,000.

The take-up of the funding for the iwi projects is lower (\$46,000) than anticipated in our budgets. However, we expect that there will be a catch-up in spending as projects are implemented later in the year.

QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$36,000). Although funds have been allocated, farmer reimbursement claims (via the QE11 National Trust) are yet to affect our finances significantly.

- Internal charges were under budget by \$59,000. Most of the underspend arises because of the changes to the after-hours answering service previously provided by Beacon Hill staff and work yet to be undertaken by the Landcare Division.

5. Capital Expenditure

At the close of the six month period, our capital expenditure programme has been overspent by some \$10,000.

The “overspend” is with the air quality stations ahead of schedule and motor vehicle replacements being deferred.