

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – April 2006

1. Take Action

Term one schools are progressing well with both guided and self guided schools completing their outdoor investigations and students working on ways to take action in their local environment.

Self-guided schools this term are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Tawhai (Stokes Valley), Tui Glen (Stokes Valley), Koranui (Stokes Valley), and Taita Central. The guided schools are Ngaio, St Patrick's (Wellington) and Mauriceville. Since my last report, Martinborough School has confirmed for term four as a guided school and Taita Central as a self-guided school. This takes the total number for 2006 to 24 schools. We are continuing to field enquiries from interested schools, with half a dozen waiting to be involved, or booking for 2007.

1.1 Environmental education clusters

One of the aims of *Take Action* is for schools to develop learning initiatives and organisational approaches that embed environmental education in their activities, and continue after they have completed our programme. This can take many forms - such as:

- setting up long term systems to reduce school impacts on the environment (e.g. recycling, waste reduction, worm farms, composting, water conservation)
- taking on a restoration project that lasts several years (e.g. Fergusson Intermediate's work on the Moehau Stream)
- establishing student "envirogroups" to keep interest up, or repeating *Take Action* in subsequent years, (as about a fifth of schools do).

The most critical factor, however, is teacher commitment to the need for environmental education and fostering and developing teachers' skills and interest. It is to this end that we put a lot of emphasis on training teachers to deliver the programme themselves. They can then employ its principles and content in their classrooms as they wish after we have left the school, as well as running the whole programme a second or third time with new children. As groups of related schools complete *Take Action*, we are establishing

environmental education clusters so teachers can support one another and our interaction with schools is more efficient. The emphasis on delivering the programme on an area basis means lends itself to the creation of clusters and was one of the reasons we adopted this approach last year. There is now a cluster of ten schools in the Wairarapa and another cluster has got underway in Upper Hutt. A Lower Hutt cluster will be formed later in the year. Clusters also include local Enviroschool facilitators, and interested territorial authority personnel.

2. YES 2006 and Youth Environment Forum

Greater Wellington is supporting three students from Paraparaumu College's environmental group to attend the Youth Environment School at Lincoln University in April. The school aims to raise the environmental awareness of young people and increase their knowledge of sustainable development. It provides an opportunity to study environmental issues such as water quality in a scientific manner and enables students to discuss the ethical and social dimensions of the use of natural resources. After attending the school, the students we are assisting will work with *Take Action* schools in the Kapiti area to inspire those students to pursue their interest in environmental matters once they reach secondary school.

We are also assisting the Ministry for the Environment to stage the annual Youth Environment Forum in April. This event brings teenagers from across New Zealand to Wellington to discuss environmental issues and meet key decision makers and influencers. We have run a process for selecting three representatives from the Wellington region and will be assisting with the field trip looking at the Waiwhetu Stream and Petone beach.

3. Take Care

Training for care group members has been an emphasis recently. Subsequent to the 7 February workshop on wetland plant identification, on 28 February volunteers from all over the region attended workshops on coastal plant propagation. The demand for this training was such that two workshops were held. As part of Volunteer Awareness Week, we paid for six care group volunteers to attend a workshop by Volunteer Wellington on ways to increase the size and commitment of their groups. This was also a useful benchmarking exercise for our own recruitment practices, showing that our style of encouraging and supporting care groups was up to the mark.

Staff have been planning for the annual Restoration Day event which will be held on May 27 at Eastbourne. The event is held to celebrate and support environmental projects undertaken by community groups throughout the region. Participants will be able to learn new skills and put these into practice on their projects. Restoration Day is organised jointly by the Department of Conservation, the NZ Ecological Restoration Network, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington.

4. **Business Sustainability Programme and Awards**

The *Get Sustainable Challenge* is a business programme run by the Sustainable Business Network (SBN). The Challenge is designed to help businesses become more sustainable and it includes an awards component which recognises businesses that have made progress along this path. The awards assess sustainable business performance against economic, social and environmental criteria.

In order to raise the profile of business sustainability in the region and increase the pool of companies undertaking business sustainability initiatives, we have joined with the Sustainable Business Network to run the *Get Sustainable Challenge* in this region between May and August this year. The Challenge will be delivered by the SBN with Greater Wellington as the principal sponsor. Additional sponsorship from other local authorities and businesses is currently being determined.

Businesses that take part are assessed using an interview process and their entry is prepared for them by a trained SBN consultant. In this way they are introduced to the criteria in an informative and time effective manner. Sign off for the content and submission of the entry is in the hands of the business.

Businesses receive feedback from the judges in a report that highlights key opportunities to improve their performance over the next 12 months. Recommendations are accompanied by a range of programmes and resources provided by the SBN that can help the business to implement the recommended sustainability improvements.

Categories for the awards are based on the level of sustainable development that a business has obtained. The programme was developed in the Bay of Plenty and after three successful years is now being run in other parts of New Zealand.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – April 2006

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plan Changes

There has been no change to the status of Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan since the last meeting of the Environmental Committee.

Three submitters on Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment) attended a hearing on 27 February 2006. The Hearing Committee has prepared an interim decision which has been sent to submitters. Submitters have been asked to comment on the interim decision by Wednesday 19 April 2006. Once their comments have been considered the Committee will finalise its decision.

1.2 Regional Policy Statement review update

Main areas of work on this project since the last meeting of the Environment Committee have been:

- Evaluation reports for each chapter of the current Regional Policy Statement (RPS) have been completed and are being reviewed. Note that the Iwi chapter has not yet been completed.
- Two Councillor workshops have taken place – the purpose of the workshops was to bring Councillors up to date with the RMA requirements, the RPS process, and to provide the opportunity to discuss the issues and options for the ‘new’ RPS.
- Meetings have been held with staff from each of the territorial authorities in the region. The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss the RPS process, gather feedback on the current RPS and thoughts about the ‘new’ RPS, and to talk about their involvement in the process.
- Work has started on a communications plan for the RPS review, starting with the discussion document.
- A workshop was held with members of Ara Tahi on 15 March to discuss the review process, involvement and contribution from Ara Tahi.

- Meetings have been held with the Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment.
- Work has started on drafting of the discussion document. A copy of the draft discussion document will be forwarded to Councillors prior to the next workshop, scheduled for 19 April.

2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

2.1 Freshwater ecosystems programme (Murray McLea)

Concept designs for fish passes at weirs and culverts have now been prepared at nine sites in five urban streams - the Owhiro, Kaiwharawhara and Waiwhetu streams, Hulls Creek and a small tributary of the Hutt River. The sites were chosen on the basis that enhancing fish passage would be relatively straight forward and there is community interest in improving fish passage at the locations. Consent applications are currently being prepared for the construction of fish passes at 5 of these sites.

2.2 Wetlands programme (Melanie Dixon)

A 'wetland and stream' afternoon was organised and took place at the 'Short Straw' Café in Whiteman's Valley. About 30 people attended, and the afternoon was a great success. Staff from Greater Wellington's Biosecurity and Land Management departments were also involved in organising and running the afternoon.

Other work since the meeting of the Committee has included giving a guided walk at Nga Manu reserve as part of their summer programme, giving a lecture on wetlands for the Kapiti U3A (University of the Third Age), writing a report for the Henley Lakes Trust on management of their wetlands, and helping organise an Estuarine Wetland Plant Identification Day at Waikanae Estuary.

2.3 Submissions on district plans and resource consents

Since the last Committee Report three notified resource consent applications have been received. No submissions have been made.

Greater Wellington has also been invited to attend three Environment Court mediation meetings in the last 2 months. Two of the meetings were in relation to a request for written approval for a cleanfill in a wetland at Te Marua. Greater Wellington was unable to provide written approval due to the impact on a wetland. The written approval had been initiated by the Court to resolve an enforcement order placed on the cleanfill by Upper Hutt District Council. Greater Wellington was therefore invited to join the mediation proceeding. The third meeting was with regard to an appeal, to which Greater Wellington had become a party, to a decision by Kapiti Coast District Council. The decision was to amend a boundary to an ecological site at Te Hāpua Road, Te Horo. Greater Wellington joined the appeal in support of KCDC's decision.

We have also been in discussion with applicants to two notified resource consent applications where Greater Wellington made a submission. The first was as a result of concerns with the accuracy of hazard fault line information provided in an application for a playcentre on Pharazyn Street, Melling. Helen Grant and Tami Woods attended a meeting with the applicant to discuss Greater Wellington's concerns. A hearing on the application was subsequently delayed while the applicant responded to concerns, including those raised by Greater Wellington. The second discussion is was around the preparation of a Mitigation Plan prepared to respond to submissions by Greater Wellington and the Department of Conservation. The application was for a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby. The Mitigation Plan has been reviewed and Greater Wellington has proposed a number of changes to ensure the Plan is effective. The Mitigation Plan however, does not address Greater Wellington's fundamental concern about the subdivision design and resulting impacts on significant vegetation and long-term stormwater quality.

3. Other

3.1 Titahi Bay Management Plan

The Porirua City Council has started work on a management plan for Titahi Bay beach and reserves. Greater Wellington has been invited to become part of a working group to provide input into the development of the Management Plan. I attended the first meeting of this group with a range of other stakeholders, and many of the issues identified (water quality, erosion control structures etc) are relevant to Greater Wellington as well as the Porirua City Council. Staff will continue to attend and input into the working group.

3.2 Human behaviours research programme

Greater Wellington is one of three regional councils contributing to a national research programme looking at developing and testing policy intended to encourage private landowners to voluntarily (and without monetary incentives) improve biodiversity management on their land. The project is funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and is led by social researchers from AgResearch and the University of Waikato. The project recognises that the success of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy depends upon the public recognising the need to change their behaviour and become more active in biodiversity activities.

Greater Wellington has selected the Ohariu Valley as a pilot catchment for its contribution to the project. We are at the very early planning stages of the project and have not yet approached the Valley community. The results of the project will be of value to our biodiversity programmes working with private landowners.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – April 2006

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:

3 February 2006	Rainfall: Warwicks, Kapakapanui
8 February 2006	Rainfall: Horokiri, Kapakapanui, Warwicks, Taungata
10 February 2006	Rainfall: Warwicks, Wayne's Mistake, TVL, Seton Nossiter Park, Wainui Reservoir
8 March 2006	Rainfall: Oriwa, Taungata

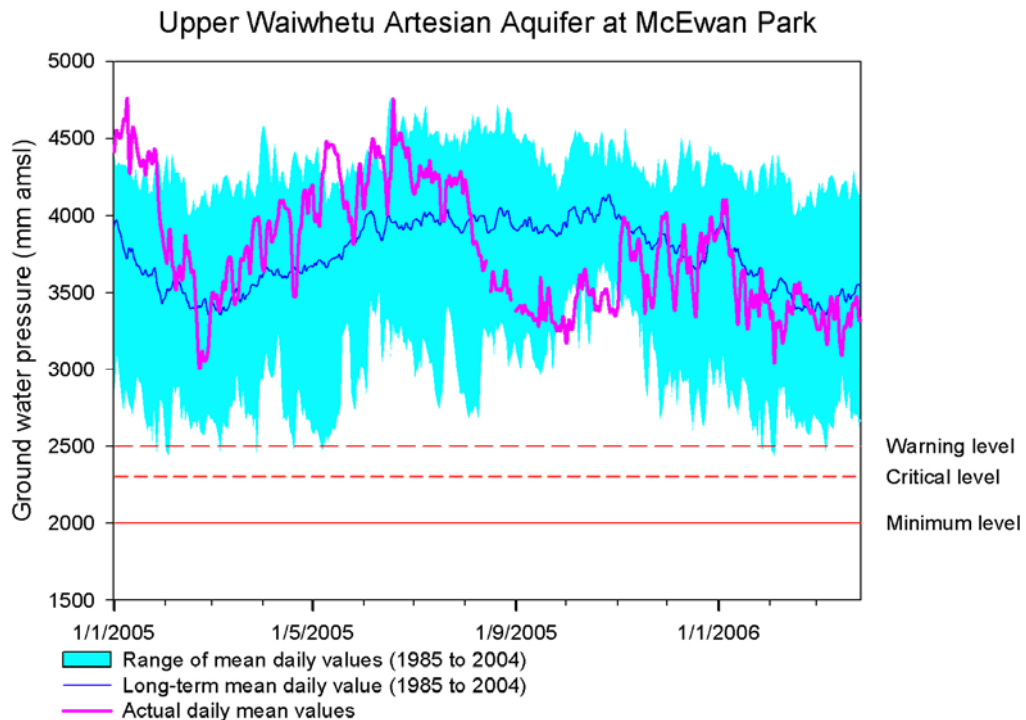
2. Resource analysis

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

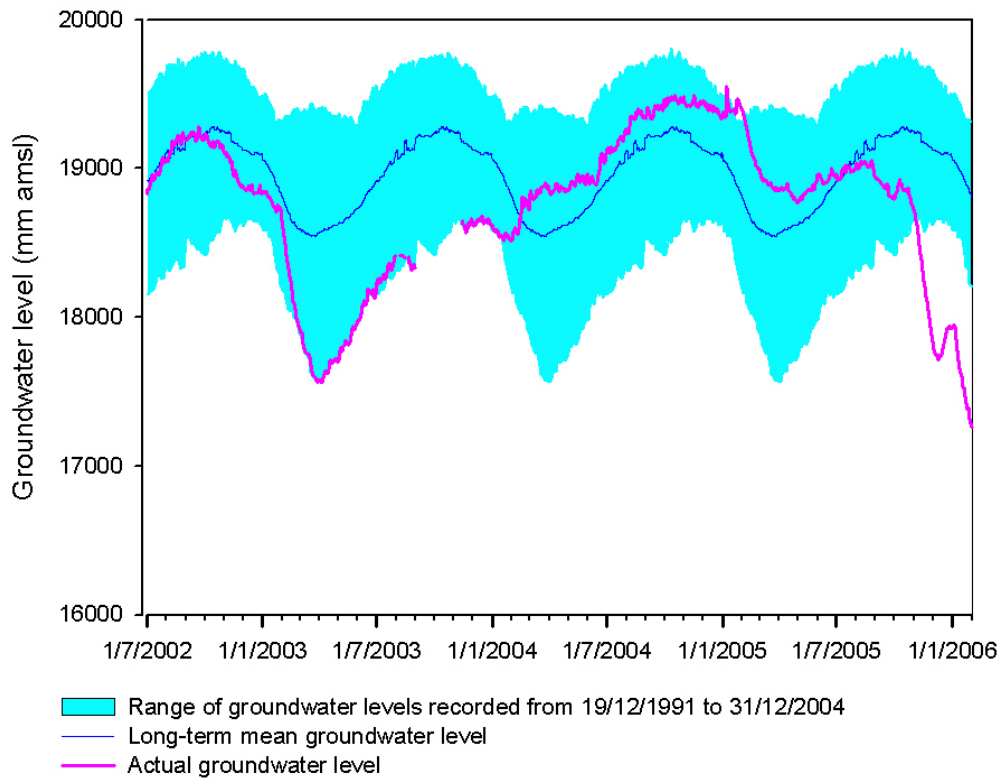
Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is currently at about the long-term mean and well above the seawater-intrusion alarm levels.



2.1.2 Kapiti Coast

Groundwater levels in Kapiti aquifers have largely remained unchanged over the last couple of months. The recent lack of rain means that groundwater levels are generally low. The following hydrograph shows the record from a Greater Wellington monitoring well on the Hautere Plain. This monitoring well intercepts a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer. The hydrograph shows the normal winter recovery slowing in June 2005 and becoming a decline in August. The current groundwater level is about 1.5 metres below the long-term mean, which is to be expected given the recent dry spell.

Monitoring bore S25/5208 at Te Horo, Kapiti



2.2 Rainfall and river flows

February was sunnier and hotter than normal for most of the Wellington Region. Climate conditions have been dominated by anticyclones crossing the northern and central parts of the country. Rainfall in the Wairarapa has continued to be well below normal February totals (Figure 1). Rainfall totals in the south and west of the Region were increased by the arrival of a low pressure system on 8 and 10 February. This brought 20 to 50 mm of rain over the western region on each day.

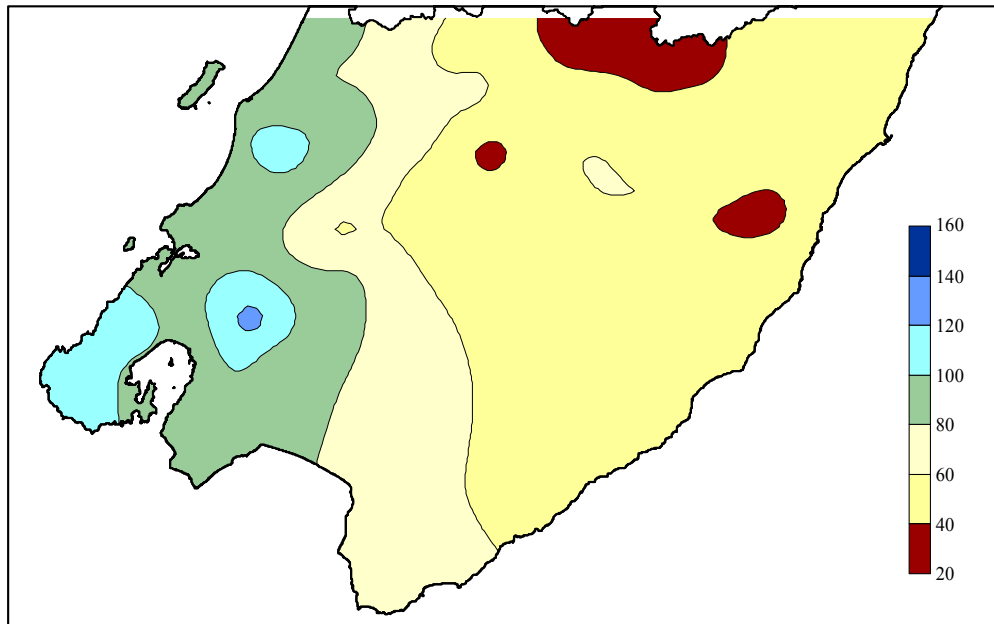


Figure 1: Rainfall during February 2006 as a percentage of average for the month

So far, March has been fairly dry except for some rain in the mountainous areas around the start of the month. This rain was associated with a depression which crossed the northern part of the country on 7 March.

Weather conditions during autumn are expected to be changeable with a mixture of anticyclones and fronts. For long term predictions, climatologists use the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index to estimate what conditions will be like over coming seasons. The ENSO allows us to determine whether we can expect El Nino or La Nina weather conditions. This summer, the SOI has been neutral to slightly positive, indicating a movement towards mild La Nina conditions (Figure 2). If La Nina conditions continue, we can expect more frequent northeast winds over the country. This will bring warmer temperatures and drier conditions to the south and west of the region.

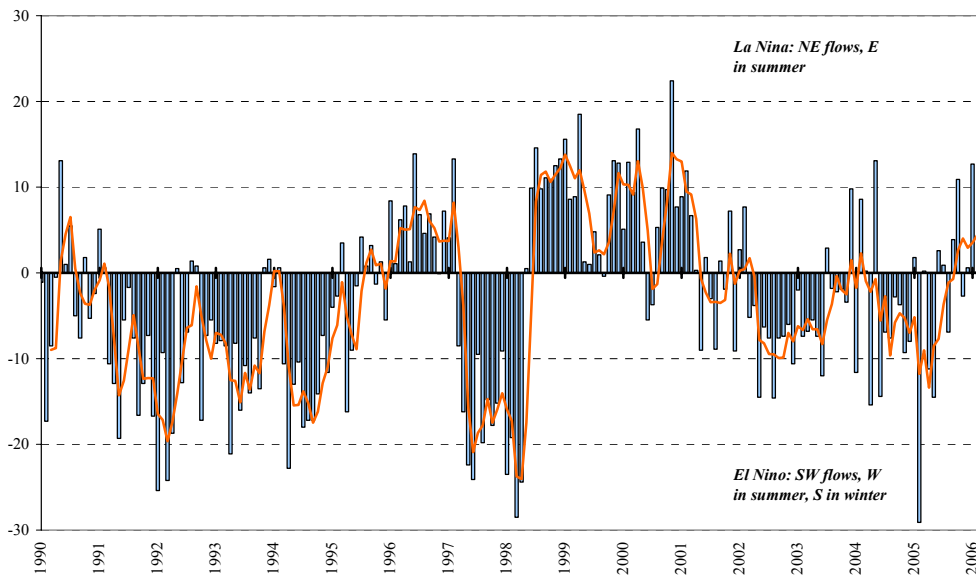


Figure 2: Monthly Southern Oscillation Index from January 1990 to February 2006.

River flows for most of the region have continued to be below normal for February (Table 1). The storm event in early February increased monthly flow in the Wainuiomata catchment enough to give a normal average monthly flow. The low rainfall totals during March has meant that most rivers in the region are still receding from the 10 February storm event. At the time of writing, the Waikanae River was very close to approaching the minimum flow of 750 l/s.

Table 1: River flows in the Wellington Region during February

	Average flow in Feb 2006 (l/s)	Long-term average for Feb (l/s)
Wainuiomata @ Manuka Track	390	376
Hutt @ Taita Gorge	9,011	15,660
Mangaroa @ Te Marua	966	1,708
Akatarawa @ Cemetery	2,502	3,653
Porirua @ Town Centre	322	391
Waikanae @ WTP	1,981	3,500
Waitohu @ Water Supply Intake	467	663
Mangaone @ Ratanui	136	289

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

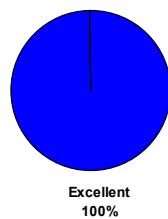
We currently monitor ambient air quality at three permanent sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Savage Park) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). Our mobile ambient monitoring station is still located at Trentham Fire Station and will soon be moved to a site in the Porirua airshed.

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:

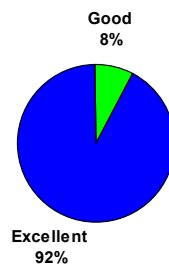
Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	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.

Results for the past two months at Savage Park, Upper Hutt

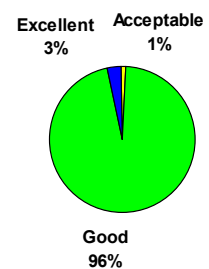
8-Hour Average CO at Savage Park



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Savage Park

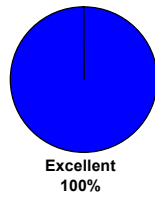


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Savage Park

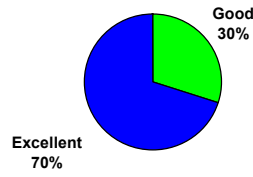


Results for the past two months at Birch Lane, Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt

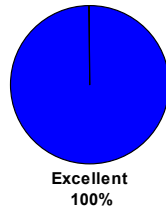


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

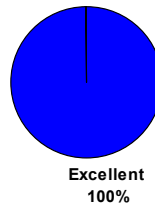


Results for the past two months at Masterton

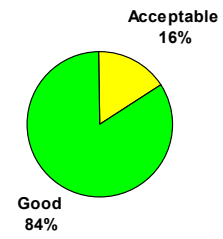
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



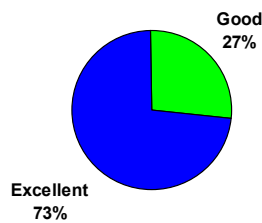
24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



2.3.2 Traffic emissions monitoring

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

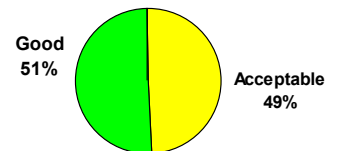
8-Hour Average CO at Corner V



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Corner V

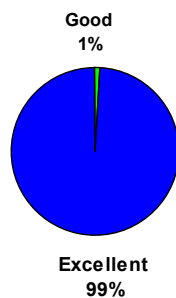


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Corner V



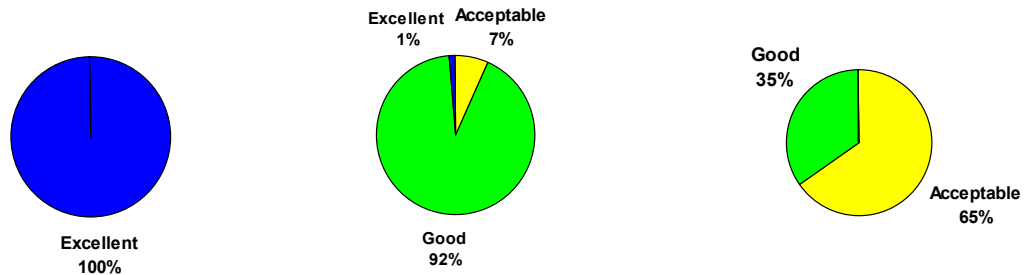
Results for the past two months at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



Results for the past 6 weeks at Ngauranga Gorge

8-Hour Average CO at Mobile Transport 24-Hour Average NO₂ at Mobile Transport 24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Mobile Transport



2.3.3 Protocol for notifying exceedences of the national environmental standard for air quality.

The national environmental standard for air quality took effect in September 2005. The standard requires Greater Wellington to publicly notify any exceedences of the standard when they occur. We have developed a protocol for notifying the public should exceedences occur. This protocol ensures that we meet our obligations under the standard and will be implemented as required. The Committee will be alerted when the national standards are exceeded.

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

Claire O’Hehir and Sarah Van Erp, both Pollution Control Officers, have left the Council. Claire is returning to Ireland to be married and Sarah is expanding her experience by travelling overseas. Replacements for both positions are currently being sought.

Nigel Corry
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – April 2006

1. Consent statistics

In the period from 1 July to 31 March 2006 we have received 416 consent applications. This compares with 380 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 366 consents. This compares with 309 over the same period last year.

All consents processed since the last Committee meeting have been done so within statutory timeframes. Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 10 working days.

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

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Ridvan Garden Developments Limited

Some good progress through mediation over the last few weeks has meant that the appeals in relation to this application are unlikely to be formally heard in the Environment Court. The decision on the consent (released on 19 July 2005) was appealed by four parties: Action for the Environment Incorporated, the Southern Environmental Association (Wellington) Incorporated, the Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group and Ronald England.

While most of the matters subject to appeal rest with the Wellington City Council (WCC) consent conditions, we are dealing directly with our lawyers to ensure that any changes to WCC consent conditions, as a result of mediation, will not compromise GW's approach to silt and sediment control from the site. We are hopeful that a consent order will be able to be prepared, which will resolve this appeal, in the next month or so.

2.2 Exide Technologies Limited

As you are aware, the Environment Court released its decision on the Exide review in mid January, upholding all aspects of the Council's decision. Since this time, some minor wording amendments have been made to some

conditions of consent, as directed by the Court, and formal 'sign-off' from the Court to all conditions was received on 2 March 2006. We have been working with Exide to ensure that the monitoring programme as required by the consent is in place to commence on 1 August 2006 and we will ensure that all monitoring results are relayed to the community as was anticipated throughout the review process.

2.3 Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind

On 21 December 2005, the decision on the jointly notified application by Meridian for the West Wind project was released, with the Wellington City Council (WCC) consents being granted, along with the majority of the GW consents. Ten appeals were received in relation to this decision, nine of which have listed GW as a respondent. A number of s274 parties have also subsequently become involved. While Meridian lodged an appeal, they have only challenged aspects of the decision in relation to WCC consents. Other appellants have sought relief in relation to a whole range of issues from water supply, to the number of turbines, noise, visual amenity and roading. It is recognised that the substantive issues subject to appeal are ones which rest with the WCC consents.

The Environment Court is dealing with these appeals with some urgency, and a week of Court facilitated mediation is scheduled for 3-7 April. We remain hopeful that at least some of the GW matters subject to appeal will be able to be resolved through this Court facilitated mediation process. It is likely that a formal Court hearing will be held sometime in June-July and that the hearing will take up to four weeks to conclude. We will need to prepare our evidence by early May to meet the deadlines that will be imposed by the Court.

2.4 New Zealand Forestry Group

On 22 December, we issued an abatement notice on New Zealand Forestry Group (NZFG) seeking the removal of gabion baskets, intended to act as a bridge abutment, from the Karori Stream where they had been illegally placed. GW is concerned about the structural integrity of the structure and in its ability to act as a bridge abutment without failing in times of high flow. An infringement notice was also served in relation to this. At the same time, the Wellington City Council (WCC) served an abatement notice, also seeking the removal of the structure on the basis that it had been placed without WCC approval on legal road.

NZFG appealed the abatement notices issued by both GW and WCC on 31 January 2005, and sought the cancellation of the notices. At the same time, NZFG also lodged an application for stay of the abatement notices. We did not oppose this request, on the assumption that NZFG take immediate steps to provide us with additional information to establish that the abutment is structurally sound, and is adequately protected from erosion and scour. The Court granted the application for a stay until 7 April 2006, and it is likely that this stay will be extended as we continue to work through design and engineering details in relation to the existing abutment, and proposed bridge.

Depending on the outcome of this process we will either continue to seek the removal of the abutment, or to notify an application to construct the bridge.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Now that we have a full complement of staff back on board, we have re-allocated some of our ongoing compliance work and are now in a position to begin focussing on our annual compliance inspection programme leading up to the end of the financial year. We are also planning to use some student help to assist with the more straightforward compliance inspections as we have had the usual rush of bore applications this summer which require inspections to be completed.

3.2 Sink F69

The frigate Wellington, sunk in November of last year, suffered damage and broke into a number of pieces during the southerly storms which occurred during the weekend of 4-5 March, reportedly a 1 in 50 year storm event. A dive ban was put in place by the Harbour Master immediately following the storm while the extent of damage was assessed. This dive ban has subsequently been lifted. The break-up of the frigate has received a considerable amount of media attention, and we have been working cooperatively with the Sink F69 Trust and Harbour Master to determine the exact location of the frigate, and final extent of the damage to the frigate and seabed. Concern has been expressed by some members of the public that asbestos was being washed ashore from the Frigate; however, the Navy have confirmed that a major exercise to strip its ships of all asbestos was undertaken in the 1980s. We have sent a detailed letter to the Sink F69 trust seeking further information around the details of the break-up of the frigate, and also around the likely future movement to the frigate in any future storm events.

3.3 Abatement notices

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

3.4 Infringement notices

We have issued two infringement notices since the last Committee meeting. One of these notices was served on Earthworks Marlborough for a discharge of sediment laden water from works being undertaken as part of the redevelopment of Karori Park. A notice was also served on Taylor Preston Limited for an offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary of their property which occurred earlier in late 2005.

In relation to Taylor Preston, we are meeting with Taylor Preston management in the next week to discuss their ongoing approach to odour management, and our approach to management of their consent. This meeting will form a basis for our ongoing dialogue with the Gorge Action Group.

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecution or enforcement order proceedings currently underway.

4. Other

4.1 Key notified consents update

Hilton Hotel

Submissions on the Hilton hotel application, on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, closed on 27 February. In total, we received just under 1000 submissions. The submission received by Waterfront Watch was accompanied by a petition signed by about 1050 individuals, and a submission from Save our Sport (current users of the Outer-T shed) was accompanied by a petition with 850 signatories. Given the high profile surrounding any possible development on Queens Wharf, this level of interest in the application was not surprising. We have now completed a summary of these submissions and are talking with the applicant around likely hearing dates. We anticipate that a hearing may be held some time between late May and July, and is likely to take between three and four weeks.

While this application lies fully within the coastal marine area, we have engaged Wellington City Council staff and consultants to assist in providing an assessment of issues that would normally lie with the City Council, such as those around the areas of traffic, noise, wind and visual amenity. This assessment will form a part of the overall GW officer's report that will be presented to the hearing panel. Due to the complexity of the issues surrounding the application, we have decided to use two independent commissioners, both of whom will have extensive district plan experience, on the hearing panel in addition to GW Councillors and an Iwi Appointee.

Eurocell Sawmilling Limited

This application has been notified since the last Committee meeting, and is for a discharge to air consent associated with the installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill at Park Street, Upper Hutt. The plant sawmill currently operates a boiler fired by natural gas, and the proposal to move to a wood fired boiler is to allow the reuse of wood shavings and waste timber produced as part of their normal operation.

Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

We have received an application from the Wellington City Council, and notification is pending, for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment plant. We have liaised extensively with the Wellington City Council prior to lodgement of these consents, and as part of this process provided detailed feedback on a draft application. It is expected that these applications will have been notified by the time of the Committee meeting.

4.2 Liaison with the Wairarapa Office Consent Team

We have been working closely over the last couple of months with the consents team in the Wairarapa office, exploring ways in which we can work more closely together as part of the organisational review. We are now having monthly joint team meetings in the Upper Hutt office to discuss issues relevant to our work, and have devised a high level programme for ensuring that both the Wellington and Wairarapa offices develop and implement consistent practices and procedures. We anticipate that this will be particularly useful to Councillors when sitting on notified consent hearings, and will also ensure that the consent processes throughout the region are consistent with each other. The ‘amalgamation’ of our work practices is a large task, but we are pleased with the progress we have made regarding this issue to date.

4.3 Fulton Hogan annual regional staff training day

In early March, Miranda and Jeremy spent a day with over 180 employees of Fulton Hogan from the Greater Wellington region as part of their annual staff training day. Miranda and Jeremy were invited by Fulton Hogan, as an offshoot of the *Muddy Waters* programme, to provide a theoretical and practical session on pollution control in the urban environment, focussing on both silt and sediment control and also control of other pollutants such as hydrocarbons and concrete wash. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to have an interactive session with one of the major contractors in the region, and allows us to continue to promote our silt and sediment guidelines and best practice expectations.

4.4 Staff issues

Jason Pene started work with the Department in late March. Jason has worked in the consents team previously, but left to travel overseas. We are very pleased to have been able to employ Jason again, as his experience with the Department, and his work experience overseas, has allowed him to fit back into the consents environment very easily.

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
Ridvan Garden Development ¹	To lay culverts and discharge contaminated stormwater as part of a residential subdivision development in Crofton Downs.	23/12/04	25/02/05	51		27/28 June	Sally Baber Ian Hutchings	19/7/05	Under appeal by 4 parties – resolution pending
Wellington Waterfront Ltd and the Wellington Tenth Trust ²	To construct and maintain a new Wharewaka on the western side of the extended Lambton Harbour Lagoon.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed
The Wellington Tenth Trust	To construct and maintain a new building (wharanui) at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed
Wellington Waterfront Limited	To develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	20/07/05	3	6 September 2005	All parties have signed off on draft conditions. RCA with Minister of Conservation for approval.	-	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited ³	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal.	010/7/05	10/08/05	4000 +	-	September to November.	Commissioners: Jim Lynch David McMahon	21/12/05	Granted – Under appeal

¹ This application was jointly heard with the Wellington City Council

² This application was jointly heard with the Wellington City Council

³ This 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
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre ⁴	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point.	13/09/05	2/11/05	1500+	-	20 February 2005 (approx. 2 week hearing)	Chris Turver Sally Baber	-	-
Whitby Coastal Estates ⁵	Various land use and discharge permits for an 81 lot subdivision in James Cook Drive, Whitby.	6/09/05	29/11/05	-	-	Currently on hold pending further information	-	-	-
GWRC – Biosecurity	Discharge permit to discharge Endathol across the entire Greater Wellington region for the control of hornwort and aquatic pest plants.	7/10/05	2/12/05	28	7/2/2005	Hopeful can be negotiated out following pre-hearing meeting outcomes	-	-	-
Pacific Wallcoverings Ltd (Limited notification)	Discharge permit associated with the operation of a wallpaper manufacturing plant.	15/08/05	9/12/05	1	-	Draft conditions negotiated out.	-	-	-
Waterfront Investments Ltd	'Hilton Hotel' proposal.	23/12/05	27/02/06	1000	-	-	-	-	-
Eurocell Sawmilling Limited	Installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill, Upper Hutt.	15/2/05	26/4/05	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁴ This application will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council

⁵ This application will be heard jointly with the Porirua City Council

Ted Taylor
Acting Manager, Planning and Resources

Planning and Resources Department Report – April 2006

1. Resource Investigations

1.1 Rainfall and rivers

Details of Wairarapa rainfall and river levels are reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. A summary of statistics follows.

Following a dry spring in the Wairarapa, rainfall in January was above average in the eastern hills and the Tararua ranges but below average in the valley. February was drier with rainfall at all sites well below average. Data is not available for March but indications are that rainfall was higher than normal.

River flows were above average in January but well below average in February. March river flows, when calculated, are likely to be below average.

1.2 Flood warning

Flood warnings were issued for two minor floods in early January.

1.3 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels are generally low as is typical for this time of the year but not at minimum recorded levels. We have had reports of a number of shallow bores drying up.

2. Consents and Compliance

2.1 Consent Statistics

For the year to date we have received 136 consent applications. This compares with 134 in the same period last year.

In this period we have processed 106 consents compared with 104 last year.

The median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for non-notified consents is currently at 10 working days.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing follows:

- A E & S W Benton Partnership: To take groundwater in the Battersea area, specifically from the Kahutara aquifer which is subject to a moratorium. A hearing in front of two commissioners was held on 11 October. This decision has been appealed by the applicant.
- N & E E Reid: An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. 29 submissions have been received. This is a large piggery with discharges equivalent to a large town. A prehearing meeting was held on the 13 March attended by around 50 people. While there was open and free discussion from all sides at this meeting there was no move to reaching any agreement. We are now working towards a hearing later in the year.

Details of non-notified consents approved are reported to the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee.

2.2 Appeals and Objections

2.2.1 Masterton District Council

Masterton District Council have been granted a stay in proceedings in their Environment Court appeal against the decision to decline consent for the proposed stage two of the Castlepoint seawall. This is to allow them to prepare an integrated foreshore management plan. The district council have contracted Opus Consultants to develop the plan and have included us as a party being consulted.

2.2.2 LARO – Scadden's Stopbank

John Barton has appealed this decision. This matter has gone to mediation but this was unsuccessful. The Environment Court has set a date for the exchange of evidence but the appellant is reluctant to do this. The Land and River Operations Department is to file a Memorandum with the Court seeking a judicial conference so that the Court's decisions can be reconsidered.

2.2.3 Martinborough Coastal Developments

The decision granting consents for a community wastewater scheme servicing a proposed coastal subdivision at Tora has been appealed by the applicant and D Riddiford. While no decisions have been made it is assumed the first step in resolving the matters being appealed will be mediation. (Refer also to the Policy and Planning section of this report.)

2.3 Compliance

2.3.1 General

The annual inspection of dairy farms including effluent discharges and water takes is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the season.

2.3.2 Abatement Notices

Two abatement notices have been issued since January, one each to Lifestyle Capital Limited and a director of the company M Bonifant. The notices were in respect to taking groundwater without resource consent.

2.3.3 Infringement notices

Two infringement notices were issued to K Barnes in relation to vegetation clearance in a wetland which had the effect of diverting water and discharging contaminants. The recipient has written a letter of explanation which is being considered.

2.3.4 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

The prosecution against Lansdowne Development Ltd and Bruce Buchanan Ltd in regards to an unauthorised discharge of silt laden water in March 2005 is scheduled to take place in the Environment Court in Wellington on the 18th and 19th of July. Delays in setting the date, including the non-appearance of the defendants at the first hearing has led to the process becoming longwinded and costly.

2.3.5 Low Flow Restrictions

Water takes from the Otakura Stream, Parkvale Stream, Waipoua River and Waingawa River were restricted at various times in the period beginning in January.

2.4 Pollution Control

Details of incidents that were responded to are reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. None of these incidents were of widespread significance.

3. Policy and Planning

3.1 General

Statutory resource management work is reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa is continuing apace requiring a large input into this area of planning work.

3.2 District Plans

The combined district plan is due to be notified around the middle of April. It is most likely that we will make submissions on the plan to ensure that matters that are of significance to the region in a planning context are taken account of.

3.3 Appeals

A submission was made to a hearing on applications to the South Wairarapa District Council for a coastal subdivision at Tora. The substance of the

submission was that five lots between the coastal road and the coast should not be allowed. This submission was consistent with the objectives of the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy. The decision allowed the subdivision in part excluding the five lots we submitted on.

This decision has been appealed by the applicant, who wants the five lots included, and D Riddiford who opposes the subdivision.

This appeal could become a “test case” for the coastal strategy and it is therefore important that we take a strong stand as a party to this appeal in continuing to oppose the five lots under dispute.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – April 2006

1. Harbour navigation aids

- Six 56kg storage batteries located at Pencarrow Lighthouse have been removed and replaced.
- Following the storm in early March, a diving inspection of the mooring chains of Barrett Reef buoy revealed some missing studs and significant wear on the chains. This will be monitored. The chains are due to be replaced in the next 12 to 18 months.
- All navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution

Three reports of oil spills were received and investigated. None required further action.

On 10 March Maritime New Zealand announced their revised National Oil Pollution Response Team. It was pleasing to note that Harbour Rangers Grant Nalder and Greg Meikle are included in this team as part of the operational response, and further testifies to the high calibre of our staff.

From the 10 to the 12 March, Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood attended an Oil Spill Response Management re-validation course at the National Oil Pollution Response Centre in Auckland.

3. Beacon Hill Staff

John Travers joined the Beacon Hill staff on 20 February to further supplement Beacon Hill staff numbers.

4. Other Activities

- On 26 February the 15-metre catamaran launch *Millennium* was beached in Fitzroy Bay in a sinking condition.
- On 27 February Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood & Harbour Ranger Greg Meikle advised the owner and insurer about the removal of 700 litres of diesel, from the beached craft.

- On 29 February the *Millennium* was safely removed onto a trailer ashore.
- On 3 March a southerly storm in late afternoon resulted in Cook Strait ferry sailings being cancelled and other commercial shipping expected to arrive being diverted.
- The Inter-Island ferry *Aratere* had cargo shift during a rough crossing, and was in Picton for two days whilst damage was rectified. By midday 4 March the weather conditions had moderated sufficiently for sailings from and into the port to resume.
- On the evening of 4 March, reports were received of some debris washing ashore on the South Coast. This was suspected to have originated from the scuttled frigate F69 Wellington dive site.
- An initial diving inspection in poor visibility on 8 March revealed that that *F69 Wellington* had broken into two sections. A temporary 'prohibited diving and anchoring zone' within 200 metres from the site was imposed until such time as the wreck was able to be examined in more detail.
- On 10 March the Police National Dive Squad made two dives and found that *F69 Wellington* had actually broken into 3 sections. Restrictions on diving on the wreck were lifted on 16 March.
- On 11 March the annual Offshore Power Boat Race was held on Wellington Harbour.
- On the weekend of 11-12 March, the annual Dragon Boat Races and Water Ski Races took place near Queens Wharf and Petone areas respectively.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – April 2006

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Some of the activities that we have been involved in over the last few months are outlined below.

1.1 CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan

The third draft of the CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan has been written. This draft was distributed to a peer review group (other CDEM Groups, EQC, etc.) and will be distributed to the wider liaison group for consultation in the next few weeks.

1.2 CDEM Group Welfare Management Plan

The final draft plan was taken to the Wellington Region Welfare Advisory Group (WAG) meeting for consultation on 21 March 2006. WAG made a few minor amendments and then approved/adopted the plan at that meeting. The Welfare Plan is now operative.

A Welfare Manager for the Group will be required, but is yet to be appointed. A paper will be presented to the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) on this subject at the next CEG meeting in October 2006.

1.3 Review of Standard Operating Procedures

All Territorial Authorities have updated their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The Group Office has received copies of SOPs from all Councils.

Following Exercise Phoenix IV in November 2005, the Group Office elected to further update its SOPs. This work will be completed by 30 June 2006.

1.4 Clarification of CDEM Group role in Public Health Hazards – Pandemic Planning

There has been much debate over the role that Civil Defence will have in a pandemic event. However, it is now clear that CDEM Groups, through their Group Emergency Operations Centres, will provide support in managing such events. The health authorities will be the lead agency for any public health hazard (for example a bird flu pandemic).

When such an event requires civil defence emergency management input (e.g. welfare arrangements, logistics support, media management, etc.) the Group EOC will work alongside the health sector to provide the required services through its own mechanisms.

Extensive work has been undertaken at Territorial Authority and Group level on this issue over the last six months.

1.5 Training and exercises

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has approved a number of major civil defence emergency management exercises that will take place during the remainder of this year.

The Wellington Region CDEM Group will take part in the following exercises:

<p>Exercise Hard Rock</p> <p>3 and 4 May 2006</p> <p>National Oil spill exercise (Tier 3).</p>	<p>Maritime New Zealand is leading this exercise.</p> <p>We will activate our Group Emergency Operations Centre (as the 'Incident Command Centre' for oil spill management). Council emergency management and volunteer staff will be deployed to assist/manage in the areas of planning and intelligence, logistics, operations, media and communications.</p>
<p>Exercise Guardian</p> <p>9 and 10 May 2006</p> <p>National Terrorist Exercise</p>	<p>Information on the exercise scenario and objectives is classified.</p> <p>However, this tabletop exercise is aiming to build knowledge and skill capacity within the New Zealand Police and other agencies (including CDEM Groups) who would be involved in responding to terrorist emergencies by practicing the crisis management arrangements of the National Counter Terrorism Plan.</p> <p>It is anticipated that our Group Emergency Operations Centre (Group EOC) will be activated under the control of the Group Controller.</p> <p>A practical terrorist exercise stretching over several days is planned to take place in the first half of 2007.</p>
<p>Exercise Pacific Wave</p>	<p>Twenty-nine countries will participate in this exercise.</p>

<p>17 May</p> <p>International Tsunami exercise</p>	<p>The exercise scenario is based on a single source distant tsunami. The nature, scale and consequences will not be known until an epicentre is stated on the day and scientific analysis/advice is received.</p> <p>More than thirty different organisations in New Zealand will participate in this exercise, including all the CDEM Groups. Each CDEM Group will receive the appropriate warning, activate its Group Emergency Operations Centre, interact with the National Crisis Management Centre, consider/assess all information available, decide on activating local warning systems, and consider and decide on local response actions (local emergency operations centres and tsunami response plans activation).</p> <p>Note: A National Tsunami report was released in December 2005 which revealed the Wellington Region as having the second highest risk (just behind Gisborne) to tsunami in New Zealand.</p> <p>The Hazard and Risk Analysis for the CDEM Group Plan done in December 2003 ranked a locally generated tsunami as 6th and a distant source tsunami as 13th on the Plan's list of hazards.</p> <p>This exercise will provide us with the opportunity to test our capabilities and capacities under a more severe scenario.</p>
<p>Whole of Government Exercise</p> <p>Towards the end of 2006</p> <p>Possibly based on the Phoenix scenario</p>	<p>We are awaiting approval from Cabinet. Once approved and a date confirmed, we'll start our planning and preparations for the exercise.</p>

1.6 Sewage Disposal

The CEG requested that a Sewage Disposal Plan be scoped and developed for the region. This project is not outlined in the Work Programmes named in the Plan, but is being carried out in the 2005/2006 financial year.

This project has been set up in two stages, as follows:

Stage 1 – Identifying all the planning issues associated with the disposal of sewage during a disaster, and mapping out the actual disposal process. This includes establishing the specific preparatory measures that territorial authorities (wastewater asset managers and emergency managers) will need to implement prior to an event.

Stage 2 – focusing on the key messages (pre-event and post-event) to be communicated to the community via stakeholder organisations.

The project is nearing the end of Stage 1. We should be able to complete the second stage within the current financial year as planned.

The Stage 1 working group comprises a mix of wastewater asset managers, emergency managers, Greater Wellington environmental management personnel, Health Protection Officers and a waste management contractor, and has met on three occasions.

The problem is being looked at under the sequential stages of:

- household/ facility collection and initial storage,
- collection from households/ facilities; and
- disposal by Territorial Authorities/contractors.

Discussions to date have highlighted the complexity of this issue, and the importance of integrating disaster sewage planning with the associated issue of the removal and disposal of spoiled food from domestic and commercial premises.

1.7 Upgrade of the Regional Communications system

Communication and information management systems currently in use are ineffective and are difficult to apply during the management of emergencies. These systems need improving.

The facilities, resources and arrangements of the Group EOC need to be reviewed to meet the required standards for Emergency Operations Centres as set out in the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan. The CDEM Group Plan makes provision for an audit of all emergency operations centres to be carried out in the 2007/8 financial year. At the last meeting of the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) it was decided to bring this work programme forward to the 2006/7 year.

We are now in the process of considering the implementation of an electronic information management system for the Group EOC, the implementation of an alternate communications system (handheld satellite phones), and the installation of an additional radio repeater to cover the area from Otaki to Wellington.

All emergency management staff (including volunteer staff) need better and more targeted training.

A Professional Development programme has been adopted which includes mandatory minimum levels of training for council staff volunteers, controllers, recovery managers and other emergency management staff as well as addressing recruitment and retention issues of Group EOC staff.

Volunteers and other staff are already attending CIMS courses and specialised training in Group EOC functions (including getting the volunteer staff familiarised with our standard operating procedures).

2. Marketing and Communications

We are constantly trying to get our communities more resilient in an emergency.

As a Group, we are working to make our communities more aware of the risks and hazards they face and also to get them to be better prepared. In this regard we are undertaking regular talks and presentations to various groups and organisations throughout the Region. We also attend public gatherings to promote our message of awareness and preparedness.

Some examples are:

- **Kapiti Coast Emergency Services Day – 2 April 2006**

The Kapiti Coast Emergency Services day was held at the Paraparaumu Airport on Sunday, 2 April 2006.

Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) invited us to take part and collectively we set up a quite remarkable display.

It was a very successful day with all the emergency services also displaying their equipment and providing good demonstrations to the public such as:

- kitchen fires
- rescue operations
- car crashes
- helicopters fighting wild fires, etc.

There were thousands of visitors and we have received positive feedback from the organisers, emergency services, and the public on the 'user-friendliness' of our combined site.

2.1 Pandemic Planning

We continue to work closely with the Ministries of Health, Civil Defence Emergency Management and Economic Development, the territorial authorities and the emergency services. A Pandemic Plan is now being prepared.

2.2 Other

We regularly take part in talks and presentations on general emergency preparedness and sometimes we are invited to cover specific topics, for example tsunami risk. In this regard, we have spoken with the New Zealand Contractors Federation, National Clusters (e.g. Transport Cluster, NZ Hazards Cluster), Capacity Water Group, etc.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake Reports

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

The following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

Apr 03 2006 **Magnitude:** 4.5 **Depth:** 60 km *within 5 km of Wellington,*
Mar 31 2006 **Magnitude:** 3.8 **Depth:** 60 km *20 km south-west of Wellington*
Mar 26 2006 **Magnitude:** 4.5 **Depth:** 6 km *70 km north-east of Castlepoint*
Mar 26 2006 **Magnitude:** 4.6 **Depth:** 5 km *70 km north-east of Castlepoint*
Mar 24 2006 **Magnitude:** 4.1 **Depth:** 60 km *30 km north-west of Porirua*
Mar 08 2006 **Magnitude:** 4.1 **Depth:** 15 km *20 km north-east of Castlepoint*

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Two weather events occurred in March during which we have received seven Special Weather Bulletins (all for strong wind). The relevant agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.

3.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out and the system is functioning well.

Richard Waddy
Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 28 February 2006

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the period ended 28 February 2006.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 28 February 2006</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	5,398	5,398	--	8,097
Other Revenue	1,537	1,401	136 F	2,147
Total Revenue	6,935	6,799	136 F	10,244
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	5,649	5,819	170 F	9,003
Indirect Expenditure	928	947	19 F	1,427
Total Operating Expenditure	6,577	6,766	189 F	10,430
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	358	33	325 F	(186)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$358,000, compared to a budgeted surplus of \$33,000.

The result translates to a net unfavourable variance of \$325,000, comprising increased revenue of \$136,000, and offset by higher than expected expenditure of \$189,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$6,935,000 is some \$136,000 more than our budget target of \$6,799,000.

Most of the increase arises from Meridian's wind farm consent application and the attendant commissioners' costs (recoverable).

We also received funds of \$34,000 from the Ministry for the Environment towards the cost of an Air Quality Monitoring Station. Further, we received \$29,000 from the Department of Conservation towards our biodiversity initiatives for landowner assistance, which has bolstered the revenue line. Both of these items were not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$6,577,000 is some \$189,000 (or 2.8%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were slightly under budget by \$113,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. We assume for budgeting purposes that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- **Materials, Supplies and Services** costs were more than budget by \$73,000

Meridian's resource consent applications for *Project West Wind*, a wind farm near Makara, have been completed. Commissioners' costs, associated with the application came in at \$160,000 and these have been taken into account.

As previously indicated, some of the ambient air monitoring costs have been reanalysed and treated as capital instead of repairs and maintenance. However, we do not anticipate that the overall spend for that project will exceed the amount provided in our annual budget.

During the period the State of Environment Report (SER) was completed with printing costs slightly less than we budgeted (\$10,000).

- **Consultant costs** were less than budget by \$85,000.

Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets. These are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance. We expect that this variance will be corrected later in the year.

Some of the projects that fall into this category are as follows:

- policy works - freshwater ecosystem work and special marine studies (\$37,000).
- investigatory works - groundwater (\$13,000) and soil analysis (\$17,000).

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$92,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with this type of work there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects.

These shortfalls have been offset by the additional costs that arose from the independent review of the Take Care Programme (\$18,000) to confirm that it meets its anticipated educational and social outcomes.

5. Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) at \$189,000 is in line with our budget.

However, Air Quality station programme, at this stage, is more advanced than anticipated in our budgets while the vehicle replacement programme is slightly behind. A harbour's vehicle has been held-over until the end of the summer. The vehicle is being used by a temporary Harbour ranger during this period.