

**Geoff Skene**  
Manager, Environmental Education

## **Environmental Education Department Report – July 2006**

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### **1. Envirosmart**

Envirosmart will commence in the Wellington region later this month following a successful recruitment drive that filled all the available places. Envirosmart is the new national programme for businesses that want to go beyond environmental compliance and achieve a recognised accreditation for their level of environmental performance. The programme is funded by Greater Wellington, local authorities, and participating businesses and delivered by Landcare Research.

### **2. Get Sustainable Challenge**

The closing date for businesses to join the *Get Sustainable Challenge* was 30 June. Invitations to participate in the Challenge were widely distributed throughout the region via business networks and there was a two page article on business sustainability in the Dominion Post in the middle of June. The businesses that have entered the Challenge represent both large and small enterprises. The entries are now being assessed.

### **3. Take Action for Air**

*Take Action for Air* has been completed and is ready for schools to use. *Take Action for Air* follows the “investigate-explore-take action” format used in *Take Action* and focuses on known air quality issues in the region stemming from domestic fires and motor vehicles. It also assists student to understand what is happening to the atmosphere through the carbon cycle, the increase in global temperatures and the impacts this might have on the world’s climate

### **4. Take Action**

Term two schools have completed their classroom and stream-based investigations and are working on ways to take action for their environment. This will continue into term three. Term two schools are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Pukeatua (Wainuiomata), St Claudine (Wainuiomata), Eastern Hutt, Tawa Intermediate, and Discovery School (Whitby) (all self-guided). The guided schools are Wilford (Lower Hutt), Epuni (Lower Hutt) and Holy Family (Canons Creek). Term three schools will commence in mid July. There will be five self-guided schools and two guided schools doing *Take Action* in term three and one school (St Bernadettes) undertaking *Take Action for Air*.

Tawa Intermediate and Papakowhai School's involvement in the programme came about through the Council's web site. Tawa teachers downloaded the teacher's resource and borrowed stream testing equipment so that three syndicates could monitor the Porirua Stream. Papakowhai School did *Take Action* in 2001 and are repeating it this year. They have had the multi-media introduction and completed their field trip, and will work on action projects in term three. Discovery School undertook the guided programme in 2004 and are repeating it as part of their two year teaching cycle. They are planting 1000 trees which they won through Meadow Fresh last year.

At Wainuiomata Intermediate, students are working on ways to inform their community about stormwater, including a radio advertisement, murals, and corresponding with the local newspaper. They are also trying to reduce the impact of their school on the stormwater network (and thus streams), having devised a scheme to pick up litter and keep students aware of the impact of rubbish from the school grounds. Labelling of drains in Wainuiomata is being investigated with Hutt City Council.

Eastern Hutt School put all 23 classes through the programme in the second term; action projects are just beginning. This school also wants to plant part of their local stream and is working with Hutt City to determine the feasibility of this. Students in the senior syndicate polled their families for their knowledge of stormwater and are now taking steps to 'educate' them and the wider community (e.g., display in the local library). The students are also working out how a walking school bus might work to reduce car journeys to school. Others are doing a waste audit and want to set up a school wide paper recycling system. Eastern Hutt School is very positive about *Take Action* and has got a lot out of it. The school uses enquiry learning and thinking skills, so found *Take Action*, which uses this approach, easy to implement.

## 5. Take Care

With winter's arrival, care groups have moved into planting mode and have commenced their major planting events. In the last six weeks the following groups have been active:

- The Churton Park group planted 500 flax, carex, and totoe beside a tributary of the Porirua Stream on 10 June. Forty people attended, a good outcome for this new group.
- The Glenside Stream Care Group on the Porirua Stream held a planting day on 10 June.
- At Henley Lake there was a planting day on 17 June.
- The Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group planted over 1000 pingao and spinifex in June. The group featured in two articles in the Dominion Post and Eastbourne Herald in connection with Restoration Day.

- The Waitohu Group continues to hold regular working bees every Monday. The group held their annual mid-winter swim and AGM on Sunday 25 June.
- At Riversdale, the dune management group had a planting day in June.
- The Island Bay dune group had two planting days and has one more to come. Some 2600 pingao, spinifex, and other coastal species are being planted.
- The Ngati Awa group has purchased materials for two shade houses and is setting them up.
- Wellesley College students planted spinifex and pingao to fill gaps in the Days Bay dune on 14 June. Bollards and rope have also been installed to keep vehicles and people off the dunes.
- At the Waikanae estuary, group members planted 900 plants at two planting events.
- At Hulls Creek work has commenced on the removal of willows, funding for which has come from the Sustainable Management Fund.

## **6. Corporate Volunteers**

Twelve volunteers from Accor Hotels attended a planting day at Moehau Stream on Friday 9 June. Approximately 350 trees grown by Upper Hutt Forest & Bird were planted.

## **7. Staff matters**

I am very pleased to tell the Committee that Kerryn Penny has been appointed to the position of Environmental Education Co-ordinator, running the *Take Action* programme. Kerryn has been working in the Department for two years on *Take Action* and is the co-ordinator for the Waikanae Estuary Care Group.

**Nicola Shorten**  
**Manager, Resource Policy**

## **Resource Policy Department Report – July 2006**

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### **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 Environment Committee. The outstanding matter in this plan change is how a rule that requires use of stopbanks by heavy vehicles will apply on an individual's property. The Court has required Greater Wellington to negotiate over wording in the rule. These negotiations are now complete and a draft rule has been put before the Court.

Following a hearing on Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment) on 27 February 2006, decisions on the plan change have been made by the Council. These decisions can now be appealed by submitters to the Environment Court. The period for appeal closes in mid July.

#### **1.2 Regional Policy Statement review update**

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

- Councillors Ian Buchanan and Sally Baber, along with staff, attended a Hutt City Council special meeting on 8 June and gave a short presentation on the Regional Policy Statement review process. This included highlighting relevant issues and questions from *Measuring up 2005* and *Our region – their future* for Hutt City.
- Councillors Ian Buchanan and Chris Turver, along with staff, attended an Upper Hutt City Council meeting on 21 June and gave a short presentation on the Regional Policy Statement review process. This included highlighting relevant issues and questions from *Measuring up 2005* and *Our region – their future* for Upper Hutt.

- Resource Policy staff have carried out presentations on the Regional Policy Statement review to staff at the Wairarapa, Upper Hutt and Wellington offices. The meetings provided an opportunity for staff to understand the role of the Regional Policy Statement, what it covers and the type of questions posed in *Our region – their future*. Staff were encouraged to make comments on the review if they wished to do so.
- Around 60 submissions have been received in response to the advertisement on the Regional Policy Statement review in the community newspapers. Submissions closed on the 30 June. A number of time extensions for comment have been granted. The final number of comments received (including those expected to be received late) will be provided to the Committee at the Environment Committee meeting.
- A Council workshop has been scheduled for the morning of Tuesday 15 August. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide the Council with a summary of comments received and an opportunity to discuss the recommended issues for inclusion in the next Regional Policy Statement.
- An Ara Tahi workshop has been scheduled for 2 August. This workshop will look at resource management issues of significant to iwi authorities and how these should be included in the next Regional Policy Statement.

## **2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation**

### **2.1 Freshwater ecosystems programme**

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

### **2.2 Submissions on district plans and resource consents**

#### *Notified consents*

Since the last Committee Report six notified resource consent applications have been received. One submission has been made.

A submission made on a proposed subdivision at Kinnoull Station, at the end of South Makara Road on the South Coast. The submission sought that significant vegetation in the gullies and the coastal escarpment be appropriately protected. It also sought that the location of the house sites, on the front two

properties, be positioned to ensure they would not adversely impact on the character of the coastal environment.

Staff have reviewed proposed changes and additional information in conjunction with a proposed subdivision by KRL Developments at Te Horo. Greater Wellington made a submission expressing, among other matters, concern about the impact of the proposal on a wetland. The applicant has undertaken further assessment and altered the proposal to address these concerns.

Staff attended a hearing about a proposed subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby, by Whitby Coastal Estates. The matters covered by staff were long-term stormwater impacts and loss of significant vegetation. The proposed mitigation prepared by the applicant as a result of submissions was supported.

#### *Plan changes*

Three plan changes have been received since the last committee report. No submissions have been made. A summary of submissions for a private plan change to rezone an area north of Peka Peka from rural to residential has been received. Staff are currently assessing whether to make any further submissions.

The closing date for submissions for a change received on the heritage provisions in the Wellington City District Plan has been extended. Wellington City Council is currently preparing a significant change to the central area provisions of the district plan. It has been decided that the heritage change should be considered in conjunction with the central area review.

**John Sherriff**  
Manager, Resource Investigations

## **Resource Investigations Department Report – July 2006**

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### **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:

16 June 2006	Rainfall: Kapakapanui, McIntosh
18 June 2006	Rainfall: Warwicks

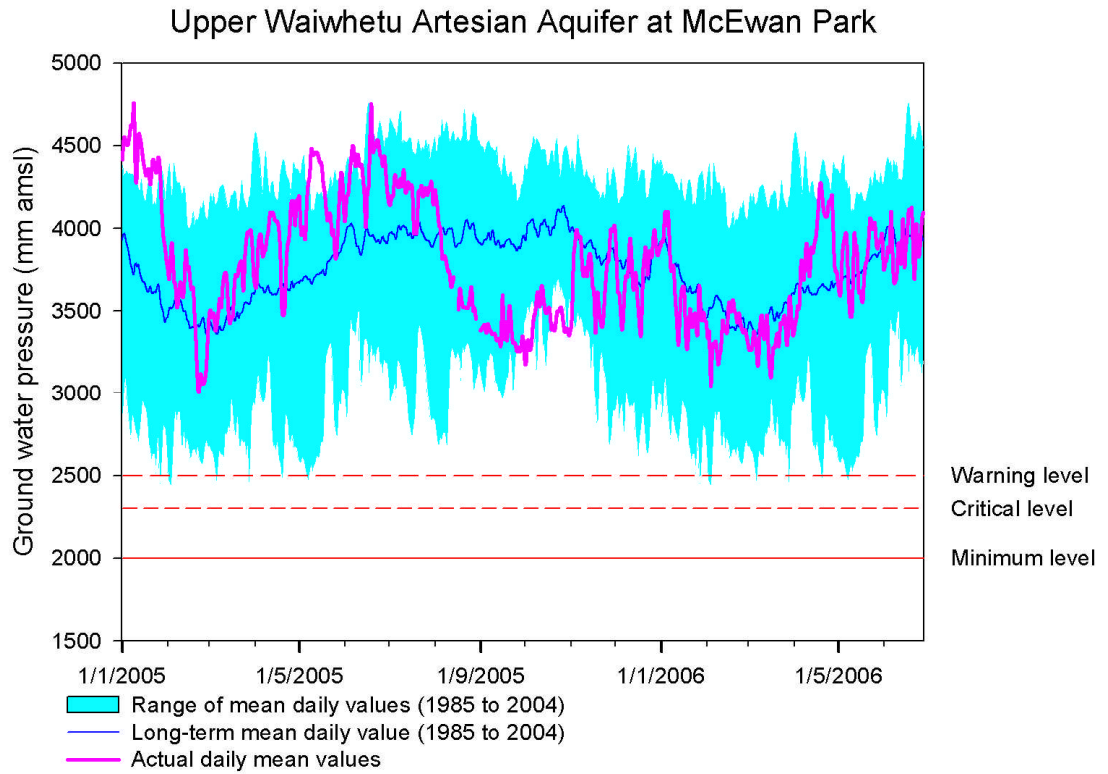
### **2. Resource analysis**

#### **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 well has been at, or above, the long-term mean this year. The pressure is well above the seawater-intrusion alarm levels.

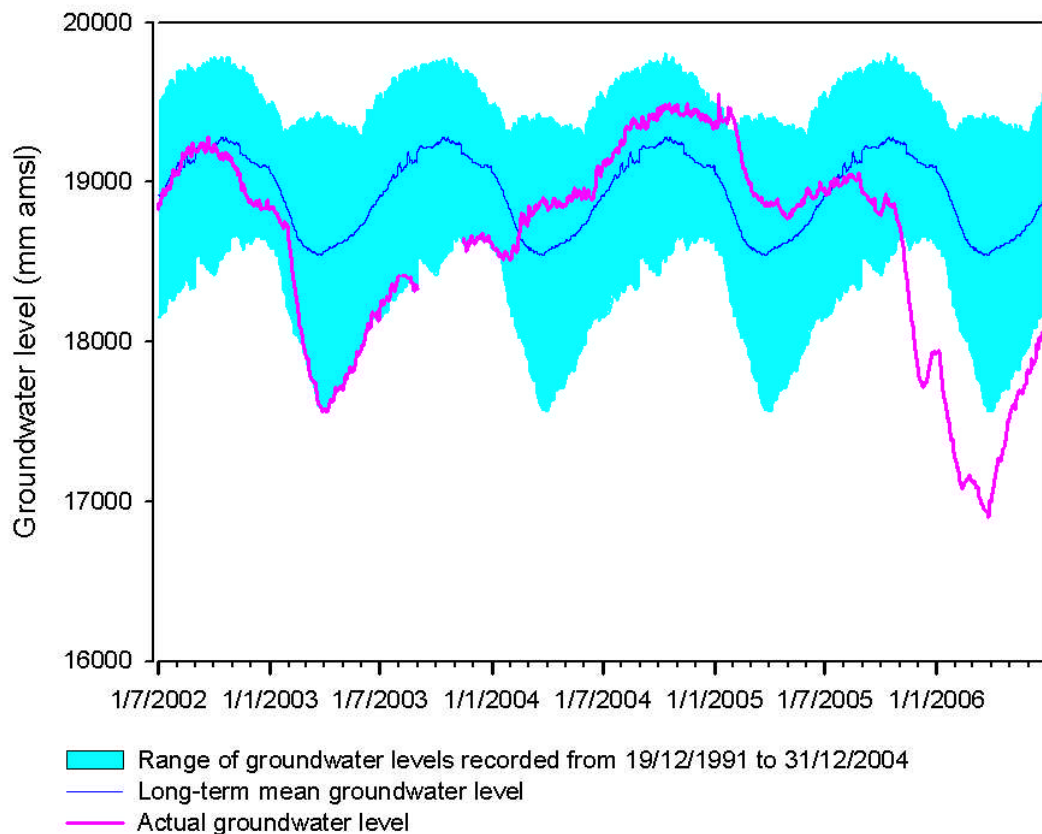


#### 2.1.2 Kapiti Coast

Groundwater levels in Kapiti aquifers are still recovering from their summer lows. The hydrograph below shows the record from a Greater Wellington monitoring well on the Hautere Plain. This well intercepts a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, which is still at record low levels but recovering well.

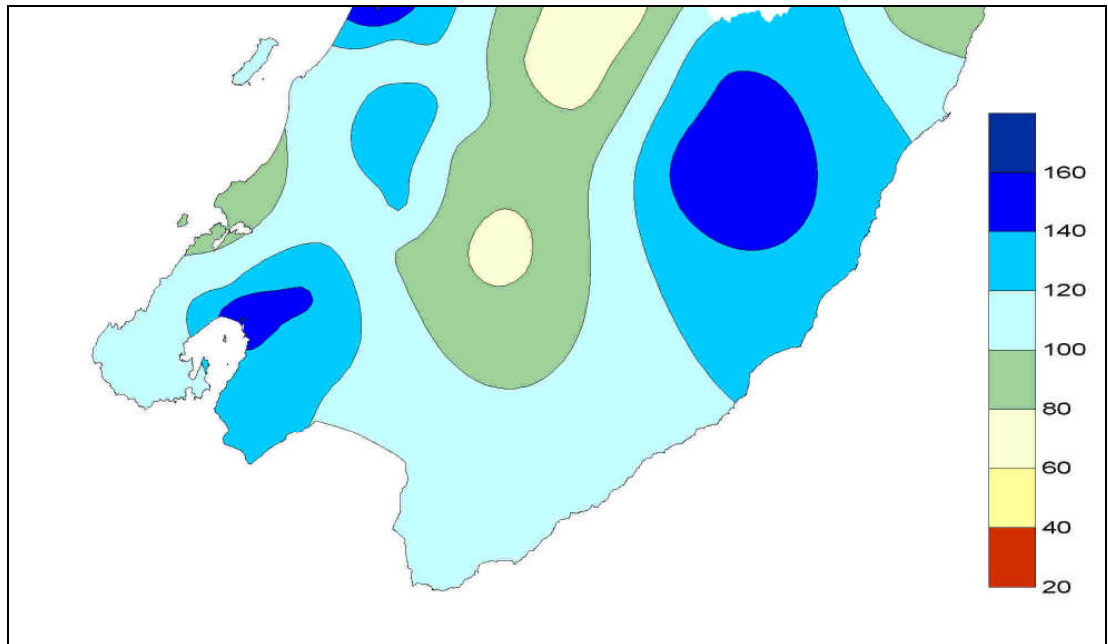


### Monitoring bore S25/5208 at Te Horo, Kapiti



## 2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Rainfall during May 2006 was generally average to above average in the Wellington region, as a result of frequent troughs of low pressure over the North Island. However, rainfall in the northern Tararua ranges was below normal. As a result of this, river flows in the Otaki River tended to remain below normal for this time of the year. All other rivers in the western Wellington region had flows about average for May.



To date June 2006 has been relatively wet, due to frequent southerly fronts passing over the Wellington region. There have been no significant high flow events during the reporting period.

## 2.3 Air quality monitoring

### 2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

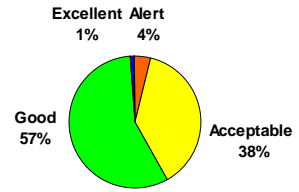
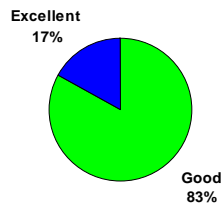
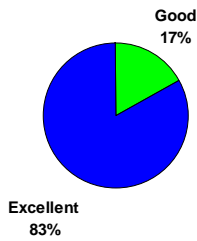
We currently monitor ambient air quality at three permanent sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Savage Park) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). Our mobile ambient monitoring station is still located at Trentham Fire Station and will soon be moved to a site in the Porirua airshed.

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.

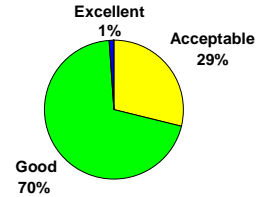
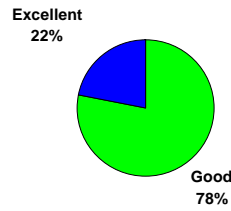
### Results for the past six weeks at Savage Park, Upper Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Savage Park    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Savage Park    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Savage Park



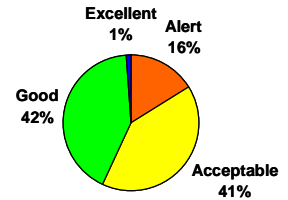
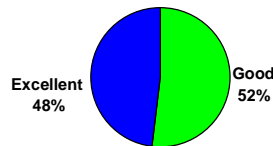
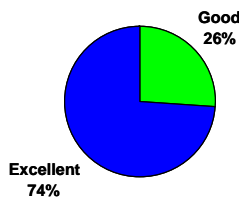
### Results for the past six weeks at Birch Lane, Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Lower Hutt    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Lower Hutt



### Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

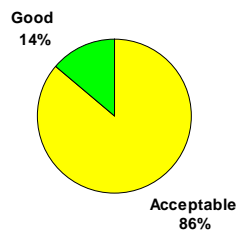
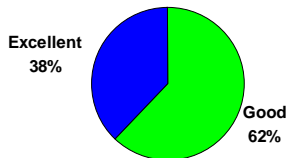
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Masterton    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Masterton



## 2.3.2 Traffic emissions monitoring

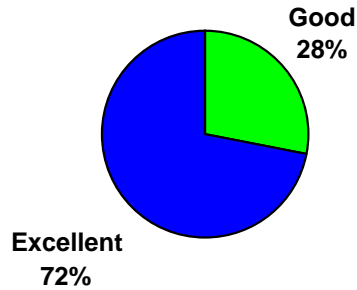
### Results for the past six weeks at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

8-Hour Average CO at Corner V    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Corner V    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Corner V



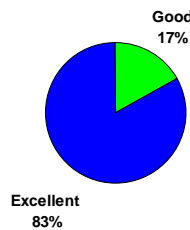
## Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

### 8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



## Results for the past six weeks at Ngauranga Gorge

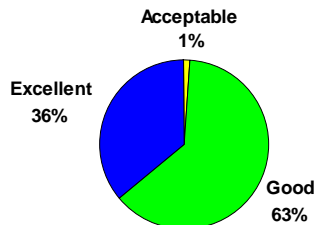
8-Hour Average CO at Mobile Transport    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Mobile Transport    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Mobile Transport



## Results for the past six weeks at Melling

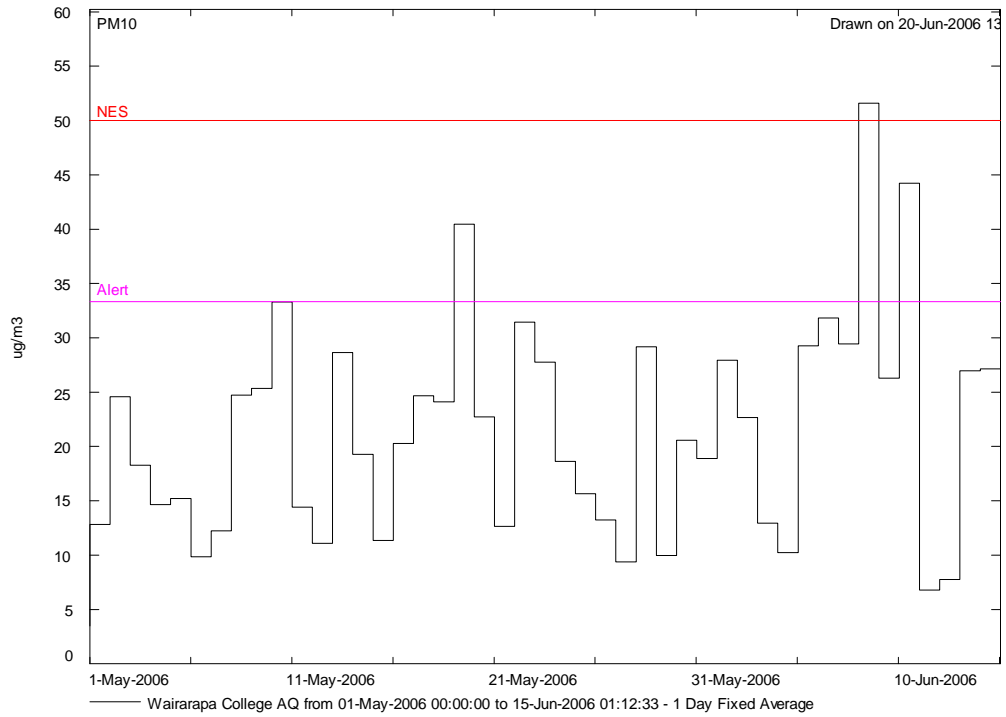
8-Hour Average CO at Mobile Transport 2

24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Mobile Transport 2



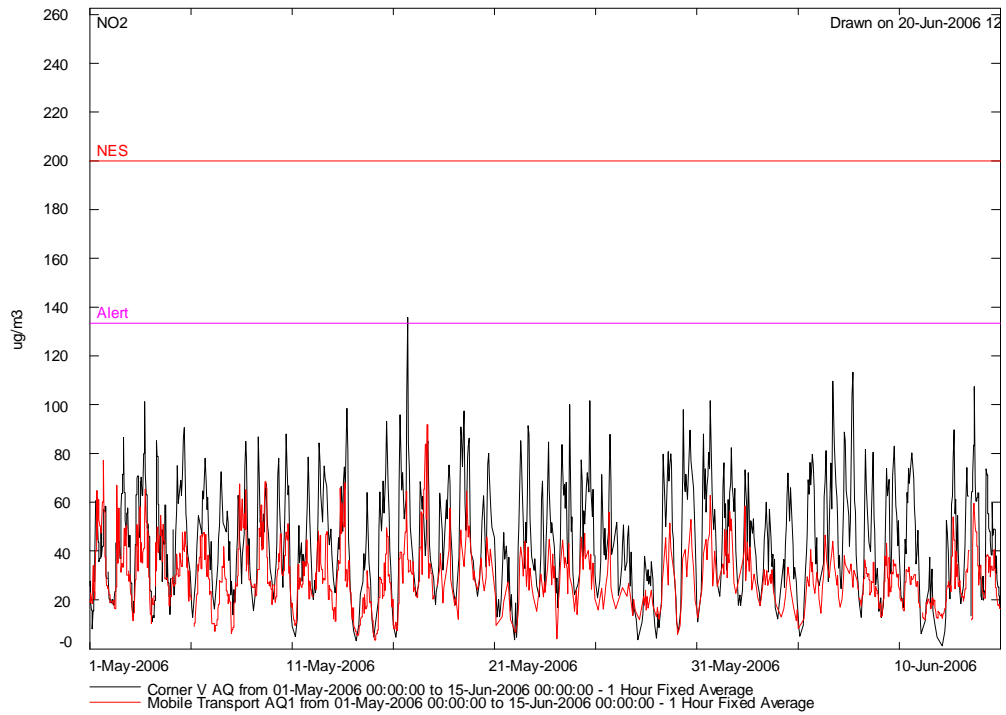
### 2.3.3 National environmental standard exceedences.

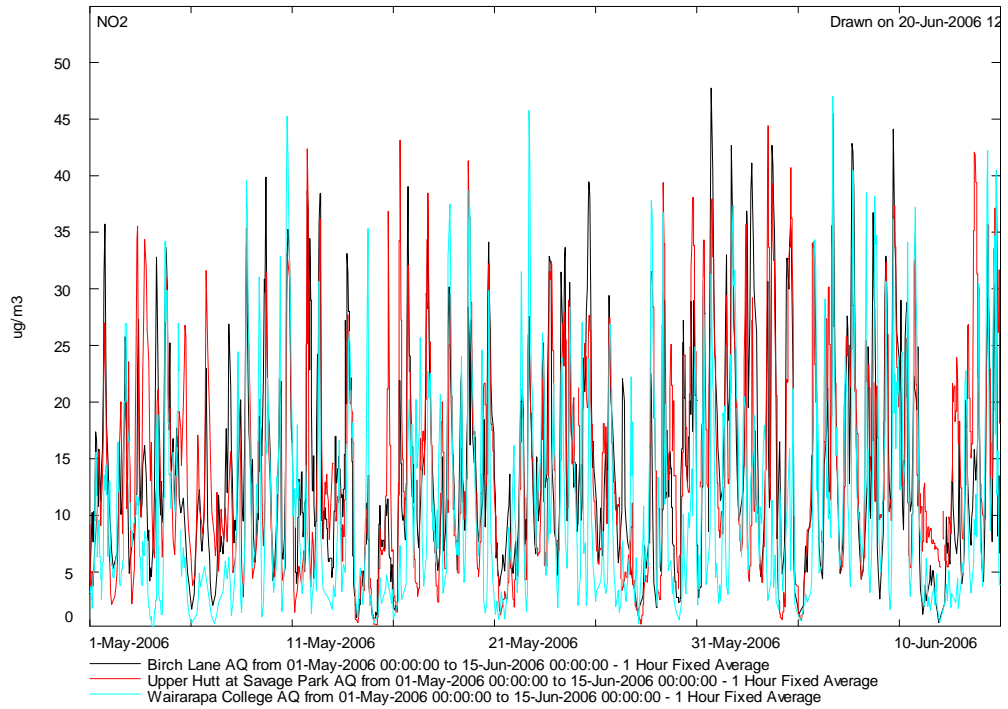
The national environmental standard for PM<sub>10</sub> is 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup> based on a 24-hour average. A PM<sub>10</sub> measurement of 51.6 ug/m<sup>3</sup> was recorded in Masterton for the 24 hour period from midnight 8/6/06 to midnight 9/6/06. This is the first recorded exceedence of the PM<sub>10</sub> since the standard took effect in September 2005. If the standard is exceeded again within the next 12 months we will have to implement the public notification procedure outlined in the standard and impose restrictions on any new resource consent applications.



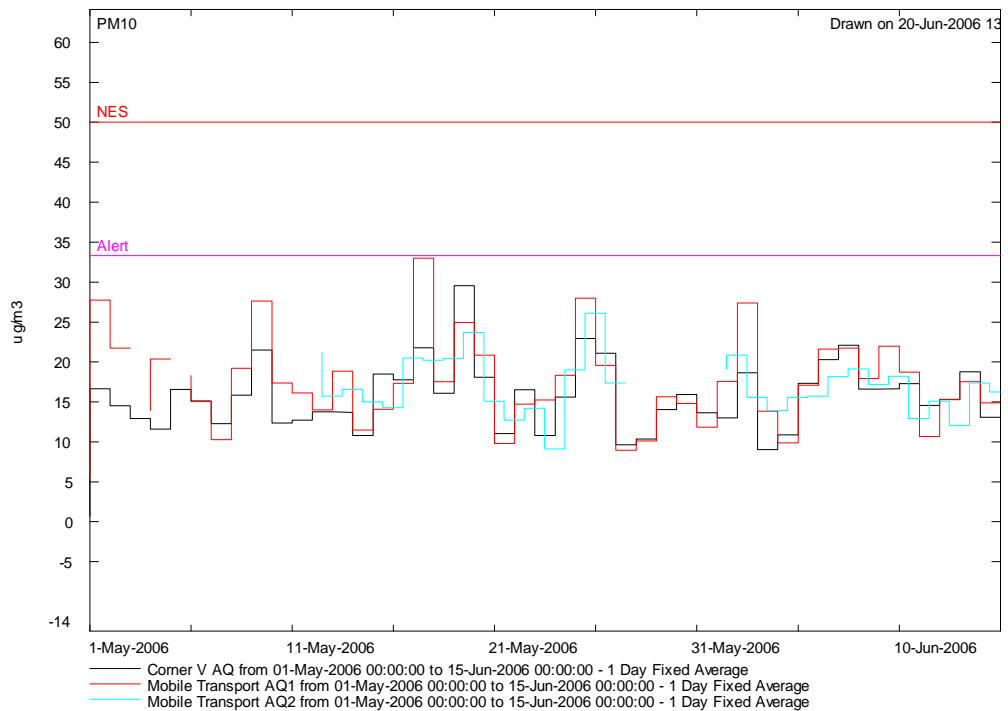
The following graphs show how air quality at a number of other sites is tracking compared to the relevant national environmental standards for NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.

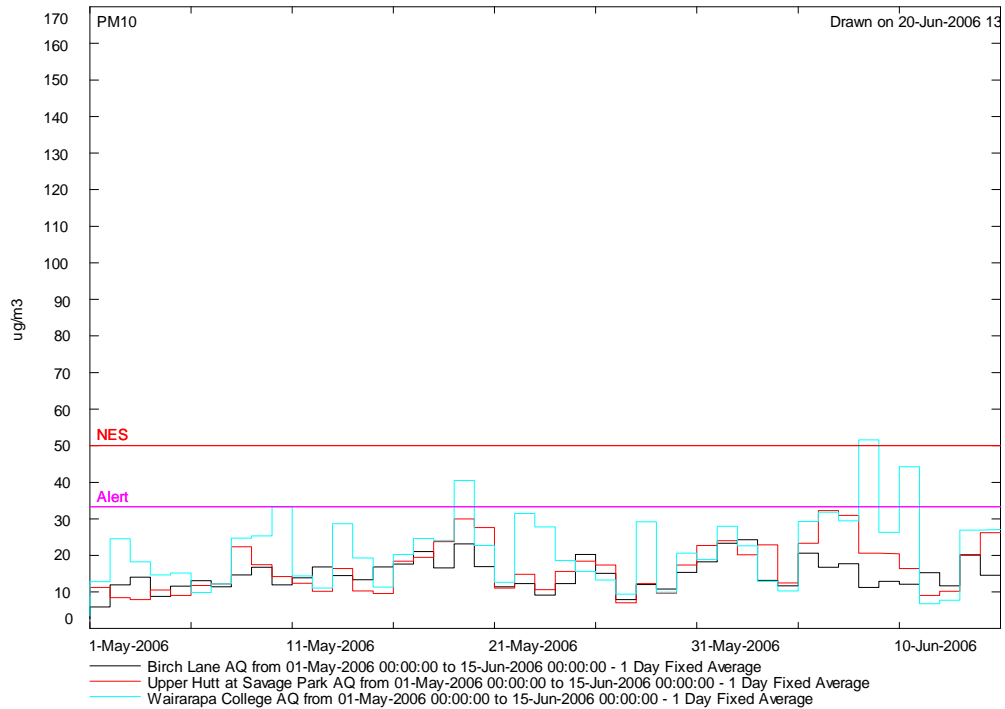
### NO<sub>2</sub> results for the past six weeks - NES





### PM10 results for the past 6 weeks – NES





### 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

Douglas Tangney has joined the Pollution Control team. Doug has a BSc in physical geography from Victoria University and joins us from Commercial Fisheries Services Limited (Fishserve) where he had a compliance role. Doug's arrival means that our Pollution Control team is once again a full complement.

Laura Watts has returned from a period of extended leave in which time she travelled and worked overseas. During this time she worked on some interesting projects including studying irrigation techniques in a desert environment for the Research Centre for Sustainable Agriculture in the Almerican Desert in Spain; and investigating clean water supplies for rural villages and providing advice on irrigations methods for the Rural Centre for Human Interest in Northern India.

**Al Cross**  
**Acting Manager, Consents Management**

## **Consents Management Department Report – July 2006**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

In the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 we have received 503 consent applications. This compares with 542 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 455 consents. This compares with 422 over the same period last year.

One consent processed since the last Committee meeting was not completed within statutory timeframes

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 11 working days, probably reflecting the reduced number of bore permit applications and increased compliance work over the period.

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

### **2. Appeals and objections**

#### **2.1 Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind**

The Appeals hearing of Project West Wind consent decisions<sup>1</sup> by ten submitter parties<sup>2</sup> and Meridian Energy Ltd (Meridian) is now into its third week before the Environment Court. The hearing is progressing according to schedule with Meridian, Wellington City and Greater Wellington witnesses all having taken the stand. The presiding panel of two judges and two commissioners have also visited both the Makara site and Te Apiti in Manawatu to improve their understanding of the relevant issues. Proceedings before the Court are due to finish by 7 July.

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<sup>1</sup> The decisions on the jointly processed consents were released on 21 December 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Also including a number of s274 parties.



### **3. Compliance and Enforcement**

#### **3.1 General**

On writing this report, the department is moving towards year-end and the completion of compliance inspection work. The last six weeks have been extremely challenging and in the face of considerable pressure, our staff have managed to juggle their compliance responsibilities and significant workloads on large consent applications exceedingly well. Our successful completion of inspection work has also been aided by additional help from students while we have not been operating at a full staff compliment.

#### **3.2 Transit New Zealand – Kaitoke SH2 Works**

On a positive note, compliance work has now been completed for the Te Marua – Kaitoke State Highway 2 upgrade as the project moves swiftly towards completion. This in effect ends five years of intensive compliance inspection and reporting work, which has been highlighted by the positive working relationships developed between GW officers, and site contractors and project managers. The strength of this relationship initially led to development of a highly pragmatic approach for assessing and approving changes to erosion and sediment control measures on site, consequently reducing sediment discharge problems. The approaches pioneered on these consents have provided a model for GW's approach to other bulk earthworks sites in the western side of the region.

#### **3.3 Abatement notices**

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

#### **3.4 Infringement notices**

We have issued five infringement notices since last Committee meeting.

We served an infringement notice on Taylor Preston Ltd for the discharge of offensive and objectionable odours beyond their property boundary which occurred in late January.

Notices were served on Earthworks Marlborough Limited, Tonkin and Taylor Limited and Wellington City Council for the discharge of sediment from a sediment retention pond to Karori Stream in February this year<sup>3</sup>. We had previously 'infringed' Earthworks Marlborough Limited in February for excessive discharges of suspended sediment, after issuing a warning letter regarding poor on-site practices.

We have also served a further notice on Earthworks Marlborough Limited for the discharge of stored fuel to the stormwater network and ultimately Karori Stream which occurred on 30 March. It should be noted that works at Karori

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<sup>3</sup> Works are in association with the redevelopment of Karori Park including stream and stormwater diversions, and the relaying and reshaping of the playing fields.

Park are effectively complete with the site having been stabilised during autumn 2005.

### **3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

There are no prosecution or enforcement order proceedings currently underway.

## **4. Major resource consents and other matters**

### **4.1 Key notified consents update**

#### **Hilton Hotel: Wellington Waterfront Investments**

Assessment work on the Hilton Hotel applications<sup>4</sup> has been completed with the release of the Officer's report on 23 June, with the hearing scheduled to commence on 3 July.

The Officer's report brings together an overarching district planning assessment which has been guided by Wellington City Council (WCC) internal experts in relation to such matters as building and public space design, and traffic, wind and noise. The report also covers matters traditionally in the realm of GW, such as discharge and disturbance effects during construction and impacts on historic heritage and ongoing berthing use by large vessels.

The five-member panel comprises Crs Turver (chairperson) and Laidlaw, Miria Pomare (Iwi Appointee), and two independent commissioners: David McMahon and Stuart Kinnear.

Media interest in the proposed development has increased once again following the release of the Officer's report, and we will continue to work closely with the media, particularly given the high overall profile and ongoing level of public interest.

#### **Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust**

Submissions on the new applications for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand closed on 6 June, with around 8,900 submissions received (5,500 in support and 3,400 in opposition). In the context of resource management in New Zealand this is a staggering number of submissions, and in this instance is reflective of the approach by both the applicant and submitter groups to provide pro-forma submissions to the public. The applicant, for instance, sent over 60,000 pro-forma submissions to Wellington residents.

While public participation in the process is encouraged, the volume of submissions received has significant administration implications mainly for WCC in this case (as lead agency). Furthermore, it is worth noting that a trend of increasing numbers of pro-forma submissions is developing with recent larger and higher-profile applications.

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<sup>4</sup> Proposed for the Queens Wharf Outer-T.

At this stage, the hearing is set down to commence in the second week of August 2006, and is expected to run for around three weeks.

### **Eurocell Sawmilling Limited**

This application 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.

We are currently completing a highly technical assessment that it incorporates the National Environmental Standards for Air (NES), and presents many challenges in terms of interpreting the NES's requirements. We have sought and received a peer review of the application modelling work, which is forming an important part of our overall assessment.

The hearing will commence on 18 July.

### **Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: WCC/Capacity**

These applications are for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant (the Plant).

Assessment work has commenced and we are currently working through with the applicant further information issues on a range of environmental and infrastructural matters.

No hearing date has been set but the applicant has requested that a hearing be put back to October to accommodate the availability of the applicant's technical experts.

### **Hutt Valley Waste Water Services**

The Deliberations Committee of Cr Glen Evans and Byrdie Ayres, the Minister of Conservation's Appointee, met with the applicant in late to discuss and resolve certain aspects of the draft conditions regarding monitoring, maintenance and reporting.<sup>5</sup>

The Committee's recommendation was forwarded to the Minister on 22 June for his consideration and decision.

### **Whitby Coastal Estates**

These are joint applications to Porirua City Council and GW for various consents relating to the development of a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby.

The hearing on these applications<sup>6</sup> ended on 27 June.

Amongst a range of matters, the Officer's report and recommended conditions reflected a thorough consideration of the applicant's Mitigation Plan. A range

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<sup>5</sup> This application for a renewal of Hutt Valley's discharge of treated and disinfected sewage to wastewater to the coastal marine area, which reached a negotiated agreement with submitters in relation to recommended consent conditions.

<sup>6</sup> These are joint applications to Porirua City Council and GW for various consents relating to the development of a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby.

of conditions were recommended to deal with adverse effects of riparian bush removal, and stream re-alignment and piping, including the attachment of bond conditions to ensure that required stream-side planting will be successful.

We anticipate that the Hearing Committee will release its decision in late July.

### **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department**

Applications were lodged and notified recently for gravel extraction in the lower reaches of Hutt River. Up to 80,000 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel is proposed to be removed annually over a five-year period for flood protection purposes. Submissions close on 26 July.

### **Capital and Coast District Health Board**

This is an application to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital. These appliances include the hospital's Total Energy Centre, designed to power the hospital during local grid power failures and also from time to time to provide electricity to the national grid on a commercial basis. Submissions close on 31 July.

## **4.2 Charging Policy review**

We have commenced preliminary work towards the review of our Greater Wellington Resource Management Charging Policy during the 2006/07 financial year. A project team of Wellington and Wairarapa consents staff and the Divisional Accountant has been formed to manage the project, and initial review and investigations work has started. I anticipate a reviewed charging policy will be ready for adoption by Council in July 2007.

## **4.3 Liaison with the Wairarapa office consents and compliance team**

Our work with the Wairarapa consents and compliance team continues, as we look ahead towards the integration of our functions as one department. As part of our work to develop shared documents and streamline administrative support for such work, we intend to roll out a new officer's report and consent certificate package on a trial basis from mid July.

## **4.4 Staff issues**

Jeannie Miller has joined us a Resource Advisor, following consents and compliance stints in the UK, and replacing Rachael Boisen who left to travel overseas last month after several years with the department. Rachael was instrumental in a number of areas of our work including the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation.

Paula-Ann Churchward also joins us as the new Resource Investigations and Consents Management Department Secretary, replacing Julie Steel who has taken up a position as Barry Turfrey's Executive Assistant. Paula-Ann brings a wealth of relevant experience to GW from Transpower Ltd where she worked for their Environment and Property Group.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	02/07/05	3	6 September 2005	All parties have signed off on draft conditions. New conditions being considered by Deliberations Committee. RCA will then require Minister of Conservation's consideration for approval.	Deliberations Committee: Glen Evans Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointed representative)	Recommendation forwarded to Minister of Conservation for his decision.	
Meridian Energy Limited <sup>7</sup>	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal, Makara.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000+	-	September to November 2005.	Jim Lynch David McMahon	21/12/05	Granted – Under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre <sup>28</sup>	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point, Wellington.	02/05/06	07/06/05	Approx 9000	-	Set to commence on 7 August 2006. (approx. 13 day hearing)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	-	
Whitby Coastal Estates <sup>9</sup>	Various land use and discharge permits for an 81 lot subdivision in James Cook Drive, Whitby.	06/09/05	29/11/05	18	-	Hearing held on 20 & 27 June 2006.	Cr Sally Baber Robert Schofield	-	-

<sup>7</sup> This application will be jointly heard with Wellington City Council

<sup>8</sup> This application will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council

<sup>9</sup> This application will be heard jointly with the Porirua City Council

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
GWRC – Biosecurity	Discharge permit to discharge Endathol across the entire Greater Wellington region for the control of hornwort and aquatic pest plants.	07/10/05	02/12/05	28	7 February 2005	Negotiated following pre-hearing meeting.	No hearing held	29/5/06	Granted
Waterfront Investments Ltd	'Hilton Hotel' building and public space proposal, Queens Wharf, Wellington.	23/12/05	27/02/06	Approx 1000	-	Commenced on 3 July 2006. (approx. 15 day hearing)	Cr Chris Turver Cr Chris Laidlaw David McMahon Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	-	-
Eurocell Sawmilling Limited	Installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill, Upper Hutt.	15/02/05	26/04/05	59	9 May 2006	Set to commence on 18 July. (3 days)	Cr Sally Baber Cr Glen Evans Liz Mellish (Iwi)	-	-
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western waste water treatment plant, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Proposed for October 2006.	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	-	-
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To extract gravel from Hutt River for flood protection purposes.	15/06/06	26/07/06		-	-	-	-	
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fire boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06		-	-	-	-	
Department of Conservation (Limited Notification)	To vary consent conditions in relation to removing vegetation within the Catchpool Stream buffer strip, Rimutaka Forest Park.	23/12/04	30/05/06	0		No hearing	-	28/6/06	Granted

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
Dulux NZ Ltd (Limited Notification)	To discharge contaminants, including particulates and volatile compounds, to air associated with paint manufacturing, Seaview.	30/11/05	26/6/06	2	-	Submissions in support, hearing not anticipated.	-		

**Ted Taylor**  
**Acting Manager, Planning and Resources**

## **Planning and Resources Department Report – July 2006**

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### **1. Resource Investigations**

#### **1.1 Rainfall and rivers**

Rainfall in May was below average in the Tararuas but above average in the Valley. Slightly below average rainfall was recorded in the eastern hills.

River flows in May were slightly above average reflecting the general pattern of rainfall over both April and May

#### **1.2 Flood warning**

No flood events occurred in May.

#### **1.3 Groundwater levels**

Groundwater levels are generally recovering from seasonal lows.

#### **1.4 Wairarapa Regional Irrigation Project**

The Wairarapa Regional Irrigation Project has reached the point where it is proposed to establish a trust to provide leadership and to drive the project forward. The trust would enter a partnership agreement with Meridian Energy Limited with Meridian owning the infrastructure and supplying water on a commercial basis. A meeting to discuss the formation of the trust was held on the 26 June.

The current proposal is for a large storage structure at the top of the valley with release of water to existing waterways as the demand requires.

Greater Wellington has no formal role in this project but has been asked to provide technical services on a commercial basis by carrying out stream flow monitoring at the storage site.

Further information on this project is being presented to the next meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee with a summary to this Committee in due course.



## **2. Consents and Compliance**

### **2.1 Consent Statistics**

For the year to date we have received 211 consent applications. This compares with 196 in the same period last year.

In this period we have processed 170 consents compared with 180 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.

- **N & E Reid:** An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. The application is on hold pending further information. Aqualink consultants are evaluating the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to sustainably accept the nutrient load.
- **Masterton District Council:** An application for consents to manage the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities on the site. The application is on hold pending further information.

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's proposed stage two of the Castlepoint seawall. No further progress on this appeal since the last committee meeting.

#### **2.2.2 LARO – Scadden's Stopbank**

John Barton has appealed this decision. No further progress on this appeal since the last committee meeting.

#### **2.2.3 Martinborough Coastal Developments**

No further progress on this appeal since the last committee meeting

#### **2.2.4 A E & S W Benton Partnership**

This application to take groundwater in the Battersea area was declined. This decision has been appealed by the applicant. Three of the submitters who opposed the application have joined as parties to the appeal. Mediation was held on 19 June with a further meeting scheduled for 10 October.

## **2.3 Compliance**

### **2.3.1 General.**

It is anticipated that the annual compliance inspection programme will be completed by the end of the financial year.

### **2.3.2 Abatement Notices**

No abatement notices were served in the period.

### **2.3.3 Infringement notices**

No infringement notices were served in the period.

### **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.

## **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**

Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa continues to provide a steady work load for the Policy and Planning section.

### **3.2 District Plans**

The combined district plan is now scheduled for notification at the end of August.

### **3.3 Appeals**

#### **3.3.1 Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd**

No further progress on the Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd Tora subdivision appeal since the last committee meeting.

#### **3.3.2 Pinehaven Orchard**

We have been party to an appeal against a decision by South Wairarapa District Council to decline an application known as the Pinehaven Orchard subdivision. This appeal has been heard and we are awaiting the decision.

**Mike Pryce**  
**Manager, Harbours**

## **Harbours Department Report – July 2006**

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### **1. Harbour navigation aids**

Work was carried out to splay apart the two anchors and chains holding Barrett Reef buoy in position near Barrett Reef, after they had moved in bad weather.

All navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

### **2. Oil pollution**

A small spillage of diesel took place from the Navy tanker H.M.N.Z.S. *Endeavour* at Queens Wharf on 10 June. The majority of about 1,000 litres of diesel was retained on deck and was quickly cleaned-up by the ship's crew, but about 50 litres escaped overboard.

Although only a small spillage, the event attracted much public interest because the ship also called both the Fire Service and Police who attended.

### **3. Other Activities**

On 16 May, after the ferry *Challenger* berthed in Wellington, a large and heavy fishing net about 40 metres long and weighing about eight tonnes was discovered draped-across her bulbous-bow, with one end fouling the bow-thruster unit. Divers cleared the end of the net from bow-thruster, and we arranged for a crane to remove the net from the harbour for disposal.

In the early hours of 25 May the bow mooring lines of the hulk of the fishing vessel *James Cook*, laid up at Miramar Wharf, were cast-off by vandals, causing the old ship to swing at right angles to the wharf and the bow to go aground at low tide. It was re-floated and re-moored that afternoon. The hulk is only one of several other old hulks that are languishing at wharves around the port. The lack of any organised indigenous ship-breaking industry in New Zealand often makes disposal of such redundant ships problematic.

On 10 June a Cook Strait jet-ski race between Wellington and Tory Channel return was planned. After discussions with the organisers about safety aspects and weather conditions, it was agreed that the race should proceed inside Wellington Harbour.

On 12 June a Chinese seaman was lost overboard from the outward-bound tanker *Formosa Thirteen* in the vicinity of Point Dorset when the tanker was sailing from Wellington bound for Timaru in bad weather.

Despite an extensive search, the 24-year old seaman was not found and is presumed drowned. His body has not been recovered. It is understood that the seaman was working over the side of the ship hauling in the pilot boarding ladder when he was lost overboard.

On 12 June Strait Shipping's newly acquired ferry *Monte Stello* arrived in Wellington. Conversion and maintenance work is to be carried out on the vessel before it enters service across Cook Strait.

Rian van Schalkwyk  
Manager, Emergency Management

## Emergency Management Department Report – July 2006

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### **1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

#### **1.1 Ministry of CDEM**

Following the February 2004 flood event in Manawatu/Wanganui a review of MCDEM was carried out with the outcome published in the Piers Reid report. A re-structuring of the Ministry was carried out by the Department of Internal Affairs which resulted in the creation of twenty-nine new positions. The Department is currently in the process of filling these positions.

The Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management, John Norton, has resigned and Bruce Fergusson (retired NZDF) has been appointed to temporarily manage the Ministry as of 6 June 2006.

The Ministry has also launched their National Public Education Programme on 6 June. ('Get Ready – Get Thru'). The programme was developed over the past three years and the manager, emergency management of the Council was part of the national working group.

#### **1.2 Tsunami planning**

Following the tsunami scare on 4 May and the international tsunami exercise of 17 May, the emergency managers of the region decided to engage in more tsunami planning work, especially with regard to evacuation, evacuation routes, and warnings. One of the CDEM Group's work programmes (scheduled for completion by June 2008 has now been moved forward to June 2007).

#### **1.3 Pandemic management**

Pandemic planning played a major role in our daily activities over the past nine months.

One area of concern was the expected role and responsibility of the CDEM Group in such a public health hazard. It was discussed at Co-ordinating Executive Group level and a consequence of that discussion was the formation of a 'Health Co-ordinating Executive Group'. Good work has been done in this group to clarify roles and responsibilities. One good example is that Greater Wellington offered accommodation (Level 10) and services (telephone, fax, data facilities) to Public Health authorities. This will enable Public Health and

CDEM Group officers to co-locate in the same building during the management of a pandemic.

## 1.4 Upgrade of emergency communications

It is with delight to report that after nearly three years' negotiating and planning work we now are in the process of upgrading our emergency communications system.

A satellite radio system has been purchased and installed at all the TA emergency operations centres throughout our region. This enables us to have communications with the TAs and other emergency management agencies and to the outside world in the event of all other communications falling over.

We are also in the process of installing a computerised information management system for the Group Emergency Operations Centre (Hoyt's room, Level 4). This system will enable us to manage emergencies much more efficiently and effectively.

## 1.5 Other activities

- Ongoing training of volunteer council staff
- Working on Group work programmes (Welfare Management, Public Information and Media Management, Regional Reconnaissance, Sewage Disposal during emergencies)
- Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee meetings (Wairarapa, Kapiti, Porirua, Wellington, Hutt Valley)
- Emergency management marketing (e.g. planning for 'Disaster Awareness Week', 'The Earth Rocks' event at Te Papa, etc.)

## 2. Environment

### 2.1 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:

Jun 22 2006 **Mag:** 3.4 **Depth:** 30 km 30 km north-east of Wellington  
Jun 11 2006 **Mag:** 4.7 **Depth:** 50 km 30 km north-west of Porirua  
Jun 02 2006 **Mag:** 3.4 **Depth:** 30 km within 5 km of Upper Hutt

## **2.2 Special Weather Bulletins**

Three weather events occurred in May/June during which we have received Twelve Special Weather Bulletins (two for heavy rain and five for strong wind and five for heavy snow). The relevant agencies were notified and apart from some slips, road closures (Rimutaka Hill) and some roofs that were lifted no other serious problems were experienced.

## **2.3 Communications**

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

For the past eighteen months we have been using AMPM as our call centre for distributing our after hours emergency management warnings and messages. Greater Wellington was also using AMPM for their after hour services.

Following several issues and unsatisfactory service from AMPM, Greater Wellington has decided to relocate their service to Palmerston North.

The emergency management department has decided not to relocate their part of the required service to Palmerston North, but to revert back to Beacon Hill who provided the service in the previous eight years. Our equipment was retrieved from AMPM and installed (and tested) at Beacon Hill on 22 June 2006.

Richard Waddy  
Manager, Environmental Support

## Financial Position: 31 May 2006

### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the 11 month period ended 31 May 2006.

<b><u>Environment Division</u></b>				
<b><u>Summary Income Statement</u></b>				
<b><u>For the Period Ended 31 May 2006</u></b>				
<b><u>(under the new structure)</u></b>				
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Full Year</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>
Rates	9,012	9,012	--	9,832
Other Revenue	2,548	2,375	173 F	2,584
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,560</b>	<b>11,387</b>	<b>173 F</b>	<b>12,416</b>
<b>Less:</b>				
Direct Expenditure	9,599	9,972	373 F	10,978
Indirect Expenditure	1,508	1,538	30 F	1,680
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>11,107</b>	<b>11,510</b>	<b>403 F</b>	<b>12,658</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>(123)</b>	<b>576 F</b>	<b>(242)</b>



## 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 \$453,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$123,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$576,000, comprising increased revenue of \$173,000, and lower than expected expenditure of \$403,000.

## 3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$11,560,000 is some \$173,000 more than our budget target of \$11,387,000.

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 \$51,000 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 \$11,107,000 is some \$403,000 (or 3.5%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were under budget by \$159,000. 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.
- **Consultant costs** were less than budget by \$118,000.

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.

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

- policy works - freshwater ecosystem work and special marine studies (\$46,000).
- investigatory works - groundwater (\$47,000) and soil analysis (\$17,000).

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$130,000). 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, to an extent, by the additional costs that arose from the independent review of the Take Care Programme (\$19,000), Biodiversity work (\$37,000), Waiwhetu stream sediment project (\$30,000), Pollution response work (\$27,000) and Ambient air quality (\$12,000).

- **Internal charges** were less than budget by \$65,000.

Most of the underspend arises from work, in various stages of completion undertaken by the Catchment Management Division (\$51,000). We expect that these charges will be brought to account before the close of the year.

## 5. Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) at \$324,000 is some \$146,000 short of our budget.

The vehicle replacement and Harbour Safety Management Systems programmes are slightly behind. The harbour vehicle which had been held-over for summer has since been sold (June).

The installation and development of the Harbour Safety Management Systems (budget - \$200,000) has been carried over into the new financial year because the port and harbour risk assessment has only been completed recently. Similarly, the spend on a replacement vehicle (\$30,000) and hydrology equipment (\$20,000) have been deferred until the next year.