



Report 07.151
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Committee Environment
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Pollution Control Report for the period 19 January 2007 to 9 March 2007

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

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

3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 175 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

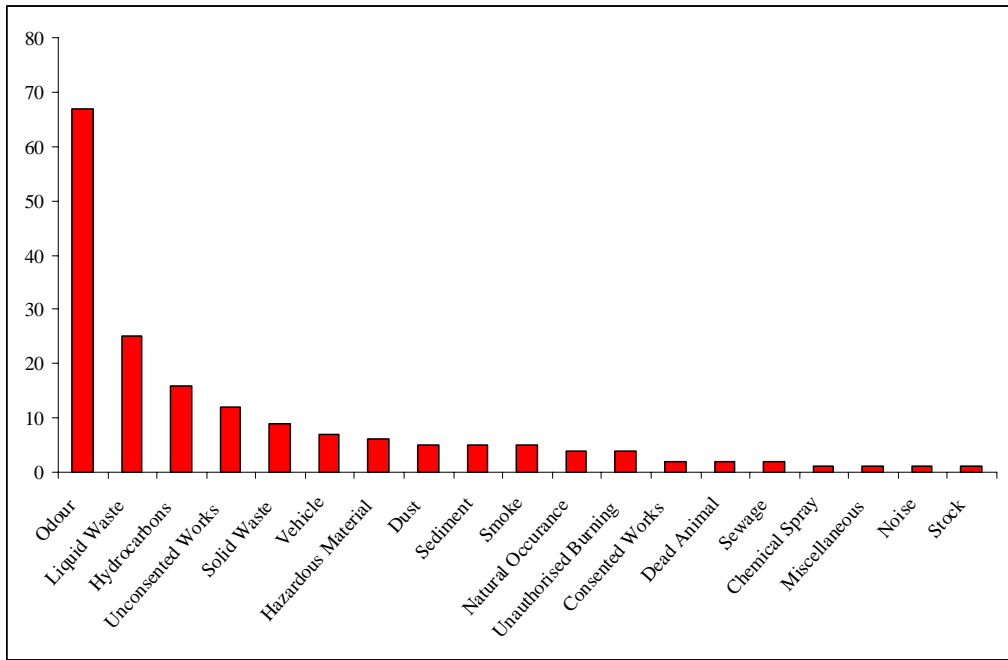


Figure 1: Summary of incidents for period 19 January 2007 to 09 March 2007

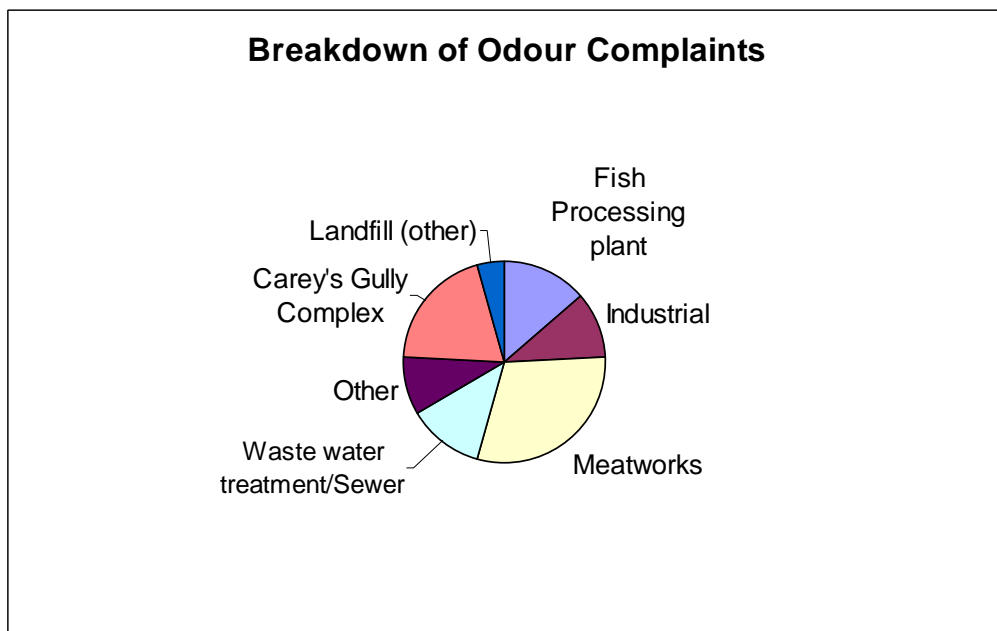




Figure 2: Breakdown of odour complaint sources

	<p>A large slip in Wilton Bush caused significant discolouration to the Kaiwharawhara stream. Pollution Control are working with Wellington City Council to minimise the on-going impact to the stream.</p>
	<p>Large amounts of glass have been found on Plimmerton beach. Pollution Control has been working with Harbours and Porirua City Council to remove the glass and warn beach users of the hazard. The source of the glass is unknown; it varies in age from over 100 years old to more recent.</p>
	<p>A large amount of effluent, suspected to be from a dairy farm entered the Ruamahunga River on 29 January. The whole of the river was reported as running green. Pollution Control attended but was unable to trace the source or sample the river due to the short duration of this event.</p>



An unknown effluent was released from a wall cavity during the renovation of Chaffers Apartments in Wellington. Pollution Control attended the site promptly and advised on correct control and disposal of the effluent.

In this period Pollution Control has attended a number of hazardous substances call outs, including an ammonia leak from a refrigeration plant at CentrePort in Wellington and a drum of paint substrate found in the Waiwhetu Stream.

3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, duration and extent of environment effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have minor adverse affects. The incidents categorised as “not assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, duration and extent of environmental effects.

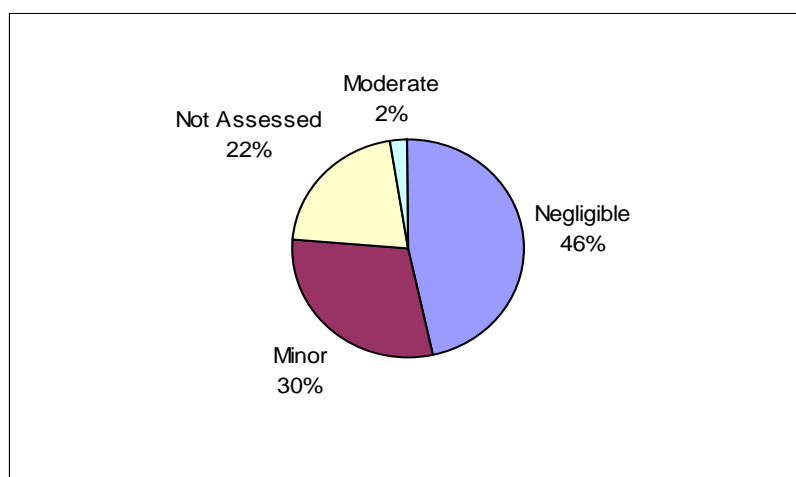


Figure 3: Incident significance for period 19 January 2007 to 09 March 2007

3.3 Response summary

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

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	33 Minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	11 Hours
Blue (7 days)	5 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	13
Infringement Notices	1
Abatement Notices	2
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

These are summarised in the manager's report (07.138).

5. Take Charge

Grenada North

Pollution Control Officers have completed visits to 61 businesses in the industrial area of Grenada North, with a view to assessing the risk these businesses pose to the environment. A review of this information will now be done to determine which sites require a full Take Charge assessment. This will be followed by stormwater and sediment sampling, prior to Take Charge assessments, to assess the quality of water entering the Takapu Stream and the extent of contamination of the stream bed.

Envirosmart recruitment

Recruitment for the second round of the Envirosmart Programme is about to commence. Business that undertake in this programme will all require a comprehensive Take Charge audit for their Bronze level accreditation.

Sustainable Business Seminar

Pollution Control attended a Sustainable Business Seminar organised by Hutt City Chamber of Commerce. This is an avenue to grow the Take Charge programme. Similar seminars are being held around the region. We intend to attend these to promote the Take Charge programme.

6. Special projects

Contaminated stormwater discharges at Miramar wharf

GWRC and WCC have been working together for the past 12 months to identify the cause of contaminated stormwater which discharges to Evans Bay. Stormwater sampling to date has indicated the source of contamination is likely to be contaminated land formerly owned by the Wellington Gas Company, which closed in 1972.

Pollution Control are about to undertake sampling of shellfish around the stormwater outfall at Miramar Wharf to determine how significant an impact contaminated stormwater discharges are having upon the environment.

Wellington City Council closed landfills

GWRC and WCC have been working together since June 2006 to address the issues surrounding closed landfills in the Wellington region. This came about after GWRC observed several discharges of leachate from closed landfills in WCC. WCC have engaged URS as consultants to assess all of the closed landfills and put together reports on individual landfills and a risk ranking matrix of all sites. This information will be used by WCC and GWRC to identify the closed landfills that require attention to prevent pollution of the environment

Toxic algae

Pollution control has received a large number of calls regarding toxic algae in rivers throughout the region. Pollution Control are developing a tri-fold leaflet to provide information to the public about the toxic algae and what precautions can be taken.

Waste disposal in the Wairarapa

Pollution Control has noted increasing numbers of incidents relating to disposal of waste material and non-cleanfill material to land in the Wairarapa. Pollution Control will continue to monitor the situation and as always take action in individual cases where appropriate.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. **Receive the report; and**
2. **Note the contents.**

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary