



Report 08.15
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Committee Regulatory
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Pollution Control Report

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 for the period 3 November 2007 to 4 January 2008

A total of 185 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

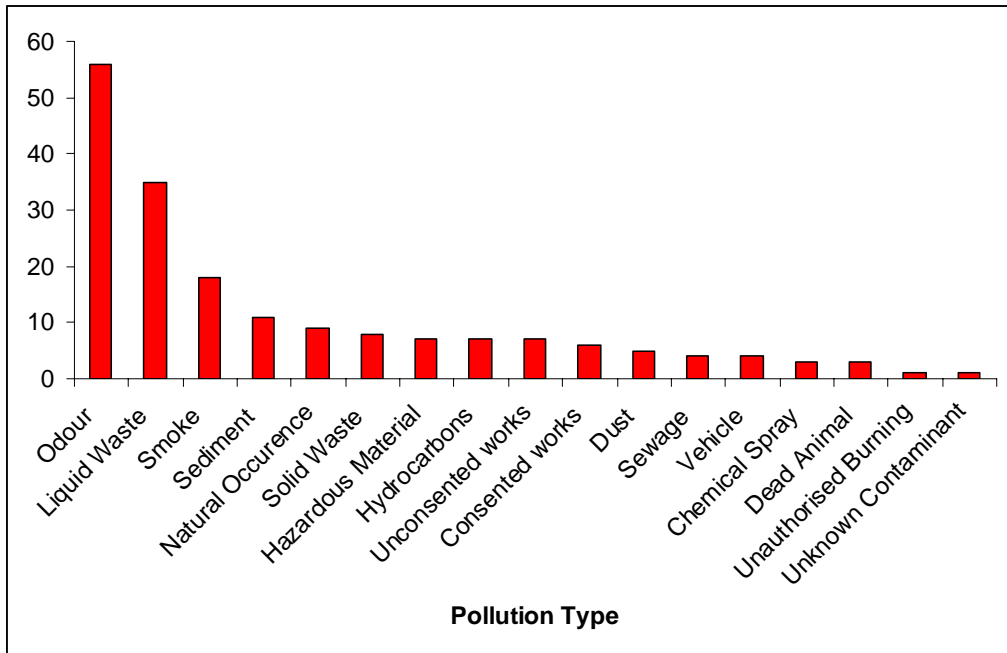


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 3 November 2007 to 4 January 2008

Pollution Control Officers were involved in the primary stages of the Algal warning that occurred in many rivers throughout the region. Officers assisted in notifying local authorities and Regional Public Health in accordance with Algae Response Protocols.



A large oil spill into the Kuripuni Stream in Masterton was attended and cleaned up by Pollution Control Officers. Oil was discharged into the stream (creating a visible sheen) as a result of poor site practises and vandalism. Officers initiated the cleanup and will be recovering costs. Further enforcement action may be considered.



An old cleanfill adjacent to Newlands College was inspected by Pollution Control Officers and they discovered a large quantity of non cleanfill items. The land was to be developed but further site investigations will have to be conducted to identify the environmental risk from these non cleanfill items and appropriate remediation.



A farmer in Carterton created a pond in a wetland for the purposes of abstracting water. An Abatement Notice was issued to cease this take. Further water was abstracted after this notice. Pollution Control are considering further enforcement action.



A stream was substantially widened and cleared of vegetation at the Carrington Subdivision in Carterton. Further enforcement action is being considered.



3.2 Response summary

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

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	37 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6 hours
Blue (7 days)	2 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	9
Infringement Notices	5
Abatement Notices	9
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

Summary of enforcement action

Infringement Notices

Chris Ellis: Breach of Abatement Notice, Helevetia Grove, Naenae

Gordon Diggle: Breach of Abatement Notice, Hut 52 Orongorongo Valley

Waione Street Properties Limited: Breach of Abatement Notice, Hautonga Street, Petone

Transpacific Technical Services: Breach of Resource Consent for offensive and objectionable odour, Port Road, Petone

Living Earth Limited: Breach of Resource Consent for offensive and objectionable odour, Landfill Road, Brooklyn.

Abatement Notices

Goh Realty Limited: Four Abatement Notices for illegal works, stream restoration and wetland restoration, Brookfield Lane, Wainuiomata

Boon Goh (Director of Goh Realty Limited): Four Abatement Notices for illegal works, stream restoration and wetland restoration. Brookfield Lane, Wainuiomata

Alistair Smith: Cease an illegal water take, Carterton

5. Take Charge

The Pollution Control Team has completed eight EnviroSMART audits during the period. Each audit includes a site visit and a written report with recommendations. We will soon be conducting revisits to ensure all recommendations have been completed.



Take Charge visit to Resene Paints, Naenae

In addition, we continue our *Take Charge* audits of businesses in the Grenada North Business Park. We have completed site visits for the majority of the businesses and will return to check compliance with recommendations.

A *Take Charge* Co-ordinator has been appointed to organise *Take Charge* projects and EnviroSMART Audits. They will spend the majority of their time in this new role but will retain some Pollution Control functions.

6. Special projects

Officers undertook water abstraction survey of 25 Otukura/Battersea properties (Greytown) prior to Christmas. The survey obtained information on how much water is taken from groundwater and streams in this area and what it is used for. The survey will enable us to better enforce permitted takes in the area and improve Greater Wellington's understanding of rural water use, allocation and management.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the contents.***

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary