

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – September 2008

1. Draft Regional Policy Statement - update

Staff are now preparing responses to the submissions on the draft Regional Policy Statement. The Council will consider the submissions, responses and changes in workshops in October.

The main area of concern from submitters is Appendix One of the draft document (Sites of Significance in the Coastal Environment). The sites identified in Appendix One, which were originally identified by Boffa Miskell consultants, are currently being peer reviewed. We are also contacting all submitters on Appendix One and offering to meet with them on site to review information contained in Appendix One and hear their ideas and concerns.

2. National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards - update

2.1 Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation

The Ministry for the Environment has released a proposed National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation. The desirability of a national policy statement on renewable electricity generation was announced with the release of the New Zealand Energy Strategy in October 2007. The national policy statement is intended to be a key component of the New Zealand Energy Strategy and will also complement the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy.

The Minister for the Environment has appointed a Board of Inquiry to hear public submissions and provide recommendations to the Minister. The Board of Inquiry will explain the process and timelines for making a submission at the time of public notification. It is expected that the Board of Inquiry will publicly notify the proposed national policy statement and call for public submissions shortly. Copies of the proposed National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation are available in the Councillors lounge.

2.2 Development of National Policy Statement for Urban Design

The Government has decided that preparing a National Policy Statement on Urban Design is desirable. In particular, it considers that national guidance will help to improve the quality of urban design in New Zealand, and national guidance will complement existing voluntary, non-statutory initiatives like the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol.

The Ministry for the Environment is now seeking views on how a national policy statement on urban design might be framed. Once these views have been received, the Ministry will collate and analyse them, and the scope of a possible National Policy Statement on Urban Design will be reported back to the Government for consideration. If this is approved, a proposed national policy statement will be drafted and publicly notified.

2.3 Proposed National Environmental Standard for On-site Wastewater - discussion document

The Government is considering developing a national environmental standard for the inspection of on-site wastewater systems (such as septic tanks). The Ministry for the Environment is seeking public submissions by Friday 26 September 2008.

The aim of the proposed standard is to improve the management and environmental performance of domestic on-site wastewater systems. The standard would authorise regional councils to require property owners with an on-site wastewater system to hold a current warrant of fitness for their system. To obtain a warrant of fitness, a system would be required to pass an inspection every three years. Regional councils would identify the areas where the standard would apply.

2.4 Other

The hearing for the proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement will be starting on the week beginning 25 August 2008. Greater Wellington's submission will be presented to the Board of Inquiry on Thursday 28 August.

The proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – September 2008

1. Hydrological monitoring

A summary of our rainfall, river and groundwater monitoring for the month of July is set out in sections 2 to 5 below. (August data was not available when this report was written.) This is based on the reports produced at the end of each month for inclusion on the Greater Wellington web site and for distribution with a media release. The full report can be found at http://www.gw.govt.nz/story_images/5507_July2008hydrolo_s11035.pdf.

2. Rainfall and river flows

2.1 Rainfall

July 2008 was a wet month throughout the Wellington region. Rainfall totals for the month were more than double the long-term average in the Hutt Valley, and well above average in the Tararua Range, Wellington City, Porirua and southern Wairarapa. 1.1 metres of rainfall was recorded in the Tararua Range at the monitoring site 'Angle Knob', which is significantly higher than the average July total of 0.6 metres.

The month was characterised by frequent storms, with the most notable occurring on 11/12, 23/24, 30 and 31 of the month. The most significant floods of July resulted from a stormy period at the very end of the month. The weather system that brought heavy rainfall and gales to the upper North Island produced an easterly airflow over the Wellington region on 30 July, bringing sustained rainfall to the eastern Wairarapa hills, Wairarapa plains, eastern Tararua Range, Orongorongo Range, Wainuiomata and the north eastern Hutt Valley. At our monitoring site 'Tanawa Hut', in the north eastern Wairarapa hills, there was 120 mm of rain in 24 hours – the most significant rainfall there since the storm of August 2004. The following day (31 July) a north westerly airflow brought rainfall that mostly affected the Tararua Range, Kapiti Coast and Hutt Valley.

Rainfall received during July boosted totals for the year significantly. Throughout the region we have now received about, or more than, average rainfall for the time of the year. This is a stark contrast to the drought situation experienced in much of the region during summer and early autumn.

2.2 Rivers

River flows during July were higher than average for the time of the year and were significantly higher than the average flows in June 2008. Most rivers and streams of the region had the highest flows for the month during the northwesterly storm of 11/12 July or the easterly storm of 30 July. The event on 11/12 July resulted in initial floodwarning alert levels being exceeded in the Hutt and Ruamahanga rivers. The storm on 30 July, that brought significant rainfall to catchments exposed to easterly storms, resulted in particularly high flows in the Ruamahanga River and its eastern tributaries. The Tauweru River had a peak flow of nearly 300 m³/s, which has an estimated return period of five years. Flow in the Ruamahanga River was high enough for the floodway system to operate, and in both the Ruamahanga and Tauweru rivers it was the highest flow since the floods of July 2006. The rainfall the following day affected the western tributaries of the Ruamahanga River, therefore prolonging the high flow at Waihenga. High flows were also experienced on 31 July in the Waiwhetu Stream (Lower Hutt) – the peak flow of 12.3 m³/s is slightly less than a 2-year return period event and is the most significant flood in the stream since October 2006.

3. Groundwater levels

The wetter than average July has boosted recharge to the region's aquifers. A number of the shallow unconfined aquifers monitored by Greater Wellington have shown groundwater level increases in response to recent rainfall and higher river flows. Groundwater levels in deeper confined aquifers, while still recovering, tend to show a more subdued response to short term wet periods. If above average rainfall and recharge to aquifers continues over the remainder of winter it is a promising sign for the upcoming summer for maintaining flows in groundwater fed streams and water levels in wetlands, while leaving adequate storage for groundwater abstraction.

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the artesian Waiwhetu aquifer have been above average since May. Some further recovery may be seen in the aquifer in the coming month in response to increased rainfall in the valley and flows in the Hutt River.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels recorded in the deep Waikanae aquifer recovered in late July in response to rainfall and increased flows in the Waikanae River. Levels are now above average and have fully recovered from use of the Waikanae borefield in March this year.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Shallow rainfall and river fed aquifers in the Wairarapa have recovered in response to the wetter than average July. An example is the water level data from the Te Ore Ore monitoring bore, which has recorded below average levels for over a year. Levels in this bore are now above average, although it is unclear at this time if this is a sustained recovery in the groundwater levels or

merely a short term 'spike'. Groundwater levels in deeper confined aquifers are still to show a marked recovery.

4. Soil moisture

During July, Wairarapa soil moisture levels remained high due to the regular rainfall. Despite being very low from November through until March, soil moisture has recovered to normal winter levels.

5. Climate outlook

The La Nina weather pattern, which brought dry conditions to the Wairarapa and Wellington over summer, has now ended. NIWA's climate forecast for August to October 2008 favours normal rainfall in the Wairarapa and normal or below normal rainfall in the western Wellington region.

6. Floodwarning

The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the Wellington region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre and the Masterton office. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

In July three events triggered river alarms in the Western part of the region, Three were triggered on 12 July, four on 30 July and three on 31 July.

Four events triggered river alarms in the Wairarapa; six on 12 July, three on 23 July, two on 27 July and fourteen on 30 July.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was open during all of July.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above target in July, particularly so towards the end of the month when the floodways were operating and diverting floodwaters into the lake.

7. Air quality monitoring

7.1 National environmental standard for air quality

Ambient air quality data for the 2007 calendar year is being reported in a separate paper to the Committee.

The ambient air quality monitoring station at Wairarapa College in Masterton recorded a second exceedance of the NES-AQ for PM₁₀ on 14 July. In accordance with the regulations, a public notice was placed in the Wairarapa Times Age on 26 July 2008 that the NES-AQ had been breached.

8. Project summary

Brief notes on some of the projects the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department are working on:

- A project has been initiated to enhance our understanding of water quality in the Mangatarere Stream catchment. We are doing this as our state of environment monitoring consistently records poor water quality in this catchment; a catchment that starts off in the Tararua foot hills but before meeting the Waiohine River is impacted by multiple land use activities including a piggery, intensive dairying, a sewage discharge as well as urban stormwater.
- A seismic study is being carried out in the Parkvale and Lower Valley areas in the Wairarapa to clarify the underlying water bearing structures which will assist in refining inputs to the groundwater model. Preliminary results confirm the complex nature of the underlying geology.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – September 2008

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 we have received 55 consent applications. This compares with 65 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 30 consents. This compares with 71 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 16 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year to 30 June was 14 working days.

We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent application suites – possibly the highest in our history across the region. Enforcement activity by the consents and compliance teams remains reasonably heavy. Bore permit numbers have remained at a moderate level over the period. Compliance activity has been up across the region as the teams looked to complete their annual programmes taking some time away from consent processing.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 4, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties is also attached for information.

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

Following good progress through mediation, only the Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers Association (WRMFA) remain opposed to the consents. Wellington City Council has applied to the Court to strike out WRFMA's evidence on the basis that it is beyond the scope of the appeal. We also filed a memorandum with the Court supporting the strike out, and we are currently waiting for a decision and instructions from the Court.

This is an appeal by WCC regarding the decision on replacement applications for WCC/Capacity's ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment

Plant; including fully treated effluent discharge to Cook Strait; a mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened effluent discharge; and discharges of odour to air. Wellington Marine Fishers' Association, the Moa Point Community Liaison Group, Betty Weeber, Department of Conservation and the Breaker Bay and Moa Point Progressive Association also joined the process as a section 274 party (a party to the appeal proceedings). The appeal covers a wide range of matters including consent duration, monitoring and reporting requirements, UV irradiation treatment requirements and pilot study reporting.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

Mediation will commence on 29 August.

This is an appeal by Waterfront Watch against the hearing panel's decision to grant consents to redevelop the Overseas Passenger Terminal site at Clyde Quay Wharf. A number of section 274 parties have also joined the appeal, including Chaffers Marina Limited, Chaffers Marina Holdings Limited, John Spry, Grant Hodgson, Malcolm Small, Helene Ritchie, Tomas Huppert, Dennis Foot and John Moore. We are awaiting instructions from the Court before mediation commences.

The applications incorporated a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking, wharf structural strengthening, public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end. The applications incorporated modifications put forward at the hearing, including retaining more heritage elements, improved mitigation of construction effects on marina uses, additional provision for mariner services in the longer term.

Other ongoing appeals

- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (Stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (Stage 2) at Castlepoint. MDC have now finalised the Stage 2 Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP), which includes provision for a new low-level sea wall. With the plan now finalised we now expect to be discussing shortly the next stage of the appeal process with MDC.
- ***MB & HF Herrick (Herricks) – Taking groundwater adjacent Taumata Lagoon:*** Replacement (renewal) application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a regionally significant Wairarapa wetland. The appeal will go straight to hearing, and we are expecting from the Court shortly a timetable for determining the scope of issues and exchanging evidence, and a hearing date.
- ***Wellington City Council/Capacity - Western Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Following mediation in June we will shortly receive WCC's report on options for an earlier replacement of the outfall pipeline within the Council's longer term work programme (following reporting to WCC Council). These are appeals against a decision to grant consents to

discharge treated effluent to the South Coast, and milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast. effluent to the Wellington South Coast and Karori Stream (including discharges of odour).

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

Significant attention has been given to both scheduled and complaint-driven compliance inspections of major earthworks sites in the western region during July. We have seen considerable levels of sediment discharges from a number of sites, which though not surprising, given the July rainfall, is at the same time very concerning. We are currently looking into ways in which we can ensure consent holders reduce discharges in future winter periods.

3.2 Specific compliance

Project Westwind: We have spent a good deal of time in July in both scheduled and unscheduled (complaint-driven) compliance inspections of the Westwind site. Meridian has faced a substantial challenge in managing discharges from the earthworks around the site. Heavy and unrelenting July rain has compromised sediment treatment measures and at the same time caused prolonged sediment discharges off-site within the site. We are both investigating the current incidents and working hard with Meridian to see these developing and growing problems resolved.

3.3 Abatement notices

We issued 10 abatements in the last period (up from two for the previous period), for illegal stream works, discharging sediment and hydrocarbons, and discharges to air from spray painting operations.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.580).

3.4 Infringement notices

We have issued three infringement notices in the last period (down from four for the previous period), for discharge of offensive and objectionable odours at Taylor Preston Limited, Ngauranga (March 2008); and also for streamworks and discharging hydrocarbons to water.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.580).

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Two prosecutions are currently before the Court, up from the last period, with monitoring of performance occurring on a further two sets of enforcement orders.

Lance James and failure to meet enforcement orders at Brooklyn Rise

After initially indicating that he will defend charges, Mr James has now indicated that he will offer a guilty plea. Sentencing in the District Court will be on 22 September.

This prosecution regards the complete failure to meet basic requirements (provision of certain sediment control and re-vegetation plans, failure to meet general timelines also including stream reinstatement works) of enforcement orders affecting unconsented works at two separate subdivisions in Ohiro Rd, Brooklyn.

Masterton District Council and Master Roads Services

On 7 August we laid charges against Masterton District Council (MDC) and Master Road Services in relation to taking water from Ruamahanga River to Henley Lake in February 2008 during a period of water restrictions.

The illegal take was the result of remedial works by MDC's contractor on the intake structure and the river bed to improve the efficiency of the take. These works caused a substantial volume of water to be taken over two days, which caused the river flow to drop by nearly 30% at Wardell's flow recording gauge 8 km downstream on Ruamahanga River. Furthermore, heated and algae laden water from Henley Lake was discharged back to Ruamahanga after lake levels became high.

The incident occurred during a one-in-seven year low flow in Ruamahanga River, when most water users in the Wairarapa were on significant water restrictions.

The first 'call-over' at the Court to establish timeframes and actions is set down for 25 September.

3.6 Take Charge

We have completed our two-year *Take Charge* programme for Grenada industrial area.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.580).

3.7 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of note centre on sediment discharges, streamworks, and other various discharges.

- ***Sediment discharges – James Cook Drive:*** We have attended five incidents over the past two months in response to discharges of sediment from allegedly poorly maintained sediment control measures. We are currently seeking an explanation from the consent holder. This site has been the subject of enforcement investigations previously, with the prosecution of consultant Cardno TCB earlier this year.

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Assessment work remains reasonable heavy with a large load of applications in the early stages of process. Hearing activity has also increased with commencing of the Mill Creek six week hearing.

Meridian – Project Mill Creek

The hearing of Meridian Energy Ltd’s applications to establish a 31 turbine windfarm at Mill Creek (north of the lower Makara valley and estuary area) started on 11 August.

The applications are being jointly determined together with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council, and heard by a fully independent panel.

The three officer reports range in their recommendations from granting (PCC for road extension land use activities at the northern end of Ohariu Rd), to declining applications subject to issues being resolved through evidence provided at the hearing (WCC).

The GW officer report recommends that a number of the consents to culvert and divert watercourses be granted, but effectively reserves its recommendation on earthworks discharges and stream piping and reclamation matters – subject to Meridian providing information on appropriately managing and ‘offsetting’ potentially significant effects.

The proposal involves applications to GW (nine separate applications) covering the culverting, piping and reclamation of streams, earthworks and discharges of sediment laden water (from over 800,000 cubic metres of earthworks to construct roads, fill sites and turbine platforms) to a number of water courses and eventually the Makara Stream and Estuary.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Winstone Aggregates Limited:*** We are expecting shortly a decision on these applications. The proposal is to develop an overburden disposal area (OBDA) involves applications to reclaim and pipe over 500 metres of ephemeral and intermittent stream channel, and control sediment discharges from the working sites, and discharges of dust to air.
- ***MDC – Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Replacement applications to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, including

a new proposal to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Deferred for amended applications to incorporate new ponds and additional land for land-based discharges/treatment. Revised applications expected in August.

- ***Kelson Heights limited:*** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. Further information received. Determining if information is complete and next process steps.
- ***Westchester Drive Extension:*** Earthworks associated with a roading project connecting Mark Avenue, Newlands. On hold for further information and additional consents to be lodged.
- ***T & T Landfill:*** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. Notification expected soon once the applicant provides an application fee and further information.
- ***Stronvar Properties Ltd:*** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater, and the integrity of the proposed water supply and amenity dam – working through these with the applicant.
- ***Masterton District Council:*** Masterton Landfill closure. Awaiting further information prior to notification.
- ***Transpacific Technical Services:*** Discharges to air from an industrial and hazardous waste processing facility in Seaview. Applications were notified on 12 July, and seven submissions were received.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and waiting for further information.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited:*** Replacement applications for discharges contaminants from the woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, and various kilns at their Waingawa, Masterton plant. Lodged in January 2008 with updated AEE provided in May, currently waiting for further information.
- ***Best Farms Ltd:*** A subdivision and associated activities including 300,000 cubic metres of earthworks over nearly 15 hectares, and stream reclamation, at Best Farms, Churton Park. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** Earthworks to construct a car haulways area at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** A 100 lot subdivision and associated activities at Lincolnshire Farm, Newlands.
- ***Wairarapa Aggregates Limited:*** A proposed aggregate quarry and cleanfill operation, at Waingawa south of Masterton involving discharges of sediment and taking groundwater.
- ***JR's Orchards Ltd:*** Taking and damming water (Papawai Stream and local groundwater) associated with orchard irrigation, at Papawai, east of Greytown.
- ***C n D Landfill:*** Extension of the existing CnD demolition fill at Happy Valley, Wellington.

Limited Notified

Limited notified applications active during the last period include:

- **KCDC - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihanga and Te Moana Road in Waikanae. The application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition. Key issues raised impacts on wahi tapu, water quality and flood conveyance and wetland effects. Peer review of wetland effects has identified gaps in KCDC's assessment, currently being addressed.
- **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept:** Global consents for structures and stream bed works in Waitohu Stream, Otaki. Pre-hearing held on 15 April. Sign off to proposal achieved with single opposing submitter. Application now not required going to a formal hearing. Draft conditions and officers report being prepared for approval in September sign-off.
- **Hutt City Council:** Wainuiomata River gravel extraction and river realignment. On hold pending further information.
- **NZSF Timber Investments Ltd:** Forestry logging operations in Pauatahanui Stream catchment, including erosion and sediment control and reclamation of streams. Jointly limited notified with PCC. Pre-hearing held on 31 July to deal with PCC matters.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

South Waitohu Stopbank: A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki, by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection.

Hutt River stopbank, Boulcott: Applications by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection to construct a new stopbank in the vicinity of Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses. Lodgement expected later in 2009.

Waiwhetu Stream Remediation: Full applications for remediation of Waiwhetu Stream, following on from the March 2008 trial-excavation consents.

Kaitoke abstraction - GW Water Group: Applications to increase water abstraction from the Hutt River at Kaitoke (to lower the minimum flow from 600L/sec to 400L/sec).

Puketiro Windfarm: We anticipate applications for a 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area will be lodged later in the year.

Greytown Wastewater - South Wairarapa District Council: Replacement applications for discharges from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and being assessed for completeness.

Wellington Waterfront Limited: Consents to authorise the existing use of structures within the CMA in the vicinity of Queens Wharf, and allow vehicle use around Shed 6.

Aotea Block Stages 10 and 11: Earthworks associated with subdivision at Aotea, Porirua.

Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd: Quarrying of old river gravels at Waingawa Industrial Estate, adjacent a wetland.

4.3 Other applications

Other non-notified applications of note are discussed in report 08.579.

4.4 Department projects

National Enforcement Investigators Workshop

We recently coordinated and hosted a national enforcement investigators workshop targeted at senior operators from regional councils. The two day session covered recent key (and sometimes precedent setting) cases and common themes in enforcement nationally (such as interference in decision-making, insurance for environmental breaches, increasing levels of prosecution success, and improved practices to evidence gathering and laying charges).

The workshop is another example of strengthening coordination of enforcement training, a willingness to exchange best practice, and increasing enforcement capability nationally.

Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
South Wairarapa District Council WAR970080	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston.	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold. Updated AEE expected in August 2008.			
Masterton District Council WAR 060047	To discharge contaminants to land and air associated with the operation of Masterton landfill, Homebush, Masterton.	30/03/06	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
Stronvar Properties Ltd WAR 060160	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Further information supplied late February 2008. Information externally reviewed and further questions have now been asked of the applicant.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified) WGN070019	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works). Amended proposal to be submitted.	-	-	-
Palliser Bay Station WAR 060200	To discharge treated wastewater to land from a communal wastewater treatment and disposal system.	28/11/06	22/02/07	1	-	Awaiting confirmation of final design of wastewater system. Likely to be signed off with agreed conditions.			
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership) WGN070242	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua.	12/12/06	02/05/07	13	31/05/07	Hearing held on 3 and 04 April 08.	Cr Baber, Christine Foster, Ra Pomare (iwi appointee)	Decision was released on 19/6/08. Granted	Appeals close 10/07/08.
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/04/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/2007 Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08	On hold at applicant's request to carry out trials of discharging sludge to land.	-		

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Winstone Aggregates Ltd WGN080237	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	07/05/07	10/07/07	24	30/08/07	Hearing commenced on 12/05/08, reconvened on 12/06/08.	Cr Baber, Cr Bruce, Christine Foster	Decision pending, likely to be before 15 August.	
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept (Limited Notified) WGN 070242	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance.	10/05/07	22/06/07	2		Negotiated outcome. Written approval from affected party received 05/08/08.		Decision due 2 September 2008.	
Masterton District Council WAR 070077	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/05/07	01/08/07	69	12/11/07	Applicant altered proposal so hearing scheduled for March delayed. Awaiting amended/new applications which are likely to be re-notified.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Kapiti Coast District Council (Limited Notified) WGN080150	To undertake various activities associated with the construction of Section 5 (Otaihanga Rd to Te Moana Road) of Western Link Road.	09/10/07	07/12/07	5		Peer review of wetland effects identified major gaps in applicant's assessment, which are currently being addressed. Resolution of issues raised by some submitters still outstanding.			
Kelson Heights Ltd. WGN080187	143 lot subdivision	13/11/07	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
South Wairarapa District Council WAR 080254	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Greytown wastewater treatment plant at Papawai, east of Greytown.	28/12/07	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Juken Nissho Ltd WAR 080250	To discharge contaminants to air from woodwaste boiler, veneer driers & presses, kilns at Waingawa, Masterton	29/12/07	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
NZSF Timber Investments (No. 3) Ltd. (Limited Notified) Joint with PCC WGN080361	To undertake various activities associated with forestry logging, Flighty's Road, Pauatahanui.	07/03/08	20/05/08	3	Pre-hearing meeting held 31 July to address issues within PCC jurisdiction. No issues raised in submissions within GW jurisdiction.				
Mill Creek (Meridian) WGN080368	To undertake stream works, land disturbance, discharge contaminated storm water to land/water and contaminants to air in association with constructing roads, fill sites and platforms for the establishment of a wind farm.	12/03/08	16/06/08			Commencing week beginning 11 August 08	David Hill, David McMahon, Pamela Peters		

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Transpacific WGN080440	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation of a liquid and hazardous waste processing plant.	23/04/08	08/08/08	7					
Best Farms Ltd WGN080494	Earthworks and reclamation of streams associated with sub-division activities, at Best Farms, Churton Park.	29/05/08 Application rejected (lack of information)							
Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd WAR 080518	To discharge stormwater from a gravel extraction and associated cleanfill operation to water	04/06/08	On hold for further information and consents. Yet to be notified.						
T & T Landfill WGN070260	Discharges associated with the operation of a demolition fill.	14/06/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
Hunter Hills Ltd WGN080520	Earthworks associated with new car haulaway area, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.	17/06/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Hunter Hills Ltd WGN090003	Earthworks associated with a 100 lot subdivision, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.	03/07/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
JR's Orchards Ltd WAR 080557	To take and dam water from the Papawai Stream and to take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes at Papawai, east of Greytown.	30/06/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
CnD Landfill WGN080462	Extension of construction and demolition fill.	04/08/08	On hold for further information and affected party approval.						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – September 2008

1. Harbour navigation aids

Barrett Reef buoy sprang a slow leak during a prolonged period of bad weather during the last weekend of July. The buoy was disconnected from its mooring chains and brought back into port on 28 July during a fortuitous short period of good weather before it sank. Appropriate navigation warnings were promulgated. Repairs are in hand and almost completed and the buoy will soon be redeployed back into its usual position.

2. Oil pollution

No oil spills were reported during this period.

3. Harbour events of interest

The hulk of *Seafire* received all formal approvals as ready for scuttling in Cook Strait on 11 July, after many months of preparation work. Subsequently, the Bay Artificial Reef Charitable Trust has been in negotiations to acquire the hulk from the Council in order to scuttle it as a dive site off Whale Island (Whakatane), Bay of Plenty.

The hulk of *Venture 2* (“King Kong” ship) has finally been abandoned to Greater Wellington. The Porirua Dive Trust has registered an interest with the Council to acquire and scuttle this hulk as a dive site off Mana Island, subject to obtaining all the resource consents required.

The mission outreach/floating bookstore ship *Doulos* spent three weeks at Queens Wharf during July on its farewell tour to New Zealand. The 1914-built vessel will be retired by 2010 when new safety regulations are introduced.

The ferry *Monte Stello* damaged her propeller after hitting a floating log off Tory Channel and had to go to Auckland for dry docking and repairs. A week after resuming service, the vessel damaged a link span at Picton, then damaged a berth in Wellington the following day.

4. Meetings

The annual HMSIG (Harbour Masters/Harbour Managers Special Interest Group) (or Navigation/Safety SIG as it was renamed last year) was held in Wellington in the Council Chambers on 16 and 7 July, chaired by the Manager Harbours

On 5 August the Deputy Harbourmaster and both harbour rangers undertook a NHSO Approved Handlers Course.