Tim Porteous
Acting Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy department report – October 2009

1. Proposed Regional Policy Statement update

Officers have now completed their reports responding to the submissions received on the proposed Regional Policy Statement. The reports on each of the chapters are now being collated into a single document totalling some 700 pages.

The hearings are scheduled to commence on 3 November with approximately 70 submitters wishing to be heard.

2. Coastal Memoranda of Understanding

Coastal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) are agreements between Greater Wellington and Territorial Authorities of the Wellington Region. The purpose of these memoranda is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Territorial Authority and Greater Wellington with respect to minor environmental pollution incidents in the area administered by the Territorial Authority. This should ensure that pollution incidents are addressed by the appropriate organisation.

All Coastal MOU's with each regional Territorial Authority in the region are due for renewal. First up is Porirua City Council and work has been progressing steadily to ascertain what the new memorandum should contain. A draft MOU has been distributed and both parties are currently reviewing the document. Once this is completed, work will begin on MOU's with Kapiti Coast District Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council and a combined Wairarapa MOU.

3. Coastal Restoration Plans

As part of implementing the Coastal and marine biodiversity action plan, restoration plans have been completed for a number of priority sites around the region working with the local authority. Initiated by staff and undertaken by consultants, the plans are an effective way of identifying the issues and opportunities present and recommending practical and cost-effective solutions. This then allows the relevant local authority and community group to seek funding from a range of external sources using the restoration plan as guidance for project work.

To date restoration plans have been completed or are in a final draft form for:

- Titahi Bay
- Island Bay
- Lyall Bay
- Onehunga Bay (Whitireia)
- Waikanae Dunes
- Peka Peka and
- Waitohu North.

We are currently working with Porirua City Council and Masterton District Council on plans for Plimmerton South beach to Ngati Toa domain and Riversdale beach respectively.

A copy of the restoration plan for Titahi Bay is attached for information.

4. Staff

Tami Woods has resigned from her position as Team Leader, Policy Development with the Environmental Policy department to take up a position with Environment Canterbury. Tami has been with Greater Wellington since July 2003, initially as Policy Advisor and as Team Leader since 2008. Tami's project management skills coupled with her in-depth knowledge of the Resource Management Act have been invaluable in running the review of the Regional Policy Statement.

Titahi Bay Five Year Restoration Plan

Prepared for Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington

June 30th 2009

Harley Spence - Coastline Consultants &

Dr. David Bergin - Environmental Restoration Ltd

Report Number: CCERL/R27-28/03/2009

Environmental Restoration LIMITED

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank Tim Park, Robyn Smith and colleagues of Greater Wellington as well as staff from the Porirua City Council for organising field visits, providing information and photographs for Titahi Bay and comments on earlier drafts of this plan. The contributions and discussions with the Titahi Bay beach residents and users were also appreciated. Michael Bergin provided the photographs and drafted Figure 1.

PLEASE NOTE

This restoration plan is written in good faith between the contractors and the Wellington City Council, based upon site investigations and information available at the time of production. For any queries about the information contained within the document please contact Coastline Consultants.

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Porirua City Council	PCC

INTRODUCTION

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) and Porirua City Council (PCC) have requested a five year restoration plan for Titahi Bay beach. It is intended that this project build upon the comprehensive Titahi Bay Beach Reserves Management Plan (Porirua City Council 2008). Guidance is sought to determine the restoration priorities and to identify a multi-year staged restoration process.

SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

A recently completed plan for the Titahi Bay beach (Porirua City Council 2008) along with an assessment of the vegetation of the beach (Smith 2007) provide comprehensive information on the historical, cultural, geomorphological, botanical and human use aspects of the bay. This report briefly reviews selected aspects of these documents relevant to developing restoration options and focuses, for the most part, on providing detailed recommendations for future management of the beach and dunes at Titahi Bay.

SITE INSPECTION

The project team inspected the beach on Wednesday April 22, 2009 along with Greater Wellington (GW) and Porirua City Council (PCC) staff, local residents and users of Titahi Bay beach.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A comprehensive assessment of the vegetation at Titahi Bay beach has been undertaken by Smith (2007) including a list of plants typical of the areas prior to human settlement and plants typically found in the bay today. This assessment of the present condition of the vegetation has been incorporated into a recently completed beach management plan (Porirua City Council 2008). This beach management plan provides a detailed management framework for the Titahi Bay Beach reserves and a comprehensive background of the area including ecology, climate, geology, freshwater, history of human settlement, and information about the current values of human use associated with the beach.

The beach at Titahi Bay, including the vegetation and dune morphology, has been highly modified by more than a century of intensive human settlement and use. Historical photographs clearly show that the beach had an extensive dune system before major settlement occurred.

Several concrete structures such as vehicle ramps, roads, retaining walls, storm water outlets and paths, as well as buildings including the boat sheds, the surf club and toilet blocks occur on the beach and dune system (Porirua City Council 2008). Abandoned but historically significant defence bunkers are also buried or partially buried in the dunes. Boat launching ramps give access to both ends of the beach and parking of cars and trailers is permitted on the beach where the two iconic lines of boat sheds dating back to the early 1900s are located.

The current vegetation cover is a mixture of exotics and natives. Although well south of their natural range, karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*) and pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) have been planted over many years and have naturally regenerated. In terms of natural biodiversity, Smith (2007) has rated the current vegetation on the dunes and adjacent headlands as of low-to-medium significance.

Amongst a number of objectives relating to management of the vegetation at Titahi Bay, the Management Plan (Porirua City Council 2008) aims to:

- work with coastal processes to manage erosion on Titahi Bay beach in a sustainable way;
- restore the ecological integrity, conservation and natural amenity values of the beach;
- manage activities on the beach to support ecological integrity, conservation and natural amenity values, and;
- identify and delineate areas of dune for restoration and protection.

The development of this restoration plan takes these objectives into account wherever possible.

SITE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

For the purposes of this Restoration Plan, Titahi Bay beach has been divided into six areas (see Figure 1). Management issues and a description of the dune morphology and vegetation cover are provided for each area along with recommended site-specific management options.

The Titahi Bay beach has also been previously divided into several distinct areas or vegetation management units in the Titahi Bay Beach Management Plan (Porirua City Council 2008). The areas used in this Restoration Plan do not directly match the vegetation management units in the earlier plan. However, the vegetation management units in the Management Plan are cross-referenced below in parentheses.

Management recommendations for up to five years are tabulated for each area. A complete list of these recommendations for all areas is tabulated in Appendix 1. In developing the recommendations for each area we have taken into account the following site-specific factors:

- Recommended priorities for actions and resources are only provided in detail for Years 1 and 2.
- Only general guidelines are given for Years 3-5 as this is dependent on actions undertaken and performance of restoration over the first two years.
- Plant numbers are based on a maximum of 500 plants to be planted comfortably within a single morning session by a community group with 10-20 persons attending.

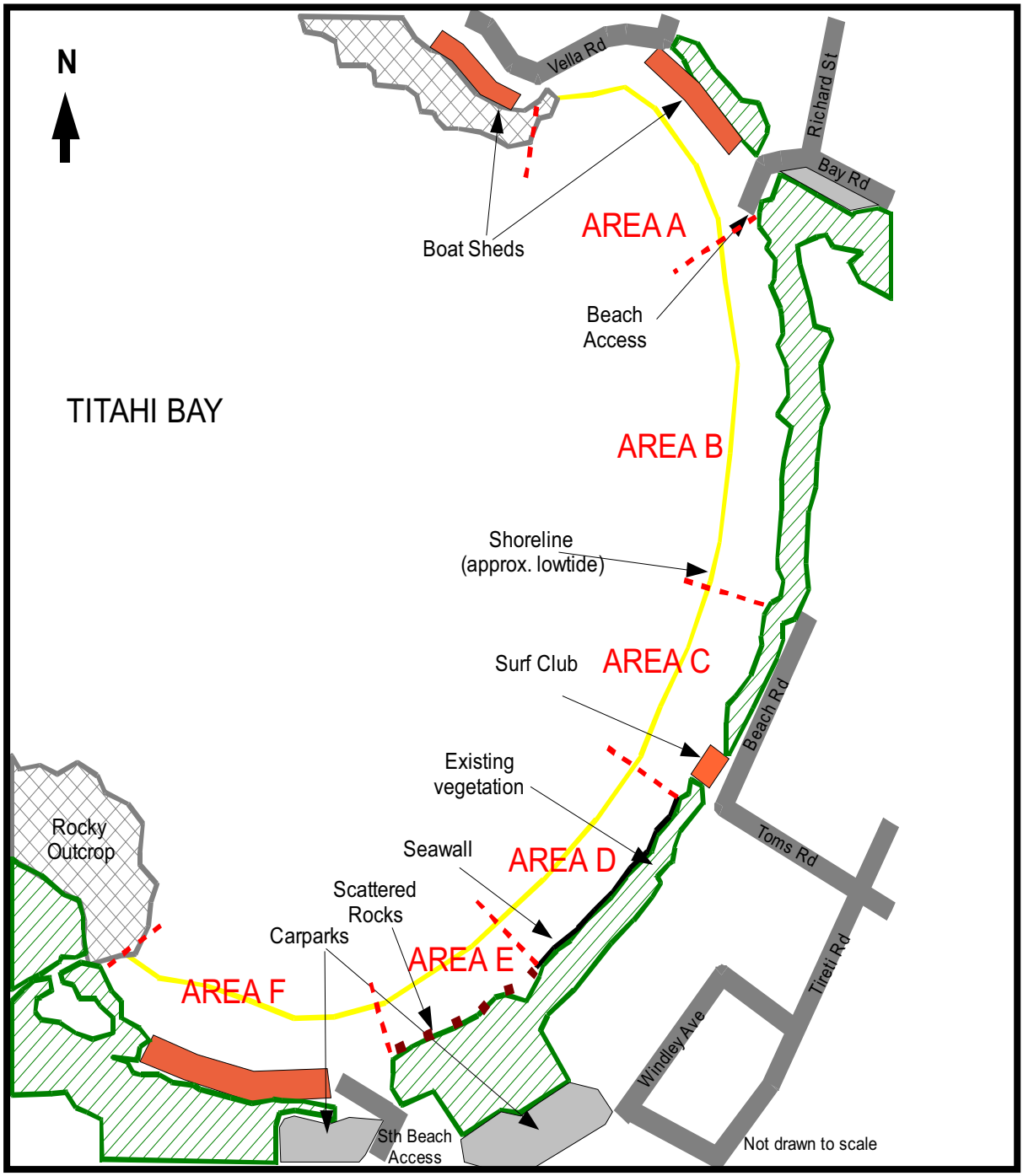


Figure 1: Six site-specific management areas demarcated along Titahi Bay beach have been used to provide descriptions and recommendations for restoration.

AREA A – WESTERN BOAT RAMP TO THE NORTHERN BOAT SHEDS
(EQUIVALENT TO MANAGEMENT UNIT A AND B)

DESCRIPTION

- The western boat ramp off the corner of Richard Street and Bay Drive is a significant road that leads directly from built-up area onto the beach.
- There is often loss of windblown sand from the beach up the road.
- The mown kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) area adjacent to the boat ramp comprises fill, a historic defence machine gun concrete bunker with unconsolidated rock placed along the foreshore (Figure 2) and a major storm water drain next to the boat sheds. The area is a well used recreation and viewing area.

Figure 2:

A historically significant concrete gun emplacement within a kikuyu grass area and rocks placed at high water mark at the northern end of Titahi Bay Beach. Despite placement of rocks, note erosion by high seas of the grassed bank landward of the rocks.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

- There is little scope for establishing even a small incipient dune in the vicinity of the boat ramp and grassed area to reduce windblown sand without undertaking major site works to remove rocks and fill along the seaward edge of the grassed area and/or the access road itself. Considerable resources and consultation would be required to achieve this.
- If the road access is retained in the long term, there may be scope to redesign the access to minimise windblown sand losses from the beach. In principle, any management actions should aim to minimise any loss of sand from the beach system. Wherever possible, this should include returning any clean sand collected from the road back to the beach.
- Providing signage to warn motorists that the road is a 'No Exit' could reduce vehicle movements on the beach. Encouraging parking away from the beach and closing this ramp in favour of developing the boat ramp immediately adjacent to the rock platform at the north-western end of the beach off Vella Road could be considered.

Table 1: Area A Management Actions and Resources.

YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1	Erect signs at entrance to beach access warning of no exit and entry permitted for boat launching only	Signage design and supply
2-5	Explore opportunities to reduce the impact of Richard St boat ramp and storm water outlet to allow establishment of a small dune system planted up with native sand binders	Consultation with storm water and traffic engineers, and the community and beach users

AREA B – REMAINDER OF BEACH FROM SURF CLUB WEST

(EQUIVALENT TO MANAGEMENT UNIT C)

DESCRIPTION

- High water mark is located at the toe of a steep densely vegetated bank dominated by a range of native and scattered exotic species (Figure 3).
- There are a number of concrete structures on the foreshore in this area. They appear to be associated with rubbish containers and drains.

Figure 3: View of the densely vegetated steep bank where there is no high tide beach. The backdune comprises a dense mixture of native and exotic species.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

- It is impractical to establish foredune native sand binding vegetation in this area.
- Where practical the number of concrete structures along the foreshore should be reduced to enhance amenity values.
- Restoration should focus on removing major weeds such as pampas (*Cortaderia selloana, C. jubata*) and karo to allow natural regeneration of various native backdune shrub and tree species such as taupata (*Coprosma repens*), harakeke (*Phormium tenax*) and ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*).

Table 2: Area B Management Actions and Resources

YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1-5	Progressively remove exotic vegetation from the embankments to encourage gradual replacement with local native shrub and tree species	Weed control and replanting programme where necessary

AREA C – PLANTED SPINIFEX IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SURF CLUB

(EQUIVALENT PART OF MANAGEMENT UNIT C AND D)

DESCRIPTION

- This area comprises a low sloping foredune from the high water mark to a steep bank dominated by exotic grasses including marram (*Ammophila arenaria*), kikuyu and a range of exotic and native shrubs further inland (Figure 4).
- Beach users gain access to the beach through this area although this is not formalised.
- As there is a small zone of sand between the high water mark and the backdune where a small incipient dune of sand binding plants has established. This comprises two plots of spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*) planted within the last year. One plot is dominated by vigorous spinifex while the other has become dominated by marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria)*.

Figure 4: Two plots of spinifex planted within the last 12 months protected from pedestrian traffic by a fence and a steep back landward dominated by shrub hardwoods.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The spinifex plantings have demonstrated some early success. However, the plots highlight the need for control of invading marram grass and other exotic species including kikuyu. Future plantings will require weed monitoring and control.
- Spinifex plantings could be extended including into the small area immediately south of the surf club building.
- Control the invasion of marram with careful spraying of gallant and replant gaps with native sand-binders spinifex and pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*).
- Landward of the sand binding zone – control kikuyu by spraying herbicide and gradually replace by planting native backdune coastal species such as wiwi (*Ficinia nodosa*), taupata (*Coprosma repens*), pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complex* and *M. astonii*) and whaririki (*Phormium cookianum*).
- Determine where access-ways should be sited within this zone and formalise these with fencing and signage.

Table 3: Area C Management Actions and Resources

YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1	Formalise access-way with fencing and signage. Continue weed control and planting small colonies of spinifex and include pingao.	Signage design Weed control programme Small numbers of sand binding plants
2-5	Extend planting of incipient dune either side of established sand-binders by planting further spinifex and pingao Maintain sites including control of marram grass and kikuyu and maintain formal access-ways.	Weed control programme Small numbers of sand binding plants
2-5	Plant range of native backdune ground cover and shrubs landward of the spinifex zone in small groups of 3-5 seedlings each where gaps in exotic grass cover sprayed by herbicide.	Knapsack spraying herbicide for small gap planting, Small numbers of backdune native ground cover and shrubs.

AREA D – SEAWALL, CENTRAL BEACH

(EQUIVALENT TO MANAGEMENT UNITS D AND PART OF E)

DESCRIPTION

- A concrete seawall up to 1.8 m high from current level of beach dominates the central part of the bay (Figure 5).
- There is no vegetation seaward of concrete wall. Storm waves come up to the base of the structure along most of the wall where a strandline of coarse driftwood occurs.
- At the Surf Club end of the seawall there appears to be less disturbance from high seas and storm waves. Here 1-2 natural spinifex plants survive amongst driftwood just above high water mark.
- A steep dune landward of the seawall is dominated by marram grass with scattered exotic and native shrubby species.
- Analysis of shoreline positions since 1942 indicates that the shoreline position has not varied significantly. This suggests that the seawall is within the active cut and fill zone of a foredune.

Figure 5: View along the seawall that dominates the central portion of Titahi Bay beach. The seawall is located at or near high water mark where the active foredune zone that historically native sand binding plants is likely to have occurred. Analysis of shoreline positions on aerial photographs since the 1940s indicates the shoreline position has not varied significantly.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The location of the seawall at or near high water mark precludes the establishment of sand binding vegetation seaward of the seawall. Ideally the wall should have been constructed further landward so that foredune with normal cut and fill cycles could have formed in front. Had this been the case, potentially the wall would have been covered most of the time by a dune, thereby retaining values of a sandy foredune beach.

- Removing the wall from its current position would require a distinct and separate project to specifically assess the potential impacts and for the design of alternative protection measures. In particular, any vision of returning a functioning foredune system dominated by native sand binding plants would require a detailed study to determine if there is sufficient space to restore a foredune and the risks of erosion associated with removal of the wall.

- Natives can be extended in the backdune area behind the wall by planting small groups in gaps created within the shelter of marram grass. Use local hardy native species such as wiwi, sand coprosma (*Coprosma acerosa*), sand carex, (*Carex testacea*), taupata, tauhinu (*Ozothamnus leptocarpus*), whaririki where any organic matter may occur, and harakeke in any dune hollows.

- Other local coastal woody species could be planted in later phases of restoration to increase biodiversity including *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, *M. astonii*, *Coprosma proprinqua*, *Olearia solandri* and *Melicytus crassifolius*. Implement establishment and maintenance methods successfully used in the fenced demonstration area within the same semi-stabilised backdune zone immediately to the west.

- Gradually replace scattered exotic shrub species and pampas with native shrub species.

- Gaps can be created for planting natives within the dense marram grass by weed eater and sprayed with gallant to control re-invasion of the marram grass.

- It is recommended that a well-planned planting programme is undertaken for the back-dunes where planted native seedlings are easily ‘lost’ in dense regrowth of exotic vegetation. Restrict planting of natives to one or two defined small areas initially so that groups can be easily relocated for monitoring performance and maintenance requirements. Avoid random planting of natives as single plants or as small groups that are widely scattered over a large area.

- It is unlikely that native sand binders could be established along the zone above the seawall in the long term, as there is insufficient sand blown from the beach.

- A couple of small spinifex plants existing at the base of the seawall at the Surf Club end could be boosted with a light dressing of fast release fertiliser and with further planting of spinifex and pingao just above the high water mark. However, any vegetation at the base of the seawall is highly vulnerable to wave action during storm events and is therefore unlikely to establish a permanent dune.

Table 4: Area D Management Actions and Resources

YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1-2	Plant small groups of backdune native ground cover and shrub species amongst marram grass above wall. Establish small groups in gaps cut within marram grass and other exotic cover to maintain some shelter. Confine planting to small areas rather than random planting over wide areas.	Range of local coastal native backdune plants – initially 20-30 plants of three or more species. Use locally proven hardy species first (e.g. wiwi, taupata, whaririki)
2-5	After the first 1-2 years, increase biodiversity by planting small groups of other local species.	10-20 plants per year of several less common local native species
1-2	Continue to encourage spinifex plants established at the base of the wall at the Surf Club end by light dressings of fertiliser. Plant small groups of spinifex and pingao above mean high water mark at northern end of seawall.	Small numbers of sand binding plants Small volumes of fast-release high-N fertiliser such as Urea

AREA E – FOREDUNE AREA BETWEEN SOUTHERN CAR PARKS

(EQUIVALENT TO THE WESTERN PART OF MANAGEMENT UNIT E)

DESCRIPTION

- There is a line of unconsolidated rock along the toe of the foredune at the high water mark (see Figure 6).
- Immediately landward of the high water mark is a current steep foredune dominated by marram grass and other exotics resulting in no natural dune form and function.
- Landward of the concrete path is a fenced area which has been planted over several years with a large array of local semi-stable and backdune coastal species. The area was dominated by marram grass. This is an excellent demonstration area of key local species that can be planted on the semi-stable marram grass zone that dominates parts of the back-dunes within this area and behind the seawall in Area D to the north.

Figure 6: View northwest along Area E. Note the scattered rocks and debris associated with the high water mark at the toe of the vegetated bank.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

- There is no scope to establish native sand-binders at the toe of the dune without removal of rocks, clearing the dense exotic vegetation and reshaping the foredune.
- There is considerable scope to establish a small demonstration trial of a mechanically reshaped foredune planted with native sand binders. There are several aspects to consider if a dune reshaping trial is to be established including:
    - Dune reshaping and planting with native sand binders has been successfully carried out on a small number of degraded dunes in New Zealand;
    - Not all sites are suited to this approach so each site requires careful consideration and planning;
    - Reshaping dunes requires heavy machinery involving movement of sand and often removal of previous engineering works and dune fill - often including clay capping, rocks and debris that has been dumped on dunes over many years;
    - Resource consents are likely to be required before works begin;
    - Consultation will be required between the local community and councils and the involvement of experienced dune restoration expertise to evaluate all options is essential.
- For Titahi Bay, any dune reshaping works will require:
    - Development of a separate project that will comprise detailed design, planning and costing;
    - The reshaped foredune is likely to require a reformed zone from high water mark that is at least 10 m wide (preferably wider);
    - All soil and rock fill needs to be removed from the site to successfully re-establish foredune vegetation;
    - As part of the detailed design, factors such as the location of the historically significant concrete bunker buried within the dune in this area will need to be considered.
- Once the success of the small demonstration trial has been determined, consideration should be given to extending the reshaping and planting model to other sections of the beach.

Table 5: Area E Management Actions and Resources

YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
1	Investigate the feasibility of mechanically reshaping part of this area including removal of rocks and fill and planting reformed dune with native sand binders	Specific reshaping and planting design project (including a public communication process)
2-4	Conduct reshaping and planting pilot trial	Specific reshaping and planting design project

AREA F – SOUTHERN BOAT RAMP AND SHEDS

(EQUIVALENT TO MANAGEMENT UNIT F)

DESCRIPTION

- The boat sheds in Area F are a significant historical feature of the beach that is intended to be protected into the future. Occupants of sheds have a licence to occupy.
- Beach access to the sheds, for boat launching, parking of cars and boat trailers has occurred since the turn of century and is likely to remain a feature of this area of the Bay.
- There is concern about the localised erosion created by the stormwater flow onto the beach adjacent to the boat ramp off South Beach Access Road (see Figure 7)
- Fill is a significant component of the short section of bank at the western end of the beach between the boat sheds and the natural rocky shore.

Figure 7: View of the southern end of Titahi Bay beach. Note the impact for the storm water outlet eroding the beach and contributing to the indent in the vegetated dune in the foreground. The vehicle access-way leading to the boat sheds in the centre left will be contributing to loss of sand inland.

Management Issues and Recommendations

- PCC staff have indicated that reducing the flow from the stormwater outlet adjacent to South Beach Access Road by establishing a wetland to help absorb nutrient runoff and act as a temporary storage is impractical as there is insufficient room within Arnold Park.
- Extending the stormwater outflow pipe out onto the beach could potentially reduce the localised scouring. However, where extended outfall pipes occur on other beaches, natural character and beach amenity values have been seriously compromised. While a small extension may be warranted to the mean high water springs mark, introducing a major new hard structure to the Titahi Bay beach environment should be considered a last resort.
- In the long term there may be scope to route the boat ramp via an elevated grassed levelled area at the extreme western end of the beach that once located an aquarium. In the meantime, boatshed owners could be encouraged to park vehicles and trailers off the beach. This may require additional landward parking facilities.
- There is little scope for extending dune restoration works in the vicinity of the boat ramp without undertaking major site works to remove fill and/or the access road itself. Considerable consultation and resources would be required to undertake this.
- Restoration of a functioning dune would be difficult west of the boat sheds as this short section of the beach comprises fill.

Table 6: Area F Management Actions and Resources

Year(s)	Actions	Resources required
1	Conduct consultation to assess the likely community response to an extended stormwater pipe over the beach.	Design and facilitate consultation process
5	Explore opportunities to re-route the southern boat ramp to reduce windblown sand up South Beach Access Rd such as via the grassed former aquarium site.	Consultation with boat ramp users

REFERENCES

Milne, R.; Sawyer, J. 2002: Coastal foredune vegetation in Wellington Conservancy. Current status and future management. Department of Conservation, Wellington Conservancy. 82p.

Porirua City Council 2008: Titahi Bay beach reserves management plan. Leisure Assets and Services, Porirua City Council. 69p.

Smith, R. 2007: Report on Titahi Bay, assessment of vegetation. Prepared for the Titahi Bay Beach Working Group, February 2007.

APPENDIX 1:

List of recommended priorities for actions and resources for up to five years required for restoration and management of Areas A to F, Titahi Bay beach, Wellington.

AREA	YEAR(S)	ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED
A	1	Erect sign at entrance to beach access warning of no exit and entry only for boat launching	Signage design
A	2-5	Explore opportunities to reduce the impact of Richard St boat ramp and storm water outlet to allow establishment of a small dune system planted up with native sand binders	Consultation with storm water and traffic engineers
B	1-5	Progressively remove exotic vegetation from the embankments to encourage gradual replacement with local native shrub and tree species	Weed control and replanting programme where necessary
C	1	Formalise access-way with fencing and signage. Continue weed control and planting small colonies of spinifex and include pingao.	Signage design Weed control programme Small numbers of sand binding plants
C	2-5	Extend planting of incipient dune either side of established sand-binders by planting further spinifex and pingao Maintain sites including control of marram grass and kikuyu and maintain formal access-ways.	Weed control programme Small numbers of sand binding plants
C	2-5	Plant range of native backdune ground cover and shrubs landward of the spinifex zone in small groups of 3-5 seedlings each where gaps in exotic grass cover sprayed by herbicide.	Knapsack spraying herbicide for small gap planting, Small numbers of backdune native ground cover and shrubs.
D	1-2	Plant small groups of backdune native ground cover and shrub species amongst marram grass above wall. Establish small groups in gaps cut within marram grass and other exotic cover to maintain some shelter. Confine planting to small areas rather than random planting over wide areas.	Range of local coastal native backdune plants – initially 20-30 plants of 3 or more species. Use locally proven hardy species first (e.g. wiwi, taupata, whaririki)

D	2-5	After the first 1-2 years, increase biodiversity by planting small groups of other local species.	10-20 plants per year of several less common local native species
D	1-2	Continue to encourage spinifex plants established at the base of the wall at the Surf Club end by light dressings of fertiliser. Plant small groups of spinifex and pingao above mean high water mark at northern end of seawall.	Small numbers of sand binding plants Small volumes of fast-release high-N fertiliser such as Urea
E	1	Investigate the feasibility of mechanically reshaping part of this area including removal of rocks and fill and planting reformed dune with native sand binders	Specific reshaping and planting design project
E	2-4	Conduct reshaping and planting pilot trial	Specific reshaping and planting design project
F	1	Conduct consultation to assess the likely community response to an extended stormwater pipe over the beach.	Design and facilitate consultation process
F	5	Explore opportunities to re-route the southern boat ramp to reduce windblown sand up South Beach Access Rd such as via the grassed former aquarium site.	Consultation with boat ramp users

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – October 2009

1. Hydrological monitoring

A summary of our rainfall, river and groundwater monitoring for July, August and September is set out in sections 2 to 5 below. 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 reports can be found at http://www.gw.govt.nz/monthly-hydrological-summaries.

2. Rainfall and river flows

2.1 Rainfall

Rainfall during July was well below average in many parts of the Wellington region, following on from a dry June. Northern Wairarapa and the northern Tararua Range were the only places where rainfall was near average for July. Wellington City and Wainuiomata had particularly low rainfall – less than half the long-term average for the month.

Although rainfall occurred fairly frequently during July, there was a lack of significant storms compared to usual for the time of the year. In addition, there was a tendency for southwesterly air flows over New Zealand. The Wellington region generally receives little rainfall during southwesterly conditions.

The most significant storm of the month occurred on 23 July. A strong northwesterly airflow brought relatively brief but heavy rainfall that mostly affected the Tararua Range, Hutt Valley, and Wairarapa. One-third to half of July's rainfall was received during this storm event. There was surface flooding in parts of the Hutt Valley, and high flows in some rivers and streams.

Rainfall during August was average to above average in the west of the region and below average in the east. Eastern Wairarapa had particularly low rainfall for the time of the year – Castlepoint, Ngawihi and parts of the eastern hill country received less than half of the average rainfall for August. This followed on from a very dry July. In contrast to average, the Wellington region generally had more rainfall in August than in July.

During much of August the weather was remarkably settled and warm for the time of the year. The settled spells of weather were punctuated by a few north or northwesterly storm events that mainly affected the west of the region. The most significant storm of the month occurred on 30-31 August. A strong northwesterly flow brought very strong winds to the region, as well as heavy

rainfall that particularly affected the Tararua Range, Hutt Valley, Porirua and Wellington City. In some parts of the region, up to half of the month's rainfall was received during this event.

Rainfall during September followed a similar pattern to the previous month, with slightly above-average rainfall on the Kapiti Coast, and below average rainfall in the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa Valley and southern Wairarapa. The September rainfall total was about average, or just below average, in northeastern Wairarapa, Wellington City, and Porirua.

During the first half of September, generally settled weather conditions prevailed over the Wellington region. The second half of the month saw periods of strong northwesterly winds, and a deep wintery low from the south brought snow to the Tararua and Rimutaka ranges on 24 September. There were no significant rainfall events during the month.

Rainfall for the year to the end of September has been below average throughout the region, with totals generally about 10% lower than normal. Some parts of the region had below average rainfall for the four months from June to September 2009, particularly areas that tend to receive most of their rainfall during southerly weather conditions (e.g., Wainuiomata and southern Wairarapa).

2.2 Rivers

River flows were below average in the western part of the region during July, as a result of the lower than average rainfall. The Wairarapa rivers fed from the Tararua Range had about average flows for July. The most significant flood of the month resulted from the storm of 23 July, with river flows of up to a 5-year return period in the upper reaches of the Ruamahanga River, and a 2-year return period for several other rivers including the Mangaroa River and Hutt River. Significant rainfall around Upper Hutt resulted in reports of flooding from small streams, such as Pinehaven Stream.

River flows were below average in the western part of the region during August, as a result of the settled weather that occurred for much of the month. The most significant flood of August occurred during the storm of the last two days of the month. Heavy rainfall in the Tararua Range and Hutt Valley resulted in floodwarning alarms being triggered for the Otaki River, Waikanae River, Hutt River, Waiwhetu Stream, Porirua Stream, and Wairarapa rivers fed from the Tararua Range. However, in the monitored rivers the floods were less than or equal to a 2-year return period, and generally did not reach levels as high as during the storm of 23 July.

River flows were below average for September in most parts of the Wellington region. Flows were particularly low for the time of the year in the Ruamahanga River. The below average rainfall in the Wairarapa Valley, its western foothills, and the eastern Tararua Range meant that there were less 'freshes' compared to usual for the time of the year. Due to the lack of storms there were no significant floods during September.

3. Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels across the region for the previous three months have been slowly increasing compared to long term averages. Generally levels were below average during July and August and slightly above average during September. The significant wet period at the end of August was a possible cause of increases in groundwater levels during September.

3.1 Hutt groundwater zones

Above average levels were recorded in both the Lower and Upper Hutt aquifers during September.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels have been high on the Kapiti Coast all winter, with above average groundwater levels recorded at most sites during September.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Drier conditions in the Wairarapa compared to the west of the region were reflected in slightly lower groundwater levels compared to long term trends. Most of the Wairarapa monitoring sites were either below or slightly above long term average during September. Deeper aquifer levels in the Parkvale and Te Ore Ore areas were still well below long term averages but some recovery in water level has occurred at these sites during the winter.

4. Climate outlook

NIWA's climate outlook for October to December favours about average rainfall, river flows and soil moisture in Wellington and Wairarapa. The El Nino that is present is weak, and is not expected to have a large impact on spring and early summer rainfall.

5. 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.

There were flood events in the Western part of the region on 23 July (nine river alarms), 4 August (one river alarm) and 30-31 August (11 river alarms).

Flood events in the Wairarapa occurred on 23 July (13 river alarms) and 30-31 August (nine river alarms).

The outlet from Lake Onoke was not blocked in the reporting period

6. Recreational bathing water monitoring

This programme that collects samples from selected rivers and beaches and tests these for bacterial contamination was completed for the year at the end of March. The new monitoring season commences in November.

7. Didymo

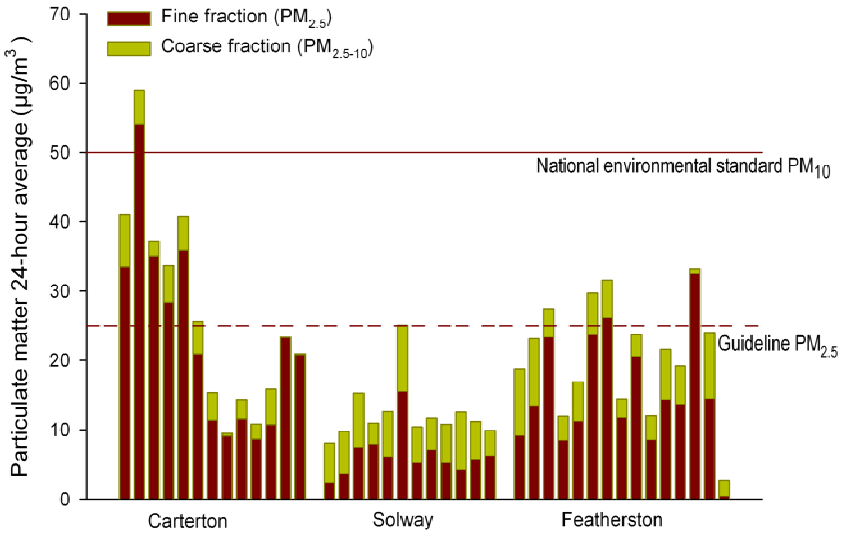
Surveillance monitoring was carried out in September. The results indicated the absence of didymo at six of the 10 river sites sampled with results yet to be received for the other four.

8. Air quality

8.1 National environmental standard for air quality

There were no exceedances of the NES-AQ in any of the airsheds we monitor in the region.

We have good information on the levels and sources of air pollution in central Masterton, but little is known about air quality in some of the other Wairarapa towns. A pilot study, looking at air quality in Featherston, Carterton and on the outskirts of Masterton (Solway) was carried out over the 2009 winter period (results illustrated below). Elevated levels of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) were found on five days in Carterton and on two days in Featherston. There was one day in Carterton when PM_{10} concentrations were above the national environmental standard threshold of 50 µg/m^3. Further monitoring is planned to find out more about Carterton's air quality.



9. Coastal

9.1 Porirua Harbour

We will be contributing to a series of three public seminars organised as part of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Programme. These will run from late October with Juliet Milne reporting on the results of our monitoring and research.

9.2 Wellington Marine Information CD

The Department of Conservation has recently released the Wellington Marine Information CD which is an inventory of information relating to this region's marine environment (plus some of the Horizons and Hawkes Bay areas). We have participated in this project, providing information and working closely with DOC.

This interactive CD is a valuable resource for people whose work encompasses the marine environment.

10. Soil quality

The 2008/09 State of Environment soil quality monitoring was completed in April and we are currently awaiting the results. Consistent with the long-term programme 23 samples were collected from dairy farms.

11. Project summary

Brief notes on some of the projects the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations department is working on:

- Monitoring programmes have commenced at Lake Waitawa on the Kapiti Coast and Lake Onoke. No substantial work has been done to date at Lake Onoke which as an esturine environment is an important component of the lower Ruamahanga River system.

- Preparation of the report cards and annual reports is well underway and will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – October 2009

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 July to 18 September 2009 we have received 113 consent applications. This compares with 153 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 65 consents. This compares with 122 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) for the year to 30 June 2009 drops to 15 working days.

While notified processing workloads remain reasonably high, non-notified consent processing numbers remain low compared to the same time last year. Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 2, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties (limited notified) is also attached for information.

2. Major resource consents and other matters

2.1 Key notified consents update

Reporting, pre-hearing and hearing or decision work has been reasonably heavy in this period with work on WCC Sludge Dewatering Plant, Petrie groundwater take, Wairarapa Aggregates Waingawa aggregate quarry, HCC Waiwhetu sewage overflows, Ontrack Pukerua Bay – Mackays Crossing double tracking, BP Seaview tankfarm and wharf pipeline.

Fully Notified

WCC/UWI Sludge Dewatering Plant

A hearing for these applications took place on 5 and 8 October. This comes after a lengthy but positive and inclusive process of pre-hearing meetings and additional work by WCC to consult with the local community, and incorporate modifications to their applications (including sludge ‘load-out’ practices, and trialling methods of land filling sludge).

These are replacement applications to GW and WCC for a continued sludge dewatering plant operation (including discharges of odour from the plant and sludge land filling operations) at the Carey's Gully Complex. WCC has completed trialling sludge disposal at Southern Landfill over this summer. Following a productive third pre-hearing in April, a September hearing is now planned.

Wairarapa Aggregates Limited – land based gravel quarrying

These applications were to be jointly heard on 3 September, postponed less than two days out from the commencement of the hearing following a late request by the applicant. We have not postponed a hearing so close to its commencement before, but in this case accepted the applicant's reasoning that they were in the end simply not prepared to adequately deal with our final assessment position contained in our officer's report.

These are applications to GW and CDC for an aggregate quarry and cleanfill operation, at Waingawa south of Masterton involving discharges of sediment and possible interference with groundwater adjacent Waingawa Wetland. Lodged in June 2008, and jointly notified with the Carterton District Council on 4 March. Information requirements virtually complete, and early September hearing planned.

BP Oil NZ Ltd – Seaview tank farm and pipeline

This proposal was jointly heard in the week commencing 17 August. Applications involve constructing and operating a new fuel storage terminal at Seaview, Lower Hutt (seven tanks holding a range of petroleum products, ranging in size up to 8,000m^3), including carrying petroleum products in supply lines over the coastal marine area. The applications generated some media interest with assertions that significant discharges of hydrocarbons from the tank farm could be permitted by consents. These concerns were largely laid to rest at the hearing. A decision granting consents was released on 18 September, containing a range of conditions to control discharges of hydrocarbons on site or deal with the unlikely event of spills offsite into Seaview Marina.

Other notified applications active (post-notification) during the last period include:

- ***J V & LA Petrie – taking groundwater:*** Taking groundwater from the fully allocated Tawaha Aquifer, South Wairarapa. Submissions closed on 15 May 2009, and four submissions were received. A pre-hearing took place on 4 August and a hearing is set down for 23 October. The officer's report was and applicant's evidence was pre-circulated in order to allow focus on key issues of contention at the hearing.
- ***Horokiwi Quarries Ltd – Fitzroy Bay gravel extraction:*** Replacement consents for gravel and sand extraction from the coastal margin east of Pencarrow Head. Applications were notified on 15 July.

- ***HCC Waiwhetu Sewage Overflows:*** Replacement applications to discharge sewage effluent to Waiwhetu Stream caused by heavy rainfall events. Notified in April 2009 with a pre-hearing on 25 September. Draft conditions have been prepared with applicant and subsequently circulated to submitters with a view to seeking a negotiated outcome.
- ***Precision (Dixion Engineering):*** Discharge of contaminants to air arising from the spray application of paint and from a jig stripper at Wingate, Lower Hutt. Submissions close on 22 October. Three submissions already received.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited – air discharges:*** Replacement applications for discharges of 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. Peer review of application is being completed with a view to forming draft conditions for a possible negotiated outcome with applicant and submitters.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council – coastal erosion works:*** An application for a 'global' consent to undertake sporadic erosion protection works along a 25km section of the South Wairarapa Coast. Applications notified on 5 June and nine submissions received.
- ***Masterton District Council - Masterton Landfill closure:*** Applications notified and a pre-hearing completed in early June. Further information being reported back to submitters by the applicant. Issues include the management of ongoing discharges of landfill gas and leachate (to groundwater and the Ruamahanga River) from the fill.
- ***Carterton District Council - Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant, lodged in October 2008 and waiting for further information (together with an applicant-initiated peer review) to be completed.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council - Greytown Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Greytown Wastewater Treatment Plant, lodged in December 2007 and waiting for further information. A final decision from SWDC on treatment options is expected.
- ***CnD Landfill – landfill extension:*** Extension of the existing C n D demolition fill at Happy Valley, Wellington. Requiring further information with a focus on landfill stability and integrity issues.
- ***Best Farms Ltd – subdivision development:*** 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 on ecological impacts and sediment control, and a strong possibility that the applications will not be notified.

Limited Notified

NZ Railways Corporation (Ontrack) - North Island Main Trunk Railway

The hearing of the latest proposal for earthworks, discharges and stream works associated with the North Island Main Trunk Railway double tracking between Waikanae and McKays Crossing took place on 24 September. This is the sixth

area of major earthworks for the project, with all other applications being processed non-notified. The hearing involved a single submitter who wished to be heard, and the main focus of matters were on access issues largely outside our consideration in processing these consents.

2.2 Upcoming consent applications

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

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.

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).

Lincolnshire Cleanfill: A large cleanfill proposed for the Lincolnshire Farm area north of Newlands.

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

Silverwood Stages 3 and 4: Earthworks associated with subdivision at Silverwood, Whitby.

J Burrell: Establishing a cleanfill at Eastern Hutt Road in the vicinity of Silverstream bridges. Processing of GW applications deferred while UHCC process notified applications.

2.3 Other applications

Significant non-notified consents from the period will be reported in the August non-notified consents report (report 09.499).

3. Consent appeals and objections

3.1 Appeals

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

As reported to the August meeting, following the resolution of these appeals we lodged an application with the Court seeking costs from the appellant and associated parties. We are still awaiting the decision of the Court.

Masterton District Council: Masterton Waste Water Treatment Plant

Following the first pre-hearing conference on 17 August, we have now had several mediation sessions through the Court which commenced on 24 September.

Appeals were received from a number of parties against the decision to grant consents to continue operating the Homebush treatment plant, including ongoing discharges to the Ruamahanga River and to land in the vicinity. Appellants include MDC itself, NZ Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, Sustainable Wairarapa, iwi and David Holmes. Matters covered by appeals are broad, ranging from wholesale objections to the activity to concerns over land based treatment, monitoring requirements and flood hazards. We are looking to enter into a similar process of preliminary discussions with MDC prior to mediation formally commencing as we have done in other recent appeals

Wellington City Council/Capacity - Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

As previously reported, all parties, except West Wellington Environmental Protection Society (WWEPS) have effectively signed up to the mediation agreement which involves an earlier replacement of the effluent pipeline. WWEPS' outstanding matter relates to land access, and discussions continue with a progress reporting due on 28 August still outstanding.

These are appeals against a decision (and recommendation to the Minister in regard to Restricted Coastal Activities) to grant consents to discharge treated effluent to the South Coast, and milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast (also including discharges of odour).

3.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

4. Compliance and enforcement

4.1 Abatement notices

We issued 29 abatements between 1 July and 18 September 2009 (up from five for the previous reporting period), including numerous discharges of liquid contaminants and dairy effluent, discharges from burning to air, and unauthorised gravel extraction.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 09.500).

4.2 Infringement notices

We issued 10 infringement notices in the reporting period (up from three issued in the previous period), including six for discharges of dairy effluent to land causing ponding.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 09.500).

4.3 Appeals against notices served

Roddy Mckenzie: excavating a watercourse in Lansdowne, Masterton

This appeal has now been withdrawn and the infringement fine subsequently paid.

Horokiwi Quarries Ltd (HQL): sediment discharges from Horokiwi Quarry to Wellington Harbour

We have withdrawn all notices on HQL, which has dissolved the appeal. We now have an agreement in place with HQL that will ensure that a comprehensive an erosion and sediment control plan to better manage quarry discharges will be put in place within an agreed timeframe.

4.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Five prosecutions were before the Court in the last period.

Noel and Elaine Reid, and Stephen Shivas: discharges of piggery effluent to water

The parties were sentenced in the Masterton District Court on 25 September 2009 following the entry of guilty pleas at the 27 July hearing.

Judge Thompson remarked on the neglect and 'insufficient attention' in both managing effluent systems and new staff to manage operations adequately. The significance of effects noted in sampling of faecal coliforms (4600 times the national drinking water standards) taken in the neighbours' bore water again highlighted the severity of the offending. The Reids were fined $12,000 each, and Steve Shivas the farm manager, $5,000, recognising a lower level of culpability.

This is a case against Noel and Elaine Reid, and Stephen Shivas for a November 2008 incident involving the discharge of pig effluent onto land from an open hydrant causing ponding and subsequent run off into a stream. The incident caused substantial increases in the level of contaminants downstream, recorded in both surface and groundwater.

Lloyd Raynor: illegal stream works and diverting wetland water

As verbally presented to the August Committee, at the defended hearing Mr Raynor entered guilty pleas on two of the charges and we agreed to drop the third. The matter has now been adjourned for sentencing on 19 October. I hope to bring a verbal update to the October meeting.

The prosecution resulted from 200 metres of watercourse adjacent to Lake Wairarapa (a nationally significant water body) being excavated, water being diverted from the Simmonds ('Bartons') Lagoon – an ecologically significant DoC-managed lagoon - and the cull of hundreds of eels.

Selwyn McLachlan and Matthew Honeyset: discharges of dairy effluent to water

As verbally presented to the August Committee, Mr McLachlan entered a guilty plea at 27 July call over. We elected to drop charges on the farm manager, Matthew Honeyset, at this point. The matter has now been adjourned for sentencing on 19 October.

Lloyd Raynor and Hauroa Farms Ltd: illegal stream works and diverting wetland water

On 2 September we laid charges against Lloyd Rayner and Hauroa Farms Ltd for allegedly draining a sizeable portion (in excess of 10 hectares) of the Tauherenikau Delta wetland bordering Lake Wairarapa. The Tauherenikau Delta Wetland is a listed wetland of regional significance in our Regional Freshwater Plan.

First call has been now set down for 19 October.

4.5 Take Charge

It as been a busy period for our Take Charge programme, with the first walk over of the Naenae business area (initial assessment of businesses to target for full audits), and a number of eMission programme audits. I was particularly pleased that we were able to involve specialist HCC enforcement and trade waste staff in the Naenae walk-over, which added considerable value to the exercise. Programme work is summarised further in the Environmental Protection report (report 09.500).

4.6 Significant incidents

Significant incidents are reported in the Environmental Protection Report (report 09.500).

5. Other Environmental Regulation projects

5.1 Implementation of changes to the Resource Management Act

On 9 September the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act was passed, with a three week timeframe to commencement on 1 October. My team, like countless other resource management teams nationally, have worked very hard to implement the changes. I have put together a core team, lead by Miranda Robinson, to interpret the changes in simple speak, determine changes to our procedures, standard forms and letters, determine database changes, and review all officer delegations; then role out changes to the rest of the department. The three week period has made this a mammoth logistical task.

At the writing of this report we have yet to see a consolidated version of the full Act (old Act and new amendments together in one document), which is providing some challenges for us.

The main aspects of amendments will be delivered to you at the October meeting in a presentation by Miranda Robinson.

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 18/12/08	Applicant and submitters working through final stages of agreeing to consent conditions.	-	05/08/09	Granted
Masterton District Council WAR 060047 WAR 980159	To discharge contaminants to land and air associated with the operation of Masterton landfill, transfer station and composting plant, Homebush, Masterton	30/03/06	15/05/09	6	09/06/09	Further information requested from applicant following pre-hearing meeting.			
Stronvar Properties Ltd WAR 060160	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Further information supplied late February 2008. Information externally reviewed and further response provided by applicant. Applicant has now requested for application to			

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
	amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton					be placed on hold indefinitely.			
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.	-	-	-
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington	27/04/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/07 Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08 Third pre-hearing held 07/04/09	Hearing scheduled for 5-9 October 2009.	Cnr Chris Laidlaw (Chair), Cnr Nigel Wilson, Kevin Rolfe (Independent, air discharge specialist).		
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. Agreed to timeline for updated AEE to be submitted by 31/03/09. Presently chasing up 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
Juken Nissho Ltd WAR 080250	To discharge contaminants to air from woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, kilns at Waingawa, Masterton	29/12/07	06/11/08	7	No	Independent peer review undertaken. Negotiated outcome being progressed.			
J V & L A Petrie WAR 080367	To take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes	12/03/08	15/05/09	4	04/8/09	Hearing was scheduled for 20/08/09; however, applicant requested delay to proceedings. Hearing now scheduled for 23/10/09.	Cr Baber, Cr Donaldson, Liz Burge		
Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd WAR 080518	To discharge stormwater from a gravel extraction and associated cleanfill operation to water	04/06/08	01/04/09	13	No	Hearing scheduled for 03/09/09 – deferred following release of s42a officer reports.	Christine Foster Hamish Lowe		
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	Current seeking additional consent and then proceeding to notification of application.						
CnD Landfill WGN090036	Extension of construction and demolition fill	04/08/08	On hold for further information and affected party approval.						
Carterton District Council WAR 090120	To discharge contaminants to water, land, and air associated with the Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant at Dalefield Rd, Carterton	30/09/08	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
WCC (Capacity) WGN090219	Stormwater discharges to Wellington Harbour and the South Coast	19/12/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
WCC WGN090226	Westchester Drive Extension	22/12/08	21/02/09	53 (but includes multiple late submissions)	29/4/09	25-27 May	Crs Baber, Bruce and Stuart Kinear	Decision released 08/07/09	Appealed
South Wairarapa District Council WAR090322	Coastal structures along 25 km stretch of Palliser Bay	27/04/09	05/06/09	9		Further info sought from application on nature and scope of application.			
HCC Waiwhetu overflows WGN090321	Overflows of sewage effluent to the Waiwhetu Stream	27/04/09	04/08/09	6	25/09/09	Draft conditions circulated to applicant and submitters following the pre-hearing meeting with a view to a negotiated outcome.			

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
Horokiwi Quarries WGN090117	To conduct activities associated with the extraction of gravel and sand at Fitzroy Bay, Pencarrow Coast	9/10/08	15/07/09		TBA		Byrdie Eyres Stuart Kinnear		
NZ Railways Corporation (Ontrack) WGN090380 (Limited)	Discharge to water/land and culvert extension in relation to double tracking of the Nth Island Main Trunk Railway Line	15/06/09	23/07/09	3	N/A	24/09/09	Peter Coop		
Masterton District Council WAR 090346 (Limited)	To undertake various activities associated with the new Riversdale Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant	11/5/09	07/08/09	4		Hearing to be scheduled for late October.			

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
BP pipeline WGN090320	Coastal permit to change the use of an existing pipeline. Discharge permit to discharge operational water and 10 groundwater bores	24/4/09	21/07/09	7		17 August 2009 – 21 August 2009	Robert Schofield (Chair), Angus Finlayson, Ian Buchanan	18 September 2009. Minor correction required under s133A.	Granted
Woodridge	Earthworks (including sediment laden water) and reclamation of streambed. Possibility of triggering dangerous dam consent	09/07/09				On hold awaiting further information. Possibility of non notified, or limited notified.			
Dawsons Waste Services Ltd WGN100057	To discharge contaminants to air from a waste dewatering facility, Happy Valley Road	18/08/09 Awaiting Limited Notified application fee.							

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
Precision (Dixion Engineering)	To discharge contaminants to air arising from the spray application of paint and from a jig stripper at Wingate, Lower Hutt	28/07/09	22/10/09						
Wairarapa Funeral Services WAR100023	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation crematorium, Masterton	31/07/09	On hold for further information, yet to be notified.						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours department

Harbours Department Report – October 2009

1. Navigation aids

The mooring chains of Barrett Reef Buoy were inspected and required some remedial work.

2. Oil pollution

Five reports of "oil pollution" in the harbour were received. None required any clean-up action by the Department.

On 22 September, the annual Wellington Region Oil Pollution Support group meeting was held at the Council. The purpose of this meeting is to keep relevant parties updated regarding marine oil pollution responses, associated legislation and ongoing training. It is also an opportunity for people likely to be involved should this region face a significant marine oil spill to get-together.

3. Harbour events

On 30 September, a severe earthquake in Samoa caused a tsunami warning to be issued for New Zealand coastal areas, which obviously included ports and harbours. Beacon Hill issued appropriate radio navigation warnings to all local ships and boats, local marinas were advised, and CentrePort activated their Emergency Plan for such an event.

On 1 October, a function was held in the Museum of Wellington to launch the printed booklet of the amended Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety bylaws. The opportunity was taken to combine this with a pre-season function (as a tangible "thank-you" for their work) for our Honorary Enforcement Officers.

In conjunction with ERMA and CentrePort Ltd, revised procedures were put in place for ships visiting the port carrying Class 1 explosives in transit.

4. Beacon Hill

The public tender to provide most of the VTS electronic equipment for the new station was awarded to Transas on 24 September. With the assistance of Marico Marine, a thorough and lengthy assessment was carried out on the tenders received. Transas submitted in a very competitive quote, which was

accepted. A delivery time of several months could be expected, but building work on site is not yet completed.

The new Beacon Hill building is now at the stage where the windows are being installed, and the building will soon be weather tight and ready for internal fitting out.

5. Other

On 23 September, Manager Harbours attended the World Maritime Day function hosted by Maritime New Zealand.

On 29 September, a National Advisory Committee meeting was held by Maritime New Zealand, updating the progress of the implementation of the Port & Harbour Safety Code.

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