

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – February 2010

1. Proposed Regional Policy Statement update

The Hearing Committee (Councillors Wilde, Kirton, Baber and Buchanan and Mr Te Waari Carkeek) have largely completed the deliberations on submissions and are due to receive a draft report of their decisions on Monday 15 March.

The Committee's decisions must be recommended for approval by full Council prior to public notification. At this stage we are working toward taking this to the 18 May 2010 Council meeting. Following approval by the Council, decisions on submissions will be released and sent to submitters. Submitter's then have a period of 30 days in which to appeal the decisions to the Environment Court.

2. Regional Plan update

The next meeting of the Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Plan Committee is Wednesday 10 March. The meeting will be followed by a workshop. Topics that will be discussed at the committee are: the review process for regional plans; the current regional plans and their effectiveness; and staff work programmes underway that will provide information for the next generation regional plan.

3. Other

On 28 January 2010 the Board of Inquiry for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management reported back to the Minister of the Environment. The report contains recommendations and a revised National Policy Statement and is publicly available.

The Government has yet to make decisions on how to respond to the report, but is not looking to make any national decisions until the Land and Water Forum reports back later this year.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

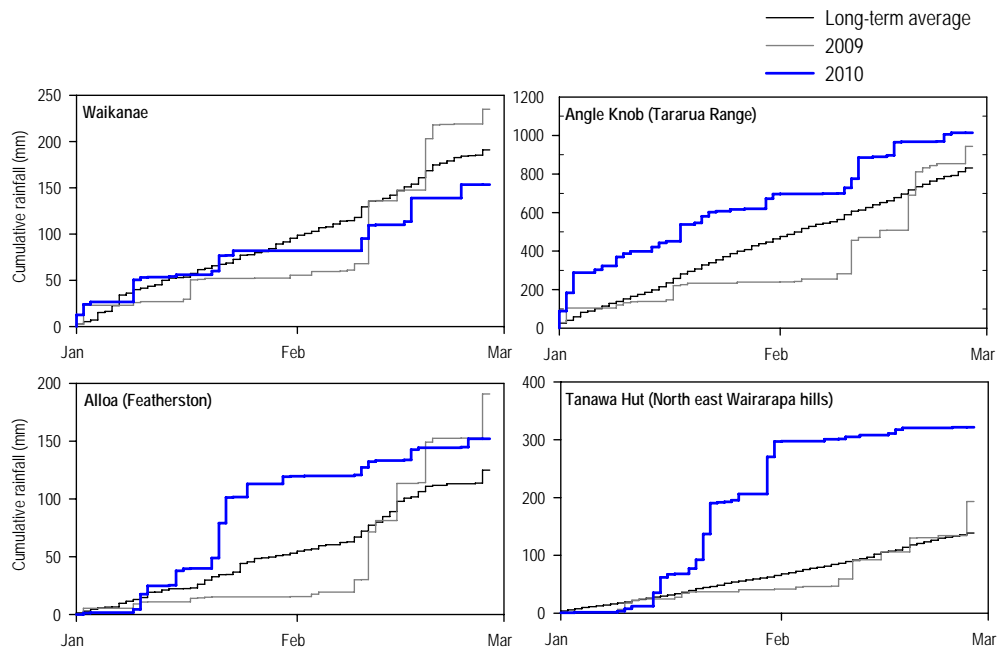
Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – March 2009

1. Rainfall and river flows

1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall in November 2009 was below or around average in most of the region but more than average in northern parts of the Kapiti Coast. Above average rainfall was recorded on the Kapiti Coast in December but below average elsewhere in the region. January was an unusually wet month in the Wellington region, especially in the Wairarapa. Rainfall in February was below average in most parts of the Wellington region, particularly on the Wairarapa plains.

The wet January has led to higher than average rainfall for the first two months of the year for most parts of the region as shown on the graphs below.



Cumulative rainfall for 2010 to date at selected sites in the Wellington region

1.2 Rivers

River flows for November were above average on the Kapiti Coast, but below average in the rest of the Wellington region. River flows were well above average on the Kapiti Coast in December. In the rest of the region flows were around or just above average. The high rainfall in January was reflected in river flows significantly higher than normal for this month. In general, river flows

were above average in the Wairarapa in February and below average around the Hutt Valley and on the Kapiti Coast.

2. Groundwater levels

Above average or slightly below average groundwater level conditions were recorded at monitoring sites across the entire region over summer. This is a continuation of high levels recorded throughout the region during spring 2009. Levels were highest on the Kapiti Coast, followed by the Hutt Valley and lowest in the Wairarapa.

2.1 Kapiti Coast

Groundwater levels across the Kapiti Coast were high throughout the summer. Levels were particularly high in December with record maxima reached in most aquifer systems. Levels remained above average in nearly all sites throughout January and February.

2.2 Hutt Valley

Groundwater levels within the Waiwhetu aquifer in Lower Hutt were above average at during December and January but reduced slightly at most monitoring sites during February.

2.3 Wairarapa

Aquifers across the Wairarapa recorded significant recoveries when compared to the same period of the last few years. Groundwater levels were generally below average during December and above average during January. Levels within aquifers in the Upper and Middle valleys remained above average during February and tended to drop to below average in the Lower Valley. Monitoring sites in the stressed Te Ore Ore basin and Parkvale aquifers showed positive recoveries compared to previous years.

3. Soil moisture

Soil moisture in the Wairarapa at the beginning of February was unusually high as a result of high rainfall in January. While moisture content decreased steadily through February across the region, by the end of the month it was still just above the February average for recent years.

4. Climate outlook

NIWA's climate outlook for March to May 2010 favours normal rainfall and temperatures in Wellington and Wairarapa and slightly below normal stream flows and soil moisture. The current significant El Niño continues in the equatorial Pacific, but is likely to weaken towards neutral conditions by the end of autumn.

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 28 November (9 river alarms), 12 December (5 river alarms), 27 December (3 river alarms), 29 December (1 river alarm), 4 January (6 river alarms), 14 January (1 river alarm) and 20 January (1 river alarm).

Flood events in the Wairarapa occurred on 18 November (2 river alarms), 28 November (8 river alarms), 11 December (7 river alarms), 4 January (9 river alarms) and 23 January (1 river alarm).

Lake Wairarapa fluctuated around the target level with the highest levels during January. The Lake Onoke outlet to the sea was closed for short periods in November and February.

6. Recreational bathing water monitoring

There have been exceedences of the national recreational water quality guidelines at a number of sites this summer. While most can be attributed to rainfall/runoff events, exceedences in the Hutt River at Birchville and Rona Bay at Eastbourne during the week of 18 January did not appear to be weather-related. Repeated exceedences at these sites led to the erection of health warning signs and media notification. Two sites in Wellington City - Island Bay and Owhiro Bay - were also closed to swimming. The Island Bay closure was attributed to sewage leaking from a private drain.

There have been ongoing exceedences in Owhiro Bay with enterococci counts exceeding the action level of the recreational water quality guidelines almost every week since the 24th of January. Signs warning people not to swim have been in place since this time. Capacity has been undertaking detailed investigations into stormwater/sewer infrastructure to try and track the source of the contamination. A number of problems have been fixed including cracked sewer mains and illegal connections into the stormwater system. However, Owhiro Bay was still exceeding at the beginning of March and investigations shifted to other parts of the catchment to try and find the source of the problem.

The wet summer this year has meant that problems with toxic blue-green algae have not been as severe as previous years. The worst affected river has been the Waipoua River in Masterton where high risk signs were put up from Colombo Road downstream in mid January. Unfortunately a dog died on 22 February after coming into contact with algae in the river at Bentley Street. Following this the Masterton District Council put up further warning signs at all public access points along the Waipoua River as it flows through Masterton.

Medium risk signs were put along the lower reaches of the Waikanae River at the start of February and along the lower reaches of the Hutt River in mid February in response to moderate cover of blue-green algal cover being recorded during weekly assessments. No toxic algae related dog deaths have been reported from these rivers.

In early January we discovered an error in the reporting of water quality data for the two Robinson Bay sites in Eastbourne where data for the two sites was transposed. The database and website error was promptly fixed and the Hutt City Council has been advised.

7. Didymo

Surveillance monitoring was carried out in December. The results indicated the absence of didymo at the 10 river sites sampled.

8. Air quality

8.1 National environmental standard for air quality (NES-AQ)

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

8.2 Basin Reserve

We have redeployed the mobile monitoring station from the Melling interchange to a site near the Basin Reserve to monitor air quality as part of the roading developments in this area. This work is being done for the New Zealand Transport Agency.

9. Freshwater quality

9.1 Stream ecology

Annual biological sampling has commenced at our 55 state of the environment river and stream monitoring sites, finally, after an unsettled start to the summer. This year while sampling, we are also trialling proposed new national protocol for measuring instream sedimentation (a growing impact of urban and rural land use intensification which adversely affects fish habitat and aesthetic values) and sampling biofilms (microorganisms present as a greenish-brown slime on rocks, plants and other surfaces in a stream) as part of a national research project looking to establish new rapid assessment indicators of stream health

10. Coastal

Annual intertidal ecological surveys were completed in the Porirua Harbour and Whareama, Waikanae and Hutt estuaries in January. The surveys are based on an extension of tools included in the National Estuary Monitoring Protocol and include an assessment of sediment grain size and chemistry (e.g., nutrients), and sediment dwelling plants and animals. The results of the monitoring should be available in June.

Water quality monitoring continues in Lake Onoke and in January surface sediment samples were taken from several locations. These samples will be analysed for nutrients, heavy metals and pesticides.

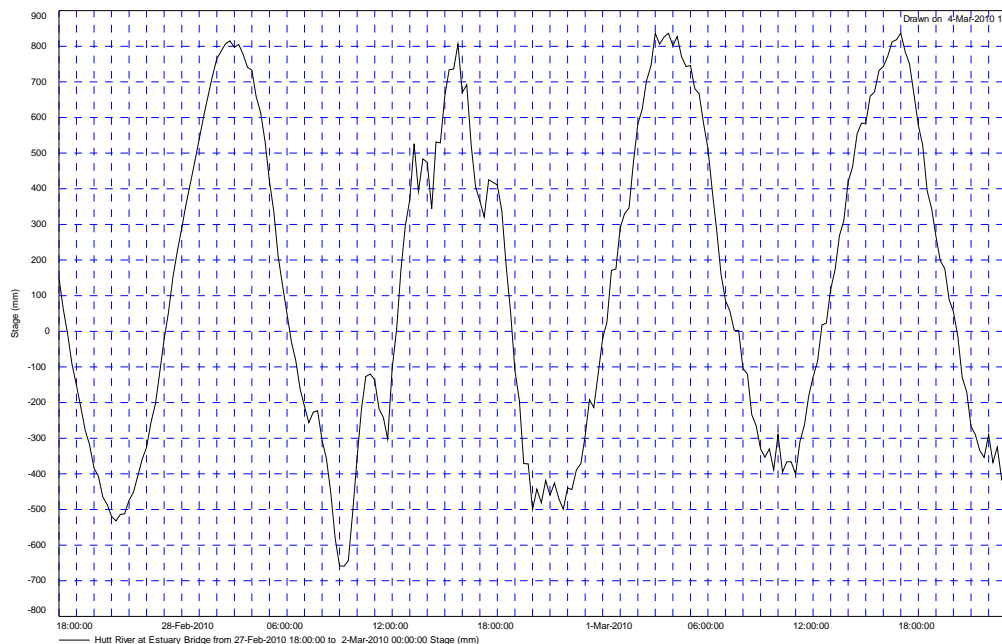
11. Soil quality

At the last meeting of the Committee I noted that through “EnviroLink Tools” (funding administered by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology) we are benefiting by having some of our soils mapped as part of the S-Map project. The areas of our region that have been or will be mapped are the area from north of Masterton down to the Mangatarere and parts of the Kapiti area.

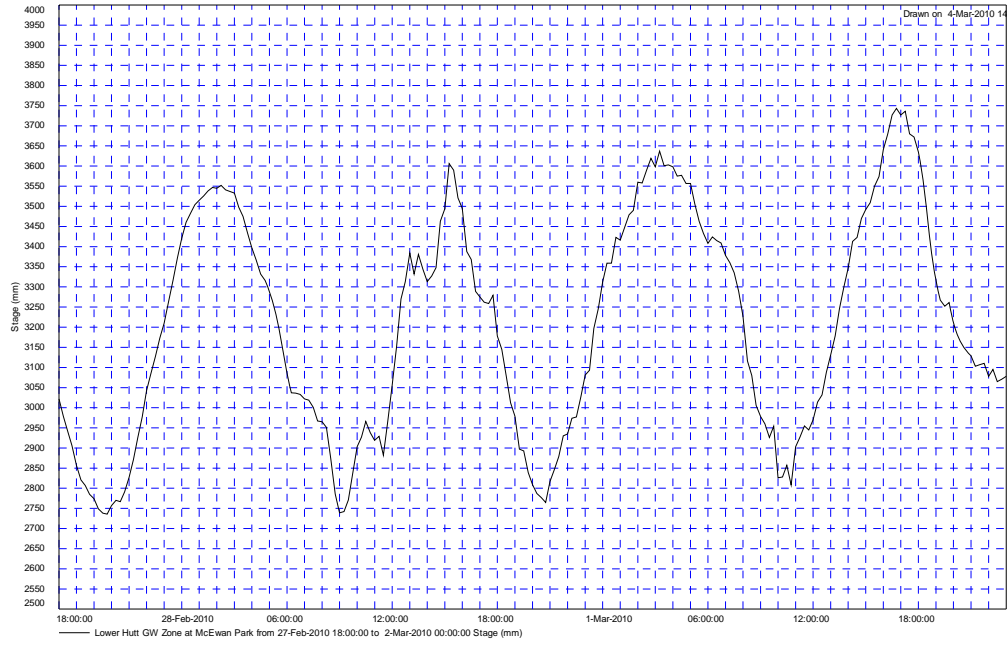
Mapping of soil properties is important in terms of work being carried out to inform the regional plan review. We were hoping that, while they were in the area, we could have had Landcare add to the area being mapped at our cost. However, this cannot be done until next financial year.

12. Chile tsunami

I note as a point of interest that we, not unexpectedly, measured fluctuations in tide level in Wellington Harbour as a result of the tsunami generated by the Chilean earthquake. This fluctuation was also recorded in our coastal groundwater monitoring sites where changes in sea level affect pressures in the aquifer. The following two graphs are tide and groundwater levels around the time of the tsunami. Note that the surge is still noticeable a few tidal cycles after the event, especially at the top and bottom of the cycles when the rate of tidal change is lowest.



Hutt River at Estuary Bridge



Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone at McEwen Park Shallow

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – March 2010

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 November 2009 to 19 February 2010 we have received 130 consent applications. This compares with 197 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 182 consents to a decision. This compares with 195 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) for the year from 30 June 2009 has risen to 18 working days.

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, hearing and decision work has continued to be reasonably heavy in this period with work on Kailua Ltd Car Haulways, MDC Riversdale Beach WWTP, MDC Flood Levee, HCC Waiwhetu sewage overflows. I am expecting as many as five hearings on notified and limited notified consents during the January - April 2010 period.

Fully Notified

Kailua Ltd and Car Haulways Ltd – land development at Northern Newlands

The decision declining applications to construct a car haulway (storage and distribution) area at north Newlands was released on 18 February. The applications involved more than 300,000 cubic metres of earthworks, reclaiming and filling 550 metres of permanent streams in the Upper Porirua Stream system, and removal of secondary regenerating native vegetation over the 11 hectare site. The decision cited three major reasons for declining applications including: the loss of habitat and its associated values (controlling the release of sediment and pollutants, providing a food source to the Porirua Stream), the potential impact of sediment discharged from earthworks on the

Porirua Stream and harbour system. There was a moderate level of media interest in the decision, although unfortunately aspects of the decision were mis-reported. The timeframe for appeals closes on 11 March.

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

- **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 were prepared with the applicant and subsequently circulated to submitters with a view to seeking a negotiated outcome, which wasn't gained. At the applicant's request, a hearing was held on 23 February 2010. A decision is expected by the mid March.
- **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 and we are waiting on further information from the applicant relating to effects on long shore movement of coastal materials.
- **Dawsons Waste Services Ltd – air discharges:** Applications to discharge contaminants to air from a waste dewatering facility in Happy Valley Road, Wellington.
- **WCC/Capacity – contaminated stormwater discharges:** Contaminated stormwater discharges (contaminated with sewage effluent) to Wellington harbour and south coast. Replacement of existing consents and new outfalls. Awaiting further information and yet to be notified.
- **JR's Orchards Ltd - groundwater take:** Taking and damming water (Papawai Stream and local groundwater) associated with orchard irrigation, at Papawai, east of Greytown. Pre-hearing now planned for late March or early April following GW receiving an in-stream flow assessment for Papawai Stream.
- **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 was completed and discussions with applicant's consultant on technical matters progressing prior to a pre-hearing being arranged. Desired that draft conditions will be formed for a possible negotiated outcome with the 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. Further information being sought from the applicant to define more precisely the nature and scale of the suite of proposed coastal erosion protections.
- **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 the applicant to determine availability of additional land for land-based discharge and treatment.

- ***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 now waiting for steering group to determine final treatment options (a mix of land and water-based discharge and treatment options).
- ***Wairarapa Funeral Services:*** Discharging contaminants from a crematorium operation, Masterton. On hold for further information.
- ***Masterton District Council - Masterton Landfill closure:*** Applications notified and a pre-hearing completed in early June. Further information being reported back to submitters, including draft conditions, by the applicant. Issues include the management of ongoing discharges of landfill gas and leachate (to groundwater and the Ruamahanga River) from the fill.
- ***CnD Landfill – landfill extension:*** Extension of the existing CnD demolition fill at Happy Valley, Wellington. Requiring further information with a focus on landfill stability and integrity issues.

Limited Notified

Masterton District Council: New Riversdale Waste Water Treatment Plant

MDC have gained consent for their proposed new Riversdale waste water treatment plant – a primary settlement, screening, storage and land-based treatment system south west of Riversdale. The Wairarapa team successfully negotiated conditions with opposing submitters, ensuring the applications could be processed before Xmas. The Riversdale Beach project is one of nine Wairarapa waste water projects in process (planning, consenting or recent implementation), whose progress through consenting is discussed in Report 10.25.

Masterton District Council: Levee to protect waste water irrigation area

An application to construct a 0.5 m flood levee (small stopbanks) adjacent the Ruamahanga River, adjacent (north) the existing treatment ponds was heard on 22 December, and a decision was released on 4 February. Five submissions were received in opposition to the application. If approved, the new levee would help protect land earmarked for border dyke irrigation of waste water from (up-to five year return period) flood events.

Pre-application Work

Transmission Gully Project (TGP) pre-application progress

This TGP project represents by the far the most significant pre-application process we have embarked upon. The pre-application work was initiated in discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) that commenced in April, and now continues with absolute certainty following the Minister of Transport's announcement on the Wellington Northern Corridor RONS in mid December confirming that TGP will go ahead.

To date we have managed the formation of the Regulatory Authorities Technical Advisory Group (RATAG) lead by GW in the normal capacity of 'lead agency' - which would be usual practice in consent applications involving two or more regulatory authorities. The other authorities in this group are WCC, PCC, KCDC and UHCC and are represented by officers from the regulatory arm of each Council. We (RATAG) have reviewed project briefs that outline the scope of the assessments for 14 different work-streams (e.g. earthworks, ecological effects, hydrology) identified by NZTA. We are using in-house teams from across the Environment Management Group and external consultants to guide and assess the quality and direction of the environmental assessments planned and mitigation being proposed. Further comments from the Minister have included the expectation that applications will be 'called in' to the new EPA as a 'Proposal of National Significance'. Applications are scheduled for lodging at the end of 2010.

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 are reported in the non-notified consents report (Report 10.23).

3. Consent appeals and objections

3.1 Appeals

Work continued on seven appeals in the last period.

JV and LA Petrie: Groundwater take from Tawaha Aquifer

The decision declining an application by JV and LA Petrie to take groundwater (to irrigate pasture) from the fully allocated Tawaha groundwater zone, South Wairarapa (released on 17 November, and reported at the December meeting) has been appealed by the applicant. The grounds for appeal are fairly extensive in terms of citing various aspects of the decision (policy, science and overall rationale).

Meridian Energy Limited: Project Mill Creek

We have made excellent progress with Meridian on conditions relating to the frequency and scale of baseline and ongoing sediment monitoring. Just prior to Xmas we submitted a final set of agreed conditions to Meridian which effectively resolves issues of contention between Meridian and GW.

A further pre-hearing conference has taken place and we are now waiting on the Court to set a timetable for evidence exchange. A full Court hearing is likely in the second half of 2010. The Court is also expecting a range of information to be tabled in the intervening period including revised compliance reports (WCC) from Project Westwind, and possibly a cost-benefit report on the project on the back of the Project Hayes (Central Otago windfarm approved consent decision overturned on appeal).

Appeals have been lodged by seven parties including Meridian Energy Ltd, Ngati Tama, Makara Guardians, Ohariu Preservation Society, and several individuals, against the joint GW-WCC-PCC decision to grant consents for 29 turbines at Mill Creek north of Makara. Matters raised by appellants (other than Meridian) in contention relate to landscape and visual effects, impacts on the receiving environment including Makara Estuary, and cumulative effects relating to Project Westwind.

4. Compliance and enforcement

4.1 Compliance monitoring

Dairy shed compliance improvements

It has been pleasing to see the effect of our compliance strategy for dairy shed effluent consents take hold in the dairying community. This year we were able to report that the rate of compliance in the dairying community has risen from 53% in 2008 to 73% in 2009. This is an excellent result reflecting the vigilance of staff in monitoring consented dairy sheds (including the establishment of consistent inspection protocols and 'tear-off' instant inspection reports), promptly tackling issues of non-compliance and following up in investigations and remedial actions. The result was not lost on the dairying community, reporting through the media how well they have worked with GW to achieve this result.

Exide community monitoring

In December we released the findings from our second year of community-based monitoring of ambient lead levels beyond Exide's boundary. The findings were on the whole very positive. In short, lead discharges have dropped to levels between 15 and 20% of the US EPA standards, and are between 10 and 20% of the levels measured in GWs 1999 community-based study.

4.2 Abatement notices

We issued 47 abatements between 31 October to 22 January 2009 (up from 13 for the previous reporting period), including unauthorised soil disturbance, various discharges to stormwater, and ponding of dairy effluent.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.24).

4.3 Infringement notices

We issued six infringement notices in the reporting period (up from four issued in the previous period), for discharges of dairy and piggery effluent, paint discharges to stormwater and breach of abatement notice.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.24).

4.4 Appeals against notices served

An appeal against an abatement notice issued to Lloyd Raynor is yet heard by the Court. The notice effectively requires Mr Raynor to cease excavating a watercourse and diverting water from a wetland.

4.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Five prosecutions were before the Court in the last period.

Sandy Bidwell and PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd: excavating a stream within JK Donald Reserve Wetland

On 2 November, we laid charges against Sandy Bidwell and PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd for the alleged illegal excavation (in April 2009) of around 1200 metres of Mangatete Stream within the JK Donald Reserve, bordering Lake Wairarapa.

Three charges each were laid relating to disturbing the stream bed, disturbance of aquatic plant and animal habitat, and diverting water, and the parties have now entered guilty pleas.

The first call-over in the District Court will be on 15 March.

Remaining prosecutions in summary:

- Lloyd Raynor - illegal stream works and diverting wetland water from Simmonds Lagoon: adjourned until 20 and 21 April following entering a guilty plea in July 2009.
- Lloyd Raynor and Hauroa Farms Ltd – alleged illegal stream works and diverting wetland water from Tauherenikau Delta Wetland: The matter is now adjourned until 20 and 21 April for sentencing following entering a guilty plea in January 2010.
- Selwyn McLachlan - discharges of dairy effluent to water: adjourned until 20 and 21 April for sentencing following guilty pleas in July 2009.
- CnD Landfill and Alex Burrell – discharge of waste to a demolition fill in excess of consented fill height limits: adjourned until June for a likely hearing.

Environment Waikato Court challenge to validity of convictions through prosecution

Late last year, the High Court released its decision on a case which has highly significant relevance for prosecutions under the RMA taken by all councils in New Zealand over the last decade. The decision has now been appealed by the parties to the Court of Appeal.

The case relates to the validity of convictions determined in the District Court. The issue of contention related to a procedural matter in the way that councils typically lay charges with the Court (whether or not councils needed to seek additional leave of the Court to lay charges). The implication is that councils have not been laying charges in the correct manner.

Should the Court of Appeal overturn the High Court decision, then there is a real possibility that all convictions from RMA prosecutions over the last 10 years could be overturned - an alarming outcome in any ones language!

There is strong national coordination to defend the High Court decision through the Regional Councils CESIG (Compliance and Enforcement Special Interests Group).

The effect on cases currently in process is that the Court has effectively placed all prosecutions on hold until the matter is determined. This has, of course, impacted GW cases with all proceedings being delayed to April for sentencing.

4.6 Significant incidents

Significant incidents are reported in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.24).

5. Other Environmental Regulation projects

5.1 RMA Discounting Policy and MfE Survey Regulations Development

The Ministry for the Environment have recently released two discussion papers for comment to inform the development of two separate sets of regulation on:

- The discounting policy for ‘late’ consents, regarding the possible reduction in costs for applicants receiving late consent decisions (with a particular focus on the first week – with a 25% discount for the first late week being mooted)
- The process and timelines for setting the biannual MfE RMA survey questions and receiving data from councils (driven by the fact that not all councils respond to the survey)

In the limited time given we provided comments directly to MfE on the ‘Survey’ regulations development, and to Local Government NZ to support their position in relation to the discounting policy.

In short we have supported the position of MfE on both, with some questions in the following areas:

- Discount Policy: whether notifieds and non-notified consents need differing penalty scales (on the basis that timeframes around deliberations and the compiling of consent decisions is often heavily impacted by the availability of panel members)
- MfE Survey: enabling reasonable time (six weeks rather than four) at the end of the financial year for councils to compile the previous year’s data.

I anticipate that GW will have an opportunity to formally submit on draft regulations, once released in the next few months. I will continue to report to the committee as the regulations are developed.

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
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. Information now submitted and currently drafting consent conditions.			
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 response provided by applicant. Applicant has now requested for application to be placed on hold indefinitely.			

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).	-	-	-
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.	Cr Chris Laidlaw (Chair), Cr Nigel Wilson, Kevin Rolfe (Independent, air discharge specialist).	30/10/09	Granted (appealed). Awaiting mediation date from EC.
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. Currently setting a timeline for completing a complete AEE.						

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	TBC	Negotiated outcome being progressed. Pre hearing to be held in late March 2010.			
J V & L A Petrie WAR 080367	To take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes	12/03/08	15/05/09	4	04/08/09	23/10/09	Cr Baber, Cr Donaldson, Liz Burge	16/11/09	Declined Under appeal
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 deferred following release of s42a officer report. Further assessment work completed by applicant. Hearing likely to be early June 2010.	Christine Foster Hamish Lowe		
Kailua Limited and Car Haulways Ltd WGN080520	Earthworks associated with new car haulway area, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands	17/06/08	18/12/09	5	No	Hearing held 28/01/10	Cr Buchanan	18/2/2010	Declined.

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
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	25/11/09	5	No	Pre-hearing scheduled for early April.			
CnD Landfill WGN090036	Extension of construction and demolition fill	04/08/08				This application is on hold until enforcement action for existing consent determined.			
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				Final AEE information submitted on 18/12/09. Applicant now commencing consultation with key stakeholders and will report back by 31/03/10.			
WCC (Capacity) WGN090219	Stormwater discharges to Wellington Harbour and the South Coast	19/12/08				Further information on mitigation received Dec 2009 – now being reviewed. Preparing to publically notify in			

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
						March/April 2010.			
WCC WGN090226	Westchester Drive Extension	22/12/08	21/02/09	53 (but includes multiple late submissions)	29/04/09	25-27/05/09	Crs Baber, Bruce and Stuart Kinear	08/07/09	Granted. Appealed – however informal mediation may avoid a full EC hearing
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	Hearing 23/02/10	Crs Baber, Laidlaw and iwi appointee Liz Burge.	Awaiting decision.	
Horokiwi Quarries WGN090117	To conduct activities associated with the extraction of gravel and sand at Fitzroy Bay, Pencarrow Coast.	09/10/08	15/07/09	14		Proposed to be jointly heard with HCC. On hold for further info. Joint pre hearing possible April 2010.	Byrdie Eyres Stuart Kinear		
NZ Railways Corporation (Ontrack) WGN090380 (Limited Notified)	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	16/10/09	Granted. Appealed.

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
Masterton District Council WAR 090346 (Limited)	To undertake various activities associated with the new Riversdale Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant.	11/05/09	07/08/09	4	No	No hearing required as applicant and submitters agreed to proposed consent conditions.	N/A	23/12/09	Granted.
Woodridge Estates Ltd WGN100002	Earthworks (including sediment laden water) and reclamation of streambed. Possibility of triggering dangerous dam consent.	09/07/09				On hold awaiting further information.			
Dawsons Waste Services Ltd WGN100057	To discharge contaminants to air from a waste dewatering facility, Happy Valley Road.	18/08/09	10/12/09	7		On hold at request of applicant – WCC has now limited notified the application for the land use aspect. Joint hearing likely.			

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 (Dixon 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	3		Agreed outcome – no hearing required		17/12/2009	Granted.
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.			
Masterton District Council WAR 100118 (Limited)	To divert floodwaters by constructing a levee/stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River	06/10/09	23/11/09	5	No	22/12/09	Roger Lane	5/2/10	Granted. No appeals received.
Kapiti Funeral Homes	Discharge to air from operation of crematorium, Paraparaumu	21/10/09	14/01/10	3	Yes	Pre hearing was unable to resolve matter. Hearing scheduled for 8/4/10.	Cnr Sally Baber		

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbour's Department

Harbours Department Report – March 2010

1. Navigation aids

A tender has been received for the replacement of the collapsed Thorndon container pile. Because this is specialist work, only one tender was received and this is currently being evaluated.

2. Oil pollution

Five reports of “oil pollution” in the harbour were received. For one, remedial action was carried out by the spiller and this was checked by harbours staff and discussions were held with the company to avoid a repeat occurrence. Another required follow up from Harbours and Environmental Protection to try and determine the source of a black oil discharge.

An oil spill response equipment training exercise was held at Mana Marina, Porirua at the end of November.

On 15 December 2009, the quarterly Marine Oil Spill Response equipment check was carried out and again on 2 March 2010 together with the annual Maritime New Zealand audit.

3. Harbour events

On 16 December 2009, the Deputy Harbourmaster attended a demonstration of the new fire monitor at the Seaview tanker Wharf.

The Harbour Rangers provided considerable assistance to the organisers of the Capital Classic Harbour Swim and our workboat *SeaCare* was part of the monitoring fleet on the day of the swim – Saturday 30 January.

On 14 February 2010 the Thundercat Association held their Cook Strait race. Harbour's workboat *SeaCare* assisted as a safety boat for this event.

4. Beacon Hill

The construction of the new Beacon Hill signal station is virtually complete. Once minor teething issues have been resolved the building will be handed over.

Building consent was approved by Wellington City Council in early March for a new radar mast adjacent to the old building. The mast will house key components (radar scanner, aerials) of the new equipment. Design of the new mast and its foundations is in progress.

Towards the end of January, five Beacon Hill staff and one Harbour Ranger attended a Radar Observers Course held in the new Beacon Hill building.

5. Other

During early December a temporary additional summer Harbour Ranger was employed to assist with monitoring activities, the promotion of safe boating and compliance of bylaws by recreation craft during weekends, public holidays, and “after-hours”.

Inclement weather discouraged many from boating or outdoor activities and this resulted in a relatively minor number of incidents over the Christmas/ New Year holiday period.

On 9 February 2010 the hulk of the “King Kong” ship at Miramar Wharf (previously named *Manuia* and *Venture II*) was towed out into Cook Strait by the CentrePort tug *Toia* and scuttled in deep water. This followed extensive work in preparing the ship in compliance with the conditions of the “dumping permit” and obtaining various surveys and permits. Much material from the hulk was recycled.

On 28 February 2010, shortly after midnight, a New-Zealand-wide tsunami warning was issued by Civil Defence after an 8.8-scale earthquake in Chile. Harbours Department and CentrePort made appropriate local warnings and actions.