

1. Environment Management

1.1 Environmental Policy

1.1.1 Overview

- Continuation of Plan development
- Environment Court mediation on RPS appeals

1.1.2 Key results for the year

- Transmission Gully plan change request finalised with release of Board of Inquiry's final decision on appeal from Rational Transport Society
- Regional Plan for Freshwater, and Regional Plan for Discharges to Land, amended in December by Council to give effect to policies from the National Policy for Freshwater Management
- Two meetings/workshops of Te Upoko Taiao held – Approved issues and objectives and commenced policy development in area of heritage and sites of significance to Tangata Whenua, and the presentation of our state of the environment reports
- Second round of public engagement associated with the Plan undertaken

1.1.3 Looking ahead

- Policy development options prepared in relation to coastal management issues and 'framework' for the overall development of the Plan agreed to
- Finalisation of RPS appeals

1.1.4 Departmental activity

Proposed Regional Policy Statement

Environment Court mediation was held between 8 November 2011 and 14 November 2011 on the unresolved appeal points. As a result, consent orders have been signed for the air quality, coastal environment, fresh water, regional form and soils and minerals sections and as such, the appeals have been resolved for these sections. A second round of mediation has been scheduled for 27 and 28 February to discuss any remaining unresolved appeal points. Prior to the second round of mediation staff are continuing with informal discussions.

Regional Plan review

General

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee met on 18 October and 29 November 2012. The meetings/workshops were held in the Council Chamber, Regional Council Centre, Wellington.

A workshop was held on 18 October for the committee to review draft issues and objectives which had been redrafted by staff following discussion and feedback from the 22 September workshop. The substantive matters discussed related to those provisions addressing; the relationship of Tangata Whenua with natural resources, low energy coastal and freshwater environments, discharges of sewage to freshwater, flood protection activities, and the protection of historic heritage and sites of significance to Tangata Whenua. The objective of the workshop was to resolve any outstanding matters relating to the draft issues and objectives to enable them to be taken to a round of community, stakeholder and iwi consultation through November and December (this consultation is discussed in more detail below).

Te Upoko Taiao met on 29 November and was presented with the Quarterly Report from the Environmental Management Group for the period ending 30 September, information on changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan and Regional Plan for Discharges to land arising from the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and an oral report on the Transmission Gully plan change. A workshop followed the meeting where the committee was presented with our State of the Environment Reports (presentations from our Environmental Monitoring and Investigations science team of key findings from eight technical monitoring reports documenting state and trends in the region's air, land and water resources. Also discussed were draft provisions for historic heritage and sites of significance to Tangata Whenua, a summary of a cultural environmental monitoring workshop held on 2 November and facilitated by Tui Shortland, and an update on the public engagement workshops.

Wetland hydrology and delineation

A 3-stage project to more accurately define the extent of wetlands already listed in operative regional and district plans is underway. A desktop review of wetland boundaries (using the latest aerial photography) and a review of available information on the condition and significance of these wetlands has been completed. Field work has been carried out for wetlands bordering Lake Wairarapa, and the final report is overdue. A request for proposals will be released in 2012 for confirming the boundaries and values of approximately 65 wetlands through a field visit. The final product of these three projects will be a list of nationally and regionally significant wetlands that are candidates for scheduling in the new regional plan.

Coastal Biodiversity

NIWA has been contracted to identify sites of significant biodiversity value in the coastal marine area using the policy 22 criteria in the RPS. They will use their own data and expert knowledge to identify these sites, and document the activities that may affect them. Environmental Policy worked closely with EMI and the Biodiversity department to ensure the outcomes and outputs of the project will be broadly beneficial to GW.

Consultation and Engagement Plan

The last event associated with the 2010 engagement process was a meeting with government departments held on 28 September involving members of staff. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry for the Environment and was also attended by MAF and the DIA. DoC was also invited but did not attend. At the meeting the results of the 2010 public engagement were presented and their relevance to central government agencies explained.

Public engagement for 2011 has three parts:

- Public workshops (6) between 1 and 21 November
- Web survey from 1 November
- Iwi hui from 1 November

The public workshops will function as “drop-in” centres. At these people can discuss the Council’s issues and objectives and follow-up topics they raised in the 2010 consultation.

The web survey will be an additional opportunity for members of the public to provide feed-back about the Council’s issues and objectives.

A hui with Tangata Whenua will be held as required.

Additional meetings with Territorial Authorities and Stakeholder groups will be held middle of 2012.

Transmission Gully Project plan change request

The Board of Inquiry for the Transmission Gully Plan Change released its final decision in October 2011. The Board’s decision was appealed to the High Court on a point of law. The High Court heard the appeal on 7 December 2011 and released its decision on 15 December 2011. The decision of the High Court upheld the decision of the Board. Following the High Court decision, the Wellington Regional Council approved the proposed plan change on 19 December and gave public notice that it will become operative on 25 January 2012.

Other Regional Plan changes

The Regional Freshwater Plan and the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land were amended on 19 December by inserting policies A4 and B7 of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (the NPS). The NPS provides for policies A4 and B7 to be given effect to in regional plans without going through the Schedule 1 process of the RMA in accordance with section 55 of the Resource Management Act. Because there are no specific delegations for decisions under section 55, the delegation to make these changes lies with the chief executive. Staff communicated the intention to amend the regional plans to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Management Committee.

Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

Iwi heritage technical advisory group

A representative from each of the region's iwi authorities met 28 October for a workshop to discuss sites of significance to Tangata Whenua and options for their protection in the new regional plan.

Regional Council input into Statutory Planning

Notified resource consents

Wellington City Council

- Resource consent for a rural residential subdivision in Bing Lucas Drive at Tawa

Greater Wellington submitted that the proposed had implications for the protection of indigenous biodiversity and one of Greater Wellington's KNE sites. The submission asked for consent conditions to meet our concerns. A hearing date has not yet been scheduled.

District Plan Changes

Hutt City Council

- Heritage Inventory and District Plan Review

Greater Wellington made a submission supporting the heritage inventory work and the inclusion of the significant places identified in the district plan heritage lists. We suggested that the review of the heritage provisions of the plan also consider archaeological sites and sites of significance to Tangata Whenua in addition to historic buildings. The Hutt City Council is considering different options for rules in the district plan, and Greater Wellington suggested that they be strong enough to protect historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Contrary to Hutt City Council officers' advice, the District Plan Subcommittee has directed council officers to prepare a plan change that removes all buildings from the district plan except for those registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, with rather permissive rules for those listed places.

This approach is likely to result in a plan change which is contrary to the proposed Regional Policy Statement provisions.

Other documents

Upper Hutt City Council

- Maymorn Structure Plan (final draft)

Greater Wellington made a submission on this document generally in support but wished to highlight some concerns which were centred on public transport infrastructure, flood hazards, biodiversity restoration and implications for GW owned land.

Officers from Greater Wellington spoke to the submission on 30 November. The Upper Hutt City Council has advised that a Council meeting will be held on 2 February 2012 to consider submissions and make a decision on the Maymorn Structure Plan. This meeting is open to the public.

Porirua City Council

- Pauatahanui/Judgeford Structure Plan

The Porirua Development Framework adopted by the Porirua City Council identifies a need to prepare a Structure Plan to guide future development in the Pauatahanui-Judgeford area.

The main considerations driving the project are that:

- Rural lifestyle subdivision and development in the area has been intensifying in recent years
- Transmission Gully Motorway will add further pressure for land utilisation in the area
- The sensitive receiving environment of Porirua Harbour needs careful management
- Any new development needs to take into account the aspirations of the local community and be of a type and intensity that is appropriate for the area

Greater Wellington officers have attended workshops on the development of the Structure Plan and will continue to assist and guide the Porirua City Council. There has also been a series of public meetings so that the Porirua City Council can consider issues raised by the local community and others. The next public evening session is on 7 February 2012, where Porirua City Council will outline options for a future structure plan and will seek public feedback. Following a Council meeting on 14 February, a proposed Structure Plan will be prepared taking into account issues raised. This will be publicly notified. The aim is to have the final structure plan ready for official adoption by the Porirua City Council in December 2012.

Natural hazards

Research Projects

Regional storm tide modelling project

This is a two and a half year study into the effects of storm surge, coastal inundation and sea level rise around the Wellington region coastline. The first stage to produce a digital terrain and bathymetry model of the region has been completed and work is now starting on modelling extreme water levels for Wellington City. An interim report has been released showing the heights and probability curves for a range of extreme water level events for the region.

Sea level rise investigation

Funding to assist the regional storm tide modelling project of \$30,000 from WCC and \$20,000 from KCDC has allowed a related project to go ahead looking at sea level rise in the region. Tide gauge records up to 2011 will be analysed to show the eustatic local sea level rise. This will be put into regional context with an analysis of interdecadal water level variations produced by climatic phenomena such as El Nino/La Nina and the Southern Oscillation. These medium term numbers will be supported by research into the longer term geologic sea level changes of the region that will take into account local tectonics to produce a relative sea level change curve for the region. The findings will be assessed within the IPCC forecasts to develop regional planning figures for sea level rise out to 2100.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Wellington region tsunami evacuation plans

The department continues to work with local civil defence groups on the regional tsunami evacuation plans. Most recently we have been working with Regional Civil Defence to develop standard tsunami advice procedures for the region.

Presentations/Publications/Media

Environment Policy senior policy advisor (hazards) continues to be approached to speak to community and council groups on seismic and tsunami hazards following the Christchurch earthquakes and Japanese tsunami. Talks have been given to Rotary, Victoria University and Civil Defence groups. Talks have also been given on climate change, coastal hazards and sea level rise.

Training courses, seminars and conferences

Staff have attended the following;

- The Greater Wellington Leadership course

- Policy analyst and developers intensive
- NIWA International Conference on Diffuse Pollution

1.1.5 Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Policy Income Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
1,176	1,073	1,073	-	Rates & Levies	2,351	2,146	2,146	-
12	-	-	-	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
44	8	-	8	External Revenue	95	-	-	-
3	3	-	3	Investment Revenue	5	-	-	-
13	13	13	-	Internal Revenue	30	25	25	-
1,248	1,097	1,086	11	TOTAL INCOME	2,481	2,171	2,171	-
				less:				
639	594	616	22	Personnel Costs	1,267	1,246	1,233	(13)
69	37	23	(14)	Materials,Supplies & Services	107	46	46	-
15	13	3	(10)	Travel & Transport Costs	29	7	7	-
123	213	81	(132)	Contractor & Consultants	446	387	287	(100)
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
106	93	100	7	Internal Charges	223	200	200	-
952	950	823	(127)	Total Direct Expenditure	2,072	1,886	1,773	(113)
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
(11)	3	-	(3)	Bad Debts	(13)	-	-	-
180	199	199	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	359	399	399	-
2	3	3	-	Depreciation	3	6	6	-
-	-	-	-	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(5)	-	-	-
1,123	1,155	1,025	(130)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,416	2,291	2,178	(113)
125	(58)	61	(119)	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	65	(120)	(7)	(113)
2	3	3	-	Add Back Depreciation	3	6	6	-
-	-	-	-	Other Non Cash	(5)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Asset Acquisitions	(19)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
127	(55)	64	(122)	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT AND RESERVE MOVEMENTS	44	(114)	(1)	(113)
-	-	-	-	Debt Additions / (decrease)	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Debt Repaid	-	-	-	-
97	(3)	-	(3)	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	95	-	-	-
224	(58)	64	(122)	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	139	(114)	(1)	(113)

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Policy Capital Expenditure Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	24	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(5)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital Expenditure	19	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	19	-	-	-

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Policy Capital Expenditure Statement 3 months ending 30 September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	24	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(5)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital Expenditure	19	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	19	-	-	-

1.1.6 Financial variance analysis

- The Policy department has a net deficit of \$58k which is \$119k worse than budget mainly due to earlier spend on consultants for the Plan Review work
- Other costs are in line with budget

- The forecast has been updated to include an additional \$100k for consultants work for the Plan Review

1.1.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: Resource management planning	
<i>The Regional Policy Statement will be approved by the Council and become operative</i>	<p>The Regional Policy Statement was approved by the Council in May 2010.</p> <p>Nine appeals were lodged against the proposed Regional Policy Statement, with more than 200 points of appeal to be resolved. Mediation meetings were held with all the main appellers starting in the last quarter of 2010 and continuing through the first half of 2011.</p> <p>Court-assisted mediation with the appellers and the s274 party to the appeals has been set down for early September 2011. It is expected that the majority of the appeals will be resolved by the end of June 2012.</p>

1.1.8 Risk analysis

None identified in this department.

1.2 Environmental Regulation

1.2.1 Overview

- Ongoing steady workload. Dominated by a number of large projects such as Transmission gully consenting, wind farm hearings, and a variety of enforcement proceedings
- Non notified consent workload down slightly, but overall slightly up on year to date numbers compared with last financial year

1.2.2 Key results for the year

- Roads of National Significance – big workload in TGM consent, and pre-application work for MacKays to Peka Peka as well as enhancing ties with NZTA about all roading projects likely to have a consenting implications
- Carterton District Council – consenting and enforcement relating to the wastewater treatment plant

- Earthworks site scoring system being rolled out to consent holders with a good response to date
- Roll out of dairy effluent pond storage calculator and workshops on water metering for industry

1.2.3 Looking ahead

- Ongoing management of consenting work, enforcement action and heavy notified and Board of Inquiry workload

1.2.4 Departmental activity

Resource consents

Overall load

The notified and limited notified consents processing and pre-application work remained high and increased further in the December quarter – dominated by a number of very significant projects in full swing. These included – Transmission Gully RoNS Board of Inquiry process, MacKays to Peka Peka RoNS pre-lodgement work, Castle Hill Wind Farm hearings, Duck Creek subdivision approvals, and Carterton wastewater hearings. There is also continuing work on other notified projects including the ongoing processing of Exide Technologies air discharges, Mt Munro wind farm, Hutt River mouth dredging, Pauatahanui Forestry harvesting, Palliser Bay global coastal protection works, CDC water races re-consenting; Wairarapa Funeral services and Lynchgate funeral home re-consenting, Unilever air discharges re-consenting, C n D Landfill re-consenting, Bidwell’s water take, and other wastewater projects with Hutt Valley temporary discharges and Wainuiomata main plant or overflows.

Non-notified consent processing work is down in the December quarter, and dominated by the ongoing processing of replacement consent applications for boatsheds, and land use consents (culverts, bridges, bores etc).

Overall, we are slightly up on numbers of all consents processed year-to-date compared to the half year position for 2010-11 year.

Consents summary

Item	Dec Quarter 2011	Sept Quarter 2011	Dec Quarter 2010
Consents received	113	137	158
Consents issued	121	173	117

Item	2011-12 year to date	2010-11 year to date	2010-11 year
Consents received	250	313	699

Consents issued	294	283	698
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Item	Dec Quarter 2011	Sept Quarter 2011
Median processing time frame	19	17

Item	2011-12 year to date	2010-11 year to date	2010-11 year
Median processing time frame	17	15	16

Notified and limited notified consents

Substantial work in assessments, and pre-hearings or hearings have been completed and/or decisions released on:

- NZTA – Transmission Gully Project (TGP) RoNS:** The submission period closed for TGP at the end of October. 69 Submissions were received in total, with approximately 52% supporting (or supporting in part) the proposal. Greater Wellington submitted in support of the proposal and has been involved in the current round of extensive expert caucusing in relation to planning matters, consent conditions and water quality (in relation to sedimentation), and we are expecting additional caucusing on matters of ecological effects, habitat loss and mitigation. Caucusing will continue right up to the hearing. The hearing is set down to start on 13 February 2012, and is anticipated to last five weeks. Greater Wellington has submitted evidence on forestry access issues, transport planning, and regional planning matters. At our request, the Board has also directed an ‘independent’ officer’s report on ecological effects and mitigation.

Our approach throughout the consenting process has been to ‘remain in the conversation’ in key areas affecting Greater Wellington’s operations or regulatory responsibilities. This means we can also decide not to duplicate the input of other experts in the process as well, if we believe our interests are covered well.

The Board process is a new experience for this organisation. The nature and frequency of Board directions, including expectations of a rapid response to their instructions means we need to be equally ‘nimble’ in responding to their needs.

- Genesis Energy – Castle Hill Wind Farm:** The hearing of applications on the 286 turbine wind farm commenced on 28 November, and has been adjourned until 24 January to enable the applicant to provide further information mainly in relation to TA matters (visual amenity, noise and traffic) but from a regional perspective the time also allows for further caucusing between the applicant and GW’s technical experts around potential conditions of consent. The main regional consenting issues include in-stream

and terrestrial ecology, sediment discharges and land stability. Earlier a total of 101 submissions received (18 in support and 64 opposed excluding a further five late submissions). Media interest has mainly focussed on the territorial consenting issues such as visual effects, noise, dust and traffic effects – which has been much of the focus of submitters in opposition to the proposal.

- **Whitby Coastal Estates – Duck Creek subdivision, diversion and stream reclamation:** Applications jointly to the Porirua City Council (PCC) and GW for subdivision of land in the lower reaches of Duck Creek, also involving the diversion and reclamation of 1.2 km of Duck Creek and bulk earthworks. Consents have been granted from both PCC and GW (without a hearing). Conditions cover the agreed mitigation package including the need for bonds for stabilising the site, and stream mitigation (including bank-edge revegetation).
- **Exide Technologies Limited reconsenting:** An application to renew existing discharge to air permit from their battery recycling facility in Petone – lodged in late July. We are now in full swing with the processing of this application, with our Peer Reviewers, Golder Associates, reviewing the AEE and further information. Given the technical nature of this review, we don't expect that this work will conclude until March 2012. Given this, we have discussed with Exide options for a pre hearing meeting prior to the end of February 2012. We will be in contact with the submitters within the next few weeks to advise them. Earlier we received 47 submissions (44 in opposition).
- **Carterton District Council – Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant reconsenting:** A hearing commenced on 16 December 2011 – and was adjourned. The hearing panel determined that it did not have enough information to make a decision on the application – and decided that declining the consent would not be a useful option. As such, they issued formal directions on 22 December 2011 that require CDC to provide more information, including an additional effects assessment on Mangatarere Stream and planning analysis, by the end of February 2012. GW reporting officers will then review this information and provide their comment to the panel by mid March 2012. Following this, the hearing panel will consider the information, and determine whether to reconvene the hearing, prior to issuing its decision.
- **Carterton District Council – Taratahi and Carterton Water Races reconsenting:** Replacement applications for CDC's existing water take applications for both the Taratahi and Carrington Water Race schemes (east and north of Carterton) operated for stock drinking purposes. As well as water permits the proposal also includes applications for land use consent for river works to maintain intake structures and discharge consents for unused water back into the watercourse. Both applications were notified with the submission period closing on 14 December 2011. For the Taratahi water race scheme a total of 15 submissions were received (three opposed and nine in support); and nine submissions for the Carrington races (three opposed and three in support). Following receiving submissions we have issued a further information request to the applicant. A hearing date will be set in the New Year.

- **Hutt City Council – waste water treatment plant pipeline maintenance and discharges:** Application lodged for temporary discharges of treated wastewater to Wellington Harbour and the Waiwhetu Stream, from maintenance and repair works to the treatment plants main outfall pipeline (MOP). The MOP runs from the plant at Seaview, and finally discharges to the sea at Pencarrow head. When the pipe requires repair work, the section of affected pipe must be ‘drained down’ via scour valves along the pipeline, and all treated wastewater is subsequently discharged to the Waiwhetu Stream until the repairs are completed. The preparation of this application follows on from our dealings with a series of discharges caused by ongoing failures of the pipeline over the last five years. The application was notified on 14 January.
- **Meridian Energy Ltd – Mount Munro Wind Farm:** Applications lodged with the four participating councils (GW, Horizons, Tararua and Masterton Districts) on 22 December for a proposed wind farm to the south east of Eketahuna. The proposal is for 20 turbines, seven of which will be located within Greater Wellington and the remainder in Horizons region. Horizons is acting as ‘lead authority’ due to the bulk of the works and the majority of the receiving environment being in their region.

Other notified consents in summary include:

- **Hutt City Council – Wainuiomata water overflows:** Pre-hearing date set for 8 February 2012. Further engagement with iwi on cultural health monitoring will also take place.
- **Unilever – detergent manufacturing plant discharge to air:** Peer review completed and draft conditions and officer’s report being completed for circulation to applicant and RPH.
- **GW Flood Protection – Hutt River mouth dredging and disposal reconsenting:** Final stages of discussions with applicant regarding consent conditions, prior to a likely pre-hearing meeting.
- **Lynchgate Funeral Homes – crematorium discharge to air reconsenting:** Five submissions received with one in opposition wishing to be heard. Pre-hearing expected in March 2012.
- **Burrell Demolition Limited reconsenting and extension:** Applications originally lodged in 2008 and ‘stalled’ largely due to first of current prosecutions. Progress now being made with site management planning and mitigation package information being developed.
- **Wairarapa Funeral Services – crematorium discharge to air reconsenting:** Following submissions (10, with seven opposed) and a poorly attended pre-hearing meeting, applicant is looking into options to better manage effects including increased stack height and altering crematorium times.

- **South Wairarapa District Council – Palliser Bay Coastal Protection Works:** ‘Global’ consent application for coastal protection works along an approximately 25km section of beach frontage (including constructed boulder beaches and low-level rock training walls). Recommendation to grant consents currently before the Minister for Conservation for a final decision (requirement as a ‘restricted coastal activity’).
- **AJC Bidwell – diversion and water take from Lake Wairarapa:** Draft conditions being circulated to submitters (four submitters, with two opposed) – with agreement between parties expected.
- **Pauatahanui Forestry harvesting:** Applications now back on hold while affected party approvals being sought from submitters including Department of Conservation. Issues in contention concern sedimentation and monitoring.

Major pre-application discussions continue for:

- **WCC – Southern Landfill Stage 4:** This is the proposed extension of landfilling within the boundary established under the existing District Plan designation. The application will be notified as the proposal will involve hundreds of metres of stream reclamation, disposal of refuse and other contaminants, and the discharge of odour and landfill gas to atmosphere. Lodgement is expected in early 2012.
- **Carrus – Aotea Block Stage 11:** Discussions have commenced on the next stage of the Aotea Block development. This stage involves bulk earthworks and also likely to involve stream piping and reclamation. Owing to the size and nature of the works, this application is likely to be jointly notified with PCC. Lodgement is expected in early 2012.
- **SWDC – Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant re consenting:** Replacement consents to discharge treated sewage to Donalds Creek from Featherston WWTP expires on August 2012. Discussions have started with SWDC around information requirements and the process for the renewal of this consent, so that some of the delays experienced with the processing of the Martinborough WWTP and Greytown WWTP are not repeated. Lodgement is expected in early 2012.

Resource consent appeals and objections

Appeals work dropped in the last quarter, with no new appeals.

- **Wairarapa Aggregates – gravel aggregate quarry:** An appeal by the applicant of the decision to grant consents to allow limited quarrying of old river gravels at Waingawa Industrial Estate (Masterton), adjacent to Waingawa wetland. The appeal is progressing through Court-assisted mediation and informal meetings between the parties. Wairarapa Aggregates have dropped from their proposal the washing of aggregates on the site, which was one of the main areas of concern for GW. At this stage it looks promising that agreement will be reached by the parties on all remaining issues therefore avoiding the need for a formal Court hearing.

Consented compliance monitoring

- **Earthworks site scoring system:** In the September quarter I reported on the development of a new compliance points scoring system for earthworks sites – developed and adopted already in Auckland and Wellington regions. We are currently in the process of rolling this out to consent holders (via their earthworks contractors and consultants) at consented sites. Consent holders are responding well to the numbering system and we have seen better measures implemented at sites to ensure their respective scores improve. The system will apply across the region, with roll-out work currently on Wairarapa sites as well.

Environmental incidents

260 incidents were notified and responded to in the quarter, down from 307 in the previous quarter. A summary breakdown of incidents is reported 6-weekly through the Councillors bulletin.

Enforcement

Abatement and infringement notices

Item	Dec Quarter 2011	Sept Quarter 2011	Dec Quarter 2010
Abatement notices	2	24	13
Infringement notices	8	26	9

Prosecutions, enforcement orders and abatement notice appeals

A number of significant prosecutions were dealt with in the last quarter.

Take Charge programme

The Take Charge programme is continuing work with IAG Panel and Paint Industry members. Nine of the members had completed the self assessment forms and those sites have now all had an initial site visit. (Eight initial visits were completed between October and December 2011).

Now that we have completed a number of initial visits, we are considering the minimum requirements sites need to meet in order to complete the programme. We want to ensure the programme requirements are well defined and consistently applied to each site.

Several sites have excellent environmental practices which are likely to be above and beyond the programme requirements. We are also investigating ways we can encourage best practice at the other sites once they have completed the Take Charge programme requirements.

Projects

Roll out of (dairy effluent) pond storage calculator for Wellington Region

In early December 2011, GW received the *first* version of the dairy shed effluent pond storage calculator for Wellington region – which now has our region's soils and rainfall data for loaded on it. Effluent management is a nationally significant issue and this tool enables farmers to build correctly sized effluent ponds for their farms. This is an important development and a boost to the region's dairy farmers who have been calling for guidance on effluent storage for several years now. Ponds will allow effluent storage during wet periods and reduce the potential impacts from dairy effluent run off.

Implementation of stock access guidelines

GW met with project partners – Federated Farmers, Dairy NZ, Fonterra, and Beef & Lamb – in October to discuss ways to proactively and collectively manage issues surrounding stock access to waterways via the new stock access guidelines ('Guidelines for Managing Stock Access to Waterways in the Wellington Region'). Currently Beef & Lamb are distributing over 500 copies of the guidelines to their members and GW compliance staff are providing copies to all dairy farms during this year's effluent monitoring inspections. We anticipate that landowners/occupiers in approximately 90% of the land area in the eastern part of the region will have copies of the guidelines by early 2012. The collaborative group of project partners has committed to meet every six months for the next period to guide the guideline's implementation.

Water metering industry workshop

In early December a workshop was held in Masterton for all water meter installers and verifiers in the region. The purpose of the workshop was to inform installers and verifiers about the approach GW was taking in response to new regulations for water metering and reporting. This included outlining GW's compliance strategy for water takes in the region and some other initiatives such as labelling of water meters and development of a water use data management system. Previously in May 2011, water take consent holders were advised about the new regulations at a series of water management workshops held in the Wairarapa. Overall, the workshops have been successful, with both consent holders and water meter installers/verifiers now fully informed about GW's expectations around water metering and reporting.

1.2.5 Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Regulation Income Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
1,121	1,200	1,200	-	Rates & Levies	2,243	2,400	2,400	-
23	23	-	23	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
745	1,172	700	472	External Revenue	1,429	1,750	1,400	350
-	-	-	-	Investment Revenue	-	-	-	-
77	110	63	47	Internal Revenue	166	218	126	92
1,966	2,505	1,963	542	TOTAL INCOME	3,838	4,368	3,926	442
				less:				
1,058	1,180	1,091	(89)	Personnel Costs	2,130	2,233	2,182	(51)
51	62	77	15	Materials,Supplies & Services	99	154	154	-
29	17	16	(1)	Travel & Transport Costs	51	32	32	-
206	513	123	(390)	Contractor & Consultants	401	688	246	(442)
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
313	265	270	5	Internal Charges	620	540	540	-
1,657	2,037	1,577	(460)	Total Direct Expenditure	3,301	3,647	3,154	(493)
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
121	16	-	(16)	Bad Debts	48	-	-	-
346	386	386	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	692	771	771	-
13	17	16	(1)	Depreciation	31	31	31	-
-	-	-	-	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	-	-	-	-
2,137	2,456	1,979	(477)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,072	4,449	3,956	(493)
(171)	49	(16)	65	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(234)	(81)	(30)	(51)
13	17	16	1	Add Back Depreciation	31	31	31	-
-	-	-	-	Other Non Cash	-	-	-	-
(2)	-	-	-	Net Asset Acquisitions	(47)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
(160)	66	-	66	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT & RESERVE MOVEMENTS	(250)	(50)	1	(51)
-	-	-	-	Debt Additions / (decrease)	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Debt Repaid	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	-	-	-	-
(160)	66	-	66	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(250)	(50)	1	(51)

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Regulation Capital Expenditure Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
2	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	46	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Net Capital Expenditure	46	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	46	-	-	-

1.2.6 Financial variance analysis

- Environmental Regulation has a net surplus of \$49k for the first half of the year which is \$65k better than budget and is a great result and reflects that timesheets and invoicing processes are working well
- The surplus is mainly due to \$104k restitution income carried forward from previous years. This is funding a number of restoration projects this year
- Consultants' costs include \$369k which have been recharged to consent applicants including Transmission Gully and Genesis wind farm pre application work and also Kaitoke Weir change to consent conditions. These costs have been recharged so both external income and internal income are more than budget
- The forecast has been updated by
 - \$442k for income & consultants costs so there is a nil impact on the bottom line

- \$51k increase in salaries over what was budgeted

1.2.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: Resource consent service	
<i>100% of resource consents will be processed within statutory timeframes and in compliance with the Resource Management Act</i>	121 consents were issued in the quarter, with one exceeding statutory timeframes.
<i>100% of consent decisions appealed to the Environment Court will be successfully defended</i>	No appeals were resolved in the last quarter.
<i>Two workshops on specific issues will be held for consent customers</i>	A workshop for water meter installers and verifiers was held in December as part of our implementation of the national Regulations for water metering and reporting.
Activity: Compliance and enforcement	
<i>100% of compliance inspections for all major consents with an individual monitoring programme will be completed</i>	No data on compliance monitoring to date is available for reporting.
<i>6.7% (1 in 15) of all consents not subject to an individual monitoring programme will be subject to a monitoring inspection</i>	No data on compliance monitoring to date is available for reporting.
<i>100% enforcement actions taken will be successful</i>	Ten prosecution charges were successfully defended in the last quarter, following the sentencing of Carterton District Council, Supreme Automotive Refinishers and Alex Burrell and Burrell Demolition Ltd.
Activity: Pollution prevention and control	
<i>100% of environmental pollution incidents will be responded to according to the following timeframes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Log only: no action required</i> • <i>Red (serious adverse environmental effect requiring immediate attention): 60 minutes</i> • <i>Yellow (serious environmental effect where no benefit will be gained by an immediate response): 24 hours</i> • <i>Blue (minor environmental effect not requiring immediate response): 7 days</i> 	The average incident response times were met for 95.7% of all incidents in this quarter. Response times were not met for all 'red' categorised incidents, with 11 incidents over the threshold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red – 30 minutes (target 60 minutes) • Yellow – 4.5 hours (target 24 hours) • Blue – 1.25 days (target 1 week)
<i>20 businesses will be audited for compliance with the Resource Management Act and regional plans</i>	Nine self audits were completed in the quarter.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Long Term Targets by June 2019	
Customer satisfaction surveys will show that 60% of recent applicants and existing consent holders rate their level of satisfaction with our resource consents as excellent or very good.	Customer satisfaction with our resource consents service is measured every four years. New data will be available in 2012.
The number of reported pollution incidents will decrease on an annual basis.	The number of reported pollution incidents in the quarter is 260, down from 307 in the previous quarter.

1.2.8 Risk analysis
None identified in this department.

1.3 Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

1.3.1 Overview

- Ongoing development of science options to inform the Plan review process
- Continuation of the substantial work around finalising the SOE reports
- Development of the Mangatarere Project – joint Environment Group and Catchment Management Group project
- New manager appointed
- Biodiversity needs assessment project – associated secondments to EMI to progress this work

1.3.2 Key results for the year

- Year long water quality programme commenced in the Pahaoa River
- Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) now available on GIS viewer on the GW website
- Sediment quality survey undertaken in Wellington harbour – joint process as finalised by a MOU with the Wellington City Council
- Ongoing sediment sampling in Porirua Harbour, in part to support the outcomes of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy

1.3.3 Looking ahead

- ‘Staggered’ release of SOE reports and media communication around them

- Continued development, and release of reports around minimum flow investigations in a variety of rivers across the region, and including lake Wairarapa
- New manager commences early March

1.3.4 Departmental activity

General

The more significant areas of work for the department over the quarter were:

- Data analysis and interpretation in relation to our eight technical reports summarising state and trends in the region's air, land and fresh and coastal water resources. These detailed reports are only compiled every five-six years and involve a considerable amount of staff time. Most of the reports have been drafted, with several completed and externally peer reviewed.
- Background planning and preparatory work in relation to the development of a water balance for Lake Wairarapa.
- Provision of a range of technical support to Environmental Regulation, Environmental Policy, Water Supply, Land Management and Flood Protection departments.

A summary of work carried out in all subject areas follows.

Air quality and meteorology

Work for much of this quarter focussed on completing the five-yearly technical report documenting state and trends in air quality across the region. We are now planning to set up a temporary monitoring station in Masterton about 1.2km southwest of the current monitoring site at Wairarapa College. This follows a study carried out by GNS Science (with support from Greater Wellington) during winter 2010 that found PM₁₀ concentrations measured at the current monitoring site were lower than those recorded at another location to the southwest. It is thought that night time air pollution from domestic fires is transported across the urban area by cold air draining from the Tararua Range. The National Environmental Standard for air quality stipulates that monitoring stations need to be located in the area that has the worst air quality. The Ministry for the Environment has directed councils to document the reasons for their choice of monitoring station location.

In collaboration with GNS Science and a Victoria University post-graduate student, in December we commenced monitoring arsenic levels in air at Wainuiomata using a standard method that can be compared with the national guideline for arsenic. A previous study to determine the sources of particulate matter in Wainuiomata showed that there are some winter-time days with elevated levels of arsenic which has been attributed to the burning of treated timber in domestic fires. The national guideline is an annual average which means at least one year's worth of monitoring results are needed.

Contaminated land

Information held on the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) is now available via a GIS viewer on the Greater Wellington website. The register holds information on sites that have had or do have an activity that has the potential to contaminate soil. Sites are categorised ranging from contaminated through remediated to “verified history of hazardous activity or industry”.

This initiative is expected to reduce considerably the number of queries we get from property valuers, developers and land agents seeking information on potential land contamination. Many of the queries relate to sites that are not on the register and if these can be eliminated by people using the web interface there will be a considerable time saving.

The information available includes the site name, the file reference, the activity type and the category. A similar but secure website has been developed specifically for territorial authority officers to access and includes the information on the public site plus further information in the register, particularly the site history.

The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil was gazetted in October and came into force on 1 January. This standard applies directly to territorial authorities and not to regional councils. However, there are implications for Greater Wellington in that we hold the register (SLUR) on behalf of the territorial authorities and this will be used to identify land to which the standard applies.

Soil quality

There is nothing of significance to report for this quarter.

Water quality and ecology

(i) Rivers and streams

Work this quarter focussed on data analysis associated with the five-yearly technical report documenting state and trends in river water health across the region. In December, we also started work on ecological habitat assessments of our 55 Rivers State of the Environment (RSoE) monitoring sites. These assessments are being undertaken in line with recently published national protocol.

A year-long water quality programme continues in the Pahaoa River catchment in the eastern Wairarapa; water samples are being collected from six sites at two-monthly intervals and tested for a range of physical, chemical and microbiological water quality variables, including nutrients, sediment and faecal indicator bacteria. The Pahaoa catchment is extremely large and isn't currently represented in the RSoE monitoring network.

(ii) Lakes

Work this quarter focussed on completing the five-yearly technical report documenting state and trends in lake water quality and ecology across the region. Information from the report was fed into Greater Wellington's application to the Ministry for the Environment's Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-up Fund in relation to Wairarapa Moana.

Initial planning has been undertaken to conduct water quality sampling in tributaries of Lake Wairarapa over the summer. The primary focus is on measuring nutrient inputs so as to improve our understanding of the sources of elevated nutrients in the lake. The proposed sampling is linked with the development of a water balance for the lake (see *hydrology* section) and will also include testing of shallow groundwater samples for nutrients and selected trace elements.

(iii) Estuarine and marine waters

Monitoring

The 2011/12 survey of sediment quality in Wellington Harbour was undertaken between late October and late November. As the Wellington City Council is required to monitor sediment quality at five-yearly intervals at a number of the sites as part of its global stormwater consent granted earlier we agreed (through a Memorandum of Understanding) that the survey would be a joint undertaking with EMI managing the process.

Wriggle Coastal Management Ltd has been commissioned to undertake the annual ecological assessments of intertidal estuary health in the Waikanae, Hutt and Whareama estuaries, as well as Porirua Harbour. These assessments will be undertaken in February 2012, after which future monitoring requirements will be re-evaluated.

Monthly water sampling is set to continue at six sites in Porirua Harbour. This work, which commenced in January 2011 and was originally scheduled to run for just 12 months, has been extended for another six months to help assess the potential for seagrass restoration in the harbour, a priority action identified in the draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy. The data, which include nutrients and turbidity measurements, also provide an important water quality baseline for the harbour.

Investigations

EMI science staff continue to work with the Porirua City Council and the other agencies involved in the development of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy. Coastal and land management consultants have prepared catchment land use and sediment "source to sink" models for the harbour and catchment, a priority action identified at the April 2011 Porirua Harbour and catchment workshop hosted by Greater Wellington. A follow-up workshop will be held in March this year to discuss how the modelling results can be used to define management actions and assist with developing objectives and rules for the next Regional Plan.

(iv) Recreational waters

The summer recreational water quality monitoring programme began in the week of 14 November 2011. Under this programme – jointly carried out with four of the region’s territorial authorities – microbiological water quality at 61 marine and 20 freshwater sites is assessed weekly through until the end of March. The number of marine sites is 13 fewer than in 2010/11 and reflects the outcomes of meetings held with the territorial authorities and Regional Public Health during September. The primary purpose of these meetings was to review the current Suitability for Recreation Grades (SFRG) for the region's beaches and rivers. A SFRG is assigned to each recreation site and is determined by combining the last five years of summer water quality monitoring results and a qualitative assessment of microbiological risks in the catchment. A report on the updated SFRGs is currently being drafted, along with the five-yearly technical report documenting state and trends in recreational water quality across the region.

There have been no major problems with regard to faecal indicator bacteria counts at any of our bathing sites in the summer to date (most exceedances of the national recreational water quality guidelines have been associated with heavy rainfall in the 48 hours preceding sampling). However, toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) has been a problem in the Waipoua River, with widespread growth at our central Masterton monitoring site on this river from early December through until early January leading to warning signs being placed at various locations along the river. Although frequent freshes in the Hutt and Waikanae rivers have resulted in little cyanobacteria growth so far this summer, warning signs were put in place along these rivers prior to Christmas as the algae can rapidly spread during warm, dry summer conditions.

Following discussion with territorial authorities and Regional Public Health it was agreed that this year only one level of toxic algae warning sign would be used as opposed to the two (alert and action) used in the past. The territorial authorities felt that using two levels of signage was highly time consuming and that because not all river reaches are monitored there was often uncertainty about where the action level warning signs should be erected. It was agreed that the alert level sign has the appropriate level of information that warns river users what to look for and what actions to take if they see cyanobacteria. It was also felt that more effort should be put into providing general information to river users on the toxic algae risk (e.g. ensuring brochures are in libraries, vets, pet shops etc).

(v) Groundwater

Work for much of this quarter focussed on the five-yearly technical report documenting state and trends in groundwater quality across the region. We also met with GNS to discuss their proposed research to extend the knowledge of surface water-groundwater interactions as well as investigating sources and fate of contaminants using the Mangatarere catchment in Carterton as a model. Greater Wellington's contribution to the study will involve the facilitation of field sampling and assist in the collection of water samples from several groundwater and stream in areas previously identified during the comprehensive Mangatarere Stream catchment investigation (completed in 2010). GNS will then analyse

samples to determine the ratios of H and O stable isotopes in water, and N and O isotopes in nitrate.

Hydrology

Monitoring

There was nothing of significance to note during the quarter in terms of hydrological conditions – spring (September–November) rainfall was close to average across the region and there were no significant flood or low flow events.

Work continued on the rebuild of the Waikanae flow station which was damaged by fire last January. A temporary site is still operating sufficiently well.

A key science focus has been on the analysis of water use, rainfall, river flow and groundwater level data for completion of a technical report documenting the current state of and trends in water allocation across the region.

Investigations

(vi) Water allocation investigations

Since the technical reports on our assessment of groundwater/surface water interaction in the Wairarapa Valley were published in mid 2011, staff focus has been on progressing extension work needed to support the implementation of the proposed allocation management framework across the region. An external consultant was engaged to build an ‘allocation calculator’ for the Wairarapa Valley. This spreadsheet model integrates resource consent data with the principles of the proposed allocation framework to allow the river flow depletion effects of various groundwater abstraction scenarios to be calculated.

Aquifer pumping test guidelines have been reviewed and finalised. These guidelines provide best-practice advice on how to design, perform and analyse pumping tests to provide a sufficiently high standard of information to support resource consent applications to take groundwater within the Wellington region. These guidelines are intended to be used by groundwater consultants involved in designing, undertaking and analysing test data, and by staff at Greater Wellington who are processing consent applications that include aquifer test information.

A report documenting minimum flow investigations on the Tauherenikau River is near finalisation, while a discussion document on the merits of a new minimum flow assessment for the Waikanae River is being reviewed. The findings from these investigations and reports are being fed into a summary report on recommended minimum flows for the region that can be used to help develop policy options for the next Regional Plan. The summary report will provide recommendations on both revised minimum flow values for selected rivers and streams as well as further analyses needed to identify core allocation options.

(vii) Hydrology investigations

Plans were finalised to investigate the water balance of Lake Wairarapa this summer, with the view to informing the review of water allocation policies needed for the next the Regional Plan. Meteorological station equipment and a sideways-looking acoustic doppler unit were purchased; these instruments will help establish real-time evaporation and lake outflow components, respectively. Installation is planned for the summer quarter. Spearpoint shallow monitoring bores were installed at several locations around the lake shore in November; water level is being continuously logged in each spearpoint and these will also serve as additional water quality sampling points (see *Lakes* section).

A monthly flow gauging programme was established in the Booths Creek catchment in October (to be continued through the summer). The aim is to better understand the flow interactions between the natural creek and the Taratahi Water Race and refine the flow statistics so that sustainable abstraction policies can be developed.

We are close to receiving a final draft of a consultant's report documenting assessments made during 2010 of the condition of 10 wetlands in the region thought to be vulnerable to water abstraction. The assessments looked at wetland hydrology, vegetation condition and water quality, with the report noting both threats to these and recommendations for management and monitoring. This information will be useful for developing a planning framework for wetlands.

Mangatarere Stream catchment pilot project

This project is an outcome of the Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation (completed in 2010) which found that poor water quality in the stream was impacted by intensive land use practices and discharges from the Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. The recommendations included communicating the key findings of this investigation to iwi, landowners and residents with the view to establishing joint Greater Wellington, iwi and community initiatives to address some of the issues raised in the report.

A public meeting was held on 14 December as the first significant engagement step in this project. This was attended by around 100 people who, following brief presentations, met in eight groups where they considered three questions:

- What further information do I need?
- What do I want for the future of the Mangatarere?
- What can I do?

In spite of fairly large groups this worked well with an overall willingness to engage. Key points were captured with the "quiet ones" able to write on post-it notes.

We are still working on evaluating the responses but themes that have emerged include: the need to know more on where the pollution is coming from (the science in understandable language), more about stormwater, the desire for a clean stream and stable banks, and information on where there is physical access to the stream.

Plans for the future include identifying and reaching key parties who were not at the meeting, running targeted workshops, a stream walk and another public meeting.

Cultural values of Wairarapa waterways

The “Cultural Values for Wairarapa Waterways Report” compiled by Ohau Plants Ltd has been received. This report was commissioned to assist in the identification of in-stream values which forms an important part of our work on setting minimum flows in rivers and streams. As well as serving this purpose, the report is also a valuable resource for others who have an interest in Wairarapa rivers and streams, particularly those who work in and around these waterways.

Biodiversity monitoring needs assessment

This project, which is looking at the nature and extent of biodiversity monitoring, particularly state of environment monitoring, that should be undertaken is at an early stage with a target completion date of 31 March.

NZ Hydrological Society conference

Several staff were involved with the NZ Hydrological Society conference held in Wellington during the second week of December. One staff member was chair of the organising committee and another presented a paper on trends in groundwater level across the region. The conference culminated with a day-long field trip to Wairarapa Moana where several staff spoke about the health of the lake, management challenges and proposed future investigations.

Technical support for other departments

A lot of technical support was provided to other Greater Wellington departments during the quarter:

- Environmental Regulation – technical advice was given on a range of resource consent applications, including several water takes, the Castlehill wind farm (water abstraction) and the Waikanae water supply (river recharge) consent, Carterton’s wastewater discharge and a major residential development in Duck Creek. Input was also provided on several consent monitoring reports.
- Environmental Policy – assistance was provided in establishing a contract with NIWA to identify marine areas of regional significance for inclusion in the next Regional Plan. A report and accompanying list of marine areas that are rare, unique, diverse or representative will be prepared by late April 2012. We also helped coordinate an expert-panel style workshop in November to assess supplementary flow surface water allocation options for the next Regional Plan. Information from this workshop is also contributing to Greater Wellington’s work associated with the Wairarapa Water Use Project. Our contribution to this project during the quarter included provision of

hydrological information and a brief presentation to the Wairarapa Water Use Project Reference Group in December.

- Water Supply – Environmental monitoring staff provided advice on deploying additional monitoring sensors (mainly for dissolved oxygen and water temperature measurements) on the Hutt River and its tributaries. This work is being undertaken as part of Water Supply’s consent monitoring requirements while the Te Marua lakes are upgraded. Technical support was also provided to Water Supply to scope and undertake monitoring of surface water flows and shallow groundwater adjacent to the Hutt River to help inform the review of their Sustainable Yield Model for the Hutt Aquifer. Concurrent flow gaugings were undertaken on the Hutt River in December and we are assisting with the installation of six shallow piezometers next to the Hutt River.
- Land Management – along with Biodiversity department staff, we provided information and technical advice to assist with Greater Wellington’s application to the Ministry for the Environment’s Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-up Fund in relation to Wairarapa Moana. If successful the funding applied for would enhance our ability to develop a water balance and nutrient model for the lake.
- Flood Protection – we have co-ordinated a post-remediation assessment of the Waiwhetu Stream to be carried out by Wriggle Coastal Management Ltd in late February 2012.

1.3.5 Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Monitoring Income Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
1,978	2,131	2,131	-	Rates & Levies	3,955	4,261	4,261	-
-	-	-	-	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
81	28	5	23	External Revenue	165	10	10	-
2	2	-	2	Investment Revenue	4	-	-	-
55	55	60	(5)	Internal Revenue	130	120	120	-
2,116	2,216	2,196	20	TOTAL INCOME	4,254	4,391	4,391	-
				less:				
828	931	942	11	Personnel Costs	1,692	1,902	1,884	(18)
125	214	113	(101)	Materials,Supplies & Services	334	262	262	-
41	40	45	5	Travel & Transport Costs	106	90	90	-
352	206	90	(116)	Contractor & Consultants	850	818	818	-
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
199	195	184	(11)	Internal Charges	419	369	369	-
1,545	1,586	1,374	(212)	Total Direct Expenditure	3,401	3,441	3,423	(18)
24	18	19	1	Financial Costs	45	37	37	-
2	4	-	(4)	Bad Debts	-	-	-	-
276	307	307	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	553	615	615	-
91	129	132	3	Depreciation	183	264	264	-
(4)	-	(13)	(13)	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(4)	(8)	(8)	-
1,934	2,044	1,819	(225)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,178	4,349	4,331	(18)
182	172	377	(205)	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	76	42	60	(18)
91	129	132	(3)	Add Back Depreciation	183	264	264	-
(4)	-	(13)	13	Other Non Cash	(4)	(8)	(8)	-
(57)	-	(143)	143	Net Asset Acquisitions	3	(266)	(266)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
212	301	353	(52)	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT & RESERVE MOVEMENTS	258	32	50	(18)
28	-	-	-	Debt Additions / (decrease)	(66)	-	-	-
(84)	(81)	(90)	9	Debt Repaid	(167)	(180)	(180)	-
182	77	130	(53)	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	101	130	130	-
338	297	393	(96)	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	126	(18)	-	(18)

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Monitoring Capital Expenditure Statement 6 months ending 31 December 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
29	-	178	178	Total Asset Acquisitions	61	309	309	-
28	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	(62)	-	-	-
-	-	(35)	(35)	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(9)	(43)	(43)	-
57	-	143	143	Net Capital Expenditure	(10)	266	266	-
-	-	-	-	Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
57	-	143	143	Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	(10)	266	266	-

1.3.6 Financial variance analysis

- Environmental Monitoring department has a net surplus of \$172k which is \$205k worse than budget mainly due to earlier than planned spend on consultants
- Materials spend is \$101k more than budget mainly due to the purchase of water meter software which was budgeted under consultants but spent under materials
- The forecast has been updated to include an additional \$18k for salary increases over what was budgeted

1.3.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: State of the environment monitoring	
<i>Greater Wellington's managers with responsibility for water supply and consents will be notified within one working day of low groundwater levels in the Waiwhetu aquifer</i>	No notifications were required because the Waiwhetu aquifer was well above the low level warning in the period.
<i>Water samples will be taken weekly throughout the bathing season (1 November – 31 March) and tested for the presence of bacteria. A traffic light warning framework (see below) will be used at the sites and on Greater Wellington's website to inform the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green – low or no public health risk • Amber – alert mode requiring follow-up monitoring • Red – action required and beach closed 	Information relating to the 2011-2012 bathing season is being collected and is published on the Greater Wellington website as the results of testing become available
<i>Real-time environmental data will be available on Greater Wellington's website throughout the year</i>	Real time data relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Meteorology • River flows • Rainfall • Groundwater levels • Lake level • Soil moisture • Tide level is available on the Greater Wellington website.
<i>Monitoring the state of the region's environment (air, water, soil) will be undertaken and annual report cards containing summary information of this work will be prepared to the Council's satisfaction</i>	State of Environment technical reports are in the process of being drafted and when published will be accompanied by summary information.
<i>Targeted investigations will be completed in a timely manner and to the Council's satisfaction</i>	No reports of investigations were completed in the first quarter.
Activity: Floodwarning service	
<i>All flood warnings will be issued within 30 minutes of alarms being triggered in accordance with established flood procedures</i>	Flood warnings were issued in a timely manner. There were no significant events.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Long Term Targets by June 2019	
There will be no recorded instances where air quality breaches the national environmental standards.	The national standard for air quality has not been breached in the region since the winter of 2010.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bathing sites (coastal and freshwater) will comply with the national recreational water-quality guidelines • Nitrate-nitrogen concentration in groundwater will not exceed 50% of the New Zealand Drinking-Water Standards • Water quality in key streams, rivers and lakes will be maintained or enhanced 	These targets will be assessed when statistics are available for the 2011/12 year.
River flows and groundwater levels will be maintained above the minimum levels.	Minimum levels were maintained.
No decline in soil quality.	This target will be assessed following the annual soil sampling in autumn.

1.3.8 Risk analysis

We have reviewed our risks and no changes are required to the risk register.