



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Howard Markland, Pollution Control Co-ordinator

Pollution Control Report for the Period 21 September to 10 November 2002

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work recently undertaken by the Wellington Regional Council's Pollution Control team.

2. Background

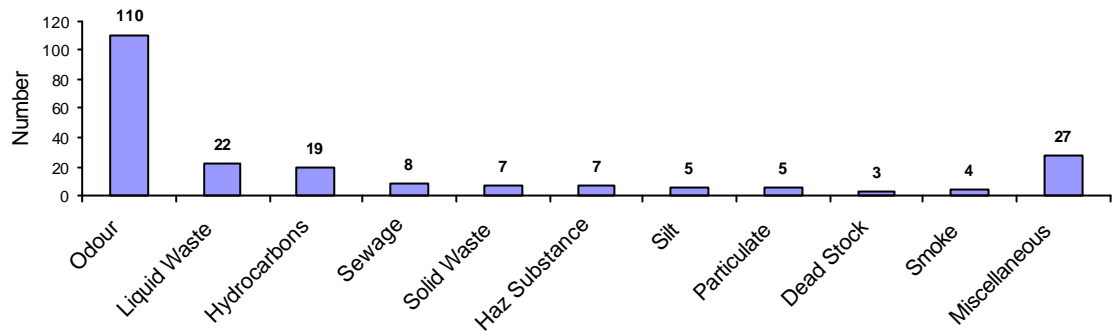
The Resource Investigations Department provides pro-active and responsive services to combat environmental pollution in the Western Wellington Region, and addresses non-compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). These pollution control initiatives are summarised below:

- **24-hour Incident Response**, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans. The Council's Consents Management Department also responds to complaints attributed to consented activities that occur during office hours.
- **Take Charge** is an environmental assessment and education programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- **Special Projects** include the development of resource materials, or targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, characterise environmental problems, and define our priorities for future initiatives.
- **Selected Land Use Register** is a database of sites in the Region where hazardous activities/industries are known or suspected to have been present. This database is maintained in accordance with proposed guidelines issued by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

3. Incidents

A total of 217 complaints were received during this reporting period, which equates to 4.25 complaints per day. The types of complaints received during this reporting period are summarised in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Type of Incident Complaints



The majority of complaints were odour related, and attributed in the main to an asphalt plant in Tawa and facilities at the Carey's Gully complex. The most significant incidents that occurred during this period are summarised below:

- Fire at a paper recycling depot in Seaview. A total of 14 appliances were involved in fighting this fire, generating large quantities of fire water which entered the stormwater system. Environmental contamination associated with this emergency discharge was not considered to be significant.
- Diesel spill (200 litres) on Western Hutt Road following truck fuel tank rupture. Contaminated wash water contained and removed by sump truck.
- Dead eels in Waiwhetu Stream. Unable to investigate as notification was two days after the event. No evidence of environmental contamination that may have caused this incident.
- Leaking LPG container on railway wagon at Ferry Terminal. Valve temporarily sealed by NZ Fire Service. No adverse environmental impact.

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and reaching the source of the complaint (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that officers from both Consents Management and the Pollution Control Team achieved a high level of conformance during this reporting period.

Response Level (Response Time)	Average Response Time	Conformance Level
Red (60 minutes)	40 minutes	89 %
Yellow (24 hours)	1.0 hours	100 %
Blue (30 days)	4.7 days	100 %

Table 1. Response Time Performance Summary

4. Take Charge

In-house inspections of Wellington Regional Council facilities have now begun, and are detailed in the report to this Committee by the Environmental Co-ordination Department.

5. Special Projects

An evaluation of the Kaitoke Stream was conducted in response to allegations of illegal sewage discharges to the stream. Although investigations are not yet completed, some bridges and water abstractions were identified as requiring further investigation with respect to their legality.

We are working with Territorial Local Authorities in the Region to prepare a standardised publication for stormwater protection, as part of our Pollution Solutions series. A first draft of this publication is proposed for the end of November.

We are working with Hutt Valley Health and Territorial Local Authorities to update the existing Response Manual for Sewage Discharges. This is involving a substantial re-write.

The Pollution Control Team has formalised its incident response protocols, to assist Pollution Control Officers and ensure standardisation of its service.

6. Selected Land Use Register

There are presently a total of 1403 entries in the Selected Land Use Register, 903 (64%) of which have been verified. It is proposed to identify all sites where hazardous activities and industries have taken place across the Region by 2006, which is ahead of the MfE target date of 2008.

7. Enforcement Action

There has been no enforcement action during this reporting period.

8. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

(1) *receive the report; and*

(2) *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary for the Reporting Period