

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report - May 2003

1. Kaiwharawhara Catchment Community Resource Kit (John Holmes)

The Community Resource Kit is a joint project of the Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council. It reflects the shared approach that is being taken by the two Councils to managing the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The kit was launched by Councillor Terry McDavitt and WCC Councillor Andy Foster at the Otari-Wilton Bush Information Centre on 12 April.

The kit contains information about the stream, its plant and animal life, its geography, and the groups working on its rehabilitation and enhancement. It provides a vision that Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council, the tangata whenua, and others can work towards, and a number of publications and information sheets to guide re-vegetation and management. It contains, for example, an innovative stream pollution “pinwheel” designed by Otari School children while doing the Take Action programme.

In many respects, however, the kit is a marker of the point the community and agencies have reached in relation to the Kaiwharawhara stream’s renewal, recording who is working there and what has been achieved. With the Kaiwharawhara set to become one of the first waterways we give greater attention to under the new ten year plan, the kit provides a useful reminder of the contribution that has been made already by Greater Wellington. Some of these initiatives in the last three years are:

- Setting up and training community water monitoring groups to collect information about the health of the stream
- Supporting the Otari Trust through *Take Care* funding to re-vegetate the stream side from Otari to Ian Galloway Park
- Extensive weed removal throughout the catchment by the Biosecurity Department
- *Take Care* funding for the Ngaio Progressive Association’s planting guide to the Korimako Stream (the branch of the stream through Ngaio and Khandallah)

- Funding an ecological assessment of the water ways throughout the catchment (with Wellington City Council)
- Working with Otari School through *Take Action* and funding their fridge magnet pinwheel action project.
- Preparing an action plan for the lower reaches of the stream, and developing and rehabilitating the estuary (with the Treliwick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group, CentrePort and the inter-island ferry terminal company)
- Working with businesses in the lower valley to commence the restoration of key segments of the stream margins.

In all of these instances, we have worked with partners to achieve environmental gains for the stream, an approach that will be continued over the next four years.

2. Dunes and Escarpments Action Plan (Tim Porteous; Jo Fagan)

Work has started on an action plan to guide Greater Wellington's work in the area of biodiversity protection and management on dunes, escarpments and other coastal features.

The plan will prioritise these resources and determine how the Council will provide protection and management assistance through its Key Native Ecosystem, Care Group and QEII National Trust assistance programmes.

While the above mentioned staff from my department are involved in this project, others from the Wairarapa and Landcare Divisions as well as representatives of the Department of Conservation are also on the team doing this work.

This work represents one of the last pieces of the Biodiversity "jig-saw" that has been developed across Greater Wellington over the last three years. A progress report on the implementation of the biodiversity initiatives will appear in the next Committee round.

3. Take Action (Eleanor Phillips; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan)

With Term One finishing on 10 April, the three schools doing Take Action were working on their action projects. Mt Cook School students were very active and completed a number of projects. They raised funds for a worm farm and purchased potting mix to develop a school garden, sent "don't pollute our streams" fliers to the homes of all students, gave presentations on their findings, and invented anti-pollution games for the younger children in the school.

Porirua School is planning a major planting on the school grounds in which all students will participate. Titahi Bay School has yet to confirm its Action Projects with us.

In Term 2 the schools participating will be Berhampore Primary, Holy Cross, and Pukeatua School. Pukeatua School will pilot Take Action in te reo Maori with the assistance of two former teachers, kaumatua Jean Puketapu and Parae Wirepa. The middle school syndicate and the whanau unit will undertake the programme. Opaki School and Wainuiomata Intermediate will be doing the self guided programme. We will get these schools off to a good start by delivering the multi-media presentation to them (as we now do with all self-guided schools).

Over the last three months we have been working on scoping and determining the direction Take Action might take over the next 3-5 years. Our proposals for the Committee's consideration are contained in a separate report to the Committee.

4. Appointment of Environmental Education Co-ordinator

I am very pleased to announce that Ellie Phillips has been appointed as the Environmental Education Co-ordinator, filling the vacancy created on Jo Campbell's departure. Ellie has been a member of the Action Crew for a year.

5. Take Care Programme Update (Nigel Clarke, et al.)

Care groups continue to work on their projects, with all groups developing momentum as the year has progressed and the planting season approaches. The following exemplifies progress being made:

- A new group for 2003, the O Te Pua Group has completed the first stage of a willow control programme, employer Conservation Corp workers to poison the willows.
- NIWA has completed the penguin project at Evans Bay and is organising a promotional event to launch the project.
- The Fensham wetland group has fenced and planted parts of the wetland. One of the group's members has been trained to undertake vegetation monitoring.
- The Waimeha wetland group has planted a small area but is awaiting further rain before continuing.
- The Waimapehi Stream (Pukerua Bay) group has made good progress constructing an "outdoor classroom" and a shade house for growing plants.
- The Manuka Street Group in Masterton has made impressive progress on its stream and open space re-vegetation. The group is preparing to do more planting this winter.

- Another new group, working on the Henley wetlands in Masterton, has commissioned a landscape designer to prepare a design for the restoration of the wetlands.
- At Days Bay, the dune restoration project is advancing steadily. A public meeting was held to discuss the project and a number of community groups and businesses have offered support. This year's funds will be used to buy native species to begin the replanting programme.
- The Silverstream Group has had a large area of blackberry cleared alongside the stream, undertaken working bees, and developed a concept plan to guide their efforts. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which leases the neighbouring land, and the Silverstream Railway Society have co-operated with the group to enable these actions to occur.
- The Te Horo group has been developing an overall project plan for the next three years and detailed plans for restoring the coastal wetland and Mangaone streamside.
- The Waitohu group has worked with local landowners to complete the fencing of a major wetland at the estuary, as well as carrying out its regular water quality monitoring programme.
- After a major weed clearance exercise, topsoil has been laid on the banks of the Moehau stream in readiness for planting this year.
- The freshwater wetland at Pauatahanui has been extensively planted (the majority of the funding and work creating the wetland occurred in 2001-02). The growth of plants placed on the margins of the wetland last year has been excellent – and makes a spectacular display.
- After a careful consultation programme with local residents, the Pukerua Bay Coastal group is now in a position to make progress with its plan for restoring the foreshore.

Despite this level of activity, as in previous years, the major part of the expenditure for most groups will occur in the next three months as they begin to re-vegetate their chosen areas.

We have also been progressing a health and safety guide for care groups and people undertaking water quality monitoring. The safety of those taking part in these activities is of paramount importance (the volunteers, as well as staff) and we take a very active approach to achieve a safe working environment. The guide will be completed and printed by the end of the financial year.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report - May 2003

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plans (Murray McLea)

Proposed Regional Plan Changes were publicly notified on 9 February 2002. The proposed changes include withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan, changes to bore rules on the Kapiti Coast, and other small changes to all the Regional Plans except the Regional Coastal Plan. Hearings took place on 19 November 2002, and decisions notified on 25 January 2003.

Three submitters have referred decisions to the Environment Court. We have lodged replies to the 3 references to the Environment Court on the decisions.

1.2 Regional Coastal Plan (Stephen Karaitiana)

A Councillor workshop on the Regional Coastal Plan changes was held on the 26 March. We are now working on a plan change in relation to noise in the port area, to be consistent with upcoming changes in the WCC district plan. We are also working on a discussion document for aquaculture.

An affidavit has been lodged with the Environment Court that seeks to amend the Regional Coastal Plan. The amendments will clarify items in the Plan that relate to CentrePorts applications to dredge in Wellington Harbour and to discharge contaminants. A map will be included that shows the "Harbour Entrance Area. Two discharge rules will be changed to ensure they are consistent with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)

A public lecture about marine mammals will be held at Te Papa on Thursday 1 May. The evening is the second of three lectures to be held at Te Papa.

During March, we held series of focus group meeting with specific communities of interest to discover what would best fulfil the community's interest in the marine environment.

The project web site is live, and can be found at www.wrc.govt.nz/em/harstud.htm. A student has been employed to collect information and put in into the meta database.

A consultant is working on a scoping study for marine classification within the case study area.

2.2 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

The Wetland Action Plan is now being printed and will be sent to submitters and other relevant groups and individuals.

2.3 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

The model (Point, Click, Fish) for freshwater fish that we have been developing with Massey University is now complete. Work continues to make it more user friendly for use by consents staff and resource consent applicants.

Massey University are being engaged to do a literature review of information on freshwater fish. We will use the results of the Massey work to provide information that will help resource.

A streamside management event has been arranged for Thursday 8 May in the woolshed at Jonathon Smiths property in Waikanae. Jonathon's farm is one of the riparian pilot project sites. There will be presentations about Greater Wellington's Strategy for Achieving Riparian Management and Fonterra's Environmental Assessment proposal. There will also be a practical demonstration about the plants to plant and the weeds to control.

2.4 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the committee.

3. Iwi matters

The first Iwi technical workshop of the year was held during March. The workshop focussed on the LTCCP and the Iwi representatives were happy with the direction of the *Take 10* document.

A joint Councillor/Iwi workshop was also held during March. This was about the Local Government Act 2002 and gave Councillors and Iwi the opportunity to discuss how Greater Wellington might react to the parts of the Act that relate to Māori.

4. Reporting on the State of the Environment

Most of the feedback on the Annual State of the Environment Report was received from educational organisations, local authorities and environmental organisations. Topics that people are most interested in hearing about are stream and river quality, coastal water quality, biodiversity and 'all of it', with

all respondents stating that they thought the document was either ‘interesting’ or ‘very interesting’. Most people (78%) thought that the document was pitched at the right level, 13% thought it was too technical and 9% thought it was too simple.

5. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)

Stakeholder Needs Analysis: Meetings have been held with all territorial authorities as part of this project. A workshop and discussions have also been held with utility companies, and consultants are currently working on a community survey. The purpose of this project is to find out whether the data we collect and supply to each of these groups is useful, and how it can be improved or made more relevant. A report on this project is currently underway.

6. Resource Management Amendment Bill No.2

The Resource Management Amendment Bill received its first reading on 20 March 2003. The Bill has been referred to the Local Government and Environment Committee, which will report back on the Bill on 28 April 2003. The Committee will not be calling for submissions as the issues addressed in the new Bill are essentially the same as reported back by the Local Government and Environment Committee in May 2001, with several minor changes, including the following:

- a focused notification process for minor effect applications where affected party approvals have not been obtained (limited notification);
- not providing the ability to challenge non-notification decisions on resource consent applications in the Environment Court (i.e. it will maintain the status quo);
- clarifying the implementation of national environment standards. In particular to remove the potential for inconsistency between a national environmental standard and a rule or resource consent, by ensuring the more restrictive provisions prevail.

Councillors received an update on the Resource Management Amendment Bill at the Environment Committee meeting of 28 November 2002, and will continue to be kept informed.

7. Strategic Planning Day

The Resource Policy Department spent a day of strategic planning at the Belmont Regional Park. The State of the Environment Report and Regional Policy Statement review are major projects scheduled for the next triennium, and the day provided the opportunity for staff discuss ideas, work programmes, information requirements and the direction of these documents.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report - May 2003

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

31 March 2003	Rainfall : Kapakapanui
6 April 2003	Rainfall; Wainui Reservoir, Orongorongo Swamp, Kapakapanui.

1.2 Low flow alarms

The Resource Investigations Department also provides a low flow monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. When specified low flows or artesian water levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following low flow and groundwater alarms were received and responded to:

Sea Water Intrusion Level Alarms	McEwan Park
Step Down Level Alarms	Mangaone Stream, Otaki River, Wainuiomata River @ Manuka Track, Porirua Stream, Akatarawa River.
Low Flow Alarms	Waitohu Stream, Waikanae River, Wainuiomata River at Leonard Wood Park.

In response to these low flow alarms staff have undertaken a large number of low flow gaugings, particularly in Kapiti Coast District.

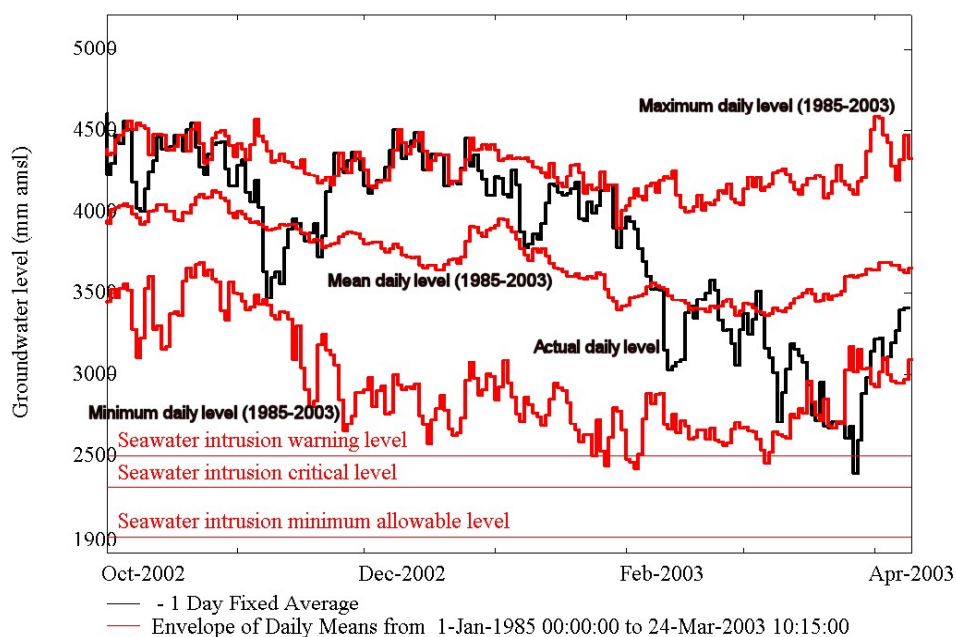
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

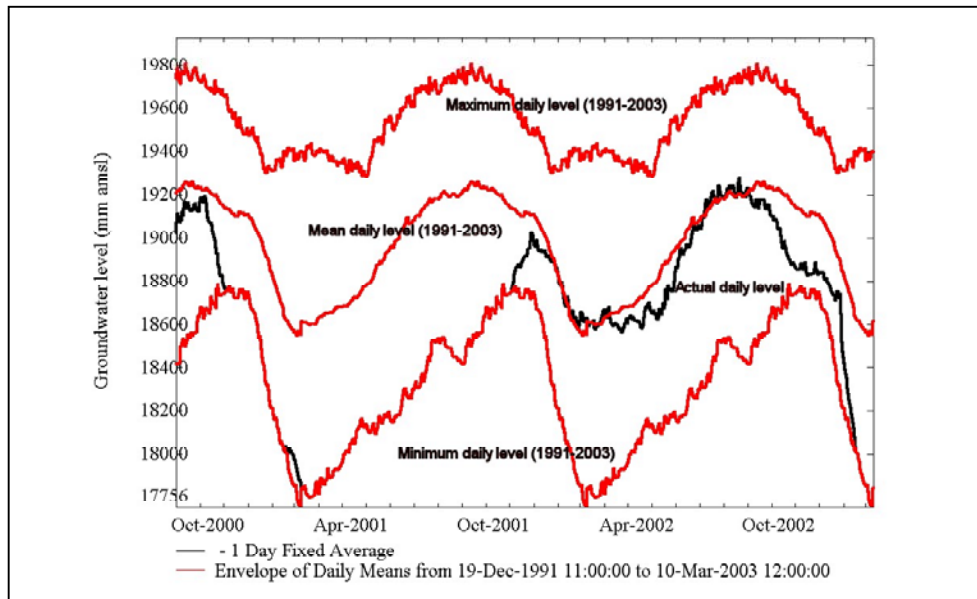
The following graphs present a comparison between water levels recorded this year and historical summary data for the McEwan Park and Hautere Plains sites.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer



Artesian pressure measured at our McEwan Park monitoring bore on the Petone foreshore dropped markedly at the beginning of February in response to reduced river flow and extensive use of the aquifer. Use of the Gear Island well-field by Utility Services exacerbated the decline, and on 27 March the first seawater intrusion alarm level was breached. A subsequent rise in river level and reduction in demand has seen the aquifer level recover 900mm.

Kapiti Coast



The groundwater level record from our Centrepoint monitoring site on the Hautere Plain shows that since October 2002 rainfall recharged aquifers have dropped to below average levels in response to low rainfall. The decline in water level at the Centrepoint site accelerated in early February and from mid February the groundwater has been at record low levels. In mid April this site will be visited and the data collected and examined to check whether the rainfall in early April has prompted a recovery.

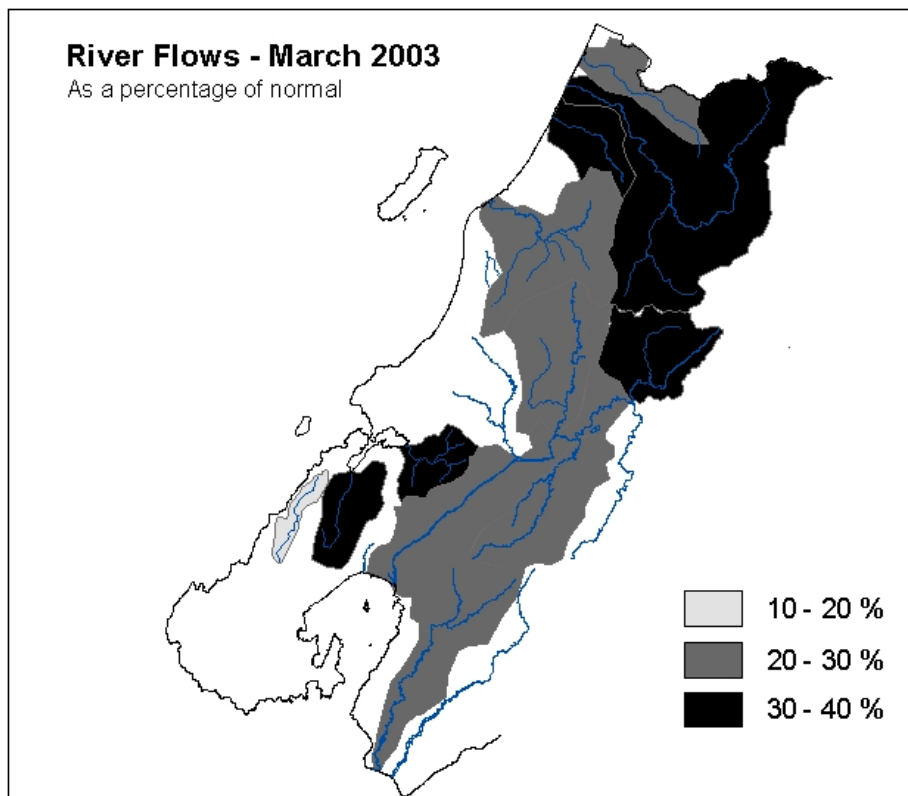
River recharged aquifers on the Kapiti Coast have responded in their usual manner to reduced river flow and have fallen to below-average levels.

2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Very low rainfall totals were recorded across the Region during March and stream flows suffered as a result. In places in Wellington, Hutt and Wainuiomata only 20% to 30% of the normal March rainfall fell and in the Tararua Ranges and the Kapiti Coast only 40% of normal rainfall was received. Greater Wellington's raingauge at Otaki went 24 consecutive days without recording any rainfall.

The low rainfall caused the Region's rivers to drop to very low levels during March. The following figure shows the March flows at our monitoring sites as a percentage of their averages. No river or stream recorded more than 40% of its average flow.

The Waitohu Stream and Waikanae River have been particularly hard hit – receding to very low flows and Water Shortage Directions were imposed as a result. There were only three days when the flow in the Waitohu Stream was above its Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow and it dried up in its middle reaches. The Waikanae River fell below its low flow level of 750 l/s for 12 days. The drought in both catchments is estimated to be about a 1 in 10 year event.



2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air

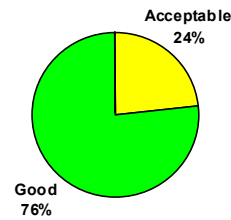
	the guideline	quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Results for the past six weeks at Upper Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



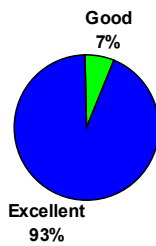
24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt



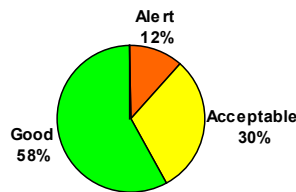
Note: NO₂ data not available for the period.

Results for the past six weeks at Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt

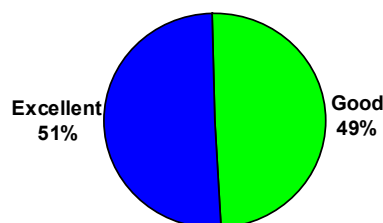


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt



Results for the Past Six Weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro

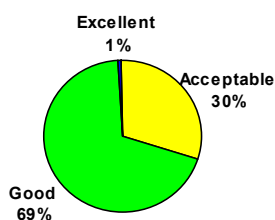


Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

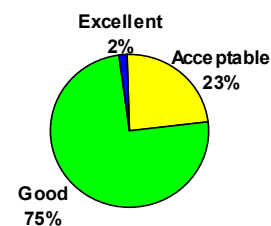
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



2.4 Stormwater investigations

Progress on our major stormwater investigation continues to be hindered by the lack of suitable rainfall events. To date we have only managed to sample at three of eleven intended sites. We need an intense period of rainfall for about 2 to 4 hours duration to enable our sampling objectives to be met. Staff have been carefully monitoring forecasts and watching weather radar but have not yet been able to complete the desired sampling.

Work is progressing on the development of an outline for a regional stormwater strategy. A regionally consistent stormwater strategy is considered to be essential for achieving sustainable solutions across the Region. However, we are still determining exactly what such a strategy would cover and identifying the process which would need to be followed to ensure that all local authorities in the Region buy into the concept.

3. Pollution control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Unwanted agricultural chemical collection

The final sweep of unwanted agricultural chemical collections was completed during February. A summary of this project is reported separately.

Paula Hammond
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report - May 2003

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 9 April 2003 we received 319 consents. This compares with 295 consents received for the same period last year. March was an extremely busy month in which we received 63 consents (twice the amount normally received in a month).

All consents have been processed within statutory time frames.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals

We are still waiting to hear from all the State Highway appellants as to whether they are continuing to proceed with appeals against WRC consents.

The appeals against The Steam Ship Wharf Company to move the Greta Point Tavern to the Queens Wharf area are likely to be resolved shortly by consent order.

Mr Clayton-Bray (who appealed the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant consents) has sold his land. This may resolve the appeals on the Treatment Plant.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

As we have been extremely busy processing the large influx of consents, we have not undertaken as many compliance visits as would normally be expected.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have not issued any abatement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have not issued any infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

We have not initiated any further prosecutions or enforcement orders. However, we have sought legal advice on the discharge of kaldnes rings from the Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharges of offensive odour from Taylor Preston. As yet, we have not made any decisions as to what, if any, enforcement action we will take.

4. Other

Liz Hislop joined the department on 31 March 2003. Liz has a recently graduated from Lincoln University with a degree in Resource Studies.

Miranda Robinson joined the department on 7 April 2003. Miranda has a background in zoology and ecology. She has been working for the Fish and Game Council for the last three years.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01- 02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01- 02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station.	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Wellington City Council	Renewal of discharge of milliscreened effluent to the coast during wet weather events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant.	20/12/00	05/03/01	9	17/05/01	8/10/01 9/10/01	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart	26/10/01	Granted, one appeal – mediation held 16 December
Transit ²	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone.	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		1/10/01 – 9/10/01	Helen Tobin, Richard Fowler, Barry Butcher		Granted – three appeals received
Steamship Wharf Limited ⁴	Relocation of Greta Point Tavern to Queens Wharf.	11/07/02	22/08/02	25		23/09/02 and 26/09/02	Irvine Yardley Miria Pomare	15/10/02	Two appeals received
Flood Protection	To use diquat in the Waiwhetu Stream to control aquatic weeds.	25/10/02	10/12/02	20			Environment Committee	20/03/03	Granted with conditions
NZ Fish Products Ltd	Renewal of application for a discharge to air.	01/11/02	5/02/03	7	24/02/03	14/03/03	Ian Buchanan, Irvine Yardley, Aka Arthur	04/04/03	Granted with conditions
KGH Trust	Rebuilding and enlargement of an Evans Bay Boatshed.	06/09/02	23/01/03	17		28/03/03	Ian Buchanan, Terry McDavitt, Aka Arthur	03/04/03	Granted with Conditions

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
CentrePort	To dredge inner Harbour and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03						
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material	24/10/02	20/05/03						
Aotea Block ⁵	To construct stage 1 of the Aotea Block Subdivision.	18/11/02	27/02/03	8		20/03/03	Stuart Kinnear, Jack Rikihana	04/04/03	Granted with conditions
Hutt City Council	Renewal of wet weather discharge of Waiwhetu Stream.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/05/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Discharge macerated sewage to Eastern Bays.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/05/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent to Waiwhetu Stream while Main Sewer Outfall is being inspected.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/05/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent of up to 15 points along the Eastern Bay to enable Main Sewer Outfall to be inspected.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/05/03 at request of applicant			

- 1 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council
- 3 These applications will be heard jointly with the Kapiti Coast District Council
- 4 These applications will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council
- 5 These applications will be heard jointly with the Porirua City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - May 2003

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

On 28 February the light sector of Pencarrow light main navigation lantern was adjusted and resurveyed. The lantern had previously been damaged and removed for repair. This work was to ensure that it was replaced in the same position.

On 10 March an improved and modified navigation lantern was fitted to Falcon Shoal pile light in Wellington Harbour.

On 20 March a new navigation lantern with a modified and extended light sector was installed on Steeple Rock light in Wellington Harbour

Subsequent to this work, the Manager, Harbours made night-time arrivals into Wellington on the navigating bridge of *The Lynx* on 4 April and 13 April and observed the improved effectiveness of the new lights.

During the third week of March, refurbishment of the Front Lead light tower and supporting structure started. Progress on this project will be weather-dependant.

Island Bay channel is marked by two simple red-neon leading lights mounted on wooden poles, one on each side of the road near the foreshore at Island Bay. On 28 March one of the wooden poles was brought down when a Stagecoach trolley-wire maintenance truck allegedly fouled the overhead wire. One pole, associated wiring and a light fitting needed to be replaced.

The Oriental Bay Foreshore Enhancement Project has been underway by Wellington City Council for several months now, with the first sand due to arrive towards the end of April. The project includes the construction of a submerged reef offshore and east of the band rotunda. This was constructed in early April, and our Harbour Rangers laid marker buoys indicating the position of this offshore obstruction to small craft on 11 April.

2. Oil Pollution Response

- Four reports of oil spills were investigated. None required any clean-up action.

- Between 26 and 28 March Pat Dixon attended the Oil Spill Managers Revalidation course at Te Atatu, Auckland.
- On 8 April Harbours Department Staff conducted a quarterly oil spill response equipment check and stock-take of disperant and sorbents.

3. Departmental Activities

- On 13 March Manager Harbours attended a Dangerous Goods Working Group meeting with the Maritime Safety Authority.
- On 15 March a fire-fighting exercise was carried out on board the Strait Shipping freight ferry *Kent* at Aotea Quay. New Zealand Fire Service.
- On 25 March Manager Harbours and Deputy attended the Oil industry Wharf Users Meeting held at the Mobil depot at Seaview.
- On the evening of 2 April the Manager, Harbours and Deputy attended a joint presentation to leaders of scouting and other youth groups held at T.S. *Amokura*. The presentation by GWRC and the Maritime Safety Authority was about the introduction of Maritime Rule 91 (Recreation Regulations). GWRC's role was clearly explained to them, as was the fact that Maritime Rule 91 does not apply in areas where the Greater Wellington Navigation & Safety Bylaws 2000 are in force.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report - May 2003

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

All local authorities in the Region have nominated a representative on the CDEMG. The inaugural meeting of the Group will take place on Thursday, 15 May 2003. At the inaugural meeting, the CDEM Group will be officially formed, a Chairperson appointed, Standing Orders adopted, Terms of Reference and/or Constitution approved, the CEG established and the future work programme agreed.

The Working Party, set up by the CEO Group, reported back once again with a recommendation of a structure for the CDEMG. This was approved by the CEOs at their meeting on 14th April 2003. A meeting of the CEOs to finalise the papers that need to be tabled at the inaugural meeting of the CDEM Group will take place on 29 April.

2. Emergency management marketing

The Manager, Emergency Management started a series of talks to the Rotary Clubs on the 2nd of October 2002. The topic is emergency preparedness with emphasis on personal and organisational preparedness. So far presentations were made to eleven Rotary clubs, the Silverstream Lions Club, the Justices of the Peace Association and to the staff of IGNS. The combined attendance at this stage is about 600 people. Feedback is that a lot of awareness and interest is created by the talks. More talks is planned to take place during April and May.

2.1 Radio Scripts

The Emergency Management Officer developed radio scripts that were agreed by all Councils and sent to radio stations in the Wellington Region. These scripts give the radio announcers some information to broadcast after an Earthquake and Tsunami event. Additional scripts were developed for flooding, storms and wildfire. These scripts will be the basis of media releases for these events.

2.2 Yellow Pages

The Wairarapa Yellow pages were re-branded and signed off. These pages will be out in May 2003.

2.3 Fact Sheets

Another 200 sets of fact sheets were provided to Wellington City Council for inclusion in their school education programme.

2.4 Rural Fire Safety and Preparedness

The Emergency Management Officer displayed rural fire safety and emergency preparedness information at the Pauatahanui Farm and Food Festival, on 9 March 2003, in conjunction with the New Zealand Fire Service. The information was well received and many people were interested.

A display of preparedness information was set up at the NZ Farm Forestry Conference held at Te Papa on April 4 - 6. A demonstration of aerial and ground based firefighting actions was also arranged as part of a conference field day in the Akatarawa Valley. The conference participants were very interested in how to prepare for fires that occur in their forests.

2.5 EQC Communications and Marketing

The Emergency Management Officer was asked to attend a workshop to assist EQC with their future direction for education about earthquake preparedness.

2.6 Stakeholder Needs

The Emergency Management Officer assisted the Hazard Analyst in finding out the information needs of the regions emergency services and health providers for their own response planning.

3. Planning

3.1 Project Phoenix Outcome Projects

Project briefs have been developed for a project to write a regional reconnaissance plan and a project to review the regional emergency communications system. Project teams have been formed for the projects (Reconnaissance on 11 March and Communications on 21 March).

3.1.1 Reconnaissance Project

The Emergency Management Department has begun a project to develop a regional plan for reconnaissance following a major emergency. A project team has been appointed and a project brief agreed. Over 60 organisations have been asked to participate and identify sites and facilities that are of significance to the region. These responses are being collated. A plan will then be developed to ensure that these critical sites are assessed immediately following an emergency.

The Project Team consists of:

Rian van Schalkwyk and Debbie Cunningham (GW)
Karen Stephens (WCC)
Marshall Hyland (PCC)
David Coetzee (MoCDEM),
Kevin Locke (Transit)
Paul Nickalls – HCC

The project aims to involve all organisations that may have regionally significant sites and facilities that need to be assessed following a major event.

The following organisations have been asked to contribute:

- Territorial Local Authorities (all departments through their Emergency Management officers)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council (bulk water, emergency management)
- Utilities companies:
 - Telecom NZ, Vodafone, Telstra
 - Electricity line companies and Transpower
 - Gas lines companies and National Gas Corporation
 - Airports (Wellington International Airport, Paraparaumu Airfield, Masterton Hood Aerodrome)
 - CentrePort
 - Rail
 - Transit NZ
- Health Providers
 - District Health Boards
 - Regional Public Health
- Regional Emergency Services Managers
 - NZ Police
 - NZ Fire Service
 - Wellington Free Ambulance
- Wellington and Wairarapa Lifelines Groups
- Civil Aviation Authority
- National Rescue Centre
- Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management
- Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences

3.1.2 Communications Project

The Emergency Management Department facilitated the first stage in a project to upgrade the regional communications system. A project team has been established to provide advice and guidance. A detailed brief is being prepared outlining the requirements of an emergency communications system for the regions CDEM Group and the technical specifications that must be met. A communications consultant will be appointed to assess possible systems and make a recommendation by December 2003. This will enable detailed planning for the funds allocated for this purpose in 2004-2005 and 2005 - 2006.

The regional emergency communications system project will continue over the next three financial years as the possible options to enhance our current system are identified and the recommended system implemented. Funding is available for system enhancement and implementation in 2004-2005 and 2005- 2006.

The project will involve three phases:

Part I

Develop brief and commission a communications consultant

The Project Team will need to carry out an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system. The needs of GW/the CDEM Group will be defined, as will the characteristics of the required system. Limits will be set on what the GW/CDEM Group system will cover and what communications are the responsibility of the responding agencies.

Consultants will be identified and invited to tender for Part II of the project.

Part II

Consultant appointed to review options for communications systems and prepares recommendations

The consultant will carry out consultation with all parties identified in the brief and review current systems and capabilities. The consultant will review possible communications network options and formulate options and recommendations for GW/the CDEMG.

Part III

Implementation and maintenance of the chosen communications system

Greater Wellington and CDEMG will implement the selected system. This is likely to require commissioning a consultant (who may or may not be the same as used for Part II) to arrange purchase, installation, testing and ongoing maintenance of the system.

The Project Team consists of:

- Rian van Schalkwyk and Debbie Cunningham (GW)
- David Coetzee (MoCDEM)
- Peter Wood (IGNS)
- Paul Walker (MDC)
- Marshall Hyland (PCC)
- R Crimp (Lifelines representative)
- Gary Allcock (NZ Police)
- NZFS representative

Organisations to be involved and consulted include:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Territorial Local Authorities (8) (EM, Roading, Water and Waste Departments)
- NZ Fire Service
- NZ Police
- Lifelines Co-ordinators (Wellington & Wairarapa groups)
- Lifelines Utilities (including Telecom NZ, Vector, NGC, Transit, PowerCo, Telstra Clear, Vodafone - and others as defined in consultants project brief)
- District Health Boards and Regional Public Health
- Wellington Free Ambulance
- Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences
- Communications systems providers (all possible options e.g. telecommunications, radio and fleet systems, satellite etc)
- A communications Consultant

3.2.3 Rescue Co-ordination

The Emergency Management officer facilitated a meeting of the Region's rescue teams. This ongoing involvement has been beneficial to co-ordinate their training and response. A major regional rescue exercise is planned for 30th May – 1st April 2003. GWRC will be supporting this exercise.

3.3 Hazards

The Emergency Management Officer and Hazard Analyst had the quarterly catch-up meeting with GNS and NIWA to discuss ongoing research and progress of projects.

The Emergency Management Officer, Hazard Analyst and Council employees from Landcare attended a workshop on wildfire threat analysis. This project will better identify the wildfire risk in the Wellington region and build on research done by GWRC.

3.4 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan

The emergency management officers of GWRC, HCC and UHCC worked together with the GWRC Flood Protection Dept to redesign flooding hazard maps for their use in emergencies.

The Media Management Plan for Hutt River flooding events was approved by Hutt emergency responders and is now undergoing peer review by selected media organisations.

3.5 Training

The Emergency Management Officer trained 30 emergency personnel on incident management planning and intelligence as part of the NZ Co-ordinated Incident Management System Level 2 course.

The Emergency Management Officer participated in the induction training of new staff. Information was given about health and safety, emergency procedures, and emergency preparedness.

The Emergency Management Officer did a presentation to 60 Justices of the Peace about their role in Civil Defence Emergency Management and about the role of GWRC.

The Emergency Management Officer completed the requirements of the NZQA National Certificate in Civil Defence Response and the NZQA National Certificate in Civil Defence Management. These qualifications have taken 4 years to complete.

As a representative of New Zealand Regional Councils, the Emergency Management Officer contributed to the development of training and assessment resources for Local Government Industry Training organisation. NZQA unit standards were also reviewed.

Oil Spill Management training: The Manager, Emergency Management has attended a three-day course presented by MSA in Auckland from 26 to 28 March. It was a worthwhile course, which provided valuable hands-on experience and skills in the management of emergencies.

4. Other activities

4.1 Regional meetings

Several meetings were attended to discuss the formation of the CDEMG, action points flowing from Exercise Phoenix, public education, training and emergency management systems and communications. These meetings included Emergency Management Officers Committee, Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees (Wairarapa, Porirua, Wellington, Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley), Wellington Engineering Lifelines, CDEMG Working Party sub-group, Emergency Water Supply Project Group, Environment Division Quarterly Meeting, and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.

4.2 National Crisis Management System

The Manager, Emergency Management is representing local government on the evaluation panel. The other members are from the Ministry of CDEM, Ministry of Health, MAF, Department of Internal Affairs, and Police. Several meetings have taken place and the panel is now in the final stage of preparing a report for Cabinet to consider.

4.3 Moving out of the Beehive

Following the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States, and the lessons learnt from that, the New Zealand Government decided in November 2002 that a National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) for New Zealand should be established. The Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management has informed us about this decision and requested us to vacate the Regional Headquarters that was based in the basement of the Beehive by Friday 11 April 2003. The current National and Regional Emergency Operations Centres are going to be altered to house the new NCMC.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council will still have to provide an Emergency Operation Centre for at least the next couple of years (the transition period from the old Civil Defence Act to the new CDEM Act). With the implementation of the new CDEM Group Plan, the Council's role might change. The intention is to have a more mobile Emergency Operations Centre capability that can hook on to any one of the proposed Emergency Operation Centres for the CDEM Group.

5. Environment

5.1 Earthquake reports

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 18 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Of these only the following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

Date	Magnitude	Depth
6 April	3.4	30 km <i>20 km north-west of Wellington</i>
25 March	3.9	25 km <i>10km east of Paraparaumu</i>
20 March	4.0	50km <i>20km north-east of Picton</i>
9 March	3.2	30km <i>10km north of Wellington</i>

5.2 Special Weather Bulletins

No Special Weather Bulletins were received since the Committee's last meeting that was held on 20 March 2003.

5.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

The Manager, Emergency Management replaced a broken Perspex windowpane that was destroyed by vandals at the Mt. Climie communications hut on 18 March.

Richard Waddy
Financial Accountant

Financial position – 31 March 2003

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the nine month period ended 31 March 2003.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 31 March 2003</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
		<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	5,314.0	5,314.0	--	7,085.4
Other Revenue	1,351.3	1,395.8	44.5 U	1,850.8
Total Revenue	6,665.3	6,709.8	44.5 U	8,936.2
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	5,543.6	6,043.1	499.5 F	8,064.5
Indirect Expenditure	732.5	750.2	17.7 F	1,006.1
Total Operating Expenditure	6,186.1	6,793.3	517.2 F	9,070.6
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	479.2	(83.5)	472.7 F	(134.4)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are in stronger than expected position with an operating surplus of \$389,000 posted for the period. Our budgets provided for an operating deficit of \$83,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$473,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$45,000, and reduced expenditure \$518,000.

3. Revenue

Part of the shortfall is caused by a lower than expected number of completed notified resource consent applications (\$20,000). Some of these notified

consent applications are almost complete; e.g. NZ Fish and the Aotea block development.

With the increased demand for resource consents in the past few months, we anticipate that the shortfall will be eliminated by year-end.

The Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) training courses for oil spill response, which our staff attend and for which we receive payment, were reduced because MSA training staff were diverted to emergency incidents. As a consequence our revenue line has suffered (\$10,000).

The new annual resource management charging system has been implemented successfully. However, the change to the new electronic system from the largely manual process did not go as smoothly as we would have liked. Nonetheless, we believe that the new system, with its automated features, will make processing annual charges easier in the future.

In total, annual charges raised \$235,000 (compared to last year - \$225,000).

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure, at \$6,276,000, presently trails the budget – by some \$517,000 or 7.6 %.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are presently under budget by \$36,000. Staff movements in the period caused the underspend.
- Material costs are presently under budget by \$117,000.

The spend on RPS and Care Group projects (e.g. Pauatahanui Inlet, riparian work etc) is below budget. In addition, the repair and painting of the Front Lead Light (\$28,000) is slightly behind schedule. We anticipate that the situation will be redressed before year-end.

- External Contractors and Consultants were \$320,000 under budget for the period.

The shortfall is mainly with the collection of unwanted agricultural chemicals (\$73,000), the stormwater investigation work (\$40,000) and contaminated sites work (\$64,000).

With the completion of the unwanted agricultural chemical collection, we anticipate that a saving of approximately \$50,000 will be realised.

Progress with the stormwater investigation has been held up because of difficulties in obtaining reliable samples.

The contaminated sites project, which covers the analysis of soil types and levels of contamination, is behind schedule.

The total spend on Iwi projects (\$10,000) is slightly behind budget and we are forecasting that the expenditure gap will continue to increase.

5. Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure programme presently shows a shortfall of \$13,000. The reduced spend is with the design and branding of the Ecobus livery.