

**Report**            **05.269**  
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**Committee**       **Rural Services and Wairarapa**  
**Author**          **Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa**

## **Divisional Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 10 May 2005.

### **2. Divisional Matters**

#### **2.1 Taskforce Green**

As previously reported, Greater Wellington agreed to be the employer for a Taskforce Green project following the 30/31 March flood event which hit the eastern Wairarapa hill country and coastal areas. The intention was to provide a relatively cheap labour force to enable farmers to quickly clean up the worst of the damage.

There was a general reluctance by farmers to engage this gang as the works were not fully subsidised. Consequently, works ceased after only nine days of actual work in the field and there were residual costs for Greater Wellington to cover for items such as Anzac Day.

#### **2.2 Joe Taylor Retirement**

The Council Chairman and I attended a Federated Farmers function last month to acknowledge Joe Taylor's retirement from the policy work that he has undertaken for Federated Farmers in this region for many years. Joe Taylor's involvement in lobbying for the farming sector is legendary and it was clear that he is held in very high regard by many farmers.

#### **2.3 Warm Homes Presentation**

A Wairarapa Clean Air Promotion to raise the awareness of air quality in Wairarapa towns was conducted recently as part of Greater Wellington's Be The Difference Campaign. A ceremony was held in the Masterton office on 23 May

to enable the Council Chairman to present the prize to the winner of the draw. This promotion was also financially supported by the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority, Ministry for the Environment, and Panasonic.

#### **2.4 Farm Environment Awards**

At the last Committee meeting we reported on another successful Farm Environment Award presentation evening and subsequent field day. Sadly, Trevor Lucas, this year's supreme prize winner along with his wife Jo, died this week. Trevor certainly left his mark on the land which he farmed so successfully at Wainuioru, east of Masterton.

#### **2.5 SLURI**

SLURI is the rather interesting acronym for the Sustainable Land Use Research Initiative. This is an initiative by four of the Crown Research Institutes (Landcare, AgResearch, HortResearch, and Crop & Food) to co-operate and work with each other on sustainable land research projects rather than compete against each other as has happened in recent years. This initiative has been fully supported by the appropriate government departments and funding agencies, and I have been representing regional councils on the steering committee. This committee has been meeting over the past 18 months under the chairmanship of Alistair Polson, a former president of Federated Farmers. The initiative is now under way with a start being made on several joint research projects.

#### **2.6 Staffing Matters**

Deborah Walker, Communications Advisor, has resigned as from 17 June. Deborah has made a wonderful contribution to raising the extent and standard of communications with our various stakeholders. Deborah is being replaced by Catriona Robertson who is currently working on a contract in the Wellington office.

Ian Gunn, Land & River Operations Manager, is currently away on a study trip with five senior river management staff from other regional councils. This group will be attending a Flood and Coastal Management Conference in York, England, and visiting organisations of interest in Ireland and the Netherlands, including the lower reaches of the Rhine River. Ian has also arranged for a personal visit to the Fraser Basin Project in Canada as part of learning more about integrated catchment management which is being actively discussed within Greater Wellington.

Maia Kawana has been appointed to the Field Supervisor's position in the Northern Rivers Gang. Maia has been the Leading Hand in this area for a number of years. He has had specific responsibility for the willow clearing projects.

Dave Reed has been promoted to Leading Hand in the Northern Rivers Gang. He has worked in the gang for the last 4 years. Interviews have been completed for the two vacancies in the river gang. Appointments are to be made shortly.

### **3. Land & River Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)**

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#### **3.1 Akura Conservation Centre**

Akura Conservation Centre will open following Queens Birthday weekend. It will trade through to the end of September. Pole cutting has commenced and the first poles should be planted around the middle of June.

On the back of recent heavy rainfall events demand for poles is higher than normal. In anticipation of this increased demand external sources of poplar and willow have been sought. A supply has been secured from Hamilton and discussions are being held with Environment Canterbury to buy some of the surplus poles from their nursery.

Tree stocks from various suppliers are building up, including the first stocks of eco-sourced native plants. The objective for Akura is to have all native plants eco-sourced for the 2007 trading season.

#### **3.2 Streams Alive Programme**

The Streams Alive programme is entering its second planting season. The programme targets 12 selected catchments throughout the region, with the aim of working with landowners on the establishment of riparian margins. Greater Wellington provides advice, suitable plants, contract labour and maintains the sites for the first two years. Landowners provide the land and are required to erect all fencing.

The increase in demand for this service has grown very steadily over the last twelve months. \$30,000 was spent in 2004/05. The budget for 2005/06 is \$75,000, and is fully subscribed at present. This level of activity has been achieved without significant publicity and is indicative of the interest being shown in the establishment of riparian margins. Many of the clients are lifestyle farm owners, however a number of larger properties have entered the programme this year. These larger properties include both dairy, and sheep and beef farms.

#### **3.3 Tauanui Harvesting**

Three harvesting crews working within Tauanui have produced the highest monthly volume since we commenced harvesting. Despite breakdowns in one crew and periods of appalling weather, in excess of 6,000 tonnes for the month has been reported (the full month's production figures had not been received at time of writing).

This volume at one stage generated 14 truckloads of logs in one day. Despite this the only issues raised by local residents relate to early starts on one day (since addressed) and concerns over the state of the road. Some maintenance work after discussions with South Wairarapa District Council quickly remedied this.

The internal Tauanui roads have withstood this level of production with some maintenance required during wetter periods and the more established roads consolidating well with this level of usage.

### **3.4 Tauanui Log Sale**

11 tenders were received for the 2005 - 2009 Log Sale from Tauanui. Detailed analysis resulted in a short list of four tenders, each with varying attributes being forwarded to a Registered Forestry Consultant for peer review and assistance with recommendations. These same Harvesting and Marketing agents were included in the short list for the Metro Forest Log sale.

### **3.5 Stoney Creek Silviculture**

Final thinning of the majority of the stands in Stoney Creek is completing the Silviculture Programme. A few small blocks that are slower growing will remain to be completed in the next financial year.

### **3.6 River Schemes**

All annual river scheme meetings have now been completed. All the programmed works for this financial year are essentially completed apart from some flood damage repair carry-overs.

A meeting has also been held with the affected landowners in the Te Whiti area following the upgrade of the stopbank. Rather than pay the loan off over 20 years, the “normal” Greater Wellington treasury period, landowners have chosen to either pay their contribution off as a lump sum payment or as a five year loan.

Associated with the upgrade of the Te Whiti stopbank staff have been focusing on achieving the river alignment in this area. This, plus increasing the width of the river channel in the vicinity of The Cliffs, has reduced the impact of flooding upstream of the Te Whiti area.

Several rock groynes have been placed at Henley Lake. These will reduce the risk of erosion at the edge of Henley Lake and help maintain the alignment of the river channel. A bulldozer has completed works in this section of the Upper Ruamahanga River removing debris and lowering the height of the river beaches.

### **3.7 Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project**

A successful river inspection has occurred. The inspection extended from the confluence of the Kopuaranga and Ruamahanga Rivers upstream to Hastwell. The inspection was well attended so the Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project Advisory Committee members now have a good appreciation of the willow concentrations and the consequent flooding issues. Meetings are being held monthly.

### **3.8 Scadden’s Stopbank Upgrade**

Following the floods in 2004 a decision was made to move the stopbank in the vicinity of Scadden’s cowshed inland approximately 20 metres. The works were

completed under the emergency provisions of the Resource Management Act as the concrete wall associated with the cowshed was being undermined and increased leakages of river water were occurring through the cowshed floor. Independent engineering advice at the time confirmed that a critical situation existed and that remedial action was urgent.

A requirement of the emergency provisions is that a resource consent has to be applied for retrospectively. Christine Foster, hearings commissioner, heard the resource consent application and granted the consent. John Barton has since appealed the consent on the following grounds:-

- “(1) Greater Wellington carried out work without consent and has destroyed an existing stopbank which is the subject of an unheard appeal ENV W 0078/04. It is submitted that the stopbank should not have been destroyed before the appeal had been heard.
- (2) The proposed work to extend the bed of the river will expand the river onto land which is legal road. The road will be destroyed which would be unlawful under the Local Government Act without proper legal procedures being followed. It is submitted that resource consent should not be granted for an unlawful activity”.

The relevance of these grounds is questioned. Greater Wellington’s legal representative will seek clarification with Environment Court officials in due course.

### **3.9 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review**

Modelling of various scenarios continues, albeit at a slow rate. A methodology, based on the modelling to date, has been devised for the new rating classification.

Cross-sectional riverbed surveys have been completed from the Tuhitarata Bridge to Lake Ferry. The surveyors are currently analysing the results. They report that there is considerable silt on the active flowing riverbed.

Further cross-sections have been reviewed in the Turanganui River. These show that in the upper stretches the riverbed has degraded between Te Rata Road Bridge and the Pirinoa road and there has been a significant aggrade following the recent floods with only minimal change in the lower section. The areas of aggrade has increased the flooding risk and required ongoing works.

Levelling has occurred down the Whakawiriwiri Drain to assess what would be required if the drain was incorporated into the Lower Valley Development Scheme.

## **4. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)**

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### **Pest Plants**

#### **4.1 Vigilance Species**

Inspections of the vigilance species (potential future Regional Pest Management Strategy plants) are continuing. Brief summaries include:

- A new infestation of Asiatic knotweed was located and controlled in Kapiti.
- The egeria site at Reikorangi was controlled as part of the joint Greater Wellington and Department of Conservation (DOC) eradication programme.
- A site of Chilean flame creeper has been recorded at Mt Bruce.
- A purple loosestrife infestation at Sulphur Wells (NE of Masterton) has been controlled. A second infestation on a nearby property has also been discovered.

#### **4.2 Eradication Species**

##### **(1) Eelgrass**

On 5 and 6 May the Pest Plant team undertook control of eelgrass in several ponds on the Kapiti Coast. The initial plan was to hand weed the areas but this proved to be extremely difficult due to the large amounts of vegetative material and the root fragments being left in the substrate after weeding. Weed matting was used as an alternative, being laid over the infestations and pegged down.

This programme was done in conjunction with DOC, who pumped the ponds to lower the water table enabling us to lay the matting. They also destroyed any carp in the ponds.

The entire exercise saw over 1,500 square metres of eelgrass covered and over 60 carp destroyed.

##### **(2) Maderia vine**

A new site has been located on an embankment on State Highway 1 at Paekakariki. Due to the location of the site and the unstable ground, discussion with Transit will be required before work can be undertaken.

##### **(3) Woolly Nightshade**

The infestation located at Pauatahanui has been controlled. Twenty seedlings and 10 adult plants were controlled.

**(4) Smilax**

A new site has been located in Wellington and numerous new infestations have been identified in Masterton.

**(5) Moth Plant**

Several new sites have been located in Masterton and now double the number of sites within the Masterton district.

**(6) Blue Passionflower**

With the survey in Masterton has come a significant increase in infestations with the number of sites now around 30.

**(7) Climbing Spindleberry**

Four new sites of this species have been recorded in Masterton with a considerably large infestation being recorded at Mt Bruce.

Note that the increased knowledge of Masterton based Eradication species has arisen following the employment of a fixed term contractor to undertake property surveys. It is extremely disappointing that so many new sites have been located as this places significant pressure on the Department to achieve the RPMS objectives.

**(8) Bathurst Bur**

A further two days were spent at the Landcorp property in South Wairarapa surveying for further infestations. An additional 27 plants were located in three separate areas. A total of 620 plants have now been controlled at Landcorp.

**4.3 Containment Species**

**(1) Boneseed**

A survey has been undertaken by BioWorks between Riversdale and Castlepoint with very few plants being located.

A contract has been let to undertake maintenance work in Riversdale and initial work at Castlepoint and Mataikona.

**(2) Evergreen Buckthorn**

The survey in Wellington City has been completed. The report will be available prior to the end of the financial year providing recommendations for future management options.

**4.4 Contract Surveys**

- Already the worth of surveys for eradication and containment species in Masterton is very evident, with numerous new infestations being recorded.

Surveys have been undertaken within a kilometre radius of where species were previously recorded. Each time a new infestation is located, the area is extended.

- This has also proven to be a good PR exercise with positive feedback received from property owners.
- Staff have now begun the same process in Featherston and the areas will be expanded to include Carterton, Greytown and Martinborough.
- Surveys will also be undertaken in rural areas where eradication and containment species have been recorded. Surveys are also underway in Wellington City (replacing inspections of suppression species) and will eventually be extended to Porirua and Kapiti.

#### **4.5 Publicity**

- Staff attended the Otaki Small Farmers Field Day. Poor weather conditions led to a low turn out of the public.

This year the Horizons Regional Council Pest Plants Officer for the Levin area was invited to help assist with the display. The officer spent several hours at the show and fielded a number of queries from people from his area.

- An A5 Moth plant flyer has been produced. The main purpose of the flyer is for distribution in areas where the plant has been recorded.
- Flyers are planned for several other eradication species before the end of the financial year.

#### **4.6 Biological Control Agents**

##### **(1) Scotch Thistle Gall Fly**

In early May the Department received a consignment of Scotch thistle gall fly from Landcare Research Ltd. Three releases were all made in the Wairarapa at Bideford, Hastwell and Wainuioru.

##### **(2) Ragwort Flea Beetle**

These were again collected from the property of Ray Craig, Carterton. Sufficient numbers were collected to allow nine releases to be made throughout the region.



## Bovine Tb

### 4.7 2004/05 Control Hectares Completed

Approved contractors have completed the following workload from their 2004/05 programme. These completed hectares have been successfully monitored and/or audited.

	<b>Possum (ha)</b>	<b>Ferret (ha)</b>	<b>Survey (ha)</b>	<b>Total</b>
GWRC BioWorks	79,729	22,094	24,091	125,914
Professional Guiding	33,676	2,874	14,171	50,721
J McCaslin	32,127		8,376	40,503
Target Pest Control	2,519		11,174	13,693
Horizons Regional Council	10,912	5,068	4,114	20,094
Central Trappers				
Trappersnz	4,654			4,654
Others			6,483	6,483
To Determine				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>163,617</b>	<b>30,036</b>	<b>68,409</b>	<b>262,062</b>

#### (1) Progress

To date 78% of the annual programme has been completed. This progress is considerably lower than expected for the final month of the financial year.

All ferret control and survey operations for 2004/05 have been completed.

There are currently 73,629 ha of possum control to complete and monitor. A large portion of these hectares have been treated and are either waiting to be monitored or waiting for complete strata coverage before monitoring can commence.

The following contractors still have possum control to complete, BioWorks 63,634 ha, Professional Guiding 6,851 ha and J McCaslin Trappers 3,144 ha. Recent monthly reports from contractors indicate that Professional Guiding and J McCaslin Trappers will be completed by the end of June and BioWorks will be complete mid July.

Some contract extensions have been made to Professional Guiding and BioWorks.

### 4.8 2005/06 Programme

The Animal Health Board has recently approved the 2005/06 programme, which includes

- 421,119 ha possum control.
- 102,881 ha surveys.

It is likely that some of the 2005/06 programmed area will not be required to be worked once the results of scheduled trend monitors are known. There are approximately 40 trend monitors to complete before the programme can be finalised.

The 2005/06 pre tender qualification process has been completed with seven contractors successfully registering for vector control and surveys. Monitoring registration applications are currently being assessed.

Unfortunately, advice has recently been received from Horizons Regional Council that their Animal Pest Unit will shortly be disestablished, and will not compete for Bovine vector control tenders in 2005/06. Whilst this has a significant impact on our contractor capacity, we are expecting that an independent contracting company will develop from the Horizons restructuring.

Staff are currently preparing the first parcel of tenders to go out to contractors. A contractors meeting is scheduled for the 13 June to discuss the new contractual requirements and obligations for the 2005/06 year.

#### **4.9 Juken Nissho Ltd Operations**

Discussions have been held with the National Forestry Manager, based in Auckland, in an attempt to resolve the impasse concerning the use of 1080 on JNL occupied land. Unfortunately, the discussions have not led to any change in the current JNL policy.

However, JNL management have orally agreed to pay the monetary difference between aerial and ground control operations. It has been explained to JNL that this could amount to tens of thousands of dollars annually. Further discussions are needed before we can be confident that this alternative arrangement will be successful.

From a Bovine Tb perspective, Council staff are concerned that ground control operations will result in 'patches' of high density possum populations remaining, thus elevating the risk of ongoing Tb breakdowns in herds located adjacent to JNL forests.

#### **4.10 Stage 3 SE Wairarapa Operation**

Discussions are underway with the Department of Conservation (DoC) and affected private landowners in the Stage 3 operation to identify areas for the aerial application of 1080 bait.

Whilst the Minister of Conservation has approved the use of the deer repellent additive for gazetted Recreational Hunting Areas, which includes the Aorangi Range, it is up to the local DoC Regional Conservator to assess each application.

The Wellington Regional Conservator has indicated that he needs assurance that the repellent will not have an adverse affect on biodiversity in the Aorangi Range (i.e. that the repellent will not reduce the positive impacts on non-targets such as

rodents and mustelids or adversely impact birdlife). Early indications are that approval will only be given for a trial area within the RHA to receive the repellent additive and that considerable more monitoring of non-target species will be required.

The Regional Conservator appears comfortable with approving standard cereal 1080 bait for the remainder of the RHA.

As this operation will not be commenced in the current financial year, funds will be re-budgeted in to 2005/06. However, the Crown has indicated that these funds must be used within the 12 month period or they will be withdrawn. We are, therefore, seeking to complete the operation before the end of 2005.

## **Pest Animals**

### **4.11 Population Trend Monitoring for Rabbits and Possums in the Wellington Region**

Permanent night count lines for rabbits and possums were introduced in 1994 to monitor the fluctuations of these feral animals in the absence of sustained control. The data would be more robust if there was absolutely no control but it is difficult to negate some recreational hunting in or around the sites.

The sites were selected to the following criteria:

- No control of feral animals envisaged in the foreseeable future
- A reasonably high and established population of the target animal

Each count line consists of 25 individual and permanently marked sites, which are accessed by motorcycle and spotlight counted for 2-3 consecutive nights annually in May/June.

The rabbit night count lines are situated at Queen Elizabeth II Park (Paekakariki) and on a Wairarapa east coast farm at Tora. The possum count line is situated within Belmont Regional Park. The Wairarapa possum trend monitoring was abandoned several years ago due to expanding Bovine Tb possum control operations.

There is a slight increase in rabbit counts this year. Long grass at many sampling sites may have had an effect of inhibiting rabbit counts.

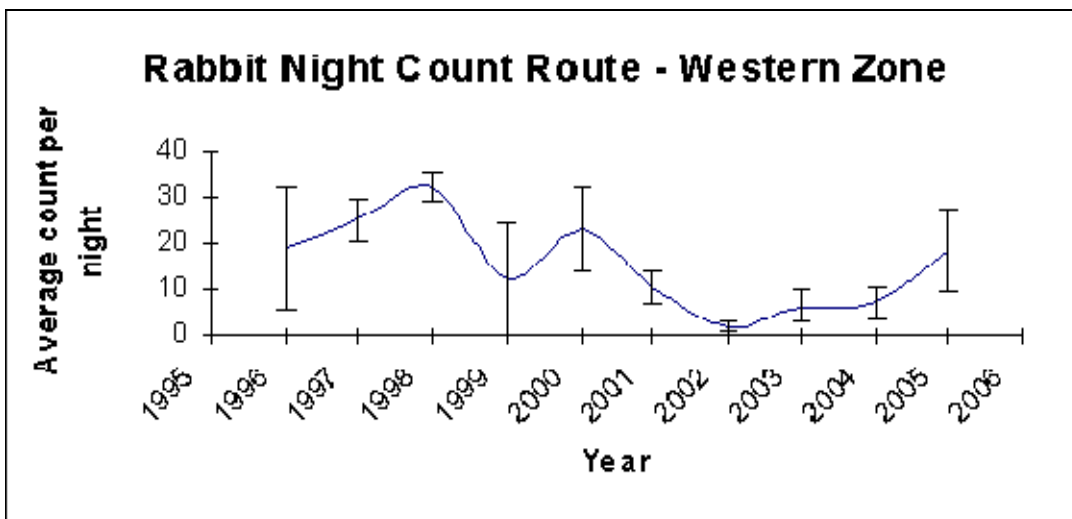
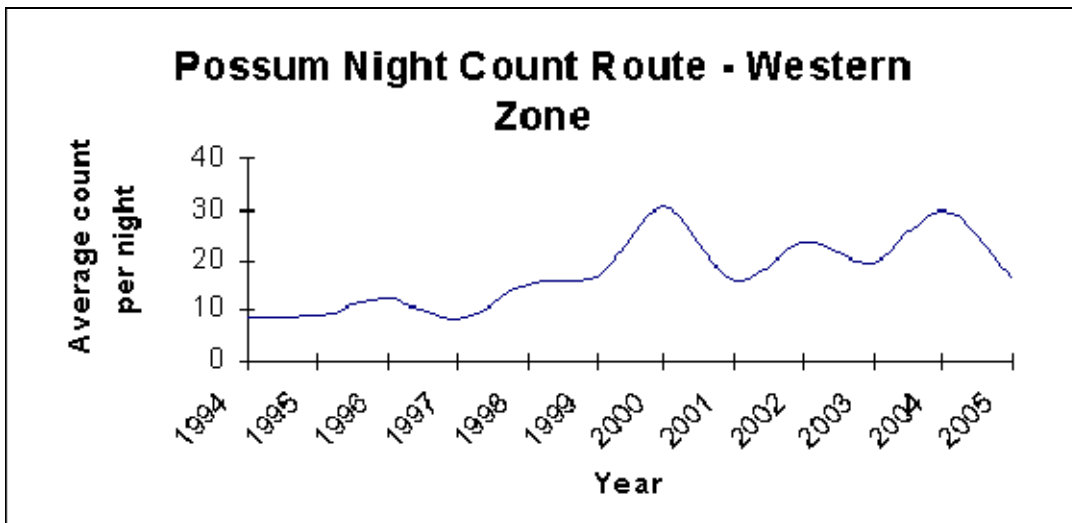
Due to a slight uplift of rabbits in the Western Zone, 95% confidence limits have been added to that data set to test for significance. The current count level is significantly higher than our lowest recorded count in 2002, but is not significantly higher than last year's count.

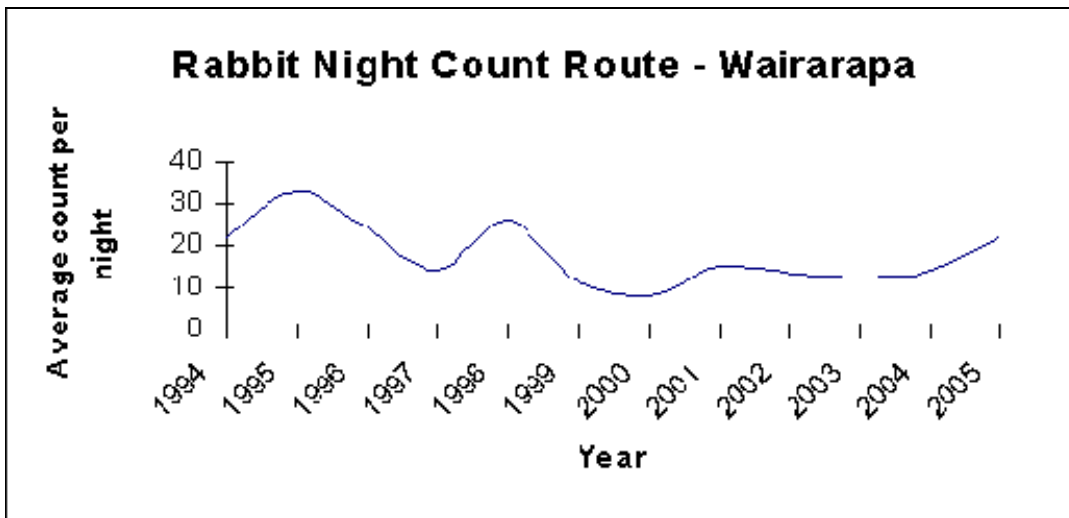
The combination of significant increase in rabbits in the Western Zone since 2002 and slight increase in the Wairarapa could indicate an overall increasing regional trend in rabbit numbers. However the trends are not unexpectedly different from those previously seen.

Rabbit Calicivirus Disease (RCD) was first recorded in the region in late 1997 but didn't have any meaningful impact until 1999 for both the Paekakariki and Tora sites. It is considered that the recycling of RCD has continued to suppress rabbit levels over the past six years.

Possum numbers at Belmont are trending downward, but do not deviate unexpectedly from previous trend results.

Graphs of the night count trends are shown below. 95% confidence levels have been added to the Western Zone rabbit count to determine if the recent trend upwards is significant. Note that these are very small sample sizes (n = 3 nights).





#### 4.12 Control Works for Parks and Forests

##### (1) Korokoro Valley (Belmont Regional Park)

Control work is now well advanced with approximately 70 percent of the initial control phase completed. Bait stations near the urban area have had their third fill of brodifacoum pellets.

##### (2) East Harbour

The focus is now on rat control and there has been a small problem keeping bait supplies up to the MIRO volunteers. Bait stations are now being replaced with four bait blocks instead of nine used previously. There is strong consideration being given to changing the bait to Contrac (Bromadiolone) for a period of 6 months and to give the Ditrac baits (Diphacinone) a rest. It is important to periodically change the bait matrix with rats to negate bait aversion trends.

Hard, extruded cereal long life baits have been trialled for use with kill traps and are working extremely well. These baits will be supplied to the volunteers as replacement for the apple currently used. The cereal baits will last longer than apple, particularly in the warmer months.

##### (3) Wainuiomata Mainland Island Project

This operation is proceeding to schedule. The line cutting has been a big job but will ensure that the ongoing predator maintenance will be proficient. Each line has been completed in its entirety working progressively at right angles to the valleys instead of working to complete one catchment at a time. This will leave a smaller gap in each catchment in the unlikely event that the lines do not get completed before the proposed aerial operation.

The main ongoing predator control will rely on the use of kill traps. The Biosecurity Department's Pest Animals team has been doing a lot of trapping lately using most types of kill traps available. The Warrior trap marketed by Connovation has proven to be the most effective and easy to use. During trials, the Warrior had no escapes and the new setting tool enables the traps to be set

quickly and safely. The Warrior has also caught possums that have escaped from other kill traps. Therefore the Warrior will be the trap of choice for the special project area. Due to the long-term nature of the project the trap jaws have been spray painted with galvanised paint to protect them from the elements.

#### **(4) Proposed Aerial Operations**

Planning is well advanced for each of the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Catchments and Akatarawa/ Kaitoke aerial operations. Resource consents have been granted, the Medical Officer of Health and Territorial Authorities approvals have been received, the bait has been ordered, contracts are being finalised with the aerial company and warning signs are being prepared.

#### **4.13 Rooks**

Two rooks have been reported frequenting a property near Te Horo Beach. They have proved to be elusive and are thought to be the same pair sighted occasionally in the area between Waikanae and Otaki. Staff will be making more of a concerted effort to locate and destroy these birds as they are a threat to this area which has previously been declared rook free. There has been publicity through Rural Services Newsletters about the pest status of rooks but it is a fact that most occupiers would not consider two itinerant birds a pest. Some would rather have them around for aesthetic purposes.

#### **4.14 Pest Fish in the Whitby Lakes**

Porirua City Council (PCC) convened a meeting on the 2 June to discuss the problem of pest fish in both of the Whitby Lakes. Representatives from the Department of Conservation, Greater Wellington (Pest Animals and Plants Sections) and Fish & Game Council were in attendance. The fish of concern are Koi carp and Mosquito fish although Rudd, Tench and sterile grass carp are also present. Both Rudd and Tench are considered sport fish by coarse fisherman. Further, Tench are identified as a sports fish in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and as such, approval must be gained from Wellington Fish and Game Council to control them. All species except the grass carp are listed in the GW Regional Pest Management Strategy for inclusion in the site led Key Native Ecosystem management programme.

The City Council is trying to facilitate a combined approach to mitigate the problem which includes involving the community. It is possible to mechanically drain the lakes but this might create siltation and other problems. A further meeting is scheduled on-site for Wednesday 29 June 2005.

#### **4.15 Communications**

On 25 May staff spoke to a meeting of the Upper Hutt Branch of the Forest and Bird Society about the range of vertebrate pest control occurring in the region. The Upper Hutt Branch is one of our most ardent volunteer organisations. They have taken responsibility for the service maintenance of five KNE sites.

## 5. Planning & Resources Department: (Ted Taylor, Acting Department Manager)

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### 5.1 Environmental Incidents

Date	Complaint	Outcome
29 April	Significant air pollution from smouldering piles of wood waste, urban Masterton	Company responsible was asked to extinguish the fire, which they did.
2 May	Smoke from backyard burning causing complaints from the neighbours, urban Masterton	Found to be burning refuse in a drum. Person responsible was asked not to burn such materials in future.
3 May	Accident left tanker truck loaded with aviation fuel in a creek, rural Masterton	Fuel successfully decanted from the tanker prior to recovery of the vehicle.
6 May	Gas leak at petrol station, urban Carterton.	Handled by NZ Fire Service.
9 May	Weir on Mangatarere stream blocked by gravels, preventing spawning trout access.	Gravel removed to allow for fish passage.
11 May	Report of ivy encroaching on neighbouring property	No further action taken – left to neighbours to resolve their differences.
16 May	Smoke from backyard burning causing complaints from the neighbours, urban Masterton.	Found to be burning vegetation. Person responsible was asked not to burn such materials in a way that would create smoke nuisance.
2 June	Smoke from burning of industrial waste causing complaints.	Under investigation.

### 5.2 Notified Consents

<i>Consent Application</i>	<i>Status</i>
Featherston sewage – discharge	An application for a discharge to land trial has been received. A decision on whether to notify will be made soon.
East Leigh Limited – Riversdale subdivision – discharge and water permits.	Consents granted - decision appealed.

MDC - Castlepoint coastal protection works (5 Coastal Permits)	Consent for Stage 1 granted – decision appealed.
Land & River Operations Dept - Scadden’s Stopbank	Consents granted - decision appealed.
SWDC - Lake Ferry sewage (3 Discharge Permits – Land; Water and Air)	Consents granted – still in appeal period.
A E & S W Benton Partnership (1 Water Permit - Groundwater Take)	The hearing has been postponed at the request of the applicant - date unknown at this stage.
MDC - Tinui sewage (3 Discharge Permits – Land; Water and Air)	Further information has been requested. Following a consultation meeting, GW has advised MDC to revise their application with a view to processing the application on a non-notified basis.
Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (3 Discharge Permits – Land; Water and Air)	A joint hearing in August is likely.
J A Bicknell (3 Water Permits – Surface Water Take)	To be notified 8 June.
R I & C V Scott (1 Water Permit - Groundwater Take)	To be notified 8 June.
Water races – Carterton District Council	Working group formed with CDC to identify and confirm scheme layout, take and discharge points.

### 5.3 Enforcement

#### *Infringement Notices*

Oldfield Aggregates were served three Infringement notices of \$500 each for illegal gravel extraction. They are contesting two of the charges.

#### *Enforcement Status*

Ian Alexander: Mr Alexander’s High Court appeal has now been struck-out. We have recently received two cost decisions from the Environment Court and High Court. Greater Wellington was awarded \$17,200 in total.

### 5.4 Appeals

#### *Castlepoint sea-wall*

MDC have appealed the Castlepoint sea-wall decision. Their appeal focuses mainly on Stage II of the project (which was declined by the Hearings Committee). However, some minor issues with Stage I have been raised as part of the appeal with these hopefully being able to be resolved by agreement.



## *Eastleigh*

Craig Erskine has appealed the joint decision of MDC and GW on the Eastleigh subdivision at Riversdale. Although reasonably silent on wastewater issues at the hearing, he has appealed all GW consents. A draft notice of reply will be submitted shortly.

## *Land & River Operations Dept – Scadden's Stopbank*

John Barton has appealed this decision.

### **5.5 Clean Streams Accord**

All dairy farms in the region will have been inspected by the 30 June. This inspection has included the effluent disposal system and stock crossings at streams. The results will be reported on when the information has been collated.

### **5.6 Hydrology**

#### *Rainfall*

The weather in the Wairarapa in May 2005 was wetter than average. The monthly rainfall totals for the three sites in this report were all above their respective long-term average totals for May.

The above trend is in marked contrast to that of the April when all three sites were well below average. It is worth noting that March would also have been below average if not for the extreme storm event at the end of March which affected the whole region.

For May however the above average trend was not from any one storm event but just from a series of non excessive wet periods throughout the month.

The following table is for the three representative rainfall sites showing rainfall figures for May 2005 with the previous month's figure for comparison.

### **5.7 April 2005 Rainfall Totals**

Site	Location	May		April		May	April
		mm	Average	mm	Average	% of average	
Angle Knob	Tararua Ranges	739	598	247	490	123	50
Alloa	Middle Valley	122	96	50	80	127	63
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	136	131	53	106	104	50

*NB: Rainfall recorded in mm*

## Rivers

The average river flows for May were above average.

The river flow trend is a reflection of the rainfall trend above. There were no 'events', only a few mild freshes throughout the month keeping the flow levels up.

The following table contains May 2005 flow statistics for two representative sites and the previous month's data for comparison.

### May 2005 River flows

Site	May		April		May	April
		Average		Average	% of average	
Waiohine	24.6	23	8.8	19	107	46
Waihenga	113.5	78.3	54	59	145	92

*NB: Flows recorded as m<sup>3</sup>/s*

### Floodwarning

	May	Financial Year to Date	Previous Year to Date
No. of events	0	15	20
No of Lists Issued	0	69	107

Lake Onoke mouth remained open throughout the month.

The flood warning newsletter was distributed. A considerable amount of time has been devoted to attending to the responses.

## 6. Recommendation

*That the Committee*

- (1) *Receive the report.*
- (2) *Note the contents of the report.*

**Colin Wright**  
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa