

Environmental Management Division update

For period ending 28 July 2006

1. Environmental Monitoring and Investigations - (Ted Taylor)

1.1 Rainfall and Rivers

Rainfall in June was below average in the Tararua Ranges but above for the Valley and Eastern hill country.

June's average river flows were below average in the Tararua catchments and above in the Valley catchments.

Rainfall and river flows in July were dominated by a series of storm events; refer to section 1.2 below.

1.2 July Storm Events

Four storm systems 'hit' the region in July.

The largest storm was on 4-7 July, a 'double header' that brought 2 periods of heavy rain over a 3 day period.

A report that details this storm event has been produced and is the subject of a separate paper.

Other events occurred over the periods 12 July, 14-16 July and 19-21 July.

Between 4-7 July the Ruamahanga River at Waihenga reached a flow peak of just over $1500\text{m}^3/\text{s}$, just over a 9 year return period flood. During the second and third storms the peak flow reached between $830\text{-}900\text{m}^3/\text{s}$, just enough to put more floodwaters into the lower valley floodways. The last event, although of shorter duration than the first almost reached the same peak magnitude of just under $1500\text{m}^3/\text{s}$.

The second storm was mainly from a north-westerly frontal weather system crossing the Tararua Ranges. The other storms were mainly south-easterly. The highest peak in the Waiohine River was during the second event although it was still relatively small at $452\text{m}^3/\text{s}$, well below an annual return period value ($903\text{m}^3/\text{s}$).

Other rivers in the Wairarapa, particularly those catchments in the eastern hill country were also in flood during these storms

Statistics for all four events follow:

July 2006 Rainfall Totals

	Location	July	
			% of Average
Angle Knob	Tararua Ranges	696	111
Alloa	Middle Valley	303	225
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	393	228

Rainfall recorded in mm

July 2006 River flows

	July	
		% of average
Waiohine	52.5	183
Waihenga	330	242

Flows recorded as m³/s

Angle Knob maximum rainfall (mm)

Date	1 hr	2 hr	6 hr	12 hr	24 hr	48 hr	72 hr
4-7 July	8.5	15.5	41	76	127	157	182
12 July	29	50.5	94.5	155	179	235	255
14-16 July	8.5	12.5	28.5	50	68	83	84
19-21 July	8.5	13	33.5	59	86	98	98

Tanawa Hut maximum rainfall (mm)

Date	1 hr	2 hr	6 hr	12 hr	24 hr	48 hr	72 hr
4-7 July	19	35.5	60	74	79	154	162
12 July	9.5	14.5	23.5	26	28	28	28
14-16 July	11.5	24.5	45.5	72	93	101	103
19-21 July	6.5	12	28	51	86	98	100

Alloa maximum rainfall (mm)

Date	1 hr	2 hr	6 hr	12 hr	24 hr	48 hr	72 hr
4-7 July	8.6	15.8	40.4	68	85	138	164
12 July	8	13.6	26.2	31	32	34	34
14-16 July	6.6	12.6	20	30	38	40	40
19-21 July	9	13.4	27.6	33	52	58	64

Ruamahanga River at Waihenga

Storm Date	Peak Stage (mm)	Peak Flow m ³ /s	Date	Time hhmm	Return Period (Yrs)
4-7 July	5050	1501	July 5 th	1715	9.2
12-13 July	4528	835	July 13 th	0930	< 2
15 July	4595	905	July 15 th	1545	< 2
20 July	5038	1485	July 20 th	2330	8.7

Waiohine River at Gorge

Storm Date	Peak Stage (mm)	Peak Flow m ³ /s	Date	Time hhmm	Return Period (Yrs)
4-7 July	2148	288	July 6 th	2000	< 2
12 July	2722	452	July 12 th	1915	< 2
15 July	1733	191	July 15 th	0300	< 2
20 July	2263	319	July 20 th	1830	< 2

1.3 Floodwarning

July was a busy month for the flood warning team with a number of all night sessions. Warning statistics follow:

	July	Financial Year to Date	Previous Year to Date
No. of events	4	4	2
No of Lists Issued	41	41	8

Lake Wairarapa reached a height of 12.2m which was the highest since the completion of the Lower Valley Scheme. This has led to many calls from concerned farmers with properties on the lake edge.

1.4 Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels in all aquifers are recovering from summer lows. The storm events have led to extremely saturated soil conditions with shallow unconfined aquifers reaching very high levels. Springs have appeared in a number of places where there is no historical knowledge of their previous existence.

2. Environmental Regulation - (AI Cross)

2.1 Consent Statistics

For the year to end of June we have received 211 Wairarapa-based consent applications. This compares with 196 in the same period last year.

In this period we have processed 170 consents compared with 180 last year.

The median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for non notified consents for the year to June was 10 working days.

Details of non-notified consents approved are provided in report 06.368 to this committee.

2.2 Key Notified Consents Update

N & E Reid¹

Following the close of submissions and a pre-hearing meeting in March, the applications for discharging piggery wastewater to land and air were placed on hold for further information. We commissioned and have recently received a draft report from Aqualinc consultants which evaluates the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to receive and treat wastewater effluent. A decision on how the processing of the applications will be progressed will be made shortly once the report is finalised.

Masterton District Council

Application for managing the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities has been placed on hold for further information. Once information is received, the applications will be notified.

Prema Investments Ltd

An application for discharging communal wastewater to land arising from a 6 lot subdivision at Whangaimoana has been received. The application will be jointly notified with South Wairarapa District Council shortly.

M S Creary, MacLand Farms, E P M Handyside, Rotopai Farms:

Applications for taking water from the Ruamahanga River are being processed on a limited notified basis, following the outcome of a pre-hearing meeting held recently. Written approval of affected parties could not be gained.

2.3 Appeals and Objections

Masterton District Council

No progress has been made on the appeal by Masterton District Council against the decision on stage two the Castlepoint sea wall. The onus is on Masterton District Council to come up with an integrated foreshore management plan.

GW: Land and River Operations Department (LARO) – Scadden’s stopbank:

The Environment Court has struck out a number of aspects of an appeal by A J Barton on a decision that granted consent to LARO to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. One remaining issue is to be heard by the Court and evidence is required to be exchanged in August, with a hearing date to be set down after evidence is exchanged.

¹ These are applications to replace and extend on existing consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air.

Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL):

The Environment Court has made a decision on a number of procedural issues raised by an appeal by D T S Riddiford on a joint decision that granted consent to MCDL². The matter has now been set down for mediation on 14th September.

A E & S W Benton Partnership:

Mediation was held on 19 June to discuss issues raised by an appeal by the applicant on a decision which declined consent to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation near Kahutara. GW Environmental Regulation staff have agreed to undertake further work which will be progressively submitted to all parties prior to the next mediation set down for 10 October.

2.4 Compliance and Enforcement

2.4.1 General.

Programme annual compliance inspections were completed by the end of the financial year.

2.4.2 Abatement Notices

No abatement notices were served in period since the last Committee meeting.

2.4.3 Infringement notices

Two infringement notices were served on LARO for unauthorised works in the Huangarua River and Awhea River.

2.4.4 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

The prosecution against Lansdowne Developments Ltd and Bruce Buchanan Ltd³ has now been resolved. The case was set down to be heard in the Environment Court on 18 July. Following preparation and exchanging of evidence, the Council agreed to drop one set of charges against both companies, whilst the companies pleaded guilty to the remaining set of charges. In sentencing, the judge imposed fines of \$3000 to each company, a reasonable outcome for the Council given a hearing before the Court was avoided. GW staff plan to talk with representatives of both companies shortly to work existing on site stormwater management matters.

2.5 Pollution Control

There have been 10 Wairarapa-related incidents reported to Greater Wellington staff since the last Committee meeting. None of those incidents have been significant and/or required enforcement action.

² Consent was granted for a 30 lot subdivision near Tora which included a communal wastewater system.

³ Regarding two unauthorised discharges of sediment laden water in March 2005.

2.6 Department integration

Our work with the Wairarapa consents and compliance team continues, as we look ahead towards the integration of our functions as one department. As part of our work to develop shared documents and streamline administrative support for such work, we have rolled out a new non-notified officer's report and consent certificate package on a trial basis, and work will soon commence on standard notified officer's and decision reports.

3. Environmental Policy - (Nicola Shorten)

3.1 Regional Policy Statement Review

The discussion document on the review of the Regional Policy Statement '*Our region- their future*' was released for public consultation on 22 May. Supporting information and a feedback form was launched on Greater Wellington's website on the same day, and a two page spread about the review was advertised in the six community newspapers in the region. Feedback was sought through to 30 June 2006.

Ninety submissions were received. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions will be presented to a Councillor workshop on 15 August.

Councillors Ian Buchanan and Sally Baber, along with staff, have attended meetings of each of the territorial authorities in the western region, and Cr Buchanan spoke to the combined meeting of the Wairarapa authorities. Further staff meetings with all territorial authorities have been arranged for August. An Ara Tahi workshop on the Regional Policy Statement review was held on 2 August. This was the second iwi workshop on this topic.

3.2 Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment)

Decisions on this plan change were made by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in June 2006. The plan change sets minimum flows and allocation limits for the Mangatarere Stream and its tributaries. The period for appeal to the Environment Court on the plan change has now closed without any appeal, and the plan change can now be made operative.

This change to the Regional Freshwater Plan is based on the *Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment*, which was adopted by the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee in 2004.

3.3 Draft Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

This draft plan change was approved for public consultation by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in July 2006. It is a statutory plan change that will limit the taking of additional water from the following water bodies:

- Parkvale, Kahutara and eastern Martinborough Terraces aquifers

- Otukura Stream, Parkvale Stream, Papawai Stream, Makoura Stream, Stonestead (Dock) Creek and Tauweru River.

In 2002, the Council adopted policies (moratoria) from the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee that additional water should not be allowed by resource consents to be taken from these water bodies. Since that time only one resource consent application has been made. It was declined by the Council and has been appealed to the Environment Court.

At the present time, not much weight can be placed on the Council's earlier policies for these water bodies when considering resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act 1991. The draft plan change that has been approved for public consultation is the first step in ensuring that appropriate weight can be given to the Council's policies when resource consent applications are considered.

3.4 Non-notified and notified submissions

3.4.1 Carterton District Council

Non Notified	Action
Arnold	2 lot subdivision, Watersons Line, Carterton. No comments.
DW Macrae	2 lot subdivision, Tupurupuru- Te Wharau Road, Carterton. Comments made on land stability and suitable building sites. Also noting areas of native vegetation.
Glendon Trust Partnership	4 lot subdivision, Flat Point Road, Flat Point. Comments made on flooding risk and suitable building sites, the need to transfer previous consent conditions and Wairarapa Coastal Strategy.
JA Henson	2 lot subdivision, SH2 and Waihekeke Road, Carterton. In progress.
L Beesly	3 lot subdivision, Waitangi Road, Carterton. Comment made on groundwater and surface water moratorium areas.
Lady Jane Whitaker	3 lot subdivision, Norfolk Road, Carterton. Comments made on effluent disposal and potential consent for stream crossing.
Leydon Downs Ltd. M Van Hulsel	5 lot subdivision, SH2, Carterton. In progress. Second dwelling, Main Road, Carterton. No comments
McWilliam	2 lot subdivision, Martinborough-Masterton Road, Gladstone. Comments made on site constraints for building due to potential instability of slopes and flooding. Also surface water moratorium.
R Easthope	2 lot subdivision, Ahiaruhe Road, Carterton. Comment made on potential erosion issues.
RG Parker	3 lot subdivision, Waiohine Gorge Road, Carterton. In progress.
Wilkens	2 lot subdivision, Portland Road, Carterton. In progress.

3.4.2 Masterton District Council

Notified	Action
Peninsula Estates Ltd.	6 lot subdivision, Morris Road, Masterton. Submission in opposition due to flooding issues.
Webster & Gatley	Relocation of historic building, Masterton-Castlepoint Road, Tinui. No comments.

3.4.3 South Wairarapa District Council

Notified	Action
KD & SA Green	4 lot subdivision, Moroa Road, Greytown. Submission on nearby potentially contaminated site and possible contamination of groundwater.
MM Williams	3 lot subdivision, Underhill Road, Featherston. Submission on adjacent potentially contaminated site and possible contamination of groundwater, earthquake faultline and supporting the retention of native vegetation.
PB Ranfurly Ltd.	7 lot subdivision, Western Lake Road, Featherston. Attended pre-hearing meeting.
The Jakeman Trust	15 lot subdivision, Lake Ferry Road, Lake Ferry. Submission on need to connect to community wastewater system, noting Wairarapa Coastal Strategy and suggesting alternatives to storm water disposal.
VH Read	2 lot subdivision, Weld Street, Martinborough. In progress.
Non Notified	Action
B Tucker	2 lot subdivision, Bidwills Cutting Road, Greytown. Comment made on piggery buffer zone.