

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environmental Education

Environmental Education Department Report □ February 2007

1. Business Sustainability

As I have indicated elsewhere, we are finding a considerable upsurge in business interest in sustainability, and are fielding more requests for information and advice on “green” business practices. This increase in corporate environmental awareness has been caused in part by the tremendous profile climate change has attained in 2006 and in part by the active promotion of our services (Elements articles, publicity surrounding the Get Sustainable Challenge etc). Many businesses are looking for help with waste minimisation and recycling; this is usually the first aspect of their operations that they look to in order to achieve some environmental improvement.

Significant progress has been made over the summer on the project to institute office waste reduction and recycling in six Wellington tower blocks (in co-operation with Wellington City Council and with funding from the Ministry for the Environment). All of the buildings have had their waste audits completed and four have their recycling systems in place (recycling bins, communication materials, posters etc). There are 34 businesses in these four buildings, with the trial continuing for six months. The aim is for recycling to become a permanent arrangement thereafter. Towards the end of the trial we will be talking with the businesses about making this happen.

Following on from last year’s waste audit of the Readings Cinema Complex, a permanent recycling, waste reduction and composting scheme for the tenants of the building has commenced. This is expected to divert around 200kgs of paper and other recyclable materials and 350kgs of organic waste from landfill each day. This project was undertaken with the staff of the Wellington Youth Hostel and with the active support of the managers of the building.

2. Take Care

There have been no major events over the summer months to report. The groups have been principally occupied in maintaining their plantings. They report less of a need for watering this summer due to the wetter weather.

In addition to the new groups established earlier in the year, we have committed funding for a dune restoration project at Onehunga Bay in Whitirea Park. This will

bring the total number of groups to 31, and the number of new and renewed groups this financial year to six.

Advertisements calling for applications for funding have appeared in local newspapers. Successful groups will commence their projects in July 2007.

At Hulls Creek, the care group has prepared a consent application for the fish pass to be built where the creek enters the Hutt River. The group is also preparing an educational sign to show passers-by what has been achieved and how to look after the stream. The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department is carrying out an investigation into the health of the stream which will provide useful information on ways it can be further improved.

3. Corporate volunteers

Around 20 people from Accor Hotels filled a high-sided trailer with rubbish they pulled out of the Moehau Stream in Upper Hutt in November. They then cleared weeds from areas that had previously been planted - a mighty effort!

4. *Take Action*

Staff have spent a considerable amount of time improving the “background” materials we provide for teachers and organising training for those teachers doing *Take Action* in the first half of this year. While we have a resource book for both *Take Action for Water* and *Take Action for Air*, the material just completed provides practical assistance and teaching tools (e.g., unit plans, assessment activities) to help teachers incorporate *Take Action* into their curriculum teaching and implement the programme more effectively.

For three days at the end of January, we trained around 60 teachers in all aspects of the programme. This is the second year of this training, which is designed to introduce teachers to the aims, messages, and possibilities of *Take Action*. With teachers on board in this way, we have been able to reduce our involvement in the time-consuming “trail” phase, freeing up resources to enable us to work with schools on their environmental education over the longer term. This was one of the objectives of the Community Engagement Review.

We have also been working to give effect to another expectation of the Review that the Enviroschools programme be better integrated with *Take Action*. We have been discussing how best to do this with the Enviroschools Trust, with the agreed option being for Greater Wellington to provide office space and logistical support to the regional Enviroschools co-ordinator. This will proceed in the next couple of months and will provide a day-to-day working relationship between the co-ordinator and our staff. There is no longer a need for Greater Wellington to support schools directly to do the Enviroschools programme, as territorial authorities have recently committed funds for this purpose.

4.1 Recruitment of schools for 2007

The recruitment of schools for (calendar) 2007 has been completed, with 28 schools signing up (10 of which will do *Take Action for Air*). The priority areas were Wairarapa and Porirua, but schools from across the region are represented (see attached overview of recruitment). Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt have fewer schools participating as these areas were targeted in 2005 and 2006.

4.2 New curriculum

A new draft New Zealand school curriculum was out for consultation in the latter part of 2006. This represents a critical opportunity for environmental education because if there is a requirement that schools teach children about sustainable ways of living, then governments would better resource this area of the curriculum and more students would be taught it as routine aspect of their education. We made a submission on the document in November, which is attached to this report.

The draft curriculum does contain some references to the environment and sustainability but its prescription for the core of what is taught in schools is not explicit about ecological sustainability or the need for students to develop the skills to live in sustainable ways. The submission argues this should be recognised within the curriculum in simple and unambiguous terms so that teachers and schools will give it the emphasis it deserves. It is argued that it should be given prominence in the “Science” and “Social Sciences” learning areas.

4.3 Enviroschools Awards

The annual Enviroschools Awards were held in December. Schools that had undertaken *Take Action* during the year accounted for eight of the 22 schools receiving awards. A funding contribution was made to Enviroschools to help stage this event.

5. Staff

I am pleased to inform the Committee that Shanthie Ashworth has joined the *Take Action* team while another staff member is on parental leave.

Attachment 1: Submission on the 2006 Draft New Zealand Curriculum from Greater Wellington Regional Council

Attachment 2: Overview of regional recruitment

Submission on the 2006 Draft New Zealand Curriculum from Greater Wellington Regional Council

1. Introduction

Greater Wellington Regional Council thanks the Ministry of Education for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Curriculum. This is pivotal document, essential to New Zealand's future. It is a future where long term environmental change is certain and where the ecosystems and environmental processes that support our social, cultural and economic wellbeing are under sustained attack. The generation that grows up using the new curriculum needs to know how it can live within the constraints of the world's natural resources.

2. Greater Wellington's role in education for sustainability

Since 2000 Greater Wellington has provided an environmental education programme for primary schools in the Wellington region. Some 100 schools and 11,000 students have participated in this programme, called *Take Action*. What is remarkable about this statistic is that it does not describe students who have undertaken a day trip into the environment or been visited in class by a regional council staff member (as environmental education is in some parts of the country). Rather, all of these students (and their schools) have participated in an intensive mix classroom and outside learning and activity that takes a minimum of a term and up to a year to complete. *Take Action* is a serious commitment on a school's behalf. The programme is booked solidly for 2007, with an additional 27 schools signed up.

Our experience in providing this type of education has led us to a number of conclusions that are relevant to the review of the Draft Curriculum. These are:

- There is considerable demand for education about how we can live within the ecological limits of the natural resources and ecosystems that sustain us (or as this is now known, education for sustainability). There is more demand than we can meet.
- Teachers and schools realise it is a vital subject that students need to know about.
- Children enjoy the programme, relish the learning approach and learn new skills.
- Teachers use *Take Action* to teach widely, across the existing curriculum.

It is our belief that the lessons of *Take Action* are vitally important and should be taught in every school. However, teachers teach the curriculum. For education for sustainability to occur, it needs to be strongly represented within the curriculum. Were it more so than it is now, we believe many more schools would seek out ways to help children learn these skills. Some would come to this Council for help but many more would find other ways.

There are a number of good models and programmes available (such as Enviroschools) and, with increased demand, other resources would be provided. The Ministry would itself no doubt provide greater support for the teaching of this topic.

It is Greater Wellington's belief that the Government must take a stronger lead in the provision, funding, and implementation of education for sustainability. The Draft Curriculum is the place to start.

3. What is *Take Action*?

The key message of *Take Action* is that students have the ability to make a difference to the natural world in which they live. By taking part in *Take Action* they learn important attitudes and skills about the significance of natural resources and protecting the environment in daily life, as well as life skills such as problem solving, collective decision making, and logical thinking. They spread their achievements and knowledge to their parents and families and to the communities around them and encourage more sustainable practices.

Take Action takes a minimum of a term and up to a year to complete. It is aimed at 8-12 year olds, although many schools take a whole school approach and provide for junior levels as well.

There are two *Take Action* programmes schools can use – one based on the biophysical environment (fresh water, biodiversity and waste) and the other focusing on air quality, climate change and transport (the latter has been available from mid 2006 only) . The range of learning experiences is flexible and relevant to the needs of children with a wide range of backgrounds and learning abilities. We work closely with classroom teachers and provide teacher training and extensive resources to help schools get the most out of the programme. Both the biophysical and air programmes are designed to integrate with the curriculum. While teachers deliver either programme, our staff (who are all trained teachers) work closely with both teachers and students. Both programmes are free to primary and intermediate schools and kura kaupapa maori in the region.

As the students work through each programme and explore locally topical environmental issues, they make connections between the way they live and the pressure this puts on the environment. They then *take action* to resolve these issues themselves, sometimes at school and frequently in the community. Most schools implement long term systems to manage their environmental impacts, such as recycling, waste reduction, and energy efficiency, and projects to restore local ecosystems and encourage biodiversity. Families and community members participate as well. Greater Wellington provides funds to assist with these *action projects* but these costs are frequently met by local businesses.

4. Comments on the Draft Curriculum

Below are Greater Wellington's comments on the Draft Curriculum and associated recommendations.

4.1 Principles

Greater Wellington supports the Principles expressed in this section of the draft curriculum. However, we would like to see **active participation** given stronger emphasis. We believe the curriculum should encourage the active participation of students in the planning and execution of their own learning. *Take Action* is based on enquiry learning where children learning by doing, i.e. by acting to solve the problems they discover, they learn *why* the problem occurs and develop the skills to resolve it. Teachers with whom we work say the programme is very effective and frequently motivates students who might otherwise not be interested in learning.

4.2 Recommendation

Amend the “Learning to learn” principle to read:

“All students experience a curriculum that enables them to become active, confident, creative, and innovative learners, thinkers *and participants*”.

4.3 Values

Greater Wellington supports the Values described on p.10. The introduction of the notion of “ecosystems” at this level is particularly welcome and we endorse the recognition given to “care for the environment” as one of the “deeply held beliefs” of New Zealanders. However, if the test of a value is that it “enables us to live together and thrive in a diverse, democratic society in the twenty-first century”, some amendment is necessary. If we are truly to thrive in a world undergoing widespread environmental change and the depletion of the ecosystems that support our social and economic wellbeing, then “care for the environment” is not enough. We would recommend a much stronger emphasis and the use of the notion of “sustainability”. It is our view that sustainability will become perhaps the most important idea and value of the 21st century and students need to know what it is.

4.4 Recommendation

Replace the bullet point “care for the environment...” with:

“The sustainability of the earth and its interrelated ecosystems”.

Amend the final bullet point which reads, “make ethical decisions and act on them”, to read:

“...make ethical decisions and act on them for the benefit of themselves, their community, and the natural world”.

4.5 Key Competencies

Competencies are described as “the capabilities people need in order to live, learn, work, and contribute as active members of their communities”. This is an appropriate description and, in general, Greater Wellington is fully supportive of the competencies as they are described in the document. The emphasis on “participating and contributing” is in accord with what we are trying to achieve through our environmental education programme.

The key message of *Take Action* is that children have the ability to make a difference to the natural world in which they live – in other words to instil in them the desire and the ability to participate in the care of their world, both as part of a community but also, importantly, as individuals. The discussion in the Draft Curriculum on “participating and contributing” focuses on the former rather than the latter but this competency should also include the idea of acting for the common good on an individual basis, knowing that one’s personal actions are contributing to something of benefit to society.

Greater Wellington supports the reference to environmental, social, and economic sustainability in this section.

Greater Wellington also strongly supports the competencies of “relating to others” and “thinking” as they are described here. These competencies are encouraged and developed through our programmes. Our students learn co-operative learning, problem solving, collective decision making, and logical thinking skills, amongst others.

4.6 Learning Areas

Take Action has been developed so that it can be integrated across the subjects of the curriculum. Teachers have employed it across all parts of the curriculum, but especially in science, social science, and technology. While environmental education will continue to be taught in this way, it is our view that ecological sustainability and the need for individuals and society to live in sustainable ways need to be recognised within the new curriculum in simple and unambiguous terms so that teachers and schools will give it the emphasis it deserves. Our belief is that it should be given prominence in the “Science” and “Social Sciences” learning areas within the Draft Curriculum.

4.7 Recommendation

Add to the Science learning area, to the section “Planet Earth and beyond”, the following:

“This strand is about the cyclic processes and systems that occur on Earth and in space, and the interactions between them, particularly in relation to New Zealand. These systems provide the conditions for life. Life forms, especially humans, impact on them both positively and negatively. Students need to know and understand these processes and to appreciate that modifying them affects all living things. *Students understand the concept of sustainability and the need for humans to act in ways that support the health and well-*

being of these living systems. Students develop the knowledge and skills to act in these ways”.

Add to the Social Sciences learning area, to the section “Place and Environment”, the following:

“In the **Place and Environment** strand, students learn about how people perceive, represent, interpret, and interact with places and environments. They come to understand the relationships that exist between people and the environment *and the need for individuals and society to act and organise themselves in ways that promote the long term health of the environment.*”

4.8 Effective Pedagogy

Greater Wellington supports the approach taken in this section of the Draft Curriculum.

4.9 Designing a School Curriculum

Greater Wellington agrees with the organisation of learning using themes. While we have sought enhancements to the Science and Social Science learning areas (above), we agree with the desirability of applying integrating methodologies, such as environmental education, across multiple learning areas. The use of sustainability as an integrating theme is particularly welcome. However, it would be disappointing if this was the only place in which the Draft Curriculum used this term (which appears to be the case at present), hence our desire to have it achieve some prominence in other parts of the curriculum. The significance of sustainability to our long term economic, cultural, and social wellbeing cannot be gainsaid. It is a fundamental value that young people growing up in our world need to comprehend and put into practice.

Overview of regional recruitment

Kapiti	Kenakena	Waikanae	Waitohu Sch Otaki									
Porirua	Cannons Creek	Discovery	Glenview	Russell	St Pius X Christine McDonald							
Wellington	Queen Margaret Water	Queen Margaret Air	St Brigid's	St Brigid's	St Teresa's	Wadestown	Cardinal McKeefry	Strathmore Community	Otari			
Lower Hutt	St Michael's	Muritai										
Upper Hutt	Totara Park											
Masterton	Chanel College	Fernridge	Lakeview	Solway	St Patrick's	Wainuioru						
Carterton	Carterton											
South Wairarapa	Kahutara											

Key

 Schools that have committed to Take Action 2007

 Schools that have committed to Take Action for AIR 2007

Murray McLea
Acting Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – February 2007

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Policy Statement review update

Tami is providing an update of the Regional Policy Statement review in a separate report.

1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

The outstanding matter in this plan change related to conditions on a rule requiring resource consent for heavy vehicles to use a stopbank. Decisions were appealed to the High Court. We received a decision from the High Court in November 2006. Final approval for Plan Change 1 will be sought at the meeting of the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee on 22 February 2007.

1.3 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Draft Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was released for public consultation in October 2006. The period for public comment closed in November 2006 and four comments were received. The plan change will limit the taking of additional water from three groundwater aquifers and six streams in the Wairarapa. Staff will hold further discussions with those who made comments before recommending how to proceed to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

1.4 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Plan change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan was notified in December 2006 following approval by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. Public submissions on this plan change close on 26 February 2007. This plan change revises provisions for port noise in the Coastal Plan. It is a joint plan change with Wellington City Council and is designed to improve and align the provisions in our respective plans.

1.5 The National Water Programme of Action

Progress is being made by central government on the National Water Programme of Action. We have received notice that a National Environment Standard (NES) for human drinking water sources has been approved by cabinet and will be gazetted once final legal drafting is completed. An NES for water measuring devices has been notified for submissions. Submissions close on 16 February 2007 and staff are preparing their comments at the time

of writing this report. Progress is also being made on an NES for environmental flows and a National Policy Statement for water allocation and water quality.

2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

2.1 Pauatahanui project

An application to the Biodiversity Condition Fund to support two projects as part of the broader joint GW/PCC Pauatahanui “Vegetation Frameworks” programme was lodged just before Christmas. The application for \$95,000 is to fund two riparian enhancement projects, one on the Gray property of the Kakaho Stream and the other, involving a number of landowners, on the Upper Horikiri Stream.

2.2 Waiwhetu Project

An application to the Ministry for the Environment’s Contaminated Site Remediation Fund (CSRf) seeking 100% of the estimated \$6 million cost of cleaning up and removing the contaminated sediments from the lower reaches of the Waiwhetu Stream was lodged in mid November.

Just before Christmas, Tim Porteous, John Eyles and Dave Benham met with Hugh Logan, CEO of Ministry for the Environment (MfE) to discuss the application. Greater Wellington was congratulated on the thoroughness of its application. Since this meeting MfE staff have indicated that funding is available at a lower level than we sought in the application. Discussion is continuing.

2.3 Wetland Action Plan

Newly found wetlands are being added to the inventory as they are discovered. Recently discovered wetlands include the Denton Wetland on Quartz Hill, an Unnamed Wetland on the Ohariu Stream and some additional sites on the Kapiti Coast. KCDC have agreed to add some additional wetlands to their District Plan, as a part of Plan Change 55B.

At last count, a total of 92 landowners have been involved in the *Wetland Incentives Programme* since it started three years ago. Subsidised weed control and fencing remain the most popular ways to use the incentives offered.

To celebrate World Wetlands Day on Friday 2nd February 2007, Greater Wellington and other organisations held an information day at Waitangi Park. The designers of Waitangi Park took tours around the park explaining features of the wetland. Over 100 people came along to find out more about wetlands.

2.4 Coastal and Marine Biodiversity

We commissioned consultants to undertake a broad scale survey of the beaches and major river estuaries between Baring Head on the North Island’s south coast and the Mataikona River estuary on the eastern Wairarapa coast. This involves recording the substrate

characteristics and any significant plant and animal life between mean high tide and low tide. The work was completed in December. The survey went well with access gained to difficult spots from friendly farmers.

This completes the survey for the entire region. All of the inter-tidal zone and dune face vegetation in the region has now been recorded and photographed and is on GIS. This is a NZ first and a valuable record for future monitoring and assessment of the coastal zone. The next step for this work is to further assess this record and determine places where long term monitoring of the coastal zone should occur. This information could become part of the coastal environment monitoring strategy and programme.

2.5 Energy

In December, the Government released a suite of policy documents dealing with energy management and climate change. The principal report was the National Energy Strategy, supported by the review of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (NEECS), two documents on managing greenhouse gas emissions (in the short and medium/long term respectively) and a discussion paper on the implications of carbon capture for land use management.

Submissions are due on all these documents by the end of March 2007 and we are currently putting comments together from various relevant areas of interest within GW. A draft submission will be prepared and presented to Council during March.

2.6 Biodiversity voluntary change research programme

This project is focussing on the Ohariu catchment and our work promoting streamside management to protect and enhance aquatic biodiversity.

Last October AgResearch sent a survey to all landowners in the Ohariu catchment to find out the value they put on the natural environment in general and the stream in particular. We have received a copy of the results. Points of interest were that over half the respondents lived in the valley for over 10 years, nearly half claimed to have done something to improve water quality, and most (74%) thought of themselves as someone concerned about water quality, and felt a responsibility to look after it.

We invited members of the Makara estuary community to a barbecue hosted by AgResearch on Friday 26 January. About 40 people came along, including members of the Community Board. Mike Joy from Massey University and John Quinn from NIWA presented them with information about the stream. There was considerable interest and enthusiasm from the people who attended.

3. John's retirement

John Holmes is retiring. His last day at Greater Wellington will be on 2 March 2007. John has worked at the Council for 19 years and his skills, experience, finesse and personality have made a huge contribution to the work of the Council and its Committees.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report □ February 2007

1. Floodwarning

The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre and the Masterton office. 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 11 events triggered a total of 88 alarms (Wairarapa 36 alarms, Western area 52 alarms).

The level in Lake Wairarapa reached a peak of 10.6m around the 20 November as a consequence of flood flows in the river system, above the target level of 10m for the month. During December the level was maintained at the 10.15m target for the month but dropped below for a period of time in January because of a contractor's error at the barrage gates.

2. Rainfall and river flows

2.1 Monthly summaries

November 2006 was a relatively wet month, particularly in the west of the Wellington region, due to frequent westerly rainfall fronts (Figure 1). Parts of the Tararua Range and Kapiti Coast received more than double the long-term average rainfall for November. The monthly totals in these areas were particularly high due to a storm on 17-18 November. In contrast, the eastern Wairarapa hills had rainfall about to slightly below normal for the month.

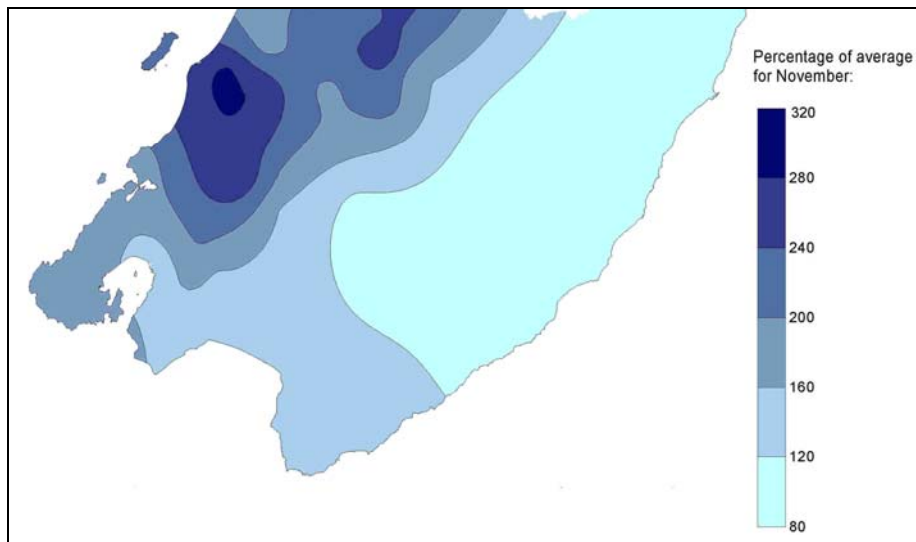


Figure 1: Rainfall during November 2006 compared to the long-term average

River flows tended to remain well above average during November. The rivers with headwaters in the Tararua range reached high levels following heavy rainfall on 17-18 November and again on 30 November, triggering floodwarning alarms particularly in the Waikanae, Otaki and Hutt catchments. However, the floods were not significant compared to previous floods on record.

Following a month of westerlies in November, December 2006 was colder than usual due to frequent southerlies over the Wellington region. Rainfall for the month was about normal, although it was slightly drier than usual in the north around Masterton, and in the Tararua Range (Figure 2). River flows remained about normal for the time of the year, and there were no flood events during the month.

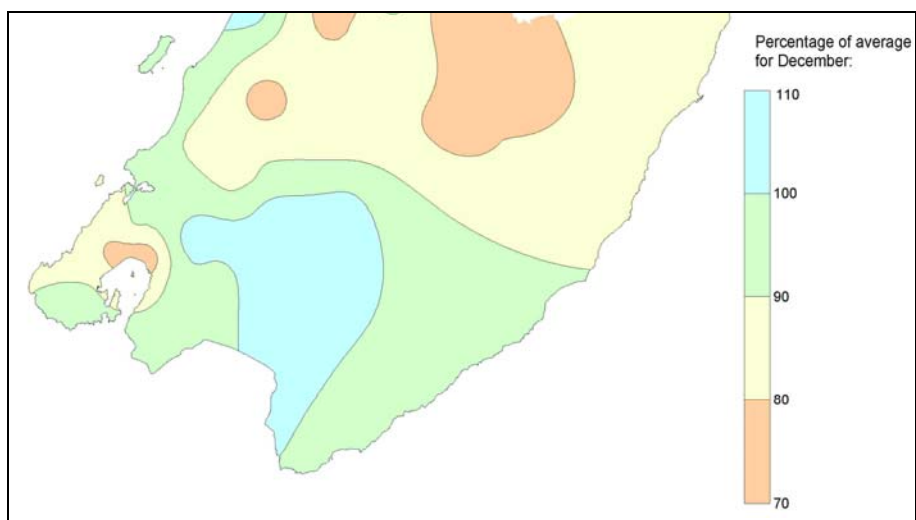


Figure 2: Rainfall during December 2006 compared to the long-term average for December

January 2007 was a cool month compared to usual for January, with the average temperature 1.3°C below normal in Wellington and sunshine hours on

the Kapiti Coast about 70% of normal. Westerly conditions prevailed over the North Island during January, which is typical of El Nino. Consequently, rainfall in the west of the region – on the Kapiti coast and in Wellington and Hutt valley – was generally above average for January (Figure 3). A strong west-east rainfall gradient occurred over the Tararua range, with average to slightly above average rainfall in the west of the ranges, and below normal rainfall in the east. Throughout the Wairarapa January was a dry month particularly in the east, where rainfall at Tanawa Hut was about one-third of the long-term average.

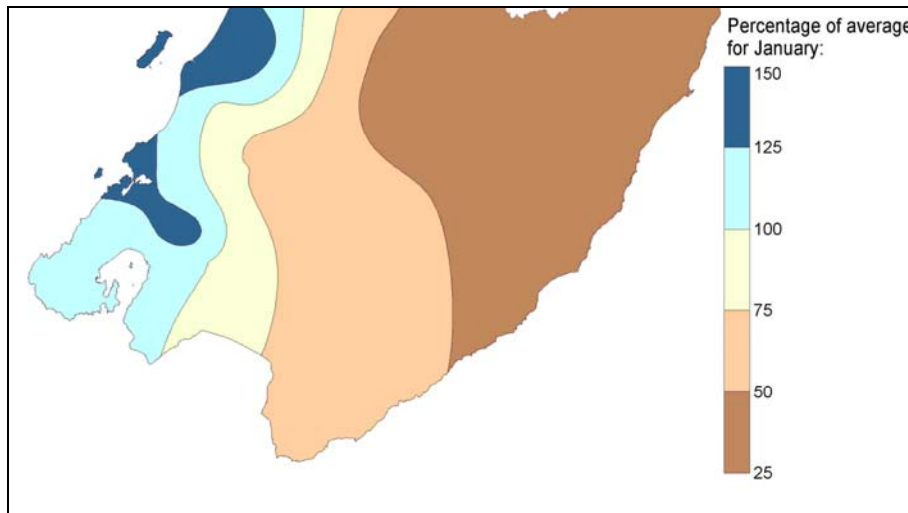


Figure 3: Rainfall during January 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for the month

Due to the relatively wet conditions in the west of the region, river flows remained above average for the time of the year in the Otaki, Waikanae, Hutt and Wainuiomata rivers. East of the Tararua Range river flows were below normal for January, including in the Ruamahanga River and its major tributaries. However, average low flow conditions have not yet been reached.

2.2 Annual summary

Overall, 2006 was a wet year with rainfall about 20% more rainfall than average across the region (Table 1). The wettest months compared to normal were July and November. July 2006 saw several storm events passing over the region, bringing high rainfall particularly to the south eastern areas. In contrast, September was a very dry month with only a quarter of the long-term average September rainfall received in some parts of the region.

The storms of early July 2006 brought the largest floods for the year in the eastern rivers (e.g. Huangarua, Tauweru, Wainuiomata rivers) and in the Ruamahanga River. The Waikanae, Otaki and Hutt rivers had their largest floods for 2006 on 17 November.

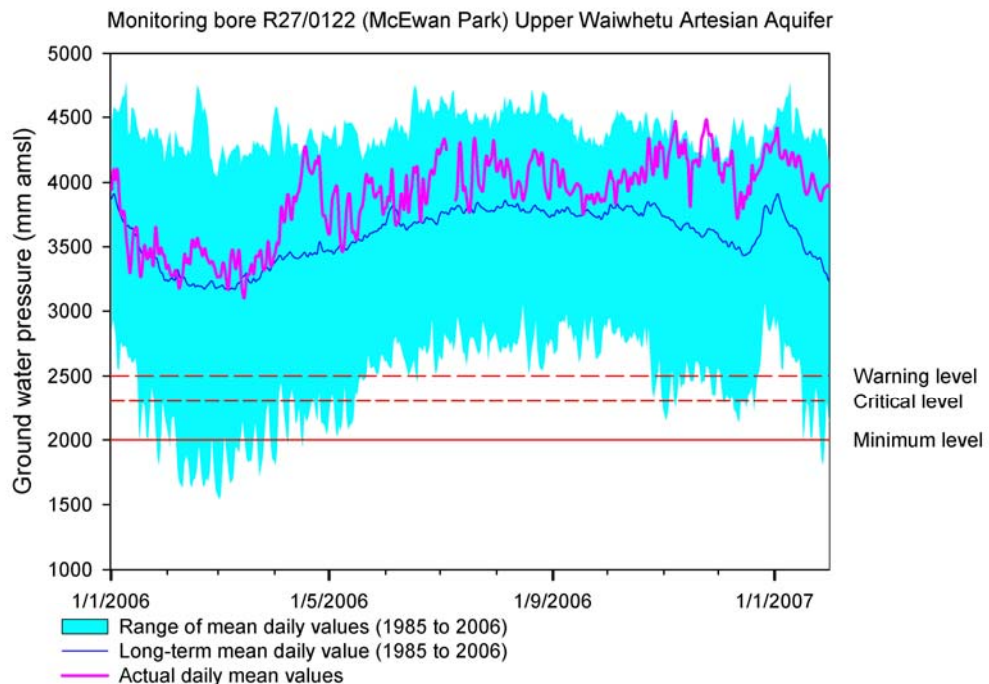
Table 1: Annual rainfall totals for 2006 at representative rainfall stations

Station	Catchment area	Rainfall in 2006	Long-term average rainfall	2006 rainfall % of average
Karori Reservoir	Wellington city	1416 mm	1237 mm	115%
Water Treatment Plant	Waikanae	1566 mm	1341 mm	117%
Kaitoke Headworks	Hutt	2862 mm	2344 mm	122%
Wainui Reservoir	Wainuiomata	2316 mm	1939 mm	120%
Angle Knob	Tararua range	8225 mm	6924 mm	119%
Alloa	Featherston	1425 mm	1091 mm	131%
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Wairarapa hills	1315 mm	1581 mm	120%

3. Groundwater levels

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

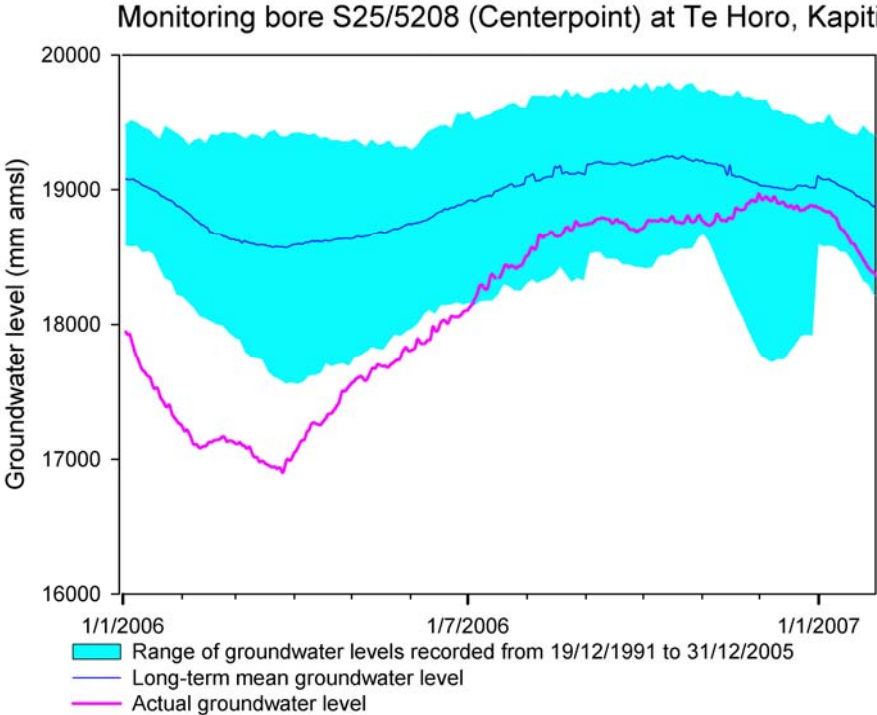
Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring well on the Petone foreshore has been above the long-term mean for the period November to January inclusive. The pressure has remained well above the seawater intrusion alarm levels. No decline due to increased summer abstraction is evident yet.



3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

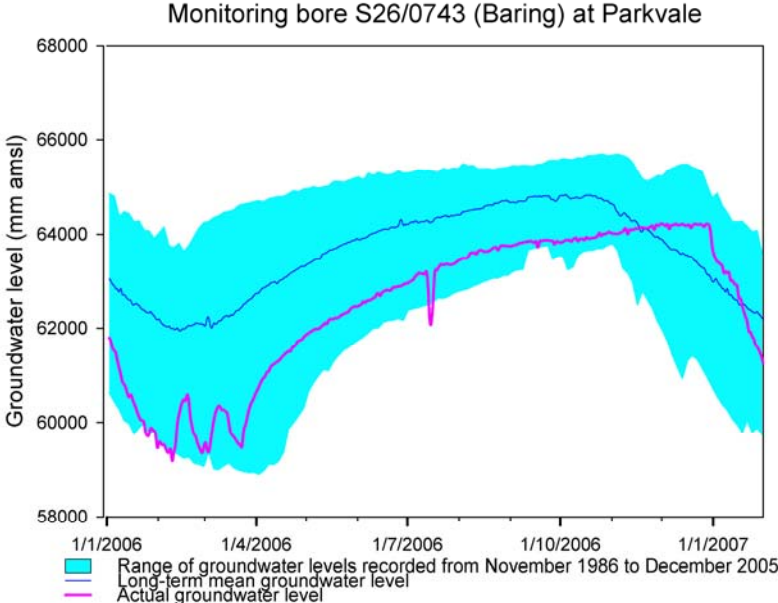
Groundwater levels in the Kapiti aquifers did not fully recover to long-term mean levels during winter and spring 2006. Our monitoring well at Te Horo was below the long-term mean for the period November to January inclusive

and has now been below the long-term mean since July 2005. A further decline due to summer irrigation is evident since the beginning of January, but the levels are still above the long-term minimums.

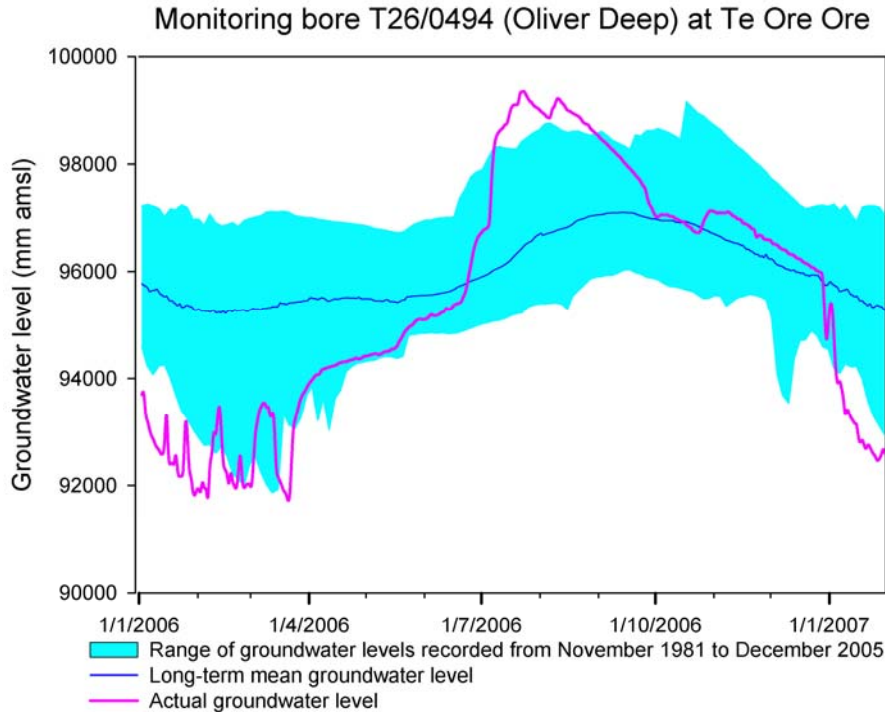


3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Monitoring of levels at the Baring well in Parkvale, located in a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, shows that groundwater recovered to above the long-term mean during November and December; part of the recovery is likely to be a result of the delayed start to the irrigation season because of the wet spring. Groundwater levels dropped to below the long term mean in January once the irrigation season commenced.



Groundwater levels in an unconfined/semi-confined aquifer (Oliver Deep well at Te Ore Ore) rapidly dropped to well below the long term mean once seasonal irrigation commenced. This follows a good recovery in late winter and spring to well above the long term mean.



4. Air quality monitoring

4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in the period 31 October 2006 to 31 January 2007 in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

5. Contaminated sites

5.1 Contaminated land management

The Ministry for the Environment has released a discussion document "Working Towards a Comprehensive Policy Framework for Managing Contaminated land in New Zealand". This framework is intended to address issues that have not been covered in previous Ministry initiatives. These issues include variable approaches to management of contaminate land at regional and territorial level, lack of national consistent methods and barriers to identifying and documenting contaminated land. Submissions on this document close on 28 February. Ideally this framework will clarify the role that we play in the management of contaminated land.

5.2 Selected Land Use Register

The Department maintains the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) which records sites that because of their land use, past or present, may be contaminated. There are currently 1789 sites on the register. This register is able to be accessed by authorized council and territorial authority staff and this has occurred 6472 times in the period November to January inclusive. In this period there have also been 89 requests for information from the public.

6. Bathing water quality

This monitoring programme commenced on 1 November and results are regularly placed on the web site. We understand that this site is regularly used by the public and by media organisations.

A short period of non-compliance with the bathing guidelines occurred prior to Christmas at all three sites for three days running in the Pauatahanui Inlet. Investigations undertaken by Porirua City Council did not identify any obvious source. The issue received some media attention and upset some residents. There have been no subsequent problems.

In parallel we have established criteria relating to river flow which we anticipate will give early warning of conditions favourable for the growth of blue-green algae. This should enable early detection of potentially toxic conditions in rivers (mainly the Hutt) so that warnings to bathers and dog owners can be put in place.

7. Water quality

7.1 Wellington Harbour

Samples of sediment at a number of sites in the Wellington Harbour have been collected and await testing for a range of parameters. This work is to update our knowledge of harbour water quality and add to work that was last done 20 years ago.

We have sought and obtained funding from Capacity to support the testing programme. Of the \$100,000 we require to complete this work Capacity will contribute \$50,000 (\$40,000 as WCC contribution, \$10,000 as Hutt City contribution).

7.2 Didymo

We are maintaining contact with the organisations responsible for preventing the spread of Didymo and are, as part of our routine work, both providing advice and education to river users and putting in place procedures so our own staff are aware of the risks of and measures to avoid transferring organisms from river to river.

8. Staff

Andrew Jones left his groundwater position after ten years with the council. This move followed his wife's completion of a PhD and her taking up a position in Australia. Andrew has moved to a groundwater position in Perth. Andrew's position has been filled by Doug McAlister who has ten years experience in hydrogeology.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report

February 2007

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 16 October 2006 to 20 January 2007 we have received 187 consent applications. This compares with 210 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 182 consents. This compares with 258 over the same period last year. One consent was processed out of time primarily due to poor practice. Once again, this is incredibly disappointing as I believe the situation could have been avoided had the processing time-frames been better managed.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 13 working days, up from the last period. Given the statutory time 'black-out' period from 20 December to 10 January, and reduced numbers of non-notified consents processed, I would have anticipated a slight reduction in median processing times. However, during the period we have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications. Furthermore, we are currently dealing with eight appeals, and we have also been less up to two permanent full-time consents staff during the period. Bore permit numbers have also continued to remain low.

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

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind

While we have received a decision on the appeal of Project West Wind consent decisions from the Environment Court, we have received a confidential 'minute' from the Environment Court on 31 January. The minute, served on all appellants' counsels, proposes two options for Meridian to consider in resolving the appeals. Meridian will need to consider the Court directive, and we expect Greater Wellington will be consulted, along with other parties, in

due course. At this stage we are not at liberty to discuss the contents of the minute.

The decisions on the jointly processed consents were released on 21 December 2005. Key issues included landscape effects, proximity of residences to the site, traffic, noise and ecological effects.

Waterfront Investments Limited – Hilton Hotel

A decision to grant applications for a five-star Hilton Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions, has been appealed by five parties including the applicant; Miro Property Holdings and Prime Commercial Investments; Wellington Civic Trust and Waterfront Watch; Wellington Indoor Sports (subsequently withdrawn) and Intercontinental Hotel. Two section 274 parties (other submitters who haven't directly appealed) have joined the appeals. The appeals are reasonably broad in nature without being absolutely clear about central matters, while the applicant has specifically appealed traffic management conditions despite agreeing to the conditions initially put forward by the officers during the hearing.

The first pre-hearing conference was held on 31 January, which clarified the range of matters to be covered by each of the appellants, indicating the evidence and associated expert witnesses that will be required to defend the decision. A first round of mediation is scheduled for 23 February intended to clarify the scope of appeals and evidence requirements only - none of the opposing parties indicated a willingness to otherwise progress the appeals through full mediation. Consequently, the proceedings also indicated that evidence would be exchanged in May 2007, with a Court hearing possible in July or August.

The Court has already shown a thorough understanding of the application and decision, and has indicated a particular interest in the key issues cited by the hearing panel. The appeals will be heard by Judge Dwyer in what appears to be his first significant case as a recently appointed Environment Court judge.

Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust – Aquarium of New Zealand

A decision to grant the new joint applications for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand (MEC) was released on 19 October and subsequently appealed by Save the Point Trust, Chris Webster and Lili Prince, with two additional parties joining the appeal. Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations.

The appeals substantively cover WCC-decision related matters including natural character, landscape values, amenity, traffic management and sustainability, although the appeals are not clear about matters relating to GW. Parties have indicated a willingness to enter mediation, scheduled for 1 and 2 March, where we will be looking to clarify the scope of the appeals.

Capacity/Wellington City Council: Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

Capacity/Wellington City Council (WCC) have appealed the 22 December decision to enable the applicant to continue to discharge effluent to the Wellington South Coast and Karori Stream (including discharges of odour). We have also received appeals from two additional parties – New Zealand Forestry Group and Action for Environment Incorporated. Issues covered by the appeals include the term of consent, effects on the receiving environment, and the state and ongoing integrity of the effluent pipeline.

Earlier the decision on the five applications enabled 20-yr durations for the main outfall discharge and air permit, and 10-yr durations for each of the three discharges of milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast. In its decision the hearing panel noted that the shorter terms were appropriate given the predicted life of the pipeline (20 – 30 yrs), and expressed concerns about the condition of the existing outfall pipeline and its propensity to leak. It also noted a need for the applicant to work towards reducing overflow discharges in future. The panel imposed strong requirements on the consent holder via conditions for investigations, monitoring and reporting requirements on environmental and infrastructural matters.

Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL)

A further round of mediation will occur on 1 February regarding an appeal of an application to discharge community wastewater connected with for a 30-lot subdivision at Tora, South Wairarapa. We have assessed concerns raised about the location and design of the proposed community wastewater treatment system and an alternative, as have remaining parties. The alternative design is satisfactory in our view and it remains to be seen how the other parties respond.

A E & S W Benton Partnership

Mediation on appeals of a benchmark-setting decision to decline an application to take groundwater from the Kahutara groundwater zone (affected by a moratorium not to ‘accept’ further applications) continues. The applicant failed to provide adequate information to counter GW’s case by the set deadline. Consequently, we have provided draft conditions to the applicant and appellants for their consideration, proposing a shorter term and reduced take in order to monitor effects on other aquifer users, and provide time for GW to model the aquifer’s sustainable allocation more accurately. As discussed previously with the Committee, this case is particularly important in that it may establish precedent for Greater Wellington regarding the formal ‘status’ of moratorium groundwater zones and the level of technical evidence necessary to support a status, which could be far-reaching.

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

This relates to an appeal by A J Barton¹ on a decision that granted consent to LARO to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. We are yet to receive a decision following the November 2006 Environment Court hearing regarding the one remaining issue - the use of a paper road and implications for stopbank.

Masterton District Council

Progress has not 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.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 Annual compliance report

We have completed our 2005-06 annual compliance monitoring report for consented activities. A copy is to be provided at the meeting.

The report summarises compliance by activity type and territorial authority area. Key statistics to note is the overall level of full compliance at 76% and non-compliance – 11 % - unchanged from the previous year. Non-compliance means that consent holders failed to meet certain environmental conditions or notification of works commencing. Some issues highlighted by the report include:

- Agricultural discharges: non-compliance relating to effluent ponding and poor maintenance of irrigation equipment.
- Wastewater treatment plants: generally well-performed in the western region.
- Coastal activities: small number of boatsheds non-complying due to unlawful discharges to the coast, or using boatsheds for overnight stays.

The report will be placed in the GW website and sent to our major consent holders and consultants.

3.2 General

In general compliance, we have commenced dairymshed compliance monitoring, and will look to follow up on significant non-compliance quickly in order to redress some developing poor performance amongst some consent holders. This work connects to our commitments as part of the Fonterra Clean Streams Accord. While Fonterra are concerned about a national trend of poor

¹ The Environment Court has already struck out a number of aspects of the appeal relating to consideration of Regional Freshwater Plan provisions and section 5 and 104 RMA considerations.

compliance, I don't believe the issue is serious for Greater Wellington. Furthermore, we are 'encouraging' Fonterra to address these matters with their cooperative members – the dairy farmers themselves. In spite of this we will continue to work closely with Fonterra to achieve full compliance in accordance with our own enforcement protocols and approaches.

Work on directing and monitoring water permit restrictions will ramp up during February as watercourses and aquifers drop to low flow levels, particularly in the Wairarapa.

Meanwhile we continue our programme of regular monitoring of major consented activities.

3.3 Specific compliance

Taylor Preston Ltd – change of consent conditions or consent review?

Issues relating to Gorge Action Group's (GAG) displeasure with Taylor Preston Limited's (TPL) compliance with their air discharge permit continue. We recently held possibly the first ever meeting between members of GAG and TPL senior staff to discuss collective concern about continuing odour problems. I have recommended that TPL apply for a change of consent conditions to incorporate possible changes to odour management equipment, including a new rendering plant, and new contingency and environmental site plans. GAG and TPL, in principle, have accepted this approach. However, I have stressed to both parties that the change of conditions approach will be contingent upon TPL applying for consent reasonably quickly. Meanwhile, the TPL board will consider proposed capital works early in February. While the consents conditions change process potentially provides effective outcomes via a more straight forward, faster and cheaper regulatory process, I have indicated to TPL and GAG that an unsatisfactory application (or lack of an application) will force us to instigate a formal review. Ultimately, while I very much prefer the recommended approach I believe we now must formally assess site practices again. In any event we have until late June to make a decision on a possible review.

Exide Technologies Ltd – comply with new lead limits

As I mentioned in my last report, Exide Technologies Ltd (Exide) had not completed the cartridge house enclosure² - designed to help contain possible sources of lead contaminated dust – by the 1 August consent deadline. We were very disappointed that completion had been delayed until November, and subsequently served an infringement notice in early November. However, Exide had put in place some temporary enclosure measures. We were very pleased to see that, following the August-October monitoring period, Exide were able to meet the lower lead discharge limits imposed on 1 August. Furthermore, since completing the cartridge house in early November, Exide were able to show a further reduction in lead emissions.

² The works enclose the filter press machinery helping to contain dust emissions during maintenance and drum changeovers.

While media attention on the good results of Exide has been disappointingly low, conversely attention on the slag-housing and processing issue has been strong. It is important to stress that this remains a matter for Hutt City at this stage while issues centre on the storage of hazardous waste.

3.4 Abatement notices

We served five abatement notices in the last period:

- An abatement notice was served on Joe Roberts for unauthorised discharges from a subdivision development on Blue Mountains Road, Upper Hutt. This was disappointing given our previous involvement with Mr Roberts connected with earlier incidents.
- We served an abatement notice on Colonial Knob Farm Holdings Ltd to fully complete or remove a poorly installed culvert in Mitchell Stream, Broken Hill Road Porirua.
- Abatement notices were also issued to Karl Parker Investments (unauthorised works in an unnamed stream, Burma Road, Khandallah), Steve Brown (unauthorised stream works, Makara), and Michael Willbourne (for discharges to stormwater from a car washing operation in Wakefield Street, Wellington).

We continue to closely monitor activities associated with notices served on J T Cook and Kevin Anderson Combined Projects Ltd relating to the appropriate management and relocation of around 3,000 tyres from a property in the Castlepoint area. The tyres have the potential to breakdown and release contaminants into the site and to groundwater, exist as a fire hazard, and pose a significant cause of instability should they be located and earth-worked poorly. It is fair to say that we are cautious about the intended uses of tyres on site, and the ability of the parties to meet the timelines imposed. Nevertheless we will work with them to ensure compliance with the notices.

3.5 Infringement notices

Seven infringement notices have been issued in last period:

- Three infringement notices were issued to Staites Drive Development Limited relating to a breach of an abatement notice requiring ceasing of discharges of sediment from an earthworks site in Whitby. This action follows three earlier notices served for the very same activity, which is disappointing.
- Two infringement notices was issued to Joe Roberts of Blue Mountains Road for unconsented discharges from an earthworks site. We have had previous dealings with Mr Roberts.
- Infringement notices were also served on Patrick Roil (breach of abatement notice for unauthorised filling and reclamation of a stream bed, Mulhern Road, Pauatahanui Road), Steve Harding (unauthorised works in

a unnamed stream, Emerald Hill Road, Upper Hutt) and Whitby Holdings Limited (discharge of sediment from earthworks into an unnamed tributary of Pauatahanui Inlet).

3.6 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Four prosecution and three enforcement order proceedings are currently underway. In all cases we have either made significant positive progress or had resounding success in resolving the cases, and receiving awards for costs. It should be noted that this level of success across all major enforcement actions at a given time is possibly unprecedented for GW.

Burrell Demolition Ltd

In a surprising turn of events, guilty pleas have been entered by Burrell Demolition Ltd regarding the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington. Mr Burrell had elected a trial by jury and will now instead be sentenced on 12 February. In the meantime we had engaged Dam Watch to assess the stability of the landfill under extreme weather and flooding events in preparation of our case against Mr Burrell. We have indicated to the Court that we will be seeking costs.

Tonkin and Taylor and Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd

The first call over in our case against Tonkin and Taylor and Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd took place in early December to present summaries of fact and the scope of restitution (cash to be provided for stream care work in Enaki Stream and Hutt River) we are seeking from Tonkin and Taylor. The charges laid are for an unauthorised 'emptying' of the contents of a large sediment pond at Silverstream Landfill, that entered Hulls Creek and the Hutt River in January 2006. We are now waiting for a response from the defendants as to how they wish to proceed from here, and we are hopeful if a positive outcome for GW.

Paddy Hannan, Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Droque Construction Ltd

A prosecution against Paddy Hannan, Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Droque Construction Ltd for breach of an enforcement order relating to the required removal of non-cleanfill material from a cleanfill site in Waiu St, Wainuiomata continues. The Court had confirmed new enforcement orders requiring a further roading plan (identifying the area of contaminated material) and a plan for removing the non-cleanfill material to be completed by 13 December 2006. A delay of sentencing until 15 December enabled the Judge to be able considers the defendant's performance against the enforcement order conditions. In sentencing, the Court noted that terms of an enforcement are non-negotiable, and that the Council had shown 'extreme latitude' towards the defendant. The Court imposed a fine of \$5,000 noting the seriousness of the breach (to go with the parties' \$5,000 contribution towards our costs).

Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James/282 Ohiro Road.

We continue with the resolution to various actions against Lance James and his companies relating to substantial subdivision developments in Brooklyn. Following a guilty plea, costs and a fine imposed (totalling \$5,500), the enforcement order directed erosion and sediment control plan has been provided and signed off by GW. The plan is intended to remedy the risk of ongoing discharges of sediment onto land and into the Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision.

Ohiro Properties Ltd/318 Ohiro Road

Meanwhile, we were awarded \$11,270 costs in relation to the Ohiro Properties Ltd / 318 Ohiro Road³ abandoned appeal of our enforcement orders, and have sought final substantive orders from the Environment Court. Orders relate to restrictions on vegetation clearance, erosion and sediment control and reinstatement of a small stream, which was reclaimed without consent.

J Gabites

On 5 December we commenced mediation relating to enforcement orders against J Gabites farm in Mangaroa Valley for ongoing discharges from pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks to tributaries of Mangaroa River. Mr Gabites will submit by 9 February a Contaminant Management Plan dealing with sludge and earthworks discharges on land – prior to the next round of mediation. In addition, Mr Gabites is required to undertake regular water sampling and one-off sludge and soil sampling. These are very pleasing outcomes so far, essentially corresponding to the actions we sought from the original orders.

3.7 Take Charge

The *Take Charge* programme was less active than usual in the period given reduced staff numbers and priorities in significant enforcement work by the team. A number of visits were undertaken and work has begun in the Grenada North Industrial area to identify key businesses.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.38).

3.8 Significant incidents

Significant incidents for the period are discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.38).

Dumping of Chicken Manure and Carcasses – Terawhiti Station

On 14 January we were notified of dumped manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Terawhiti Station. We attended the site and were alarmed at

³ Enforcement orders were sought following unauthorised destruction of a small stream in Brooklyn in April 2004.

the scale of the dumping, and its resulting direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Initial investigations indicate that hundreds of tons of manure have been dumped. We have spoken to the station manager and other parties and our investigations continue into the source of the discharge and the resulting effects on the receiving environment of Oteranga Stream and Bay. Clearly this is a serious incident of the highest order.

Media attention was initially strong, with TVNZ having been notified by the complainant. TVNZ were present on site when Pollution Control Officer, Duncan Ross arrived on site, and after a filming and interviewing Duncan they interviewed me the following day. Interest has been slight since, although I am continuing to keep TVNZ generally updated.

S.E.A. Marine Ltd – discharge of fuel

A significant discharge of 2000 litres of fuel from a failed tanker coupling occurred at SEA Marine Ltd, Masterton on 11 January. We were initially concerned that fuel had escaped the site via the stormwater network or had moved through the underlying soil profile. Subsequent testing and investigations revealed that much of the fuel had evaporated, and had not infiltrated the soil profile to any great extent. It is useful to note that our duty pollution officer responded within three minutes and we received praise from the New Zealand Fire Service for our response work.

Pollution Control Annual Report

The Pollution Control Annual Report incident data and trends for the last financial year is attached to Report 07.30, and follows up on the summarised Annual Environment Report Cards Report reported to the November Committee.

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Hilton Hotel: Wellington Waterfront Investments

A decision to grant applications for a five-star Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions has been appealed by five parties, discussed in section 2.1 of this report.

Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust

A decision to grant the new joint applications for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand has been appealed by three parties, discussed in section 2.1 of this report.

Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: WCC/Capacity

A decision to grant these applications for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant was appealed by three parties, discussed in section 2.1 of this report.

Capital and Coast District Health Board

This is an application to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital, including the hospital's Total Energy Centre. We are still waiting for final approval of the draft conditions by the applicant prior to finalising the Officer's report.

N & E Reid

Applications from N & E Reid to replace and extend on existing consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air (from a herd of 11,000 animals) north of Clareville, Carterton, was heard in December with the decision released in early January. The panel granted a fifteen-year term with conditions focussing on monitoring of ground and surface water, and management plan requirements. The panel also highlighted the need to ensure that staff follow up on the heavy compliance requirements – a concern raised by submitters as well. Media interest in Masterton has been strong, although the media is yet to take up invitations to talk with us. We now wait to see if the decision will be appealed.

Prema Investments Ltd

Submissions have been received for joint applications from Prema Investments, relating to discharges of communal wastewater to land from a 6-lot subdivision at Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa. A hearing is being organised for early March.

Stronvar Properties Ltd

Submissions have been received for Stronvar Properties Ltd (Stronvar, Masterton), a 56-lot subdivision involving applications for discharges of wastewater and sediment from earthworks, taking water, and erecting an dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake. The applications have generated much interest in the Wairarapa, and given the underlying soils and geology, we face some significant technical issues in assessment regarding community waste waster treatment and operation of the proposed lake.

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. We understand that information requested is pending, and once received we will then publicly notify the applications.

Palliser Bay Station

An application for discharges from a community wastewater scheme associated with a proposed 22-lot subdivision on Cape Palliser Road, South Wairarapa was lodged in November and notified on 24 January. This application continues the trend of a proliferation of subdivision activity and associated communal wastewater schemes in the Wairarapa.

Limited Notified

Hutt City Council

This is an application for retrospective emergency and ongoing river re-alignment works on Wainuiomata River adjacent to the Coast Road and Wainuiomata Golf Club, which are being processed on a limited notified basis. One submission was received from Wainuiomata Golf Club. A further pre-hearing meeting is set down for February. The applicant will respond to the Wainuiomata Golf Club before draft conditions are considered.

Kaitawa Crematorium

Kaitawa Crematorium, proposed for central Waikanae, is turning out to be arguably the most contentious limited notified application we have received. The application is for an air discharge from a gas-fired burner. Concern amongst the community is extreme, with nearly 2,000 people signing a petition opposing the crematorium and in particular its proposed siting. This is primarily a land use issue beyond our control, and to date KCDC have not required an application. However, KCDC indicated at a public meeting on 24 January that it is now possible that they will process a land use consent application. If this is the case then I will be advising that the applications should be jointly heard.

Cr Turver and I attended the Waikanae Environmental Protection Association arranged meeting, along with 250 members of the local community including Mayor Milne. We explained the consent process and the reasons behind our decision to limited- rather than fully-notify the decision (on the basis that effects of the discharge would be minor). The meeting generated media interest with three newspapers to date reporting the meeting. Submissions close on 9 February.

M B and H F Herrick

We held a pre-hearing meeting for parties connected with M B and H F Herrick's replacement applications to take groundwater for irrigation, at Taumata Island, Carterton. Opposing submitters are concerned about potential effects on nearby takes and Taumata Island reserve wetland, and despite misgivings from submitters we have requested the applicant collect monitoring information from the current take over this summer.

Rathkeale College

A short-term replacement consent to discharge treated effluent from Rathkeale College to Ruamahanga River, at Opaki, north of Masterton was granted on 28 November. The school will now investigate alternative options for discharging effluent.

Formway Furniture

This is an application to discharge contaminants from the manufacture of plastic furniture parts, at Gracefield, Lower Hutt. Notice was served on affected parties on 27 November, and we received one submission from Regional Public Health (RPH). We are negotiating conditions currently with RPH and the applicant and do not expect the application to go to a hearing.

4.2 Department Projects

Muddy Waters Project

I have looked to reinforce the Muddy Waters programme this year. Work has commenced to roll out two sets of workshops across the region for earthworks industry contractors earmarked for May 2007.

Integrated environmental database

Origen has embarked on detailed software development for the integrated environmental database following conformation of the scope of work and overall costs. The database will replace current consents, compliance and incident response databases, providing significant capability to link to other databases, software and packages used by the Environment Management Division. It will provide capability for GW biosecurity functions as well. We expect that the first basic modules will be rolled out for testing by mid year.

4.3 Department integration

Department integration and structure review

In November I completed considerable focus-group sessions and one-on-one discussions primarily with senior Environmental Regulation staff regarding a preferred Department structure to most efficiently and effectively deliver our regulatory service to our customers and options for refining roles and responsibilities across the region.

The initial phase of discussion proved more valuable than I had anticipated enabling me to release a draft structure for discussion in the third week of November. Subsequent discussions with Departmental teams and feedback to follow saw the release of the final structure in mid December, changing little from the original draft, and featuring:

- Retaining a four team structure with one pollution control team, and a consents and compliance team based in the Wairarapa.

- Forming a project group structure based on environmental activity areas enabling staff to work more closely together across the region.
- Developing some specialist consent or compliance roles.
- Introducing more administrative database support to enable technical staff to spend more time on core technical work.
- Increasing *Take Charge* capacity following the Community Engagement Review.
- Refining team leader and other senior roles in the Department to enable increased responsibility and encourage greater leadership in these roles.

In the meantime, as part of our Higher Level Work Programme, we have finalised a new non-notified officer's report and consent certificate package, and work on our notified officer's and decision reports follow.

Overall team integration continues to move forward very well. In December, we held a team-building day involving training around working effectively in teams and responding to organisational change. We also organised team-building fun exercise to follow. The entire day reflected an excellent balance between training in important skill areas and mixing in a challenging team-building activity, both important to a new department finding its feet, and I received great positive feedback from the team – a fantastic success in my view.

4.4 Staff issues

Once again, this has continued to be a period of much change within Environmental Regulation, with much effort paid to staff replacements.

Miranda Robinson, Team Leader in the Wellington Consents and Compliance team, will soon depart on parental leave, and will be replaced by Heather Sinclair on a fixed-term contract. Heather comes to us from the Office of the Electricity Gas Complaints Commissioner, where she has been an acting manager, and formerly worked in various roles within resource management.

Nic Conland has replaced Howard Markland as Team Leader of Pollution Control, after acting in the role since mid September. Nic brings valuable experience in operational pollution control to the role.

Joanna Noble, a Senior Resource Advisor in the Wellington team, will also depart soon on parental leave. Ange Lenz, a recent double major graduate from Victoria, replaces Jo on a fixed-term basis. She has worked for us part-time during the year while completing her studies.

Paula Pickford, formerly a team leader with the Wairarapa consents and compliance team has returned from parental leave part time. Paula is the longest serving member of the Department with nearly 15 years experience, which will be incredibly valuable to the Masterton team.

I also welcome back Tracey Grant from parental leave to the Wellington Consents and Compliance team on a part time basis. Tracey will return some much needed experience to the team at a time when experience will be sparse.

I continue my recruiting programme, for existing vacancies in both Pollution Control and Consents and Compliance, and soon will look to firm up positions connected to the new departmental structure.

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
Masterton District Council	To construct a sea wall at Castlepoint.	02:06:04	09:07:04	10	-	14-15 March 2005	Cr Chris Turver Aka Arthur (Iwi) Dr Michael Hilton (Minister's appointee)	11:04:05	Granted ☐ under appeal
LARO ☐ Flood Protection	To relocate a stopbank and extend the bed of the Ruamahanga River, South Wairarapa.	16:08:04	29:09:04	3	09:12:04	23:03:05	Christine Foster	02:05:05	Granted ☐ under appeal
A E ☐ S W Benton Partnership	To take groundwater from two bores for irrigation purposes, Battersea, South Wairarapa.	09:12:04	09:02:05	9	17:03:05	11:10:05	Christine Foster Tony Cussins	09:03:06	Declined ☐ under appeal
Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd	To discharge contaminants from communal wastewater system to land and air arising from 30 lot subdivision.	04:02:05	19:05:05	22	-	2-3 November 2005	Paul Thomas Roger Land	14:12:05	Granted ☐ under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 2	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point, Wellington.	02:05:06	07:06:05	Approx 9000	-	Commenced on 8 August, completed 7 September 2006. (approx. 13 days)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	19:10:06	Granted ☐ Under appeal
N ☐ E E Reid	To discharge of piggery effluent to land, Carterton.	30:06:05	16:02:06	29	13:03:06	Set for 11 and 12 December 2006	Cr Chris Turver John Read Liz Burge (Iwi)	17:01:07	Granted
Meridian Energy Limited	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the ☐West Wind☐ wind farm proposal, Makara.	01:07:05	10:08:05	4000☐	-	September to November 2005.	Jim Lynch David McMahon	21:12:05	Granted ☐ under appeal

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
Waterfront Investments Ltd	Hilton Hotel building and public space proposal, Queens Wharf, Wellington.	23/12/05	27/02/06	Approx 1000	-	Hearing commenced on 3 July, adjourned on 31 July, and closed 8 Aug.	Cr Chris Turver Cr Chris Laidlaw David McMahon Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	19/09/06	Granted - under appeal
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western WWTP, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Hearing held commenced on 19, 20 and 27 October.	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	21/12/06	Granted - under appeal
Prema Investments Ltd	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 6-lot subdivision, Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa.	24/07/06	22/11/06	5	-	Hearing yet to be set. Likely to be 2 or 5 March.	Cr Rick Long Liz Mellish (SWDC members to be confirmed)	-	-
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Hearing yet to be set.	-	-	-
Palliser Bay Station	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 22-lot subdivision, Cape Palliser Rd, South Wairarapa.	24/01/07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.	-	-	-

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
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified)	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07:08:06	20:10:06	1	06:11:06	Parties to consider mitigation options - draft conditions.	-	-	-
M B - H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent application to take groundwater for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16:05:06	8:09:06	4	24:10:06	-	-	-	-
Rathkeale College (Limited Notified)	To discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River, Rathkeale College, Opaki.	31:05:06	2:10:06	None received	-	No hearing required.	-	28:11:06	Granted - Consents issued
Kaitawa Crematorium (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air associated with gas-fired crematorium appliances, Waikanae.	25:10:06	9:02:07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Formway Furniture (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants from construction of plastic furniture parts, Gracefield.	17:07:06	12:01:07	1	-	-	-	-	-

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report □ **February 2007**

1. Harbour navigation aids

A north cardinal marker has been placed adjacent to a submerged rock north of Matiu/Somes Island, where several yachts have gone aground in the past.

All navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution

- Four reports of oil pollution were reported during the period. None however, required further input or response activities for Harbours staff.
- On 23 November 2006 a “tabletop” oil spill response exercise was held involving Harbours Department.
- On 29 and 30 November 2006, Patrick Atwood and John Tattersall attending the annual Oil Spill Response Workshop for Regional Councils in New Plymouth. This was hosted by Maritime New Zealand.
- Two Greater Wellington City Council staff members attended the Fundamentals (Marine Oil Pollution Response) Course in Auckland during November.
- Three Centreport staff members attended the Managers (Marine Oil Pollution Response) Course in Auckland during November.

The above exercises and training ensure that our ability to respond to a marine oil spill is maintained at an appropriate level.

3. Other Activities

- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is progressing. The estimated cost of refurbishing the existing building was higher than budgeted, and makes the possibility of a modest new building at the front of the existing site a viable option. We are currently obtaining a quote for such a structure.
- On 2 December 2006 the launch “Incognito” went aground on the coast just north of Porirua, and subsequently broke-up. Harbours staff were

involved with the disposal of a considerable amount of wreckage from the shoreline.

- During January 2007 new signage was placed at various locations around Porirua Harbour with safety information on the float plane operating from the Onepoto Arm of the harbour. Signage for also placed regarding general boating safety information, and this included more 5-knot speed signs and marker buoys. All 5-knot buoys in Wellington harbour were serviced and moorings renewed as required.
- On 20 January 2007, the Harbour Rangers were involved with the production of a boating safety DVD. This is a national initiative encouraged by Maritime New Zealand. A revised DVD planned for release for next summer will include a section specifically about boating in the Wellington region.
- On 21 January 2007 the Harbour rangers assisted with the first “Thundercat” race across Cook Strait. Harbours staff assisted with planning advice prior to the event and were on the water in the Harbours boat “Sea Care” to assist on race day.
- On 27 January 2007 the Harbour Rangers assisted on the water for another first, the Wellington-leg of the “Ocean Swim Series.” A Wellington City Council photographer was on board to film/photograph the event, which was a 2.8km swim from Freyberg beach, around Point Jerningham light, and back to the beach.
- The Harbours Department jet-ski was used for patrolling on days with suitable weather conditions. Its presence seems to have been well received by members of the public.
- On 8 December 2006 Jo Richards joined the staff at Beacon Hill.

4. Port Harbour Safety Code

Marico Marine New Zealand has been engaged to continue work for us to complete the Safety Management System (SMS) for Wellington. (The company previously assisted us to prepare the Risk Assessment for Wellington).

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report **February 2007**

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 Exercise Capital Quake

At the last meeting of the Committee it was mentioned that the final report on Exercise Capital Quake will be reported on at the Committee's next meeting.

Unfortunately a couple of workshops to finalise the draft report have been scheduled for late February 2007, thus making it not possible to table the report at this time.

Based on the observations and feedback from those involved in the exercise, it is considered that the exercise aim and objectives have been met. The participation of all of the agencies was enthusiastic and constructive, with significant commitment evident by a number of the key agencies and other organisations.

Some key observations from the exercise, with an emphasis on progressing forwards, are summarised below:

- The lack of common or integrated emergency communications mechanisms across the multiplicity of organisations with key response roles continues to be an achilles heel
- Public Information Management is the crucial visible connection between local, regional and national elements of a response, and processes must be aligned accordingly
- Strategic forward planning continues to receive inadequate attention in most organisations
- Some organisations have expressed frustration at not having a clearer understanding of how the whole response process is intended to knit together, as a pre-requisite for them to be able to progress and enhance their own arrangements.
- Access, emergency water and fuel supply remain critical issues
- Readiness of key facilities – many key facilities were not up to standard

- Knowledge and skills of staff – more training and development of staff is necessary
- Organisational Readiness – most organisations' Business Continuity Plans need to be 'dusted off', updated and tested.

1.2 CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

We continue to keep our operation centres (including the mobile command centre) in a functional condition in the event of an emergency.

A separate telephone system for the GEOC has been installed and it was successfully tested during Exercise Capital Quake in November 2006.

An additional radio repeater was obtained which will be installed at Hawkins Hill to provide better coverage for our west coast. We are still waiting for a frequency to be allocated from the Ministry of Economic Development before we can proceed with the work.

1.3 CDEM Group Work Programme

The Wellington Region CDEM Group's Work Programme is progressing well with several projects either complete or close to completion. Programmes completed include the Public Information and Media Management Plan, the Welfare Management Plan, the Reconnaissance Plan, and the Road Access Restoration Plan.

The programmes regarding the clarification of the CDEMG role in public health hazards, the disposal of sewage during emergencies, the development of joint agency training and exercise schedules and the Pandemic Plan are in progress.

Ongoing planning activities include local hazard analysis, resource management plan reviews (e.g. review of RPS), business continuity planning (e.g. pandemic planning, recruitment of volunteers, training, etc.), professional development (seminars, conferences, training courses, participation in national and regional work programmes and exercises).

1.4 Public Education Initiatives

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risks and the Act itself (s.17 (1) (a) (g)).

Public awareness and preparedness is an ongoing activity and involves the following:

- Keeping the CDEM Group website updated
- Regular reviewing and updating of the Yellow Pages
- Articles on civil defence emergency management in 'Elements'

- 'Are You Prepared' booklet - regular reviewing and updating
- Fact sheets - all natural and man-made hazards and storage of emergency water. Development of a 'Disposal of Sewage' fact sheet
- Design and development of appropriate posters, flyers, etc.
- Participation in public awareness campaigns
- Participating in exercises (e.g. Exercise Cruickshank in May 2007, Exercise Phoenix V in November 2007)

1.5 Staff

Chris Killeen, who previously taught at Wellington High School, has taken up the appointment of emergency management officer responsible for training and development of volunteer staff and the operation of the Group Emergency Operations Centre. He has already proved himself very valuable in this regard.

We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for Jo Guard.

2. Environment

2.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 47 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. Only one earthquake was felt in the Wellington Region:

Nov 14 2006 **Mag:** 3.5 **Depth:** 30 km 10 km north of Wellington

2.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Eight weather events occurred **during** since the last meeting during which we have received forty-two Special Weather Bulletins (twenty-one for heavy rain, and twenty-one for strong wind). The busiest period was during November when we have received 18 heavy rain and 20 strong wind warnings. All the relevant agencies were notified in time. No serious issues have been experienced.

2.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. The satellite network is being tested on a monthly basis.

Both systems are well maintained and regular checks are carried out on the battery backup and generator backup systems, the re-positioning of antennae where necessary (high winds cause antennae to turn out of position) etc.

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Richard Waddy
Manager, Environmental Support

Financial Position: 31 December 2006

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the period ended 31 December 2006.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Year Ended 31 December 2006</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>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	4,843	4,843	--	9,686
Other Revenue	1,025	1,034	9 U	2,033
Total Revenue	5,868	5,877	9 U	11,719
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	4,877	5,012	135 F	10,410
Indirect Expenditure	824	790	34 U	1,581
Total Operating Expenditure	5,701	5,802	101 F	11,991
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	167	75	92 F	(272)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$167,000, compared to a budgeted surplus of \$75,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$92,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$9,000, and offset by lower than expected expenditure of \$101,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$5,868,000 is slightly, some \$9,000, lower than our budget target of \$5,877,000.

- The notified consent applications for the Hilton Hotel, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant, Whitby Coastal Estates and the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau have been completed.
- In addition, there are a number of notified consents in progress. In Wellington Staites Drive Development have applied for a 100 lot residential subdivision at Whitby. Similarly, the Wairarapa has a number in hand; N & E Reid's application for the discharge of piggery effluent, Prema Investments a community wastewater, Stronvar Properties Ltd a residential subdivision at Masterton, and Palliser Bay Station a residential subdivision on the South Wairarapa Coast.
- Resource management compliance charges have been processed for both offices. In total the charges amounted – Wellington \$263,000 (last year - \$267,000) and Wairarapa \$191,000 (last year - \$180,000).

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$5,701,000 is some \$101,000 (or 1.7%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$179,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. The restructure is almost finalised with only a few appointments remaining. As a consequence some of the saving is considered permanent.
- Consultant costs were over budget by \$125,000.

Legal costs and specialist advise that accrue from pursuing prosecutions is the main reason for the increase over budget (\$74,000). We have had some relief in the form of fines imposed and costs recovered from perpetrators. However, such recoveries only offset these costs partially.

We have constructed a fish pass at Kaiwharawhara (\$46,000). Our partners in the project, the WCC and Capacity have agreed to cover most of these costs.

- Internal charges were lower than budget by \$125,000

A new software package for the consent applications, monitoring, pollution response and biosecurity is being developed. However, we have not received any charges from our IT support team who are managing the project. Our share of the project these amounted to \$53,000 and for the six months ended 31 December 2006. From 1 January 2007 Catch-up and regular charges have been raised.

Also there has been a reduced call for work for consent monitoring from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation. As these transactions are mainly within the Division (both revenue and spend) the overall effect is nil.

5. Capital Expenditure

At this stage, the capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) is at a lower level than anticipated.

Most of the underspend is with the groundwater model project. This major capital item (\$200,000) is progressing. A report on the first stage of the project, a conceptual and numerical modelling of the Wairarapa groundwater basin has been completed. The recommendations of the report are being reviewed and if confirmed will lead to a minor change in focus for the project. Rather than a few deep bores, multiple shallow bores will be drilled along with investigating groundwater-surface water interaction. The computer modelling component is continuing.

The Beacon Hill communication facility upgrade (\$200,000) and equipment for the Safety Management Systems (\$400,000), is progressing. We have received preliminary costings and estimates for the upgrade of the station and these vary from a complete rebuild to alterations to the original, the costs range from \$392,000 to \$425,000 respectively. We are exploring options to proceed.