

## Environment Management Division update

For period ending 28 February 2007

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### 1. Environmental Monitoring and Investigations (Ted Taylor)

#### 1.1 Floodwarning

A brief front passed over the Tararuas early in February resulting in a short rainfall event that lifted the Waiohine River above its low alarm level for approximately 30 minutes.

Warning Statistics:

	January 2007	February 2007	Financial Year to end February	Previous F/Y Year to end February
No. of events	0	1	18	4
No of Lists Issued	0	1	110	21

The outlet from Lake Onoke blocked on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February and was still closed at the end of the month. An opening to the sea has not been possible because of a lack of head differential between the lake and the sea due to low flows in the Ruamahanga River.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa fluctuated around the summer target level of 10.15metres.

#### 1.2 Groundwater

Groundwater levels in the deep rainfall recharged aquifer we use as an indicator have dropped below the long term mean, and are tracking towards the long term minimum. This reflects the effects of irrigation following a good recovery after winter and spring rainfall.

Groundwater levels in our indicator semi-confined aquifer have also dropped following the commencement of irrigation to be at the long term minimum.

#### 1.3 Air quality

The concentration of fine particles (PM10) in ambient air did not exceed the limit set by the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ) as recorded by our monitoring station at Wairarapa College for the period 1 September to 28 February 2007.

## 1.4 Rainfall

January and February were dry months and this is reflected in the statistics tabulated below:

### 1.4.1 Rainfall Totals

	January 2007		February 2007	
	mm	% of average	mm	% of average
Angle Knob (Tararuas)	240	53	236	59
Alloa (middle valley)	38	60	20	29
Tanawa Hut (eastern hills)	18	29	20	25

### 1.4.2 Annual Rainfall

	Year to Date (Jan - Feb)	
	mm	% of average
Angle Knob (Tararuas)	476	56
Alloa (middle valley)	58	45
Tanawa Hut (eastern hills)	38	27

## 1.5 Rivers

River flows reflected the dry conditions and were around half of the averages for both January and February.

River flow statistics from our representative sites are tabulated below:

	January 2007		February 2007	
	m <sup>3</sup> /s	% of average	m <sup>3</sup> /s	% of average
Waiohine River	9.2	52	10.5	59
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	23	49	21.3	45

### 1.5.1 Toxic algae

The low flows and warm water temperatures have led to the development of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) mats in some of the Wairarapa rivers, including the lower Waipoua River and the Ruamahanga River.

## 2. Environmental Regulation (AI Cross)

### 2.1 Consent Statistics

In the period from 16 October 2006 to 20 January 2007 we have received 66 Wairarapa-based applications, and processed 81 consents.

Our median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for Wairarapa non-notified consents was 12 working days, the same as the last period.

Details of non-notified consents approved in the period have not been provided in this report, but can be viewed in Report 07.47 to the Environment Committee (20 February 2007).

## **2.2 Key Notified Consents Update**

### **Fully Notified Applications**

#### **N & E Reid**

The appeal period closed on 9 February for a decision approving 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.

There was some reaction through the media about the consent duration (15 years), potential effects of odour and discharges to surface and ground water, and compliance monitoring. In the end media did not take up our invitation to discuss the decision, related consent conditions and subsequent process.

#### **Stronvar Properties Ltd**

These are applications for a 56-lot subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton involving applications for discharges of wastewater (from a community waste water scheme) and sediment from earthworks, taking water (for communal water supply), and erecting a dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake.

We expect to soon receive further information on a range of substantial matters including community waste water treatment, and the operation and integrity of the proposed lake.

#### **Prema Investments Ltd**

A hearing was held on 4 March for joint applications from Prema Investments, relating to discharges of communal wastewater to land from a 6-lot subdivision at Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa. A decision is expected by 25 March 2007.

#### **Palliser Bay Station**

Three submissions were received on an application for discharges from a community wastewater scheme associated with a proposed 22-lot subdivision on Cape Palliser Road, South Wairarapa. Submissions have not raised issues relating to wastewater discharges, and we will look at options for the way this application will now be reported and determined.

#### **Webstar Limited**

Replacement applications from Webstar Limited, Masterton, to discharge fine particle matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and other contaminants to air from printing and gas-fired boilers were notified on 14 February. Additional discharges from a new proposed printer form part of this application. Our assessment will need to consider air

quality within the Masterton air shed, which sometimes exceeds NES for Air thresholds for PM<sub>10</sub> of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **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.

### Limited Notified Applications

#### **M B and H F Herrick**

Summer monitoring continues to provide assessment information to assist the consideration of replacement applications to take groundwater for irrigation, at Taumata Island, Carterton. As previously discussed, opposing submitters are concerned about potential effects on nearby takes and Taumata Ox-bow reserve wetland, and despite misgivings from submitters, the applicant is collecting information from the current take over this summer.

## **2.3 Appeals and Objections**

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

A decision of the Environment Court to uphold decisions approving applications by Greater Wellington to LARO to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River, has now been appealed to the High Court by the applicant, A J Barton. The status and use of a paper road and implications of stopbank upgrade is at the centre of the appeal, which cites that the Environment Court erred in law on several matters in making its judgement. This essentially means that the Court is alleged to have made mistakes in interpreting both key legislation and case law. Both ourselves, and the Flood Protection Department as the applicant, are waiting for legal advice before we proceed.

### **Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL)**

Mediation was recently completed on an appeal by D T S Riddiford on a joint decision that granted consent to MCDL in relation to discharges from a community wastewater system connected with for a 30-lot subdivision at Tora, South Wairarapa, with parties agreeing to sign off on a modified community wastewater treatment system. Consent orders from the Environment Court, detailing the agreed conditions from mediation, is expected soon.

### **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.

## **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. We are still waiting for a response from the applicant and appellants on draft conditions, proposing a shorter term and reduced take in order to monitor effects on other aquifer users, and provide time for GW aquifer water-allocation modeling to be completed.

### **2.4 Compliance and Enforcement**

#### 2.4.1 General

In general compliance, we are continuing dairyshed compliance monitoring. It is unfortunate to have to report that preliminary results are not as good as we would have hoped and we will ensure we follow up on significant non-compliance quickly. This work connects to our commitments as part of the Fonterra Clean Streams Accord.

#### 2.4.2 Abatement Notices

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. We continue to be concerned about compliance with the abatement notices and continue to work with the parties involved.

#### 2.4.3 Infringement notices

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

#### 2.4.4 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

No prosecutions or enforcement orders have been issued in the period since the last Committee meeting.

### **2.5 Pollution Control**

Twenty five Wairarapa-based pollution incidents were responded to in the period 16 October 2006 to 20 January 2007

There are no major incidents to report since my last report to this Committee.

## **3. Environmental Policy (Murray McLea)**

### **3.1 Regional Policy Statement Review**

Since the last report to the Committee, staff have been working with the region's iwi authorities, territorial authorities and key stakeholders to prepare the draft provisions (objectives, policies and methods) for the next RPS. These provisions

will be discussed with Councillors at four workshops in March 2007 (the first was held on 7 March).

In February 2007, Greater Wellington's first RPS newsletter was prepared and circulated to organisations and persons with an interest in the RPS review. The newsletter contains information about what has happened as part of the review, so far, provides a summary of the responses received to *Our region - their future*, and information about what's being done and what's ahead.

Greater Wellington's website has also been updated with information on the RPS review. This includes access to *Measuring Up*, *Our region - their future*, more information about comments received, and a copy of the draft regionally significant issues.

Following the Councillor workshops in March, the next steps in the RPS review will be for staff to revise provisions. The key directions and implications of draft provisions for the district plans and for the Regional Land Transport Committee will be discussed with territorial authority elected representatives and the Regional Land Transport Committee.

### **3.2 Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan**

A Summary of Submissions on the Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan was released on 23 December 2006. Following analysis of the submissions, Greater Wellington prepared further submissions on some aspects of the submissions by Federated Farmers, the Department of Conservation, Meridian Energy and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

The further submissions addressed hazard and flood management issues, protection of waterways and energy management. Greater Wellington supported an increased emphasis on energy management, rather than focussing solely on renewable energy facilities

Greater Wellington was served with nine further submissions and responses to these will be integrated into our evidence at the hearings as necessary. There is no timetable yet for release of the Planners report on the submissions or the hearings.

### **3.3 Resource consents**

Resource consent applications received by territorial authorities and Greater Wellington's responses are set out below:

### 3.3.1 Carterton District Council

#### Notified

W Tyer

#### Action

6 lot subdivision, Belvedere Rd and Cobden Rd. Submission on increased development pressures in the rural area, waste water and proximity to contaminated sites. Following receipt of CDC's report, a letter was provided to the hearing.

L & E Tyer

8 lot subdivision, Belvedere Rd. Submission on increased development pressures in the rural area, waste water and proximity to contaminated sites. Following receipt of CDC's report, a letter was provided to the hearing.

D B Routhan

28 lot subdivision, Belvedere Rd., on edge of urban. No comment

#### Non Notified

Glendon Trust

#### Action

3 lot subdivision, Flat Point Rd. No comment.

K A MacDonald

3 lot subdivision, Moreton Rd, Carterton. Letter sent with comments on flooding and effluent disposal.

Waima Land Company Ltd

4 lot subdivision, Cornwall Rd Carterton. No comments.

### 3.3.2 Masterton District Council

No notified applications received.

### 3.3.3 South Wairarapa District Council

#### Notified

R Buckley

#### Action

Construction of a stone cottage, Whatarangi Rd. Greater Wellington has filed as a Party to an Environment Court appeal.

G Fraser & A McIntyre

3 lot subdivision, Dry River Rd, Martinborough. Submission on flooding and esplanade strip provisions.

J Bartlett & J Keaton

2 lot subdivision, Fraters Rd, Martinborough. No comment.

Smallwood Family Trust

5 lot subdivision and boundary adjustment. Email with comment.

A Sutherland

3 lot subdivision, Fraters Rd, Martinborough. No comment

Upper Hutt Developments Ltd	22 lot subdivision, Lyon St, Featherston. No comment
Palliser Bay Station	24 lot subdivision, Cape Palliser Rd. Submission on protection of nationally significant features, natural character, hazards, esplanade reserves and archaeological sites.
<b>Non Notified</b>	<b>Action</b>
Speedy, Gard'ner Trust & Ngawaka Spooner Trust	3 lot subdivision, Hikawera Rd, Martinborough. No comment
J & S Ferguson	2 lot subdivision, Pahautea Rd, Kahutara. In progress.
L Wong	2 lot subdivision, SH2 & Ahikouka Rd, Greytown. Letter with comments on flooding issues.

### **3.4 Hearings**

Greater Wellington presented evidence at a hearing for the Palmer subdivision proposal with particular concerns about flood risk in this area between SH 2 and Hupenui Rd. The consent was granted. Letters to be tabled at hearings were sent to four other hearings where our concerns had been met by suggested conditions on any consents granted.