

Murray McLea
Acting Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – June 2010

1. Proposed Regional Policy Statement update

The Hearing Committee's (Councillors Wilde, Kirton, Baber and Buchanan and Mr Te Waari Carkeek) decisions on submissions were approved by Council at the 18 May 2010 meeting. Notice of the decisions was publicly notified on Saturday 22 May, and all submitters were individual notified. Submitters have a period of 30 days in which to appeal the decisions to the Environment Court. Copies of the Decisions Report and the proposed Regional Policy Statement updated as a result of the decisions on submissions are both available Greater Wellington's website (<http://www.gw.govt.nz/RPS/>) or on request.

2. Regional Plan update

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Plan Committee has met twice since the last Regulatory Committee meeting.

At the 10 March meeting, presentations were made covering the plan review process and the effectiveness of the current regional plans. A workshop followed the meeting.

A meeting and workshop were held on Wednesday 21 April. Topics discussed by the Committee were the Engagement and Communications Plan, National Policy Statements, National Environmental Standards, and climate change and natural hazards.

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Plan Committee meet next for a workshop on 3 June, to be hosted at GNS Science in Avalon. The Committee will be hearing from Greg Carlyon from Horizons on the One Plan and will receive a presentation from Land Management on their functions as an example of one of Greater Wellington's existing non-regulatory approaches to resource management. Brett Painter from Waihora Lake Ellesmere Trust will also talk on the different approaches (regulatory and non-regulatory) they have used to promote better management practices to improve the health and biodiversity of the lake and its catchments (which also has clear parallels with the issues facing Lake Wairarapa). Information on the recently approved the water measuring regulations will be provided and the Engagement and Communications plan will be confirmed.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – June 2010

1. Hydrology

1.1 General

A summary of hydrological conditions during March and April can be found at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/monthly-hydrological-summaries/>. Brief notes follow.

1.2 Rainfall

Rainfall in March was below average across much of the Wellington region, with parts of the Kapiti Coast, south coast around Wellington city and northeastern Wairarapa receiving less than half their normal amount. Central Wairarapa and the eastern Tararua ranges received about average rainfall while the south Wairarapa coast received well above normal amounts.

Rainfall in April was well below average in the Wairarapa and on the south coast of the region. Eastern parts of the Wairarapa were especially dry, receiving less than quarter of their normal amount of rainfall for this time of year. Rainfall on the Tararua Range and on the Kapiti Coast was about normal or slightly above average. However, about half of the total April rainfall in the Tararua Range was associated with a single front that passed by in the last day or two of the month.

1.3 Rivers

River flows were below average across the region in March with the highest river flows of the month occurring on the 23rd and 24th of March. The dramatic southerly front on the afternoon of Friday 12 March failed to produce much rainfall and only minor freshes were observed in most waterways.

River flows were well below average across the region in April. Many rivers approached, or dipped below, mean annual low flow rates towards the middle of the month before rainfall marked the end of the low flow recession.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels which were close to average due to the effects of summer rainfall declined over March and April reflecting the dry period.

1.5 Floodwarning

There was one minor flood event in the Western part of the region on 24 March with none in the Wairarapa. There were no floods in April.

Lake Wairarapa levels were close to target for the period. The Lake Onoke outlet to the sea was closed 11 days in March and 15 days in April.

1.6 Instream flow investigations

We are currently investigating minimum flow requirements for the Tauherenikau and Otaki rivers using Generalised Habitat Modelling, a reduced form of the more standard instream assessment method known as IFIM. Despite it being a difficult summer for fieldwork, some measurements have been collected and the next step will be to start data analysis.

We are also working on developing minimum flows for some of the region's springfed streams (e.g., Parkvale Stream in the Wairarapa) using instream water temperature and dissolved oxygen data. Staff from the Cawthron Institute are assisting us with this work.

1.7 Wetland hydrology and condition assessment

We have recently engaged a consultant to assist us with assessing 10 of the region's most vulnerable wetland systems. The work comprises condition monitoring, assessment of hydrological drivers, recommendations for permanent hydrological monitoring, identification of hydrological thresholds, assessment of stress indicators, and some water quality sampling. The results of the assessments should be available in a report at the end of June and will be used to inform the review of the Regional Freshwater Plan.

1.8 Groundwater/surface water interaction

A consultant is assisting us with defining potential groundwater/surface water "interaction zones" for the Wellington region. This work, which is needed to support the Regional Freshwater Plan, will initially focus on the Wairarapa Valley, and will be run in conjunction with Phase 3 of the Wairarapa groundwater model project.

1.9 Wairarapa groundwater model

The Wairarapa groundwater models are close to being completed with technical reports documenting the model development due by the end of June, bringing a close to Phase 2 of the project. Work has commenced on Phase 3, which involves running different water abstraction and climatic scenarios. Information from these scenarios will be used to help review groundwater allocation in the Wairarapa Valley.

2. Air quality

2.1 National environmental standard for air quality (NES-AQ)

There were no exceedances of the NES-AQ in any of the airsheds we monitor in the region.

2.2 Raumati South

We are in the early stages of a screening investigation to measure the concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) in the Raumati South area. As well as continuing our planned screening of PM₁₀ concentrations throughout the region it will quantify the significance of domestic smoke discharges which have been the subject of complaints.

3. Freshwater quality

3.1 Stream ecology

Annual biological sampling (invertebrates and algae) has been completed at the 55 state of the environment river and stream monitoring sites. This work requires conditions that provide low stable flows for at least three weeks, which has not occurred very often this summer.

3.2 Lake water quality

We have been carrying out water quality monitoring in Lake Waitawa in the Kapiti area since the middle of 2009. This lake is regularly affected by planktonic blue-green algal blooms and this has been the case again this year, with anabaena present in high densities at times. Forest Lakes camp staff and Regional Public Health are aware of the issue and potential health consequences that the toxic algae pose.

3.3 River and stream standards

We are currently reviewing existing water quality and ecological data-sets for use in developing region-specific standards that can be considered in the review of the Regional Freshwater Plan. The majority of the effort in recent months has been spent on determining appropriate ecological objectives (for algae, invertebrate and fish indicators) for the main river types in our region. We hope to have these objectives finalised by 30 June.

3.4 Mangatarere catchment study

We provided a progress report to the Committee in December on a water quality investigation we are undertaking in the Mangatarere catchment. In that report we noted we would have a final report available for the June meeting. Interpretation of the information collected has been more complex than originally envisaged so our final report will not be ready till a later date.

4. Coastal

We are preparing a brief supplementary report on the Wellington Harbour marine sediment quality investigation. The supplementary report will incorporate the results of some more recent testing of the sediment samples for specific polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) markers. These marker compounds were tested with the hope that they may assist with contaminant source identification; the report released in 2008 identified elevated concentrations of PAHs in surface sediments of both Evans Bay and inner Lambton Harbour.

5. Recreational bathing water monitoring

Weekly sampling of water quality at fresh water and coastal recreational spots ceased at the end of March. Over 70 coastal sites will continue to be monitored at monthly intervals through until next summer.

The annual recreational water quality report summarising the summer's monitoring results is reported separately to the Committee (Report number 10.284).

6. Didymo

Surveillance monitoring was carried out in March. The results indicated the absence of didymo at the 10 river sites sampled.

7. Soil quality

We carried out our annual soil quality sampling in April and are awaiting the results of testing. The focus this year is on market gardens and cropping. Letters were sent to approximately 25 landowners in Otaki and the Wairarapa, requesting site access for sampling and completion of a survey of management practices that will assist with interpreting the soil test results. Two sites in the Otaki area have been converted from market gardens to residential subdivisions; another site has been converted to a dairy farm.

8. Stormwater

8.1 Stormwater Action Plan

The Stormwater Action Plan, which is a document agreed to by the eight territorial authorities and Greater Wellington, sets out actions to further the understanding, management and regulation of stormwater in the region. We are co-ordinating an update to the plan, specifically updating the actions, to ensure the plan remains effective.

8.2 Stormwater investigations report

A report is being compiled summarising all of the information gathered since 2001 on the effects of stormwater contaminants on aquatic environments in the Wellington region. This report should be available early next financial year and will feed into the review of stormwater policies in both the Regional Freshwater Plan and the Regional Coastal Plan.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – June 2010

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 20 February to 18 May 2010 we have received 93 consent applications. This compares with 109 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 142 consents to a decision. This compares with 160 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) for the year from 30 June 2009 sits as 18 working days.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in Section 2, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties (limited notified) is also attached for information.

2. Major resource consents and other matters

2.1 Key notified consents update

Reporting, pre-hearing, hearing and decision work has continued to be reasonably steady in this period with work on HCC/Capacity Waiwhetu sewage overflows, Kapiti Funeral Homes Paraparaumu crematorium, HCC Wainuiomata Landfill closure replacement consents, JR's Orchard replacement water take consents, MDC Masterton Landfill closure replacement consents, and Wairarapa Aggregates land-based gravel quarrying.

Fully Notified

HCC - Waiwhetu Sewage Overflows

These are replacement applications to discharge sewage effluent to Waiwhetu Stream caused by heavy rainfall events. The applications were granted on 16 March after a February hearing. The consents feature a 15 year term; stronger monitoring requirements – including both discharge quality monitoring and cultural health impact monitoring; and ongoing network effectiveness reporting (to report on the impact of continuing system improvements). The print, radio and television media reported the decision with some focus on the cultural effects monitoring requirements and the rationale for the decision in the context of the Waiwhetu remediation works.

Other notified applications active (post-notification) during the last period include:

Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd – Land-based gravel quarry

Following the pre-circulation of supplementary evidence and a supplementary officer's report in May, applications for a proposed aggregate quarry and cleanfill operation, at Waingawa south of Masterton, will be heard on 3 and 4 June. The proposal involves discharges of sediment and possibly taking groundwater adjacent Waingawa Wetland. The previous scheduled hearing (early September 2009) was postponed at the request of the applicant following the release of the officers reports - recommending applications be declined.

JR's Orchards Ltd - groundwater take

A pre-hearing was held recently for taking and damming water (Papawai Stream and local groundwater) associated with orchard irrigation, at Papawai, east of Greytown. On the basis of the in-stream flow assessment prepared by our science team we are now working on possible consent conditions for shorter term consent which will be circulated to all parties. These conditions would see the applicant tied to providing future water storage to enable the applicant to take water above higher low flow limits without impacting significantly on normal orchard irrigation operations.

- ***Greater Wellington Regional Council (Catchment Management Group) - Boulcott Stopbank:*** These are applications associated with the construction of a new proposed Boulcott stopbank, planned in the Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses. The proposed bank is the latest project under Greater Wellington's Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. Applications were notified on 6 April and we received 73 submissions. A pre-hearing and hearing are tentatively scheduled for 14 June and 19 July.
- ***Dawsons Waste Services Ltd – air discharges:*** Applications to discharge contaminants to air from a waste dewatering facility in Happy Valley Road, Wellington. Pre-hearing took place in April and draft conditions have been circulated to the seven submitters involved, with a second pre-hearing to discuss feedback on the conditions being planned for June.
- ***HCC – Wainuiomata landfill replacement consents:*** These are replacement applications to extend the life of the existing fill by around five years and enable ongoing discharges of odour and gases, and leachate to the existing collection system. Submissions closed on 25 May.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited – air discharges:*** Replacement applications for discharges of contaminants from the woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, and various kilns at their Waingawa, Masterton plant. Peer review of the application was completed and discussions with applicant's consultant on technical matters progressing prior to the April pre-hearing meeting. A pre-hearing report is being prepared and we are awaiting Wairarapa Public Health's comment before distributing to submitters, and prior to drafting conditions for a possible negotiated outcome.

- **WCC/Capacity – contaminated stormwater discharges:** Contaminated stormwater discharges (contaminated with sewage effluent) to Wellington harbour and south coast. Replacement of existing consents and new outfalls. Further information has been received and applications will be notified shortly.
- **South Wairarapa District Council – coastal erosion works:** An application for a ‘global’ consent to undertake sporadic erosion protection works along a 25km section of the South Wairarapa Coast. Applications notified on 5 June and nine submissions received. Further information being sought from the applicant to define more precisely the nature and scale of the suite of proposed coastal erosion protections.
- **Carterton District Council - Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant, lodged in October 2008 and now waiting for the applicant to finally determine availability of additional land for land-based discharge and treatment.
- **South Wairarapa District Council - Greytown Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Greytown Wastewater Treatment Plant, lodged in December 2007 and now waiting for steering group to determine final treatment options (a mix of land and water-based discharge and treatment options).
- **Masterton District Council - Masterton Landfill closure:** Applications notified and a pre-hearing completed in early June 2009 and again in April 2010. Remaining issues include the management of odours and litter from the waste transfer part of the operation. The applicant will prepare a further report on these issues, prior to final conditions being circulated once again.
- **Horokiwi Quarries Ltd – Fitzroy Bay gravel extraction:** Replacement consents for gravel and sand extraction from the coastal margin east of Pencarrow Head. Applications were notified on 15 July 2009 and we are waiting on further information from the applicant relating to effects on long shore movement of coastal materials.

Limited Notified

Kapital Funeral Homes - Paraparaumu Crematorium

This is an application to discharge contaminants (primarily heat, gasses, metals and other chemical compounds) from a proposed crematorium at Awa Tapu Cemetery in Paraparaumu. A hearing was held on 8 April – which featured a single submitter in opposition (immediate neighbour). The decision granting consent was issued on 21 April (not appealed), and includes monitoring requirements at the stack and beyond the cemetery to ensure discharges did not carry contaminants above the accepted guidelines.

Pre-application Work

Kapiti water supply project: KCDC is currently in the early stages of an investigation to identify possible options for increasing the municipal water supply. From a starting point of around 40 possible scenarios, a scoping study detailing six possible options for further investigation was put to their Council

in early July. They have sought our input in terms of early and very basic regulatory advice, which will continue into more substantive advice once a preferred set of options have been determined.

2.2 Pending consent applications

Horokiwi Quarries Ltd – Quarrying activities at Horokiwi Quarry

New and replacement applications for general quarrying activities including discharges for quarrying and processing operations, expected to be lodged in June.

2.3 Other applications

Significant non-notified consents from the period are reported in the non-notified consents report (Report 10.155).

3. Consent appeals and objections

3.1 Appeals

Work continued on seven appeals in the last period.

Kailua Ltd and Car Haulways Ltd – land development at Northern Newlands

The applicant has appealed the decision declining applications to construct a car haulway (storage and distribution) area at north Newlands, following the 18 February decision. The first court-directed mediation will take place on Wednesday 9 June. A number of 274 parties have joined the appeal including Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Grenada Village Community Association Inc and Transpower New Zealand Ltd.

WCC: Westchester Drive extension

This appeal has been resolved by mediation, largely driven by the efforts of WCC. The resulting consent order strengthens the management of adverse effects including additional water quality monitoring requirements and restrictions on works in wet weather periods.

This was an appeal by Glenside Progressive Association Incorporated against the decision granting consents to the Wellington City Council to establish an extension to Westchester Drive extension – connecting to the current Mark Avenue extension, north of Newlands.

JV and LA Petrie: Groundwater take from Tawaha Aquifer

Mediation (originally set down for late June) has been delayed possibly to August because the applicant's legal counsel is not available.

This is a wide-ranging appeal against the decision declining an application to take groundwater (to irrigate pasture) from the fully allocated Tawaha groundwater zone, South Wairarapa.

Kintyre Meats: Meat processing plant wastes

We have reached a mediated outcome with the applicant with key features being changes to monitoring relating to soil conditions, a requirement for additional wet weather-winter storage of liquid waste, review conditions and a longer consent term (18 years).

This is an appeal by the applicant on the decision granting consents to discharge meat processing liquid waste to pasture near Gladstone. I understand that the appeal was the first against a non-notified consent we have ever received.

NZ Railways Corporation (Ontrack): Mackays to Waikanae double-tracking

This was an appeal by Kooroora Holdings Ltd against consents enabling further earthworks, discharges and stream works in the northern (Paraparaumu) section of the Mackays Crossing to Waikanae North Island Main Trunk Railway double tracking project.

The appeal made in October 2009 has now been resolved following informal mediation between the appellant and Ontrack regarding alternative access to their property away from State Highway 1.

4. Compliance and enforcement

4.1 Compliance monitoring

Water compliance strategy

We have been working to develop a strategy to support our water consent monitoring work (surface and groundwater takes). Our strategy is likely to take on a similar structure to our dairy compliance strategy, which focuses on an intensive yet achievable approach toward dairy shed effluent. We will look to progressively target more significant takes and waterways and groundwater zones under stress. Drawing on the dairying strategy, we will communicate our revised approach and expectations to consent holders. I will report on the strategy's role out following next year's water monitoring season.

4.2 Abatement notices

We issued 12 abatements between 20 February to 31 March 2010 (down from 47 for the previous double-reporting period), including unauthorised stream works, taking of water, and discharges of contaminants and dairy effluent.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.156).

4.3 Infringement notices

We issued nine infringement notices in the reporting period (up from six issued in the previous double-reporting period), for breaches of abatement notices, excavation of water courses and the diversion of water from a wetland.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.156).

4.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Six prosecutions were before the Court in the last period.

Sandy Bidwell and PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd: excavating a stream within JK Donald Reserve Wetland

The Court heard the case against PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd on 22 March, following a guilty plea being entered. Following submissions from the defendant we agreed to drop one of the three charges (relating to aquatic plant and animal habitat). PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd was fined \$5,000. The defended hearing for the remaining case against Mr Bidwell was held on 17 May with Judge Thompson releasing an initial decision on preliminary issues. The Court has requested an agreed summary of facts on remaining matters be lodged by 31 May.

This is a prosecution against Sandy Bidwell and PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd for the alleged illegal excavation (in April 2009) of around 1,200 metres of Mangatete Stream within the JK Donald Reserve, bordering Lake Wairarapa.

Lloyd Rayner: excavating streams near Lake Wairarapa Reserve and within Tauherenikau Delta Wetland

On 26 April Lloyd Rayner and Hauroa Farms Ltd were sentenced in the District Court on two separate sets of charges relating to working in a watercourse and a wetland bounding Lake Wairarapa. They were convicted and fined all together \$37,000. Hauroa Farms were only part of the second case relating to the Tauherenikau Delta wetland. In her judgement, Judge Kelly made some clear comments about the cultural importance of Lake Wairarapa and the value of ecosystems around Lake Wairarapa.

In going forward, our team will be looking for opportunities (including workshops and other discussions) to work more closely with Lake Wairarapa margin landowners to share information and provide advice on, for instance, our current regulations and ways to manage impacts on local waterbodies (streams, wetlands, the lake etc).

Christie van Dyk and Earthmovers Wellington: stream and soil disturbance on erosion prone land, Kaitoke

We laid charges against Christie van Dyk and Earthmovers Wellington Ltd for the mass disturbance of soil, and reclamation of streams at the van Dyk property at Kaitoke, adjacent SH 2.

The charges followed our report to the March Regulatory Committee relating to a series of abatement notices served and not complied with in connection to the original 4 November incident.

Mr van Dyk has since entered a guilty plea on two of the charges (and a third withdrawn), and has been remanded for sentencing on 24 June. The case against Earthmovers Wellington (not guilty plea entered) will also be heard then.

Selwyn McLachlan and Matthew Honeyset: discharges of dairy effluent to water

Following many months of delay, the sentencing of Selwyn McLachlan finally took place in the Wellington District Court on 17 June. Mr McLachlan was fined \$13,400 and more than \$1,500 in legal fees costs. Enforcement orders were issued in relation to establishing effluent storage (already covered by consent conditions, but strengthened by orders).

This is a prosecution against Selwyn McLachlan (consent holder), for illegally discharging dairy effluent from a travelling irrigator to a tributary of Ruamahanga River.

N Turner v D Rutten (private enforcement order application)

This is a private enforcement order application to the Environment Court. The order requests that a filled stormwater drain be reinstated to alleviate flood waters on Mr Turner's property downstream. We are only a party to these proceedings, after formerly providing advice to both parties that additional works undertaken by the Ruttens (at our request) to increase flood storage on his own property appeared to have worked.

CnD Landfill and Alex Burrell – discharge of waste to a demolition fill in excess of consented fill height limits: adjourned until June with a hearing probable later in the year.

4.5 Significant incidents

Significant incidents are reported in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.156).

5. Other Environmental Regulation projects

5.1 Late consent discounting regulations being developed

In April the Government announced a general timetable for the development of discounting regulations for 'late' consents – with gazetting expected in July and regulations coming into force possibly as early as late July.

The regulations will require that councils discount processing costs by 1% per day late on a statutory timeframe – so releasing a decision five days late would amount to a 5% discount, for instance. The final position on the rate of

discount is far less than the earlier position of 5% per day (25% in the first week) – a change made after overwhelming support for a lower rate in response to submissions on the January 2010 discussion document.

Many councils and LGNZ remain sceptical that regulations will deliver the outcomes sought – namely fewer ‘real’ delays in consent processing times, and will in fact add more costs to councils and ratepayers.

I don’t believe these matters are at all significant for GW, given that we process between 98 and 99% of consents within statutory timeframes.

I will continue to update the committee as regulations are developed.

5.2 Okowai Lagoon restoration

Work commenced in late March on Porirua’s southern Okowai Lagoon to create a freshwater wetland. As a joint initiative between GW, Aotea Block developer Carrus Ltd, Porirua City Council, and Department of Conservation, the project intends to restore the lagoon’s appearance and improve water quality habitat for its freshwater species.

The project, funded by Carrus Ltd, responds to decades of development of the lagoon’s surrounding catchment, including the construction of the Main Trunk Railway causeway, the state highway, and earthworks and vegetation clearance for subdivision development. These various developments have introduced sediment and other contaminants and affected the lagoon’s natural flushing.

Work will include re-contouring of the lagoon edges and connection between the northern and southern lagoons, and riparian planting.

This is an exciting development, combining multiple agencies and the land development community – and may pave the way for similar such initiatives in the future.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
Masterton District Council WAR 060047 WAR 980159	To discharge contaminants to land and air associated with the operation of Masterton landfill, transfer station and composting plant, Homebush, Masterton	30/03/06	15/05/09	6	09/06/09 05/05/10	Proposed consent conditions currently being circulated to applicant and submitters with further pre-hearing meeting to follow.			
Stronvar Properties Ltd WAR 060160	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	-	Further information supplied late February 2008. Information externally reviewed and further response provided by applicant. Applicant has now requested for application to be placed on hold indefinitely.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified) WGN070019	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works).	-	-	-
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington	27/04/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/07 Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08 Third pre-hearing held 07/04/09	Hearing scheduled for 5-9 October 2009.	Cr Chris Laidlaw (Chair), Cr Nigel Wilson, Kevin Rolfe (Independent, air discharge specialist).	30/10/09	Granted (appealed). Mediation held on 13/5/2010. Further mediation likely early June 2010.
South Wairarapa District Council WAR 080254	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Greytown Wastewater Treatment Plant at Papawai, east of Greytown	28/12/07	On hold for further information. Currently setting a timeline for completing a complete AEE.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
Juken Nissho Ltd WAR 080250	To discharge contaminants to air from woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, kilns at Waingawa, Masterton	29/12/07	06/11/08	7	19/04/10	Pre hearing held with all parties 19/04/10. Negotiated outcome being progressed.			
Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd WAR 080518	To discharge stormwater from a gravel extraction and associated cleanfill operation to water	04/06/08	01/04/09	13	No	Hearing deferred following release of s42a officer report. Further assessment work completed by applicant. Hearing now scheduled for 1 and 02/06/10.	Christine Foster Hamish Lowe		
Kailua Limited and Car Haulways Ltd WGN080520	Earthworks associated with new car haulway area, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands	17/06/08	18/12/09	5	No	Hearing held 28/01/10	Cr Buchanan	18/02/10	Declined. Under appeal. Mediation scheduled to occur 9 June 2010.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
JR's Orchards Ltd WAR 080557	To take and dam water from the Papawai Stream and to take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes at Papawai, east of Greytown	30/06/08	25/11/09	5	21/04/10	Applicant requested GW to propose consent conditions at pre-hearing meeting. Staff currently working on proposed consent conditions.			
CnD Landfill WGN090036	Extension of construction and demolition fill	04/08/08				This application is on hold until enforcement action for existing consent determined.			
Carterton District Council WAR 090120	To discharge contaminants to water, land, and air associated with the Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant at Dalefield Rd, Carterton	30/09/08				Meeting held between parties end March 2010. AEE being revised to include new trial irrigation area. Applicant consultation ongoing.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
WCC (Capacity) WGN090219	Stormwater discharges to Wellington Harbour and the South Coast	19/12/08				Preparing to publically notify in late May 2010.			
WCC WGN090226	Westchester Drive Extension	22/12/08	21/02/09	53 (but includes multiple late submissions)	29/04/09	25-27/05/09	Crs Baber, Bruce and Stuart Kinear	08/07/09	Granted. Appealed. Consent order with agreed conditions going before the EC for sign off.
South Wairarapa District Council WAR090322	Coastal structures along 25 km stretch of Palliser Bay	27/04/09	05/06/09	9		Further info sought from application on nature and scope of application.			
HCC Waiwhetu overflows WGN090321	Overflows of sewage effluent to the Waiwhetu Stream	27/04/09	04/08/09	6	25/09/09	Hearing 23/02/10	Crs Baber, Laidlaw and iwi appointee Liz Burge.	Granted. No appeal.	
Horokiwi Quarries WGN090117	To conduct activities associated with the extraction of gravel and sand at Fitzroy Bay, Pencarrow Coast	09/10/08	15/07/09	14		Proposed to be jointly heard with HCC. On hold for further info.	Byrdie Eyres Stuart Kinnear		

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
NZ Railways Corporation (Ontrack) WGN090380 (Limited Notified)	Discharge to water/land and culvert extension in relation to double tracking of the Nth Island Main Trunk Railway Line	15/06/09	23/07/09	3	N/A	24/09/09	Peter Coop	16/10/09	Granted. Appealed. Resolved in March 2010.
Dawsons Waste Services Ltd WGN100057	To discharge contaminants to air from a waste dewatering facility, Happy Valley Road	18/08/09	10/12/09	7	Joint prehearing 15/04/10.	Pre hearing held 15/04/10. Conditions drafted and circulated to all parties. Another pre hearing to be held in June 2010.			
Wairarapa Funeral Services WAR100023	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation crematorium, Masterton	31/07/09				On hold for further information, yet to be notified.			
Kapiti Funeral Homes WGN100135	Discharge to air from operation of crematorium, Paraparaumu	21/10/09	14/01/10	3	Yes	Pre hearing was unable to resolve matter. Hearing held on 08/04/10. Awaiting decision.	Cr Sally Baber	21/04/10	Granted. No appeal.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held/ Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date decision released	Granted or Declined
Kumenga Farm Ltd WAR 100232 (Limited notified)	Take water from Lake Wairarapa Narrows for irrigation purposes	10/03/10	27/05/10						
GW Flood Protection WGN100234.	Construct, upgrade and maintain existing and proposed stopbanks – Boulcott Hutt Stopbanks	11/03/10	04/05/10	71	Prehearing meeting scheduled for mid June 2010.				
Hutt City Council – Wainuiomata Landfill WGN100226	To discharge contaminants to land, air and water associated with ongoing the operation of the Wainuiomata Landfill.	08/03/10	25/05/10		Yes	Awaiting the close of submissions before setting pre hearing date.			

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbour's department

Harbours department report – June 2010

1. Navigation aids

On 11 May contractors carried out a half-yearly afloat inspection of Barrett Reef buoy. One shackle, an important link in the mooring arrangement, needed attention, thus ensuring that the buoy remained safely anchored in position.

Contractors were ready to re-instate the Thorndon Container Pile light by 24 May, but the onset of bad weather delayed this further.

On 24 May investigation of reduced visibility of Goat Point light (at the entrance to Porirua Harbour) found that the navigation light had been spray-painted with graffiti, including spray-painting of the navigation light itself.

2. Oil pollution

In the late afternoon of 22 March, an increasing list on the fishing vessel *Santa Monica* berthed at Aotea Quay was investigated. It was discovered that the vessel's engine room was partially-flooded with oil and water. Over a period of several days, using contractors TransPacific Technical Services, several hundred tonnes of liquid was pumped out of the engine room and the source of the leak stemmed, thereby averting a potentially significant oil pollution incident in the harbour. Costs were invoiced to the owner, but actual ownership appears to be in dispute, bills remain unpaid and the ship is detained for poor condition by other regulatory authorities.

Two reports of "oil pollution" in the harbour were received but no action or clean-up was required.

One harbour ranger (John Tattersall) and two CentrePort pilots attended a Marine Oil Spill Response revalidation course held at CentrePort by Maritime New Zealand in mid-March. Harbours staff was heavily involved with assistance with the equipment and boat work with this course.

Two of this region's appointed wildlife response co-ordinators (including Philippa Crisp, a GWRC staff member) attended a two-day Wildlife Response course at Massey at the end of April.

3. Harbour events

During the late afternoon of 19 May, harbour ranger John Tattersall assisted police and DOC staff at a beaching incident of a rare 2.7 metre pigmy sperm whale at Eastbourne. Unfortunately repeated attempts to make the whale return to sea failed and it was shot. Next day both harbour rangers assisted DOC staff in inserting the carcass of the whale into a body-bag for trucking to Massey in Auckland.

4. Beacon Hill

The final design (including wind-loadings) of a radar/radio mast and foundations was submitted to WCC for building consent. This is anticipated taking a few weeks and, once obtained, the fabrication of the mast, installation of the foundation and erecting can proceed. Although the construction of the new building is complete, the radar/radio mast needs to be installed before the new electronic equipment can be fitted, so full commissioning of the new Beacon Hill building is delayed.

5. Other

After the Easter school holiday period, the employment of the temporary part-time summer harbour ranger ceased.

Early in May the two swim rafts at Oriental Bay were removed and brought ashore for the winter season.

The former Strait Shipping ferry *Kent* (sold and renamed *Ken*) sailed from Wellington on 28 April for the West Coast of India.

The Interisland ferry *Arahura* was off Cook Strait service at Nelson between 2 and 25 May for refurbishment.

6. Boat ramp surveys net positive results

Informal surveys at boat ramps around the country are painting a positive picture of attitudes towards recreational boating safety.

The boat ramp surveys, undertaken by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) and Regional Councils for a number of years, provide valuable information for the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum's regional and national safety campaigns.

Of the 1,727 recreational boaties surveyed nationally over the 2009–10 summer holiday period, 96 percent were carrying lifejackets or personal flotation devices, as required under the law. Also very encouraging was that 95 percent of skippers made a point of checking the weather before they went out. Not doing so is still one of the biggest causes of fatalities on the water.

Although almost everyone surveyed carried some form of communication – most commonly a cell phone – a waterproof hand-held marine radio is preferable. A marine VHF radio is one of the most reliable forms of emergency communication available, and can usually be purchased for about \$200 – cheaper than many cell phones.

Results of the 2010 recreational boat ramp survey

- 1,727 vessels/skippers surveyed
- 63 vessels had no or insufficient PFDs or lifejackets (3.6%)
- 1,187 carried a VHF radio (68%)
- 325 carried a distress beacon (EPIRB or PLB) (18%)
- 1,589 carried a cell phone (92%)
- 944 carried a cell phone in a plastic bag (54%)
- 9 had no communications equipment, PFDs or lifejackets (0.5%)
- 1,640 vessel skippers checked the weather prior to departure (95%)
- 20% of survey responses were from the South Island (compared with no South Island surveys in 2009)
- fewer vessels carried VHF radios in the South Island than in the North Island (of 103 returns from vessels in the South Island, 45% carried a VHF radio).