

Jonathan Streat
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – August 2010

1. Regional Policy Statement

The Hearing Committee's decisions on the proposed Regional Policy Statement were approved by Council on 18 May 2010 and publicly notified on 22 May 2010. Eight appeals were lodged with the Environment Court. The appellants are; Kiwi Property Holdings Ltd, Oil Companies (Greenstone Energy Ltd, BP NZ Ltd, Mobil NZ Ltd and Chevron NZ), Meridian Energy Ltd, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Horticulture New Zealand, Winstones Aggregates Ltd and Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

Other submitters have 15 working days from the close of the appeal deadline to become a party to any of these appeals to which their original submission relates.

2. Regional plan review

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Plan Committee met for a workshop on 3 June, hosted at GNS Science in Avalon. The Committee heard from Greg Carlyon (Horizons) on the One Plan, and received 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 spoke 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 water measuring regulations was provided. The Engagement and Communications Plan for the Plan review was endorsed by the committee and the first of a series of community workshops was held on 7 July 2010.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – August 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

The first three weeks of May were very dry but were followed by heavy rain in the last week and a wet June.

1.3 Rivers

River flows at the start of May were well below median but peaked with rainfall at the end of the month. High baseflows were maintained throughout June as a result of numerous freshes resulting from the persistent rainfall.

2. Groundwater levels

After a wet start to the summer that provided unseasonal recharge in many places, groundwater levels generally reached their minimum between March and May and were around long-term averages at the end of June.

3. Soil moisture

Soil moisture in May was generally slightly below the long term average until heavy and prolonged rainfall in the last week of the month and in June led to levels lifting to near soil saturation.

4. Floodwarning

There was one flood event in the Western part of the region on 25 May and one in the Wairarapa on 27 June.

Lake Wairarapa fluctuated around the target level with Lake Onoke open to the sea during May and June.

4.1 Instream flow investigations

Over the low flow period we collected measurements in the Tauherenikau and Otaki rivers as a major component in setting minimum flows. On advice from

Cawthron Institute we used Generalised Habitat Modelling, a reduced form of the more standard instream assessment method known as IFIM. The resulting report for the Tauherenikau is in draft form and is being circulated to interested parties for comment.

As part of the process of setting minimum flow the instream values (how much water is needed to accommodate their interests) of various parties, such as DOC, Fish and Game, recreational groups and iwi are taken into account. We have contracted a consultant (Caleb Royal) to provide us with iwi values for Wairarapa rivers and streams that are on our priority list; this work being part funded by a grant from the Community Irrigation Fund.

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.

4.2 Wetland hydrology and condition assessment

We will soon receive a report documenting assessments made during summer/autumn of 10 of the region's most vulnerable wetland systems. The work comprised condition monitoring, assessment of hydrological drivers, recommendations for permanent hydrological monitoring, identification of hydrological thresholds, assessment of stress indicators, and some water quality sampling.

4.3 Water allocation investigations

The Wairarapa groundwater models have now been completed with technical reports documenting the model development close to publication; this will bring a close to Phase 2 of the project. Work is progressing on Phase 3, which involves running different water abstraction scenarios.

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 is running in conjunction with Phase 3 of the Wairarapa groundwater model project.

5. Air quality

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

There were two exceedances of the NES-AQ for PM₁₀ in June 2010. On 22 June and 23 June 24-hour concentrations of 67 µg/m³ and 51 µg/m³ were recorded at the Masterton air quality monitoring station. Only one exceedance is permitted in a 12-month period, therefore the Wairarapa airshed has now breached the NES-AQ. As required, we notified the public by way of a public notice in the Wairarapa Times Age on 10 July.

5.2 Raumati South

The screening investigation to measure the concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) in the Raumati South area is under way. 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.

The monitoring at Raumati South does not produce real time data but collects samples for testing later. Because of this, results will not be available until later in the year. When these results are available they will be communicated to the community. There is already a lot of interest in our monitoring with media organisations already asking for results.

5.3 National Environmental Standards for Air

With Environment Policy we submitted to the Ministry for the Environment on the proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for air quality. We supported the option that would allow three readings over the standard for particulate matter in a 12 month period, extension of the time before which an air shed must be compliant to 2018 (2013 now) and no restriction of the issuing of consents for air discharges if the airshed is non-compliant (consents will still be assessed as to the effects of the discharge).

6. Freshwater quality

6.1 Lake water quality

Twelve months of monthly water quality sampling in Lake Waitawa finished in June and we are now evaluating the results. This year we are considering gathering some water quality information from the Pencarrow Lakes and will also continue to monitor water quality in Lakes Onoke and Wairarapa.

6.2 River and stream standards

We have nearly completed work relating to ecological objectives (for algae, invertebrate and fish indicators) for the main river types in our region. These objectives are for use in developing region-specific standards that can be considered in the review of the Regional Freshwater Plan. We are currently engaging an external consultant to assist with the next phase of work which involves consideration of region-specific nutrient and other water quality standards.

6.3 Mangatarere catchment investigation

A technical report documenting our 13-month investigation of surface water, groundwater and soil quality in the Mangatarere catchment has now been completed. The key findings of this report are the subject of a separate paper to this Committee (Report number 10.376).

7. Coastal

We have received the results of ecological monitoring undertaken in Whareama, Waikanae and Hutt estuaries in January. The results of a third

intertidal survey of Porirua Harbour are due later in July. The results of all of the monitoring will be the subject of a separate paper at the September committee meeting.

8. Didymo

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

9. Soil quality

We carried out our annual soil quality sampling in April and are still awaiting the results of testing. The focus this year was on market gardens and cropping.

10. S-Map

In May, field work was completed (by Landcare Research) for the Waingawa River area, which extends from the Waipoua Stream to the north and the Mangatarere Stream to the south. This area is funded by Envirolink Tools. Indications are that fieldwork (funded by Greater Wellington) for the rest of the middle Wairarapa Valley will be carried out in September/October and the low country around Lake Wairapara in late summer/autumn. The north Ruamahanga River and Otaki areas were completed some time ago.

11. Stormwater

11.1 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.

11.2 Stormwater investigations report

We are continuing to compile a report 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 in draft format in August 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 – August 2010

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 19 May to 8 July 2010 we have received 60 consent applications. This compares with 72 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 38 consents to a decision. This compares with 64 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 dropped one to 17 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 Wainuiomata Landfill closure replacement consents, JR's Orchard replacement water take consents, MDC Masterton Landfill closure replacement consents, GW Boulcott stopbank construction, Dawsons Waste services hazardous waste processing, Juken Nissho wood processing and energy generation, and Wairarapa Aggregates land-based gravel quarrying.

Fully Notified

GWRC – Boulcott Stopbank

Replacement applications by GWRC (Catchment Management Group) to construct the proposed Boulcott Stopbank in the Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses will go to a joint-hearing (with HCC) in August, following a reasonably productive pre-hearing on 14 June. The consent application process to date has been marked by widely reported concerns from residents – reflected in the substantial turn out for the pre-hearing (approximately 60 submitters – very large in our experience) and the nature of concerns raised (construction vehicle routes and volume of movements, amenity impacts of the finished bank, and dust management). Rather than purporting to seek a negotiated (by

conditions) outcome, the pre-hearing enabled both the submitters to voice concerns and the applicant to explain the proposed work, answer questions and provide more information subsequently.

Dawsons Waste Services Ltd – waste dewatering facility

The proposed waste dewatering facility in Happy Valley Road, Wellington (discharging contaminants to air) has been through two pre-hearings (April and July). In the process draft conditions have been circulated to the seven submitters involved and their feedback discussed, with a negotiated solution possible.

Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd – land-based aggregate quarry

The re-scheduled joint-hearing of applications for a land-based aggregate quarry at Waingawa south of Masterton took place in early June – following pre-circulation of supplementary evidence and a supplementary officer's report in May (maintaining that, as proposed, applications should be declined). The quarrying would discharge sediment and possibly intercept groundwater adjacent Waingawa Wetland. In an unusual move the hearing panel adjourned the hearing and asked GW, CDC and the applicant to discuss and report back on options likely to produce manageable effects on groundwater and the Waingawa Wetland. These discussions are continuing.

Other applications with significant work in the last period include:

- ***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. These applications were heard on 8 July and a decision is pending.
- ***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. Wairarapa Public Health is currently commenting on draft conditions for a possible negotiated outcome. A second pre-hearing may occur in August.
- ***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 were notified on 3 July.
- ***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.
- ***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.

Pre-application Work

Transmission Gully Project

In my March report I provided a framework for our pre-application on the Transmission Gully Project. With lodgement now planned for March 2011, pre-application work is now intensifying. GW, through the RATAG (established group of participating regulatory arms of local authorities), has been engaging heavily with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) through the scoping of science and information requirements from the various assessment workstreams. Now the process moves into responding to detailed information provided by NZTA. During this process (and under our direction) we will be promoting exchange between our engaged external experts and those of NZTA. At the same time we have been working hard with the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish their relationship protocol (how the EPA will engage RATAG) and statements of works ('contracting' RATAG's experts to provide for pre-application technical input and assessment reports).

2.2 Other applications

Significant non-notified consents from the period are reported in the non-notified consents report (Report 10.368).

3. Consent appeals and objections

3.1 Appeals

Work continued on seven appeals and two costs objections in the last period, with more significant work on the following:

Kailua Ltd and Car Haulways Ltd

Mediation is continuing on Kailua Ltd and Car Haulways Ltd's appeal against decision declining consent to construct a car haulaway (storage and distribution) area at north Newlands. The applicant has put forward a revised proposal, enabled the parties to inspect the site and will now front up with further detail. The appeal process includes a number of 274 parties including Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Grenada Village Community Association Inc and Transpower New Zealand Ltd.

Southdowns Sullivan's Dam determination

This is an appeal (by Environment Waikato) of Department of Building and Housing's (DBH) determination on a retrospective building permit under the Building Act issued to a South Wairarapa landowner by SWDC. The appeal surrounds DBH's finding that Environment Waikato should issue a code of

compliance certificate for a permit issued retrospectively. Under normal circumstances code of compliance certificates can only be issued providing works were inspected at the time of construction. In this case they were not. GW's (and most other North Island regional councils) building consent authority powers have been transferred under the Building Act to Environment Waikato.

Processing cost objections include:

- J V and L A Petrie: related to processing costs for a decision declining consent to take groundwater in South Wairarapa.
- J Barton: related to processing consent costs for bores and water permits – now resolved.

4. Compliance and enforcement

4.1 Abatement notices

We issued 21 abatements between 19 May to 9 July 2010 (up from 12 for the previous double-reporting period), including unauthorised sediment discharges, discharges from septic tanks, burning untreated waste oil, paint entering stormwater, stream works and diversions, sand dairy effluent.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.374).

4.2 Infringement notices

We issued six infringement notices in the reporting period (down from nine issued in the previous period), primarily for discharge related activities (on-site waste water and dairy effluent).

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.374).

4.3 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Seven prosecutions were before the Court in the last period. A summary of those with more significant load or outcomes are discussed below.

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

Following PJ Warren Earthmoving Ltd's March conviction, Sandy Bidwell was convicted on 8 July after pleading guilty. Mr Bidwell also received a relatively low fine of \$5,000 (same level as PJ Warren); however, Judge Thompson did draw some useful conclusions including finding that the works occurred within the boundary of a wetland of outstanding natural character.

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.

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 'disturbing' 2.5 ha soil on erosion prone land, and reclamation of streams at the van Dyk property at Kaitoke, adjacent SH 2. Following an earlier guilty plea Mr van Dyk was sentenced on 24 June, receiving a \$15,000 fine from Judge Kelly. The Court accepted our submissions that land owner's hands off approach to managing the earthworks at his property was inadequate. Earthmovers Wellington returns to Court in August.

Alan Jefferies and Don McNeill: stream disturbance and diversion in Mangaroa River

This is a new prosecution for alleged illegal works (outside the scope and conditions of their resource consent, to divert the flow of Mangaroa River, constructing a bund to direct flow, and depositing fill material in the bed: Seven charges were laid on 2 July (five to Mr Jefferies), and also included charges for failing to comply with abatement notices.

4.4 Significant incidents

Significant incidents are reported in the Environmental Protection Report (report 10.374).

5. Other Environmental Regulation projects

5.1 Muddy Waters programme workshops

My team presented two separate workshops at the end of June under our Muddy Waters programme – covering working in and 'reclaiming' small streams (targeted at consultants) and managing earthworks sites (for the contracting industry). The workshops covered a broad range of topics from 'defining' streams, ecological effects on native fish and habitats, and including the right assessment information, through to sediment controls on the ground, compliance and enforcement (or what happens when it all goes wrong). Local forestry contractor and 2009 Nikau Compliance Award winner, Joe Potter, also presented on pragmatic best practice. The Muddy Waters programme – non-regulatory connection – is now into its seventh year and continues to provide a critical connection with the industry.

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 not agreed to by all submitters, hence hearing is required to determine application.			
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).	-	-	-
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	Second Pre hearing held with all parties end of July. Negotiated outcome being progressed, primarily with Wairarapa Public Health (part of Regional Public Health).			
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 held 1-2/06/10. Hearing adjourned Applicant's final right of reply due 02/08/10.	Christine Foster Hamish Lowe		

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	Proposed consent conditions sent to applicant and submitters for approval.			
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 of 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	05/08/10			Publically notified 3/7/2010. Hearing to be held mid September 2010.	TBA		
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.			
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		Pre hearing to be held by end August 2010.	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
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.	Second pre hearing held 07/07/10 Info provided to all submitters and forms if they wish no longer to be heard. Possible that hearing would not be required.			
Kumenga Farm Ltd WAR 100232 (Limited notified)	Take water from Lake Wairarapa Narrows for irrigation purposes	10/03/10	27/05/10	3	01/07/10	Currently drafting conditions for approval from applicant and submitters.			
GW Flood Protection WGN100234.	Construct, upgrade and maintain existing and proposed stopbanks – Boulcott Hutt Stopbanks	11/03/10	04/05/10	71	Prehearing meeting held 15/06/10. Hearing early August 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
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	7	No	Hearing 08/07/10	Sally Baber	Awaiting decision	

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours department

Harbours Department Report – August 2010

1. Navigation aids

Between 4 and 16 June, a barge and crane was used to replace the Thorndon Container Pile Light by driving an 18-metre steel pile into the seabed, installing the top platform and access ladder, and fitting a new navigation lantern and submarine power cable. Total weight was about 12 tonnes. The light was operative again from the evening of 16 June 2010, the steel pile having totally collapsed onto the seabed in bad weather on 17 May 2009.

On 15 July Somes/Matiu Island navigation light was modified/simplified to a flashing white light. The previous coloured and intensified sectors were no longer relevant, so were removed. The LED that was fitted has reduced the power consumption of the light and simplified the charted information for mariners.

2. Oil pollution

On 2 July, an increasing list on the laid-up fishing vessel *Southern Prospector* berthed at Interisland Wharf was investigated. It was discovered that the vessels engine room was partially flooded with oil and water. A considerable amount of water was pumped out of the engine room to prevent the situation worsening. Most of the oil floating on top of this water was removed by TransPacific Technical Services, contracted by the vessel owner. The source of the leak was discovered and stopped to prevent future leakage.

One report of “oil pollution” in the harbour was received but no action or clean-up was required.

On 2 June an oil spill response exercise was conducted at Evans Bay Marina. Over 30 personnel from Regional Council, WCC, MNZ, Police, Fire Service and oil company representatives attended.

Tier 1 plan audits were carried on for the Applied Petroleum Tank Truck Tier 1 Plan (14 July) and the Chaffer and Mana Bowser Tier 1 Plan (15 July). This was the final step before approving these plans.

3. Harbour events

On 6 June two large work rafts from the Waiwhetu Stream project were cast adrift by unknown persons and drifted across the harbour at night, ending up in the Eastern Bays. The Harbour Ranger arranged for the contractor to transport them back to the work site.

During the late afternoon of 26 June, Harbour Ranger John Tattersall assisted police to salvage a yacht that had broken its mooring and ended up on Lowry Bay beach. The yacht was successfully towed off the beach without damage.

4. Beacon Hill

Resource consent approval was obtained from WCC for the Beacon Hill radar mast on 5 March 2010, followed by a Building Permit on 22 June. This will enable the fabrication and installation of the radar mast to enable the completion of the new Beacon Hill building project. (The original intended radar mast has developed into something considerably larger. The required radar mast now weighs nearly 2 tonnes and is nominally 1.25 tonnes heavier and 6 metres taller than the previous iteration of September 2009. It includes a davit to enable fitting and maintenance of the radar scanner and motor, a 180° hinge for the antenna mast, a steel lightning rod, and the complete structure galvanised.) Details of fabrication and delivery date by Acme Engineering are awaiting confirmation. The new electronic equipment and radios for Beacon Hill can only be installed when the radar mast is finished. Site preparation work for the laying of the foundations for the radar aerial mast commenced on 8 July.

The extension of the operation of the old Beacon Hill building has necessitated some repairs to keep the old equipment working longer than anticipated.

5. Other

The annual Harbour Masters/Harbour Management Special Interest Group (HMSIG) workshop was chaired by Manager Harbours and held in Wellington on 10 and 11 June.

On 29 June the annual stock take of Harbours dispersant stock and buoys was completed.