



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Environmental Regulation, Environmental Policy and Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Quarterly and Year End Review

30 June 2011

Nigel Corry
General Manager

1. Overview of the quarter

1.1 Environmental Regulation workload

There was a peak of consenting work in the last quarter with the renewal of boatshed consents, water permits, and a general increase in consents being received. We have taken the approach of 'contracting in' short term resource, on a cost recovery basis to deal with this. This is the first time we have taken such an approach to dealing with consenting peaks, and overall it has worked very well. Perhaps partly as a result, we have processed 98.7% of consents within statutory timeframes. We will continue to follow this sort of approach, and will also look at how we might be able to use contractors and short term resource for certain compliance inspections and ongoing processing of some of the more routine consent applications. There has also been a lot of work and interest in bulk earthworks compliance and consenting during the quarter, with the Chair of the Council being the subject of a number of delegations on this area.

1.2 Transmission Gully

This quarter was notable for the NZTA led Plan Review change request being heard by the Board of Inquiry. Murray McLea became the first Regional Council officer in the country to present evidence to the Board of Inquiry in relation to a Plan Review, and one of the first full stop. The pre application process with the Environment Protection Authority in relation to the transmission gully consents has also progressed unabated during the quarter. There has been some excellent collaborative work ongoing on this project not only with the EPA, but also amongst the TA's and GW who have an interest in this project.

1.3 Water issues meetings

We held a series of workshops through the Wairarapa Valley in relation to the water metering regulations, the groundwater model, and consenting issues. These were very well attended, and formed an excellent basis for our ongoing conversations with irrigators and water users around some of the pressures facing them, and us, as we further develop our approach to water management issues. The Wairarapa Water Use Project was also well covered at these meetings.

1.4 Stock Access Guideless

We have put a lot of effort during the quarter into the development of the Stock Access Guidelines, which are now with the designers prior to printing, and being formally launched on 30 August. With the formal involvement, and endorsement of Dairy NZ, Fonterra, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, Federated Farmers and the Deer Industry NZ, along with a farming reference group, these guidelines have been an excellent example of Council and industry collaboration and leadership. The whole issue of stock access is still a very topical one, and the River Dogs movie continues to be widely shown and generates interest. The launch on 30 August will be accompanied by a tour of some of the Wairarapa area for journalists and others, in an approach to

highlight the work we are doing around land management, the Regional Plan development, Wairarapa Water Use Project and general management of rural issues.

1.5 Mangatarere Pilot Project

The Mangatarere Pilot Project is now getting some momentum and we will soon have a reference group on which to base further discussion, and ultimately engagement with the Mangatarere community. This project is now increasingly important with the NPS for Freshwater as it may be able to provide some real guidance on how the required limit setting within the NPS can be applied to a generally stressed catchment. I have also started discussing the possibility of having a hill country trial catchment programme with Dave Cameron and Wayne O'Donnell.

1.6 Wairarapa Water Use Project

A very significant quarter for this project. \$750k funding was secured in the Annual Plan, a comprehensive project management structure was developed, and the Government launched the Irrigation Acceleration Fund. All in all, this is a major project with direct links to the future use of water through the entire Wairarapa Valley. Work around this is being very closely coordinated with the Plan Review process, and the work being undertaken by the science team. I am hopeful that some of the \$750k provided for in the Annual Plan will be able to quite legitimately fund some of the work that needs to be done for the Regional Plan review.

Managers' reports

2. Environmental Regulation department – Al Cross

This report provides an overview of the key areas of work undertaken by the Environmental Regulation department in the last quarter of the year.

2.1 General work load

Resource consents: Consent processing work is up significantly in the June quarter. Non-notified consent applications processed have risen sharply in the June quarter, with a run of replacement water (take) and discharge (dairyshed effluent) permit applications and a large number of coastal permit boatshed replacement consents as well. Consents received in the June quarter are triple the same quarter in 2010. The notified and limited notified consents processing work has increased as well in the June quarter, while pre-application work has again risen significantly as we approach lodgement of significant projects including – Transmission Gully Project, Castlehill Windfarm, Exide and, to a lesser degree, Duck Creek subdivision.

2.2 Resource consents

Consents summary

| Item | June Quarter 2011 | Mar Quarter 2011 | June Quarter 2010 |
|------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Consents received | 223 | 160 | 84 |
| Consents issued | 143 | 101 | 103 |

| Item | 2010-11 year | 2009-10 year |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Consents received | 699 | 479 |
| Consents issued | 598 | 506 |

| Item | June Quarter 2011 | Mar Quarter 2011 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Median processing time frame | 16 | 14 |

| Item | 2010-11 year | 2009-10 year |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Median processing time frame | 16 | 17 |

Notified and limited notified consents

Substantial work in assessments, and pre-hearings or hearings have been completed and/or decisions released on:

- **GW Utilities and Services Group – lowering minimum flow at Kaitoke Weir:** Following the June hearing, the decision to grant the change of consent conditions variation application was released on 15 July 2011. GW officers came into the hearing largely in agreement with the applicant on conditions, and recommended that as the reduction in minimum flow was only during dry summer periods and only for three years, it could be granted. Consent conditions largely reflect those recommended in the officer's report – designed to address some uncertainties around adverse effects, including stringent monitoring requirements, a plan for managing water take and supply (including consultation with key stakeholders) during low flows, and applying an adaptive management regime to respond to any significant adverse effects arising from monitoring. The period to lodge appeals closes on 9 August.
- **Exide Technologies Limited – continuing operations:** Exide has submitted a draft resource consent application for comment and on 15 July, lodged the final version. The draft application process included a round of technical review by independent consultants on behalf of GW. We are currently reviewing the application for public notification. Media interest is reasonably high with reports focussing on process matters, possible opposition to the activity and Exide's offer of blood tests (for lead) to local residents. We have developed a responsive media strategy to deal with ongoing public interest over the different phases of the consenting process.

- **Carterton District Council – Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant replacement application:** This is a consent application to renew permits to discharge treated wastewater to land, water and odours to air. GW staff have been working closely with submitters and CDC to draw this proposal to a decision (by negotiating out consent conditions with submitters and the applicant), through what has been a very collaborative process. Three pre hearing meetings have been held with submitters, the last one in mid April 2011, to make headway on draft consent conditions including the latest change to the application around treatment system technology. On this basis we are hopeful that the applications will be decided without a hearing within the next couple of months.
- **Horokiwi Quarries – Fitzroy Bay sand and gravel extraction (jointly processed with applications to Hutt City Council):** This is a Restricted Coastal Activity replacement application to continue to an existing foreshore sand extraction operation to take 12,500 cubic metres from a 3.7ha area of foreshore at Fitzroy Bay, adjacent to East Harbour Regional Park. The hearing panel's recommendation to the Minister of Conservation to grant consent was released on 5 July 2011. Features of the recommendation include a restriction to 10,000 cubic metres of material, and more stringent monitoring conditions around impacts on the sediment budget for the coastline around to Eastbourne. The Minister is expected to accept the recommendation and grant the consent. It is worth noting that in future, with recent changes to regulation (both the RMA and National Coastal Policy Statement) there will no longer be any restricted coastal activities, nor the process of recommending decisions to the Minister.
- **Duck Creek subdivision – diversion and stream reclamation:** Following another extensive pre-application process, applications for a large scale diversion were lodged by Whitby Coastal Estates in early July. The activity involves diversion of approximately 960m of lower Duck Creek (Whitby) and bulk earthworks. Issues for GW in assessment include ecological impacts, flood hazard effects and erosion and sediment control. The applicant is also seeking subdivision consent from the Porirua City Council for 74 residential lots. PCC and the applicant have agreed a Comprehensive Development Plan for the area. While this gives some weighting to the PCC consent process, it does not influence the GW consent process. The application will be jointly notified with PCC.
- **Oldfield Asphalts – land-based gravel quarry:** This is a limited notified application to quarry alluvial gravel from a land-based site at Waingawa, and the filling of the quarry site with cleanfill material. Main issues included excavating into groundwater, managing the potential for contaminants to be introduced from cleanfilling including significant monitoring conditions. Conditions were negotiated without requiring a hearing, and a decision granting consent for 20 years duration released in May 2011.

Major pre-application discussions continue for:

- **Transmission Gully Project:** Following an extensive period of experts assessments across the 14 ‘impacts’ workstreams, the regulatory authorities group (RATAG) has now embarked on a ‘draft completeness check’ of the draft application (checking that the application meets the minimum requirements for processing) prior to lodgement with the EPA. The completeness check exercise has been very extensive indeed – given the scale of the Transmission Gully and the corresponding volume of assessment documents. At this stage the lodging of applications is still planned for mid August 2011, depending on the time taken by NZTA to respond to the completeness check reports from RATAG. Our work by no means finishes there – with a very rapid turn around in both the final completeness check by the RATAG (within three days), and a ‘key issues report’ for the Board of Inquiry (two weeks). I fully expect the Board may request the RATAG to provide a substantial assessment report (similar to the standard officer’s report on notified consents) – within the September quarter. Meanwhile the hearing by the Board of Inquiry of NZTA’s Regional Freshwater Plan change request has been completed and we await a draft decision for further formal comment (reported further in the Environmental Policy department report).
- **Genesis Energy Castle Hill Wind Farm:** The proposed windfarm if consented and built would include up to 290 turbines over a 4,000 ha area spanning both Greater Wellington and Horizons areas (three times the size of Project West Wind). Genesis has submitted a draft Assessment of Environmental Effects for comment prior to formal lodgement. This is currently being reviewed in-house and by external experts (in-stream and terrestrial ecology, sediment discharges, land stability issues). Formal lodgement with the four participating councils (GW, Horizons, Tararua and Masterton) is currently scheduled for the end of July 2011. The scale, nature and location (across a regional boundary) of the activity suggest the application is ripe for call in to a Board of Enquiry, although Genesis has expressed a clear desire to have the applications processed ‘locally’. There has been no indication of interest in the pre-application process from the EPA, suggesting that applications will not be called in.

Non-notified consents of interest:

- **Boatshed replacement applications:** We are some way through the processing of 110 applications to continue their respective *occupation* of the coastal marine area. The project is somewhat fraught with complexity in that we are at the same time determining a strategy for dealing with some significant non-compliance issues – particularly around the development and *use* of sheds for dwelling purposes (clear and significant policy direction against this in our Regional Coastal Plan). The level of non-compliance is likely to be reasonably substantial, so we will need some balance in addressing a small number of high end cases immediately.

2.3 Resource consent appeals and objections

Appeals work was fairly limited in the last quarter, with no significant progress in any of our appeals.

2.4 Consented compliance monitoring

- Continuing high level of dairymshed effluent compliance:** We have released our 2010-11 dairymshed effluent data for the Fonterra accord snapshot report, and the figures are pleasing with 92% of the 177 Fonterra farms reported as complying fully with their resource consents – up 43% (from 49%) just three years ago. To add to this result, less than 2% determined as significant non-compliance. To put this in context, last years significant non compliance at 1.3% was the second best regional result nationally. The sustained trend of high compliance is testimony to the continuing effective relationship between our dairy compliance team and the dairy farming sector
- Earthworks compliance:** I reported last quarter that we were undertaking a substantial level of earthworks compliance on key sites primarily in the Wellington Northern Growth area. The level of compliance effort has not abated and as we have entered winter the incidences of non-compliance and enforcement action have increased and with it some fairly intense dealings with the industry. We have sought to proactively address some of the more pervading issues (poor communication with GW, limited adherence to erosion and sediment control plans), and I will be now pushing a proposed workshop between GW and key consultants Cardno TCB to find some pragmatic solutions to these matters.

2.5 Environmental incidents

299 incidents were notified and responded to in the quarter down from 323 in the previous quarter. There were no significant incidents. This brings the total number of incidents to 1,174 in 2010-11 up slightly on 1157 in the previous year.

2.6 Enforcement

Abatement and infringement notices

| Item | June Quarter 2011 | Mar Quarter 2011 | Mar Quarter 2010 |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Abatement notices | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| Infringement notices | 4 | 18 | 10 |

| Item | 2010-11 year | 2009-10 year |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Abatement notices | 74 | 127 |
| Infringement notices | 46 | 33 |

Prosecutions, enforcement orders and abatement notice appeals

Significant prosecutions work in the last quarter includes:

- **CnD Landfill and Alex Burrell:** The prosecution and appeal of Alex Burrell and Burrell Demolition Ltd, relating to a breach of resource consent in 2009 at C&D Landfill in Happy Valley Rd. An application by Mr Burrell to have additional evidence considered was heard on 2 May 2011 in the High Court. Justice Mallon held that, 'in the interests of justice', the further evidence should be available to Mr Burrell at the High Court hearing of the appeal. A new date for hearing the appeal is yet to be set, and sentencing will not take place until after the appeal is heard.
- **Burrell Demolition Ltd, Alex Burrell and John Morgan:** In June 2011 we laid charges against each of the parties above, following a January 2011 incident (new incident) at C&D Landfill. Non-cleanfill material was allegedly being discharged into the landfill in contravention of their existing resource consent to fill at the site. This is a new prosecution – and a second for Alex Burrell. Earlier an abatement notice issued to cease landfilling was appealed, and has subsequently been closed by the Environment Court as the appeal documents were 'incomplete' and not progressed with the Court by Mr Burrell.
- **Alan Jefferies:** The prosecution of Mr Jefferies and related abatement notice appeals regarding the diversion of Mangaroa River, associated river works and deposition of fill material continues. Earlier Mr Jefferies pleaded not guilty to all four charges laid. Court mediation to resolve the issue of the abatement notice occurred on 18 May 2011 but was unsuccessful in resolving the issues. Mr Jefferies has recently changed legal counsel and asked for the proceedings to be adjourned until 8 August 2011 where GW will request the matter be set down for a defended hearing on all matters.
- **Patrick and Tracey Roil, and Roil Contracting Ltd:** Patrick Roil and Roil Contracting Limited have pleaded guilty to charges relating to the reclamation of approximately 60 metres and depositions on the bed of a stream within the Pauatahanui catchment (defined in the Regional Plan as an area with a high degree of natural character) which resulted in the diversion of the stream. In the meantime and in a reasonably rare development (mid way through a prosecution) the defendants gained a resource consent to undertake the works required to remedy the environmental effects from the alleged illegal activities. A sentencing hearing was held in the district court on 4 July 2011; the Judge reserved her decision to 8 August 2011.
- **Lifestyle Capital Limited:** In last quarter's review I reported on erosion issues in Kelly's Creek south of Martinborough, where we are alleging connection between ongoing bed degradation problems and consented diversion works. Following limited progress on brokering a whole-of-catchment solution between affected land owners and the consent holder, we issued an abatement notice to the consent holder – which has been

subsequently appealed in late June. We are seeking a legal opinion on the likelihood of success if the appeal is defended by GW.

2.7 Take Charge programme

Our programme work has been light in the last quarter, with our Take Charge Coordinator, Shelley Martin, moving to Environmental Policy.

Part of our work in the June quarter involved the revising of the overall programme scope – involving an audit focus on higher risk activities, and further promotion and development of self-audit initiatives and tools.

Actual audit work in the last quarter involved revisits to three IAG Panel and Paint Industry member sites, following earlier self-audits. Four IAG panel and paint sites, who had revisits in the previous quarter, were fully signed off in this quarter and Take Charge certificates were issued.

2.8 Projects

Water management project

Water workshops with consent holders

Following a Te Upoko Taiao water allocation workshop in March, GW staff organised a series of five workshops for water take consent holders in the Wairarapa in May to inform them about the outcomes of the Wairarapa groundwater investigations and what the new RMA Regulations for measuring and reporting water takes means for consent holders. Over 100 people attended the workshops which were well received. The workshops served as an important opportunity to engage with the sector on one of most critical resource management issues ahead of us. Following the workshops a number of initiatives have commenced to provide readily accessible information and guidance to water take consent holders (via our website).

Water metering compliance strategy

Last year's introduction of the new regulations (for measuring and reporting water takes) has spurred a good deal of work nationally, in dealing with issues around the management of incoming measurement data, development of professional registration for installers and verifiers, standardising of water meters, the education of consent holders (for all water takes over 5 litres/sec) and an increase in monitoring programmes.

To help us manage our regulatory requirements in a coordinated, strategic and integrated manner we have developed a water metering compliance strategy. The draft strategy provides guidance on the level of monitoring that will be required by water take consent holders in various catchments across the region. This ranges from installing real time telemetry to entering water meter data on a weekly basis. The strategy also identifies a number of consents not covered by the Regulations (i.e. less than 5 litres/sec) which will also require metering.

Resource Management Charging Policy Review 2011

Hearings on the Resource Management Charging Policy (2011) were held in May in conjunction with the Annual Plan hearings. While there were approximately 70 submissions on the Charging Policy, only two submissions were received from consent holders. The Charging Policy was approved and adopted by the Council and became operative on 1 July 2011. The most significant change was an increase in our charge out rate from \$105/hour to \$110/hour – which will increase revenue by around \$50k in the 2011-12 year.

Environmental Regulation Report Cards

The 2009-10 annual report cards were released in June following a number of delays. Some of the key points during this period were:

- Over a 1,000 incidents were reported during the year – the same number as the 2008-09 year
- The Take Charge pollution prevention programme visited an additional 144 businesses in the Naenae area
- All significant enforcement actions undertaken resulted in successful outcomes
- The number of compliance inspections and proportion of consents fully complying was similar to the previous year
- While the number of non-notified consents were down, the number of notified consent projects was at a similar level to previous years
- All appeals resolved in 2009-10 were completed without the need of a full Environment Court hearing

2.9 Finance

The finance summary for Environmental Regulation is shown below:

| Regulation | Full Year | Full Year | Full Year |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income Statement | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Twelve months ending 30 June 2011 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Rates & Levies | 2,243 | 2,243 | - |
| Government Grants & Subsidies | - | - | - |
| External Revenue | 1,429 | 1,355 | 74 |
| Investment Revenue | - | - | - |
| Internal Revenue | 166 | 126 | 40 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3,838 | 3,724 | 114 |
| <i>less:</i> | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 2,130 | 1,993 | (137) |
| Materials, Supplies & Services | 99 | 154 | 55 |
| Travel & Transport Costs | 51 | 32 | (19) |
| Contractor & Consultants | 401 | 201 | (200) |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenditure | - | - | - |
| Internal Charges | 620 | 627 | 7 |
| Total Direct Expenditure | 3,301 | 3,007 | (294) |
| Financial Costs | - | - | - |
| Bad Debts | 48 | - | (48) |
| Corporate & Department Overheads | 692 | 692 | - |
| Depreciation | 31 | 22 | (9) |
| Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments | - | - | - |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,072 | 3,721 | (351) |
| OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | (234) | 3 | (237) |

- Regulation has a net deficit of \$234k which is \$237k worse than budget. This is mainly due to increased legal consultants costs for appeals & prosecutions
- External income of \$1,429k is \$74k better than budget mainly due to a high number of consents processed during the last quarter including water take renewals mainly in the Wairarapa office and boatshed renewals in Wellington office
- Personnel costs are \$137k over budget.
- Material costs are underspend \$55k but this is more than offset by overspends on consultants legal costs
- Total consultants costs were \$400k and includes \$178k (total budget \$99k) for legal costs and \$222k (total budget \$100k) for associated technical advice relating to various appeals and prosecutions. Of this spend \$307k was for the top 10 cases, including \$89k for the Mill Creek appeal, \$45k for Transmission Gully and \$40k for C&D landfill/ Burrell appeal

- Provision for doubtful debts has increased by \$47.9k this year despite two of the larger debtors agreeing to payment plans. We are working with our debt collection agency to chase up outstanding debtors.

3. Environmental Policy department – Jonathan Streat

This report provides an overview of the key areas of work in the Environmental Policy department in the last quarter of the year.

3.1.1 Proposed Regional Policy Statement

Multiple party topic-based mediation meetings have been held with the main appellants in the last quarter. This approach has been very well received by the participants and agreement in principle has been reached for a large number of common appeal points.

Consent orders have been drafted for three single issue areas and are awaiting sign off by the appellants. Court assisted mediation with the appellants and the s274 party to the appeals has been set down for early September 2011. Further discussions are scheduled before then to hopefully further narrow down the appeal points.

3.1.2 Regional Plan review

General

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee met on 10 May and 21 June.

On 10 May the committee received the final report on the first round of community engagement. Following the meeting a workshop was held for the committee to consider and discuss possible approaches to stormwater management, including related approaches to limits or standards for water quality and ecology.

A workshop was held on 22 March to provide the committee with an update on the iwi values resource database project, and also to enable the committee to discuss possible approaches to rural land use management and effects on water quality (including related approaches to limits or standards for water quality and ecology as discussed during the May workshop on stormwater management).

Te Upoko Taiao has established four topic based Advisory groups (based on key resource management issues which have emerged from consultation). The Advisory groups:

- Will meet on an as required basis to compliment the development of policy in that particular topic area
- Will be required to develop an in depth understanding of the topic area
- Will be expected to report back to Te Upoko Taiao on the direction of policy as a result for the working group's thinking

- Will work with key staff with expertise in policy development for that topic area

Wetland hydrology and delineation

Wetland hydrology assessments have begun for 10 potentially vulnerable wetlands in the region using a contractor and Greater Wellington staff. A draft report has been received for peer review by GW staff. Feedback is being collated and a meeting to discuss these is being arranged. The final report will be completed shortly after that meeting. This information will provide more accurate and up-to-date information for the plan review.

A second project to more accurately define the extent of wetlands already listed in operative regional and district plans is being initiated. The project is made up of three stages. The first stage comprises a desktop review of wetland boundaries (using the latest aerial photography) and a review of available information on the condition and significance of these wetlands. This stage is due to be completed at the end of July.

The remaining two stages are the field work components. The field work projects are to confirm the boundaries, values, and significance of the Wairarapa Moana wetlands, and other wetlands identified as requiring further investigation from stage 1 of the project. Consultants have been selected for the Wairarapa Moana field work. The field work started in June and the report is due in September. The contract covering the rest of the wetlands will be let in July after the results from the desktop project are received. The field work will take place April-May 2012 and the final report is due in September 2012.

Stormwater toxicants

On 2 May 2011 Environmental Policy and EMI science staff hosted an “expert panel” workshop to discuss stormwater toxicants. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss – and where possible reach a consensus on – various technical issues relating to establishing toxicant limits for coastal and fresh waters in the Wellington region, utilising the qualifications and “on the ground” experience of six consultants working in this field. This work is being undertaken to inform the review of Greater Wellington’s regional coastal and freshwater plans. A draft report documenting the workshop discussions should be available at the end of July.

S-Map

This project is lead by the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations department (EMI). Refer to the EMI report for an update on this project.

Permitted activity water takes project

At the beginning of the year Beca Carter were contracted to apply a model using GIS technology to identify stock and human use of water in the Wellington region. This work includes catchments likely to be under stress from Section 14 and permitted activity water takes. Their draft report can now

be finalised. The findings will be used to support an assessment of the total amount of water taken from surface water bodies in the region, catchment by catchment.

Section 32 template project

The s32 report templates have been expanded to be used as a template for the Te Upoko Taiao policy directions and policy options papers. A guidebook has been drafted to assist staff, in the use of the checklist and template.

Mangatarere Catchment Pilot project

This project is being lead by Environmental Monitoring and Investigations and Land Management with input from Environmental Policy, as well as other departments across the organisation. The Mangatarere pilot project brief has been finalised after consultation within Greater Wellington. More information on this project can be found in the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations update.

Consultation and Engagement Plan

Workshops with territorial authorities continued throughout April and May, consulting with South Wairarapa District Council, Porirua City Council, and Hutt City Council.

Two internal roadshow presentations were given to Greater Wellington staff, June 15 in Wellington and June 16 in Masterton. The roadshows summarised the results from the 2010 community engagement, in which many Greater Wellington staff were involved. The presentations described the four key issues the Regional Plan review will be focussing much of its attention on:

- Water quality – rural land use
- Water quality – stormwater and urban land use
- Water allocation, and
- Coastal management and hazards

The roadshows also illustrated the consultation planned for 2011 and beyond.

The first of three plan review information meetings was held in Wellington on June 30 with Masterton on July 4 and Paraparaumu on July 5. Chief executives and/or senior managers of organisations involved in regularly applying for resource consents and using the Regional Plan were invited. Also included were organisations representing a large membership and / or are politically involved in the direction of the region. The purpose of these meetings was for relationship building and imparting knowledge about the regional council process, background on the key issues and options for policy development identified so far, the process itself and the timeline for the review. Participants were asked to identify representatives to continue working on plan provisions with Greater Wellington staff.

Internal communication across the Regional Plan review management groups is underway. Bi-monthly meetings of both the Review Oversight Group (ROG) and the Cross-council Alignment Oversight Sub-group (CAOS), along with monthly meetings of the Workgroup Leaders Forum (WLF), have been scheduled. These meetings are progressing well and provide a clear and transparent structure for internal dialogue around the management and substance of the plan review.

3.1.3 Transmission Gully Project plan change request

The Environmental Protection Agency notified the change to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Transmission Gully Project on 12 February 2011. Submissions closed on 11 March and 39 submissions were received by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Board of Inquiry for the Transmission Gully Project regional plan change will determine the outcome of the plan change request sought by the New Zealand Transport Agency. The Board requested that Greater Wellington prepare a section 42A report to assist the Board's understanding of Greater Wellington's position. A draft of the section 42A report was sent to the EPA on 14 April and it was finalised on 17 April. Subsequent to receiving evidence from the applicant and submitters on the plan change the Board also requested a supplementary section 42A report from Greater Wellington which was completed and sent to the Board on 23 June 2011. Greater Wellington staff also attended and participated in a caucus of planning experts prior to the hearing on the plan change. Agreement was reached on a number of matters at the caucus. Hearings on the plan change are expected to be finalised in July 2011.

3.1.4 Regional Council input into Statutory Planning

District Plan Changes

Hutt City Council

- Proposed plan changes 17-21 – Land Review – Rezoning surplus reserve land to General Residential activity or General Business Activity

Greater Wellington made a neutral submission on these plan changes and specifically focussed on proposed plan change 20 which intended to change the zoning of a piece of land from Passive Recreation Activity to General Business Activity. This piece of land included two streams which were identified by the applicant's ecologist consultant as having significant riparian vegetation and being "probably ecologically significant" for a number of reasons. Greater Wellington encouraged further investigation of the ecological values of the two streams and recommended site specific development controls such as controls on earthworks and stream piping, appropriate setbacks and appropriate places for building platforms.

A further submission was made on these plan changes to support the submissions of three other submitters in relation to proposed plan change 21 which intended to rezone a piece of land from General Recreational Activity to

General Residential Activity. Greater Wellington supported the concerns raised relating to the potential adverse effects on Belmont Regional Park (such as traffic, car parking and removal of a vegetated buffer) which adjoins the land proposed to be rezoned.

- Proposed Plan Change 22 – Rezoning 6-15 Kelso Grove, Kelson from General Recreation Activity to General Residential Activity

Greater Wellington made a neutral submission on this proposed plan change which intends to rezone a piece of land to enable residential development. Greater Wellington concerns related to the potential removal of the indigenous biodiversity on the site that is nationally threatened and effects on the Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) in which Greater Wellington has undertaken pest control for many years. Greater Wellington recommended that adjustments be made to the proposed rezoning area to exclude some lots from the proposed plan change and that these be protected as scenic reserve or kept in the General Recreation Activity Area zone. Also, areas containing identified significant vegetation are removed from the proposed plan change.

Notified resource consents

Wellington City Council

- Resource consent to construct and occupy a Central Area building known as ‘Kate Sheppard Exchange’ at 2-18 Lambton Quay and 3-19, 19 and 19A Kate Sheppard Place, Wellington Central (including part of the Lambton Transport Interchange)

Greater Wellington made a neutral submission on this notified resource consent for a new office building in Thorndon. Greater Wellington’s main concerns with the proposal were with the lack of attention given to the risk from natural hazards and potential effects on the Lambton Interchange (bus terminal) and wider public transport network.

The resource consent hearing for this application occurred in June 2011, with Environmental Policy Manager, Jonathan Streat and Public Transport General Manager, Wayne Hastie both providing evidence. While the proposal seemed to meet the policies of the proposed Regional Policy Statement 2010 with respect to providing for the integration of development with transportation nodes, it did not appear to meet other policies relating to the protection of regionally significant infrastructure (Lambton Interchange). The potential effects on the Lambton Interchange (as regionally significant infrastructure) and on the wider public transport network were not assessed by the applicant. Both NZ Bus and Greater Wellington detailed their concerns about the adverse effects, both during construction and in the long-term the proposed development would likely have on the functioning of the bus interchange, including a loss of bus parking and implications for bus timetabling.

This hearing is adjourned while commissioners undertake site visits and begin their deliberations on 18 July 2011.

Two other resource consents from the Wellington City Council were submitted on.

A supermarket proposal at Tawa had potential stormwater issues and implications for the public transport 'park and ride' spaces at the railway station.

A rural residential subdivision in Bing Lucas Drive at Tawa had implications for the protection of indigenous biodiversity and one of GW 's KNE sites and a submission was prepared asking for consent conditions to meet our concerns.

3.1.5 Consultation on city or district plans, policy reviews, central government strategies and national policy statements

Central Government

National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management

The National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management was gazetted on 12 June 2011. It will have implications for the review of our Regional Plan because regional plans have to give effect to national policy statement. At the Te Upoko Taiao Committee workshop of 21 June staff provided an initial assessment of the implications for the regional plan of this statement.

National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry

There was a second call for submissions to address some of the technical issues highlighted in the development of this NES. The erosion vulnerability classes have been changed and this affects the status being allocated to different activities. A cross council submission was compiled to comment on the implications of these issues in the Wellington region.

National Environmental Standard Contaminated soils

This standard has been approved for drafting into regulation.

3.1.6 Natural hazards

Research Projects

Regional sea level rise and storm surge modelling

This is a two and a half year study into the effects of storm surge, coastal inundation and sea level rise around the Wellington region coastline. The first stage to produce a digital terrain and bathymetry model of the region has been completed and work is now starting on modelling extreme water levels for Wellington City. A report is being finalised on the extreme water levels for Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti Coast. Funding to assist the project of \$30,000 from WCC and \$20,000 from KCDC was secured and paid before the end of the financial year. This will enable a related study into sea level rise to be funded out of the natural hazards budget in the next financial year.

South Coast storm surge research

Environmental policies senior policy advisor (hazards) is an associate supervisor in the Department of Geography, Victoria University, and is looking at storm surge run-up around the Wellington coast. Louise is just finishing the thesis for submission and has secured a job at Greater Wellington in the new biodiversity group.

Consents

Horikiwi Quarries application for Gravel Extraction

The application by Horikiwi Quarries to continue extraction of sand and gravel from Fitzroy Bay went to hearing in May and is currently awaiting a decision. Work by Environmental Policy secured major concessions from the original application to minimise the environmental impacts of this activity.

Hutt River Mouth Dredging

The consent application to continue dredging the Hutt River Mouth is being assessed. In particular, the effects of dumping dredge spoil on the foreshore on Petone Beach are being analysed. An assessment of the activity undertaken by Environmental Policy has found that the effects are no more than minor, but that the activity requires careful monitoring to assess the potential impacts of dumping dredge spoil, both in the Harbour, and at the end of Petone Beach.

3.1.7 Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Wellington region tsunami evacuation plans

The department is working with local civil defence groups on the regional tsunami evacuation plans. Recently we have been working with the Masterton District Council to finalise evacuation zones at Castlepoint and Riversdale. Greater Wellington's senior policy advisor (hazards) acted in a regional scientific advisory role during the recent Kermadec Islands Tsunami event that put regional civil defence emergency management staff on alert.

3.1.8 Presentations/Publications/Media

A number of presentations on lessons and experiences gained from the Christchurch earthquakes and on tsunami have been made to staff and also externally to groups such as the Zone 4 regional councillors and community board members forum. The Wairarapa Times Age interviewed Iain Dawe regarding the Christchurch Earthquakes and asked for comment on the impacts that could be experienced locally if the Wellington Fault ruptured.

3.1.9 Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

Hutt Valley Landscape Character description project

The first steering group meeting has been held with ourselves, the consultants Boffa Miskell Ltd, Hutt and Upper Hutt City council and the four iwi groups

with interests in the landscape of this area. We confirmed the key stakeholder groups which have been identified to help verify the draft character descriptions and the councils will ask for expression of interest from their councillors. A time-line has been prepared with the next stakeholder group meeting in October and the final descriptions due in December. A cultural heritage section has been commissioned and a draft report will be circulated to iwi for comment.

Stock access guideline

A final version has been circulated to the stakeholders involved in developing the guidelines (i.e., Fonterra, Dairy NZ, Federated Farmers, Beef and Lamb) for approval. The latest amendments include a foreword from Fran Wilde and the addition of logos from all the stakeholders.

Currently we are aiming to 'launch' the document on 30 August on a hill country farm in the Wairarapa. The launch is being planned to look broadly at land and water management issues in the Wairarapa; to draw attention to our plan review process; to link to the Wairarapa Water Use Project and existing land management programmes.

Historic heritage identification

Consultants continue to work toward a historic heritage inventory, which will inform the schedule of historic heritage places, sites and areas in the Regional Plan. Michael Kelly has been supervising historical research and evaluating the historic values of sites in the coastal marine area and the beds of freshwater bodies. Chris Cochran and Russell Murray have been describing and evaluating the physical values of these sites. Archaeologist Andy Dodd will be starting work to identify a preliminary list of sites with significant archaeological values.

3.1.10 Finance

The finance summary for Environmental Policy is shown below:

| Policy | Full Year | Full Year | Full Year |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income Statement | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Twelve months ending 30 June 2011 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Rates & Levies | 2,351 | 2,351 | - |
| Government Grants & Subsidies | - | 10 | (10) |
| External Revenue | 95 | 5 | 90 |
| Investment Revenue | 5 | - | 5 |
| Internal Revenue | 30 | 25 | 5 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 2,481 | 2,391 | 90 |
| <i>less:</i> | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 1,267 | 1,199 | (68) |
| Materials, Supplies & Services | 107 | 155 | 48 |
| Travel & Transport Costs | 29 | 7 | (22) |
| Contractor & Consultants | 446 | 612 | 166 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenditure | - | - | - |
| Internal Charges | 223 | 199 | (24) |
| Total Direct Expenditure | 2,072 | 2,172 | 100 |
| Financial Costs | - | - | - |
| Bad Debts | (13) | - | 13 |
| Corporate & Department Overheads | 359 | 359 | - |
| Depreciation | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments | (5) | - | 5 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 2,416 | 2,537 | 121 |
| OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 65 | (146) | 211 |

- This department includes some Biodiversity staff & projects and Policy staff & projects
 - The total direct spend on Policy projects was \$1,742k which is only \$17k more than budget
 - Policy also had \$90k of external income compared with a budget of only \$5k. The largest income items were \$50k from WCC for the Hazards & storm surge project and \$34k for preapplication and plan change work for transmission gully

4. Environmental Monitoring and Investigations – Ted Taylor

4.1 General

This report is a summary of work carried out by the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations department in the final quarter of the 2010/11 year.

A large part of the department's focus over the last year and into the next relates to data analysis, investigations and reporting to provide information that will inform the review of the regional plans.

The principal work undertaken during the year has included:

- Data analysis for our detailed five-six yearly technical state of the environment reports that are to be released later in the year. This involves analysis of our routine state of the environment monitoring data for spatial and temporal trends
- Completion of the Wairarapa Valley groundwater resource investigation, culminating in a proposed framework for the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in the Wairarapa Valley. This framework was presented to Te Upoko Taiao on 22 March with the reports being publicly released in June.
- Completion of the field work component of the S-Map project

4.2 Air quality and meteorology

In May we publicly released a technical report and fact sheet summarising an air quality study undertaken last winter in Raumati South, Kapiti Coast. The study was designed in response to residents' concerns about smoke from domestic woodburners. We measured the concentrations of particulate matter in air from 25 May to 3 August 2010 and found that on calm and cold days the level PM_{10} is likely to be higher than that allowed by the National Environmental Standard. Levels of $PM_{2.5}$ (which is the main component of wood smoke) were also high on these calm days; and were likely to be above World Health Organisation guidelines. Analysis of the particulate samples by GNS Science showed that on average three-quarters of the $PM_{2.5}$ measured in air arises from domestic burning.

Release of the report generated some interest in the media with letters to the editor (Kapiti News) questioning what Greater Wellington was going to do about winter air pollution in Raumati South.

4.3 Contaminated land

Earlier this year an application was made to the Ministry for the Environment's Contaminated Site Remediation Fund on behalf of a landowner in the Maymorn area to assist in carrying out a full site investigation. (All such applications have to be made through a regional council.) The site was historically part of a larger site that was used for timber treatment, and contamination levels were not investigated before the site was changed into a residential property. The Upper Hutt City Council is aware of the landowner's concerns that the land use change did not take account of the potential for contaminated soils. The Ministry for the Environment turned the application down advising that the landowner needed to work through some issues with UHCC. Following this the owners may make another application for funding.

4.4 Soil quality

- Monitoring

The 2010/11 annual soil quality monitoring was undertaken in April. This year we sampled 15 horticultural sites (orchards and vineyards) and 8 pine forest sites. Samples were tested for a range of indicators of soil health such as bulk density, macroporosity, total carbon, total nitrogen, mineralisable nitrogen, Olsen P, soil pH and various trace elements.

- Investigations

Landcare Research has completed the field work (soil surveys) involved with mapping the different soil types of the Wairarapa Valley as part of the 'S-Map' project. The last area to be surveyed was around Lake Wairarapa. Several factors, including the Christchurch earthquake, have impacted on the completion of photo-interpretation and digitising of the data – as a result, the project is unlikely to be completed until August.

S-Map is a national soil database that provides seamless digital soil map coverage at a reasonable scale and valuable information on soil properties.

4.5 Water quality and ecology

4.5.1 Rivers and streams

- Monitoring

Annual macroinvertebrate and periphyton sampling undertaken at 55 long-term monitoring sites as part of the Rivers State of the Environment (RSoE) monitoring programme was completed in April. This was later than hoped due to heavy rain events delaying sampling of the smaller urban stream sites in Wellington City and Porirua.

Work was completed in the lower reaches of Porirua Stream to establish a permanent continuous water quality monitoring site in close proximity to our existing stream flow recorder. Turbidity will be measured at this site, to provide a record of any sediment runoff from earthworks and other development further up the catchment.

- Investigations

First draft reports have been completed on various work streams related to defining recommended river ecology, water quality and habitat quality limits for the next Regional Plan. Identification of limits for fish, macroinvertebrate and algae indicators to protect aquatic ecosystem values of rivers in our region has been undertaken internally while Aquanet Consulting has been assisting with the identification of water quality limits across a range of values. A summary of regional plan-related ecology/water quality work to date was presented to Te Upoko Taiao in May.

EMI science and Environmental Policy staff hosted an “expert panel” workshop to discuss stormwater-derived toxicants such as zinc and copper. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss various technical issues relating to establishing toxicant limits for coastal and fresh waters in the Wellington region, utilising the qualifications and "on the ground" experience of six consultants working in this field. This work is being undertaken to inform the review of Greater Wellington’s regional coastal and freshwater plans. A final report documenting the workshop discussions should be available around the end of July.

4.5.2 Lakes

In May we received a final report from NIWA on LakeSPI (Submerged Plant Index) assessments undertaken in March on our behalf in three of the region’s lakes – Kohangatera, Kohangapiripiri (i.e., the Pencarrow Lakes) and Pounui (South Wairarapa). LakeSPI is a measure of ecological condition that is based on key features of the aquatic plant (macrophyte) community.

The LakeSPI survey results indicated that, relative to a national database of over 200 lakes surveyed to date:

- Lake Kohangatera is ranked 10th best nationally (“excellent” condition) and considered a nationally outstanding example of a lowland lagoon system
- Lake Kohangapiripiri is ranked 47th and its condition is ranked as “high”
- Lake Pounui is ranked 66th and its condition is ranked as “high” (despite being subject to occasional blue-green algal blooms and signs of elevated nutrient concentrations)

The Parangarahu Lakes contain several plant species that are considered naturally uncommon or endangered, highlighting the high indigenous biodiversity values these lakes support. Of concern was the identification of the exotic weed, *Elodea canadensis* (Elodea) in Lake Kohangatera. This issue was referred to the Biodiversity department who subsequently re-commissioned NIWA to undertake a weed delimitation survey of the lake and in the nearby Gollans Swamp. The survey established that Elodea was widespread – but in low abundance – along the northern and western margins of the lake. This follow-up survey also found the more aggressive exotic weed *Egeria densa* in the uppermost reaches of Gollans Swamp.

The results of the 2011 lake vegetation surveys will inform the review of Greater Wellington’s regional plans, in particular the formulation of policies to manage the lakes’ ecological values. Councillors were informed of the survey findings in late June (via the Councillors’ Bulletin) and a media release followed. NIWA’s report is available on Greater Wellington’s website.

In February, while the Lake Wairarapa barrage gates were left open for an extended period for painting, we carried out a short series of fishing surveys as an initial indication of the movement of fish under “natural” flow conditions. (Refer to the section on hydrological investigations for more work done at this time.)

4.5.3 Estuarine and marine waters

- Monitoring

Final reports have recently been received summarising the 2010/11 ecological assessments of intertidal estuary health in the Waikanae, Hutt and Whareama estuaries, as well as Porirua Harbour. These assessments were undertaken by Wriggle Coastal Management and identify several issues affecting the health of these estuarine environments. Of particular note is the very high sedimentation rate reported for the Whararapa Estuary on the eastern Wairarapa coast (11.4 mm/year as an average over three years of measurements). We are working with the Land Management department to establish a project to identify the principal sources of sediment in the catchment.

The key findings of the 2010/11 estuary reports will be summarised in the Councillors' Bulletin in August. The reports will also be made publicly available on Greater Wellington's website and sent to key stakeholders, including the Department of Conservation and the Porirua City Council.

- Investigations

In late April, EMI science staff coordinated a Greater Wellington-hosted 2-day workshop with coastal and land management experts on the issues facing Porirua Harbour and its catchments. This workshop provided valuable input to the draft Porirua Harbour Strategy that Greater Wellington has jointly prepared with the Porirua City Council and the Wellington City Council. It has helped to identify priority monitoring and management actions for the harbour and catchment, such as increasing the spatial coverage of sedimentation plates deployed in the harbour to improve measurements of sedimentation rates over time.

Monthly water sampling continues at six sites in Porirua Harbour. This work, which commenced in January 2011 and is scheduled to run for 12 months, has a focus on nutrient concentrations at representative locations within each arm of the harbour. One of the uses of the water quality data will be to help assess the potential for seagrass restoration in the harbour, a priority identified from April's harbour and catchment workshop.

4.5.4 Recreational water quality

The 2010/11 summer recreational water quality monitoring programme ended on 31 March; the results were summarised in the annual *On the Beaches* report and released to the public at the end of June. The main issues highlighted via an article in the Councillors' Bulletin and a media release were multiple exceedances of the MfE/MoH (2003) Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines at two sites in Porirua; five exceedances at Titahi Bay at South Beach Access Road and four exceedances at the Porirua Harbour at Rowing Club. Although investigations by Porirua City Council staff into the cause of these exceedances have been inconclusive, sewer cross connections with the

stormwater system are believed to be a contributing factor and are being investigated further.

There was also a high risk to river users from toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) at some river swimming spots from late February onwards, leading to health warning signs being posted in these areas. One dog died in December after coming into contact with cyanobacteria mats in the Hutt River near Melling.

4.5.5 Groundwater

In December 2010 we participated in Environmental Science and Research's sixth national survey of pesticides in groundwater. Ten bores were sampled in areas where pesticides are likely to be used or have been used in the past. The results revealed the presence of pesticides at very low levels in two bores, one on an orchard in Otaki and one at the Wainuiomata Golf Club. Although the results were well below accepted health guidelines, it is not the first time traces of pesticides/herbicides have been recorded in groundwater samples from these bores, suggesting that these chemicals may still be being used or historical residues are moving through soil into the groundwater. All landowners who had their bores sampled have been advised of the test results.

4.6 Hydrology

4.6.1 Network monitoring

Monthly hydrological summary reports are available on the Greater Wellington website (<http://www.gw.govt.nz/monthly-hydrological-summaries/>). Overall, the year from July 2010 to June 2011 was unremarkable from a hydrological perspective. Aside from some short-lived, localised downpours (e.g. Porirua City on Sunday 27 March 2011) there were no particularly significant extreme weather events or major floods in the Wellington region. Unseasonably dry conditions in November and December 2010 – coinciding with the onset of a strong El Nino condition – were generally relieved in the January to March 2011 quarter. While there were short periods (1–2 weeks) of severe soil moisture deficit in the Wairarapa, rainfall was regular enough through the peak summer months to prevent the onset of significant water stress. Rainfall totals for the year were within 20% of the long term average at most monitoring sites across the region.

A building consent has been issued by the local council for the rebuild of the Waikanae flow station. Work is due to begin in the next few weeks once materials have been delivered. A temporary site is still operating sufficiently well.

4.6.2 Water allocation investigations

Our assessment of groundwater/surface water interaction in the Wairarapa Valley, which has been run in conjunction with Phase 3 of the Wairarapa Valley groundwater resource investigation, was completed in May and the key findings publicly released in June. The project involved developing a sustainable groundwater allocation methodology approached from an

integrated water management perspective. This proposes that the management of groundwater takes (i.e., establishing allocation volumes and restriction criteria) should recognise the linkages with surface water bodies. The concepts and key implications of the proposed approach were presented to the Te Upoko Taiao Committee on 22 March 2011. An internal workgroup was subsequently established to identify transitional arrangements that might be needed to support consents staff as we move towards integrated allocation management.

In June Liquid Earth Ltd, contracted to establish management zone criteria for a similar integrated approach in other parts of the region (mainly the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast), provided a first draft report. This report will undergo internal review in July.

Our assessment of instream values and minimum flows for waterways in the Wellington region continues. Focus in the previous quarter has been on assembling results from investigations completed to date into a summary document that can be used to help develop policy options for the next Regional Plan. The report will provide recommendations on both revised Minimum Flow values for selected rivers and streams as well as further analyses needed to identify core allocation options.

Our contractor working to establish flow-related iwi values for Wairarapa waterways has provided several draft reports and we expect the project to be completed in July 2011.

4.6.3 Hydrology investigations

Work continues to improve our understanding of aspects of the water quality and hydrology of Lake Wairarapa. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa are potentially vulnerable to the impacts of over-abstraction. However, little is known about the lake's water balance and this leads to some uncertainty in managing allocation. Work has recently focussed on trying to refine some aspects of the water balance based on flow gaugings undertaken while the barrage gates were continuously open (for painting) in February and March this year. Early results confirm that tidally-influenced backflow from Lake Onoke – when the Onoke mouth is open to the sea – plays an important role in the Lake Wairarapa water balance.

Data collection continues at six new shallow groundwater and open water (lagoon and lake) level monitoring points that were established in March 2011 at the north-eastern end of the lake (between Barton's Lagoon and the Tauherenikau River mouth). It is too early to draw any conclusions from the data collected, but, over time it will hopefully help us understand the interaction between the hydrology of the lake, the Tauherenikau River and marginal wetlands, and therefore, what the implications of water level alteration (by abstraction, lake level manipulation and drainage) might be.

Currently EMI staff are liaising with staff in the Flood Management department and representatives from Wairarapa Moana to try to identify the full range of objectives for further lake investigations over the short (1 year) to

long (10 year) term. This will help pool staff expertise and resources, especially where objectives overlap.

We currently await a revised draft of a consultant's report documenting assessments made during 2010 of the condition of 10 wetlands in the region thought to be vulnerable to water abstraction. The assessments looked at wetland hydrology, vegetation condition and water quality, with the report noting both threats to these and recommendations for management and monitoring. This information will be useful for developing a planning framework for wetlands.

4.7 Mangatarere Stream catchment pilot project

This project is an outcome of the Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation which found that poor water quality in the stream was impacted by land use practices and the Carterton wastewater plant. The recommendations included communicating the key findings of this investigation to iwi, and landowners and residents with the view to establishing joint Greater Wellington, iwi and community initiatives to address some of the issues raised in the report.

An across department/group project brief has been developed for stage one of the project which is an engagement phase where the knowledge, values and aspirations of the catchment community will be explored. The next stage will be where any actions that result from the engagement will be carried out. This whole process, while aiming to result in improved water quality in the catchment (though the community may decide otherwise) will assist in informing methods that could be used in the updated regional plans.

A meeting with Carterton District Council, the two Wairarapa iwi and the district health board was held in June to provide a summary of the water quality investigation in the Mangatarere and to outline the pilot project that Greater Wellington is proposing. A key purpose of the meeting was to find out whether CDC is prepared to work with GW on a project in the Mangatarere.

The key outcome from the meeting was general agreement to work together and that a steering group would be established to form a strategy and programme of work. The programme of work is to focus on phase one of the pilot programme, namely communication and community engagement.

The steering group is currently being formed and the proposal (at date of writing) is that it be made up of persons from the Carterton community, DHB, iwi, Federated Farmers, Greater Wellington and at least two others with discussions still being held among the parties as to who they should be.

The steering group will be confirmed before the end of July and be ready for a half day workshop to start the process in early August.

Work is also occurring on a communication strategy, both internal and external, to ensure good information sharing between all parties involved in the project.

4.8 Technical support for other departments

We provided technical advice to the Environmental Regulation department on a range of resource consent applications during the quarter. These included:

- Input into variations to selected conditions of consent for the T&T Landfill in Happy Valley and Greater Wellington's global consent for flood protection activities in rivers in the Wairarapa
- Overseeing a technical review of external consultants' assessments for Greater Wellington's application to reduce the minimum flow in the Hutt River, and
- Technical assessments undertaken in association with the Transmission Gully roading route.

Input was also provided on the Flood Protection department's draft Waikanae River Environment Plan and the Biodiversity department's draft Biodiversity Strategy for the Wellington region.

4.9 Finance

The finance summary is shown below:

| Monitoring | Full Year | Full Year | Full Year |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income Statement | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Twelve months ending 30 June 2011 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Rates & Levies | 3,955 | 3,955 | - |
| Government Grants & Subsidies | - | - | - |
| External Revenue | 165 | 10 | 155 |
| Investment Revenue | 4 | - | 4 |
| Internal Revenue | 130 | 120 | 10 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 4,254 | 4,085 | 169 |
| <i>less:</i> | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 1,692 | 1,613 | (79) |
| Materials, Supplies & Services | 334 | 348 | 14 |
| Travel & Transport Costs | 106 | 90 | (16) |
| Contractor & Consultants | 850 | 903 | 53 |
| Grants and Subsidies Expenditure | - | - | - |
| Internal Charges | 419 | 415 | (4) |
| Total Direct Expenditure | 3,401 | 3,369 | (32) |
| Financial Costs | 45 | 39 | (6) |
| Bad Debts | - | - | - |
| Corporate & Department Overheads | 553 | 553 | - |
| Depreciation | 183 | 319 | 136 |
| Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments | (4) | (15) | (11) |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,178 | 4,265 | 87 |
| OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | 76 | (180) | 256 |

- The net surplus in Monitoring is \$76k which is \$256k better than budget due to:
 - Community Irrigation Fund external funding of \$137k which funded some of the groundwater studies
 - \$136k lower depreciation charge than budgeted
 - Spend on consultants is \$53k less than budget mainly due to delays in the Telemetry project which had a budget of \$75k and has been rolled over to 2011/12 financial year