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Report 00.678

29 August 2000

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DivMgrRpt.Sept: JB:MEM

Report to the Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters which have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Departmental Managers' reports and the Divisional Accountant's report are attached.

3. Regional Plans

It will be a real milestone to get all the regional plans operative. I think we will be the first regional council to have operative plans to cover our suite of functions under the Resource Management Act 1991. It has been an exhaustive process to get all the plans to this stage and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the staff for their professional expertise, patience, negotiating skills and fortitude.

The User Guide that has been developed to allow easy access to the plans (in hard copy and on the Web) is also a great step forward.

4. Telarc Registration

The Resource Quality and Resource Information sections of the Resource Investigations Department and the Consents Management Department have just received a quality management system certification from Telarc. Gaining Telarc accreditation required us to document all our processes, standards and controls and is a signal to our customers that our systems are of a high standard. The certification covers the following services:

- the supply of environmental data from a database derived from field measurement, including hydrological and air quality measurements;
- the processing and issuing of resource consents, compliance monitoring and enforcement of consent conditions; and
- the provision of a 24 hour incidence response service to investigate and act on potential breaches of the Resource Management Act 1991.

5. **Sustainable Region**

I believe that the General Manager has already mentioned to you that I will be spending the next six months or so looking at how the Council can better implement Local Agenda 21 and the concept of “natural capitalism”. The latter is a term that is rapidly gaining credence. It was the focus of the conference recently held in Christchurch called *Redesigning Resources*.

It is a wide ranging topic and one which will be difficult to pin down to action points. Geoff Skene and Paula Reeves will be helping me with this.

6. **Recommendation**

That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Departmental Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

September 2000

1. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

The Working Group for the Waiwhetu Stream has made excellent progress on the vision and action plan and is now at a stage when the draft plan can be released for public discussion. The Group will launch the action plan on 22 September at the Te Whiti Park Clubrooms. All Committee members are invited to attend.

2. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

With the rubbish removed from the stream, the next step is to develop some ideas about how the stream might look in the future. With Wellington City Council, we propose contracting a landscape architect to develop some initial ideas so that landowners and others can make comment on them. Discussions on this have taken place with the Trelissick Park Working Group.

3. Biodiversity and RPS Ecosystems Projects (Tim Porteous, John Holmes, Paula Reeves, Kirsten Forsyth, Murray McLea)

Considerable effort is going into the development of these projects at the moment (e.g. wetland strategy, riparian management, native bush protection, marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems, pest management). This is a major focus for the Council and we are making good progress in developing the various projects that contribute in this area. In order to ensure the projects are put in place seamlessly across the Council, Tim Porteous has been given the responsibility for co-ordinating them. He will report to the Committee regularly.

There are numerous issues that are common to these initiatives and staff are working closely with officers from the Wairarapa and Landcare Divisions. The first of these projects on private land protection (indigenous vegetation remnants) is reported on elsewhere in this Order Paper. Similarly, the Pauatahanui Inlet project is also an RPS ecosystem initiative, and is reported in these papers. We are also working with officers from the Wellington Conservancy of the Department of Conservation to avoid duplication and ensure our projects are in accord with their new initiatives.

4. **Plant Guide (John Holmes)**

Sales of the Guide are continuing at around 450 per month. We will do a second reprint shortly. John and I are now exploring other ways of getting the Guide's message across (the right plant for the right place) and will report to the Committee shortly on this.

5. **Environmental Education (Jo Campbell, Richard Morgan, Nigel Clarke, Jo Fagan, Paula Reeves)**

Work has continued on the development of the Community Connections (care groups) and Learnwell (environmental trails) programmes (see Report 00.675 in this Order Paper for the care group programme guidelines).

Jo Campbell has been discussing with the tangata whenua ways of involving them in the programme. Jo Fagan is progressing the "adopt-a-stream" component (for schools which want to take the water learning experience further and engage in a practical stream clean-up or restoration exercise). Our next step is to prepare the four-week teaching unit and resource kit, which will be the key educational component of the programme and for which the trail day will be the focus.

Managers Report, Resource Policy Murray McLea, Acting Manager

September 2000

1. Regional Plans

(1) Regional Soil Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)

The Council is now able to make the Regional Soil Plan operative. We will seek approval for the Soil Plan at the next Policy and Finance Committee. It will be the last of our regional plans to be made operative.

Completion of the Soil Plan has been made possible following decisions of the courts in our favour since the last Environment Committee meeting. On 1 August our application to strike out Mr Riddiford's appeal to the High Court was heard. The application was successful. In the following week the Environment Court wrote to us confirming the two Consent Orders for the Soil Plan that were outstanding.

At the High Court hearing the Council sought costs against Mr Riddiford. In his decision Justice Heron took the view that "... in all the circumstances it would be best not to make an order for costs ...".

(2) User Guide (Kirsten Forsyth)

Now that all our regional plans are complete we are in a position to publicise the User Guide for the plans. The purpose of the User Guide is to provide a "user friendly" guide to the rules in the Council's regional plans. It includes 3 ways of finding out about the rules in plans. These are:

- "Activity pages" that describe 25 activities, like cleanfills or boat sheds, and the regional rules in each of the regional plans that apply to them
- Regional rules sorted into categories of activities for each regional plan
- Regional rules sorted into categories of activities for each section of the Resource Management Act 1991.

A hard copy of the User Guide is available in the Councillors' lounge. It will also be available on the Council's web site from 9 October when the Soil Plan becomes operative. The web version has a search function so that people can find their way around it quickly. It is possible to move from a subject, say boat sheds, to an explanation of rules relating to boat sheds, and then to the rules themselves. At present the User Guide is available on a test page that can be accessed on <http://www.wrc.govt.nz/eguide/rmguid.htm>

2. **Regional Plan Implementation**

Project briefs have now been prepared for a large number of plan implementation projects and work is underway on some of them. New initiatives programmed in the Long Term Financial Strategy for work over the next 3 to 10 years will assist the implementation projects. As well as taking action this year on the new initiatives, strategies are being developed that detail the work that will occur in subsequent years. During the year the Environment Committee can expect to receive progress reports on the year's projects as well as strategies for longer term programmes relating to:

- Wetlands
- Riparian mangement
- Freshwater ecosystems
- Coastal protection

3. **Iwi matters (Tracey Whare)**

The Council formally adopted the revised Charter of Understanding on 3 August 2000. Once it is formally adopted by Iwi authorities, there will be a formal signing, probably in November. The changes to the Charter reflect the developing relationship between Iwi and the Council.

At its 3 August 2000 meeting, the Council also adopted a policy of appointing a Maori as a commissioner to all resource consent hearings. Iwi have been asked to nominate people to be included in the Council list of commissioners. A report on the process of selecting commissioners for hearings from the list will be presented to Ara Tahi on 6 September 2000.

We have also begun work on a new issue relating to resource consent conditions that address Maori issues. A successful technical workshop was held with iwi on 23 August 2000 and there will be a follow up workshop on 20 September. The outcome of these workshops will be reported to Ara Tahi.

Following the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 3 August 2000, Rupene Waaka presented the Proposed Ngāti Raukawa Ōtaki River and Catchment Iwi Management Plan 2000 to Councillors. Staff are now looking at the Plan to see how the Council might be able to assist Ngāti Raukawa with its implementation of the Plan.

Work with iwi on projects supported by the Council is ongoing. A summary of the current status is outlined below:

Ngati Raukawa

Discussions have begun on projects for this financial year.

Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai

We have a contract with the Iwi to produce three policy statements. The completed versions of two of the statements have been received. In August the Council gave its

support to a person from the Iwi attending a hui in Invercargill about bicultural approaches to environmental management and science.

Ngati Toa

Initial discussions have been held, and we are waiting for a response.

Wellington Tenth's Trust

No progress to date.

Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui

A contract has been signed for the Iwi to prepare a project plan of potential projects that can then be considered for funding.

Ngati Kahungunu

No further progress.

Rangitāne

A project to assist with funding the fencing of an area of native bush on Māori land at Cape Palliser has begun.

4. Staff

Since the last Environment Committee Wayne Hastie began a 3 month secondment to the Transport Division. I will be filling Wayne's position while he is away.

Resource Investigations Department Report

John Sherriff, Manager

September 2000

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

Since the last meeting the following severe weather bulletins were received:

27 July	Heavy Rain, Rimutakas
18 August	Heavy Rain Tararuas

The following rainfall and river level alarms were also received and responded to:

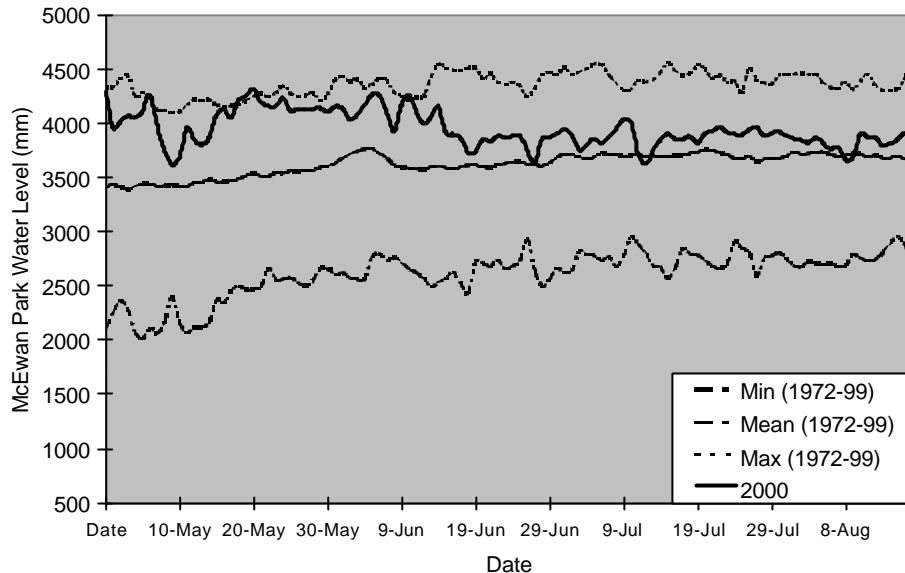
27 July	Philips, McIntosh and Oriwa: Rainfall Taita Gorge, Te Marua, Porirua, Kaitoke and Pukehinau : River level
11 August	Oriwa and Kapakapanui: Rainfall

2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer

Artesian pressure measured at the McEwan Park monitoring bore has been above average for the last three months. The drop in pressure during mid June can be attributed to a reduction in recharge caused by below average flow in the Hutt River.



2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

The weather during July was very unseasonable. Sunshine hours experienced were the highest recorded in Wellington in July, the winds were light, and rainfall was very low.

Wellington and the Kapiti Coast recorded 15 consecutive days without rain during July. The monthly totals of 22 mm of rain recorded in Wellington and 40 mm in the Hutt Valley and Waikanae were only 20 to 30 percent of the average July rainfall. The wettest place in the Region was the Tararua Ranges where up to 350 mm of rain was recorded. However, this amount is only 60 percent of normal for the month.

The amount of rain received during July (refer to the attached Figure) was only half of what would be expected in February, typically the driest month of the year.

Low rain contributed to low river levels. The highest flows recorded at the headwaters of the Hutt River (at Kaitoke) and the Otaki River during July were about 60% of the July average. At Taita Gorge the Hutt River reached only 45% of its average flow. None of the other monitored rivers and streams reported above 40% of normal flows for the month.

3. Resource Quality

3.1 Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Enforcement

CentrePort

After receiving reminder notices for the two infringement notices that were issued on 12 June 2000 for the unauthorised discharge of sodium sulphate to the air and into water, CentrePort Ltd requested that the Council either withdraw the notices or refer the matter to the District

Court to be heard. After careful consideration of the elements of the incident we have referred the matter to the District Court.

Consents Management Department Report

Rob Forlong, Manager

September 2000

1. Consent Statistics

The median processing time for non notified resource consents is six working days (20 consents). All consents have been processed within statutory timeframes.

2. Appeals

The Promall appeals went to the Environment Court in July for a ruling on some of the procedural issues raised by appellants. We are awaiting the formal decision from the Judge. Indications are that the appeal period will need to be reopened as the decision was signed by an Officer of UHCC and not by the Councillors.

We continue to keep a watching brief on the appeals against the consents issued for the redevelopment of the Taranaki St Wharf and Frank Kitts Park lagoon area. While none of our consents have been appealed we have been named as a respondent.

3. Compliance

A full report for compliance over the 1999/2000 year is included as a separate report.

3.1 Abatement Notices

Since my last report we have withdrawn and reissued two Abatement Notices. The first was to the Otaki Porirua Trusts Board. The original Abatement Notice required them to cease discharging agricultural effluent to the Mangapouri Stream by 1 August 2000. The deadline was extended to 18 August 2000.

The second was to T&T Landfills Limited. The Abatement Notice required that the Company provide its Bond and levies by 31 July 2000. The replacement Abatement Notice extends that time by one month.

In both these cases we have agreed to time extensions proposed by the consent holder after assuring ourselves that they were making genuine efforts to comply.

3.2 Prosecution and Interim Enforcement Orders

The Burrell Demolition prosecutions are still working their way through the system. We now have a tentative schedule of late October or early November to hear depositions and a declaration on the case.

4. **Other**

4.1 **ISO Registration**

We have completed Telarc's requirements and are waiting to hear back from them.

4.2 **Staffing**

Ema Reid has resigned to work and travel overseas. Ema has been with the Council a little over a year. She adapted very quickly to her job and has resolved both the Castrol appeals and the unlawful realignment of the Moonshine Stream in that time. We wish Ema all the best on her OE.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Peter Hunt ²	Consents associated with the development and operation of a cleanfill	13/02/98	15/09/98	3	Application has been stopped. Applicant has now paid application fee but no further processing will be undertaken without money in advance.				
ProMall ³	Consents associated with the development of a new shopping mall. Regional Council consents consist of several bridges, realignment of part of a stream and construction of artificial lakes	05/02/99	25/06/99	250+		13/12/99-17/12/99	Upper Hutt City Councillors	24/12/99	Granted with conditions Now under appeal
Lambton Harbour Management ¹	Consents associated with the development of the Taranaki Street Wharf and Lagoon area	09/04/99	21/05/99	77		04/08/99 05/08/99 06/08/99	Councillor Buchanan, Tony Town (Commissioner)	06/09/99	Granted with conditions now under appeal
Castrol	To discharge combustion gases from a Transformer Oil Regeneration Plant to air	29/11/99	04/02/00	14	17/02/00	15/03/00	Councillors Allen, Buchanan and McDavitt		Appeal Resolved
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00	19/04/00	20	10/05/00	Application place on hold at applicant's request			
Wellington City Council	Review of consent conditions on Southern Landfill to deal with the odour problems occurring	06/03/00	16/05/00	11	21/06/00	Awaiting final sign off from submitters			

Eastern Bays Little Blue Penguin ⁴	Consents associated with the development of a bird rehabilitation facility	12/04/00	30/05/00	727	Applicant chose not to have pre hearing	12/07/00 13/07/00 and 14/07/00	Commissioners Sue Driver and Ian Stewart	Decision due to be released shortly	
Mana Volunteer Coast Guard	Consents associated with the construction of a new Coast guard and training facility	01/05/00	07/06/00	12	Application placed on hold at applicants request				
Telstra Saturn Limited	Consents associated with the installation and maintenance of a submarine fibre optic telecommunications cable, Lyall Bay	24/05/00	05/07/00	15		Hearing tentatively scheduled for 25/09/00 – 29/09/00			
J Goodwin	Overnight stays in boatshed	11/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
S and M Julian	Overnight stays in boatshed	29/05/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
B and S Pidford	Overnight stays in boatshed	31/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
D Scott	Overnight stays in boatshed	01/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
M Ambrose	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
M Ambrose	Consents associated with the construction of a new boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		

L Ramsey	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
A and N Johns	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
O and K Martin	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	162	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
R and P Lewis	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
C Feast	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Orongorongo River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	4	Application placed on hold at applicant's request to negotiate with submitters				
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Wainuiomata River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	7	Application placed on hold at applicant's request to negotiate with submitters				
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Hutt River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	5	Application placed on hold at applicant's request to negotiate with submitters				

Telstra Saturn	Consents associated with the installation and maintenance of a submarine fibre optic telecommunications cable, Titahi Bay	05/07/00	16/08/00	215					
New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities	24/07/00	29/08/00						
Transit	Consents associated with the construction of rock protection sea walls along SH58	04/08/00	20/09/00						

- 1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council
- 3 These applications were heard jointly with Upper Hutt City Council
- 4 This application will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

September 2000

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

During August a wind generator was installed at the Front Lead light to assist in boosting the electrical storage batteries in bad weather.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Five oil pollution reports were received and none required clean-up action.

3. Departmental Activities

- On 20 July 2000 a meeting of the Harbour Masters/Harbour Managers Special Interest Group was held in Wellington.
- On 4 August 2000 Harbour Rangers Grant Nalder and Gregory Meikle participated in a beach clean up and was involved in transporting filled rubbish bags from along the railway tracks in Porirua Harbour by boat, to a collection point so the trucks could take them to the tip.
- Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder attended "Spillcon 2000" in Darwin between 14 and 17 August 2000. This bi-annual conference provides useful and interesting presentations on marine oil spill response and actual significant incidents. The Maritime Safety Authority funded costs of attending.

4. General Events/Information

Memorandum of Understanding - HSNO Act

- On 16 August 2000 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Maritime Safety Authority concerning the event of a shipboard emergency in port. Under s.97(f) of the HSNO Act, "The Director of Maritime Safety Authority shall ensure that the provisions of this Act are enforced in or on a ship".

The purpose of the MOU is:

- to clarify the roles of various parties under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 during a shipboard emergency in port;
- to identify any situation where the Director should transfer any powers, duties or functions; and
- to determine which parties have powers as enforcement officers.

Harbourmasters have extensive powers and responsibilities under Maritime Rules Part 24A, the General Harbour (Nautical and Miscellaneous) Regulations 1968 and the Local Government Amendment Act (No.2) 1999.

Rule 24A.22 details the Harbourmaster's role during a dangerous goods incident on a ship in a New Zealand port.

It is acknowledged that the Director will appoint Harbourmasters as Enforcement Officers under s.98 of the HSNO Act in order that they may have the ability to declare an emergency under s.136 if required.

In a shipboard incident in port involving hazardous substances, parties to this MOU acknowledge that the Harbourmaster has the power, transferred to him by the Director, as an Enforcement Officer appointed by the Director under the HSNO Act to declare an emergency and use powers under s.137 as appropriate during that emergency.

Fast Ferries

- The fast ferry *Incat 050* (Topcat) arrived back in Wellington on 4 August 2000 from drydock and survey in Newcastle, N.S.W. after a record-breaking 39.56 knots average- speed crossing of the Tasman Sea.
- Tranz Rail has announced that their fast ferry *Condor Vitesse* (Lynx) will only operate two return crossings per day across Cook Strait instead of three return crossings to take into account the planned introduction by the Marlborough District Council of an 18-knot speed limit in the Marlborough Sounds.
- It is understood that *Incat 050* is also likely to operate a similar two return-crossings per day service instead of three return crossings.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

September 2000

1. Official visit

Annemarie van Daalen, Emergency Response Co-ordinator for the Rotterdam Region in the Netherlands, paid an official visit to the Wellington Region (Emergency Management) from 12 to 14 July 2000. During this period she spent two full days with the WRC Emergency Management Department. We arranged for her to visit the National and Regional Headquarters, the Ministry for Emergency Management, Wellington City and Hutt City Emergency Management Offices, Masterton Emergency Management Office, Police Headquarters, Fire Headquarters and the Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences in Gracefield. She also visited Auckland and Christchurch. The main objective for her visit was to obtain information on the new "Emergency Management Group" concept. We have exchanged some views and ideas and we also learnt about "Disaster Control and Crisis Management" in the Netherlands. It is of interest to note that disaster control resides primarily with municipal mayors, who can use their own municipal services as well as regional services. There are about 600 municipalities (Territorial Local Authorities ("TLAs")), 40 fire brigade districts, 26 medical districts and 25 police districts in Holland. Prior to the visit, she also visited the United States, Japan and Korea.

Annemarie was very impressed with the way that we are conducting emergency management and concluded that New Zealand is a world leader in this regard. She was very pleased with the information package (plans, maps, emergency management documentation, etc.) we gave her.

2. Seminar on Climate Change Impacts

We attended a Seminar on Climate Change Impacts that was held in the Hutt Valley on 19 July. Recent extremes of weather illustrate the types of effects on the climate system which scientists warn us may be expected from climate change. These climate events also help to show the serious economic and social consequences, which may result for New Zealand. The climate change risks for our Region include **higher temperatures** (temperature increase by 0.6 to 2.5 deg C, increased drought, lower water supply, increased water demand, increased bush-fire risk, more overheating in buildings), more **extreme rainfall** (more coastal flooding, faster erosion, more river flooding, stronger tide/flood interactions), **rising sea levels**, and **increased tropical cyclones**. A climate change in the future will affect buildings, the infrastructure, cities and councils (local/regional action and accountability).

3. Emergency Management Workshop

We attended an Emergency Management Workshop that took place in Auckland on 3 August 2000. It was encouraging to see the level of interest in the workshop and the broad cross-section of attendance by Emergency Management practitioners from across New Zealand.

The objectives of the workshop were to consult with leading practitioners, present new ideas, and determine the degree of alignment between commercial and current Emergency Management practices and frameworks.

It was emphasised that commercial best practices could help accelerate the implementation of new emergency management practices, provide better focus to high risk areas, and assist in enhancing the necessary interfaces between Local and Central Government. It also acknowledged the possibility of enhancing the 4R planning process, which could provide an excellent forum for training.

4. Projects

4.1 Logistics Model

We had several discussions with Dr George Stuart of Future Impact regarding the development of a Logistics Model. Dr Stuart made a presentation to the Emergency Managers on 10 August 2000. More work needs to be done before we can decide on its feasibility. The mutual feeling was that the Emergency Management Group should decide the future of the project after its establishment.

4.2 Relocation to Level 8

We had several meetings with all the relevant role-players regarding the relocation of the Emergency Management Department to Level 8 of the Regional Council Centre and the consequent establishment of an Incident Control Centre. We have contracted Access Telecom to shift the radio equipment and backup systems to Level 8, while Steve Moate (Information Technology) is arranging for the building consent, installation of telephone and computer links, and the necessary construction work (partitions, air conditioning, fire safety and emergency lighting).

5. Communications

Formal communication testing between the Regional Operation Centres (Beehive, Marshall House, our vehicle and the Mobile Headquarters) and the TLAs, Beacon Hill signal station, Wellington Police, Wellington Hospital and our maintenance contractor (Access Telecom) has taken place every week. This determines the capability and effectiveness of the communication system. The Mobile Headquarters was thoroughly tested in the Wairarapa on 4 August 2000.

6. Activities

Since the Emergency Management Department's previous report to the Environment Committee on 27 July 2000, this Department has been involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- Staff attended the normal monthly meetings of the Emergency Management Officers in Porirua (7 August 2000), the Wellington Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee at Wellington Airport (18 July 2000), the Kapiti Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee in Paraparaumu (24 August 2000), the Wellington International Airport Emergency Management meetings at the Airport (14 July 2000 and 17 August 2000), the Insurance Council meeting at the Insurance Council (15 August 2000), the Rural Fire Strategy meeting at Wellington Emergency Management Office ("WEMO") (21 July 2000), the Flood Procedure Working Group (23 August 2000) and the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineers meeting at the Ministry for Emergency Management (2 August 2000). The progress on the EMG, strategic planning, the planning of combined exercises and the development of public information and the marketing thereof were discussed.
- Staff attended the Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Annual General meeting that took place in Masterton on 25 July 2000. The AGM was followed by three presentations on the key findings of recently completed hazard reports, namely Meteorological Hazards (by NIWA), Liquefaction Susceptibility (by the University of Canterbury) and The Masterton and Carterton Fault Study (by IGNS). All three presentations were very interesting and well accepted.
- Staff have arranged to meet with Opus Consultants to discuss the Storage of Petroleum Products and the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan on 10 and 11 August 2000 respectively. Both meetings concentrated on the emergency management measures we need to take in the event of a disaster occurring in one of those areas. The Group expressed the need for more information on the storage of petroleum products and a follow-up meeting is envisaged in the near future.

7. General

- A Special Weather Bulletin alert for strong wind and heavy rain was received on 17 August 2000. This Department notified all the involved agencies. The alert was cancelled early on 18 August 2000.
- Since the last report, 33 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the Country. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region (and reports of earthquakes felt in Wellington) were received from IGNS.

15 August - 750 km north-east of White Island (7.3)

15 August - 10 km east of Waikanae (4.6)

4 August - 50 km south of Wellington (4.1)

14 July - 10 km north of Masterton (3.6)

11 July - 10 km north-east of Waikanae (3.6)

1 June - 90 km west of Paraparaumu (4.3)

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: June 2000

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the year ended 30 June 2000. These numbers are an update of the interim results presented at the previous meeting, and remain subject to confirmation by audit.

Because the meeting was held quite soon after the close-off of the annual accounts there was always a possibility that further financial adjustments would need to be made to finalise the accounts. Unfortunately, the payroll charge in those accounts was understated by an amount of \$59,000.

Additionally, Support departments costs have been adjusted and any previous over or undercharge neutralised. The effect of this has been to decrease the "Other Revenue" line by \$33,000 and to reduce direct expenditure by the same amount.

The accounts have been corrected, and the results are shown below:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	5,640.8	5,640.8	-
Other Revenue	1,986.0	2,032.5	46.5 U
Total Revenue	7,626.8	7,673.3	46.5 U
Less:			
Direct Expenditure	6,839.2	6,953.5	114.3 F
Indirect Expenditure	919.5	992.9	73.4 F
Total Operating Expenditure	7,758.7	7,946.4	187.7F
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(131.9)	(273.1)	141.2 F

2. Operating Surplus

At the close of the year, the Division posted an operating deficit of \$132,000. Whilst this deficit is lower than our budget (\$273,000), the result is in line with our expectations.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$141,000 comprising a revenue shortfall of \$47,000, offset by reduced expenditure of \$188,000.

3. **Revenue**

While Total Revenue at \$7,627,000 was some \$47,000 short of our budget target of \$7,673,000, it is interesting to note that because no large and complex notified consents were processed as in previous years, our revenues are more typical of a normal year.

4. **Expenditure**

Total Expenditure was \$7,758,000, that is some \$188,000 (2.3%) below our budgets.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are under budget by \$104,000 because the Hazard Analyst and Environment Education Co-ordinator positions did not take up their positions until the end of November/beginning of December and we did not appoint any replacement for a staff member on unpaid leave.
- Material Costs are some \$96,000 in excess of our budget.
 - The increased expenditure was principally due to the printing costs (\$55,000) of the State of the Environment Report, Measuring Up. This first report was more comprehensive than envisaged.
 - Additional computer software (\$21,000) was purchased to ensure that water quality data was accessible. During the year the laboratory replaced their non-Y2K compliant system. This meant that we had to find an alternative system to store water quality data on.
- Travel and Transport costs are \$18,000 above budget. The increase in expenditure is due mainly to the use of an additional vehicle by the Division over the summer months for consent compliance and pollution response work. Additionally, there has been an unusually high incidence of vehicle accidents and repairs.
- External Contractors and Consultants are \$29,000 under budget. Despite the lower than expected spend on iwi projects an increase in legal fees (over budget by \$80,000) has been a feature this year. There have been some legal challenges made to resource consent conditions. The Burrell appeal (\$21,000) has also contributed to increased legal costs.
- Internal Charges are \$95,000 below budget because the Resource Investigations Department's demand for laboratory services is currently running at a lower level than budgeted. Hopefully this hardy annual has been dealt to in the current planning round with agreement reached on the extent of future work programmes.

5. **Capital Expenditure**

Capital expenditure is \$37,000 under budget. The purchase of a replacement motor vehicle (4 wheel drive) was mistakenly included in the 1999/2000 budget. That vehicle is yet to complete four years of service and it will be replaced in the next vehicle buying round in September 2000.