



*caring about you & your environment*

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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 may have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

### **2. Manager's Reports**

The Department Manager's reports, along with the report from the Divisional Accountant, are attached.

### **3. Resource Management Law Association Conference, Auckland, 5-8 October 2000**

This was one of the best RMLA conferences that I have attended. Rather than dealing with specific provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, the conference kept to higher level, strategic issues.

Cr McDavitt has kindly prepared a report of the conference which is included in this Order Paper. I fully agree with his appraisal that Kevin Roberts (Saatchi and Saatchi), Ros Kelly (former Minister of Environment, Australia) and Robert Cervero (University of California) were the highlights of the conference. They each gave excellent thought provoking presentations.

Both Kevin Roberts and Ros Kelly, in my opinion, confirmed that as a Council we have to be more innovative and energetic if we are serious about changing attitudes and creating a Region that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. Both speakers urged us all to communicate better and to "think outside the box". Two key messages were "aim high" and "every little bit helps".

For me there were strong links with the Redesigning Resources Conference that Howard Stone, Cr Buchanan and I recently attended in Christchurch.

There is a growing movement in New Zealand to change how we do things. The conference title *New Zealand at the Edge* is obviously a theme that we are going to hear more about.

This all ties in well with some work that Howard and I, together with a staff focus group, are currently carrying out and which is based on Local Agenda 21 and “natural capitalism”. I hope that we can produce something that will help the Council with its future work and future strategic direction.

#### 4. **Emergency Management Authority**

The chief executives from the Region’s local authorities have recently agreed to investigate a new model for emergency management. It is their belief that the model could have some advantages over the emergency management group model which is currently under consideration in New Zealand.

I am convening a Steering Group with representatives of local authorities to investigate the new model and to see whether it can be developed into a robust proposal. David Benham and Richard Waddy from the Council are assisting.

#### 5. **Recommendation**

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

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY  
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments

# **Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report**

## **Geoff Skene, Manager**

**October 2000**

### **1. Plant Guide (John Holmes)**

Recently John has been investigating additional ways of getting across the ecological message of the Plant Guide (i.e. that we can use our gardens to sustain native ecosystems by planting the right plant in the right place). The first of these will take place at Labour Weekend. In co-operation with the California Home and Garden Centre, we will provide advice to gardeners on how to plant and grow native species in ecologically appropriate ways. Julia Williams, a native plant specialist, will give five talks for gardeners on this subject throughout the day, and the Guide and the relevant plants will be available for purchase.

The event is advertised in *Elements* along with two articles on the Guide and how it is being used.

### **2. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)**

The launch of the Vision and Action Plan will occur on Saturday 18 November, with a community “field day” at Battle Hill. The Advisory Group is keen to see a care group established in the catchment and will use the launch to gauge support for this and other proposed actions in the Plan.

### **3. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)**

As indicated in my last report, John is working with the Wellington City Council to employ a landscape architect to prepare some concept drawings and ideas for the lower part of the stream. While this is being done, there are nonetheless some short stretches where planting can commence along School Lane. There are a number of local people who are keen to participate in this. Plans are being drawn up to enable this to happen.

John will also soon begin training local people on how to monitor the health of the stream at various points along its entire length using the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK).

4. **Community Environmental Care Programme (Jo Campbell, Nigel Clarke, Jo Fagan, Paula Reeves, Lisa Neville)**

The care group fund was advertised and promotional material circulated in mid September. Applications close on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of November. Thus far interest has been moderate.

5. **Learnwell Environmental Trail (Jo Campbell, Richard Morgan)**

The selection of sites in the western part of the Region for schools to learn about local water issues is nearly completed. Site selection for the Wairarapa will be completed within the next month. We have also been working with the Landcare Division to determine the need for any structural works (buildings, tracks, bridges, boardwalks etc) in order to use our parks or other land as trail sites. A substantial part of each trail will be carried out on Council land, so it is necessary to ensure the appropriate facilities are available.

As foreshadowed in the Learnwell Implementation Plan, an internal report has been completed on what we have learned so far through our work with the teachers' focus group and the trials of our ideas with school children. This "stock take" provides many useful lessons and ideas about the further development of the Learnwell programme and maps out where we go from here. While it is not an official Council report, it is available for any Councillors wishing to know in more detail how the programme is being developed.

# **Resource Policy Department Report**

## **Murray McLea, Acting Manager**

**October 2000**

### **1. Regional Plans**

#### **(1) Regional Soil Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)**

The Council has approved the Regional Soil Plan. It became operative on 9 October 2000. The Soil Plan is the last of our regional plans to be made operative. A function celebrating completion of the 5 regional plans will be held in the Committee Room at 4:30pm following the Environment Committee meeting on 19 October.

At the last Environment Committee meeting I reported on the User Guide for the Regional Plans. On 15 September 2000, the User Guide won the Local Government section of the KPMG awards for innovation in the public sector.

The User Guide and the Regional Plans are available on the Council's web site.

#### **(2) Regional Plan Changes**

It's pleasing to note that the regional plans have been performing well. So far, there has not been any need for plan changes that have not been anticipated. The following plan changes were anticipated this year and will be reported to the Council in due course:

- Withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan
- Changes to the Regional Coastal Plan that will align noise provisions with noise provisions in district plans (anticipated in the Coastal Plan when district plans become operative)
- The inclusion of provisions in the Coastal Plan about coastal occupation charges (required by the Resource Management Act 1991 when changes are made to a regional coastal plan, such as those identified in the previous bullet point).

### **2. Regional Plan Implementation**

Regional Plan implementation projects for the year are now underway. The following three projects are all at key stages in their development.

### **Silt Guidelines**

One of this year's projects is to look at best practice for erosion and sediment run off. A contract has been let to Aqua Terra International Ltd from Auckland to carry out investigations in the catchment of the Pauatahanui Inlet. The consultant will look at whether management in the catchment meets the Council's 1988 guidelines for silt control associated with mass earthworks. The investigation will report on whether current practices achieve consent and/or regional and district plan conditions/standards. Monitoring and best practice will also be examined.

The project is a joint one that Porirua City Council and the Wellington Regional Council are funding. We are responsible for the contractual arrangements. A joint management team involving 2 people each from WRC and PCC has been set up to manage the contract.

### **On Site Sewage Brochures**

We have completed one brochure in our 'sewage help series' being developed to help people look after their on-site sewage systems. This is a plan implementation project. On site sewage treatment systems, such as septic tanks, discharge contaminants to water bodies and the coast. Care taken in the management of these treatment systems can help mitigate the adverse effects of the contaminants. The brochure outlines helpful hints for looking after on-site sewage.

Some territorial authorities have already agreed to distribute the brochure to their rural ratepayers with their next mailout. Our goal is to get the brochure to all rural ratepayers by Christmas.

### **Community Clean Ups**

Clean Up NZ week was from 18-24 September 2000. It was an active week for community clean ups. Jo Fagan has the role of co-ordinator of Clean Up NZ (CUNZ) for the Region. She helped organise publicity for clean up groups in Upper Hutt. Jo also helped run cleanups in Hutt City and Upper Hutt. She also organised a display for CUNZ at the Wellington Central Library.

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

Nominations from Iwi for Maori Hearing Commissioners closed at the end of September. They will be reported to the next Environment Committee meeting for approval.

A report to the 6 September meeting of Ara Tahi began discussion on a Council-wide policy for including a Treaty analysis in reports to the Council and its Committees. This is a significant initiative that will increase the involvement of other Council Divisions in the relationship with tangata whenua.

Staff are making progress negotiating contracts on iwi projects for this financial year. This will be a focus of our attention until contracts are in place.

#### 4. **Staff**

Rosalind Groves has been appointed to the position of Hazards Advisor. She joins us on 16 October 2000.

# Resource Investigations Department Report

## John Sherriff, Manager

### October 2000

## 1. Resource Information

### 1.1 Flood Warning

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

29 September	Heavy rain warning Tararuas
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The following rainfall and river level alarms were also received and responded to:

7 September	Heavy Rain: Warwicks, TVL, Orongo Swamp, Skull Gully River Level: Porirua Town
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### 1.2 29 September – 3 October Flood Event

Heavy rain fell across the Region, particularly in the Tararua Ranges, over the last two days of September and the first two days of October. This caused some significant flood flows. Table 1 summarises the flows attained at our recorder sites and the associated return periods.

**Table 1.**

River	Date of Peak	Time of Peak (NZST)	Stage Height (m)	Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Return Period (years)
Otaki	1/10	1115	6.975	1180	6
Waikanae *	2/10	1035	3.761	-	-
Waitohu **	1/10	0930	1.799	86	7
Hutt at Kaitoke	2/10	1000	4.070	359	10
Hutt at Te Marua	2/10	1055	5.133	535	8
Mangaroa	2/10	1030	3.792	186	5
Akatarawa	2/10	1135	3.809	415	10
Hutt at Birchville	2/10	1130	5.845	1033	6
Hutt at Taita Gorge	2/10	1245	29.414	1251	9
Wainuiomata at Manuka Track	2/10	1000	2.202	35	3
Porirua	2/10	0715	0.992	21	Annual

\* Rating curve undeveloped for high flows at new site. Flow to be calculated by surveying slope/area – unavailable as yet.

\*\* Only 6 years of data collected at site

The flow of 359 cubic metres per second recorded in the Hutt River at Kaitoke was actually larger than the flow recorded during the October 1998 floods. However, the rain



was not as widespread this time so the lower catchment received less rain and therefore the flood peak was not as high as that experienced in 1998 as it travelled down the catchment.

Table 2 summarises the rainfall totals at various raingauges in the Tararua Ranges for different durations, and the associated return periods. The long duration of the rainfall event has resulted in large return periods for the three-day rainfall totals.

**Table 2.**

	<b>Rainfall Period (hours)</b>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Oriwa (Otaki catchment)</b>							
Rainfall Total (mm)	36	60	147	208	345	528	683
Estimated Return Period (years)	5	4	6	4	8	8	15
<b>McIntosh (Otaki catchment)</b>							
Rainfall Total (mm)	27	47	97	133	204	363	518
Estimated Return Period (years)	1	2	2	2	2	5	20
<b>Taungata (Otaki/Waitohu catchments)</b>							
Rainfall Total (mm)	26	42	98	138	206	302	373
Estimated Return Period (years)	2	3	8	6	7	14	23
<b>Warwicks (Waikanae/Akatarawa catchments)</b>							
Rainfall Total (mm)	22	38	61	80	127	214	298
Estimated Return Period (years)	2	3	2	2	2	7	17
<b>Phillips (Hutt Catchment)</b>							
Rainfall Total (mm)	23	40	66	98	131	222	300
Estimated Return Period (years)	2	3	2	2	2	6	18

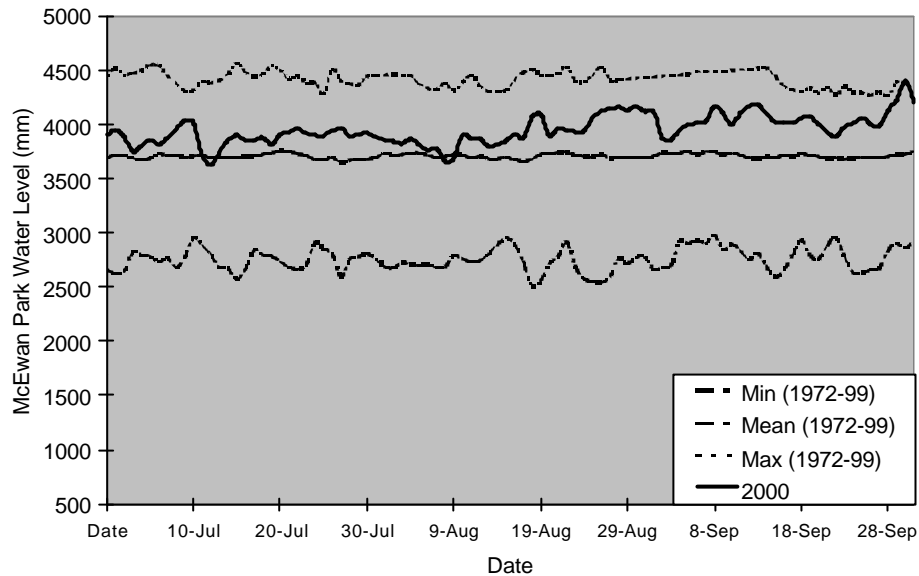
### 1.3 Quality System Audit

We have just completed our annual internal audit of our quality system. This is a requirement of our registration with TELARC. The audit showed that the quality system was being followed by staff from both the Resource Investigations and Consents Management Departments. It did not identify any major problems.

## 2. Resource Analysis

### 2.1 Groundwater Levels

Artesian pressure measured at the McEwan Park monitoring bore has been above average for the last three months in line with expectations for this time of year when river flows are highest.



Groundwater levels on the Kapiti Coast have been at or about average levels for the past three months. There has been no significant variation in levels over this period.

### 2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

Rainfall during August was below average across the entire western Wellington Region. (refer to the attached Figure) Wellington once again received very low rainfall – around 50% of normal. Kapiti Coast was also low with around 50% to 75%. September rainfall was well below average in the eastern hills and slightly above average in the Tararua Ranges. Half of the September total for the Tararuas fell in the last two days of the month. Wellington and Kapiti were again below average.

River flows across the Region were all below average during August. Catchments not fed by rain in the high hills (Porirua Stream, Mill Creek, Mangaroa, Akatarawa and Waikanae Rivers) had the lowest flows of between 30% and 50% of average. September was a different story with flows in the headwaters of the Hutt River and the Wainuiomata River well above average. Wellington catchments were again dry with 60% to 75% of the September average flow.

## 2.3 **Air Quality Equipment**

The Council's first permanent air quality monitoring station will be in place by the end of this year. It will be located at the Birch Street Reserve in Lower Hutt. We are currently negotiating a ten year occupancy license with Hutt City Council and applying for the necessary resource consent.

The high volume sampler, which measures the amount of particulate matter in the air, has been installed at Wainuiomata. It is located at the Wainuiomata Bowling Club.

## 2.4 **Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Programme**

We have completed our review of coastal water quality monitoring. A revised monitoring programme, which is integrated with the monitoring undertaken by territorial authorities, will be implemented on 1 November 2000.

## 2.5 **500 Soils**

The State of the Environment Report highlighted our lack of knowledge about soil quality in the Region. To rectify this situation we have joined the 500 Soils programme, a national soil quality monitoring programme run by Landcare. Staff are currently selecting 25 sites around the Region that will be sampled this year. Selection takes into account soil type and landuse. Sampling is likely to occur in December after access to sampling sites is negotiated with land owners.

# 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**

### *New Zealand Oil Services Limited*

New Zealand Oil Services Limited pleaded guilty to charges relating to a diesel spill which occurred in November 1999. We are still waiting for the Environment Court to set a date for a sentencing hearing for this case. The delay in finally resolving this issue is very frustrating.

### *CentrePort*

CentrePort Ltd paid their \$1750 infringement fees on 9 October 2000. Infringement notices were issued for unauthorised discharges to air and water which occurred during the unloading of bulk powder on April 11-12 2000. As these infringement fees have been paid, the matter is now closed.

Staff have met with CentrePort and the supplier of the bulk powder to discuss ways that the unloading procedures can be improved. There appears to be a genuine commitment by all parties to ensure that an improved system is developed.

### 3.3 **Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities with Territorial Authorities.**

Pollution Response staff are currently talking to territorial authorities to clarify our roles and responsibilities for responding to incidents. There are a number of types of complaint, such as smoke from domestic premises and odours from restaurants, which may be more effectively managed by territorial authorities under the Health Act. An agreement has been reached with Wellington City Council about who will respond to specific types of incident, we hope to negotiate similar agreements with other territorial authorities. These agreements will help us to provide a more effective incident response service to the Region.

### 3.4 **Unauthorised Groundwater Bores**

We have general concerns about drillers not complying with the requirements of the Regional Freshwater Plan, particularly on the Kapiti Coast. The plan requires resource consents for bores deeper than 5 meters and, in specified areas, requires the driller to supply the Regional Council with information about the location of bores installed as a permitted activity. There is evidence to suggest that drillers are not complying with these requirements.

We will shortly be contacting drilling companies known to operate in our Region to remind them of our requirements. Over the summer we will be monitoring drillers activities very closely and taking enforcement action where it is deemed to be appropriate.

## 4. **Staff**

Mary Manastyrski our Resource Quality Officer responsible for contaminated sites is leaving us to take up a similar position with Auckland Regional Council. She will finish with the Council on 13 October.

# **Consents Management Department Report**

## **Rob Forlong, Manager**

**October 2000**

### **1 Consent Statistics**

The median time for processing non notified consents is 12 working days. One hundred and nineteen consents have been processed in the first two months of the financial year.

### **2 Appeals**

The Promall appeals went to the Environment Court in July for a ruling on some of the procedural issues raised by appellants. The Court upheld our position on most of the issues and declined jurisdiction on the others. The Hearing on the merits of the case is scheduled for late in October.

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**

#### **3.1 Abatement Notices**

Since the last Committee meeting we have issued an abatement notice to Burrell Demolition Limited and its Director Mr Alex Burrell. It requires the payment of a bond and the construction of a culvert headwall as required by a resource consent.

An abatement notice was also issued to MKL Ashphalts Ltd requiring them to provide us with monitoring data as required by a resource consent.

#### **3.2 Infringement Notice**

MKL Ashphalts were also served with an infringement notice. The notice related to an offensive odour from the plant on 28 August 2000. The infringement fee has been paid.

#### **3.3 Prosecution and Interim Enforcement Orders**

The Burrell Demolition prosecutions are still working their way through the system. We are still trying to confirm Court dates for depositions.

## 4 **Other**

### 4.1 **Staffing**

There have been a number of changes in personnel lately. Susan Shearer's appointment to the account manager position created a vacancy, which has been filled by Francie Pedersen. The QE II National Trust formerly employed Francie.

Romae Duns has transferred to the Environment Co-ordination Department as a Sustainable Business Facilitator. Her replacement is Frances Lojkine. Frances was formerly employed by the Taranaki Regional Council in a similar role.

I have also appointed Rita O'Brien as a Resource Advisor to replace Ema Reid. Rita is an engineer who spent two years in an underground gold mine in South Africa.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
Peter Hunt <sup>2</sup>	Consents associated with the development and operation of a cleanfill	13/02/98	15/09/98	3	Application has been stopped because applicant is yet to pay a Notified application fee				
ProMall <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	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
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00	19/04/00	20	10/05/00	Application placed on hold at applicants request			

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
Wellington	Review of consent conditions on Southern Landfill to deal with the	06/03/00	16/05/00	11	21/06/00	Report to Environment			

City Council	odour problems occurring					Committee.			
Eastern Bays Little Blue Penguin <sup>4</sup>	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	17/08/00	Granted with conditions now under appeal.
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	No	25-09-00 to 28-09-00	Commissioners Ian Stewart, Sylvia Allen, Councillors Ian Buchanan, Michael Briggs, Annette Maine		

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	



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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	

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	20/09/00	
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	20/09/00	
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 applicants request to negotiate with submitters				
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
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 applicants 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 applicants 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	No	16, 17, 18, 24, 25 October	Councillor Ian Buchanan, Commissioners		

New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities.	24/07/00	29/08/00	4	08/09/00	Application placed on hold at applicants request			
Transit	Consents associated with the construction of rock protection sea walls along SH58	04/08/00	20/09/00	9	To be arranged				

- 1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council

- 3 These application 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

October 2000

### 1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

### 2. Oil Pollution Response

Four oil pollution reports were received and investigated. None required clean-up action.

### 3. Departmental Activities

- On 24 August the Deputy Harbourmaster and Harbour Ranger Greg Meikle attended a seminar held at Phillips Fox, which dealt with legal advice on how to go about prosecutions.
- On 6 September the Manager & Deputy Harbourmaster attended a Dangerous Goods Seminar.
- On 8 September the Manager attended the meeting of the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee in Wellington.
- On 19 September, the Deputy Harbourmaster attended the Emergency Services Co-ordination Committee meeting held in the basement of the Beehive.
- On 20 September, the Harbourmasters/Harbour Managers Group Bylaw Sub-Committee held its final meeting on the drafting of the national generic Safety & Navigation Bylaws. This was mainly to take into account some legal issues raised by our lawyer.
- On 23 September the Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder assisted with boat transport in a beach clean-up operation in Wellington.
- Final work has been done on revising navigation bylaws.
- Construction of a new mezzanine floor in our new equipment store near Kings Wharf is now complete, and moving the remainder of our equipment into the store will take place over the next few weeks.

#### 4. **General Events/Information**

##### **Fast Ferries**

- Marlborough District Council decided to introduce a navigation bylaw restricting fast ferries to 18 knots in Tory Channel and Queen Charlotte Sound from 15 December 2000. Both fast ferry operators will only operate two return crossings per day across Cook Strait instead of three return crossings.

# **Emergency Management Department Report**

## **Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager**

**October 2000**

### **1. Projects**

#### **1.1. Logistics Plan.**

In order to be logistically prepared, a working group has been formed to develop a logistics plan for the Region. The group consists of emergency managers from the Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City, Wellington City and Porirua City. The group is meeting on a weekly basis to ensure the following:

- Day to day service and resource providers must be able to continue functioning in an emergency.
- Emergency management will not usurp the role of normal business interests.
- Key Service Providers are expected to be able to co-ordinate logistics support, including provision of outside aid, by making full use of appropriate professional expertise from the local community and, to the extent possible, using normal sources and systems of procurement and distribution.
- Pre-planned inventories or databases are essential for key service providers to identify existing suppliers and sourcing resources likely to be required.
- Assistance or resources should be forwarded to an affected area only when they are pre-planned, requested by an organisation in that area or that organisation has been overwhelmed by the event and external goods and services are required.
- Unless otherwise agreed, the supplying organisation should be tasked with the delivery, or arranging for the delivery, of goods procured through it to a nominated location or staging post.
- The purchasing of goods and services, and the organising of public appeals should wherever possible be done in a way that does not undermine the local economy.
- Financial responsibility and accountability in accordance with Ministry for Emergency Management and Civil Defence “guidelines for local government” must be adhered to by Civil Defence administration.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide logistic arrangements to enable effective response and recovery from a major emergency in the CDEMG area of Wellington.

Over the years we have become increasingly vulnerable especially regarding our lifelines (power, water, gas, telecommunications, and sewerage). As our technological age becomes more complex, we become less self-sufficient and more dependent on others for our daily subsistence.

**For instance:**

- Loss of transport results in critical food shortages in a matter of days.
- Man-made emergencies are on the increase: we carry more and more hazardous material by road, rail, sea and air. Not to mention the number of people who now travel widely and often by road, rail, sea and air modes of transport.
- Sudden environmental emergencies such as chemical spills are becoming more frequent.
- Our demography is changing. More and more people are living in cities. The size of our cities and major towns is increasing.
- There is the ever-present danger of earthquakes, floods, storms, tsunamis or wild fires.

In the major community emergency context, prompt public safety and relief depends on effective logistics arrangements.

It is prudent to prepare for the worst case event, identify the gaps in response and plan to close the gaps with appropriate logistical arrangements.

For the Wellington Region the disaster event is either a regional earthquake or a regional storm event. The consequences will be similar:

- Overwhelming injuries, deaths and entrapments.
- Displacements of people.
- Damaged buildings.
- Overwhelming and prolonged damage to essential services.
- Many dangerous areas.

To handle such a widespread and overwhelming disaster it is necessary to identify the key response areas that will rapidly achieve and sustain public safety and relief.

For the Wellington Region, especially the areas with high populations of workers/residents/shoppers, the key emergency response activities are Search and Rescue, treatment of injured and water provision

We are looking at ways to close the gaps to:

- Increase the resilience of the public and workplaces in search and light rescue, first aid and storing water for emergencies.
- Identify the realistic capability of emergency services agencies.
- Identify and deploy technical specialists to manage high needs activities.
- Identify the resilient capability of water provision for council areas and plan how to augment post major earthquake residual safe water supply and how to distribute. Inadequate safe water distribution may be a trigger for significant evacuation measures.

## 2. **Relocation to Level 8**

The Emergency Management Department was successfully re-located to Level 8 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The fit-out took longer than was anticipated but all work was completed by 9 October.

## 3. **Training**

The Emergency Management Department had several meetings with different training providers (Devereux-Blum, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, and John Lyde) regarding emergency management training to individuals and organisations. It seems that these organisations will be able to fill the desired training need gaps. These training organisations will be working closely with our training committee in developing courses and specific training material.

## 4. **Communications**

Formal communication testing between the Regional Operation Centres (Beehive, Marshall House, our vehicle and the Mobile Headquarters) and the territorial local authorities, Beacon Hill signal station, Wellington Police, Wellington Hospital and our maintenance contractor (Access Telecom) has taken place every week. We also test with Marlborough Unitary Authority on Thursdays and we have no problem with communications to Blenheim.

Communications testing from Level 8 appears to be even more effective due to shorter antenna cabling (the longer the cable the more efficiency loss due to resistance).

## 5. **Activities**

Since the Emergency Management Department's previous report to the Environment Committee on 7 September, the staff of this Department were involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- We attended the normal monthly meetings of the Hutt Valley Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee at Upper Hutt (5 September) and Wellington ESCC at the Beehive (19 September). We also attended the monthly meeting of the Emergency Management Officers, which was held on 25 September in Masterton. Following that meeting we visited several sites in the district to look at ground deformation and the hidden lakes that were formed after the 1855 earthquake. Main discussions revolved around the new EMG-model, logistics, search and rescue and post-disaster building procedures.
- We had several meetings with colleagues regarding the proposed EMG-model. In this regard we visited all the local authorities on 11 and 12 September to explain the model and why we should adopt it.
- We attended the Regional Rural Fire Committee's Annual General Meeting at WEMO on 22 September as well as the normal monthly meeting in Upper Hutt on 28 September.



- We met with Ivan Skinner of the EQC on 5 September regarding the “EQC Research grant”. It was a good meeting and Ivan gave us a few tips on how to succeed with our application. We followed that up by meeting with Mike Kozuch of IGNS on 12 September. We had to request IGNS to apply on our behalf as grants are normally only made to research institutions. The proposal covered the following:
  - likely impact on the drainage patterns (flooding, the rivers, etc.);
  - likely displacements (relative movements of land) in next 500 years;
  - physical effects of and modelling for earth deformation - what is going to happen in the immediate areas of the fault rupture?;
  - likely impact on the infrastructure and Lifelines;
  - effect of offshore faults on seismicity of the Wellington Region;
  - effect of offshore faults on tsunami generation affecting the Wellington Region;
  - effect of land displacement on coastal areas i.e. long-term erosion can destroy far more property than the instantaneous change in shoreline position;
  - chance/effect of large magnitude earthquakes on faults north of Wellington affecting access to/recovery of the Region;
  - the need for more information on the effects of subduction rupture (as I understand it the duration and type of shaking can be quite different from shallow earthquake - this could have a huge effect on building damage and ground response); and
  - rain-fall induced landslide thresholds and/or wind damage - steep slopes and wet weather is always a hazard in Wellington and this is something EQC covers for residential properties.
- We attended several meetings with the Wellington Airport (4 September, 18 September and 20 September) to discuss their exercise planned for 26 September. The Manager, Emergency Management of the WRC was appointed as the “Exercise Co-ordinator” and principal umpire. Exercise “Apron Strings” took place on 26 September and the Police, NZ Fire Service, Airport Fire Service, Capital Coast Health, the Red Cross, Wellington Free Ambulance and several airport companies took part in the exercise. The scenario was a fire on board a Boeing 737. Four deceased and 37 severely burnt victims were taken from the aircraft. Because of the fire hazard and excessive smoke, the Airport terminals also had to be evacuated. New Zealand only has 25 “burn-beds” (6 in Wellington). Victims had to be triaged, treated and then moved to hospitals all over the Country and even to Australia. The overall objective was to test the Co-ordinated Incident Management System. A few problems occurred in that specific area. A de-brief on the exercise will take place on 3 October.
- We attended several meetings (4 and 14 September) with Flood Protection staff and Opus Consultants regarding the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.
- The Department did an after-hours presentation to the Upper Hutt Red Cross on 25 September. We informed the organisation about our role (provided their members with relevant documentation) and demonstrated the mobile headquarters to them. Some of their members paid us a visit on 29 September to gain more information about our Response 2K database and how we operate it.
- We attended a workshop at Wellington City Council on 15 September regarding the changes to the Building Act.

- Our Emergency Management Office had a visit from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China on 29 September. The First Secretary (Huang Jian Fa) who has been recalled back to China, paid us the visit to introduce the new First Secretary (Feng Xuan).
- We visited the Otaki River, Waikanae River and the Hutt River at several occasions over the weekend of 29, 30 September and 1 October. We also kept close contact with the Emergency Managers about rising levels and possible flooding caused by the heavy rain over that period.

## 6. General

- Since the last report, 25 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.

**2000 October 3** - *10 km south of Upper Hutt (3.8)*

**2000 September 29** - *10 km south-east of Waikanae (3.5)*

**2000 September 13** - *20 km north-west of Wellington (3.7)*

**2000 August 25** - *20 km south-east of Wellington (3.3)*

- A Special Weather Bulletin alert for heavy rain was received on 28 September. Over the weekend of 29, 30 September and 1 October nine (9) SWB's for heavy rain and three (3) SWB's for strong wind followed the alert. We have notified all involved on a regular basis. More than 600mm of rain fell in the Tararua ranges over the 72-hour period. The Otaki river rose to a five-year flood level, the Hutt and Waikanae rivers rose to annual flood levels and some roads were closed. Farmers in the Wairarapa were advised to move their stock to higher ground.

Summary of Weather Warnings received from the Metservice – June 1998 to September 2000

<b>Month</b>	<b>Heavy Rain</b>	<b>Strong wind</b>
June 1998	5	
July 1998	1	
August 1998	1	1
September 1998	4	
October 1998	17	
February 1999	3	3
March 1999	7	7
April 1999		1
May 1999	12	6
August 1999	4	4
October 1999	1	
November 1999	11	1
December 1999	6	6
January 2000	5	5
March 2000	4	
April 2000	9	9
June 2000	3	6
July 2000	4	4
August 2000 (Alert)	1	1
September 2000 (Alert)	1	
September 2000	9	3

# Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

## Financial Position: August 2000

### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the two month period ended 31 August 2000.

	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	1,142	1,142	-
Other Revenue	254	267	13 U
Total Revenue	1,396	1,409	13 U
<b>Less:</b>			
Direct Expenditure	983	1,216	233 F
Indirect Expenditure	139	149	10 F
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>243 F</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>230 F</b>

### 2. Operating Surplus

The Division's finances for the first two months are sound, although it should be noted that some key projects are yet to commence. For the first two months an operating surplus of \$274,000 was struck. This compares favourably to our budget, which provides for a smaller surplus of \$44,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$230,000 and comprises a revenue shortfall of \$13,000, offset by reduced expenditure \$243,000.

### 3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$1,396,000 was some \$13,000 short of our budget target of \$1,409,000. Although external revenue is ahead by \$7,000 (consents revenue), our internal revenue line is slightly behind by \$20,000. However, this shortfall is within the Division and steps have been taken to correct the anomaly.

#### 4. **Expenditure**

Total Expenditure was \$1,122,000, that is some \$232,000 (20.7%) below our budgets.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are under budget by \$37,000, and this is due largely to staff movements in the period. It is expected that a small portion of this under-spend will be a permanent saving.
- Material Costs are some \$70,000 behind budget. Some of the shortfall arises from the delay at setting up of the Incident Control Centre and relocating the Emergency Management Department to level 8. The transfer of the Department was completed during September. Additionally, the spend to date on environment education project works is less than our budgets anticipated. It is unlikely that these savings will be permanent.
- External Contractors and Consultants are \$106,000 under budget. Although expenditure on iwi projects is presently at a level lower than expected during the period, significant progress has been made towards finalising some of the projects and it is expected that the budget will be fully taken up.

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