



caring about you & your environment

Report 00.853

22 November 2000

File: E/6/18/3

(Report 2000 00853 jJB: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. Manager's Reports

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

3. Civil Defence/Emergency Management

As mentioned in Rian van Schalkwyks's report, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill has been introduced to Parliament. There are no real surprises in the Bill, but it will be important for this Council to make a submission. In my opinion, there are still considerable shortcomings in the model being proposed, mainly that the management and accountability structure is vague.

In addition, as reported previously, I am convening a Steering Group, agreed by the CEOs of the Region, to progress further a possible civil defence model for this Region.

Given the importance of this issue, we are proposing to organise a workshop for Councillors in the New Year to agree on a response and a way forward. By this time we will have examined the Bill in detail and the Steering Group will hopefully have reached some conclusions.

4. A Sustainable Wellington Region

I recently attended a meeting of a group that has been exploring the formation of a Sustainable NZ Association. The group is made up of representatives of local authorities and special interest groups and is convened by Barry Harris, CEO,

Environment Waikato and Margaret Evans, former Mayor, Hamilton City. Several Councils, including WRC, contributed to the cost of preparing a scoping report to review progress on implementing sustainable development in New Zealand. It was hoped to stimulate discussion and raise awareness of the concept.

A need to discuss the report's findings with key government ministers and stakeholders was recognised. However, there was some confusion and disagreement about where to go next. This probably reflects the complexity and breadth of the concept and the difficulty in working out specific actions.

These difficulties served a valuable lesson for me in developing the concept for this Region. As you know, we are working on this for the Wellington Region under the Local Agenda 21 and natural capitalism umbrella. I must emphasise that the Council and this Division are carrying out a number of projects immediately related to sustainable development, eg pollution prevention. However, we need to develop a clearer strategy.

We have a small group, including the General Manager, working on the issue and expect to be able to report next year.

I understand that Local Government New Zealand will shortly be releasing a discussion document on how Local Agenda 21 principles and processes are being used by local authorities in New Zealand.

5. **Happy Christmas!**

As this is the last meeting before Christmas, on behalf of all the staff of the Environment Division, I wish the Committee a good holiday break and thank you for your support during the past year.

Next year we are immediately back to annual planning etc., but look forward to being able to report continuing progress in our environmental work.

6. **Recommendation**

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

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

November 2000

1. Plant Guide (John Holmes)

Sales of the Guide picked up again in October with shops stocking up for Labour Weekend. Eight hundred copies have been sold in the last six weeks, and a reprint ordered. Unfortunately, the attempt we made to promote the Guide through talks at a Wellington nursery were unsuccessful, with shoppers being unwilling to take the time to learn about native plants in this way.

The Guide was publicised further at the Pautahanui Field Day. We will also be ensuring our stockists have sufficient copies to cope with the Christmas “stocking filler” demand.

2. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

The launch of the Action Plan took place on Saturday 18 November at Battle Hill, along with a community “field day”, where the services the Council can provide for residents and landowners were promoted. The Plan has been printed, with an eye-catching cover, and sent out to the 160 people who have been involved in the process so far. Others picked up copies at the field day.

We are considering a range of possible investigations within the catchment for this year. These are tied to the areas of priority for research set out in the ‘gap analysis’. The Advisory Group has also made good progress on the question of what kind of ‘enduring entity’ is appropriate for overseeing the implementation of the Plan.

3. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

The Action Plan for the Stream was launched on 2 November. The launch was well attended and the Plan, and the people associated with it, were well covered by the local media. The Plan is currently open for public submissions.

A major aspect of the river’s health is the contamination of the sediments at the mouth. At present Tim is exploring ways of determining the size of this problem, so that the overall cost of cleaning up the stream can ultimately be determined.

4. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

John Holmes and Gretchen Robertson undertook a training session for local people on how to monitor the health of the stream on 11 November. There is an enthusiastic group of people from a range of interests who are keen to undertake this work using the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK). There is the potential

to undertake a reasonably comprehensive monitoring exercise along the full length of the stream. Councillor McDavitt attended this training session also.

5. Implementing the RPS Ecosystems and Biodiversity Programme (Tim Porteous, John Holmes)

The implementation of the new ecosystems and biodiversity projects is proceeding well. A number of staff members are working on their own particular projects (e.g., wetlands, lowland bush, estuaries, freshwater ecosystems, etc). However, we are also very conscious of the fact that together these projects constitute a unified programme of considerable importance to the Council's image and relationship with its customers. There is a need to ensure it is implemented in a co-ordinated and integrated manner that provides a 'one-stop shop' for landowners.

To this end a two-day workshop was held in October for all relevant staff. A number of outcomes from this are worth reporting, in particular the creation of a co-ordinating committee of managers which will oversee and manage the programme. A very positive outcome was that there is a considerable unity of purpose on the part of staff, and a desire to make progress in giving effect to the RPS's ecosystem objectives. Another committee was established to develop ways of prioritising where biodiversity funds should be spent, i.e., deciding which areas of bush, wetland, and so on, would be entitled to Council services.

Councillors will have the opportunity to make decisions about the final 'shape' of the ecosystems programme when the Ecosystem and Biodiversity Implementation Plan is reported back.

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

Applications for the care group fund close on Friday 24 November. As at 17 November, about 40 groups had contacted us for information or an application form, but only four applications had been received. We expect a rush as the deadline approaches.

7. Learnwell Environmental Trail (Jo Campbell, Richard Morgan, Jo Fagan, Karen Brewster)

Recent developments are:

- The identification of Mt Holdsworth as the Wairarapa 'base' site (for looking at natural water issues) and a number of other sites round Masterton to illustrate human impacts on water for Masterton and related schools;
- The refinement of the educational objectives we are seeking to achieve through the programme and the particular curriculum components we will use to achieve this;
- Work has commenced on the writing and artwork for the teacher and child resource information;
- The continued development of a range of resources and activities for schools that want to include a more active approach (e.g., adopt-a-stream, monitoring);

- The identification and approval of works to support the programme on Council land at Belmont, Battle Hill, and Wainuiomata (Kaitoke and Tunnel Gully still to be completed). This work will be done by the Landcare Division.

8. **New Staff Member**

I am very happy to announce that Olwen Thomson has been appointed to the position of Environmental Educator in my Department. Olwen will work primarily on the Learnwell and Community Environmental Care programmes. She commences work at the beginning of January.

Resource Policy Department Report

Wayne Hastie, Manager

November 2000

1. Regional Plans

A successful function was held on 19 October 2000 to celebrate the completion of all of the Council's regional plans. Speakers included Cr Buchanan, Hon Phillida Bunkle, Associate Minister for the Environment, and Hon Simon Upton, former Minister for the Environment. The Council was congratulated on completing the plans and also for preparing the Integrated User Guide.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

(1) Silt Guidelines (Paul Denton)

As reported to the last meeting, one of this year's projects is to look at best practice for erosion control and sediment run-off in an attempt to better manage the adverse environmental impacts of siltation. In a joint venture with Porirua City Council, we have let a contract to carry out investigations in the catchment of the Pauatahanui Inlet. Consultants have reviewed the Regional Soil Plan rules, the Regional Council's silt guidelines and the district plan rules, and are now making recommendations for improving the guidelines. The project has both a management and a practical focus and will help us to answer the following questions:

- Are the regional and district rules controlling erosion and silt run-off adequate?
- Do the regional silt control guidelines reflect national best practice?
- Are the rules and guidelines being appropriately implemented through resource consents?
- Are the consent conditions achievable in practice?
- Are consent conditions being complied with?

When the project is completed we will be in a strong position to review our current practices and identify where improvements can be made.

(2) On Site Sewage Brochures (Kirsten Forsyth)

The brochures were presented at the last Committee meeting. Since that time Masterton District Council have posted out 3,500 brochures to all their rural ratepayers. We have given brochures to Porirua City Council, Kapiti Coast

District Council, Carterton District Council and the South Wairarapa District Council, and will be distributing copies to the remaining councils in the near future.

(3) **Transfer of Power for On-Site Sewage Disposal (Kirsten Forsyth)**

The Regional Plan for Discharges to Land contains a method stating that the Regional Council will transfer powers to territorial authorities for the control of on-site sewage treatment and disposal (within specified limits). The transfers will complement territorial authority responsibilities under other legislation, and thereby provide enhanced customer service.

Discussions have been held with territorial authority staff and technical guidelines are being completed to ensure that rules will be implemented in a consistent and competent manner.

In order to implement a transfer of power each council will have to go through the formal procedures set out in the Resource Management Act 1991.

(4) **Responsible Use of Agrichemicals (Nicki Kinghorn and Lorna Douglas)**

Staff have made contact with Regional Council staff, territorial authority staff, and a number of contractors who apply agrichemicals for plant pest and weed management to discuss their practices and identify best practice methods. Two A4 flyers have been prepared in-house explaining the requirements of Rules 1 and 2 of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan (i.e. rules for the application of agrichemicals), and these will be sent to agricultural contractors and farm supply stores in the Region.

Staff have made comment on a draft brochure prepared by AGCARM about small scale incineration of empty plastic agrichemical containers. The brochure complements the rules in our Air Plan.

(5) **Spray Painting Pamphlet (Nicki Kinghorn)**

As part of the settlement of the Moir Street Residents' appeal on the Regional Air Quality Management Plan, the Council agreed to prepare and distribute pamphlets to spray painters explaining the requirements of the Plan and how they can ensure compliance. A draft was prepared and circulated to Council staff, Public Health and Occupational Safety and Health for comment. The latest draft has been sent to the Moir Street Residents for comment and we await their response. A mailing list of about one hundred spray painters in the Region has been compiled.

3. Iwi matters (Tracey Whare)

Council staff held a successful technical workshop with Ara Tahi Iwi representatives to discuss section 33 of the Resource Management, which enables local authorities to transfer their functions, powers and duties to other public authorities. Over the years there have been many requests from Iwi for the Council to transfer power to them using the section 33 provision. Often these requests have been made without a full appreciation of the purpose, meaning and limitations of the section, and the workshop provided an ideal opportunity for these to be explored. Tom Benion, an independent lawyer with specialist knowledge of Māori issues and the Resource Management Act 1991 assisted the workshop.

The general consensus of the participants was that the limitations of the section were such that it provides limited scope for meaningful power sharing with Iwi. While this may not have been the result that was anticipated by Iwi, they are now more informed on the topic.

A ceremony was held on 14 November 2000 to recognise the completion of the revised Charter of Understanding between the Council and Iwi (“Te Tūtohunga o Te Whakaaetanga”).

Progress continues with a number of Iwi projects. Of note this month is the completion of the Ngāti Kahungunu environmental policy statements on water, land, heritage, flora and fauna, and coastal marine environments; and the completion of the project plan by the Taranaki Whanui. The latter plan focuses on the development of an iwi management plan.

4. Annual Environment Report (Paul Denton)

Work is well advanced on the preparation of the Annual Environment Report, which aims to provide regular “updates” between the five yearly state of the environment reports. Special emphasis is being placed this year on making the report more readable for the general public, and it is hoped that parts can be published in *Elements*. A copy of the draft report will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Staff

Tracey Whare has resigned from her position as Policy Advisor (Iwi) to attend a meeting on indigenous peoples in Geneva and then to complete her law professionals. Tracey will be sadly missed by staff and by Iwi. The recruitment process for a replacement is under way.

Resource Investigations Department Report John Sherriff, Manager

November 2000

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

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

October 9	Heavy rainfall warning Tararuas
-----------	---------------------------------

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

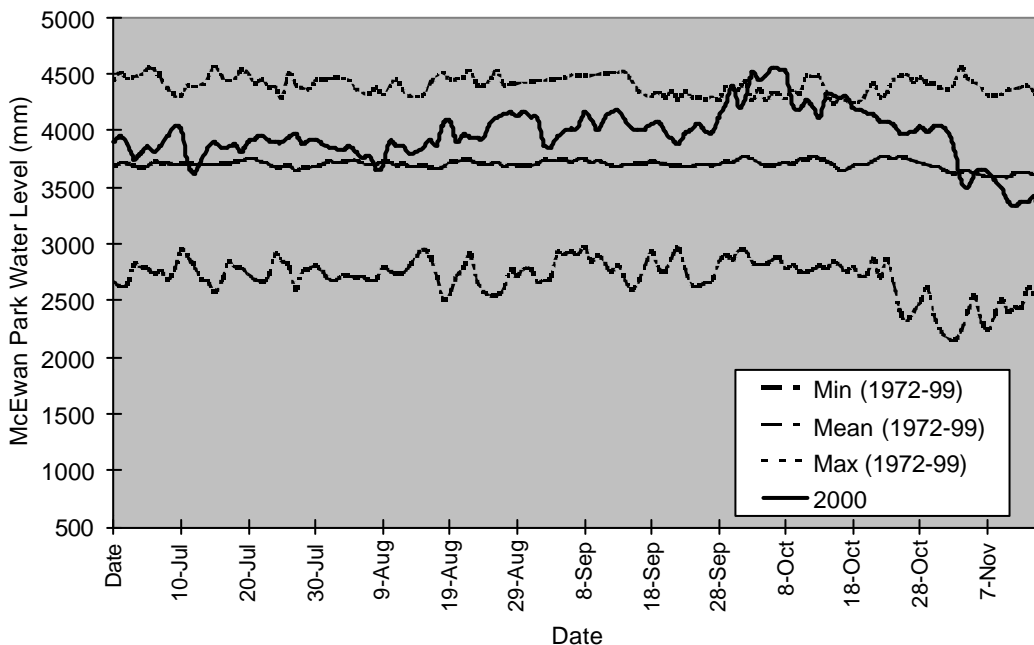
October 9	Rainfall Alarms: Taungata, Warwicks, McIntosh and Philips River Flow Alarms: Otaki, Kaitoke, Te Marua and Cemetery
-----------	---

The rainfall monitoring site at Otaki depot has been telemetered. This will provide us with an enhanced capability to provide flood warnings for the lowland Kapiti Coast area.

2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

Artesian pressure measured at the McEwan Park monitoring bore has been above average from July to the end of October. Since the beginning of November artesian pressure has dropped in response to increased pumping by the Council's Utility Services Division.



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.

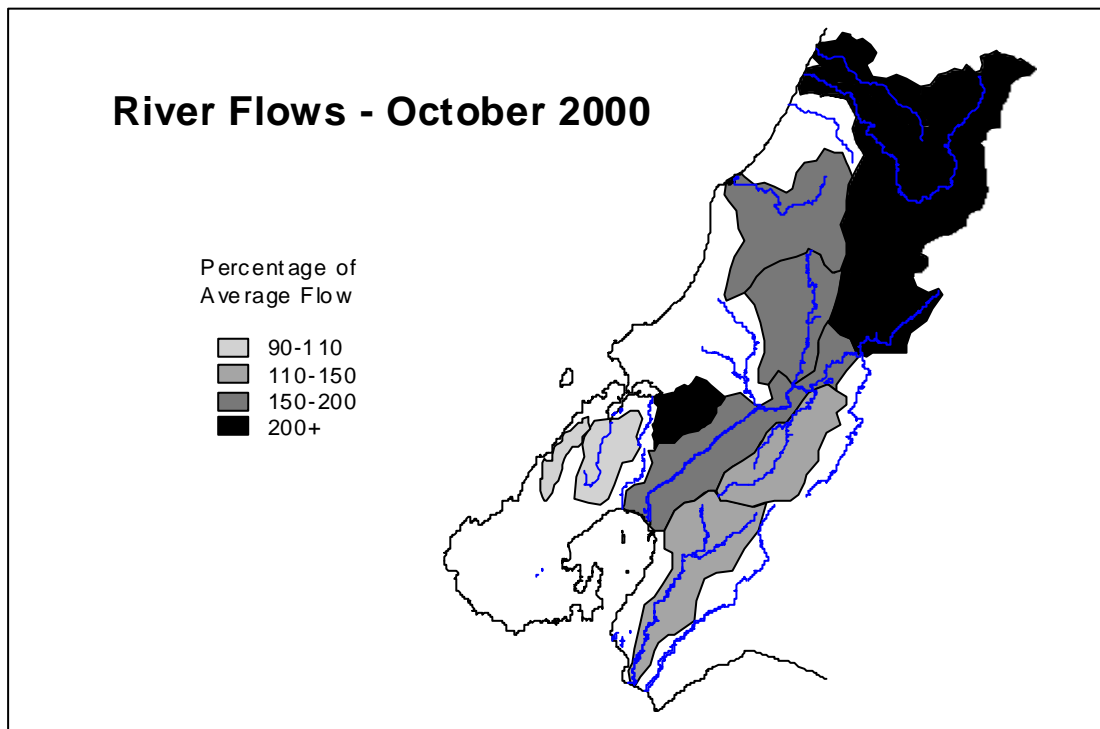
2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

In contrast to the previous three months, rainfall totals across the Region were well above average for October, except for Wellington City.

The Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges and their foothills received rainfall totals that were up to 160% of average. A predominance of moist north-west weather conditions resulted in about 900 millimetres of rain falling in the high part of the Tararua Ranges, most of that fell in the first two weeks of October.

The monthly rainfall in Wellington City was only 75% of the average. So far this year there has only been two months (January and April) when Wellington received average rainfall or greater.

With the exception of the Porirua Stream and Mill Creek (Ohariu Valley), all of the rivers monitored by the Division had flows well above average in October. The Otaki River, the Hutt River above Kaitoke, and the Pauatahanui and Waitohu Streams all experienced flows greater than 200% of normal. The following figure summarises average river flows in October.



2.3 **Air Quality Monitoring**

A resource consent and building consent have been gained from Hutt City Council for the new air quality monitoring station at the Birch Street Reserve. This station is expected to be operating by the end of the year.

Earlier this month, Perry Davy, our Air Quality Scientist, attended a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Manila. This, all expenses paid invitation, arose as a result of the air pollutant source apportionment project we are doing with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences. The project involves analysing particulate matter to identify specific sources of air pollution. The results of the study will enable us to target specific activities which are causing air pollution.

2.4 **Stormwater Investigation**

The current work programme includes a two year project which is designed to quantify the environmental effects of stormwater discharges. The outcome of this study will provide the basis for reviewing the current rules in our Regional Plans which make discharging stormwater a permitted activity.

A project brief for the first part of our stormwater investigation has been prepared and tenders for undertaking the work are currently being sought from consultants. The first part of this project will have three main outputs:

1. A report which:
 - summarises the main contaminants in stormwater and the critical levels at which these contaminants have adverse environmental effects;
 - compares available stormwater results with these critical levels to assess the actual effects of stormwater; and
 - identifies areas where more information about water quality, sediment quality and biota is necessary to make this determination.
2. A map of the Region which identifies “hotspots”, areas where stormwater discharges have, or are likely to have, adverse effects on the receiving environment.
3. A monitoring strategy for acquiring further information which will enable us to quantify the effects of stormwater discharges.

This phase of the project is expected to be completed early next year.

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 Galvanising Ltd.

We have started legal proceedings against New Zealand Galvanising Ltd. This charge arose from an incident which occurred on 15 July 2000 and involved the unauthorised discharge of chromium and zinc into the stormwater and subsequently into Waiwhetu Stream.

3.3 **Contaminated Site Investigation**

We have commenced an investigation of contaminated and potentially contaminated sites owned or occupied by the Wellington Regional Council. Nine sites will be investigated to quantify our liability for these sites. This will include determining the presence, extent and degree of contamination and to outline any measures necessary to remediate these sites. The work is being undertaken by consultants and will be completed by the end of the financial year.

4. **Staffing**

Gretchen Robertson, our Surface Water Quality Scientist, has resigned and will be leaving the Council at the end of the year to take up a similar position in Dunedin.

Barry Strong will be joining our Resource Quality Section at the start of next year and will be working in the contaminated sites/hazardous waste area. Barry has been working for the Auckland Regional Council in a Pollution Control role.

Consents Management Department Report

Rob Forlong, Manager

November 2000

1. Consent Statistics

The median time for processing non notified consents is nine working days. Ninety seven consents have been processed so far this financial year by the Wellington Office. (Note: Last month I provided combined figures for Wellington and Wairarapa)

2. Appeals

The Promall appeals are presently before the Environment Court. Resource Advisor, Nigel Corry will be giving evidence for the Wellington Regional Council in late November.

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.

The Eastern Bays Little Blue Penguin Trust consents were appealed by local residents. Mediation was on 17 November 2000 and a Court date for a full hearing has been pencilled in for 11 December 2000.

The decision to decline the consent applications for overnight stays/residential use of boatsheds has resulted in nine appeals. The appellants are M Goddard, B and S Pidford, M Ambrose (2 appeals), L Ramsay, A and N Johns, O and K Martin, R and P Lewis, and C Feast. Three consent applicants have accepted the Committee's decision. At this stage our lawyers have filed replies to the appeals and we await a Court date.

3. Compliance

3.1 Mooring Owners

The 1999/2000 Resource Consent Annual Compliance Report showed that 122 out of the 137 mooring owners were not complying with the terms of their resource consents. In 1997 mooring owners received large reductions in their annual consent monitoring charges in return for self-monitoring. This monitoring involves the mooring owner conducting an annual safety inspection of their mooring and forwarding written confirmation of the inspection to the Wellington Regional Council.

The problem has been getting worse since 1997 and the rate of compliance has dropped to 10%.

We have recently sent a letter out to all non complying mooring owners giving them a deadline to complete the work and advise us of the outcome. If they fail to meet the deadline then we will consider formal action such as an abatement or infringement notice.

3.2 Abatement Notices

Since the last Committee meeting we have not issued any abatement notices.

MKL Asphalts Limited complied with the abatement notice that was issued to them in September 2000.

3.3 Infringement Notice

MKL Asphalts Limited were served with an infringement notice on 10 November 2000. The notice related to an offensive odour from the plant on 27 October 2000. This is the second infringement notice issued to MKL (they also had an offensive odour discharge in August). I have advised the company that they need to remedy the situation in the very near future or they risk court action. MKL are confident that they have isolated the problem and that they can resolve it.

3.4 Prosecution and Interim Enforcement Orders

Declarations associated with the Burrell Demolition prosecutions will be heard on 8 December 2000. Once those matters are resolved we will be able to proceed to depositions.

4. Other

4.1 MfE Annual Survey Audit and ISO Quality Audit

Each year the Consents Management Department is audited at least three times by external agencies. In addition, there are external and internal peer reviews, quarterly reviews, and six monthly reviews.

Audit New Zealand validates our Annual Plan Performance Indicators (along with the rest of the WRC) and also checks our responses to the Ministry for the Environment's Annual Resource Management Survey. Our quality procedures are also audited by Environmental Quality Systems (EQS) or Telarc New Zealand as part of our ISO 9002 requirements.

During the past couple of months we have completed the MfE Annual Survey audit and the EQS Quality System Audit. I'm pleased to report that feedback from both audits has been very positive. EQS praised the expertise of the staff members whose consents they reviewed and MfE were particularly impressed with our procedures manuals.

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 because applicant is yet to pay a Notified application fee				
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. WCC consents 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			
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	Report to Environment Committee.		08/11/00	Conditions varied
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	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	01/11/00	Application placed on hold at applicants request			

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
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	14/11/00	Granted with conditions
M Goddard		11/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined
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	Declined
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined
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	Declined now under appeal.

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
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined now under appeal.
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	Declined now under appeal.
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				
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Waiuomata River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	7	Application placed on hold at applicants request to negotiate with submitters				

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
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, 14, 15 October	Councillor Ian Buchanan, Commissioners	15/11/00	Granted with conditions
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	07/11/00	Application placed on hold at applicants request			

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

November 2000

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

On 21 October 2000 the light on Barrett's Reef Buoy was reported as malfunctioning. The Harbour Rangers inspected the light on 22 October 2000 and found that due to the severe southerly weather and swell, the steel radar reflector on top of the buoy had come loose and damaged one of the two lights on the buoy. The damaged light was removed and a replacement was fitted on 1 November 2000. The other light had condensation inside and was removed and returned to the manufacturer on 1 November 2000 to be checked and resealed. This will be replaced on the buoy when the weather permits.

At some time on either 28 or 29 October 2000 the Goat Point Light (the main leading light at Porirua Harbour) was attacked by vandals. The main lens was broken and a second lens damaged. This was reported to us on Sunday evening 29 October 2000. The light was immediately inspected and found to be still functioning, although with reduced power and accuracy. The light was removed in daylight on Monday and the lens was replaced with a spare. The whole unit was back in position on Tuesday with additional protection fitted for the lens. The incident was reported to Police and a claim is being filed with our insurance company.

All other navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution Response

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

On 4 October 2000 the Maritime Safety Authority carried out their annual oil spill response equipment, dispersant and sorbent audit. The equipment was put through its quarterly inspection at the same time.

3. Departmental Activities

- On 9 October 2000 Manager & Deputy H/M attended a presentation at Coastal Tankers given by AMOSC (Australian Marine Oil Spill Company).
- On 17 October 2000 Grant Nalder, Harbour Ranger, spoke to coaches and senior members of the Wellington Rowing Club and Star Boating Club with regard to safety issues for the rowers using the inner harbour and discussed proposed changes to the bylaws that would affect the rowing clubs.

- On 18 October 2000 Grant Nalder, Harbour Ranger, spoke to the TS Amokura Sea Cadet unit about his position as a Harbour Ranger and the Regional Council's role on the harbour in Wellington
- On 20 October 2000 Manager attended the Tory Channel Navigational Safety meeting in Picton.
- On 7 and 8 November 2000 Manager and Deputy H/M attended an MSA workshop for Regional Councils in Wellington.
- On 15 November 2000 Manager attended the meeting of the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Auckland. This included the media launch of the Maritime Safety Authority's "Safe Skipper-Summer Campaign".

4. **General Events/Information**

- On 12 October 2000 a very strong southerly wreaked havoc in Christchurch and destroyed the Marina in Lyttelton, and made itself felt in Wellington. The cruise ship *Crystal Harmony* had some trouble with her moorings whilst berthed at Aotea Quay. Another cruise ship, *Seven Sea Navigator*, cancelled a planned visit to Lyttelton because of the weather and arrived at Wellington twelve hours early.
- On the evening of 25 October 2000 a 24-metre steel barge laden with construction equipment in tow of a tug capsized off the Wairarapa Coast. It sank early next day about two miles south of Honeycomb Rock in about 52 metres of water. About 300 litres of diesel was on board the barge in a fuel tank, but no pollution was reported, and any oil would have quickly dispersed naturally.
- On 2 November 2000 the outward-bound container ship *Queensland Star*, with a harbour pilot on board, lost all power and steering whilst heading down the channel at full speed. Both anchors were dropped to stop the vessel from running aground. During the course of these emergency actions, the starboard anchor (7 tonnes) with its eleven shackles of cable (20 tonnes) was lost. Tugs took charge of the vessel until power was restored and the ship continued her voyage. The anchor and cable will be recovered from the harbour by the ship owners on 27 November 2000 and will be returned to the vessel on her next visit.
- On 5 November 2000 the traditional "Skyshow" fireworks display took place from a barge anchored in Lambton Harbour.

Fast Ferries

- On 31 October 2000 Fast Cat Ferries suddenly announced that they were ceasing their Cook Strait ferry operation on 3 November 2000. One Cook Strait crossing was made on that last day and the 96-metre *Incat 050* ("Top Cat") sailed from Wellington on 4 November 2000 for Hobart.
- Subsequent to the above announcement, Tranz Rail announced that they would now need a larger fast ferry instead of the originally-planned 86-metre *Condor Vitesse* ("The Lynx") in order to carry the extra passenger loading. The new fast ferry is to be the 98-metre *Incat 057*, which will be renamed *The Lynx*. It will also carry freight and will replace the conventional ferry *Arahanga* from December

2000. Instead of only operating from December to April, the new vessel will operate all-year-round. The new vessel is expected to arrive in Wellington on 27 November 2000 and to commence commercial service on 10 December 2000.

The pending arrival of the new vessel resulted in some substantial modification works at the rail ferry berth.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

November 2000

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill

The Bill was introduced into the House on 9 November 2000. It requires local authorities to join with emergency services to form Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups (CDEMGs). These Groups will be based on regional boundaries and members within each group will co-ordinate in:

- identifying local hazards;
- building capability and expertise to address those hazards;
- reducing the likely consequences of hazards;
- developing planned responses to emergencies; and
- facilitating community recovery programmes.

Differences between the proposed Bill and the current Civil Defence Act

Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill	Civil Defence Act, 1983
4Rs concept reduction, readiness, response & recovery	Inadequate attention to risk reduction and some aspects of readiness
Local authorities co-operating in regional groups	Each local authority is independent
A National Strategy	No opportunity for the Crown to set a strategic direction
National capability builds from regional groups	National capability stands alone
Requirements for publicly consulted plans	No requirements for consultation
Duties and powers that meet Bill of Rights standards	Little accountability for powers
An 'all-hazards' and risk management approach	Some hazards (e.g. technological failure) not envisaged in 1983

It is probable that we shall be organising a workshop on the Bill to determine this Council's response.

2. Projects

2.1. Logistics Plan

Following the information provided in the October 2000 report to the Environment Committee (19 October 2000), the Working Group's current focus is on:

- Urban search and rescue: working with the Ministry of Emergency Management, TLAs and various Search and Rescue organisations.
- Treatment and movement of the injured: arranging a workshop with the Health Authorities (Ministry of Health, Capital Coast Health, Hutt Valley Health, Ambulance Services, Doctors, Medical suppliers, etc.).
- The provision of water: a separate workshop that will involve all "water" authorities has been arranged. We need to have a contingent capability and a residual safety net, especially if we lose power, roads, telephones and "bulk pipe" breakage.

2.2 Marketing

The proposed poster to reinforce the information in the recently published Yellow Pages has been finalised. It will be printed and distributed within the next two weeks. Emergency Management Department staff have had two meetings with the staff of Telecom Yellow Pages to discuss the possibility of Telecom funding the project. We are encouraging other Regional Councils to accept our proposal and if they do, Telecom Yellow Pages will fund the entire project of approximately \$20,000.

3. Communications

The communications network is being tested weekly (Wednesdays) and is working effectively. Emergency Management Department staff also test with Marlborough Unitary Authority on Wednesdays and can report that communications with Blenheim have been trouble free. The Department also regularly tests with Wellington Hospital, Police Headquarters and its contractor, Access Telecom.

4. Activities

Since the Emergency Management Department's report to the Environment Committee on 19 October 2000, staff have been involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- We attended the normal monthly meeting of the Hutt Valley Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee at Hutt City (25 October 2000). Main discussions revolved around the new EMG-model, logistics, search and rescue and post-disaster building procedures.
- As Exercise Co-ordinator, the Manager, Emergency Management chaired the debrief meeting at the Wellington Airport on 3 October 2000. Observations made during the exercise, and suggestions on how to enhance operations and management during such an event, were given to the group and specific actions were derived from that.

- We attended two meetings (13 and 16 October 2000) with Flood Protection staff and Opus Consultants regarding the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. We also took part in the development of the non-structural measures and the emergency management measures for the Plan and are now in the process of putting these measures into an acceptable format for inclusion in the final Plan.
- We attended a presentation on earthquakes and lifelines by Professor Kameda of Japan at the Park Royal Hotel on 6 October 2000. It was again emphasised that we have high seismicity in our region and that earthquakes and tsunamis will happen. Our ultimate goal should be safety and sustainability. The major issues that we are confronted with are multidisciplinary integration (societal, physical and information management) and international collaboration.
- Massey University's final year "environmental health" students (21) visited our headquarters at the Beehive on 9 October 2000. As part of their curriculum they had to do an assignment on emergency management. We made a presentation to them regarding our role, the National role, etc. and then took them on a tour of the facilities at the Beehive.
- The Department was involved with the College of Education regarding the development of emergency kits for schools. This was a big project which involved teachers, school students and the College. We attended the presentation of the kits at the Karori West School on 17 October 2000. Emergency Management got a lot of mileage from this project, with the involvement of kids and teachers and also the fact that the College included it in their curriculum.
- The Department was closely involved with the Rural Fire Publicity Committee, the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee and the Training Working Group. We are making good progress in these areas.
- We attended the normal monthly meeting of the Emergency Management Officers that was held in Martinborough on 6 November 2000.
- The Department took part in the Carterton exercise in Gladstone on the night of 6 November 2000. The mobile headquarters was used again and the exercise was completed successfully.

5. General

- Since the last report, 28 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 November 1](#) - 20 km north-west of Porirua (3.9)

[2000 October 11](#) - 20 km north-west of Wellington (3.8)

[2000 October 3](#) - 10 km south of Upper Hutt (3.8)

- A Special Weather Bulletin (SWB) alert for heavy rain was received on 8 October 2000. Over the period 8 to 15 October 2000 nine SWBs for heavy rain and eight SWBs for strong wind followed the alert. We have notified all involved on a regular basis. Some roads in the Wairarapa were closed and where necessary farmers were advised to move their stock to higher ground.

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

Month	Heavy Rain	Strong wind
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
October 2000 (Alert)	1	
October 2000	9	8

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: October 2000

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the four month period ended 31 October 2000.

	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	2,284	2,284	-
Other Revenue	580	658	78 U
Total Revenue	2,864	2,942	78 U
Less:			
Direct Expenditure	2,184	2,541	357 F
Indirect Expenditure	268	273	5 F
Total Operating Expenditure	2,452	2,814	362 F
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	412	128	284 F

2. Operating Surplus

The Division's finances for the first four month period are sound. For the period, an operating surplus of \$412,000 was posted. This compares favourably to our budget, which provides for a smaller surplus of \$128,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$284,000 and comprises a revenue shortfall of \$78,000, offset by reduced expenditure \$362,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue amounted to \$2,864,000 or 97.3% of our budget target of \$2,942,000. The shortfall is with internal customers. While annual resource charges have been agreed, the Utilities Service Group requested that these were processed in monthly instalments. We have accommodated this request.

4. **Expenditure**

Total Expenditure was \$2,452,000, that is some \$362,000 (12.9%) below our budgets.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are under budget by \$46,000, 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. However, we will incur additional staff costs with an unbudgeted half a staff member in Environment Co-ordination and a part-time secretarial position in Consents Management.
- Material Costs are some \$97,000 behind budget. The spend on environment education project works is less than our budgets anticipated. However, it is expected that budgets will be fully utilised and that the underspend at this point in time reflects the way the budget has been phased.
- External Contractors and Consultants are \$188,000 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. The timing problem with iwi projects seems to be inevitable despite concerted efforts in our part to secure contracts.

5. **Capital**

Currently our capital expenditure is \$161,000 (including proceeds from disposals) under budget. Most of the shortfall is with the purchase of the air monitoring station (\$145,000). The acquisition has been delayed slightly because most of the components have to be imported from the USA.