



Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – December 2004

1. ***Take Action***

The *Take Action* team has been very busy over the last three months, delivering the programme and signing up schools for next year.

1.1 ***Take Action at Expo 2005***

The *Take Action* programme and students from Cashmere Avenue School will feature in a film about New Zealand to be shown at this country's pavilion at the World Expo next year.

1.2 **Schools taking action**

In term four, the schools doing *Take Action* are Kenakena School (Kapiti), Kahutara School (South Wairarapa), and Te Ara Whanui kura (Lower Hutt). All are now undertaking practical projects to improve local streams and the environment around their schools.

1.2.1 Kenakena school

Four classes from Kenakena investigated the health of the Wharemaukau Stream with the *Take Action* team in October. When the team returned to help the students decide on ways to take action for water around the school and its locality, they found the children brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. The students have begun work on a wide-ranging mix of practical projects and advocacy initiatives to get their families and neighbours to look after water in their daily lives. Some of these projects are:

- worm farms, composting, and recycling for the school's waste
- planting of native species in the school grounds and along the Te Atiawa Stream (likely to occur next year)
- a rainwater collection system to provide water for their plants
- radio advertisements about stormwater and water conservation.

Being a Kapiti school, water conservation is high on the students' agenda. The Kapiti Coast District Council is helping with the school's action projects, enabling the students' radio advertisements to be broadcast on the local radio station.

We now work closely with the Kapiti Coast District Council on *Take Action* in the Kapiti area. The district council provides a staff member to work with local schools, and contributes to the cost of action projects.

1.2.2 Kahutara school

At rural Kahutara school, south of Featherston, two classes are well advanced with their initiatives to improve their school environment around their school. The students are emphasising biodiversity and water in their action projects, learning about water and nature whilst improving their surroundings. The students have identified a need to introduce more native species to their school grounds and are propagating plants in their newly-restored shade house. They are having an open day on November 22 to tell their community what they have been doing. Some of the students have taken water testing equipment home to investigate water quality in their farm drains and streams.

1.2.3 Te Ara Whanui

Students at this kura studied streams in Belmont Regional Park and near their school in the Lower Hutt civic area (Opahu Creek). They started their action projects in November and are working on a recycling scheme, a radio advertisement, fliers in Te Reo for their families and a car wash for the public in their school grounds. They are studying where the stormwater from the school grounds goes and how to keep it clean.

1.3 Self-guided schools

Our efforts to get more schools to do *Take Action* on their own are bearing fruit. Three schools are doing so this term and there is interest from another 11 for early next year. We have begun contacting every school in the region, offering an introduction to the programme and outlining the assistance we can provide. The 11 schools that have expressed an interest come largely from the Upper Hutt area, the first area we have contacted, plus Waikanae and Greytown. We will continue to market the programme to schools in this way.

This term, Karori Normal Intermediate has included *Take Action* in its school-wide focus on the environment. We delivered one multi-media presentation to seven classes and taught a group to do stream testing at the Burrows Avenue Reserve. The school is continuing with the testing at Karori Stream. Khandallah School and St Josephs School are also studying streams this term and incorporating aspects of *Take Action*.

1.4 Schools for 2005

Take Action is nearly fully booked for 2005 (the guided programme). We are currently confirming the bookings schools have made. *Take Action* is

becoming increasingly well known with the result that there was no need to advertise the availability of the programme for next year.

1.5 Enviroschools Awards

The Enviroschools Awards will be held at Greater Wellington on Monday 6 December. Councillors are invited to attend. The awards recognise schools' environmental achievements. This is the first year that awards are being made in the region and many schools that have undertaken *Take Action* have applied.

The Enviroschools programme (of which the awards are just one part) enables schools that are serious about environmental education to apply the principles of sustainability to their operations, curriculum, and physical surroundings. The programme provides schools that want to go further than *Take Action* with the opportunity to do so.

2. *Take Care*

A report on the groups joining the *Take Care* programme this year is the subject of a separate report to this Committee. There are seven groups that are being funded by Greater Wellington for the first time, plus a further eight that have been supported by us in the past and are being renewed to continue their good work for the environment. All of the applications in this round that met our criteria are being supported.



Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – December 2004

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

Regional Plan Changes

The outstanding appeal by Transit NZ is close to resolution. Transit wants to include washdown water in the definition of stormwater in the Regional Freshwater Plan. Instead, agreement was made on the wording of a permitted activity rule for washdown water from roads. The agreement has been forwarded to the Court.

We have received a decision from the Environment Court on the second appeal to the proposed changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. A new rule, which replaces a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan, makes driving heavy vehicles on stopbanks a discretionary activity. Mr Barton, the appellant, would like it to be permitted. The Environment Court was satisfied that Mr Barton's stopbank is suitable for heavy vehicle use and that an exemption from the proposed rule is warranted in this case.

A pre-hearing meeting was held on the plan change to include minimum flows and allocation for the Mangaterere Catchment in the Regional Freshwater Plan. All five submitters attended the meeting. We have agreed to gather further information on flows in the tributaries of the Mangaterere River.

2. Wetlands

A report on wetlands in the Wairarapa has been completed. The purpose of the report, which includes an inventory, is to provide a benchmark so that the health of these wetlands can be monitored over time and we can determine whether our programmes are "making a difference".

In summary, we found that:

- Wairarapa wetlands have been reduced from a pre-human extent of 78,000 hectares to just 10,000 hectares;
- of this 10,000 hectares, Lake Wairarapa makes up 7,000 hectares;
- 133 wetlands remain (that we know of) with 75% in private ownership;
- the majority of wetlands are small – just 2-3 hectares;
- nearly half are grazed; and
- weeds are a problem in many wetlands.

The Wetland Incentives Programme has now been running for a year. Forty-eight wetland landowners have received assistance under this programme to date.

4. State of the Environment Report

We have been developing and beginning to implement a programme of work leading to the ten-year review of the Regional Policy Statement, which has been operative since 1995. The first step in this process is the next State of the Environment Report, which will be completed at the end of next year.

The State of our Environment – Annual Summary (Report Cards) is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

5. Other

National Environment Standards

In conjunction with the Utility Services Division, we provided comments to the Ministry of the Environment on the proposed national environment standard for raw drinking water sources. The standard would require Greater Wellington to monitor, grade and report on drinking water sources within the region. We have now been advised that the development of the standard is on hold while the Ministry reconsiders its approach.

Proposed Watercourses Bylaw, Wellington City Council

Wellington City Council has reviewed the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 1991: Part 19 - Watercourses. As a result, it has publicly notified its proposal to amend that bylaw. We are concerned that parts of the bylaw duplicate Regional Council functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to control discharges, the damming and diversion of water and uses of river beds. We have made a submission on the bylaw seeking amendments that will minimise this duplication.

Aquaculture Reform Bill

Councillor Buchanan presented Greater Wellington's submission on the Aquaculture Reform Bill to the Primary Production select Committee on 20 October. The Ministry for the Environment expects the Bill to be enacted before the end of the year.



John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report December 2004

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

The Resource Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached, the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Details of alarms received are provided to the Committee to fulfil reporting requirements set out in the Annual Plan.

Since the last meeting of the Committee, the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

28 September 2004	Rainfall: Taungata, Transmission Lines, Otaki Depot. Water Level: Otaki, Waitohu, Mangaone, Waikanae, Birchville, Cemetery.
29 September 2004	Rainfall: Wayne's Mistake.
30 September 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks.
5 October 2004	Rainfall: Kapakapanui
12 October 2004	Rainfall: TVL
15 October 2004	Rainfall: Oriwa, Kapakapanui, Warwicks, McIntosh, Warwicks, Taungata, Cemetery, Kaitoke Headworks. Water Level: Otaki, Te Marua, Birchville, Waikanae, Waitohu, Cemetery,
16 October 2004	Rainfall: Kaitoke Headworks, McIntosh. Water Level: Te Marua, Mangaroa, Leonard Wood Park
24 October 2004	Rainfall: Transmission Lines, Kapakapanui, Warwicks.
29 October 2004	Rainfall: Warwicks.
11 November 2004	Rainfall: Kapakapanui

2. Resource Analysis

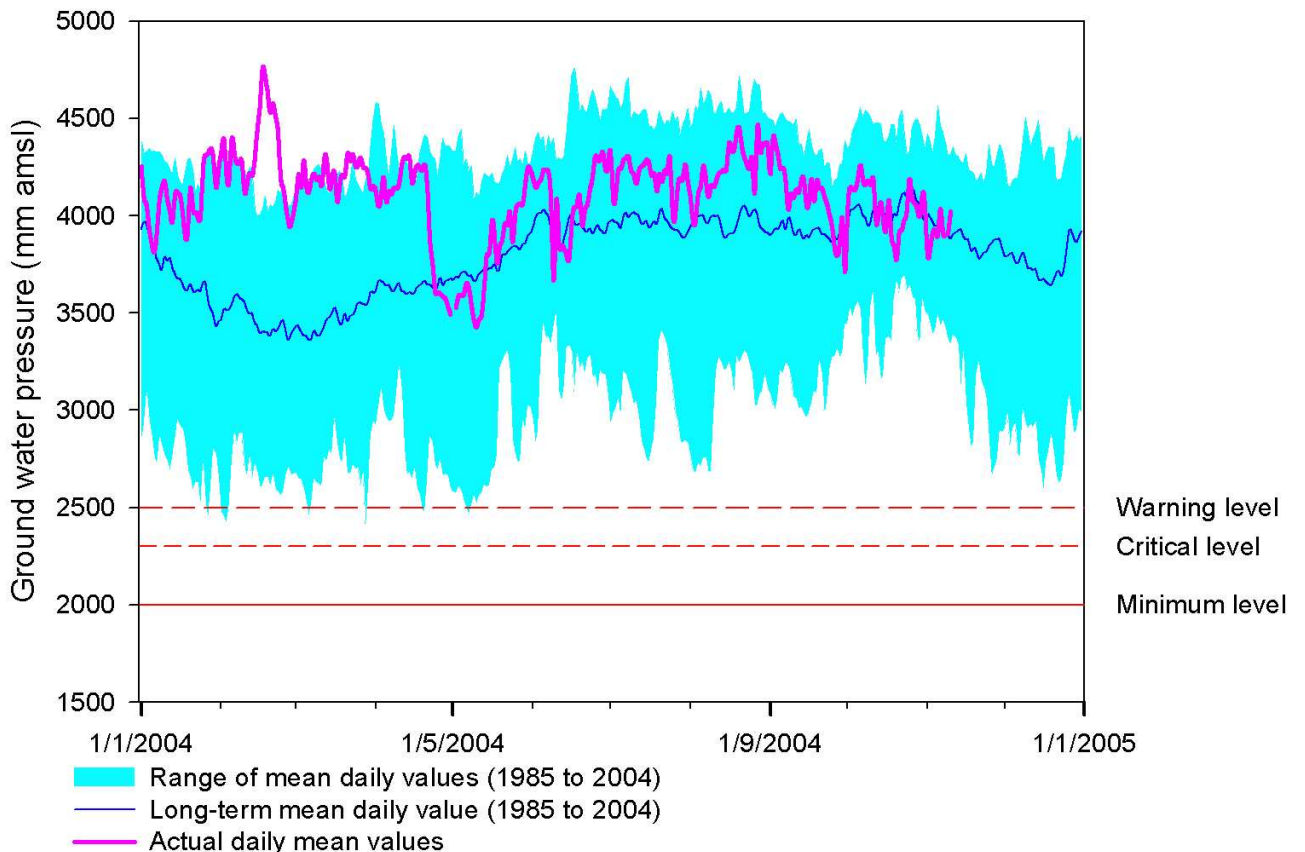
2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone, and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast, as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas. Records from these two bores and a synopsis of the situation are provided to the Committee at each meeting.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

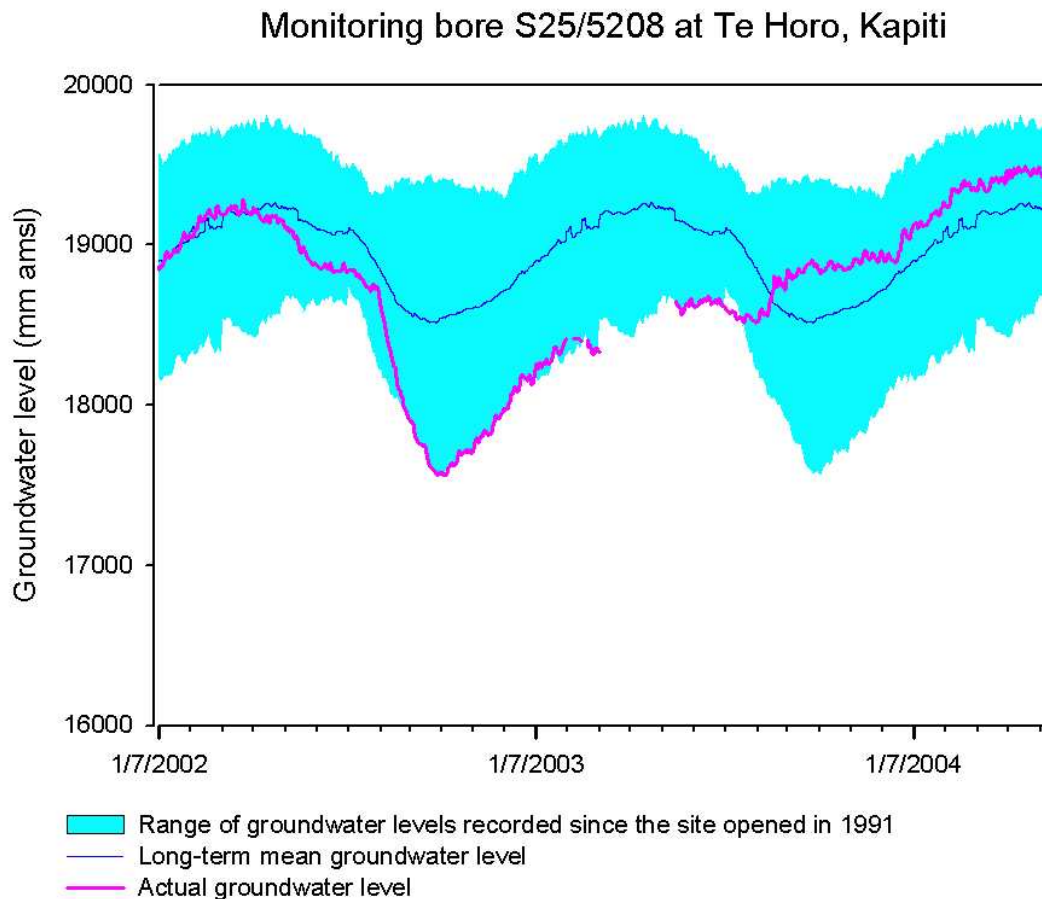
Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is at the long-term average value and well above the first seawater intrusion alarm level. The slight decline in pressure observed in mid September is the result of improvement in the pumping capacity at the Waterloo well field. Improvements to the configuration of the well field have allowed about an extra 10 MLD to be abstracted with no additional pumping effort

Upper Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer at McEwan Park



Kapiti Coast

River recharged aquifers are at average to above average levels for this time of year. Shallow rainfall recharged aquifers are also at relatively high levels compared with other years. Deeper rainfall recharged aquifers have recovered from low levels during 2003 and are at above average levels for this time of year. The hydrograph shown below illustrates this recovery.



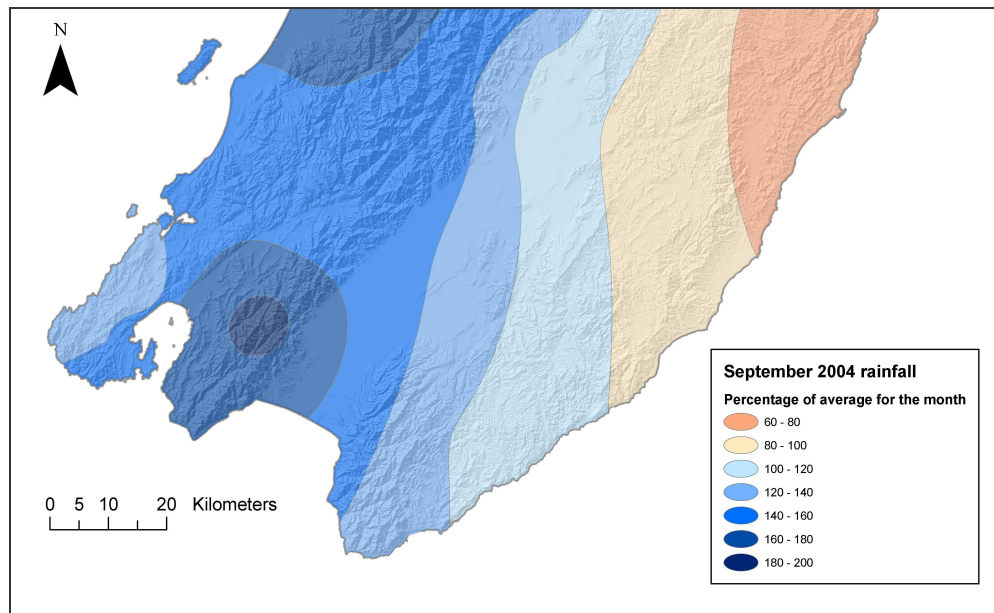
2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Greater Wellington operates a surface water hydrology monitoring network that includes over 40 rainfall stations and 32 automatic river level monitoring sites. As well as providing the basis of our flood warning system, the information collected assists us to sustainably manage the region's water resources by helping us to:

- Detect long-term trends in rainfall and river flows;
- Assess applications to abstract water from rivers and streams; and
- Implement restrictions on water abstractions during times of low flow.

Following a wet August, September 2004 was dominated by a cold south-westerly airflow due to frequent anticyclones in the Tasman Sea. The weather patterns produced wet conditions in the west of the region, with rainfall in the Hutt catchment, Wainuiomata, Kapiti Coast and Tararua range being about one-and-a-half times normal for the month (Figure 1). The predominance of south-westerlies lead to relatively dry conditions in the north east of the region, where rainfall was below the average for September.

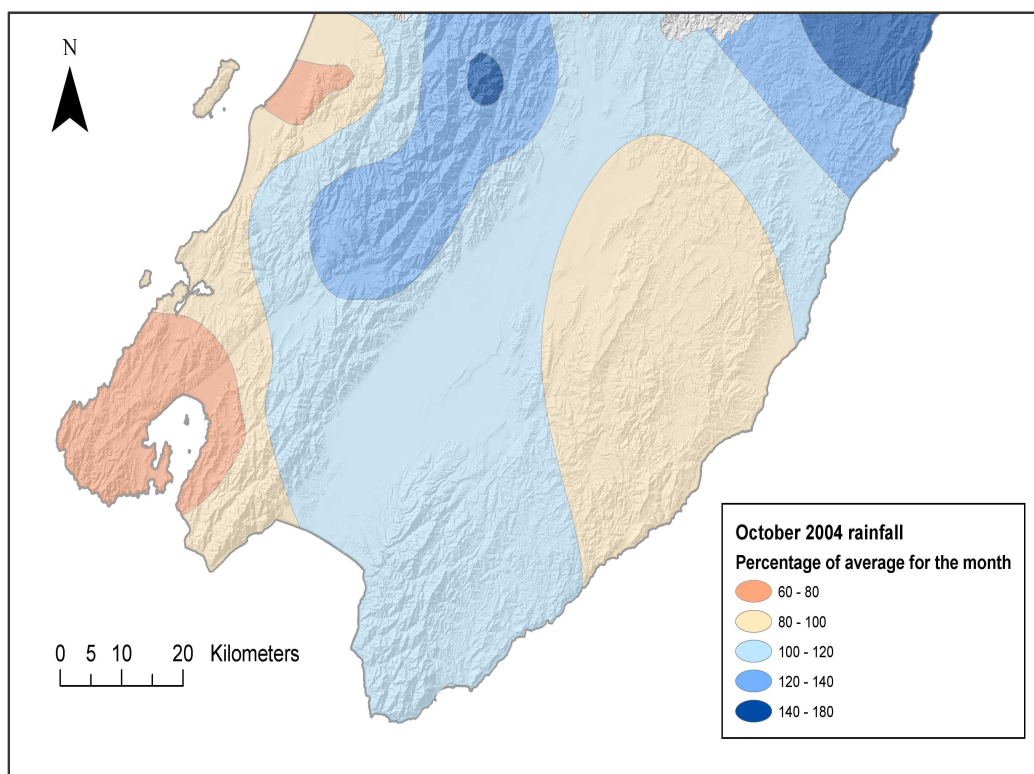
Figure 1: Rainfall during September 2004, compared to the average rainfall for September



The river flows during September tended to be higher than normal for the time of the year, due to the wet conditions in most of the region. The storm on 28 September caused many of the rivers to experience small flood peaks, but these were not significant compared to other flood events this year.

The unsettled weather patterns of October lead to significantly higher than normal rainfall in the Tararua range, and about normal rainfall in the rest of the region (Figure 2). The exception was around the Wellington peninsula and Lower Hutt, where rainfall tended to be below average for the month. However, average flows in our monitored rivers were about normal for October, with those rivers that are fed from the ranges having significantly higher than average flows for the month.

Figure 2: Rainfall during October 2004, compared to the average rainfall for October



A storm event on 15 – 16 October caused significantly increased flows in many of the region's rivers. The north-westerly storm produced high rainfall totals in the Taranaki range, with high river flows resulting in the Hutt River, Otaki River, Waikanae River, Waitohu Stream and the Ruamahanga River and its western tributaries. However, in most of the rivers the flow peak was less than a 2-year return period flood, with the exception of the Otaki, Mangatarere and Waipoua Rivers, where the floods were estimated to have 2, 4 and 3 year return periods respectively.

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). The effects of transport emissions are monitored at the corner of Vivian and Victoria Streets. We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

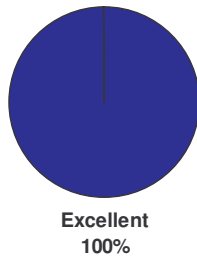
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

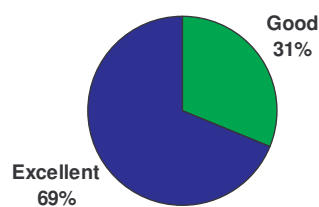
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past two months at Upper Hutt

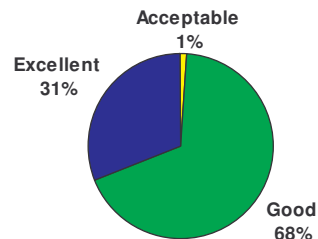
8-Hour average CO



24-Hour average NO₂

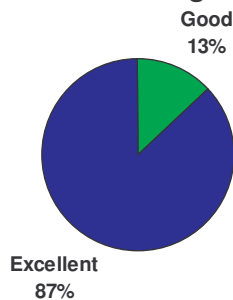


24-Hour average PM₁₀

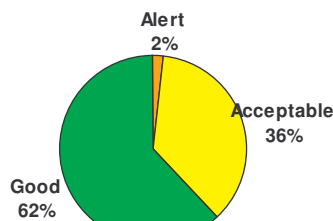


Results for the past two months at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

8-Hour average CO

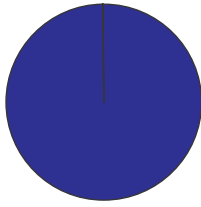


24-Hour average PM₁₀



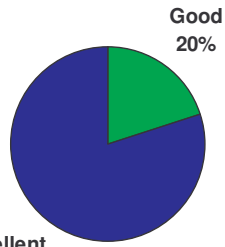
Results for the past two months at Masterton

8-Hour average CO



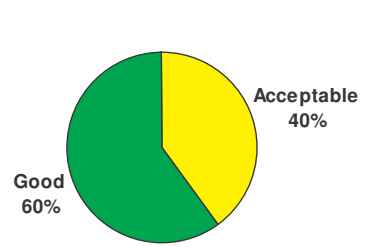
Excellent
100%

24-Hour average NO₂



Excellent
80%

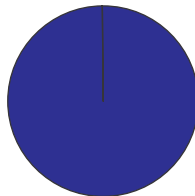
24-Hour average PM₁₀



Good
60%

Results for the past two months at Te Aro

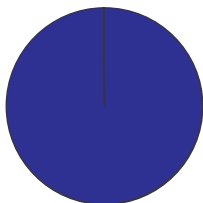
8-Hour average CO



Excellent
100%

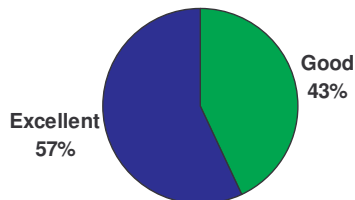
Results for the past two months at Lower Hutt

8-Hour average CO



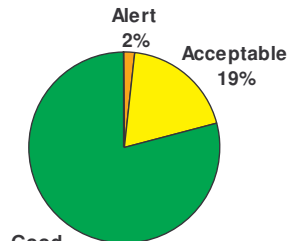
Excellent
100%

24-Hour average NO₂



Excellent
57%

24-Hour average PM₁₀



Good
79%

2.4 Stormwater

Greater Wellington staff are currently arranging workshops for territorial authority officers to discuss issues related to on-site management of stormwater at building sites.

3. Pollution Control

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. An Annual Incident Report has been completed for the 2003/04 year and is reported separately.

4. Staff

Three staff appointments have been made since the last meeting of the Committee so the Department is again fully staffed.

Nick Boyens has joined the Resource Information team as an Environmental Monitoring Officer. Nick previously worked as a technician for the School of Earth Science at Victoria University.

Timothy Strange has joined the Pollution Control team as a Pollution Control Officer. Tim previously worked for the Environmental Risk Management Authority.

Sarah Van Erp has moved from the Consents Management Department to the Pollution Control team in the Resource Investigations Department.



Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – December 2004

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 15 November 2004 we *received* 166 consent applications. This compares with 259 received for the same period last year.

In the period to 15 November 2004 we *processed* 146 consents. This compares with 240 processed over same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2004/2005 year have been completed within statutory time frames and the median processing time is 10 working days.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals and Objections

2.1 Appeals

At the time of writing this report I am in the process of finalising the wording of the appealed CentrePort dredging consents. I am confident that consent orders can be lodged with the Court before Christmas.

The Minister for Conservation approved the Moa Point consent application for the intermittent discharge of partially treated wastewater during wet weather on 20 September 2004. The consent has been issued to Wellington City Council.

The appeal of the Onyx discharge to air consent was resolved in early October, through mediation. The consent has been issued.

There are no other appeals outstanding at present.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

The fall in the number of consent applications received has meant that the Consents staff have been able to spend more time undertaking one-off compliance inspections and planning annual compliance.

We have reviewed the format of the annual compliance report after the customer satisfaction survey indicated that a number of our customers either thought they had not received one, or did not see the benefit in the report we sent. The new report combines the covering letter and report into one document and provides clearer comment on compliance with each consent condition. As well as providing clearer and more concise information for the customer, the new format cuts down on the repetition of information, which in turn reduces the amount of administration time spent by staff on each report. We are currently investigating the viability of generating the report directly from the Consents and Compliance database, thereby reducing administration time further.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have not issued any abatement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued five infringement notices since the last Committee meeting:

- Wellington City Council – for the installation of three stormwater outlets in the Karori Stream without resource consent;
- Taylor Preston – for operating the rendering plant without treating the discharge to air through a biofilter;
- Futuna Limited – for undertaking structural works in a tributary of the Karori Stream without resource consent.
- St Ives Group – for the discharge of sediment from a subdivision to water; and,
- Road Services Limited – for failing to prevent sediment entering the stormwater system in association with works on Centennial Highway.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecutions or enforcement orders on-going at present.

4. Other

4.1 Customer Satisfaction Survey

AC Nielsen formally presented the results from the customer satisfaction survey to the department on 1 September 2004. The results indicated that the levels of satisfaction experienced by the customers were back to the levels found in the 2000, i.e. higher than the results from the 2002 survey.

The areas identified as being our strengths were:

- being helpful and polite
- easy to contact
- providing consistent advice/information
- keeping customers up to date.

Areas identified as needing improvement included:

- existing consent holders commented that the compliance charges were excessive
- complainants did not think we were hard enough on customers who breached consents
- people who had had enforcement action taken against them thought we were too hard, and
- new applicants thought we took too long to process their consents.

It is difficult to change perceptions on a number of these issues. For example, many of our customers do not think they should have to get consents let alone pay for them. However, we recognise that we can improve on the way we disseminate charging information so that it is clearer from the start of an application what costs may be involved.

Another interesting comment from the survey was that, whilst 50% of customers thought the time taken to process their consent was quicker than expected, 15 % of new applicants stated that their consent took longer than 3 months to process. The latter figure is not correct, but it indicates that the department may need to provide clearer information about processing times.

The department held a workshop to discuss the results in more depth. We came up with a list of actions we would like to incorporate into our work over the next year to improve our relationship with our customers. Overall we are pleased with the results of the Survey, but we recognise that there is always room for improvement.

4.2 Ministry for the Environment Survey

I have received confirmation from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) that the data from Greater Wellington meets their requirements. However, MfE has not provided any estimate of when the results will be made available.

4.3 Annual Compliance Report

The department has completed its summary report of compliance with consents for the 2003/2004 year. The report format is different to that of previous years, as we have tried to address the comments made about the report being too long and repetitious. *A copy of the report is enclosed with the Order Paper.*

The overall trend appears to indicate that the percentage of people fully complying with their consents has slightly increased and the percentage of people non-complying with their consents has increased. This means there has been a fall in the number of people either partially or mainly complying with their consents. Full compliance has increased for the water supply/water permits, land use, coastal and forestry groups, but fallen for landfills, wastewater treatment, agricultural discharges and river works. The percentage of full compliance has remained the same for the discharges to air group. Unfortunately, there is no clear pattern of reasons for non-compliance, which means there is no quick fix solution to the issues raised over the 2002/2003 compliance year.

The reasons for the increase in non-compliance are potentially two-fold; the staff are becoming better at recognising non-compliance and are acting on it, and/or our consent holders are less concerned about achieving compliance with their consents. It is difficult to definitively say which of these scenarios is true, and in reality it is probably likely to be a combination of the two.

4.4 Staff Issues

Jeremy Rusbatch joined the department on 15 September 2004. Prior to working at GW he was employed at Canterbury University as an air quality technician. Pamela Albert has resigned from the department after nearly 3 years, to take up a position as a Health Promoter with Regional Public Health, and Sarah Van Erp is transferring to John Sherriff's department as a Pollution Control Officer.

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
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station.	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
CentrePort	To dredge inner harbour berths and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	9		11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Granted with conditions – under appeal.
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	20/05/03	13		25/06/03-27/06/03 and 18/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	04/07/03	Granted with Conditions – under appeal
Wharfe Quarry ¹	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	6/11/03	4/02/04	57 plus 2 late	-	Hearing not yet scheduled. Application on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.			
Hutt City Council	To discharge wastewater to the Waiwhetu Stream in times of extreme wet weather	18/03/04	14/7/04	100+	10/08/04	13 September 2004	Ian Buchanan Glen Evans	5/10/04	Granted – no appeals
T&T Landfills ²	To vary conditions of an existing consent with respect to payment of a bond, construction of a drainage system and payment of levies.	19/04/04	14/07/04	1	-	1 September 2004	Ian Buchanan	14/09/04	Granted – no appeals
Silverwood Subdivision ²	To undertake a 162 lot residential subdivision and associated earthworks, discharges and reclamation.	7/05/04	3/11/2004	17	-	Hearing not yet scheduled. Timeframes to hold hearing doubled under s37 because applicant needs s176 approval from Transit			

¹ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

² This consent is being processed using limited notification.

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
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take water from the Waikanae River for public water supply	4/08/04	16/09/04	4	-	4 November 2004	Chris Turver Terry McDavitt Aka Arthur	Decision not yet released	
Kapiti Coast District Council	To take groundwater from the Kapiti bore field for supplementary public water supply	4/08/04	16/09/04	10	-	26 October 2004	Chris Turver Ian Buchanan Aka Arthur	4/11/2004	Granted – still in appeal period



Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - December 2004

1. Harbour navigation aids

A new emergency lantern was fitted at Pencarrow lighthouse on 15 October.

The northern starboard channel marker at Porirua was stabilised on 24 October. Divers were used to jack-up and place some steel hollow sections and steel plates under the marker to prevent further slumping. Premix concrete was fed in to fill the voids, and the marker is now steady and stable on a rock seabed, so should not be affected by any further erosion.

Divers were contracted on 5 November to check the mooring chains on Barrett Reef buoy (after the severe southerly storm on 18 August when a swell height of 13.3 metres was recorded at the wave rider buoy off Baring Head). The top chain shackle pins were found to be satisfactory but the northern and southern ground legs of the buoy mooring chains had become intertwined and will require corrective action to reduce wear.

2. Oil pollution response

A meeting of our Regional Oil Spill Support Group was held in Wellington on 22 September.

On 6 October Harbours staff carried out the annual service and check of MSA's oil spill response equipment.

Nine reports of oil spills were investigated during this period, but only one needed some minor clean-up action.

3. Events

- The Harbours Department held a meeting with John Riding of Marico Marine on 6 September 2004 to discuss his assistance with the Ports & Harbour Safety Code risk assessment.
- In the early hours of 7 September, Harbours staff assisted emergency services with an ammonia leak from the refrigeration system of a fishing vessel berthed at the Inter Island Wharf.

- On 17 September, Harbours staff attended a chemical spill incident on board the ferry *Aratere* in Wellington.
- The Manager, Harbours, attended the National Advisory Committee meeting on Port & Harbour Safety Review on 7 October 2004 to endorse modifications to the guideline documents.
- The Manager, Harbours, attended a meeting on 13 October between Toll Shipping, Maritime Safety Authority and Marlborough District Council about auditing navigational practices on board Interislander ferries.
- The Manager, Harbours, attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee Finance sub-committee meeting in Wellington on 29 October 2004.
- Harbours commissioned the newly acquired aluminium workboat *Seacare* and disposed of the older wooden workboat *Tiaki Moana* on 3 November 2004.
- The annual “Skyshow” fireworks display from two barges moored in Lambton Harbour on 5 November was enjoyed by 100,000 plus spectators, with the standard safety precautions in place, no boating incidents were reported, despite the large numbers of recreational craft on the harbour.
- The Manager, Harbours, attended a National Oil Spill Response Strategy Review workshop for Regional Councils held by the Maritime Safety Authority in Wellington.



Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – December 2004

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan Progress

The final draft of the Proposed Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan has been completed.

The table below outlines the process and timeframe for preparing the operative CDEM Group Plan:

Task	Who	By when
1. Approval of Proposed CDEM Group Plan.	CDEM Group	25 November 2004
2. Consultation Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• submissions called for• closing date for submissions• hearings and decision-making.	GEMO CDEM Group	1 December 2004 28 January 2005 14 – 18 February 2005
3. CDEM Group Plan finalised.	GEMO	25 February 2005
4. Approval of final plan.	CEG	14 March 2005
5. Ministerial review.	Ministry for CDEM	16 April 2005
6. Formal approval of final plan.	CDEM Group	5 May 2005
7. Plan ready for publication.	GEMO	6 May 2005
8. CDEM Group Plan becomes operative.	GEMO	13 May 2005

1.2 Review of Group Emergency Operations Centre Operating Procedures

Greater Wellington is responsible for providing the CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC). The GEOC co-ordinates the overall response across the Region in the event of any Civil Defence emergency.

Greater Wellington provides and staffs the CDEM Group's Emergency Management Office (GEMO) as well as the CDEM Group's Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC).

New standard operating procedures have been developed for the GEOC and the Council's volunteer civil defence staff are currently being trained in their use.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Storing Emergency Water Fact Sheet

One of the performance indicators of the department is to have at least 35% of households prepared with survival supplies and emergency (family) plans.

A community preparedness survey was carried out in June this year that has indicated that more public education and awareness needed to be done to enhance the resilience of our communities.

As part of addressing the issue, the 'storing water' fact sheet was revised and an updated version became available in October 2004.

2.2 Emergency Planning Guide

Markat Promotions of Christchurch recently offered our Region the opportunity to proactively market hazard and emergency management information in a fully sponsored booklet called "Are You Prepared – An Emergency Planning Guide".

We have used the opportunity to provide valuable information and checklists on how to be better prepared for emergencies in the booklet.

Eight thousand of the booklets were made available at no cost to our CDEM Group Office. The booklets are now being distributed throughout the Region through the emergency management officers.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 47 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS.

Nine earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

2004 Nov 5 **Mag:** 4.0 **Depth:** 40 km 10 km north of Otaki
2004 Nov 4 **Mag:** 4.8 **Depth:** 40 km 10 km north of Otaki
2004 Oct 27 **Mag:** 3.5 **Depth:** 30 km 20 km north of Porirua
2004 Oct 6 **Mag:** 3.0 **Depth:** 9 km within 5 km of Upper Hutt
2004 Oct 6 **Mag:** 3.5 **Depth:** 25 km 30 km east of Pahiatua
2004 Oct 6 **Mag:** 3.7 **Depth:** 8 km 10 km south of Upper Hutt
2004 Oct 4 **Mag:** 4.7 **Depth:** 40 km 10 km east of Woodville
2004 Oct 4 **Mag:** 4.9 **Depth:** 30 km 10 km east of Woodville
2004 Sept 27 **Mag:** 4.2 **Depth:** 70 km 30 km north-west of Paraparaumu

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Twenty-five (up to 10th November) Special Weather Bulletins (eighteen for heavy rain and seven for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. Our responsibility is to notify all the Territorial Authorities who in turn notify emergency responders, farmers, lifeline utility services and emergency services in their respective areas. No serious problems were experienced in our region.

The criteria for these warnings are as follows:

Heavy Rain – whenever more than 50mm of rain is expected to fall in six hours or less, or greater than 100mm within 24 hours over an area of at least 1000 square kilometres.

Strong Wind – whenever the sustained wind speed is likely to exceed 90km/h, or frequent gusts greater than 110km/h are likely to be experienced, over a land area of 1000 square kilometres or more.

3.2 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has approved the purchase of the VSAT (iPSTAR) satellite system as a back up to the regional radio communications network. It was intended to install the system soon after 1 July 2004, but delays with the launch of the satellite hindered our progress.

The iPSTAR satellite was originally due to be launched from French Guiana in June 2004, before its launch was pushed back to August or September. The satellite is now expected to be put into orbit in March 2005.

4. Staff

Debbie Cunningham, our Emergency Management Officer, left Greater Wellington on 25 August. Debbie has joined the Kestrel Group where she is now more involved with project management work.

We have appointed Jo Guard as the new emergency management officer. Jo comes from Learning Media where she was responsible for human resources, training and health and safety. Jo also worked for the Wellington Emergency Management Office as one of their civil defence centre co-ordinators.

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 30 September 2004

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the period ended 30 September 2004.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 30 September 2004</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	Year to Date	<u>Variance</u>	Full Year
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
		<u>\$000s</u>		<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	2,050	2,050	--	8,199
Other Revenue	446	503	57 U	2,113
Total Revenue	2,496	2,553	57 U	10,312
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	2,030	2,137	107 F	9,017
Indirect Expenditure	314	299	15 U	1,354
Total Operating Expenditure	2,344	2,436	92 F	10,371
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	152	117	35 F	(59)

2. Surplus

We report that the Division's finances are satisfactory and generally in agreement with our budgets. For the period, an operating surplus of \$152,000 was recorded which is slightly above our budget for the corresponding period. The budget provides for an operating surplus of \$117,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$35,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$57,000, and offset, to an extent, by lower than expected expenditure of \$92,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$2,496,000 is some \$57,000 short of our budget target of \$2,553,000. The shortfall has been caused by a one-off feature – the remit of costs for a notified consent. In addition, changes to the internal arrangements for the after-hours message service have resulted in a loss of revenue. Previously Beacon Hill staff provided the service.

In addition, the Department of Conservation contributed \$26,000 towards our biodiversity strategy during the period sites. This contribution was not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$2,344,00 is \$92,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly over budget by \$40,000. Recruitment costs (\$21,000) are the main cause of the variance.
- Materials, Supplies and Services were less than budget by some \$11,000. The spend on repairs and maintenance is presently at a level lower than our budget anticipated. The shortfall is considered temporary.
- Consultant costs were less than budget by \$102,000.
- The take-up of the funding for the iwi projects is at a rate lower than expected.

In addition, the soil analysis and Pauatahanui Inlet sediment study, although commenced, are in a start-up phase and yet to affect our finances significantly.

Internal charges were under budget by \$32,000. Most of the underspend arises because of the changes to the after-hours answering service previously provided by Beacon Hill staff and work yet to be undertaken by Landcare.

5. Capital Expenditure

At the close of the period our capital expenditure programme was underspent by some \$141,000.

The underspend is with the vehicle replacement programme. The budget anticipated that the buying round would take place in September. However, this has been deferred until November and as a result such expenditure has been held-over.