

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – August 2005

1. *Take Action*

Term three has commenced with three guided schools now undertaking their trails and three self-guided schools.

1.1 Guided schools taking action

This term the schools doing the guided programme are Douglas Park (Masterton), St Bernadette's (Lower Hutt), and Fergusson Intermediate (Upper Hutt). St Bernadette's school is based in Naenae and its nearest water way is the Waiwhetu stream. This continues our emphasis on schools that have an impact on the Waiwhetu (one of the six most degraded streams in Greater Wellington's long term plan). Gracefield School did *Take Action* last term. A similar emphasis has been placed on the Kaiwharawhara Stream, where we will reach all the schools in the catchment within the next three years.

At Fergusson Intermediate this term's classes are taking off from where last term's classes ended up. The school has been advised by the Upper Hutt City Council that the drain at the back of the school may be subject to improvements in the future and is unsuitable for planting at present. However, further downstream the drain becomes the Moehau Stream where the Moehau Care group is currently working in the Take Care programme. As this is only a few hundred metres from the school, we are shifting the school's emphasis to this site. Fergusson School was recently successful in the Meadow Fresh Milk Trees 4 Kids promotion, getting 1000 trees for their re-vegetation programme. Their application for the promotion (an inspiring video production) was completed as an action project last term.

Greytown School was also a regional winner in the Meadow Fresh Milk competition, receiving 1700 trees. Other successful schools in the region were Clyde Quay School (a self-guided *Take Action* school in term one this year) and Discovery School (a guided school in 2004).

1.2 Self-guided schools

This term's three self-guided schools are Waikanae, Gladstone, and Mt Cook. All three have seen the multi-media presentation and are starting on their trails. Mt Cook School's teaching programme has included environmental education for some time. The school's activities, and the *Take Action* programme, are

featured in the winter edition of *Branch Out*, Wellington City Council's environmental journal.

2. Take Care

2.1 Care group progress

Care groups have been very active over the last six weeks with winter planting in full swing. Some of the groups' activities are:

- **Waitohu Stream Care:** The group held its major planting day on Sunday 10 July. They planted 300 Spinifex and erected a temporary wind cloth fence around the planting to keep out rabbits, which have been heavily grazing spinifex and pingao along the Otaki beach. This fence will be removed once the planned rabbit control programme is underway. A control operation scheduled to start 1 August has been delayed pending appropriate weather.
- **Oku Street Dune Care:** All of the Island Bay dune plants have been delivered to a local resident's property to be hardened off before the planting day on Saturday 20 August. The group has also been planting at the Oku St Reserve site this month with the help of Wellington City Council.
- **Henley Wetlands:** On Thursday 4 August volunteers from the Henley Wetlands Care Group and nearly 500 pupils from Lakeview School (Masterton) planted trees, shrubs and grasses along the stream in the Henley Lake Reserve as a school wide Conservation Week activity.
- **Paraparaumu Beach D.U.N.E Group:** We have completed two surveys of the site – before and after the earthworks that have reshaped the dune. A planting day was held by the group on Saturday 30 July, with mixed success owing to the hard surface on the back dune. Over fifty volunteers planted around 1000 of the 2500 back dune plants supplied by Greater Wellington for the project. The group held a barbeque lunch after the planting. Local residents have continued to plant the remainder of the plants over subsequent weekends and will plant pingao and more spinifex over the crest of the dune. The group is also working on an educational sign for this area, jointly funded by Kapiti Coast District Council and Greater Wellington.
- **Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group:** The new signs have been completed and have been delivered to Hutt City Council for installation.
- **Mänuka Reserve Care Group:** funding concluded in June for this group but the residents are still very active releasing and planting the plants they grow themselves.
- **Friends of Owhiro Stream:** The Friends have been very active over the last two months. They have worked with students of Brooklyn and Ridgeway Schools to re-plant parts of the stream during Conservation Week. They have also completed two of their three weekend planting events and will have planted 1500 plants by the end of August. The second event attracted 40

people, around half of which were children. Students from Island Bay School have also worked at the site as part of their *Take Action* “action projects:”

- At Silverstream both the Silverstream Straight Wetland Group and the Hull’s Creek group have held planting events.

3. 2005 Conservation Awards

As outlined in the Councillors Information Bulletin last week, one school and two of our care groups received awards at the 2005 Conservation Award ceremony during Conservation Week. The Otari-Wilton’s Bush Care Group received a Conservation Award for its restoration work on the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The chairman of the group, Jock Fleming, thanked the Council for its support over the last five years through *Take Care* and also the pest management assistance they had received from the Biosecurity Department. The Manuka Street Reserve Care Group in Masterton also received a merit award.

Greytown Primary School received an award for their environmental education and conservation activities in Greytown. The school has completed *Take Action* twice and has a long history of planting and other environmental activity. The school has formed a connection with the local community and the people of the Papawai Marae to restore the Papawai Stream. This project is being funded by the *Take Care* programme and supported by staff from the Masterton office.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – August 2005

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plan Changes

We are still working to resolve the final outstanding matter before Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan can be made operative. A new rule requires resource consents to drive heavy vehicles on stopbanks. The Environment Court has decided that a length of stopbank within the Lower Wairarapa Development Scheme should be excluded from this rule. The Council has appealed the Environment Court's decision to the High Court. The High Court has allowed the Council's appeal to the extent that conditions should be included in the rule that prevent future changed use that could have unpredictable consequences.

We are working through possible conditions on the new rule with the respondent to the appeal before returning to the High Court for a final judgement.

On 7 June the Council held a pre-hearing meeting with submitters on Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan. This plan change establishes minimum flows and water allocation in the Mangaterere Catchment. The meeting followed the collection of some additional information on low flows in the catchment. An update of mean annual low flows that includes the new information collected was requested at the meeting. Once this has been done, the need for a hearing will need to be considered by all the submitters. There has been no change to the status of this Plan Change this month

2. Regional Policy Statement and Plan Implementation

2.1 Freshwater Ecosystem Programme

Information sheets on native freshwater fish in our Region have been completed and printed. The sheets have been designed to help our environmental education work and to provide information to other interested people and groups. There has been a lot of interest in the sheets which will also be made available on our website this month.

A launch for the Taupo Swamp weir fish pass was held on August 4th. Approximately 50 people attended the launch. Greater Wellington has co-ordinated the design and construction of a fish pass at the Taupo Stream weir. We also hold the resource consent for the fish pass. Transit New Zealand, Porirua City Council, Ngati Toa, Queen Elizabeth II Trust and the Department of Conservation have all participated in the process of constructing the pass.

2.2 Wetlands

Work on guidelines for constructed wetlands "*So you're thinking about a pond - a guide to the design, management, and consent requirements for landowners*" is in progress. We are increasingly concerned at the number of ponds that are being built as part of new subdivisions, particularly on the Kapiti Coast. Often the ponds are designed to look attractive, and important features that are essential for their long-term health are overlooked. More and more ponds are suffering from odours, insect problems, algal blooms or weed infestations. Poorly sited and designed ponds can also destroy habitat, degrade water quality and alter natural water flows in streams and wetlands.

2.3 District Plans

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. State of the Environment Report

Technical reports are being written for each of the chapters in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). In some cases, where the resource being considered has many different aspects and an enormous amount of relevant data, such as water, a number of technical reports are needed, and their findings will be brought together and analysed in a background report.

We will be reporting the main points that have emerged from the background reports to the Committee between now and December. The technical and background reports also will be available on the website within the next few months.

4. Hazards

4.1 Upper Hutt fault trace project

Work has started on the Upper Hutt City fault trace project, and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2005. This is a joint project with the Upper Hutt City Council.

At present the Wellington Fault is the only fault included in the Upper Hutt District Plan and shown in planning maps. A standard 20m buffer has been placed either side of the fault, regardless of the accuracy of its known location, to create a "fault band". Any new habitable building or structure to be erected within the fault band is a discretionary activity.

The Akatarawa, Moonshine, Otaki Forks and Whitemans Valley Faults are not included in the District Plan and there is, therefore, concern that District Plan rules do not provide an appropriate level of protection from fault rupture hazard.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) guidelines *Planning for Development of Land on or Close to Active Faults* recommend that active faults are identified and mapped to an appropriate scale and that fault hazard avoidance zones are created on district planning maps and rules put in place to restrict development within these zones. A risk-based approach is suggested whereby the rules put in place depend on fault recurrence interval, fault complexity, building importance category and whether the site is already developed or subdivided.

This project aims to collate known fault location, complexity and recurrence interval data for Upper Hutt City at an appropriate level of detail for inclusion in the District Plan to enable robust planning measures to be put in place in keeping with the MfE guidelines.

4.2 It's Our Fault project (Ohariu component)

Work has started on the "It's Our Fault" project (Ohariu component). This project will be on-going until April 2006, as much of the work needs to be done in summer when it is, usually, quite dry.

The project, which is being undertaken by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS), is a comprehensive study into the likelihood of occurrence, and size, of large Wellington earthquakes, and the effects and impacts of these earthquakes on the built environment. The first stage of the project involves refining the likelihood of future earthquakes on the major Wellington faults - the Wairarapa, Wellington, Ohariu, Shepherds Gully and Pukerua Faults – and on the subduction interface below Wellington. This stage will include geological investigations of pre-historic earthquakes (trenching), synthetic seismicity modelling and geodetic/GPS studies of the Wellington Region.

Greater Wellington is part-funding the Ohariu component of the project as this is an area where our information is limited. Besides refining the recurrence interval for the fault, trenching investigations will be able to supply more information on likely vertical and horizontal single event displacement. This information contributes to design of lifeline utilities and may also be useful for setting resource consent conditions for buildings near the fault in future. The location of the fault will also be more accurately defined within the trench enabling any fault avoidance zone to be as well constrained as possible in that area.

4.3 Presentations

Helen has given a number of presentations about hazards to groups in the last few months, including:

- Tsunami (Queen Margaret College);
- Managing the fault rupture hazard in the Wellington Region (Regional Hazard Management Group);
- Coastal hazards in the Wellington region (Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Planning Institute); and
- Earthquake triggered landslides and preparedness (St Teresa's School, Plimmerton).

5. Geographic Information Systems

We are working on the development of an interactive map viewer tool for Greater Wellingtons internet site. The tool will allow users to create their own maps based on collections of information under the topics of hazards, environment (including land cover, soil type, water monitoring, care groups and a range of other information) and freshwater fish. Staff are currently testing a first version of the tool.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – August 2005

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:

15 July 2005	Water level: Otaki Rainfall: Warwicks
16 July 2005	Water level: Orongorongo
26 July 2005	Rainfall: Orongorongo
28 July 2005	Rainfall: Horokiri

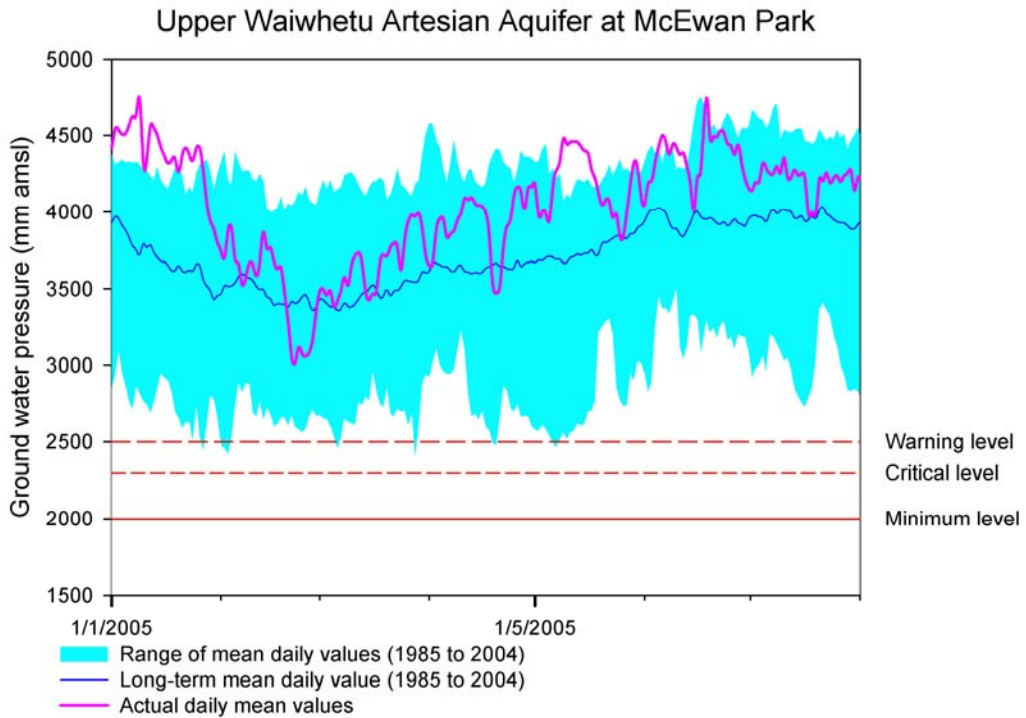
2. Resource analysis

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.

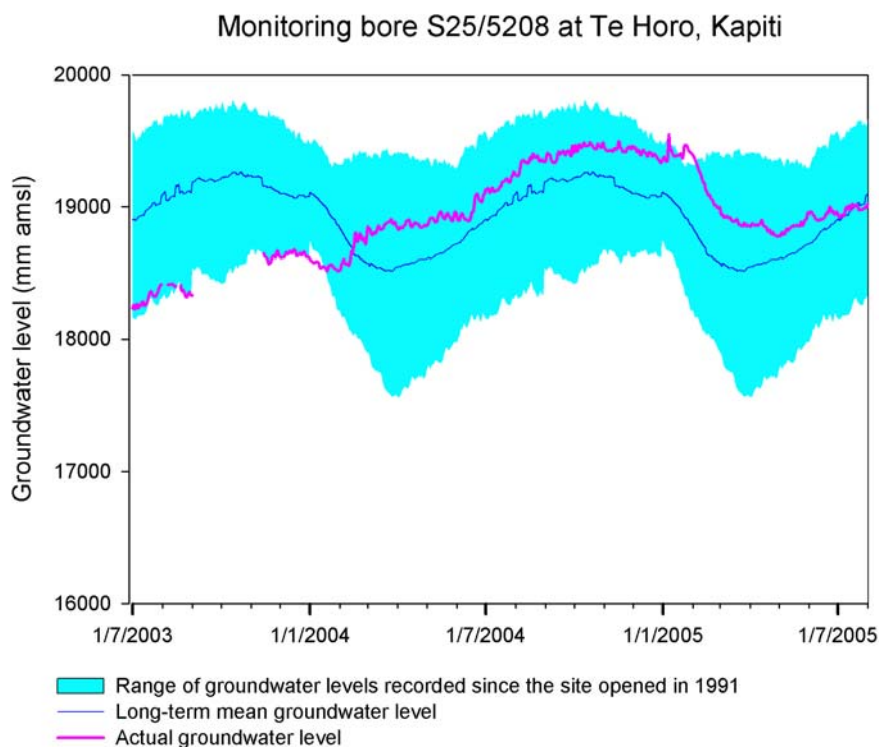
2.1.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is above the long-term mean for this time of year and, therefore, well above the first seawater intrusion alarm level.



2.1.2 Kapiti Coast

The water levels in Kapiti aquifers are also at or above average values for this time of year. The hydrograph below shows the record from monitoring bore S25/5208 on the Hautere Plain, which intercepts a deep rainfall recharged aquifer. The hydrograph is showing a slow recovery in response to winter recharge and groundwater pressure is currently equal to the long-term average value.

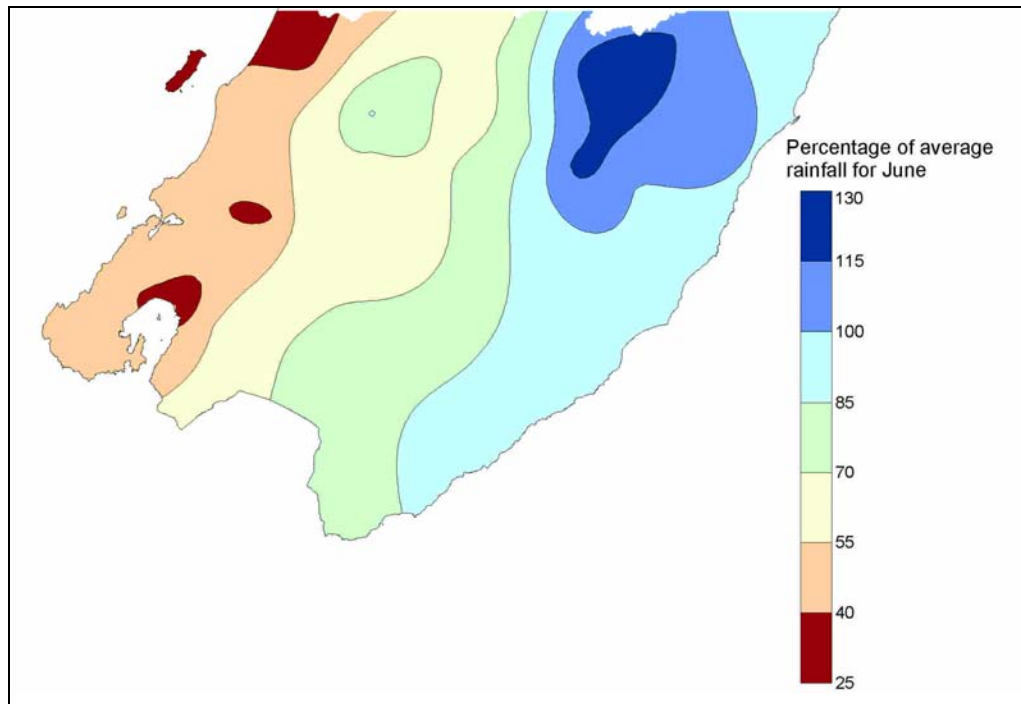


2.2 Rainfall and river flows

June 2005 was a dry month compared to long term average conditions for June. Very low rainfall totals were recorded, particularly in the west of the region (Kapiti Coast, Wellington City, and Hutt Valley). The only place where rainfall was at or above average for the time of the year was in the far east of the region, particularly about the north eastern Wairarapa hills.

The relatively dry June was a result of more frequent anticyclones centred to the west of the South Island leading to settled conditions. When rainfall did occur, it tended to arise from south to south east events, which explains the slightly above average rainfall in the east of the region.

Figure 1: Rainfall during June 2005 compared to the long-term average for June



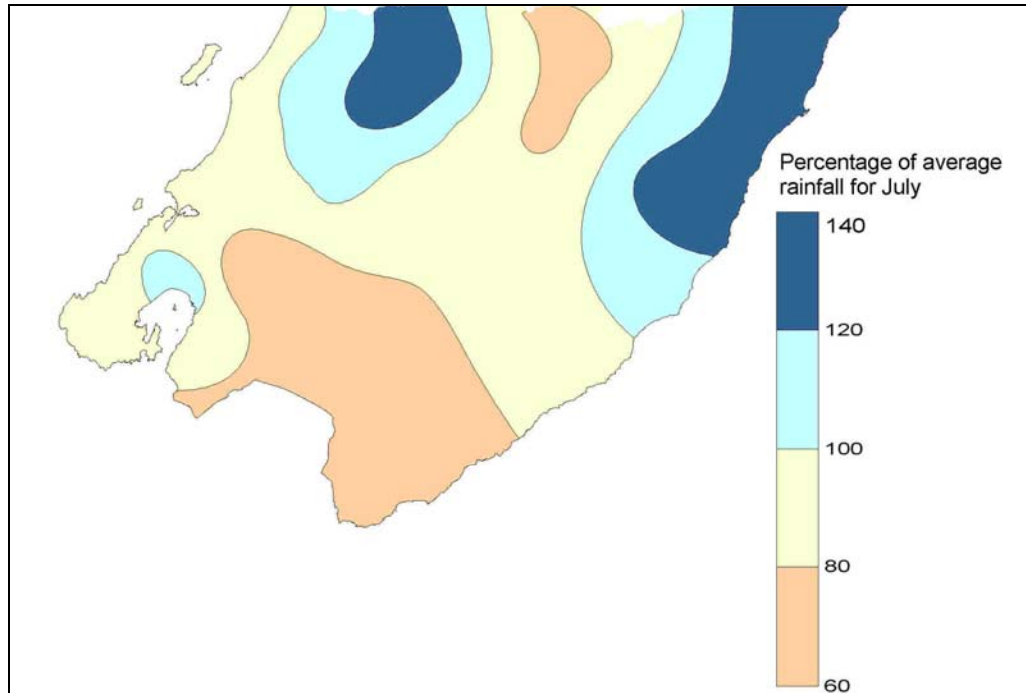
As a result of the low rainfall, river flows were also well below average for the time of the year (Table 1).

Table 1: June river flows in the Wellington region

Site	Average flow during June 2005 (m ³ /s)	Long-term average for June (m ³ /s)
Waikanae River @ WTP	2.45	5.72
Waitohu Stream @ WSI	0.38	0.89
Hutt River @ Taita Gorge	22.26	30.36
Wainuiomata River @ Manuka Track	0.79	1.15
Porirua Stream @ Town Centre	0.58	1.03

Rainfall totals for July were also below average, except in the Tararua Range and north-eastern Wairarapa (Figure 2). A small storm on 14 and 15 July brought rainfall to the Kapiti Coast and Tararua Range, although only one high-intensity rainfall alarm (Warwicks) was triggered and river flows remained below the flood alarm levels.

Figure 2: Rainfall during July 2005 compared to the long-term average for July



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.

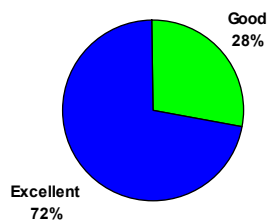
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

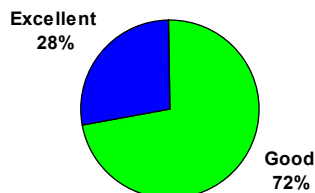
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past two months at Upper Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

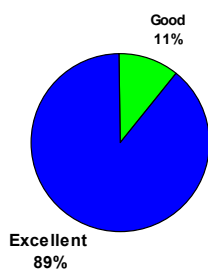


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

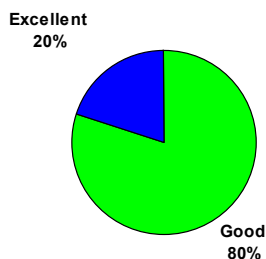


Results for the past two months at Lower Hutt

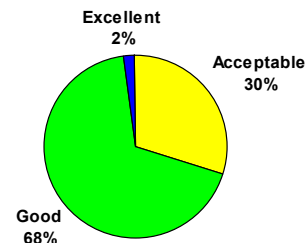
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

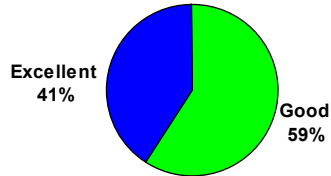


Results for the past two months at Masterton

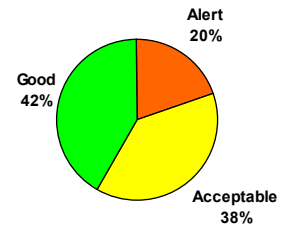
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



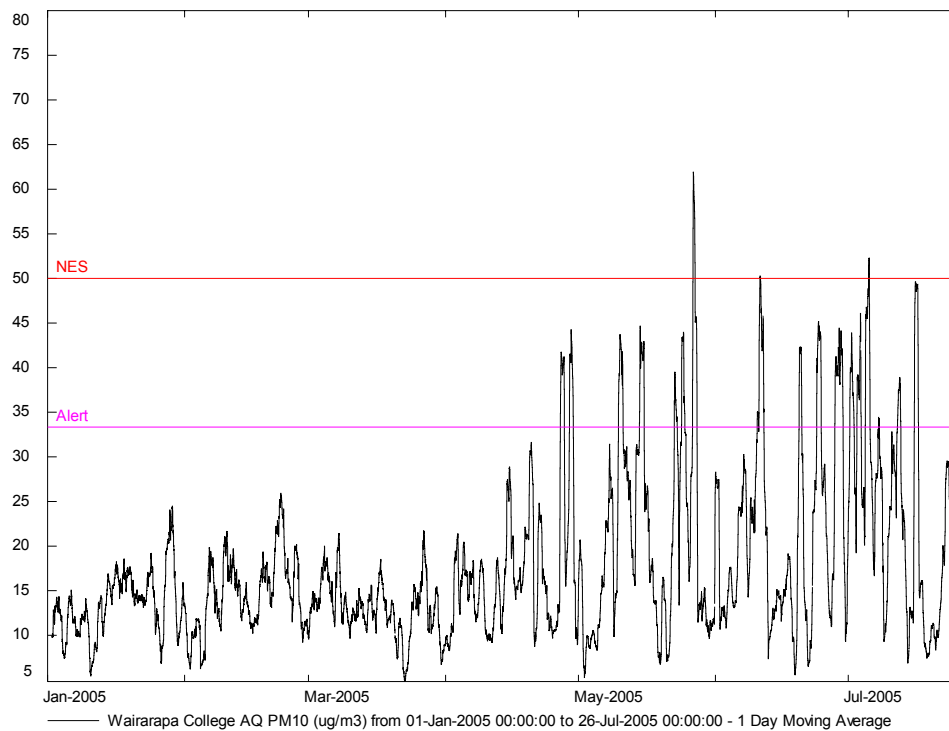
24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton

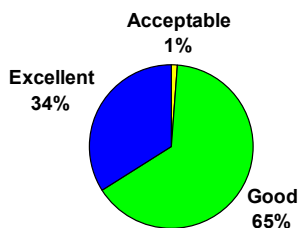


Since the onset of winter and the increased use of domestic fires for home heating, fine particle concentrations in Masterton have increased. To date we have had three exceedences of the National Environmental Standard for fine particles (PM₁₀). Monitoring results from the Wairarapa College air quality monitoring station are presented graphically below.



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

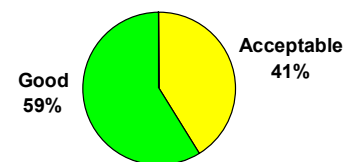
8-Hour Average CO at Corner V



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Corner V

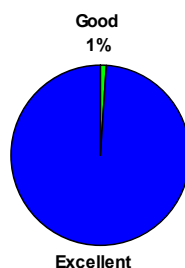


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Corner V



Results for the past two months at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



2.4 Stormwater

We have received, from our consultant, the final draft of our Stormwater Management Issues and Options paper. This paper needs some final input by staff and will then be distributed to territorial authorities and provide the basis for developing our Regional Action Plan for Stormwater Management.

2.5 Contaminated sites management

The site investigation into soil contamination at Masterton Gasworks has been completed. A further investigation into potential groundwater contamination will be undertaken before Christmas. A preliminary review of the report has shown that there is widespread contamination across the site, however, until the Masterton District Council has made a decision on what it proposes to do with the site, no remedial action plan can be developed.

The Web based access to the Selected Land Use Register for territorial authorities has been operating for almost a year. To date the web page has been accessed nearly 15,000 times by the Council staff. To ensure that this facility is providing useful and accurate information to its users, we shall be undertaking a review of the systems functionality with each of the users to determine where it can be improved. We shall also be discussing how we can work together to identify more of the sites where hazardous activities and industries have taken place.

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.

Nigel Corry
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – August 2005

1. Consent statistics

2004/05 Summary

In the 2004/05 year we received a total of 513 consents. This compares with 581 in the last financial year, and 439 in the 2002/03 year.

In term of processing consents, a total of 451 consents were processed in the 2004/05 year. As usual, the vast majority of these applications were non-notified, with 416 of these consents being processed. In addition, 8 limited notified consents, and 26 notified consents were processed. We also processed 1 notified consent which did not require a hearing.

Consents Received since 1 July 2005

We received 44 consents in the period from 1 July 2005 to 2 August 2005. All consents processed so far in the current financial year have been completed within statutory timeframes.

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

2. Appeals and objections

There are no appeals outstanding at present.

We have received an objection to additional charges surrounding the processing of a bore consent. We are currently in the process of corresponding with the applicant. The total cost of processing the application was \$140.00 (ex GST) with the component in contention being the additional charge of \$70.00 (ex GST), which represents one hour of a Resource Advisor's time.

While we are not involved in any appeals, the Wellington City Council's decision to grant consents relating to works at Kumutoto, North Queens Wharf has been appealed by Maritime Towers Limited. The Kumutoto and North Queens Wharf works required consents from both the City Council and GW, and the applications were jointly heard by both councils. However, GW has not been named as a respondent in the Maritime Towers appeal, and at this stage we see no reason to become a party to the appeal.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Exide Technologies Review

A pre-hearing meeting, attended by approximately 50 submitters, was held on 13 July. Exide requested that a pre-hearing be held, and while it has not resolved many of the substantive issues for submitters in relation to the Exide operation, it was an extremely useful forum to enable submitters and Exide to express their views and have a dialogue. The hearing dates have been set as Friday 19, Monday 22, and Tuesday 23 of August. We anticipate that there will be around 30-40 submitters who wish to be heard at the hearing. We have been in regular contact with submitters, Exide, and Regional Public Health over the last few months, and in general, feel as though we have made good progress on trying to progress many of the substantive issues that are the subject of review.

End of year compliance inspections

Annual compliance inspections were completed by 30 June. As with previous years, June was a very busy month as we worked to complete these inspections. Given that we have a large number of staff who have not gone through this process before, and that we were dealing with a large number of notified consent applications at the end of last year, the completion of these inspections is an excellent achievement.

3.2 Abatement notices

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

3.3 Infringement notices

We have served five infringement notices since the last meeting.

Three of these notices were issued to Taylor Preston Limited. The first of these notices was issued after an offensive or objectionable odour was confirmed as coming from the Taylor Preston site on 19 May 2005.

A further notice was issued for an incident on 16 June when another offensive or objectionable odour was smelt beyond the boundary of the site. Upon undertaking a site inspection, it was also found that the afterburner had been operating below 750⁰ as required by condition of consent for a period of approximately 8 hours. This was the likely cause of the odour and an infringement notice was also issued for this breach of consent.

Two other infringement notices have been issued in relation to a discharge of sediment which occurred at Summerset Villages (located within the Aotea Block development). Summerset Villages had applied for consent to authorise this discharge from earthworks on the site, but commenced work prior to consent being issued. Consequently, we issued an infringement notice on both Summerset Villages as applicant, and Keith Bullock Contractors who were working on behalf of the applicant.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecution proceedings currently underway.

We continue to work on the Mangaroa Metals enforcement order application with Michael Mears and others, and are in ongoing negotiation with all parties to reach resolution. When we went to Environment Court on 13 June, all parties were told by the judge to get together and sort the issue out. The timeframe for this process has been extended to allow sufficient time for all parties to meet, but if the situation cannot be resolved we will have to return to Court. We continue to be satisfied that we are in a strong position in relation to this matter, and should we be required to go back to Court, that the application for an enforcement order will again be denied by the Courts.

4. Other

4.1 Waikanae Ponds Rehabilitation

At the last Committee meeting Cr Shields asked for an update about the current status of the Waikanae Wastewater Treatment ponds.

In compliance with the resource consent held by Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) for the management of the Waikanae wastewater treatment ponds, KCDC prepared the *Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan* prior to the actual decommissioning of the ponds in March 2002. This decommissioning plan proposed that the treatment ponds and adjoining land be rehabilitated as a public reserve that provided a wetland habitat, and that was also suitable for passive recreational uses. As the proposal is to eventually turn the area into reserve, the *Pharazyn Reserve Draft Management Plan (May 2005)* has also been prepared by Boffa Miskell on behalf of KCDC for public comment.

In relation to the decommissioning of the ponds, this work revolves around ongoing management of physical and technical issues associated with existing infrastructure, health risks, pond sludge quality, soil contamination and odours. The decommissioning plan had a two year stand down period where no action was to be taken to minimise public health risk as the sludge ponds stabilised. While this initial period has now passed, it is still not considered that the area is suitable for public use. The planned programmes of upgrades for the pond sites will not commence until KCDC considers that the public health risk associated with opening the site up is acceptable.

4.2 Meridian Wind Farm Application

Submissions on the Meridian Energy Limited application to develop project “West Wind” closed on 10 August. I will provide a brief update at the meeting as to the number of submissions received, and level of support/opposition to the proposal raised in these submissions. This application was jointly notified with the Wellington City Council (who are acting as lead agency).

4.3 Staff issues

We are still fully staffed, and continue to help the Wairarapa with some of their consent processing work.

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.	-	-	-
Wharfe Quarry ¹	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	06/11/03	04/02/04	57 plus 2 late	-	Hearing not yet scheduled - on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.	-	-	-
Ridvan Garden Development ²	To lay culverts and discharge contaminated stormwater as part of a residential subdivision development in Crofton Downs.	23/12/04	25/02/05	51	-	Scheduled for 27/28 June	Sally Baber Liz Mellish Ian Hutchison	19 July	Granted – currently in appeal period
Wellington Waterfront Ltd	To develop open space areas, divert groundwater and daylight the Kumutoto Stream, North Queens Wharf.	16/03/05	28/04/05	31 plus one late – 5 of these relate specifically to GW issues	-	7/8 June	Chris Turver Miria Pomare	29 June	Granted – WCC decision subject to appeal
Wellington Waterfront Ltd	Extend the existing lagoon and undertake associated development of the existing Frank Kitts lagoon area.	16/03/05	28/04/05	31 plus one late	-	7/8 June	Chris Turver Miria Pomare	29 June	Granted – WCC decision subject to appeal
eNZoil Limited	To discharge contaminants to air associated with the operation of a transformer oil regeneration plant.	18/01/05	03/05/05	7	Scheduled for 18 May	10 June	Terry McDavitt Margaret Shields	29 June	Granted – no appeals

¹ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

² This application will be jointly heard with Wellington City Council

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
Shell Oil New Zealand	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation of a plant producing detergent intermediates (such as pastes used in shampoos and dish wash powders).	16/11/04	12/05/05	4	Scheduled for 24 May	Draft conditions negotiated out – no hearing required.	-	25 July	Granted
FC Allen	To undertake a variety of river works including installing a culvert, diverting and reclaiming.	20/08/04	17/05/05	2	-	Draft conditions negotiated out – no hearing required.	-	27 July	Granted
Wellington Waterfront Ltd and the Wellington Tenth Trust	To construct and maintain a new Wharewaka on the western side of the extended Lambton Harbour Lagoon.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	-	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	-
The Wellington Tenth Trust	To construct and maintain a new building (wharanui) at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	-	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	-
Wellington Waterfront Limited	To develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	-	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	-
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	20/07/05	3	Scheduled for late August.	Hopeful that this application can be negotiated out.	-	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited ³	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal.	010/7/05	10/08/05	-	-	-	-	-	-

³ This application will be jointly heard with Wellington City Council

**Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours
Harbours Department Report –
August 2005**

1. Harbour navigation aids

The fendering and access railings at the Rear Lead Light were repaired, and a new power charging-regulator was fitted.

All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution response

- Only one report of an oil spill was received and investigated.
- Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder was advised by Maritime NZ that he had passed the Regional On-Scene Commanders oil spill response training course that he attended at Te Atatau, Auckland, during May 2005.

3. Port and harbour risk assessment

A meeting with major “stakeholders” took place on 1 July to discuss the ranked hazard list. The risk scoring process is substantially complete. Marico and GWRC Harbours are now collating risk control measures that are already in place.

4. Harbourmasters/Harbour Management Special Interest Group

HMSIG (Harbourmasters/Harbour Management Special Interest Group) meeting was held GWRC Council Chambers in Wellington all day on Tuesday 26 July 2005 and chaired by Mike Pryce.

This meeting provides a forum to achieve good navigation and safety practice on the waters throughout New Zealand through the sharing of information and experiences between Regional and Territorial Authorities. It also coordinates joint activities between these organisations and external organisations such as Ministry of Transport, Maritime New Zealand and LINZ.

5. New Interislander ferry

The new Toll Shipping/Interislander ferry Challenger arrived in Wellington on 13 August and was scheduled to commence commercial sailings across Cook Strait on 22 August. The new ferry is of 22,365 gross tonnage, and has a

capacity for 1,600 passengers and 600 cars. The vessel will temporarily use the Inter Island Wharf (adjacent to The Lynx terminal) until a new berth is built about mid-November at the Rail Ferry Terminal area at Kaiwharawhara.

With her length overall of 181.6 metres, she would easily be, by far, the largest ferry ever to have operated in New Zealand waters, with *Arahura* only 148.37 metres and *Aratere* 150.00 metres length overall. Even the past “Steamer Expresses” on the Union Steam Ship Company’s Wellington to Lyttelton service were smaller, with the *Wahine* of 1966 only 148.74 metres and *Rangatira* of 1972 only 152.63 metres length overall. She is also larger than the past Union Steam Ship Company trans-Tasman “ferries”; *Monowai* of 1924 was only 158.2 metres, and *Awatea* of 1936 was only 166.0 metres length overall.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – August 2005

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 Exercise Phoenix IV

Planning is underway for the CDEM Group annual major table-top exercise, Exercise Phoenix IV, scheduled for 25 November 2005.

Exercise Phoenix IV is aimed at implementing the new Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan under the direction of the Group Controller. This exercise will be based on a large earthquake on the Wellington fault.

A workshop was held on 29 July 2005 to introduce the exercise concept to key emergency management agencies. Further workshops are planned over the next couple of months with smaller groups to assist in writing the exercise.

1.2 CDEM Training for Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

Volunteer staff received focussed training on Lifelines on 30 June 2005 with guest speakers Debbie Cunningham and David Brunson from Kestrel Group. They provided some in-depth information on lifeline utilities (what they are and how they fit in with the Group emergency operating centre in an event).

Lessons learned in the training session will now be applied in the table-top exercise scheduled for 12 August 2005.

1.3 CDEM Group work programme

Work has started on several of the projects in the 2005-2006 work programmes. The Welfare Plan is now in draft form and out for comment with the Wellington Region Welfare Advisory Group.

The Public Information and Media Management Plan are being drafted and a working group will be established this month to work through the draft phase.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Emergency Preparedness

2.1.1 Community survey into emergency preparedness results

The results of the community survey into emergency preparedness that we commissioned in April have been released. The survey, carried out by Peter Glen Research, was aimed at gathering information to help quantify progress towards specific goals identified in the existing Long Term Council Community Plan and the CDEM Group Plan. It also provided an updated measurement of public awareness, attitudes and behaviour relating to their preparedness for a major emergency against the benchmark results obtained in the similar 2004 survey.

This year respondents were able to recall a greater number of hazards that might affect the region.

Earthquakes and floods remain the hazards foremost in people's minds. Awareness of tsunamis and earthquakes has increased significantly along with high winds, cyclones/hurricanes and major storms. This would seem to be a direct result of public knowledge of devastation that occurred in South East Asia at the end of 2004 (earthquake and tsunami) and in New Zealand (high winds and storms) earlier this year.

Eighty percent of residents in the greater Wellington area now consider themselves 'very' or 'quite well informed' about the major hazards that could affect their region. This is a significant increase on the 69% of respondents who were 'well informed' in the 2004 survey.

However, whilst 80% of respondents regarded themselves as 'well informed' about major hazards that could occur, only 59% of residents considered their level of preparedness to be 'good' or better. This level of preparedness is only a marginal improvement on the 56% figure recorded in last year's survey.

The survey results will form a basis for determining where we need to focus our public education/awareness and action information.

2.1.2 CDEM Group website

The Group website (www.wrcdemg.govt.nz) is being rebuilt to accommodate an Auckland-based server. Work has begun on redesigning the site to appeal to a wider audience including the public and the media, in addition to the CDEM sector.

The site will have a great deal of 'Be prepared' content and will also have an emergency page that activates when there is an emergency event. The emergency page will provide an overall view of the region's emergency event(s), along with links to the local Territorial Authorities and utilities websites. The website is scheduled to go live in September.

2.2 Emergency Planning Guide

The 'Are you Prepared?' emergency planning guide has been updated, printed and distributed to the Territorial Authorities earlier than anticipated.

One thousand of the booklets have also been given to Protec Solutions for inclusion in their survival kits which are distributed in the lower half of the North Island.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake Reports

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting, 52 reports of earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS.

One earthquake was felt in the Wellington Region on 26 June 2005. Magnitude 3.6, depth: 30km, 10km north of Greytown.

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Four special weather bulletins (2 for heavy rain and 2 for strong wind) have been received since the last Committee meeting. The relevant agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.

3.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. There was a lightening strike that damaged the power supply at the repeater on Mount Climie but this was picked up in the weekly radio test and fixed immediately. No problems have been experienced since.

Richard Waddy
 Divisional Accountant
Financial Position: 30 June 2005

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the year ended 30 June 2005. These numbers are provisional and subject to audit confirmation.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 30 June 2005</u>				
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Full Year</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	8,199	8,199	--	8,199
Other Revenue	2,079	2,113	34 U	2,113
Total Revenue	10,278	1,0312	34 U	10,312
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	8,742	9,017	275 F	9,017
Indirect Expenditure	1,256	1,354	98 F	1,354
Total Operating Expenditure	9,998	10,371	373 F	10,371
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	280	(59)	339 F	(59)

2. Surplus

- The Division's finances are in a sound position and overall slightly higher than we anticipated in our budgets. An operating surplus of \$280,000 was recorded, which is significantly above our budgeted deficit of \$59,000.
- The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$339,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$34,000, and offset, by lower than expected expenditure of \$373,000.

- From a cash perspective, the net funds surplus at \$102,000 compares favourably to our neutral or nil budget.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$10,277,000 is some \$34,000 short of our budget target of \$10,311,000.

The shortfall has been caused by a lower number of notified consents processed in the first half of the year than budgeted and a one-off feature – the remit of costs for a notified consent. In addition, changes to the internal arrangements for the after-hours answering service have resulted in a loss of revenue. Previously Beacon Hill staff provided the service.

However, we received \$88,000 from the Department of Conservation towards our biodiversity initiatives for landowner assistance, and this has helped offset some of that shortfall. Some of this contribution was not specifically included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$9,997,000 is some \$373,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were slightly over budget by \$54,000. Some of this additional spend is with the part-time Emergency Management officer. The officer has been engaged to help with the training of volunteers, and to conduct CDEM group exercises.
- **Materials, Supplies and Services** are less than budget by \$164,000.

The reduced number of notified consents and introduction of "limited" notified consents has meant that our call for commissioners to hear applications is less than we expected (\$41,000).

The cost of repairs for navigational aids was at a lower level than budgeted (\$36,000) - some of the work will be completed in the new year.

The cost required to run the Civil Defence Emergency Management group has come in lower than envisaged, in this, the first year of the group's operation. A small saving of \$18,000 has been realised.

Groundwater projects were slightly underspent by some \$10,000 because some of the Hutt groundwater sites maintenance was not required. Similarly, some repair work for the air quality station for transport emissions was not needed and repairs came in at \$10,000 less than budgeted.

A number of projects have come in with material costs less than the amount budgeted, and these have been more than offset from costs of contractors

and consultants. For example, the Wetlands project suggests a favourable materials variance of \$22,000 and implementing the methods of the Regional Plans project appears to be underspent by \$14,000. In each instance the contractors and consultants costs for these projects amounted to more than the “saving”.

- **Consultant costs** were less than budget by \$169,000.

The take-up of the funding for the iwi projects has been lower (\$101,000) than anticipated in our budgets. The Council Secretariat has assumed responsibility for the iwi budget and as foreshadowed, the funds set aside have not been used fully.

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$111,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with this type of work there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects. Farmers will be reimbursed costs (via the QE11 National Trust) once the work is completed.

- **Internal charges** were under budget by \$28,000.

Most of the underspend arises because of the changes to the after-hours answering service previously provided by Beacon Hill staff.

5. Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) was some \$124,000 short of our budget.

The principal reason for this is with the delay of the launch of the satellite which was to carry our emergency management communication equipment (\$95,000) into space. The underspend has been carried over into 2005-06.

In addition, it has been decided to defer replacing the Voice logger (\$15,000) because a full risk assessment of Wellington Harbour is presently being conducted. Further, the upgrade to the Pencarrow navigation aid (\$10,000) has been postponed as this will depend on whether the main shipping channel at the harbour entrance is dredged or not. The capital expenditure programme has been reduced by \$25,000.