



Report **05.421**
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Committee **Environment**
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Pollution Control Annual Report 2004-2005

1. Purpose

To report on Greater Wellington's pollution control activities over the 2004/05 financial year (presented in further detail in the Annual Pollution Control Report 2004 – 2005).

2. Background

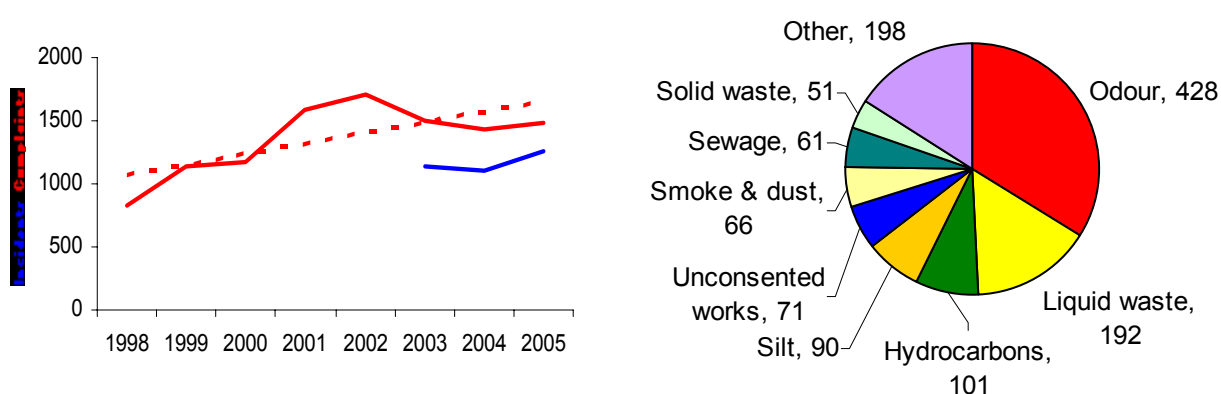
Greater Wellington provides a 24-hour pollution incident response service throughout the region. It also conducts environmental assessments for industrial or commercial sites, and undertakes a range of special projects to establish baseline conditions, track trends and characterise environmental problems.

3. Incident response

Staff responded to 1,258 environmental incidents throughout the region during this period, which gave rise to 1,476 individual complaints. This represented a small increase in both incident and complaint numbers when compared to the previous year. Most incident types have been trending upward over recent years, with marked increases for incidents involving silt, hydrocarbons and liquid waste. Odour was the only incident category that showed a marked decrease, which is attributed to a combination of unsettled weather and odour control improvements at source sites.

As in previous years, the majority of incidents occurred in the areas administered by Wellington City Council (50%) and the Hutt City Council (24%). Greater Wellington is currently developing pollution control Memoranda of Understanding with territorial authorities throughout the west of the region.

Figure 1: Incidents and complaints



The most commonly occurring types of incident throughout the region were nuisance odour from industrial sites (34%), and contaminants, such as oil, paint and other waste, entering streams via roadside drainage gullies (23%).

Some of the more significant incidents that occurred during this period are summarised below:

- 20 tonnes of latex solution spilled onto Kings Wharf at CentrePort, some of which entered the harbour.
- Discharge to air of 7 tonnes of cement following overfilling of a Golden Bay silo on Aotea Quay.
- Repeated non-compliance from subdivision developments by Brooklyn Holdings Limited and Ohiro Properties Limited.
- Several discharges of untreated sewage to Lavender Bay from the Moa Point short outfall due to unforeseen mechanical and electrical failures.
- Heavy metal contaminant discharge to the Te Mome Stream following a flood at the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant in Moera.
- Illegal cleanfilling and stream works by Drogue Construction at a site in Wainuiomata.
- Resene Paints at Naenae was confirmed as the likely source of several instances of discoloration in the Waiwhetu Stream.
- Track construction and logging operations led to slips that blocked the Witako Stream and Blue Mountains Road.
- Poor sediment control measures at the Aotea Block and St Ives subdivisions caused multiple discharges of silt to the Pauatahanui Inlet.
- A truck spilled up to 300 litres of diesel into stormwater drains at Lindale, Paraparaumu.

- A collision between a truck and car led to a major spill of sewage sludge onto State Highway 1 near Waikanae.
- The spring-fed Fleet Street Stream in Masterton dried up for the first time in history, leading to a large scale fish and eel relocation exercise.
- Unauthorised damming of a Masterton stream resulted in the flooding of upstream properties.
- A toxic algal bloom affecting Masterton's oxidation ponds resulted in a large part of the Ruamahanga River being closed to recreational use.
- An aviation fuel tanker crashed into a tributary of the Taueru River, but was removed by emergency services without spillage.
- A sediment retention pond was intentionally drained into the Lansdowne Stream at Masterton.

4. Enforcement action

Formal regulatory action was taken for serious non-compliance incidents. Advisory notices and retrospective resource consents continue to be a cost-effective regulatory option to address minor non-compliance. The use of cost recovery has also been growing to address incidents of confirmed non-compliance with minor environmental consequences. We seek to recover the costs of staff time and materials used in responding to this type of incident. Over the past year \$23,000 of our costs were recovered.

Regulatory action summary

Type of action	2004-05 (2003-04)
Advisory notices	61 (68)
Infringement notices	21 (19)
Abatement notices	26 (12)
Enforcement orders	2 (1)
Water shortage directions	0 (0)
Prosecutions	0 (3)

5. Pollution prevention

Our *Take Charge* pollution prevention activities have included assessments of 85 industrial/commercial sites in Paraparaumu, as part of a programme to identify and control polluting inputs to the Wharemu Stream. More detailed inspections have been conducted for 32 of these sites, and recommendations made to address a range of polluting inputs. Revisits have also been conducted for service stations and motor vehicle workshops where significant issues were identified via our *Take Charge* programme in the previous year.

6. Special projects

Pollution Control officers conducted an assessment of contaminants in the Te Mome Stream. This identified that historic and recent discharges from the Exide Technologies site at Moera was contributing to heavy metal contamination of sediment and water in the stream.

The Muddy Waters programme was Greater Wellington's response to the trend of developers building on steeper sites, resulting in silt export to surface waters. It was a collaborative approach involving all territorial authorities in the west of the region, which has included delivery of a series of information workshops for territorial authority officers, contractors, consultants and developers, a new guideline and new 'tools' to assist regulatory officers.

7. Communication

The Annual Pollution Control Report 2004-2005 is a publicly available document, and is posted on the Greater Wellington web site. No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report; and
2. **Note** the contents.

Report prepared by:

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