

**Geoff Skene**  
Manager, Environmental Education

## **Environmental Education Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. Get Sustainable Challenge Awards**

The presentation ceremony for the Get Sustainable Challenge was held on 31 August at the City Gallery. Around 140 people attended. Cr Turver, who was one of the judges, spoke on behalf of Greater Wellington and Cr Buchanan presented the premier award (the Trailblazer Award). The winners were:

- Remarkit Solutions (Explorer category)
- Absolutely (Emerging category)
- Alto Design (Innovation category)
- YHA Wellington (Trailblazer category).

YHA Wellington won the Trailblazer Award after demonstrating that sustainability was core to its operations - not an add-on. The hostel's work towards sustainability includes reducing energy use and waste water, recycling and re-use initiatives, sponsoring community projects, and using only environmentally-friendly cleaning products. Responsibility for sustainability is spread across all staff and management. It is also a responsible employer - providing good workplace conditions and offering training opportunities. The judges said "staff commented that this was the best place they'd ever worked."

The other awards recognised the efforts of businesses that are at an earlier stage in the sustainability journey. Absolutely.co.nz won the Emerging Award; open to businesses that are formally planning to improve their sustainability. Initiatives undertaken by the website design and build company included using public transport to get to client meetings and giving staff paid time off to do community work.

Remarkit Solutions won the Explorer Award, for those who've just begun to tackle the environmental and social impact of their operations. The company's core business is reducing information technology waste by recycling and re-using equipment. Remarkit also donates hardware to schools locally and in the Pacific Islands.

The Innovation Award, recognising a sustainable innovation or invention, went to Alto for its "Good Friday" initiative. Each Friday, the staff is able to focus on their own personal and professional development.

There have been 7 media stories on the Challenge since the presentation ceremony. There will also be a follow-up feature in *Elements* in December. One of the purposes of the Challenge was to find out the areas where businesses need help in order to be more sustainable. The Sustainable Business Network (SBN) co-ordinator is preparing a report for Greater Wellington on this, but two areas that were identified immediately are transport (including travel planning) and energy. The SBN is organising workshops to provide this information. These will be open to all businesses.

Building on the interest generated by the awards, another workshop was held by the SBN at the end of September to explain the business case for sustainability to interested businesses.

## **2. Take Care**

Care groups have been very busy over the last six weeks with the planting season in full swing.

### **2.1 Henley Wetlands**

In recent weeks there has been a lot of activity at the wetlands.

On 15 August, sixty students from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Wairarapa planted a grove of Kowhai trees and a range of other native species near the newly renovated wading bird ponds.

Another 500 students from Lakeview School took part in a successful school wide planting three days later. Cr Long welcomed the students and congratulated them on their contribution to the Henley project. The attendees included members of the Henley Trust, the Department of Conservation, Trees for Wairarapa, Atarangi Vineyard and members of Forest & Bird. Corrections Department workers assisted with the site preparation and have subsequently spread mulch around the plantings. The group has also let a contract for construction of its proposed bird observation tower, for which it now has a grant.

At this year's Conservation Week Ceremony, the Henley Trust was awarded the Habitat Restoration Award by the Department of Conservation's Wellington Conservancy and the Wellington Conservation Board. Flood protection work alongside the wetland has begun in preparation for widening the Ruamahunga River. This will include earthworks to reshape the stop bank and the planting of willows.

### **2.2 Riversdale Beach Care**

Joe and Trish Taylor received a merit award for their work protecting the foredunes at Riversdale Beach over the last 15 years. The Taylor's helped start the Dune Management Committee that looks after the beach. A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the committee. These include establishing sand ladders to protect high foot traffic areas, extensive planting of native sand

binding plants along the beach, removing pest plants, and educating beach users on the role of these plants in stabilising and protecting dunes.

### **2.3 Enaki Stream**

The Enaki Stream care group has had a very active September. Landowners and helpers planted 700 willow poles, 1700 native plants, and 200 eucalypts and tree lucerne across a handful of farms, mostly alongside the stream but also slightly further a field to provide “stepping stones” for birds across the valley. There has also been work done on the stream to repair flood damage, funded from the Catchment Management Division’s budget.

### **2.4 Papawai Stream**

The Papawai Trust, of which the care group is a part, has recently become an incorporated society. This enables it to seek funding from other sources to supplement funds it receives from the Council.

### **2.5 Honda Tree Planting at Mauriceville**

The community planting day on 31 August was a great success. The event was planned and executed by Karen Williams and Alex Evans from the Masterton office. About 1000 trees, funded by Honda Cars, were planted by 100 volunteers. These included Mauriceville school children (who were participating as part of *Take Action*, which they did earlier in the year), local residents, representatives from Southey Honda in Masterton, the Hatuma Lime Company, Masterton District Council, the Presbyterian Church, and the QE2 Trust.

### **2.6 Waitohu Stream**

The efforts of this group have featured twice in local papers recently. The group has regular working bees every Monday, their most recent activity being potting up plants for next season. Vandals have had a big impact on the dune project over the last two months, pulling down the protective netting around the grasses that protect them from rabbits, and riding motorbikes through the dunes. The rabbit population has recovered and is once again heavily browsing the newly planted pingao. The Biosecurity Department is helping the group with this problem. On a positive note, a group of Otaki College students planted 200 pingao and spinifex with group members during Conservation Week.

### **2.7 The Otaki Friends**

In August the Friends of the Otaki River planted around 400 plants at the estuary wetland and also assisted Council staff to plant several hundred trees at Chrystall’s Bend. The estuary plants were mainly flax, cabbage trees, and toi toi and some were products of the group’s nursery at the Otaki Depot. They plan to do further planting at the wetland in October.

## **2.8 Paraparaumu Beach**

Planning is underway for a new planting site for 2007, following rabbit control in the area in the adjacent Waikanae Estuary. The group has contracted 2000 spinifex plants to be grown for next year. At their original site there is still work in train. These dunes were resurveyed in August to measure how well sand is being trapped by the spinifex. It appears that the plants are trapping sand very well at the front of the dune as expected, but the quantification of this awaits proper data analysis.

## **2.9 Kaitawa Reserve Group**

At Kaitawa Reserve a dedicated group of volunteers has been working on the restoration of the Wharemaukau Stream for many years. The group has been funded by Greater Wellington since 2000, receiving \$1500 annually which they use to purchase seedlings. The group has achieved an enormous amount over the years and has just used its last allocation of funding from the Council.

## **2.10 Greendale Reserve**

At the recent Wellington Conservancy Awards, both the Friends of Greendale and pupils from Kenakena School in were recognised for their extensive and ongoing work to restore the banks of the Muaupoko Stream through the reserve. The Friends of Greendale Reserve received a merit award and the school won the Young Conservationist category.

## **2.11 Waimeha Restoration Group**

This is another unsung group that is quietly and effectively restoring the Waimeha wetland, holding regular working bees to remove weeds and replant with appropriate native species. Mike Ulrich from the Biosecurity Department is working on a weed control plan for the Reserve which will be jointly funded by the Council and the Kapiti Coast District Council.

## **2.12 Oku Coast Care**

This group of active Island Bay residents has completed a staggering 14 working bees in a row this winter at both its dune site and another bush restoration area it is working on. There have been five planting days in the dunes, with the major species being pingao, wiwi, spinifex and flax. In August, the group was nominated for a Conservation Award for its efforts.

## **2.13 Owhiro Stream**

The Owhiro Stream is being slowly transformed, with much of the recent change occurring in the middle section of the stream. Group members planted 400 plants in August and another 250 in September. Students from Brooklyn School also participated in a recent planting. The growth of plants from previous years has been strong and they seem to have largely held the banks in place during recent heavy rain storms. On the 18th of August staff from the Environmental Management Division added to the tally of plants, planting 670 flax, wharangi, kowhai, toi toi and other species (the total number of plants

planted at Owhiro this season is 1750). The Division has “adopted” the Owhiro Stream, having worked there for a day in each of the last four years. The Owhiro has several obstructions that impair the migration of native fish and work is progressing on the design of three of five planned fish passes. The next stage will be obtaining consents for their construction.

#### **2.14 Silverstream (Hull’s Creek)**

A heavy rain event occurred in late August affecting the riparian planting along Hull’s Creek. However, the damage was not extensive and the plants stood up well to the elevated stream flows. Some erosion occurred on one of the bends which the group has now replanted. Group members cleaned up the site at their September 2nd working bee. Staff from Upper Hutt City Council will be planting along the stream on 5 October.

#### **2.15 Plants and popcorn**

A display featuring the Council’s care programme, and advertising a working bee for the Friends of Petone Beach group, was set up at the Lighthouse Cinema Petone to coincide with the showing of the climate change film, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’. Patrons also received a native seedling supplied by Wellington City Council and the Lighthouse Cinema. The display has provided good local publicity for *Take Care* and an article appeared in the Hutt News. The event gave us the opportunity to promote the care group programme to Hutt Valley residents. There is currently only one care group supported by Greater Wellington in Hutt City.

#### **2.16 Application Round Change**

An application round for care group funding will not be staged for this financial year. The reason for this is that, of the five new groups required by the Annual Plan performance indicator, three were approved to start on 1 July through last year’s application round (and have already commenced), and a fourth, the Waihora group, has started in the Wairarapa. This leaves only one place to be filled. Consequently, to avoid calling for applications and then disappointing most of the applicants, we are looking for one or two groups to support in the under-represented areas of Hutt Valley and Porirua to take up the remainder of this year’s funding. A grant for one year has also been made to a group at Makara Estuary so they can complete a restoration plan for. The group held their first planting in the valley this year with plants supplied by Wellington City Council.

The date on which applications for the next year’s funding round will be called for has also been brought forward for the 2007-08 year. Applications will now open on 3 February 2007. This means the application process for the year will be well concluded by the time funding becomes available on 1 July and successful groups will have a full year in which to make use of their first year’s funds. This replaces the current practice of calling for applications in August which invariably gives groups only 6-8 months to use their first year’s allocation.

### **3. Take Action**

#### **3.1 Schools taking action**

There were three self-guided schools and one guided school doing *Take Action* in term three and one school (St Bernadettes) undertaking *Take Action for Air*. The self-guided schools are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Muritai (Eastbourne), and Naenae Intermediate. The guided school is Trentham, where six classes are taking part. At Muritai school, 10 classes are involved. Some schools from earlier in the year are also still busy with their projects to make a difference to the environment.

Fourth term schools have just commenced the programme. They are Martinborough School and St. Teresas School (Featherston) – both guided – and Wainuiomata Intermediate, Mangauraki, Samuel Marsden, Naenae Intermediate, and Queen Margaret College (all self-guided).

#### **3.2 Trentham School**

Students from six year 5 and 6 classes worked on the Moehau Stream to do their bit for the environment. It took two days for them to plant around 1000 trees with the Action Crew at the Hutt River end of the stream. Moehau Stream care group members assisted the children and provided some of the plants.

#### **3.3 Eastern Hutt School**

Twenty three classes at this school have been doing the programme since term two, which has led to a myriad of action projects. As mentioned in passing at the last Committee, the senior syndicate presented their work to the parent community on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. Over 200 people heard the message through drama, rap, dance, and presentations that we need to change our behaviour to conserve water and prevent pollution. It was a fabulous evening of entertainment and learning.

The senior classes also planted around 350 hebes, sedges, flax, and toi toi with our educators along the Opahu Stream. Trees and mulch were provided by Hutt City Council. Another class is in the process of organising two walking school buses, which should start in term four. Paper recycling is now up and running in the school as a result of another *Take Action* project.

One middle syndicate class created lizard habitat adjacent to the planted area by the stream, whilst another chose to build weta “hotels” as their way of promoting local biodiversity.

#### **3.4 Tui Glen School**

At this school 28 students have formed an enviorgroup and are working after school once a week on a range of projects. Some have created lizard habitat, whilst others are seeking out plants from various sources. A re-cycling scheme for the school is being set up with the help of Full Circle Ltd. The teacher working with the enviorgroup and the principal of the school are providing strong support for the students’ ideas. The school’s achievement is a good

example of our new approach of giving schools more time to develop their environmental projects and working with them for longer.

### **3.5 Other schools**

Action projects completed during the term by schools doing *Take Action* in previous terms included:

- Planting of 150 trees and an environment-themed mural at Wilford School (a guided school from term 2);
- Tree planting in the grounds of the new Koranui School in Stokes Valley. Approx. 200 trees planted. (self-guided, term 1);
- Tree planting on the Waiwhetu Stream by Eponi School, with Hutt City Council (guided, term 2);
- Tree planting, with Hutt City Council by Wainuiomata Intermediate (self-guided all year).

### **3.6 *Take Action* for Air**

The implementation of this programme by St Bernadette's school has been successful, with both teachers and students commenting favourably. The *Take Action* team has been working with the school, fine tuning the delivery of the programme.

### **3.7 Queen Margaret College**

Following an article in *Elements* promoting *Take Action for Air*, staff from Queen Margaret College requested a meeting to discuss their possible involvement in the programme. They have since participated in a teacher training workshop and are trialling the programme in term four. We expect the school to do more of *Take Action* in 2007.

### **3.8 Caretakers meeting**

Staff met with many of the region's schools' care takers recently to brief them about *Take Action* and discuss options for implementing action projects. The caretakers are an important component of schools' ability to undertake projects in their grounds such as recycling, worm farming, and re-vegetation.

### **3.9 Enviroschools**

Two schools which began their environmental programmes by doing *Take Action* have opted to become Enviroschools – Ngaio, in Wellington and Kahutara, in South Wairarapa. At Kahutara, the school has been very successful in reducing its waste from 5-7 bags a week to one bag a week, with some of the waste going to a worm farm. The school's has two types of rubbish bin, one for biodegradable material and one for non-biodegradable items.

Ngaio's progress from *Take Action* to Enviroschool has been rapid with the school still working on its action projects in the term just completed. Students undertook a second planting in the Ngaio Gorge in September.

The first region-wide Enviroschools hui was held on 30 August, which around 200 pupils and teachers from 13 primary schools attended, along with the Minister for the Environment, David Benson-Pope. The event was staged to enable Enviroschools to swap experiences and learn from each other. Greater Wellington staff also attended and the Council met some of the costs for the event, along with Hutt, Wellington, and Porirua City Councils.

### **3.10 Wellington's worm tycoons**

In August the *Education Gazette* featured a three page story under the above headline about Clyde Quay School. Since the end of term one, senior students have been operating a worm farming business, promoting and selling worm farms to the residents of Mt Victoria. The project began when the children involved in *Take Action* were contemplating an activity to make a difference in their local environment. With the help of their teacher, Sue Clement and some Mt Victoria residents, the students developed a business model and spent the first term finding out all they could about worms and worm farms. They wrote their own promotional material and a leaflet showing how to look after a worm farm, then delivered the advertising and waited for the orders to come in. In the second term around 30 worm farms (with worms) were sold and many people with existing worm farms came seeking advice.

School-wide, the teachers have built on this work and its links to composting, and have undertaken a unit which looks at rubbish and recycling. The school intends to sort its rubbish and begin composting. Students have visited other schools to promote their project. St. Anne's school also purchased two farms from Clyde Quay. Profits from the venture have gone into the purchase of equipment for the senior class.

### **3.11 Media**

*Take Care* and *Take Action* generated 18 media stories in the August-September period.

## **4. New staff member**

I am pleased to inform the Committee that Warren Field will be joining the Department to work on *Take Action* and *Take Care*. This is the position vacated by Kerry Penny when she became the team leader for *Take Action*. Warren is a hugely experienced teacher from Greytown School with specific expertise in environmental education and has already delivered *Take Action* twice in his school. He was instrumental in the creation of the Papawai Stream Care Group and has considerable restoration experience as well.



**Murray McLea**  
**Acting Manager, Environmental Policy**

## **Environmental Policy Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans**

#### **1.1 Regional Policy Statement review update**

The timeline for the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) has been revised so that:

- The Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) consultation has occurred, decisions made (December 2006), and the outcomes integrated with the Regional Policy Statement (RPS);
- The Council and Ara Tahi can have a workshop in November to discuss the RPS and iwi issues, after the “Iwi Issues” report is completed (October). Staff then need time to work with Ara Tahi and recommend suitable iwi provisions;
- Territorial authority staff can be involved in the development of provisions at the levels requested.
- A number of key stakeholders can be involved in the preparation of draft provisions.

The changes to the timeline postpone the Council workshops on draft provisions until February/March 2007. Consultation with territorial authority elected members on the content of the RPS will then follow. Further workshops with Councillors in July 2007 will then occur prior to seeking Council’s approval, in September (as per the original timeline), to release the RPS.

Main areas of work on the review since the last meeting of the Environment Committee are:

- Preparation and consultation with territorial authority staff and key stakeholders on preparation of draft provisions for the next RPS.
- A draft report on the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region has been prepared by Bev James for both Ara Tahi and Greater Wellington. A summary will be provided to Council when the report is finalised.
- The establishment of a working group, with representatives from the project executive group of the WRS, to discuss and recommend what should/could, from the WRS, be reflected in the RPS.

- A draft consultation and communication plan has been prepared for the development of provisions. This addresses:
  - Ara Tahi’s role in the review process;
  - Liaison with the WRS Chief Executive Group and (interim) Committee;
  - Identification and level of involvement of territorial staff;
  - Identification and level of involvement of key stakeholders;
  - Involvement of Greater Wellington staff across Divisions;
  - How territorial authority elected representatives can be kept updated on the review process and consulted on draft provisions; and
  - How consultation with general stakeholders will be undertaken and when.

A Councillor workshop on RPS provisions will be held on 8 November 2006. The workshop will provide an update on progress and seek direction on key provisions. A combined Council and Ara Tahi workshop to discuss the RPS review will occur on 22 November 2006.

## **2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation**

### **2.1 Wetlands**

The Council’s Wetland Action Plan is now being reviewed. The Action Plan was adopted by the Council three years ago. It has led to an increased role for Greater Wellington in the management of wetlands in the region. It is now time to evaluate how effective we have been and what can be done to improve the Plan. A revised draft Wetland Action Plan will be released next year.

### **2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems Programme**

Two fish passes are under construction in the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The passes are located at sites in the stream where structures in the bed result in waterfalls limiting the upstream passage of migratory native fish. The fish pass at the confluence of the Korimako Stream with the Kaiwharawhara Stream is almost built. Construction of the second fish pass at the outlet of the culvert that goes under Churchill Drive is underway. Construction of both fish passes is being funded by Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and Capacity.

### **2.3 Biodiversity voluntary change research programme**

Kirsten Forsyth and Tim Porteous from Environmental Policy, and Michelle Bird from Land Management, are working with Amber Bill of Wellington City Council on a study to assess ways of promoting riparian management in catchments that are not eligible for financial assistance. This is part of a national programme led by Terry Parminter of AgResearch to develop improved policy approaches for encouraging landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity on their own land.

This project is focussing on the Ohariu catchment and our work promoting streamside management to protect and enhance aquatic biodiversity. The Ohariu catchment is small, close to Wellington, and has large and small farms as well as 'lifestyle' and residential. There are some bush fragments in the catchment but most of the stream has no vegetation and is unfenced. The problems affecting the stream (high levels of bacteria and nutrients, poor water clarity and high summer water temperatures) are similar to those affecting other small rural streams around the Wellington region.

## **2.4 Annual environment report cards**

The content of the annual environment report cards is being prepared by staff in the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations department. Kirsten Forsyth is coordinating them for publication and they will be presented to the Environment Committee in November.

## **3. Other**

### **3.1 Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Issues and Options document**

An issues and options document *Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* has been released by the Department of Conservation for comment. The period for comment closes on 10 November 2006. Comments on the issue and options document will be considered during the drafting of a revised New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is an important policy document for us. We have to give effect to it in our Regional Policy Statement and regional plans, and regard must be had to it when resource consent applications are considered. Staff are preparing comments on the issues and options document. Local Government New Zealand will be making its own comments and is preparing a Companion Paper to assist local authorities. The Department of Conservation are holding meetings with local government during October.

### **3.2 Kapiti Coast District Council draft Coastal Strategy**

The Kapiti Coast District Council has prepared a draft Coastal Strategy and is inviting submissions on it. Submissions close on 27 October 2006.

## **4. Staffing**

Iain Dawe has started with us as our new Hazard Analyst. Iain has recently completed a PhD. at Canterbury University. One of Iain's priority tasks will be the preparation of provisions on hazards in the Regional Policy Statement.

**Ted Taylor**  
**Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations**

## **Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. General**

I am working on developing a structure for the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department which is the final phase of the organisational restructure affecting the Department's staff. No major changes in individual's jobs are anticipated but reporting lines need to change because of the amalgamation of staff from the Wellington and Wairarapa offices.

As there has been close co-operation between staff of the two offices for some time the change to a new regime should be relatively trouble free. Project work will continue to be undertaken on a regional basis but there will be efficiencies to be gained by it all being in one department.

### **2. Flood warning**

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee three events triggered a total of 36 alarms (Wairarapa 12 alarms, Western area 24 alarms)

The Lake Onoke outlet was blocked for 10 consecutive days, much to the dismay of whitebaiters.

### **3. Groundwater levels**

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites in the western region and 62 sites in the Wairarapa. We use three of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone, Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast, and Baring in Wairarapa as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

### **3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer**

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring well is at the long-term mean for this time of year. The pressure is well above the seawater intrusion alarm levels.

### **3.2 Kapiti coast groundwater zones**

Groundwater levels in Kapiti's shallow aquifers have been recovering from the summer low levels since April.

Monitoring at the Centrepoint well on the Hautere Plain, which intercepts a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, shows that groundwater has recovered from the record low levels, but is still below the long-term mean.

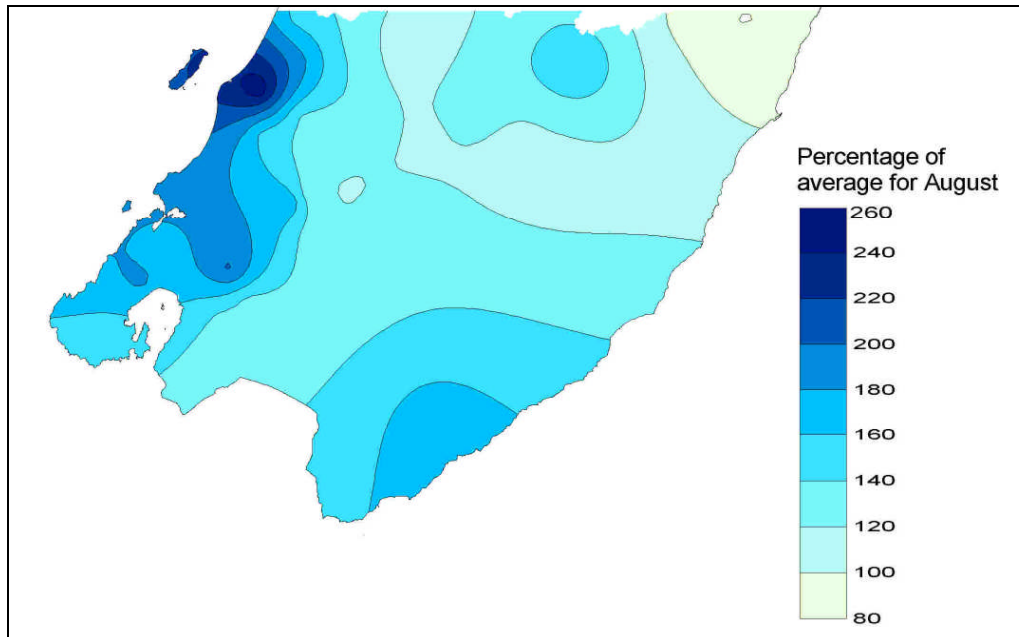
### **3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones**

Groundwater levels in the Wairarapa have been increasing since the end of March. Over the winter, shallow groundwater over most of the Valley reached long-term high levels.

Monitoring of levels at the Baring well in Parkvale, located in a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, shows that groundwater is still below the long-term mean for this time of year. Given that the irrigation season starts in October, it is unlikely that groundwater levels will reach the long-term mean.

## **4. Rainfall and river flows**

Rainfall during August 2006 was about normal in the Wairarapa, and above average in the western part of the region. The Hutt Valley, Porirua and Kapiti Coast were particularly wet compared to normal, with monthly totals about twice the long-term average for August in some areas. The month was characterised by southwesterly airflows, due to frequent depressions south east of the Chatham Islands.



**Figure 1: Rainfall during August 2006, as a percentage of the long-term average for August**

Although there were frequent rainfall events during August, the particularly high monthly rainfall totals in the west of the region were a result of a significant storm event on 26 August. The storm, caused by a depression centred in the northwest Tasman Sea, brought sustained heavy rainfall to Wellington city, Porirua, Hutt Valley, western Tararua range and parts of the Kapiti Coast, throughout the morning. Floodwarning alarms were reached in many of the region's rivers including Hutt River and its tributaries, Ruamahanga River, Waikanae River, Otaki River, Wainuiomata River, Porirua Stream and Waiwhetu Stream. However, the peak flows were not particularly high, with most rivers experiencing their mean annual flood.

## **5. Air quality monitoring**

### **5.1 Ambient air quality monitoring**

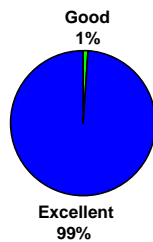
We currently monitor ambient air quality at three permanent sites; in Lower Hutt at the Birch Street Reserve, Upper Hutt at Savage Park and Masterton at Wairarapa College. Fine particulate ( $PM_{10}$ ) is now being continuously monitored at Wainuiomata Bowling Club to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Standards – Air quality (NESAQ).

The graphs below represent air quality at these locations where the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

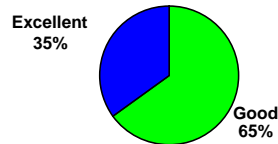
Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	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.

### Results for the past six weeks at Birch Lane, Lower Hutt

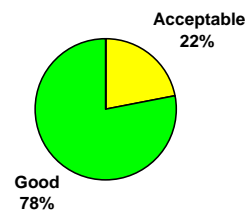
8-hour average CO at Lower Hutt



1-hour average NO<sub>2</sub> at Lower Hutt

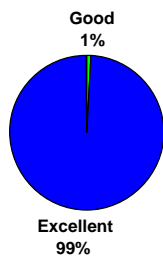


24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Lower Hutt

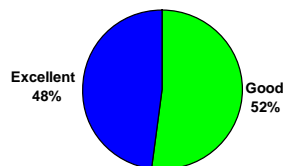


### Results for the past six weeks at Savage Park, Upper Hutt

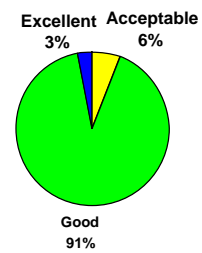
8-hour average CO at Savage Park



1-hour average NO<sub>2</sub> at Savage Park



24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Savage Park

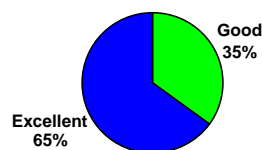


### Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

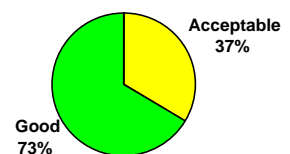
8-hour average CO at Masterton



1-hour average NO<sub>2</sub> at Masterton



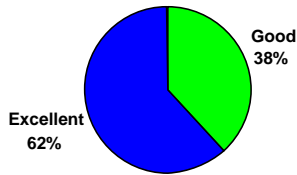
24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Masterton



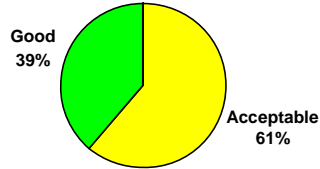
## 5.2 Traffic emissions monitoring

### Results for the past six weeks at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

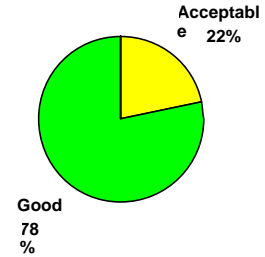
8-hour average CO at Corner V



1-hour average NO<sub>2</sub> at Corner V

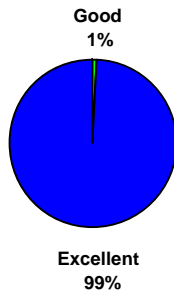


24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Corner V



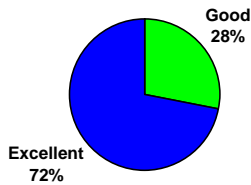
### Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

8-hour average CO at Te Aro

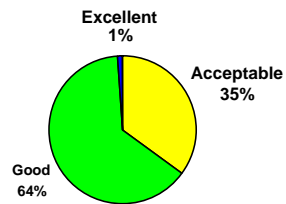


### Results for the past six weeks at Ngauranga Gorge

1-hour average NO<sub>2</sub> at Ngauranga

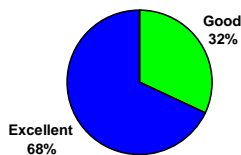


24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Ngauranga

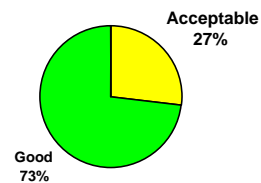


### Results for the past six weeks at Melling

8-hour average CO at Melling



24-hour average PM<sub>10</sub> at Melling





### **5.3 National environmental standards - air quality (NESAQ)**

The NESAQ sets a limit for the concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>, CO and NO<sub>2</sub> in ambient air. Since the NESAQ came into force on 1 September 2005, three exceedences of the limit for PM<sub>10</sub> have been recorded at the Masterton monitoring station. In the past six weeks there have been no further exceedences of the NESAQ.

## **6. Water allocation**

While working on developing the technical basis for the Mangatarere River Water Allocation Plan Change it became obvious that we did not have a fully coordinated approach. This became evident during the submission and hearing phase when the Department of Conservation and Fish and Game raised issues that required us to undertake further work.

To overcome these difficulties Laura Watts has developed “A Framework for Instream Flow Assessment in the Wellington Region”. This sets out the steps we will take when we carry out scientific investigations to establish minimum flows that are needed to support a river or streams aquatic ecosystem. Included are processes relating to consultation so all parties are ‘on board’ from the start and to ensure the level of technical evaluation needed for a particular stream or river is based on the values of that particular waterbody.

## **7. Staff**

I have pleasure in announcing the appointment of Tamsin Mitchell as our air quality scientist. Tamsin has worked for Greater Wellington in a number of roles, the most recent as a resource advisor in the Environmental Regulations Department, where she has contributed to our air quality work by unravelling the intricacies of the NESAQ.

**Al Cross**  
**Manager, Environmental Regulation**

## **Environmental Regulation Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 August 2006 to 15 September 2006 we have received 97 consent applications. This compares with 90 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 74 consents. This compares with 91 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 12 working days.

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

### **2. Appeals and objections**

#### **2.1 Appeals**

##### **Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind**

The Appeals hearing of Project West Wind consent decisions<sup>1</sup> ended on schedule on 7 July. A decision of the Environment Court is expected at any time. In the meantime, Greater Wellington is considering possible compliance arrangements should the Court uphold the decision of the joint GW-WCC hearing committee.

##### **Greater Wellington: Land and River Operations Department (LARO) – Scadden's stopbank**

This relates to an appeal by A J Barton<sup>2</sup> on a decision that granted consent to LARO to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. Evidence was exchanged on 28 August regarding the one remaining issue concerning the use of a paper road, and a hearing date is yet to be set.

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<sup>1</sup> The decisions on the jointly processed consents were released on 21 December 2005. Key issues such as traffic and noise have been largely resolved as much progress was made on Greater Wellington matters such as ecological effects. Landscape effects, including the proximity of residences to the site, remain as the most significant issue outstanding.

<sup>2</sup> The Environment Court has struck out a number of aspects of the appeal relating to consideration of Regional Freshwater Plan provisions and section 5 and 104 RMA considerations.

### **Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL)**

Mediation recently commenced on an appeal by D T S Riddiford on a joint decision that granted consent to MCDL<sup>3</sup>, raising new concerns about the location of the proposed wastewater treatment system. The applicant will now meet the appellant to attempt to resolve those matters, prior to a further round of mediation.

### **A E & S W Benton Partnership**

GW Environmental Regulation staff have agreed to undertake further work which will be progressively submitted to all parties<sup>4</sup> prior to the next mediation set down for 10 October.

### **Masterton District Council**

No progress has been made on the appeal by Masterton District Council against the decision on stage two – the Castlepoint sea wall. The onus is on Masterton District Council to come up with an integrated foreshore management plan.

## **3. Compliance and Enforcement**

### **3.1 General**

The team is currently focussing on completing compliance reports from inspections in the last financial year. Meanwhile, larger earthworks sites continue to receive more regular monitoring. Several consents deserve further discussion.

### **Exide Technologies Ltd fail to comply**

Exide has not completed the cartridge house enclosure by the 1 August deadline, as required by revised consent conditions<sup>5</sup>. The works enclose the filter press machinery helping to contain dust emissions during maintenance and drum changeovers. The enclosure is vital to mitigate lead-borne dust emissions, and is now expected to be completed in November. In the meantime, Exide has established temporary measures to help reduce dust emissions including a temporary enclosure around the collector drum, and other dust reduction measures.

We are very disappointed that Exide has failed to meet the condition for cartridge house enclosure, and we will keep a close eye on monitoring results. As of 1 August 2006, Exide are now required to meet the lower lead discharge limits for the site. However, we are hopeful that the temporary measures in place will enable Exide to meet the lower limits given that pre-August measurements indicated that they would be able to achieve compliance at two of the three site boundaries.

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<sup>3</sup> Consent was granted for a 30 lot subdivision near Tora which included a communal wastewater system.

<sup>4</sup> This relates to an appeal by the applicant on a decision which declined consent to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation near Kahutara.

<sup>5</sup> The revised completion date is due to building and land use consent delays and delays in construction work.

### **Taylor Preston Ltd (TPL) – consent review requested**

Gorge Action Group wrote to us in August requesting that GW review the conditions of TPL's air discharge permit. We have decided that we will not be seeking a review at this stage, after careful consideration of the relevant issues, including current work by TPL to address last summer's problems. Our reasons for this decision are:

- TPL are currently forming an action plan to address odour management problems. Actions may involve capital works, and TPL are currently working to develop options.
- TPL will consider applying to change the conditions of their consent to take on board more formally the recommended changes to odour management practices.
- A change of conditions process can provide effective outcomes via a more straight forward, faster and cheaper regulatory process. We achieved initial success with TPL in 2003 using this approach.

### **Landsdowne Developments – improving site practices**

GW staff have met with consent holder and contractor representatives to discuss on-site stormwater management matters, following the completion of prosecution proceedings. We can now look forward to improved stormwater practices on the ground.

### **3.2 Abatement notices**

No abatement notices have been served since the last Committee meeting.

### **3.3 Infringement notices**

We have issued four infringement notices since last Committee meeting.

We served two notices on Truebridge Callendar Beach and Levin Bobcats Ltd for failure to comply with consent conditions to install erosion and sediment control measures at an earthworks site in Ohariu Road, Johnsonville. Evidence of off-site discharges were noted, although it was pleasing to see efforts made by the parties to establish appropriate controls following the initial visit by Environmental Regulation staff.

Two notices were served on New Zealand Fish Products Limited for the discharge of offensive and objectionable odours from their Seaview facility. The offences are connected to repeated incidents and complaints from neighbouring businesses. Environmental Regulation staff have worked very hard to respond to complaints, feedback to complainants and investigate the root causes of the odour problems. Recent discussions with the company owner determined that problems were largely related to poor operational practices, and it appears that odour problems have begun to improve.

### **3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

We have four prosecution and two enforcement order proceedings currently underway.

#### **Tonkin and Taylor and Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd<sup>6</sup>**

We are currently discussing the scope of charges laid against Tonkin and Taylor before we are able proceed to the first call over to present the summaries of facts in relation to charges. No hearing date has been set.

#### **Burrell Demolition Ltd<sup>7</sup>**

Not guilty pleas have been entered and Mr Burrell has elected a trial by jury, and the case will now continue to a full hearing. Work continues with Crown solicitors to prepare an indictment against the defendant for trial by jury purposes. No hearing date has been set.

#### **Paddy Hannan, Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Drogue Construction Ltd**

This is a prosecution against the three parties, for breach of an enforcement order relating to the removal of non-cleanfill material from a cleanfill site. Not guilty pleas have been entered, and discussions with Mr Hannan continue to establish whether guilty pleas will be entered on some of the charges. Next call over is on 4 October, and it is possible that a hearing will occur in early November.

#### **Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James / 282 Ohiro Road**

Not guilty pleas have been entered on all charges. The defendant has indicated that the required stormwater control measures will be completed to remedy the risk of ongoing discharges of sediment onto land and into the Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision. Discussions with Mr James continue to establish whether guilty pleas will be entered on some of the charges.

#### **Ohiro Properties Ltd / 318 Ohiro Road<sup>8</sup>**

We have filed for costs in relation to Ohiro Properties the abandoned appeal, and have sought final substantive enforcement orders from the Environment Court. Orders relate to restrictions on vegetation clearance and reinstatement of a small stream which was reclaimed without consent.

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<sup>6</sup> A prosecution of Tonkin and Taylor (Hutt City Council's consultant), and Tenga Pickering Contracting Limited for an unauthorised prolonged discharge from a large sediment pond at Silverstream Landfill, connected with Stage 2 landfill works, that entered Halls Creek and the Hutt River. The discharge occurred in January 2006 during summer low flows.

<sup>7</sup> Prosecution regarding the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington.

<sup>8</sup> Enforcement orders were sought following unauthorised destruction of a small stream in Brooklyn in April 2004.

## **4. Major resource consents and other matters**

### **4.1 Key notified consents update**

#### **Hilton Hotel: Wellington Waterfront Investments**

A decision was released on 19 September to grant applications for a five-star Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions. The hearing committee determined that the adverse effects were not significant enough to decline the applications. A number of modifications were made to the proposal during the hearing to address concerns of our reporting officer and technical advisors to Greater Wellington, including removing low level jetties, making minor changes to design aspects, providing additional detail on building materials to be used and traffic management.

Two important issues – increased wind in public space areas, and impacts on continued berthing at Queens Wharf - outstanding at the end of the hearing were resolved by the hearing committee during deliberations. In both cases the effects were considered to be minor, and the hearing committee determined that long term adverse effects on public access would not be significant while positive effects including short and long term economic benefits would accrue.

Media interest in the decision has been significant with Radio New Zealand, the Dominion Post and One Network News carrying it as significant feature items, along with a range of regional community newspapers. We put considerable effort into our media strategy, and we are pleased with how well we worked to respond to media needs over the days following the decision's release.

The appeal period closes on 12 October.

#### **Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust**

The hearing of the new applications<sup>9</sup> for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand closed on 7 September. Statutory timeframes have been extended to enable the hearing panel sufficient time to consider the range of complex matters associated with these applications. A decision is expected by the middle of October.

#### **Eurocell Sawmilling Limited**

A decision on this application<sup>10</sup> was released on 10 August and no appeals were received. Capital works to install the boiler and equipment to effectively manage the discharge is expected to take some time to complete. However, the consents include conditions requiring the operation of the new boiler and associated discharges of contaminants to air be delayed for two years from the consent grant date.

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<sup>9</sup> Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application including structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations.

<sup>10</sup> This application is for a discharge to air consent associated with the installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill at Park Street, Upper Hutt.

### **Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: WCC/Capacity**

These applications are for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Officer's report is being finalised prior to the 19 October hearing commencement. The hearing is expected to last 2 days.

### **Hutt Valley Waste Water Services**

The Minister of Conservation has approved the applications<sup>11</sup> with no changes to consent conditions. No appeals were lodged.

### **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department**

Five Submissions (including one in opposition, and a petition from local residents in support) were received on applications for gravel extraction in the lower reaches of the Hutt River. Issues concerning NZ Fish and Game Council were resolved by draft conditions which has eliminated the need for a hearing. An Officer's report is being prepared and a decision on the applications is expected by 4 October.

### **Capital and Coast District Health Board**

Three submissions were received for this application<sup>12</sup> with one in opposition. A pre-hearing on 18 August led to issues being resolved for the opposing submitter through draft conditions. With the need for a hearing eliminated, we now await final approval of the draft conditions by the applicant prior to finalising the Officer's report.

### **N & E Reid<sup>13</sup>**

We have assessed the report from Aqualinc Consultants, evaluating the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to receive wastewater effluent, and recently met with the applicant to discuss the report's recommendations.

The applicant is currently considering options including increasing the area of effluent disposal, and a decision on how the processing of the applications will be progressed will be made once the applicant responds to us.

### **Masterton District Council**

Application for managing the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities has been placed on hold for further information. Once information is received, the applications will be notified which we expect will occur in October 2006.

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<sup>11</sup> This application for a renewal of Hutt Valley's discharge of treated and disinfected sewage to wastewater to the coastal marine area, which reached a negotiated agreement with submitters in relation to recommended consent conditions.

<sup>12</sup> This is an application to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital, including the hospital's Total Energy Centre.

<sup>13</sup> These are applications to replace and extend on existing consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air.

### **Prema Investments Ltd**

This is an application for discharging communal wastewater to land arising from a 6 lot subdivision at Whangaimoana. We are waiting for clarification from the applicant regarding off-site discharge effects, before we jointly notify the applications with South Wairarapa District Council<sup>14</sup>.

### **M S Creary, MacLand Farms, E P M Handyside, Rotopai Farms<sup>15</sup>**

Draft consent conditions were approved by NZ Fish and Game Council, the Department of Conservation, and applicants, therefore avoiding a hearing. A decision was released on 15 September.

### **Rathkeale College**

Rathkeale College, north of Masterton, has applied to replace their existing permit to discharge primary treated sewage to a tributary of the Ruamahanga River. The application is to use the current system over the next two years until investigations into a new land-based system have been completed and new applications can be made. The application is being processed on a limited notified basis; however it still possible that in the interim the applicant may eventually gain approvals from the affected parties.

### **M B & H F Herrick**

These are applications for replacement of existing permits to take groundwater from two existing bores at Taumata Island for irrigation purposes, being processed on a limited notified basis. Submissions have been received from Department of Conservation, QE2 Trust, and neighbouring land owners, who have raised concerns regarding the potential impacts on the Taumata Ox-bow reserve.

## **4.2 Take Charge**

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 06.543).

## **4.3 Department integration**

Now that I have been appointed permanently to the Manager's position we are now able to increase efforts to integrate our department across the region. While we continue to develop shared documents and streamline administrative support, I have also commenced work with the Department to confirm a department structure and determine options for refining our roles and responsibilities. It will be critical that the new structure will ensure we are able to deliver a quality product and service to our customers across the region.

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<sup>14</sup> Expected to be notified jointly with South Wairarapa District Council.

<sup>15</sup> These are replacement applications for taking water from the Ruamahanga River being processed on a limited notified basis.



#### 4.4 Staff issues

Howard Markland, the Department's Pollution Control Team Leader, has taken up his new role as the Division's Special Projects Coordinator. Howard has made an outstanding contribution to the Pollution Control team in his four years with Greater Wellington, including driving more efficient programme delivery and the introduction of improved processes and procedures to support the team's functioning. I will miss Howard's expertise, precision and systematic and analytical approach, although Environmental Regulation's loss is the Division's overall gain - and we wish him all the best in his new role. I have appointed Nic Conland as Acting Team Leader in the interim. Nic has been with the team for several years and will capably fill the gap left by Howard.

Tamsin Mitchell, a Senior Resource Advisor with the Wellington Consents and Compliance team, has taken up the Air Quality Scientist position in Environmental Monitoring and Investigations. This is an excellent move for Tamsin, who has become one of the Division's leading exponents in Air Quality issues in recent times leading our work in implementing the NES for Air. Tamsin has been with Greater Wellington for nine years, processing some very significant consents and in recent years providing overall leadership and an immense contribution to our best practice and quality management system work.

Jeanette Gibbons, a Resource Advisor in the Wellington team, has left the organisation for a senior monitoring officer role with the Ministry of Fisheries, and we wish her well.

Meanwhile, Miranda Robinson continues to act in my former Team Leader position in the Wellington Consents and Compliance team

We are currently interviewing for the vacant Pollution Control Officer and Resource Advisor positions, and I expect to soon advertise both the team leader positions.

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
Masterton District Council	To construct a sea wall at Castlepoint.	02/06/04	09/07/04	10	-	14-15 March 2005	Cr Chris Turver Aka Arthur (Iwi) Dr Michael Hilton (Minister's appointee)	11/04/05	Granted – Under appeal
LARO / Flood Protection	To relocate a stopbank and extend the bed of the Ruamahanga River, South Wairarapa.	16/08/04	29/09/04	3	09/12/04	23/03/05	Christine Foster	02/05/05	Granted – Under appeal
A E & S W Benton Partnership	To take groundwater from two bores for irrigation purposes, Battersea, South Wairarapa.	09/12/04	09/02/05	9	17/03/05	11/10/05	Christine Foster Tony Cussins	09/03/06	Declined – Under appeal
Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd	To discharge contaminants from communal wastewater system to land and air arising from 30 lot subdivision.	04/02/05	19/05/05	22	-	2-3 November 2005	Paul Thomas Roger Land	14/12/05	Granted – Under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre <sup>216</sup>	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point, Wellington.	02/05/06	07/06/05	Approx 9000	-	Commenced on 8 August, completed 7 September 2006. (approx. 13 day hearing)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	-	-

<sup>16</sup> This application will be heard jointly with the 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
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	02/07/05	3	06/09/05	All parties have signed off on draft conditions. New conditions being considered by Deliberations Committee. RCA will then require Minister of Conservation's consideration for approval.	Deliberations Committee: Glen Evans Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	Recommendation received from Minister of Conservation. Appeal period ends 25 August	Granted
N & E Reid	To discharge of piggery effluent to land, Carterton.	30/06/05	16/02/06	29	13/03/06	-	-	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited <sup>17</sup>	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal, Makara.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000+	-	September to November 2005.	Jim Lynch David McMahon	21/12/05	Granted – under appeal
Waterfront Investments Ltd	'Hilton Hotel' building and public space proposal, Queens Wharf, Wellington.	23/12/05	27/02/06	Approx 1000	-	Hearing commenced on 3 July, adjourned on 31 July, and closed 8 Aug.	Cr Chris Turver Cr Chris Laidlaw David McMahon Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	19/09/06 Appeal period ends 12 October	
Eurocell Sawmilling Limited	Installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill, Upper Hutt.	15/02/06	26/04/06	59	09/05/06	Hearing held on 18, 19 and 28 July.	Cr Sally Baber Cr Glen Evans Cr Terry McDavitt	10/08/06.	Granted – no appeals

<sup>17</sup> 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
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western WWTP, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Hearing to commence on 19 October (2 days)	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	-	-
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To extract gravel from Hutt River for flood protection purposes.	15/06/06	26/07/06	5	-	No hearing required.		4/10/06 Appeal period ends 26 October	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fire boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.		-	-
Dulux NZ Ltd (Limited Notification)	To discharge contaminants, including particulates and volatile compounds, to air associated with paint manufacturing, Seaview.	30/11/05	26/6/06	2	-	Submissions in support. Did not wish to be heard.	-	14/08/06	Granted – no appeals
M B & H F Herrick	Replacement consent application to take groundwater for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	-	-	-	-	-
Rathkeale College	To discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River, Rathkeale College, Landsdowne, Masterton.	31/05/06	2/10/06	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Mike Pryce**  
**Manager, Harbours**

## **Harbours Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. Harbour navigation aids**

- The Barrett Reef buoy mooring chain was re-secured on 7 September.
- An upgraded webcam was fitted at Beacon Hill on 6 September.
- All navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

### **2. Oil pollution**

Four reports of “oil pollution” were reported in the period but none required any response.

A Regional Oil Spill Support Group meeting was held on 21 September.

Four GW staff members attended the Field Operations (Marine Oil Pollution Response) Course in Auckland during September.

### **3. Other Activities**

Paula Charlesworth is a new Beacon Hill Communications Officer who started on 17 September.

### **3. Port & Harbour Safety Code - update**

Risk assessments have been approved for Marlborough Sounds, Westport, Taranaki, Whangarei, Wellington and Napier. Risk assessments are still to be submitted for Nelson, Tauranga and Otago. All the others have been submitted and evaluated and Maritime New Zealand are waiting for them to be finalised (except for Timaru which they are reviewing currently).

Safety Management Systems (SMS) plans have been received from Marlborough Sounds, Westport, Taranaki and Environment Waikato (non-pilotage areas). Evaluations have been completed for most of these. None has been approved as yet; this will not happen until after the approval process is discussed at the National Advisory Committee meeting on 25 October 2006.

Harbours have held three meetings with John Morrison (Special Projects Engineer) regarding the Beacon Hill Signal Station upgrade.

**Rian van Schalkwyk**  
**Manager, Emergency Management**

## **Emergency Management Department Report – October 2006**

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### **1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

#### **1.1 Exercise ‘Capital Quake’**

The planning for this exercise is progressing well. Twenty-seven different functions (ranging from urban search and rescue, health, sanitation, restoration of lifeline services, welfare, treatment and movement of the injured, international assistance, national financial arrangements, fuel supply, etc.) will be exercised.

Exercise Capital Quake is clearly a very important means of reviewing and renewing interest in the serious problem of New Zealand’s all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington.

The major advantage for all participating agencies is to understand and practice the respective roles and responsibilities of local, regional and national agencies in response to the exercise scenario and what the connections are between local, regional, national and international agencies.

Another advantage for participating agencies is the amount of planning, relationship building and preparation work to have staff, business continuity plans, operating procedures and operations’ centres effectively in place before the exercise itself. This lead up time avails itself as an opportunity to identify obvious gaps in emergency preparedness and to address serious shortfalls.

#### **1.2 Disposal of sewage during disasters**

The Co-coordinating Executive Group requested the CDEM Group Officers to consider how best to deal with the disposal of sewage following a major emergency. This project was not outlined in the work programmes named in the CDEM Group Plan, but a start was made towards the end of 2005.

The project is being carried out in two stages:

- Stage 1 – identifying all the planning issues associated with the disposal of sewage during a disaster, and mapping out the actual disposal process. This also includes establishing specific preparatory measures that Territorial

Authorities (waste water asset managers and emergency managers) will need to implement prior to an event.

- Stage 2 – focussing on the key messages (pre-event and post-event) to be communicated to the community via stakeholder organisations.

The project is overseen by a steering group which comprises utility managers and emergency managers from each of the Local Authorities in the Region. Representatives from Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team, Capacity Water, and various waste treatment companies are also included at key stages of the project.

The group has focussed on the three key stages of the disposal chain, namely household/facility containerisation and initial storage, collection from households/facilities, and disposal by territorial authorities and/or contractors.

The work that has been undertaken thus far identified the various physical process elements involved with disposing of sewage during and subsequent to a disaster event, along with the many associated information needs.

However, more work needs to be carried out, especially regarding Stage 2 of the project. This will include:

- A generic Response Plan to clarify post-earthquake roles and responsibilities between Asset Managers, Emergency Managers and contractors (as applicable)
- A Logistics Plan to develop the *containerisation, collection* and *disposal* strategy and logistics for mass assembly/ critical facilities
- An Information Strategy and content to develop the level of detail where printing of some elements can be undertaken (including a Fact Sheet), as well as material for public display.

### **1.3 2006 Community Preparedness Survey**

Greater Wellington has appointed Peter Glen Research in 2004 to carry out a region-wide community preparedness survey. Follow-up surveys were carried out in 2005 and 2006.

The 2006 survey has revealed that residents of the greater Wellington Region continue to have widespread awareness of the major hazards that could affect their region.

The incidence of emergency supplies in the home is steadily increasing; however, there still remains a significant gap between those that consider themselves *informed*, and those who consider themselves *prepared*. It will be important to continue to address this shortfall.

- 70% of respondents claim to have emergency food supplies (up from 65% in 2005 and 61% in 2004).

- 71% of respondents claim to have emergency water supplies (up from 69% in 2005 and 68% in 2004).
- 75% of respondents claim to have other emergency supplies and equipment (e.g. torch, radio etc) (up from 69% in 2005 and 2004).
- A disappointing 27% of respondents claim to have an emergency plan for their household (up from 26% in 2005 and down from 31% in 2004). In most cases, the household emergency plan is a verbal agreement rather than a written document.

The full survey report may be obtained from the Wellington Region CDEM Group Office.

#### **1.4 Public Education Initiatives**

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risks and the Act itself (s.17 (1) (a) (g)).

Several initiatives are underway, for example emergency management information in Greater Wellington's 'Elements' newsletter, the Yellow Pages, the development of posters, flyers, booklets (e.g. Are you Ready?), hazard fact sheets, household emergency plans, etc.

The Group website continues to be an important mechanism for getting the civil defence emergency management messages across to the public. The site contains information on risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery in an emergency.

Public awareness and preparedness campaigns - the CDEM Group, in conjunction with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM), is running a campaign during Disaster Awareness Week (from 9-15 October 2006).

The Wellington CDEM Group will stage an interactive display for morning rush hour commuters at the Wellington Railway Station on Disaster Reduction Day (Wednesday 11 October). The Emergency Services, MCDEM and New Zealand Red Cross will also be taking part.

The MCDEM television campaign, '*Get Ready to Get Thru*', provides the basis for this year's campaign and the Wellington CDEM Group is supporting this message. Peter Elliott, the presenter of the television campaign, and the Victoria University Rescue Team will provide the focal point for media coverage, whilst a number of displays, including the mobile Group Emergency Operations Centre, will provide literature, information and advice on how to be prepared for a disaster.

The Group Office will also be using the mobile Group Emergency Operations Centre at North City Plaza and Thorndon New World to distribute household



emergency plans and related information to the public on Disaster Reduction Day.

The Wellington Region CDEM Group joins The Earthquake Commission and Te Papa in 'The Earth Rocks' - an earthquake-related extravaganza to be held at Te Papa over Labour weekend (21-23 October 2006).

The Earth Rocks is an action-packed, informative, and fun weekend of earthquake-related activities and displays. Visitors will be entertained by 'Cocksy', New Zealand's favourite DIY man and Suzy Cato (children's TV presenter).

Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with several Territorial Authorities and Regional Public Health will provide a static display of promotional material and represent the Wellington Region CDEM Group.

## **1.5 Pandemic Planning**

A great deal of work on pandemic planning across the Health and CDEM sectors has occurred over the last 12 months, with extensive involvement from numerous other agencies.

In the Wellington Region, it is estimated that 179,000 people will become ill, 89,750 people will need GP referrals, 10,830 people will require admission to hospital and 3,610 people will die.

Social distancing, significant absenteeism and disruption to normal living activities may become commonplace.

The majority of Territorial Authorities have completed or are in the process of completing risk reduction activities aimed specifically at the Council level (e.g. informing staff, identifying essential services, developing hygienic habits, etc).

Risk reduction activities for communities such as estimating impacts of populations, engaging in food supply continuity planning and advising communities are in progress for most Territorial Authorities.

There is more work still to be done around identifying public buildings that may be closed, developing back-up suppliers and developing contingency funds.

All Territorial Authorities have been engaged with readiness activities such as updating their Business Continuity Plans and most are developing Human Resource policies and infection control procedures.

Planning is currently underway in readiness for communities, where Territorial Authorities are identifying community facilities to support health, working with volunteer organisations, training emergency operations centre staff and communicating with the general public.

None of the Territorial Authorities have exercised their plans. However, this will be addressed through the Ministry of Health's exercise programme that will trial New Zealand's capability and capacity to respond to a pandemic.

## **2. Environment**

### **2.1 Earthquake Reports:**

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 30 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. The following earthquake was felt in the Wellington Region:

Sep 23 2006 **Mag:** 3.8 **Depth:** 30 km *20 km south-west of Paraparaumu,*

Sep 15 2006 **Mag:** 5.0 **Depth:** 50 km *40 km west of Paraparaumu*

Sep 13 2006 **Mag:** 4.2 **Depth:** 90 km *20 km north-east of Nelson*

Sep 06 2006 **Mag:** 3.4 **Depth:** 40 km *30 km west of Wellington*

### **2.2 Special Weather Bulletins**

Two weather events occurred in August and one in September (up to 19 September) during which we have received thirteen Special Weather Bulletins (six for heavy rain, one for strong wind and six for heavy snow). All the relevant agencies were notified in time. Several slips have occurred causing damage to houses and road infrastructure.

### **2.3 Communications**

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out and the system is functioning well.

Richard Waddy  
Manager, Environmental Support

## Financial Position: 31 August 2006

### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the year ended 31 August 2006.

<b><u>Environment Division</u></b>				
<b><u>Summary Income Statement</u></b>				
<b><u>For the Year Ended 31 August 2006</u></b>				
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b>Full Year</b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>
Rates	1,614	1,614	--	9,686
Other Revenue	196	319	123 U	2,033
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>123 U</b>	<b>11,719</b>
<b>Less:</b>				
Direct Expenditure	1,457	1,669	212 F	10,410
Indirect Expenditure	247	271	24 F	1,581
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>236 F</b>	<b>11,991</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>113 F</b>	<b>(272)</b>

### 2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$106,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$7,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$113,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$123,000, and lower than expected expenditure of \$236,000.

### 3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$1,810,000 is some \$123,000 less than our budget target of \$1,933,000.

- Most of the revenue shortfall arises from notified consents at various stages of completion. The Queen's Wharf Hilton Hotel consent application, the largest of these, was granted in September. In addition, the consent applications for the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau will be completed soon.

### 4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$1,704,000 is some \$236,000 (or 12%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were under budget by \$63,000.

Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. With the restructure almost complete, and key management appointments made, we expect that the above saving will reduce as the year progresses.

- **Materials, Supplies and Services** costs are \$58,000 less than budget.

The overall spend is presently behind our budget at this time. However, we consider that this underspend is temporary, as the major projects are implemented the situation will reverse.

- **Internal charges** were lower than budget by \$46,000.

Most of the underspend arises from a reduced call for work for consent monitoring from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation. As these transactions are mainly within the Division (both revenue and spend) the overall effect is nil.

### 5. Capital Expenditure

The groundwater model project, the major capital item (total \$200,000) planned for the Wairarapa is slightly behind. We expect that any shortfall in the present spend will be made up in the coming months.