

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environmental Education

Environmental Education Department Report – June 2007

1. *Take Action*

1.1 Environmental projects by term one and two schools

The schools that have been working on *Take Action* in the first two terms are continuing their work to implement environmental changes. Queen Margaret students have prepared a script for a radio advertisement with help from our Communications Department. They have done a waste audit and are trialling a recycling scheme in the junior and middle classes. At Canon's Creek school, the planting of a māori medicinal community garden has gone ahead.

St Patrick's School (Masterton) students have completed a clean up of their school stream and are working on an extension for their worm farm. They are investigating options for collecting rainwater from the roof to water the school's garden. They will undertake planting with the Henley Lake care group next term.

At Wainuioru, this school of around 50 pupils is taking a very active approach. The students have created a compost heap for their organic waste and are working on a worm farm as well. Part of the grounds has been set aside for an organic garden with the aim of eventually selling the produce at the Masterton Farmers Market in the spring. We have set up a shade house on site with the intention being that the school will join the Trees for Survival programme when a sponsor can be found. Students are collecting seed from a nearby location to be propagated in the shade house and eventually replanted in the bush from which it came.

Lakeview School is also planning to help the Henley Lake wetland care group with its work. A planting day is planned for Conservation Week in August. Classes have tested the water quality of the streams entering and leaving Henley Lake and as a result now have a really good idea of what is happening. They plan to follow this up with the local council to see if the water quality of the stream flowing across their grounds can be improved.

Teachers and pupils of Strathmore School are keen to implement recycling and composting and have carried out a waste audit to kick start this initiative. St Michael's School is also taking a waste theme. Students went on tour looking at waste issues with Hutt City Council, which includes a visit to the Silverstream landfill. This fits in with their testing of Hull's creek as part of their trail

investigations. The school intends to work with the Hull's creek care group on the restoration of this stream in the third term.

Wadestown School students have just completed their trails at the Karori Sanctuary and will soon be investigating a degraded stream near their school. Cardinal McKeefry School is in a similar position. Kenakena, Muritai, and St Brigid's schools are all still at an early stage and have not yet turned their attention to the active phase and their restoration projects.

At Chanel College there are plans to reinstate the school's shade house to grow on seedlings to plant alongside the school stream.

St Bernadette's School trialled the *Take Action for Air* programme in 2006. Subsequently, the students have undertaken an energy audit and established a competition for the most energy efficient class to be decided each term. The students are working on acquiring a solar panel and also plan to apply for a Silver Enviroschools award (a brief DVD on this school's achievements will be shown to the Committee).

1.2 New waste resource

Work has nearly been completed on our new "how to" guide for teachers on waste (including recycling, composting, and worm farming). This will be placed on the *Take Action* web pages. The resource has been welcomed by teachers who have trialled it and we are discussing with Masterton and Carterton District Councils how it can be used as part of their Communities for Climate Change programmes.

1.3 Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum

This event brings teenagers from across New Zealand to Wellington to discuss environmental issues and meet key decision makers and influencers. Delegates spend a week participating in community projects, voicing their opinions on environmental issues and learning first hand about environmental management. We are running a process to select three representatives from the Wellington region.

2. Business sustainability

2.1 Office waste reduction

The office waste reduction trial in six Wellington office tower blocks is drawing to a close. Approximately 35 businesses are participating in the trial which we are running in association with Wellington City Council. The stage has been reached where the buildings are undergoing final waste audits (three have been completed thus far) and negotiations are underway to try to make waste reduction and recycling a permanent arrangement. A full report will be compiled at the conclusion of this project.

2.2 Get Sustainable Challenge

At last count 25 businesses had entered this year's Get Sustainable Challenge, with a month yet to go. Last year 27 businesses took part. Twenty of this year's participants are "new" businesses which have not been involved in the Challenge before and 15 of these are new to the Sustainable Business Network. This is a positive outcome as one of our aims in sponsoring the Challenge is to identify businesses interested in sustainability and link them to systems and people to help them make progress. Firms that enter are assessed for the awards and gain access to a range of programmes and resources, provided by the Sustainable Business Network, to help them become more sustainable.

3. Green Ribbon Awards

The national Green Ribbon Awards, made by the Ministry for the Environment, recognise people and organisations making a difference to the environment. This year, Greater Wellington took a slightly different approach and nominated two initiatives of this organisation, namely the Muddy Waters Campaign and the stormwater delegations to territorial authorities. The awards were announced on World Environment Day (June 6th) but the Council's nominations were unsuccessful. Winning initiatives included the outstanding Maungatautari and Karori Sanctuary projects, Invercargill's New River Estuary Landfill restoration, the Wa\$ted television programme, and a care group on the Uretara Estuary (at Katikati).

Murray McLea
Acting Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – June 2007

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Policy Statement review

The last of six workshops with Councillors on the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) was held on 22 May 2007. At this workshop, staff presented the new approach to methods and “non-regulatory” policies, in response to concerns raised by Councillors at earlier workshops. Staff also updated Councillors on the provisions that have been changed. The approach that is being developed for an introductory section of the RPS to integrate, and provide an overview of provisions was also discussed.

Having achieved a level of comfort with the draft provisions, these have now been made publicly available and comments sought from a wide range of interested parties. On Friday 8 June the second RPS newsletter, with a summary of the draft provisions, was sent to a number of individuals and organisations. Greater Wellington’s website was also updated with further information, including full copies of the draft provisions. A complete set of draft provisions were also sent to Mayors and staff of all city and district councils in the region, Ara Tahi members and key stakeholders. During June and early July, Crs Chris Turver and Sally Baber are visiting each city and district council in the region, to raise awareness of the draft RPS provisions with councillors, and encourage their feedback.

Comments on the draft RPS will be received through to mid-July. Once received and assessed, staff will report back to Council on comments and recommended changes at a workshop(s) in August this year. Staff will then prepare a proposed RPS to be reported to the September 2007 meeting of the Policy, Strategy and Finance Committee for approval to publicly notify.

1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities. It was notified on 19 December 2006 and public submissions closed on 26 February 2007. A summary of submissions was then publicly notified and further submissions closed on 18

April 2007. There were 8 submitters on the plan changes. Two submitters made further submissions.

This plan change is being done jointly with Wellington City. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs. The end result will provide for port noise management that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries. A joint hearing will be held on 2 July 2007. A report on the order paper for this meeting of the Environment Committee makes recommendations on the people to be on the Hearing Committee.

1.3 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007 following approval to release the document by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. The plan change was advertised in newspapers and sent to affected consent holders and other interested people. The period for submissions on the plan change closes on 29 June 2007.

2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

2.1 Waiwhetu Project

A letter has been received from the Ministry for the Environment with a formal offer of \$2.4 million (over two years) for the clean up of contaminated sediments in the Waiwhetu Stream. This is 40% of the \$6 million needed for restoration of the stream.

2.2 Biodiversity voluntary change research programme (Ohariu study)

Dr Pamela Kaval presented her report the *Willingness-to-pay (WTP) contingent Valuation method and Applications to Environmental and Biodiversity Policy* to interested people, including GW councillors, at two meetings in April. The survey has been extended to include Wairarapa residents but the interim results showed that people value native plants and birds in the areas they live and are willing to pay for increasing the numbers of them.

Tim Porteous, Kirsten Forsyth and Megan Banks (Land Management) hosted the second Wellington meeting of the participants of the national biodiversity project on voluntary change policies in May. Staff from Environment Bay of Plenty and AgResearch reviewed the progress of the work so far.

The second event for the Ohariu community took place on 7 June. Greater Wellington and AgResearch hosted a farm field day on a farm in Ohariu

Valley. Local farmers came to talk about approaches that can be taken on farms to incorporate biodiversity aims into farm production. Another event will held in September.

2.3 Wetland Action Plan

The review of the *Wetland Incentive Programme* is going well with the return of approximately half of the questionnaires for the landowners. Almost all the landowners were very supportive of the programme and how it has helped them develop and achieve the active management of wetlands on their property. A few respondents were not so supportive but these were people who wanted to dig up wetland areas to create ponds for water fowl and were disappointed when they were advised such activities required a resource consent. It was apparent that a very high standard of advice has been given to all people that have been involved with the programme.

2.4 Freshwater Ecosystems Programme

Resource consent has now been obtained for a fish pass at Hulls Creek. Construction of the pass is planned for July, provided we get suitable weather during the month. Like other fish passes that we have built, this one is a joint exercise. The Silverstream Care Group have obtained funding from central governments Sustainable Management Fund, which is contributing significantly to the project.

This year we commissioned a hydrological investigation of how the Pencarrow Lakes are linked to the sea because there were concerns about whether there was adequate fish passage through the existing culverts. Both lakes and their catchments have valuable native fish habitats. The modelling work showed that the outlet of Lake Kohangatera is not really an issue, but there may be some problems with the current functioning of the culverts out of Lake Kohangapiripiri.

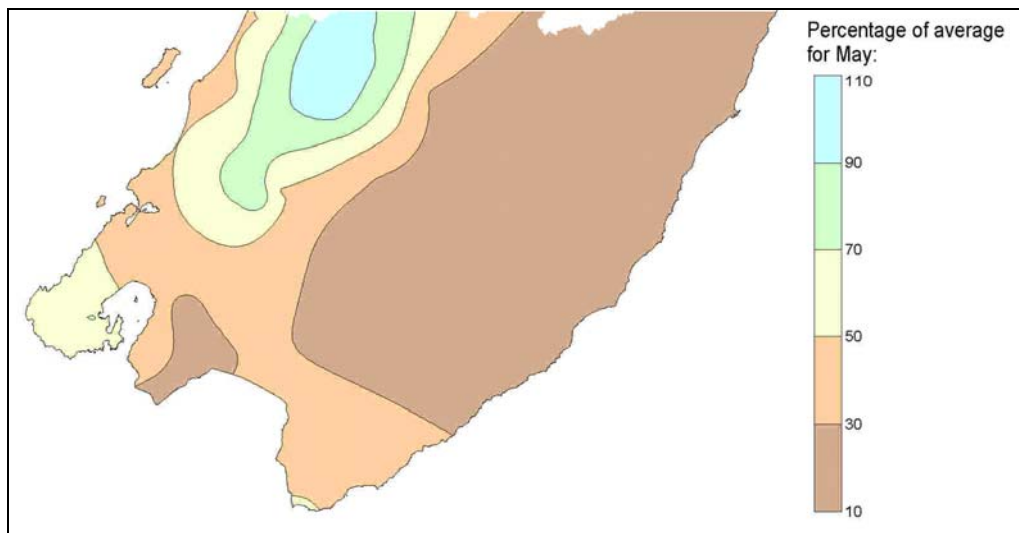
Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – June 2007

1. Rainfall and River Flows

1.1 Rainfall

May 2007 was an unusually warm and dry month. Depressions ('lows') were much more frequent than normal south of Australia, while anticyclones ('highs') were more frequent than normal to the east of the North Island. This pattern produced more frequent northwesterlies than usual over much of New Zealand, the strongest and most frequent for May since 1990. Rainfall for the month was therefore very low for the time of the year. In fact, the western Tararua Range was the only part of the region that received an about-average rainfall total for the month; all other parts of the region had rainfall significantly below normal. The Wairarapa plains and Eastern Wairarapa were particularly dry, with rainfall as low as 10-15% of the long-term average for May in places.



Rainfall during May 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for May

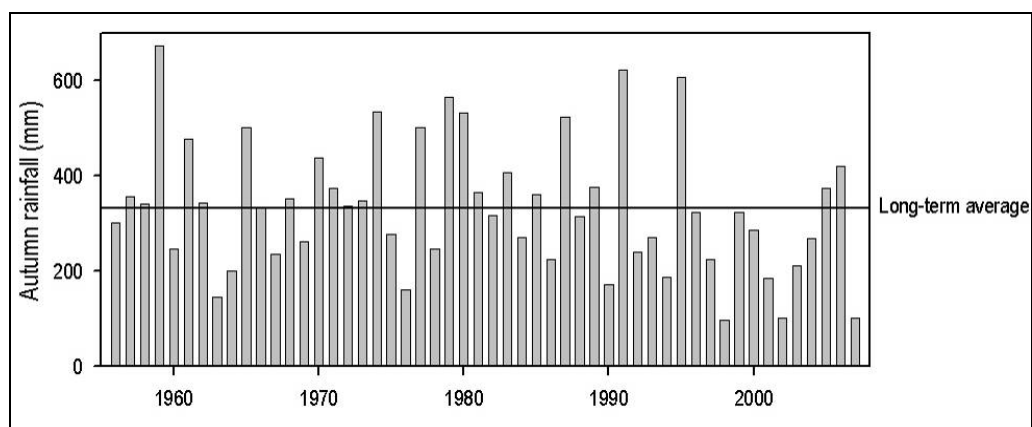
Although Wellington city had below average rainfall for the month of May, a notable rainfall event occurred over the city on the morning of 2 May 2007 resulting in flooding of the Regional Council Centre ground floor. A localised downpour between about 5 am and 6 am had a maximum intensity of about 60 mm per hour. In total, between midnight and about 6 am there was 57.2 mm

at Karori Reservoir and 47.6 mm at Regional Council Centre. This is the third heaviest rainfall event (for all durations up to 6 hours) since the Regional Council Centre gauge was installed in 1996. The estimated annual exceedance probability is 20%, which equates to an estimated return period of five years.

The low rainfall in most of the region during May completes a dry autumn and 2006/07 summer. Rainfall totals for 2007 to date are well below average. Eastern Wairarapa has been the driest place, relative to 'normal', with rainfall for 2007 to the end of May at around one-third of the long-term average. The autumn rainfall in Eastern Wairarapa (101 mm at Tanawa Hut) was the lowest since the autumn of 1998 when there was 98 mm. However, 1998, 2007 and 2002 have the three lowest autumn rainfall totals since records began in 1956.

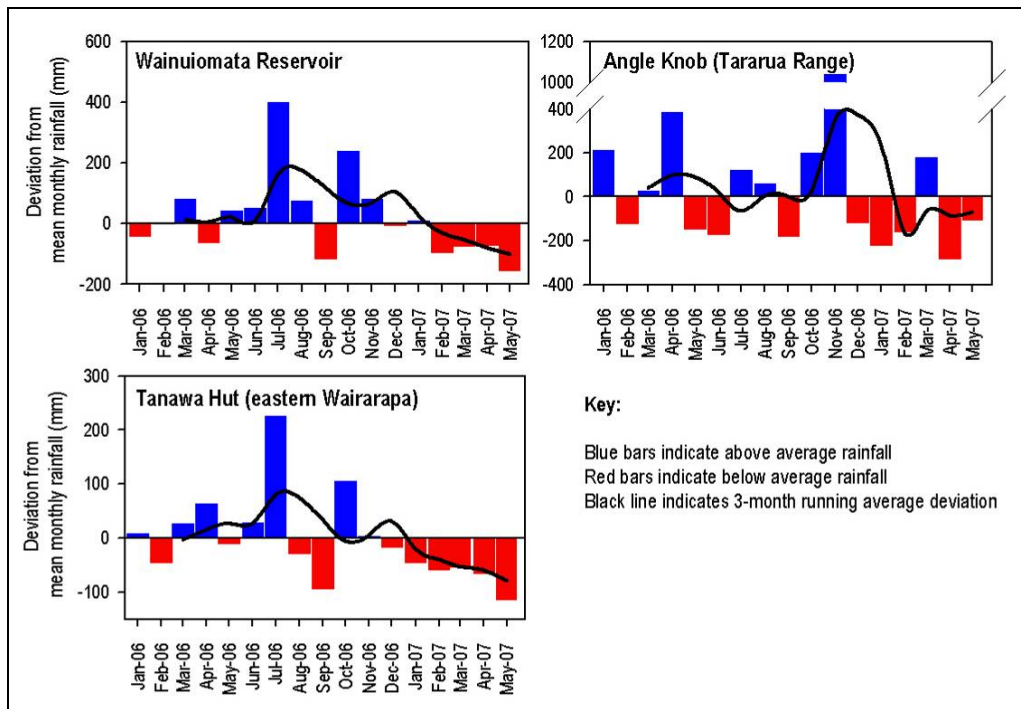
Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for May 2007 and 2007 to date, compared to average

	May 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for May (mm)	2007 to date (mm)	Average year to end May (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for year to date
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	43.5	85	226	368	61%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	70.4	121	295	461	64%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	52.5	209	312	698	45%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	500.5	609	1768	2389	74%
Alloa (Featherston)	19.6	97	190	391	49%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	15.5	131	140	479	29%



Autumn (March to May) rainfall totals at Tanawa Hut in Eastern Wairarapa, 1956-2007

Although the longer term climate pattern has fluctuated between wetter and drier than normal months over the last year, the rainfall during May has continued a recent trend of below average rainfall. The running average 3-month rainfall deficit remains negative (indicating that, in the medium term, we are in a drier than average phase).



Monthly rainfall deviation from average at key monitoring locations

1.2 Rivers

Average river flows for May 2007 remained significantly below the long-term average for the time of the year, due to the low rainfall and low baseflows.

May 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow May 2007	Long-term average for May	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	2.17 m ³ /s	4.15 m ³ /s	52%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	11.68 m ³ /s	22.5 m ³ /s	52%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.34 m ³ /s	0.87 m ³ /s	39%
Waiohine River at Gorge	18.7 m ³ /s	24.2 m ³ /s	77%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	38.1 m ³ /s	79.5 m ³ /s	48%

2. Floodwarning

The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the 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.

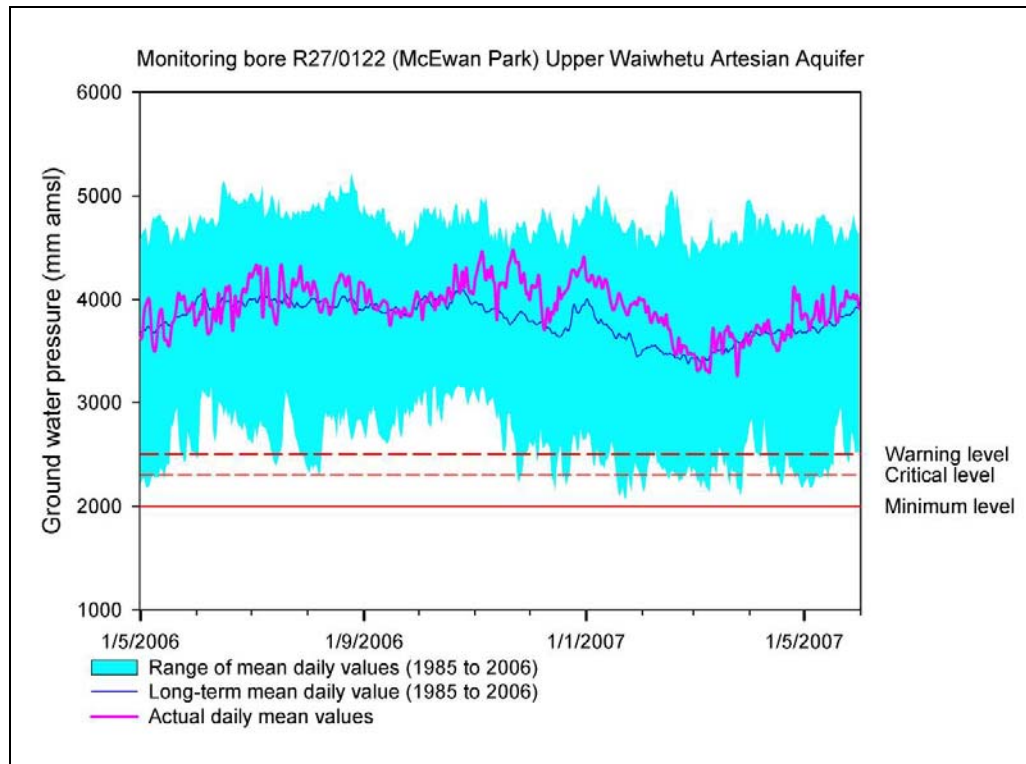
There were no flood events in May.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for 16 days in May. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above the winter target level of 9.95metres during all of the month.

3. Groundwater levels

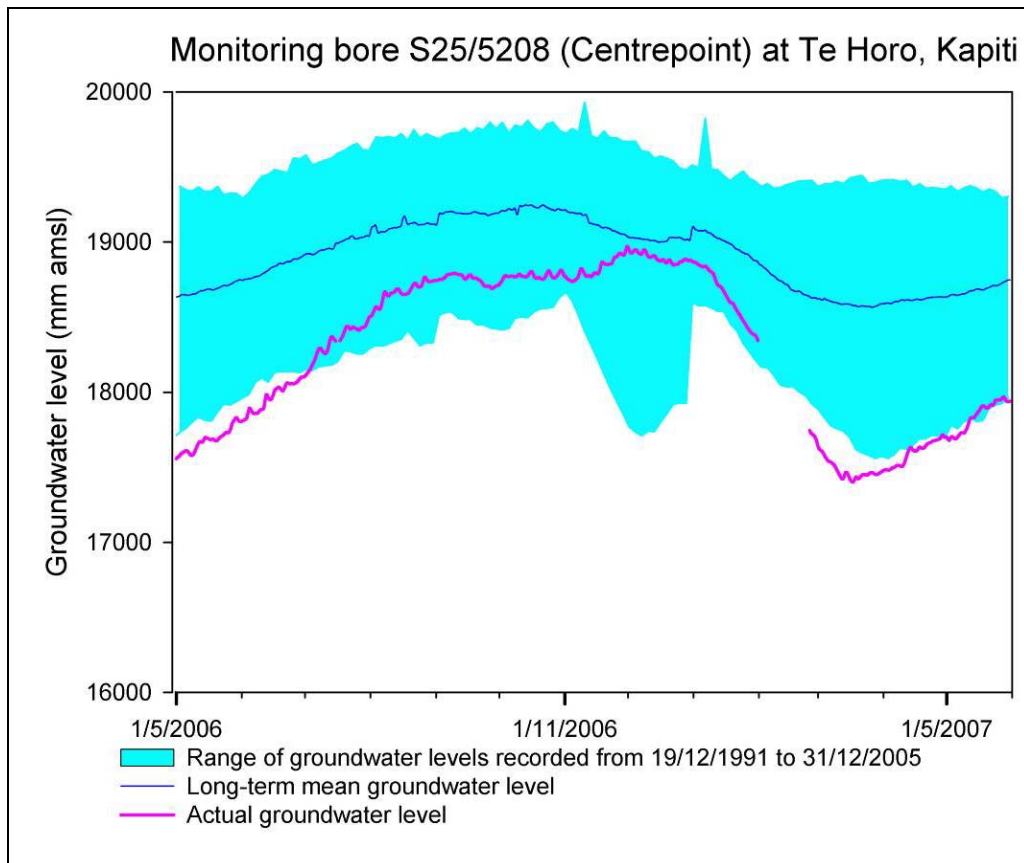
3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the Upper Waiwhetu Artesian aquifer are at their long-term average for this time of year. The levels are well above the trigger levels for saline intrusion.

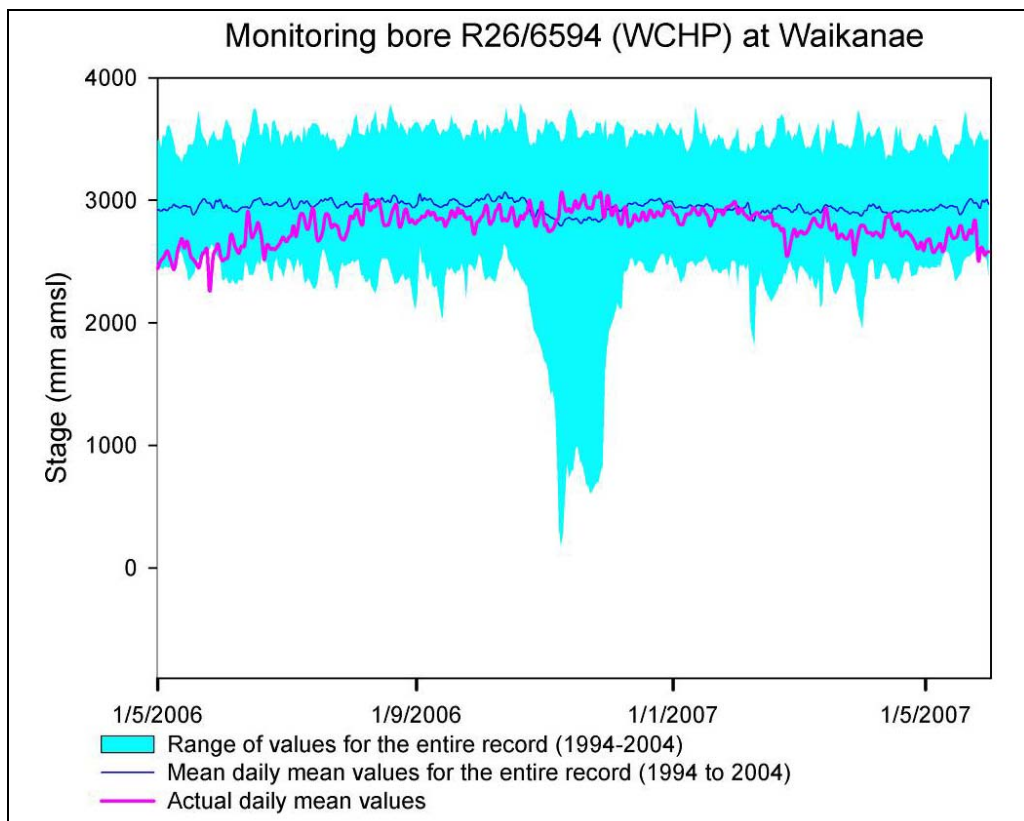


3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels at our monitoring bore S25/5208 in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast are close to the long-term minimum for this time of year. Levels in Te Horo have been below the long-term average for almost two years now – possibly a reflection of low winter recharge in the past few years.

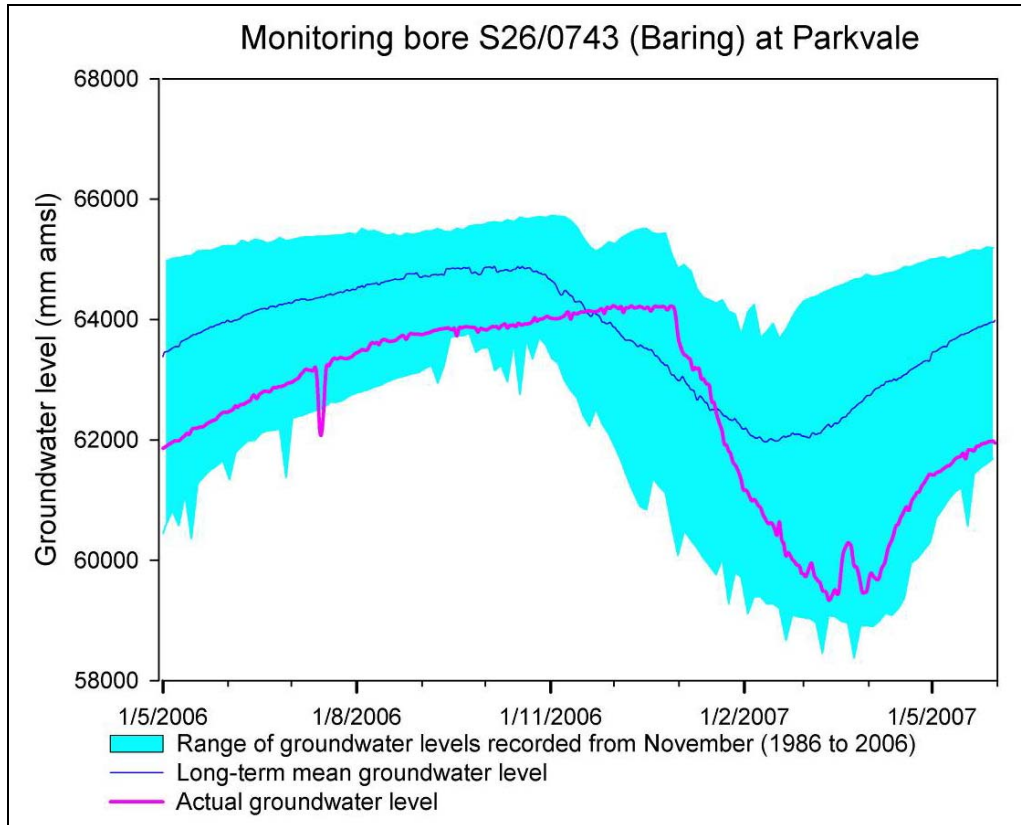


Groundwater levels in our deep confined monitoring bore R26/6594 in Waikanae are below long-term average levels for this time of year. This could reflect minor use of the KCDC well field over summer

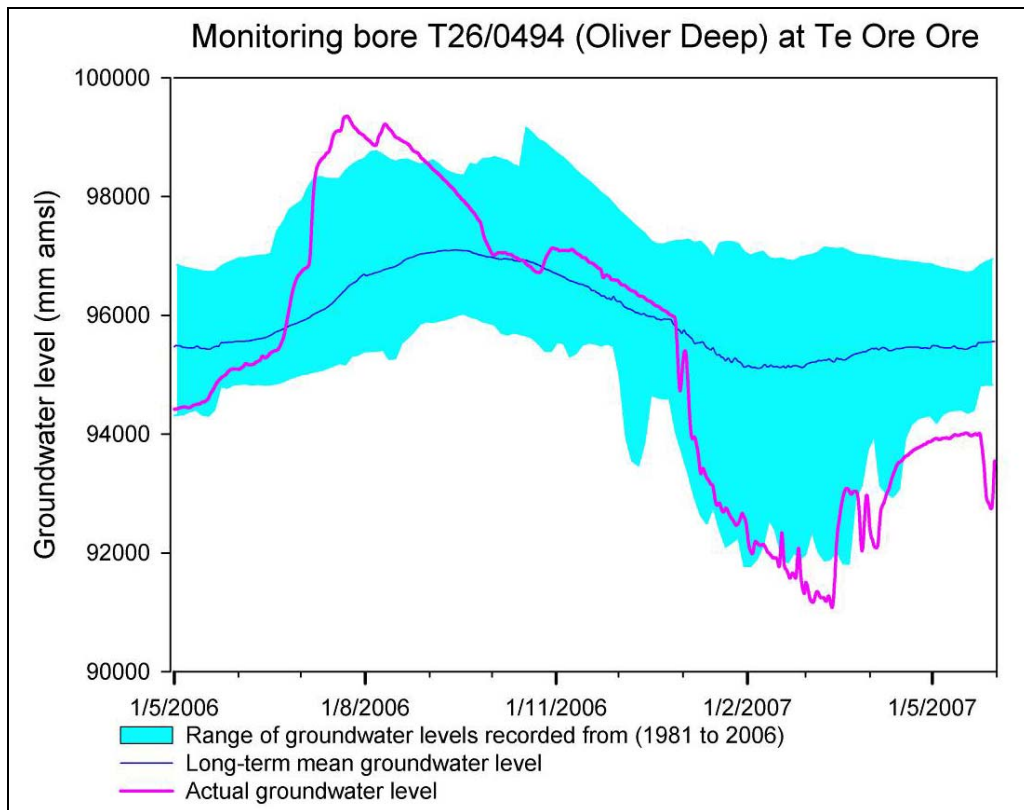


3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

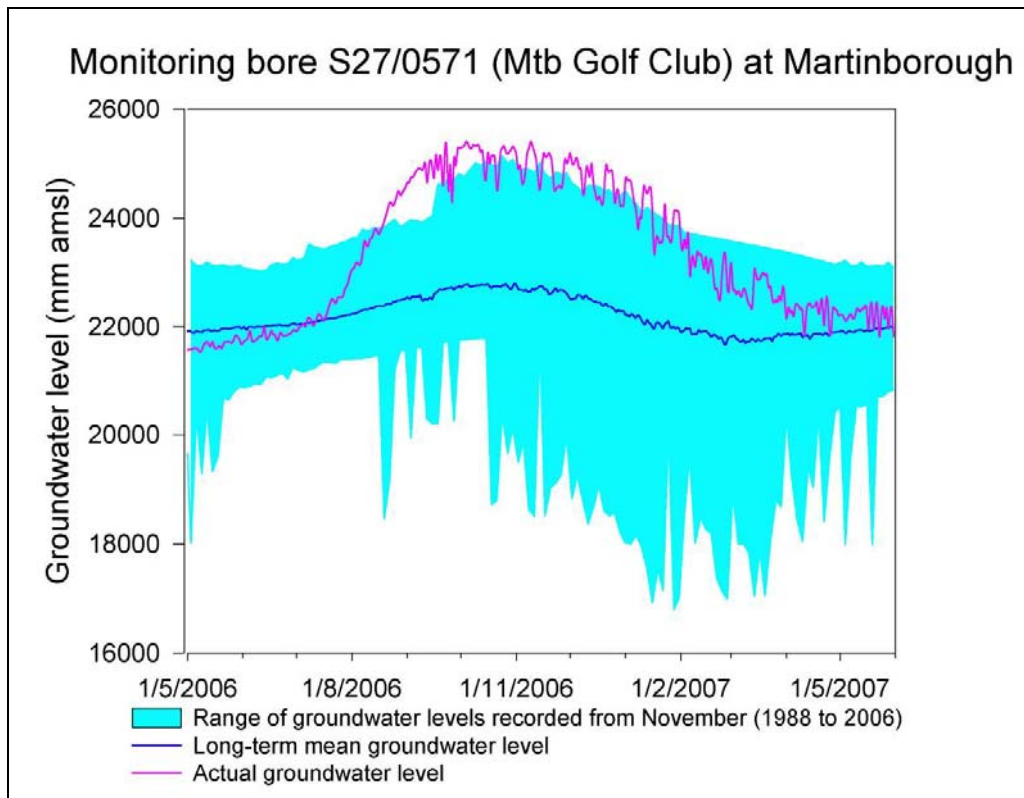
At our monitoring bore S26/0743 in the deep, confined rainfall-recharged Parkvale aquifer levels are still below the long-term median for May, but are tracking above the long-term minimum.



In the mixed rainfall/river recharged Te Ore Ore aquifer, the levels at our monitoring bore T26/0494 have been at long-term minimum levels since summer. This is a reflection of high irrigation demand, low river levels and low rainfall.



Water levels in our monitoring bore S27/0571 in the rainfall recharged, semi confined Martinborough aquifer are around the long term mean for this time of year.



3.4 Groundwater investigations

3.4.1 Sentinel wells

Good progress is being made on the installation and commissioning of the three additional sentinel bores on the Petone foreshore. These are to detect any saline intrusion into the Waiwhetu aquifer.

4. Instream flow assessment

The continued settled weather and low river flows during May has allowed us to progress the instream flow assessment investigations this season more than we might have expected.

Field work to determine whether the current minimum flow for the Lower Ruamahanga River is appropriate has been largely completed.

5. Air quality monitoring

5.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in May in any of the region's monitored airsheds. However, fine particle concentrations in the Wairarapa airshed, as measured at Wairarapa college in Masterton, have reached the low 40s (limit $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a 24 hour mean) on a couple of occasions in the month reflecting cooler temperatures and the seasonal use of fires for home heating.

5.2 Karori air quality monitoring station

A new air quality monitoring station has been installed in Karori Park, Wellington to assess local air quality in Karori – a suburban area suspected to be degraded at times by pollutants from domestic fires and vehicles.

The station will measure fine particle (PM_{10}), carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide levels in outdoor air, as well as basic meteorological information such as, wind speed, wind direction and temperature.

Karori has been designated as an 'airshed' under the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES). We will be monitored this airshed for fine particle levels to ensure that the national health-based standard of $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in outdoor air is not exceeded more than once in a 12-month period.

The station consists of a 2 x 2.4 x 2.4 m prefabricated portacom with a 6 m meteorological mast and has been installed in the southern end of the recently upgraded Karori Park, behind the Terawhiti Bowling Club. The site has been leased from Wellington City Council with the support of the Bowling Club.

Commissioning of the station is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year within budget, meeting the LTCCP short-term target.

Aerial photo of location of new Karori air quality monitoring station



6. Contaminated sites

6.1 Selected Land Use Register

The Department maintains the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) which records sites that because of their land use, past or present, may be contaminated. There are currently 1779 sites on the register. This register is able to be accessed by authorized council and territorial authority staff and this has occurred 1698 times in a month. In this period there have also been 67 requests for information from the public.

7. Bathing water quality

A summary of the results of the past summer's monitoring is reported separately to the Committee

8. Water quality

8.1 Didymo

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) are seeking agreement from regional councils to participate in the Didymo Long Term Management Programme as lead partners in regional programmes. We have reviewed the implications that this would have on our work programmes in terms of additional costs and have presented this in a report, in association with the Biosecurity Department, to the Rural Services and Wairarapa committee meeting of 19 June 2007.

8.2 Blue green algae

During May there were significant growths of benthic algae mats noted in the Waipoua River, and testing confirmed these contained cyanotoxins. The algae growth was encouraged by warmer than average temperatures, and a lack of 'freshes' through the Waipoua River in recent months.

9. Staff

We welcome Summer Warr to our team as an Environmental Scientist, Water Quality. Summer replaces Juliet Milne following Juliet's promotion to her Team Leader, Environmental Science position. Summer returns to Greater Wellington after her OE, having previously spent three years working in the Masterton Office.

Our Environmental Scientist, Groundwater, Tim Baker left at the beginning of June to embark on his OE. Bruce Croucher, our Environmental Scientist, Land and Contaminated Sites also left in early June to take up a position at the Ministry for the Environment where he will manage the contaminated sites remediation fund.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – June 2007

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 21 April to 25 May 2007 we have received 71 consent applications. This compares with 48 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 58 consents. This compares with 51 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) drops to 12 working days. During the period we have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications, with considerable pre-application work on several large pending notified projects as well. Bore permit numbers have also continued to remain low.

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

I verbally reported to the May Committee meeting that the Environment Court in early May released its decision on the appealed Project Westwind applications upholding the joint decision to grant consents to Meridian Energy to establish a 66-turbine wind farm south of Makara. The outcome of the decision is less four turbines on the original consent decision, and includes 12 revised turbine positions confirmed during the final round of mediation.

Despite much speculation in the media, the Court's decision was not appealed to the High Court by the 6 June deadline. The entire process has taken two years from the start of the consent process, and in hindsight the lengthy and innovative process adopted by the Environment Court will go down as one of the more unusual we've experienced.

Meridian Energy will now await the final amended conditions to be released by the Environment Court before proceeding with the implementation of their consents.

Most of the amended conditions relate to the WCC consent, with only minor changes to two earthworks and streamworks conditions required for GW consents.

Waterfront Investments Limited – Hilton Hotel

Following earlier agreement reached between parties on a very broad range of relevant matters to be considered by the Court, subsequent meetings between traffic experts have not occurred. Instead, material has been exchanged relating to bus and service vehicle movements around Shed 6, with few options being put forward by the applicant to alleviate our concerns at this stage.

Evidence is being prepared for exchange in late June. The Court hearing is set down to commence on 30 July and expected to last two to three weeks.

The decision to grant applications for a five-star Hilton Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions, was appealed by five parties including the applicant; Miro Property Holdings and Prime Commercial Investments; Wellington Civic Trust and Waterfront Watch; Wellington Indoor Sports (subsequently withdrawn) and Intercontinental Hotel; and including two section 274 parties (other submitters who haven't directly appealed).

Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust – Aquarium of New Zealand (MEC)

Evidence from the majority of the parties has been exchanged and rebuttal evidence is being prepared in early June; however, at the writing of this report we were yet to see the evidence of Chris Webstar.

The Court requested clarification on jurisdictional matters raised by Chris Webstar, affecting the GW parts of the decision, regarding the relationship between Foreshore and Seabed legislation and the RMA and Greater Wellington's right to manage proposed activities in the CMA at Te Raekaihau Point. The failure to date to provide the required information and evidence is very concerning and frustrating, given that it was integral for us to understand the scope of evidence we need to prepare in response. We have subsequently prepared full evidence so we able to cover off the possible range of arguments that may be put forward. The Court hearing is set down for two weeks from 2 July.

The decision to grant the new joint applications for the MEC was appealed by Save the Point Trust, Chris Webster and Lili Prince, with two additional parties joining the appeal. Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including jurisdictional issues, structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations. WCC-decision related matters include natural character, landscape values, amenity, traffic management and sustainability.

Capacity/Wellington City Council: Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mediation has now been delayed to July by agreement of all parties, as discussed in the May report to the Committee.

Capacity/Wellington City Council (WCC), New Zealand Forestry Group and Action for Environment Incorporated have appealed Greater Wellington's decision to enable the applicant to continue to discharge effluent to the Wellington South Coast and Karori Stream (including discharges of odour). The decision enabled 20-yr durations for the main outfall discharge and air permit, and 10-yr durations for each of the three discharges of milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast. Issues covered by the appeals include the term of consent, effects on the receiving environment, and the state and ongoing integrity of the effluent pipeline.

A E & S W Benton Partnership

Mediation on these appeals continues with the Court recently further extending the period for all parties enabling us sufficient time to consider GW's proposed conditions. We now have until 30 June to finalise a consent order for the Court, otherwise the appeal will go to a full Court hearing if it can't be resolved. There are a number of areas of contention in the proposed conditions including the duration and purpose of the revised conditions (taking water vs pump testing for possible future use).

These appeals relate to a declined application to take groundwater from the Kahutara groundwater zone, which is affected by a moratorium not to 'accept' further applications.

Prema Investments Ltd

A decision granting consent for Prema Investment's joint applications to discharge communal wastewater to land from a 6-lot subdivision at Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa, has been appealed. The appeal has cited a condition on the subdivision consent requiring one lot (a possible additional disposal field) to be set aside until three-years of groundwater monitoring has been completed establishing whether there is a connection with the proposed disposal field. The appeal does not specifically cite the discharge permit; however, we have in an unusual move joined the appeal as a (section 274) party to the appeal.

A timetable is yet to be confirmed for call-overs and mediation.

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

No further progress has been made on A J Barton's appeal to the High Court on the Environment Court's decision to uphold GW's decision on LARO's proposal to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. The appeal relates to the status and use of a paper road and implications of the stopbank upgrade.

Masterton District Council

This is an appeal against Greater Wellington's decision to approve a coastal protection sea wall at Castlepoint.

After a year of no progress and deferrals by Masterton District Council, the Court set down a further round of mediation, which took place on 30 April. A new timeframe and process was agreed by all parties in order to advance the Integrated Management Plan for the Castlepoint coastal environment. MDC will lead the development of this plan over the next six months.

2.2 Objections

Pauatahanui School – Objection to consent conditions

In late March we received a section 357 objection to consent conditions imposed on a non-notified consent. The objection primarily concerned requirements for fencing off the wastewater treatment disposal field, and minor condition wording issues. We have resolved these issues with the applicant and Regional Public Health. The recommended changes to consent conditions are presented to the Committee in report 07.364

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

In terms of general compliance, staff are gearing up for end of year compliance inspections.

3.2 Specific compliance

Carterton District Council – consent requiring effective inspection programme

This concerns a land-based wastewater discharge trial which has been operating without a current resource consent in place, for the second time in less than five years.

I verbally reported to the May meeting that these consents have now been processed. It will be vital that CDC comply fully with all conditions including monitoring conditions. Monitoring information will be vital leading up to the replacement of the wastewater treatment plant consents in two years time. As such we will be approaching CDC shortly to commence discussions for pre-application work.

Taylor Preston Ltd (TPL) – change of consent conditions process confirmed

Following my report to you in April, we have now received the first stage of consent variation applications - to change review conditions on the existing consent.

The substantive application to include rendering plant modifications is still expected, but the timeframe has now slipped to later in the year. This is unfortunate and quite disappointing and highly frustrating; however, TPL have some significant commercial issues to resolve in the next one to two months before lodging the consent application. These issues were to be resolved earlier this year, although TPL are confident that resolution is reasonably close.

Despite this TPL have confirmed both a budget for the consent application and the intended upgrade works that will involve significant multi-million dollar upgrades to the rendering operation (a new meal drying operation and decommissioning of the afterburner), and changes to the waste water treatment plant (resulting in a reduction in sludge by up to 40%). Applications would be lodged before the end of the year.

I have instructed TPL that they must demonstrate to GW and GAG an achievable revised timetable for lodging consent conditions, which maintains significant momentum demonstrating progress towards a lodging the application. I have also offered to GAG and TPL to act as a facilitator in a meeting to take place in the near future, enabling both parties to air their issues about the current process. It will be vital for TPL to begin to explain their delays to GAG directly.

Despite investing much in the current process, should TPL not continue with the current progress then we may still resort to a review of conditions.

Whitby Coastal Estates - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development

Investigations of two incidents continue relating to implementing stream works and erosion and sediment control measures on site at James Cook Drive. The incidents relate to the implementing of a mitigation plan required by consent conditions, and critical to the appropriate management of the development activity. We are expecting a response from the consent holder to our 'please explain' letter by the end of the month, and we will then decide what action to take.

3.3 Abatement notices

We served two abatement notices in the last period to:

- Robin Borthwick, to remove illegal concrete slab structures from Kuripuni Stream
- Collins Auto Parts and Accessories Limited of Newtown, to improve waste oil storage on site to avoid discharges off site.

3.4 Infringement notices

Six infringement notices were issued in the period to:

- Graham Hodder for excessive discharges of dairy effluent onto land, in a manner where contaminants may enter groundwater, as well as for direct discharges into a waterbody, at Totara Grove Farm, Featherston.
- Robin Borthwick for placing concrete slabs in Kuripuni Stream, Kuripuni, Masterton.
- Selwyn Donald for excessive discharges of dairy effluent onto land, in a manner where contaminants may enter groundwater, as well as for direct discharges to an unnamed tributary of Tauherenikau River, at Arran Farm, Featherston.
- Selwyn Donald for dumping demolition waste, including scrap metal, into land where contaminants may enter water, at Arran Farm, Featherston.
- Anthony Freda for discharging contaminants to air from burning coated wire, at Miro Street, Otaki.
- Whare Anau for discharging contaminants to air from burning coated wire, at Tirau Bay, Porirua.

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Two new prosecutions have been filed in the last period. However, only one enforcement order is currently before the Court, following several prosecutions and enforcement order proceedings being resolved recently. A number of orders are currently being implemented.

Capital Egg, Peter Van Dyk, Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station

I verbally reported to the May Committee meeting that on 14 May we had laid charges against four parties for illegally dumping chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Te Kamaru (Terawhiti) Station resulting in a direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Eight charges have been laid in total for discharging from a trade premise to land and discharging to water.

We will now wait for directions from the Court for the process from here.

Goodman Contractors Limited, Stanley Goodman and Colin Landy

On 29 May we filed charges against three parties for an unconsented discharge of a substantial quantity of sediment to a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream in late November. The incident was significant in our view given the sensitive receiving environment of the Pauatahanui stream and inlet, thereby warranting prosecution.

J Gabites

This case relates to enforcement orders against J Gabites farm in Mangaroa Valley for ongoing discharges from pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks to tributaries of Mangaroa River.

Mediation to date has not proved particularly fruitful. While Mr Gabites has provided soil and water sampling results, showing extensive contamination of the site and leaching of contaminants to local watercourses, we are yet to see a final erosion and sediment control plan or nutrient/contaminant management plan. We had expected to receive these before the May round of mediation, and we now will have to wait until late June. At this stage we reserve the right to proceed to an early July Court hearing should we not be satisfied with progress or the quality of the plans submitted.

Burrell Demolition Ltd

Mr Burrell is now commencing remedial works around the culvert entrance following the lodging of engineering reports earlier, and we expect complete information regarding fill over the culvert to be lodged shortly to enable full works on the culvert to continue in line with the enforcement orders.

This enforcement order (and former prosecution proceedings) regards the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington.

Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James/282 Ohiro Road

We will monitor on-site performance now that we have approved an enforcement order-directed erosion and sediment control plan to prevent excessive ongoing discharges of sediment into Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision. We have since signed off on a final erosion and sediment control plan, and works are still imminent. It is interesting to note that during the last period, storm activity in Wellington caused substantial sediment discharges from earthworks sites including discharges from Brooklyn Valley Rise.

Ohiro Properties Ltd/318 Ohiro Road

There have been no major developments with progress on complying with current enforcement orders. The orders relate to restrictions on vegetation clearance, erosion and sediment control and reinstatement of a small stream, which was reclaimed without consent. We expect to soon sign off on an erosion and sediment control plan, and will require applications connected to stream reinstatement works. Timelines in the enforcement order at this stage are still not being met and we are placing pressure on the consent holder to comply in a more timely fashion.

3.6 *Take Charge*

The substantial task of initial audits of the Grenada North Industrial area to identify key businesses have been completed, and we are currently completing revisits. Sediment and stormwater sampling has also been completed, and together with information from revisits these will help us target at-risk businesses more effectively.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.346).

3.7 Significant incidents

Illegal rubbish dumping in Wairarapa

In the May meeting I reported on illegal dumping in the Gladstone area. Following efforts by Carterton Mayor, Gary McPhee, and the land owner, the affected site has been cleaned up with all rubbish removed to Carterton landfill for transfer. The ongoing support from Mayor McPhee and a desire to see the problem fixed has been integral to finding a realistic solution to one of the more extensive illegal dumps.

Odours from spray-painting operation – Masterton

Following numerous complaints in April, members of the pollution control team have met with the owner of the Bentley Street spray-painting operation and various residents from the area. Residents have been asked to keep odour logs, and we are conducting proactive odour monitoring while monitoring equipment will be installed at the spray-painting operation to more accurately measure discharges. This is positive progress in terms of mutual cooperation to gather further information about the effects of the spray-painting activity, led by the pollution control team.

Other significant incidents for the period are discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.346).

Exide – excessive discharges of lead across southern boundary

I verbally reported an incident to the May Committee, relating to a spike of lead discharged across the Southern boundary at Exide's Petone plant in March 2007.

Preliminary information from the incident indicates that the three-month rolling average for the southern monitor has been breached by 50%, with average levels possibly climbing to around 2.2 ug/g, well above the limit of 1.5 ug/g for the southern boundary. Early indications are that a failure in the existing plant equipment at the baghouse was responsible for the spike. The incident is very disappointing given the emphasis placed on this condition by experts, submitters and the hearing committee during the consent review process. There is obviously a clear expectation that Exide will comply with this condition.

We expect to shortly receive a response to our please explain letter, which will confirm levels of lead discharged and what caused the incident in the first place. Once we receive this we will continue to work towards deciding on what action needs to be taken.

Our communications to date have been extensive including the applicant, various property owners and residents, and print and television media. Media interest has been extensive and ongoing, with more than half a dozen newspapers picking up the issue.

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Capital and Coast District Health Board

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. We are finally in the process of confirming conditions, and I expect to see an Officer's report finalised soon.

Stronvar Properties Ltd

These are applications for a 56-lot subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton involving applications for discharges of wastewater (from a community waste water scheme) and sediment from earthworks, taking water (for communal water supply), and erecting a dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake.

There have been delays in receiving further information on a range of substantial matters including community wastewater treatment, and the operation and integrity of the proposed lake. The delay is reasonable given the complexity of the matters being considered.

Masterton District Council

Applications for managing the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities has been placed on hold for further information. We understand that information requested is pending, and once received we will then publicly notify the applications.

Palliser Bay Station

This is a joint application for discharges from a community wastewater scheme associated with a proposed 22-lot subdivision on Cape Palliser Road, South Wairarapa. Submissions have not raised issues relating to wastewater discharges, and are now proceeding without a hearing for the applications to GW. We will wait until subdivision and land use consents are heard and decided on before completing the processing of applications to GW, so we are able to incorporate any amendments to the proposed community wastewater scheme as well as possible new ancillary land use consents for stream works, and culverts.

Webstar

A pre-hearing on a replacement application from Webstar (Blue Print Group Limited), Masterton, to discharge fine particle matter (PM₁₀) and other contaminants to air from printing and gas-fired boilers, has been completed. The applicant will investigate issues raised by the single submitter regarding the significance of odours discharged beyond Webstar's boundary further over

the next two to three months. A short-term trial of new discharges from new printing equipment assessed will also be extended to tie in with revised timeframes. The processing of this application will consider air quality within the Masterton air shed, which sometimes exceeds NES for Air thresholds for PM₁₀ of 50 ug/m³.

Staites Drive Developments Limited

A joint hearing for a proposed 100-lot subdivision at Staites Drive, Whitby was held on 3 and 4 May. A decision was released on 25 May granting consents. Conditions include a planting and construction management plan and associated bond conditions to mitigate effects of moving a permanent stream on site.

The proposal also provided for a permanent dammed artificial wetland to attenuate stormwater.

GW Flood Protection Department

This application concerns a proposed 2.1 km extension to Chrystalls stopbank in Otaki. Good negotiation work on possible GW-related mitigation conditions by staff means that we can expect that remaining issues for the two submitters wishing to be heard will be resolved shortly – thus enabling the associated consents to be processed without a hearing.

O'More Partnership

We are close to completing an assessment of submissions and effects of a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream piping. The stream piping works itself is a non-complying activity under the Regional Freshwater Plan, which means that all associated applications must also be rated similarly.

The significance of this status have provided challenges for us in assessing the proposal, and we have been keeping the applicant informed of our developing position on the associated effects and how that may affect a recommendation to a hearing committee.

No hearing date has been set at this point.

MDC - Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Replacement applications for Masterton Wastewater Plant were lodged in early May and we are currently assessing whether we have enough information to notify the applications. There is much new technical material to work through resulting from the pre-application process, and at the same time a transition to new staff leading the process. However, I expect applications to be notified on 23 June at the latest. Since their lodgement, the applications have continued to draw media interest.

Applications involve a component of discharging effluent to land during drier conditions as well as discharging treated effluent to Ruamahanga River – an increasingly outmoded practice nationally.

United Water International sludge dewatering plant

WCC/Capacity have lodged replacement applications last month for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey's Gully Complex. This is the first set of consents due for replacement since overall Carey's odour issues became more prominent in the Brooklyn-Mornington community around 2001. The applicant had requested us to place the consents on hold while further consent requirements for sludge discharges to the landfill were confirmed, delaying notification of the applications to 16 June.

Limited Notified

Hutt City Council

This is an application for retrospective emergency and ongoing river re-alignment works on Wainuiomata River adjacent to the Coast Road and Wainuiomata Golf Club, which are being processed on a limited notified basis. One submission was received from Wainuiomata Golf Club. A further pre-hearing meeting was held in February, and the various parties are still considering draft conditions and mitigation options, including reducing the extent of work required.

Hutt City Council

This concerns applications to place a channel structure and divert stream flow in a small stream adjacent Marine Drive, Eastbourne, for flood protection purposes. Parties, including three submitters, are still considering mitigation options via draft conditions to resolve outstanding concerns, and I expect that a hearing will not be required.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT): Applications are now expected around July for a proposed new apartment and public space development at the site of the former OPT in Lambton Harbour.

Puketiro Windfarm: We anticipate applications for a 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area will be lodged later in the year.

We have advised enquirers for **salvaging and scrapping of old hulks** currently docked in various locations around Wellington Harbour that the activities as proposed are not likely to require resource consents.

4.3 Department projects

Resource Management Charging Policy Review

We have made excellent progress with the consultation and reporting, and hearing phases of this process. The recommended Draft Policy resulting from this process is presented in report 07.326 to this Committee.

Muddy Waters and Small Streams Issues Workshops

Two sets of workshops covering Erosion and Sediment Control issues (for contractors specifically) and issues affecting the development and management of small streams (for territorial authority staff, contractors and consultants) have now been held. The workshops were facilitated and presented in a very professional manner, and the level of interaction with participants was very pleasing.

4.4 Staff issues

Naomi Middleton (Pollution Control Team) commenced with us in mid May. Naomi has previous experience with community law and resource management advisory services, coast care coordination, and resource management for a Golden Bay iwi authority, so brings good diversity to the team.

We are re-advertising the Wairarapa-based Resource Advisor position

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 to the High Court
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
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 2	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 days)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	19/10/06	Granted – Under appeal
Meridian Energy Limited	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	Granted - under appeal
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western WWTP, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Hearing held - commenced on 19, 20 and 27 October.	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	21/12/06	Granted – under appeal

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Prema Investments Ltd	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 6-lot subdivision, Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa.	24/07/06	22/11/06	5	-	5 March 2007	Cr Rick Long Liz Mellish (Iwi) Cr Bev Clark (SWDC) Mayor Adrienne Staples (SWDC) Peter Craig (SWDC)	29/3/07	Granted – SWDC consent under appeal, GW registered as s274 party to appeal
South Wairarapa District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston,	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold			
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Hearing delayed as applications on hold.		-	-
Palliser Bay Station	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 22-lot subdivision, Cape Palliser Rd, South Wairarapa.	24/01/07	22/2/07	6	-	SWDC consent hearing held 17 May 2007. GW resolved consents without need for hearing	N/A	Decision to be made following SWDC hearing and provision of further information	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.		-	-

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
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited)	To discharge particulates and other contaminants to air from three heatset lines, driers and thermal oxidisers associated with printing operations, Ngamutawa Rd, Masterton.	08/02/07	22/02/06	2	8/5/07	Further investigations into odour concerns currently being considered			
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To permanently divert Otaki River flood flows associated with the extension of Chrystals stopbank, Otaki.	15/2/07	30/3/07	7-	-	-	-	-	-
Staithe Drive Developments Ltd, Staithe Drive North, Whitby	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of sediment-laden stormwater, piping of intermittent streams and damming stormwater in detention dam.	21/11/06	12/01/07	6	-	Scheduled for 3 & 4 May	Cr Chris Laidlaw Cr Margaret Shields	25/05/07	Granted
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua.	12/12/06	2/5/07			To be scheduled for early July			
Wellington City Council	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07							
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07							

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 (Limited Notified)	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	Parties to consider mitigation options & draft conditions.	-	-	-
M B & H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent application to take groundwater for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06	Hearing delayed as application on hold	-	-	-
Kaitawa Crematorium (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air associated with gas-fired crematorium appliances, Waikanae.	25/10/06	9/02/07	14	-	Application currently on hold	-	-	-
Hutt City Council, Marine Parade, Eastbourne (Limited Notified)	Land use consent, water permit and coastal permit associated with works to modify the channel of an unnamed stream, for flood mitigation purposes.	1/3/06	23/1/07	3	9/3/07	Expect to be resolved without hearing.	-	-	-

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – June 2007

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

Work for the routine three-yearly change-over of Barrett Reef buoy is still progressing.

All other navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

No reports of “oil pollution” were reported during the period.

Four Greater Wellington staff attended a Fundamentals of Marine Oil Pollution Response Course and one staff member attended a Marine Oil Spill Field Operations Course in May.

3. Harbour Hulks

The removal plan to take the floatables, oils and other equipment from two of the derelict the trawlers has been finalised and activities are soon to start. One objective is to reduce the environmental risk posed by these vessels in the event that they come to grief whilst still in the harbour, and before the winter weather sets in.

Dumping Permits for the vessels have been received from Maritime NZ and the hulks are being prepared to meet the conditions imposed by the dumping permits. It is proposed to fund as much of the cost as possible from equipment being salvaged from the vessels.

4. Other Activities

- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is progressing, but is taking longer than anticipated, with the construction timeline probably extending to February or March 2008.
- On 18 May Manager Harbours visited New Plymouth to assist with a pilotage examination and to carry out an audit of their Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC) system.

- The Harbour Masters/Harbour Managers Special Interest Group (HMSIG) meeting was chaired by Manager Harbours in Wellington on 5 and 6 June.

5. Port & Harbour Safety Code

Work on drafting of the Harbour Safety Plan is continuing.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – June 2007

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

The GEOC was activated during Exercise Cruickshank (10, 16, 17 May 2007) as part of the response phase to assist in the Group response. Most of the exercise was focussed on the 'medical' aspects of the event and not much on the non-medical (CDEM) aspects. However, it gave us an opportunity to thoroughly test our communications and information management systems.

Our emergency management staff also attended the Exercise Cruickshank Recovery workshops in Lower Hutt and the Wairarapa. These were useful workshops with valuable lessons coming from them; probably the most significant was the lack of recovery planning in the health sector to date. Whilst a structure and system exists for response, it does not exist for recovery.

1.2 CDEM Conference 2007

The theme for this conference is: *Keeping Pace: Technology and Modern Emergency Management*

The Ministry of CDEM (MCDEM) has also joined the Wellington CDEM Group and the Institution of Fire Engineers in hosting the event. The MCDEM agreed to meet the costs of the venue hire (\$15K) and provide assistance with presentations.

The two-day conference will take place in Wellington on 4 and 5 October 2007.

1.3 CDEM Group Work Programme

Six CDEM Group work programmes are listed in the CDEM Group Plan to be completed in the 2006/7 year. The Group's Work Programme is progressing well with several projects underway (hazard information review, debris disposal arrangements, emergency management agency communications system implementation, tsunami evacuation planning, and recovery management). The project on rural fire management alignment has not started yet due to the current review of Fire and Rescue Services in New Zealand.

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)).

1.4.1 Disaster Awareness Week 2007

The Regional Public Education Group has decided to use the key theme "*my family will survive a disaster... will yours?*" in the Wellington Region for the Disaster Awareness Week in October 2007.

We have negotiated with the Dominion Post and now have sponsorship from them covering half of the total cost (approximately \$8500) for a three day newspaper campaign during Disaster Awareness Week, and we are in the process of finalising the text for the outputs. The other half will be shared by Greater Wellington and the territorial authorities on an agreed proportionate basis. The campaign has received positive feedback from all of the territorial authorities.

The objective of Disaster Awareness Week is to raise the awareness of hazards in the Wellington Region and persuade individuals and/or communities to adopt preparedness behaviours. This campaign centres on the *family*, as if an individual is not interested in self preservation they generally will want to save/reduce the impacts on their family.

We have also developed a fact sheet for businesses identifying the potential impacts of a 7.5 magnitude earthquake in terms of damage to infrastructure, lifelines and the likely disruptions. This fact sheet outlines the timeframes for recovery and highlights the importance of Business Contingency Plans.

1.5 Other activities and initiatives

1.5.1 Volunteer training

Introduction training to new volunteers outlining the role of CDEM in our region and giving them an introduction to the use of our GEOC and procedures.

1.5.2 Earthquake Hazard Course

Our staff attended an introductory earthquake course "Understanding and Managing Earthquake Hazards" run by Geological and Nuclear Sciences in Avalon. The course included learning about New Zealand's earthquake hazardscape with emphasis on the Wellington fault and technologies and mapping being used in earthquake science.

1.5.3 Flood warnings

Staff attended a workshop for the flood warning staff, river management staff, land management staff, communications officer and emergency management to discuss the working arrangements for flood management and following up on the debriefs from the events in 2006.

1.5.4 Review of Standard Operating Procedures

We are reviewing our documents outlining the operating procedures for each section (operations, welfare, planning/intelligence, logistics, lifelines co-ordination, information and media management) in our GEOC. This will be an ongoing project as it involves a lot of work with updating the electronic database and other technology.

We are also working on the standardisation of our Situation Reporting and Incident Action Planning processes.

2. Environment

2.1 Earthquake Reports

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 25 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. Only one earthquake was felt in the Wellington Region:

- May 21 2007, Magnitude 3.5, 30km deep, 40 km south of Wellington.

2.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Fourteen Special Weather Bulletin (5 for heavy rain and 9 for strong wind) were received since the last meeting on 17 May 2007. Apart from surface flooding no other issues were experienced.

2.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. The satellite network is being tested on a monthly basis.

Both systems are well maintained and regular checks are carried out on the battery and generator backup systems, the re-positioning of antennae (in the event of high wind) where necessary.

Richard Waddy
Manager, Environmental Support

Financial Position: 31 May 2007

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the period ended 31 May 2007.

<u>Environment Division</u>					
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>					
<u>For the Period Ended 31 May 2007</u>					
	Year to Date			Full Year	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	8,879	8,879	--	9,686	9,686
Other Revenue	1,917	1,852	65 F	2,229	2,033
Total Revenue	10,796	10,731	65 F	11,915	11,719
Less:					
Direct Expenditure	9,363	9,504	141 F	10,528	10,410
Indirect Expenditure	1,509	1,445	64 U	1,562	1,581
Total Operating Expenditure	10,872	10,949	77 F	12,090	11,991
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(76)	(218)	142 F	(175)	(272)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is slightly more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating deficit came in at \$76,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$218,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$142,000, comprising increased revenue of \$65,000, and lower than expected expenditure of \$77,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$10,796,000 is slightly, some \$67,000, higher than our budget target of \$10,731,000.

- The notified consent applications for the Hilton Hotel, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant, Whitby Coastal Estates, the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau, N & E Reid's application for the discharge of piggery effluent and Stronvar Properties Ltd a residential subdivision at Masterton, have been completed.
- Resource management compliance charges have been processed for both offices. In total the charges amounted – Wellington \$263,000 (last year - \$267,000) and Wairarapa \$191,000 (last year - \$180,000).
- There are a number of notified consents in progress. In Wellington Staites Drive Development have applied for a 100 lot residential subdivision at Whitby. Similarly, the Wairarapa has a number in hand; Prema Investments a community wastewater, and Palliser Bay Station a residential subdivision on the South Wairarapa Coast.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$10,949,000 is some \$142,000 (or 1.3%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$83,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. However, the new holiday provisions introduced in April have offset a significant portion of this underspend.
- Travel and Transport costs were over budget by \$51,000

In part, this variance is caused by the use of pool vehicles in the Wairarapa. In addition, we have undertaken a larger number of *Take Action for Water* projects at schools than budgeted, and to do so these needed buses to transport the children.

- Consultant costs were over budget by \$6,000.

Legal costs that arises from specialist advice for prosecution actions is the main reason for the increase over budget (\$89,000). We have recovered some of this cost in the form of fines and court costs imposed recovered from perpetrators. However, such recoveries only offset such costs partially.

- Internal charges were lower than budget by \$106,000

The level of consent monitoring work from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation has been less than expected. As these transactions are mainly within the Division (both revenue and spend) the overall effect is nil.

5. Capital expenditure

At this stage, the spend on the capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) is at a lower level than anticipated.

The groundwater model project accounts for some of the underspend. This major capital item (\$200,000) is progressing.

The work carried out to date has demonstrated that the shallow groundwater resource and surface waters (rivers, wetlands, springs etc) are linked closely. The connection and relationship with the dynamics of the overall water resource is significant.

The project focus is to develop a numerical model that will enable groundwater to be allocated at a sustainable level. The nature of the investigation has changed from using data from existing bore logs and information obtained from drilling a few new deep bores to studies of the shallow groundwater system which will involve a larger number of shallow bores as well as surface water measurements.

The numerical modelling component of the project is advancing well with a good correlation, at a coarse level, with the known hydrogeology.

We estimate that some \$100,000 will be not be spent this year and we plan to carry over these funds into the new financial year.

The Beacon Hill communication facility upgrade and equipment for the Safety Management Systems is less advanced than anticipated and we plan to carry-over funding into the new financial year (2007-08). The funds set aside for the purchase of equipment (\$400,000) is considered adequate. However, the \$200,000 allocated for the upgrade of the building is not sufficient. The cost of the new building has been estimated at \$600,000 with an additional loan (\$300,000) needed.