

Nicola Shorten  
Manager, Environmental Policy

## **Environmental Policy Department Report – April 2008**

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### **1. Maintaining regional plans**

#### **1.1 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan**

Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities. This plan change is being done jointly with Wellington City Council. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs.

The plan change was notified on 19 December 2006. There were 8 submitters. A joint hearing on both plan changes was held on 2 July 2007. The Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee approved the recommendations of the hearing committee at its meeting on 27 September. Following notification of the decisions, one appeal was received 20 November 2007. The appeal was withdrawn on 10 March 2008. The plan change was adopted by Council at their meeting on 7 April 2008 and it has now been sent to the Minister of Conservation for her approval.

#### **1.2 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan**

Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. Submissions on the plan change closed on 29 June 2007 and four were received (no further submissions).

Staff reports have been to submitters and no submitters wish to be heard. The hearing committee will now meet and make its decisions on submissions.

### **2. Sustainable Water Programme of Action**

#### **2.1 Proposed National Policy Statement for freshwater management**

The Ministry for the Environment has advised us that the proposed national policy statement on freshwater management is likely to be notified in June 2008. The Council made comments to the Ministry in March on the issues that the national policy statement should address. Staff are meeting with Ministry staff on the afternoon of 29 July to discuss our comments with them.

The Ministry has also indicated the likely process for the national policy statement once it is proposed. It will follow the process in the Resource Management Act for a board of inquiry. This involves the Minister for the Environment appointing a board of inquiry to hear submissions, prepare a report and make recommendations on the policy statement to the Minister for the Environment.

## **2.2 Proposed National Environment Standard on Ecological Flows and Water Levels**

The Minister for the Environment has given notice of the Government's intention to develop a national environmental standard (regulations) on ecological flows and water levels. A discussion document outlining the subject matter and rationale of the proposed standard has been produced by the Ministry for the Environment to assist people making submissions. A copy of the discussion document is in the Councillors' lounge and other information is available on the Ministry's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz).

Staff will prepare a draft submission for Councillors to consider at the Regulatory Committee meeting on 22 July 2008. Submissions close on 31 July.

## **2.3 Proposed National Environment Standard for measuring water takes**

The process for preparing a national environment standard for measuring water takes is nearing completion. Greater Wellington supported the preparation of this national standard, which is to ensure accurate measurement of water at the point it is taken from a water body. Legal drafting of the standard is now underway. A taskforce that includes staff from regional councils has been established to oversee implementation of the standard and ensure it is coordinated and cost effective.

Ted Taylor  
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

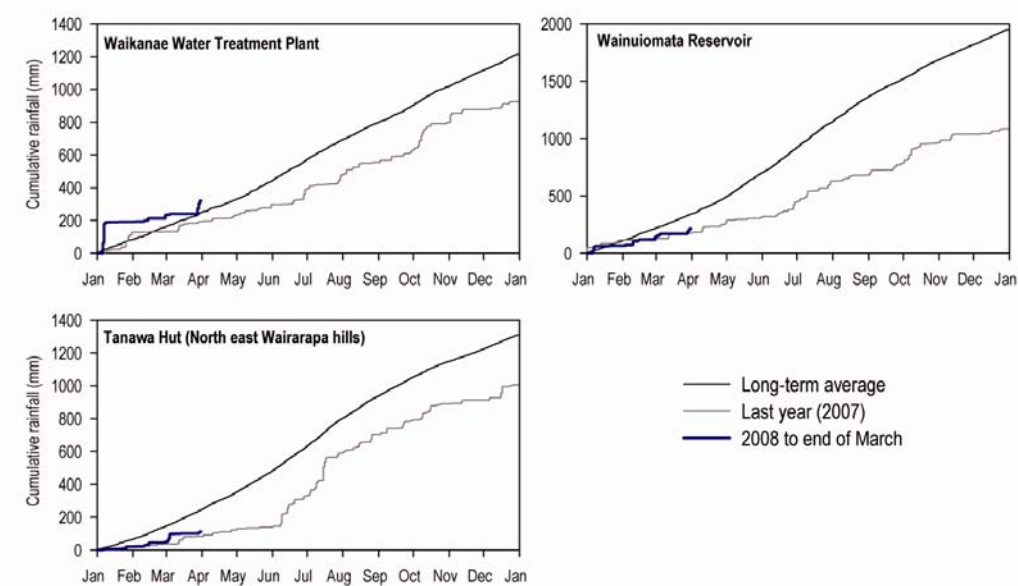
## Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – April 2008

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### 1. Rainfall and River Flows

#### 1.1 Rainfall

The rainfall for the year to the end of March has been normal to above normal on the Kapiti Coast and in Wellington City, in general due to the rainfall events of early January and late March. However, in other parts of the region rainfall remains below average for the time of year, due to very dry conditions in January and February. Of note, the eastern Wairarapa hills (using 'Tanawa Hut' as the representative location) have had less than half of the rainfall normally received by the end of March. Last year was also dry and many parts of the region (e.g., Wainuiomata, Kaitoke, Wairarapa) have had below-average monthly rainfall totals since December 2006 – with the exception of October 2007.



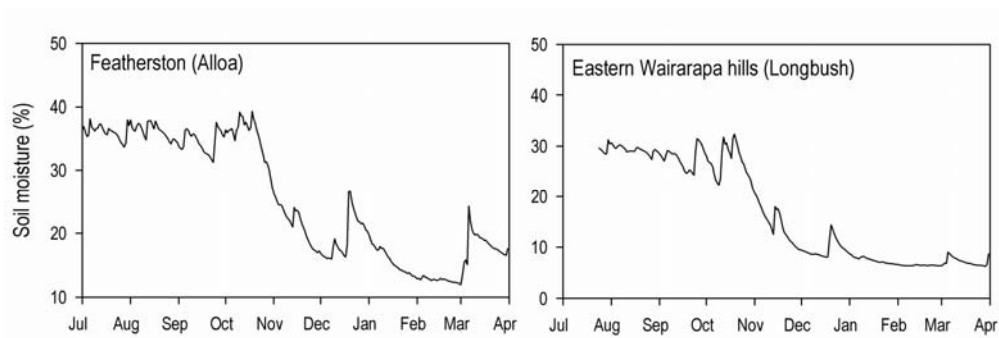
Cumulative annual rainfall at selected sites in the Wellington region

## 1.2 Rivers

Due to the dry conditions that persisted for much of March 2008, river flows for the month were below average throughout the region. The average monthly flow was less than half of the long-term average in the 'eastern' rivers (e.g., Wainuiomata, Mangaroa, Ruamahanga and the eastern Wairarapa rivers). Some of the lowest flows of 2008 to date were recorded during March. The lowest flows of the month occurred around 1st March in the Wairarapa and toward the end of the month (before the rainfall of 29th) in the western part of the Wellington region. The low flows experienced in March have an estimated return period of 8-10 years in the Waikanae, Hutt, Wainuiomata, and Ruamahanga rivers. A more complete analysis of the low flows will be carried out at the end of the low flow season, once the data have been quality assured.

## 1.3 Soil moisture

During March, rainfall on the Wairarapa plains resulted in a noticeable increase in soil moisture. However, in parts of the eastern Wairarapa hills – where less rain was received – soil moisture has not changed significantly since January and the rainfall during March had only a small impact. A significant amount of rainfall is still required to return soil moisture to its pre-summer levels.



## 1.4 Climate outlook

The low rainfall to date this year, and resulting low river flows and groundwater levels, is due to La Nina and the resulting weather patterns. The La Nina is currently weakening, but is expected to persist into winter 2008. The climate outlook from NIWA for April and May is for normal rainfall in eastern parts of the North Island but possibly below-average rainfall in the Wairarapa. The outlook is for below average rainfall in western parts of the Wellington region.

## 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 March.

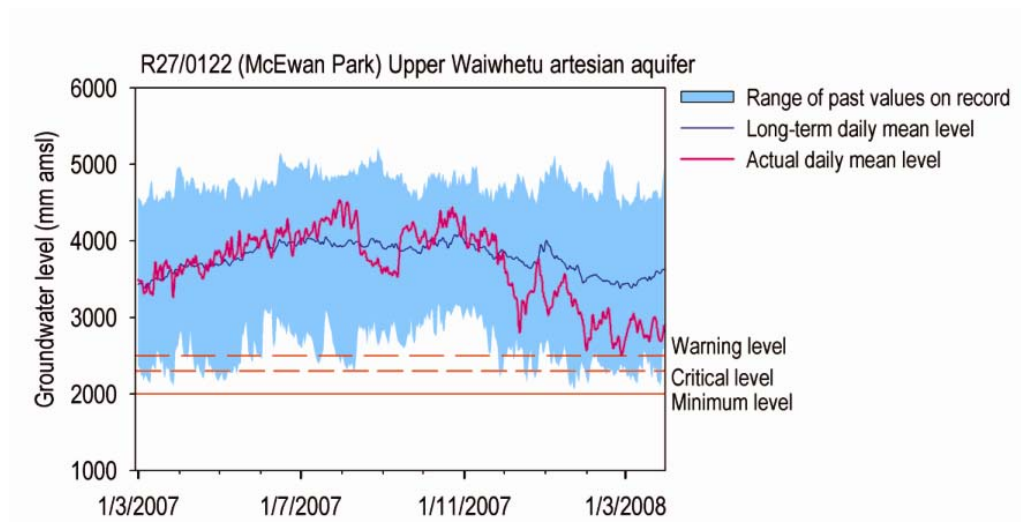
The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for 19 days in March.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above target for most of March as a result of the Lake Onoke blockage.

### 3. Groundwater levels

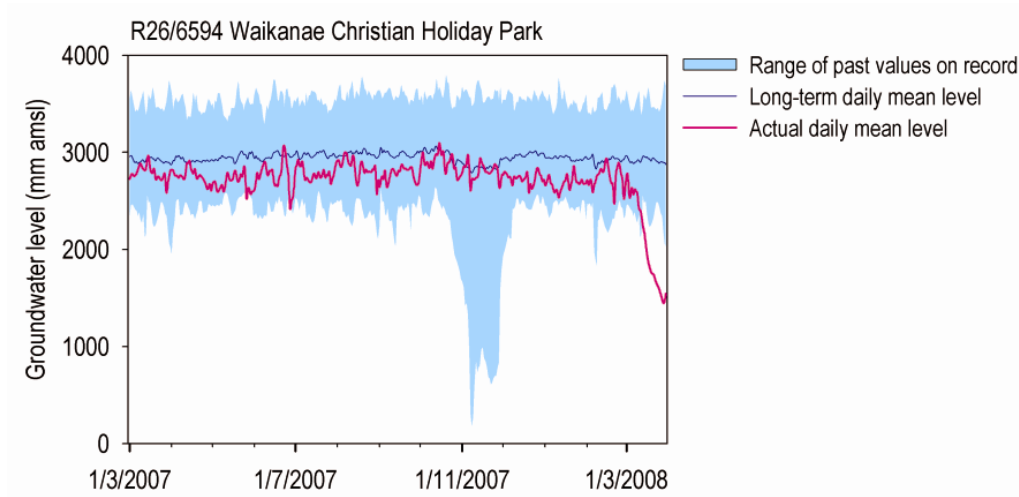
#### 3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the artesian Waiwhetu Aquifer in Lower Hutt have been below the long-term average since January. This is shown in data from the monitoring well located at McEwan Park on the Petone foreshore. The low groundwater levels are generally a result of high abstraction volume from the Waterloo well field. The aquifer levels are being maintained above the critical level to prevent the possibility of seawater entering the aquifer. We have been working with water supply staff as both departments have an interest in the balance between abstraction and protection of the aquifer.



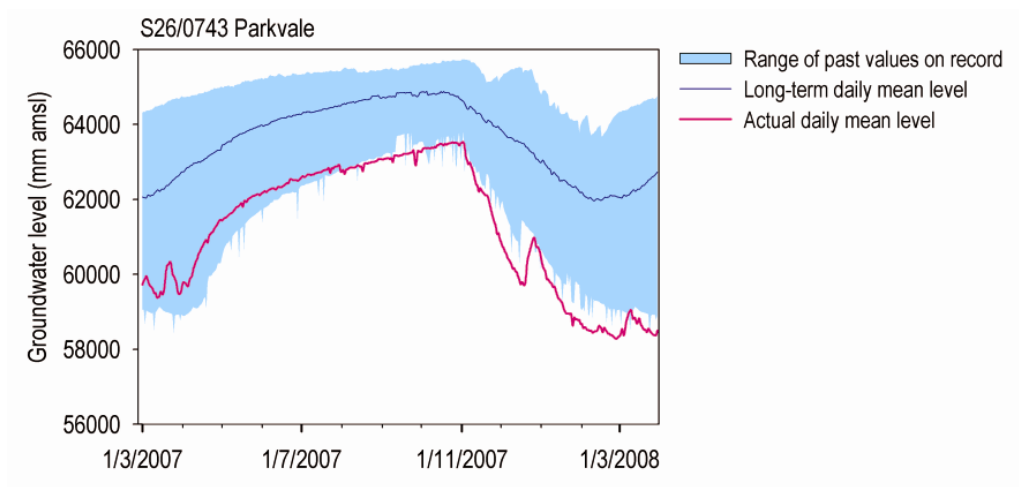
#### 3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Due to low flow in the Waikanae River, the Waikanae bore field operated through March. The effect of the bore field pumping can be seen in the groundwater level data from the monitoring well located at Waikanae Christian Holiday Park. This is the second major use of the bore field since 2006.



### 3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels are low in both rainfall and river recharged aquifers in the Wairarapa. This is a combined effect of low recharge rates and high abstraction demand through the dry summer (particularly for irrigation). Groundwater levels in the deep confined Parkvale aquifer monitoring well continue to track below long-term minimum recorded levels. Anecdotal evidence has been received of some shallow boreholes in the Wairarapa drying up over the summer.



## 4. Air quality monitoring

### 4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in March in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

## **5. Water quality**

### **5.1 Recreational water quality monitoring**

Weekly water quality monitoring of 100 popular beach and river bathing sites for the summer season was completed at the end of March. Results of testing were uploaded to the website as soon as they were received.

During this season, 'no swimming signs' went up at:

- Titahi bay at Toms Rd (13 December 2007)
- Porirua at the rowing club (10 January 2008)
- Owhiro Bay (20 February 2008)

In each case sanitary surveys were carried out but no obvious sources of contamination were found.

### **5.2 Toxic blue-green algae**

Blue green algae coverage remained widespread on the Hutt River until the fresh that went through on March 31st. The risk of dog deaths or adverse human health effects is now low and warning signs are no longer required.

The risk of adverse effects caused by toxic algae in the Waikanae, Otaki and Wainuiomata Rivers has also reduced to a low level.

Some blue green algae cover remained in the Waipoua River at the end of the quarter.

To assist local agencies in educating the public about the risks of blue-green algae we have produced an information leaflet. This will be available to dog owners, vets and doctors as well as through territorial authority offices.

## **6. Project summary**

Brief notes on some of the projects the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department are working on:

- The sampling phase of the annual soil quality monitoring programme is currently underway. This year's work is focussed on 25 pastoral/dry stock sites. Soil samples will be tested for a range of chemical, physical and biological properties that target various aspects of soil health (e.g., soil structure, compaction, carbon and nutrient content).
- Drilling work will soon commence in the Wairarapa. A number of investigation bores are to be sunk across the Wairarapa Valley to assist with the development of our Wairarapa Groundwater Model.
- Routine annual ecological assessments at our 56 river and stream water quality sampling sites were completed in late March. This work, which involved sampling macroinvertebrate and periphyton (algae) communities at each site, provides valuable information on the health of our region's streams.

Al Cross  
Manager, Environmental Regulation

## **Environmental Regulation Department Report – April 2008**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 March to 4 April 2008 we have received 87 consent applications. This compares with 91 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 63 consents. This compares with 79 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 14 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July drops to 14 (down one from February).

We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent application suites – possibly the highest in our history across the region. Enforcement activity by the consents and compliance teams remains reasonably heavy. Bore permit numbers have remained at a moderate level over the period. In addition the continuing water restrictions activity (now into its fifth month) has placed a particularly heavy burden on the Masterton consents and compliance team.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 4, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties is also attached for information.

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

#### **2.1 Appeals**

##### **WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Mediation with WCC and other parties to the appeal will commence on 24 April. We have held a preliminary session with WCC to determine common ground in preparation for the mediation session.

This is an appeal by WCC the decision on replacement applications for WCC/Capacity's ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant; including fully treated effluent discharge to Cook Strait; a mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened effluent discharge; and



discharges of odour to air. Wellington Marine Fishers' Association also joined the process as a section 274 party (a party to the appeal proceedings). The appeal covers a wide range of matters including consent duration, monitoring and reporting requirements, UV irradiation treatment requirements and pilot study reporting.

### **Waterfront Investments Limited (WWI) – Hilton Hotel**

As I verbally reported at the March meeting, the Environment Court decision overturning GW's decision to grant applications on **Hilton Hotel** (Waterfront Investments Limited) development was released on 14 March. The Court was concerned by the range of potentially significant impacts including the bulk and scale of the building, impacts of vehicle traffic on a largely pedestrian precinct, reduced opportunities for boat berthing on Queens Wharf, impacts on historic heritage of the Wharf, and overall amenity affects. The Court also felt that the status and weight given to the Wellington Waterfront Framework was too great. As a guiding document for interpreting waterfront development in the Lambton Harbour precinct, the Court's interpretation will be far reaching.

The Court decision has not been appealed to the High Court.

### **Other ongoing appeals**

- ***Wellington City Council/Capacity – Western Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Continued operation of Western Water Treatment Plant including discharges to the Karori South Coast and Karori Stream. Mediation to recommence in late April / early May.
- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (stage 2) at Castlepoint. Comments on proposed Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) on stage 2 being provided to MDC and now awaiting their response. Public meeting held on 3 March to discuss proposals for stage 2.

## **2.2 Objections**

Currently there are no objections before us.

## **3. Compliance and enforcement**

### **3.1 General**

There are no general matters to report to this meeting.

### **3.2 Specific compliance**

**Wairarapa water restrictions** on consented surface water takes in the Wairarapa are still in place for a number of surface waterbodies. The ongoing water restrictions work now enters it's fifth month and continues to place significant ongoing pressure on Wairarapa staff. We will debrief on the summer's work, impacts on the team and opportunities for system improvement.

In March I reported that summer odour complaint numbers across the region have been amongst the lowest for many years. Since compiling that report **odour complaints** have risen sharply particularly for traditional odour-producing activities such as Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston. Given the reduced activity through summer the recent spate of odour complaints has been particularly disappointing. We are currently seeking explanations from both Taylor Preston and the Carey's facilities for recent incidents.

We are also completing our seasonal programme of **dairy shed effluent inspections**. Unfortunately the level of non-compliance has been higher than expected, given the level of media coverage and 'industry pressure' over the last year. In a number of cases we have issued abatement and advisory notices to correct ongoing problems (such as faulty equipment or effluent application practices). We will also be issuing a number of infringement fines for blatant breaches of consents or failure to comply with enforcement notices.

On a pleasing note, Greater Wellington Flood Protection completed work on the **Waiwhetu stream sediment remediation trial** in late April. The trials involved simple sheet-pile technology to contain discharges from the working site. We are yet to receive monitoring results from the operation, but early indications are positive.

### **3.3 Abatement notices**

We have issued 22 abatements in the last period (doubling the eleven for the previous period), for a range of activities including unauthorised stream and air and land discharges. This included 14 notices for unauthorised clean-filling (disposing of non-cleanfill material including organic waste, metals and concrete) at Aotea Block Development, Porirua.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.239).

### **3.4 Infringement notices**

We have issued six infringement notices in the last period (compared to seven for the previous period), for

- Unauthorised discharges to air from Supreme Automotive Repairs spray painting operation, Masterton
- Breaches of resource consent for stream works at Quartz Hill, associated with Project Westwind (served on the earthworks contractor)
- Discharges of chemicals to water and land.

Infringements are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.239).

### **3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

Three prosecutions proceedings are currently before the Court, down from the last period, with monitoring of performance occurring on a further three sets of enforcement orders. Court-directed work remains reasonably heavy.

#### **Exide Technologies Limited (Exide)**

We have commenced prosecuting Exide for a second time for breaching their consent limit on the southern boundary (1.67 ug/g compared to the 1.5 limit) for the (three month to the end of) November period. Our decision to prosecute was reasonably clear given the reasons for the breach, our previous action over the March 2007 breach, and the stance we have taken on breaches for lead in air. Media interest has been substantial throughout the process. I forwarded you all a copy of our media statement when in late March we announced that we are prosecuting Exide.

#### **Lance James, Brooklyn Holdings and Brooklyn Rise Ltd**

This prosecution regards the complete failure to meet basic requirements (provision of certain sediment control and re-vegetation plans, failure to meet general timelines also including stream reinstatement works) of enforcement orders affecting unconsented works at two separate subdivisions in Ohiro Rd, Brooklyn.

The first Court call over will be on 23 April.

#### **Cardno TCB (TCB) - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development**

On 11 April TCB were sentenced in the District Court pleading guilty to charges, and offering restitution to the value of \$6,000 and a further \$4,000 towards GW's legal costs. In his judgement, Judge Thompson commented that the level of restitution offered was appropriate for the level of offence. This is another very good outcome for Greater Wellington, and reflects a continuing trend in the Court of accepting the restitution/contribution to costs from defendants.

The case relates to a breach of consent conditions involving the failure to implement a stream mitigation plan in a tributary of Duck Creek at the James Cook Drive subdivision site in Whitby. The mitigation plan was designed to minimise adverse effects to stream aquatic life. Charges were laid with the District Court on 20 September, against the consent holder's consultant.

### **3.6 Take Charge**

A focus on the Grenada industrial area in our *Take Charge* programme has continued.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.239).

### 3.7 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of particular note for Greater Wellington centre on air discharges and water takes including:

- ***South Wairarapa Stream Works and Eel deaths:*** In late March, a large quantity of sediment containing eels was excavated from an unnamed tributary of Lake Onoke. The incident was reported heavily in the local media, and we are still investigating claims that the ‘thousands of eels’ were killed. We are working with the Ministry of Fisheries and DoC (given the offence spans the jurisdiction of other agencies) to complete investigations and determine action. This incident is also at the higher end of offending.
- ***Methyl Bromide fumigation – CentrePort:*** I reported on the Methyl Bromide fumigation issue at the March meeting along with Nigel Corry’s verbal brief to you. We are working hard with CentrePort to finalise their monitoring protocol and refinements to their existing code of practice. Once the monitoring protocol is in place we will look to secure timelines for developing a predictive model to determine how associated vapours travel in certain micro-climatic conditions affecting the CentrePort area. We will also shortly be meeting with Regional Public Health to gain a better understanding of possible public health risk and associated effects.

Other significant incidents for unconsented activities for the period are discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.239).

## 4. Major resource consents and other matters

### 4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

This has been a very busy period for processing and hearings. In an unprecedented spate of hearing activity for GW we have held four hearings (including one limited notified) in the space of 11 days in early April, including **O’More Partnership, Herricks, Webstar and Winstone Aggregates.**

#### **Winstone Aggregates Ltd (Winstones)**

Winstone's proposal to develop an overburden disposal area (OBDA) at Belmont Quarry goes to hearing in mid May, and also involves applications to Hutt City Council. It will be our first ever hearing in which we will require evidence to be pre-circulated (in late April). Introduced in the 2005 amendment to the RMA, pre-circulation enables both the officer’s report and evidence of applicant’s and submitters’ experts to be circulated prior to a hearing. The intended benefit is that all parties and the hearing committee are able to review the evidence before the hearing, therefore largely avoiding the need to traverse evidence in great detail in the hearing itself – thus saving potentially considerable time particularly where a number of experts are involved.

The proposal to develop the OBDA involves applications to reclaim and pipe over 500 metres of ephemeral and intermittent stream channel, sediment discharges from the working sites, and discharges of dust to air.

### **Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)**

A decision of the hearing panel is due in late April following the end of the hearing on 3 March.

These are applications for the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, including building a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking. The proposed development also includes structural strengthening of the Clyde Quay Wharf, wharf public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end.

### **O'More Partnership**

A hearing was held on 3 and 4 April. In recommending approval, the officer's report focussed in particular on the effects of stream reclamation in the Pauatahanui Catchment, the merits of proposed stream mitigation (creating a new stream channel, riparian planting), and ongoing sediment discharges from the operation.

This is a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford which is being considered jointly with PCC. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream diversion, and piping and reclamation.

### **Webstar**

The hearing for Webstar's replacement applications for air discharges associated with continuing printing operations (Masterton) was held on 11 April. The officer's report recommended approval on the proviso that certain concerns regarding operational practices and mitigation of odours were alleviated at the hearing. A decision is pending in May.

### **Meridian Energy Ltd (Meridian)**

On the back of Project Westwind, Meridian (on behalf of a private consortium) lodged in early March with GW, Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council applications for a 31 turbine windfarm at Mill Creek. The site lies north of the lower Makara valley and estuary area. The proposal involves windfarm development on site, road widening along Ohariu Valley and a new access road from Porirua city into the northern end of Ohariu Valley. The nine applications to GW include earthworks and associated discharges and stream works including structures and reclamation and air discharges associated with concrete batching. Notification occurred on 17 April.

**Other notified applications** active during the last period include:

- **WCC:** Replacement applications for the sludge dewatering plant operation (including discharges of odour from the facility and land filling operations) at the Carey's Gully Complex. Second pre-hearing scheduled for 19 May.
- **MDC – Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Replacement to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, and to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Deferred for amended applications to incorporate new ponds and additional land for land-based discharges/treatment.
- **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department:** Replacement applications to spray diquat and manually clear weed from Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt. Submissions received on 18 December.
- **Kelson Heights limited:** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with HCC.
- **T & T Landfill:** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with WCC.
- **Stronvar Properties Ltd:** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater – working through these with the applicant.
- **South Wairarapa District Council:** Greytown wastewater treatment plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- **Juken Nissho Limited:** Air discharges from their Waingawa plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- **Masterton District Council:** Masterton Landfill closure. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification.

#### Limited Notified

##### **M B & H F Herrick (Herricks)**

The hearing for Herricks' application commenced on 9 and 10 April with a third day set down for late April.

This is a replacement (renewal) consent application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a significant Wairarapa wetland. The application was limited notified in 2006 and two pre-hearings were held late in 2007.

##### **Kintyre Trust**

The application was processed without a hearing following draft conditions being signed off by parties. Once again, this is an excellent outcome to a limited notified process where the submitters and applicant were able to find common ground through recommended conditions and mitigation measures offered (including installing a biofilter, ceasing operations during neighbouring Marae events, and implementing stringent monitoring).

This application is for setting up a medium-sized rendering plant at an existing abattoir at Gladstone. Notice was served on eight parties and two submissions were received from Rangitaane o Wairarapa and the neighbouring Hurunui-orangi marae, and an initial pre-hearing was held on 9 August.

## **Te Waka Water Co Ltd**

The replacement application to continue taking groundwater for irrigation, from the Otaki Coastal groundwater zone was heard on 14 April, following a 13 February pre-hearing meeting involving a single submitter. Issues considered in the officer's report included the possible draw down effect on neighbouring affected parties bores.

**Other notified applications** active during the last period include:

- **KCDC - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihanga and Te Moana Road in Waikanae. The application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition. Key issues raised impacts on wahi tapu, water quality and flood conveyance and wetland effects. No date has been set for a hearing.
- **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept:** Global consents for structures and stream bed works in Waitohu Stream, Otaki. Pre-hearing held on 15 April. Applicant is continuing to resolve concerns with a single submitter.
- **Hutt City Council:** Wainuiomata River gravel extraction and river realignment. On hold pending further information.

## **4.2 Upcoming consent applications**

**South Waitohu Stopbank:** A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki.

**Lincolnshire Cleanfill:** A large cleanfill proposed for the Lincolnshire Farm area north of Newlands.

**Westchester Drive Extension:** A roading project connecting to the current Mark Avenue extension, north of Newlands, likely to be lodged in late April / early May.

**GW Water Group:** Applications to increase water abstraction from the Hutt River at Kaitoke (to lower the minimum flow from 600L/sec to 400L/sec).

**Transpacific Technical Services:** Discharges to air from an industrial waste treatment facility in Seaview. Lodgement expected end of April 2008.

**Hutt River stopbank, Boulcott:** Applications by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection to construct a new stopbank in the vicinity of Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses. Lodgement expected later in 2009.

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

### **4.3 Other applications**

#### **Neptune Power - Tidal Energy Turbine**

In early April we approved Neptune Power's applications to develop a single trial tidal energy turbine off Wellington's south coast 4 km off the Owhiro Bay coast. It is clear that the applicant worked hard to gain written approvals, thus avoiding a limited notified process and a possible hearing.

### **4.4 Department projects**

#### **Resource management charging policy**

We have undertaken more extensive consultation on the proposed increase to the charge-out rate on top of GW's standard Annual Plan consultation. All consent holders are being consulted in writing.

#### **National Best Practice Procedures Audit**

The audit is conducted by regional council and unitary authorities across New Zealand, focussing on a small number of key consents processing practices – which have a high potential risk if not carried out correctly. Greater Wellington was ranked a close fourth in final results, indicating that we well up there when it comes to the quality of our own procedures and practices.



## Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

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
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	-	Further information supplied late Feb. 08. Information currently being reviewed.		-	-
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 8/11/07	Hearing scheduled for 11 April 2008.	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)		
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	13	31/5/07	Hearing set for 3& 4 April.	Cr Baber, Christine Foster, Ra Pomare (iwi appointee)		
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified) WGN070019	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	HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works). Amended proposal to be submitted.	-	-	-
M B & H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent applications to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06 30/10/07	Hearing scheduled for 9,10 April 2008.	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)	-	-

Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07	13/7/07	95	16/10/2007 Second pre-hearing to be held, May 08	On hold at applicant's request to prepare response for 2 <sup>nd</sup> pre-hearing.	-		
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim 4 intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07	10/7/07	24	30/8/07	Hearing to be tentatively set for late April/early May.			
Kintyre Trust (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air from a rendering plant at Gladstone, east of Carterton.	28/5/07	27/7/07	2	9/8/07 7/2/08	Resolution reached between Council staff, applicant, and submitters.		31/3/08	Granted
Masterton District Council	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/5/07	1/8/07	69	12/11/07	Applicant altered proposal so hearing scheduled for March delayed. Awaiting amended/new applications which are likely to be renotified.			
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept (Limited Notified)	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance.	10/05/07	22/06/07	2		Pre-hearing meeting scheduled for 15 April 2008.			
Wellington City Council WGN080003	Discharge of treated wastewater and intermittent discharge of non treated wastewater to the CMA, occupation of the seabed by a pipe, discharge to air from Moa Point ventilation system.	2/07/07	15/08/07	15		Hearing held 10-12 December.	Chris Turver (Chair), Cnr Donaldson, Elizabeth Burge (iwi appointee), Richard Heerdegen (DoC appointee)	Decision released 23 January 2008. Granted.	Appealed by Wellington City Council.

Capital Wharf Limited & Wellington Waterfront Limited WGN060332	Coastal permits required for the redevelopment of the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, Wellington.	19/09/07	12/11/07	206 (incl late)		Hearing held 18/02/08 – 4/03/08. Decision due for release week of 14 April.	Crs Baber and Lamason, David McMahon		
Te Waka Water Co Ltd WGN060297 (Limited notified).	To take and use water from an existing bore (R25/5208) in the Kapiti groundwater and domestic supply and irrigation purposes.	19/04/06	10/01/08	1	Held on 13 February 2008.	Hearing likely to be scheduled for mid April.			
Kapiti Coast District Council (Limited Notified) WGN080150	To undertake various activities associated with the construction of Section 5 (Otaihanga Rd to Te Moana Road) of Western Link Road.	9/10/07	7/12/07	5		Awaiting final version of peer review of wetland effects and resolution of issues raised by submitters.			

Mike Pryce  
Manager, Harbours Department

## Harbours Department Report – April 2008

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### 1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

### 2. Oil pollution

There were three reports of oil in the harbour during this period. Two required some minor clean-up which was carried out by the spillers.

On 17 April an oil dispersant training exercise was held with approximately twenty staff from the oil industry and Council at Seaview Wharf. This training was undertaken in extremely testing southerly conditions.

### 3. Harbour events

John Tattersall monitored the Wharf to Wharf swim (Petone to Eastbourne) on the 2 March. He was also involved in the safety discussions which followed as the sea became very rough during the swim.

Grant Nalder on Harbours's workboat *Seacare* assisted as a safety boat for the NZ Triathlon championships in Lambton Harbour. Khaled Abdula, from Beacon Hill, assisted as crew.

Beacon Hill staff and the Deputy Harbour Master, Patrick Atwood, took part in the airport sea-crash exercise on 12 March.

Grant Nalder opened the Classic Boat Regatta at Plimmerton Boating club.

John Tattersall assisted with "on the water safety" of the Offshore Powerboat Race on Wellington Harbour. Bill Humphries (temp Harbour ranger) was crew.

Councillors visited oil pollution and navigation equipment storage shed during a tour of CentrePort.

The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior visited the port in April but no repeats of incidents such as occurred in Lyttelton took place.

On 2 April a function/meeting for our Honorary Enforcement Officers was held at Queens wharf. This annual event is a tangible thank you and appreciation for all their voluntary work carried out during the year.