

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – June 2008

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 is in its final stages. Following notification on 19 December 2006, submissions and hearings, the Council adopted the plan change at their meeting on 7 April 2008 and it has now been sent to the Minister of Conservation for her approval. Once approved by the Minister the Council can make it operative

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 have prepared reports making recommendations on submissions for the plan change Hearing Committee to consider. These reports were sent to submitters and none wished to be heard. The hearing committee met on 29 April and made its decisions. Submitters have the opportunity to appeal the decision until 9 June. If there are no appeals the Council can approve the plan change and make it operative.

2. Sustainable Water Programme of Action

2.1 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.

The Ministry for the Environment is currently holding workshops around the country on the standard. One of these workshops was held at Greater Wellington's offices on 26 May. The workshop provided information about the contents of the standard and the technical information supporting it. About 40 people attended. At the workshop, Greater Wellington staff presented material on the approach we are taking to establishing river flows, groundwater levels and allocating water.

2.2 Development of National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy

The Ministry for the Environment is developing a national policy statement on renewable energy. The desirability of a national policy statement on renewable electricity generation was announced with the release of the New Zealand Energy Strategy in October 2007. The national policy statement is intended to be a key component of the New Zealand Energy Strategy and will also complement the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. Late last year Greater Wellington was asked for views on the issues that should be addressed by the policy statement. Greater Wellington now understands that legal drafting of the policy statement has been completed and an assessment of the costs and benefits is now being undertaken. The proposed policy statement is expected to be available for public comment by the end of June 2008.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – June 2008

1. Hydrological monitoring

A summary of our rainfall, river and groundwater monitoring for the month of April is set out in sections 2 to 5 below. This is based on the report produced at the end of each month for inclusion on the Greater Wellington web site and for distribution with a media release. The full report can be found at www.gw.govt.nz/story_images/5183_April2008hydrol_s10511.pdf

Information for May, to the date this report was written (26 May), can be summarised briefly as:

The first 11 days of May brought rain to much of the Wellington region, although since then the weather has been largely settled and dry. Rainfall for May looks to be average to above-average in the east of the region (including the eastern Wairarapa hills, where there was significant rainfall on 9-10 May) but well below average in the Tararua Ranges and on the Kapiti coast due to the predominance of southerly airflows.

Of particular interest, a southerly front stalled over Wellington city and Porirua overnight on 30 April/1 May, producing heavy rain that was sustained for a few hours. In the 6 hours from 10 pm on 30 April Wellington city had 77 mm of rain - the heaviest rainfall over this duration since the gauge was installed on the Regional Council Centre roof in 1996. Significant surface flooding resulted in many parts of the city.

2. Rainfall and river flows

2.1 Rainfall

Overall, April 2008 was wetter than average on the Kapiti Coast and in Wellington city, Porirua, the Hutt Valley, the western Tararua Range, and central northern Wairarapa. Rainfall was up to twice the long-term average for the month in some of these places. This was largely due to a storm on 29-30 April that triggered heavy rainfall alarms at our monitoring sites in Kapiti, the Tararua Range, and Kaitoke. The rainfall was particularly heavy on the Kapiti Coast, where surface flooding caused problems in some urban areas. In many places, 30-50% of the rainfall for April fell during this event. In contrast, April had less rainfall than average in the eastern Tararua Range (which did not receive much 'spillover rain' during the storm of 29-30 April) and in north eastern Wairarapa. Rainfall for the month was about average in southern Wairarapa.

The rainfall for the year to the end of April has been normal to above normal on the Kapiti Coast and in Wellington City, in general due to the rainfall events of early January, late March and the end of April. 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 about half of the rainfall normally received by the end of April. Welcome rainfall on the Wairarapa plains during April has increased rainfall to nearly 80% of average for the year to date, from about 60% at the end of March.

2.2 Rivers

Rainfall during April 2008 boosted river flows significantly compared to the flows during March. However, river flows were generally still below average for the time of the year, due to low base flows as a result of the exceptionally dry summer. The Ruamahanga and Waingawa rivers had particularly low flow for the time of the year, due in part to overall low rainfall in the eastern Tararua Range during April. Rivers in the west of the region and those fed from the Tararua Range had a significant 'fresh' on 30 April caused by heavy rainfall the previous night. Of note, our flood warning alert levels were reached in the Waikanae and Hutt rivers. However, the floods experienced were less than the mean annual flood level.

3. Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels across the region have in general been below long-term average levels. After a dry summer and start to autumn, groundwater levels recovered significantly during April. The recovery was due to more rainfall and lower evapotranspiration leading to increased recharge and less abstraction by groundwater users.

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the artesian Waiwhetu Aquifer in Lower Hutt have recovered and are now above average for the time of the year. This is due to less demand for water leading to a reduction in abstraction by the Waterloo well field, and increased recharge to the groundwater system during April.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Following the cessation of pumping by Kapiti Coast District Council from the Waikanae bore field at the end of March, groundwater levels have recovered significantly at our monitoring site in the Waikanae aquifer. However, the groundwater levels are still below average for the time of the year.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater level recovery in the confined Parkvale aquifer is a result of the decreased abstraction for irrigation during April, and rainfall recharge. Levels are still tracking at about the lowest on record for the time of the year. This is likely to be a result of a general increase in abstraction during the irrigation season and particularly low rainfall on the Wairarapa plains over the last 12 months.

4. Soil moisture

During April, soil moisture levels recovered significantly in many parts of the Wellington region. Soil moisture at our monitoring sites on the Wairarapa plains increased almost to the pre-summer levels. However, there was less recovery of soil moisture in eastern Wairarapa and further rainfall is necessary to eliminate the soil moisture deficit in that area.

5. Climate outlook

The low rainfall to date this year is due to La Nina and the resulting weather patterns. The La Nina is currently weakening but is expected to persist into winter. The NIWA climate outlook for May to July 2008 predicts about normal rainfall in Wellington and average to above-average rainfall in the Wairarapa.

6. 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.

In April one event triggered six river alarms in the Western part of the region. No river alarms were triggered in the Wairarapa.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for 20 days in April.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above target in April as a result of the Lake Onoke blockage but have since receded to around the target.

7. Air quality monitoring

7.1 National environmental standard for air quality

Winter has started with lower temperatures and calm conditions on some nights leading to elevated concentrations of PM₁₀ in two of our airsheds. In Masterton this month there have been four alerts, two of which were 45 µg/m³. In Wainuiomata there have been three alerts of around 35 µg/m³. An alert is a daily average of 33 µg/m³ or greater which is 66% of the national environmental standard limit of 50 µg/m³.

8. Water quality

8.1 Recreational water quality monitoring

The 2007/08 recreational water quality monitoring results have been analysed and the annual report completed. The key findings of the report are the subject of a separate committee paper.

9. Coastal ecological monitoring

Reports have been received documenting the findings of fine-scale ecological monitoring undertaken in the Whareama Estuary and Castlepoint Beach during January. This monitoring is based on an extension of tools included in the National Estuary Monitoring Protocol and included an assessment of sediment grain size and chemistry, and sediment dwelling plants and animals.

9.1 Whareama Estuary

Overall the results show that the dominant intertidal habitat is generally in "good" to "fair" condition. Of concern was the very muddy and poorly oxygenated nature of the sediments which create poor conditions for plants and animals. As a consequence, the condition of the biological community was classified as "slightly to moderately polluted". Excessive inputs of sediment are largely a natural phenomenon given the erosion-prone mudstone soils in the catchment.

9.2 Castlepoint Beach

The results for a range of physical and biological indicators of beach condition showed that the dominant intertidal habitat was generally in good condition. The beach sediments consisted of well-oxygenated sands, with a typical exposed beach benthic invertebrate community, dominated by crustaceans and beetles. The need for management of dunes in the area was noted; introduced marram grass, the main sand-binding species on the beach, has inferior sand-binding and erosion control capabilities to the native sand-binding species (i.e., pingao and spinifex).

10. Project summary

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

- Drilling work to assist with the development of our Wairarapa Groundwater Model is underway. A number of investigation bores are being sunk across the Wairarapa Valley into both shallow aquifers and deeper artesian aquifers.
- We are working with Wellington City Council on a project to 'risk rank' closed landfills.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – June 2008

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 4 April to 16 May 2008 we have received 93 consent applications. This compares with 99 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 85 consents. This compares with 78 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 15 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July rises to 15 (up one from April).

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, water restrictions activity 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 commenced in late April. Progress has been excellent and we are very close to resolving the appeal by consent order after two productive sessions before the Court. A preliminary session with WCC to determine common ground in preparation for the mediation session has been instrumental to the progress we have made.

This is an appeal by WCC regarding 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, the Moa Point Community Liaison Group, and the Breaker Bay and Moa Point Progressive 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.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

The hearing panel's decision to grant consents to redevelop the Overseas Passenger Terminal site at Clyde Quay Wharf has been appealed by Waterfront Watch. I will verbally report on any further appeals at the June Committee meeting.

The applications incorporated a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking, wharf structural strengthening, public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end.

The applications were granted with varying durations and incorporated modifications put forward at the hearing, including retaining more heritage elements, improved mitigation of construction effects on marina uses, additional provision for mariner services in the longer term.

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 on 23 June.
- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (Stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (Stage 2) at Castlepoint. MDC have now finalised the Stage 2 Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP), which includes provision for a new low-level sea wall. With the plan now finalised we now expect to be discussing the next stage of the appeal process with MDC.

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 have now ceased, after nearly six months. We carried out a debrief in late May and will look to introduce a number of system enhancements to

streamline the way we assess and decide on restrictions, improve the delivery of information to consent holders, and enhance our ability to ensure compliance of restricted takes.

We have put a good deal of effort into investigating **odour incidents** from traditional odour-producing activities such as Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston. In the case of Carey's Gully we have stepped up scheduled monitoring, including targeted inspections during potential odour producing activities (e.g. sludge load-outs to Living Earth from the sludge dewatering plant).

3.3 Abatement notices

We have issued four abatements in the last period (down from 22 for the previous period), for illegal stream works, tracking earthworks and depositing rubbish in a river bed.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.343).

3.4 Infringement notices

We have issued 10 infringement notices (including seven in the Wairarapa) in the last period (up from seven for the previous period), for:

- Unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent (four separate operations)
- Discharge of offensive and objectionable odours (Webstar Ltd, Masterton)
- Discharges of hydrocarbons (Boyz Toys, Porirua)
- Illegal water abstractions (Alistair Smith and Hillview Properties) central and northern Wairarapa.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.343).

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Two prosecutions are currently before the Court, down from the last period, with monitoring of performance occurring on a further three sets of enforcement orders.

Exide Technologies Limited (Exide) – discharge of lead in air

We are working through finalising an agreed summary of facts with Exide, with a tentative Court date set down for 6 June. I will update the Committee verbally at the 10 June meeting.

This is our second prosecution Exide for breaching their consent limit for discharging lead in air on the southern boundary (1.67 ug/g compared to the 1.5 limit) for the (three month to the end of) November period.

Lance James and failure to meet enforcement orders at Brooklyn Rise

Mr James indicated at the April call-over that he will defend the charges, and we now wait for instructions from the Court regarding a hearing date.

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.

3.6 Take Charge

A focus on the Grenada industrial area in our *Take Charge* programme has continued. We have commenced visits in the Wairarapa for the first time in a number of years.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.343).

3.7 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of note centre on stream works, odours and discharges of hydrocarbons to water, including:

- ***South Wairarapa Stream Works and Eel deaths:*** I reported this incident in my April report, regarding excavating a large quantity of sediment containing eels from an unnamed tributary of Lake Wairarapa. The incident resulted in the death of a considerably large number of eels. We are concluding our investigations and will soon decide on what action we will take.
- ***Stream bed excavation at Landsdowne, Masterton:*** We are investigating an incident where a stream bed was illegally excavated at Manuka Street, Masterton. The excavation works also resulted in new riparian plantings in an associated reserve being destroyed. The plantings were a combined MDC, GW and community initiative, which makes the destruction particularly disappointing.
- ***Taylor Preston Ltd:*** Along with earlier investigations, we are also investigating a further discharge of offensive and objectionable odour from an incident on 25 April.

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

This continues to be a very busy period for processing and hearings. Following an unprecedented spate of hearing activity (four hearings in 11 days) in early

April, activity focussed on decision writing and support work over the last period.

Winstone Aggregates Ltd (Winstones)

The hearing of Winstone's proposal to develop an overburden disposal area (OBDA) at Belmont Quarry commenced in mid May, and has now been postponed to mid June. It is our first ever hearing in which we have required 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.

O'More Partnership

The hearing of these applications was held on 3 and 4 April, and a decision is expected soon.

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

A decision to grant Webstar's replacement applications for air discharges associated with continuing printing operations (Masterton) was released on 29 April. In its decision the committee took account of odour and health issues arising from emissions of PM¹⁰ and sulphur dioxide. Conditions required that emissions be within MfE air quality guidelines and the National Environmental Standard for air. Emissions can't produce objectionable and offensive odours beyond Webstar's boundary, and other conditions require improved operating practices (treating emissions), and monitoring and reporting.

WCC/Capacity: United Water International sludge dewatering plant

A particularly successful second pre-hearing meeting was held on 19 May. WCC confirmed the general options for sludge disposal being investigated (including short to medium term disposal at the landfill) in the wake of plans to cease sludge co-composting at the Living Earth facility. In addition, a draft odour management plan providing options for improved odour management at UWI was also presented. However, perhaps most significantly following discussions in the meeting, WCC will now trial a range of methods for disposing of sludge at Southern Landfill over next summer and autumn, with an April/May 2009 pre-hearing and November 2009 hearing likely.

The most pleasing aspect from my perspective was that the actions arising from the meeting were the result of healthy and pragmatic discussion between the participants, WCC and ourselves. While the processing of the current applications are delayed, the information gained from the trial and the added time to develop firm long term options for sludge disposal is a very positive.

These are WCC/Capacity's replacement applications for the continued sludge dewatering plant operation (including discharges of odour from the facility and land filling operations) at the Carey's Gully Complex.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- **Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT):** The hearing panel's decision to grant applications was released on 2 May, and has been subsequently appealed, as discussed in section 2.1.
- **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. Revised applications expected in June or July.
- **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. Notification expected as soon as the applicant provides an application fee.
- **Stronvar Properties Ltd:** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater, and the integrity of the proposed water supply and amenity dam – working through these with the applicant.
- **Masterton District Council:** Masterton Landfill closure. Awaiting further information prior to notification.
- **Transpacific Technical Services:** Discharges to air from an industrial waste treatment facility in Seaview. Applications were lodged on 23 April and were notified on 31 May.
- **South Wairarapa District Council:** Replacement applications for discharges from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and being assessed for completeness.
- **Juken Nissho Limited:** Replacement applications for discharges to air from their Waingawa plant. Lodged in January 2008 with updated AEE provided in May and being assessed for completeness.

Limited Notified

M B & H F Herrick (Herricks)

The decision declining Herricks' replacement consent application to take groundwater (for irrigation) east of Carterton was released on 22 May, following a three-day hearing in April.

In declining the applications, the hearing panel said that potentially significant effects on the ecology of Taumata Lagoon wetland, a regionally significant Wairarapa wetland (including remnants of indigenous vegetation and fauna) could result from taking water adjacent to the wetland. The panel also noted that the level of information provided by the applicant was inadequate to prove that effects would not be more than minor. Furthermore, the hearing panel felt that additional evidence provided at the hearing was sufficient to cast doubt over that potential impacts of the groundwater take on the wetland were minor.

This is a replacement (renewal) application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a significant Wairarapa wetland.

Te Waka Water Co. Ltd

The decision to grant Te Waka's applications was released on 24 April.

The replacement application to continue taking groundwater for irrigation, from the Otaki Coastal groundwater zone was heard on 14 April, involving a single opposed submitter. Issues considered in the decision included the possible draw down effect on neighbouring affected parties' bores, although no potentially significant effects are anticipated.

Other limited notified applications active during the last period include:

- **KCDC - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihangā 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. The 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, by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection.

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.

Waiwhetu Stream Remediation: Full applications for remediation of Waiwhetu Stream, following on from the March 2008 trial-excavation consents.

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.

Kaitoke abstraction - 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).

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

Greytown Wastewater - South Wairarapa District Council: Replacement applications for discharges from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and being assessed for completeness.

4.3 Other applications

Other non-notified applications of note are discussed in report 08.342.

4.4 Department projects

Dairy effluent workshop with Fonterra

I am very keen that we improve the quality of dairy discharge applications and level of compliance performance amongst consent holders. With that in mind we are currently planning a workshop on dairy effluent management practices to be held together with Fonterra at the end of June. The workshop will be held 'on the farm' and will feature presentations on effluent management equipment and practice as well as demystifying the consents application process and GW expectations for compliance. There is also a possibility that if the workshop goes particularly well (and registrations exceed places) then we may look at repeating it.

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 WAR970080	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 WAR 060160	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 February 2008. Information currently being reviewed.			
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited) WAR 070015	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	08/05/07 08/11/07	11/04/08	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)	Decision released on 29/4/08. Granted.	No appeals received.
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua.	12/12/06	02/05/07	13	31/05/07	Hearing held on 3 and 04/04/08.	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) WAR 060074 & WAR 060075	Replacement consent applications to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	08/09/06	4	24/10/06 30/10/07	Hearing held on 09, 10 and 21/04/08.	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)	22/5/08	Declined. Appeal period closes 16/6/08.
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/04/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/2007 Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08	On hold at applicant's request to carry out trials of discharging sludge to land.	-		
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	07/05/07	10/07/07	24	30/08/07	Hearing commenced on 12/05/08. To be reconvened on 12/06/08.			
Masterton District Council WAR 070077	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/05/07	01/08/07	69	12/11/07	Applicant altered proposal so hearing scheduled for March delayed. Awaiting amended/new applications which are likely to be re-notified.			
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 held 15/04/08. Conditions being drafted with a view to an agreed outcome being reached.			
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 – 04/03/08. Decision due for release week of 14/04/08.	Crs Baber and Lamason, David McMahon	Decision released 01/05/08. Granted.	Appeals close 26/05/08.

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 13/02/08	Hearing held 14/04/08.	Crs Baber and Laidlaw	Decision released on 24/04/08. Granted.	No appeals.
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.	09/10/07	07/12/07	5		Peer review of wetland effects identified major gaps in applicant's assessment, which are currently being addressed. Resolution of issues raised by some submitters still outstanding.			
Mill Creek (Meridian) WGN080368	To undertake stream works, land disturbance, discharge contaminated storm water to land/water and contaminants to air in association with constructing roads, fill sites and platforms for the establishment of a wind farm.	12/03/08	16/06/08						
Transpacific WGN080440	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation of a liquid and hazardous waste processing plant.	23/04/08	30/06/08						
NZSF Timber Investments (No. 3) Ltd. WGN080361	To undertake various activities associated with forestry logging, Flighty's Road, Pauatahanui.	07/03/08	20/05/08						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours Department

Harbours Department Report – June 2008

1. Harbour navigation aids

The Point Jerningham light was out on the nights of the 23-24 May due to a battery problem. This was repaired by the following night.

All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution

Two oil spills into the harbour took place during this period and both required clean-up action.

3. Harbour events of interest

The large FPSO (floating, production, storage & off-take tanker) *Rarua*, bound for the offshore Maarai oilfield, was in port from 26 April to 11 May.

The Wellington tug *Kupe*, which was replaced by the new tug *Tiaki*, sailed for its new home-port of New Plymouth on 6 May.

The largest trading tanker ever to visit the port arrived at the Seaview tanker berth on 9 May. The 74,000-tonnes-deadweight tanker *Torm Venture* had brought petrol from Lithuania.

4. Meetings

The Manager, Harbours Department, attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee meeting on 24 April and the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum on 23 May.

Some details about the progress of the "boating" petrol tax were provided at the latter meeting. The proposal that some of the "boating" petrol tax could be used for such things as boating education is contained in the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill. Although many seem hopeful about this Bill, it is by no means a done deal. Probably not all of the "boaties" petrol tax will be made available, and neither the amount nor the process or apportionment of the funding is certain.

It is hoped that this Bill will proceed past its second and third readings to become an enabling Act by 1 July 2008. Any funding from this Act would not be available until 1 July 2009.