

Report 08.696  
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Committee Regulatory  
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## Environmental Protection Report

### 1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Environmental Protection Team in the Wellington Region during the reporting period.

### 2. Communication

A full list of incidents for the last period can be found at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/section32.cfm?>

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

### 3. Background

The Environment Management Division manages the unauthorised use of the environment via the following:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing notifications of environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

### 4. Incidents

#### 4.1 Incident summary for the period August 1 to September 26 2008

A total of 157 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1.

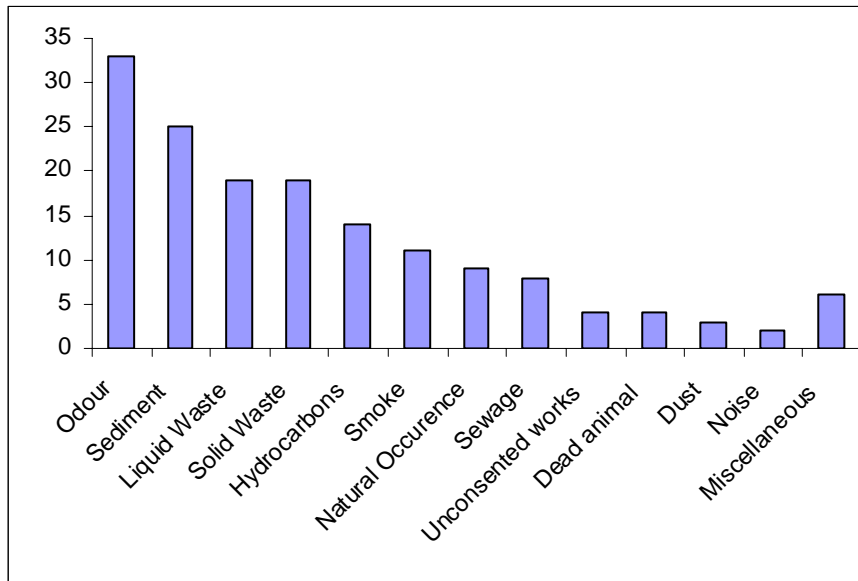


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 1 August to 26 September 2008

#### 4.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, extent and duration of environmental effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible and minor effects.

The incidents categorised as “Not Assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, extent or duration of environmental effects.

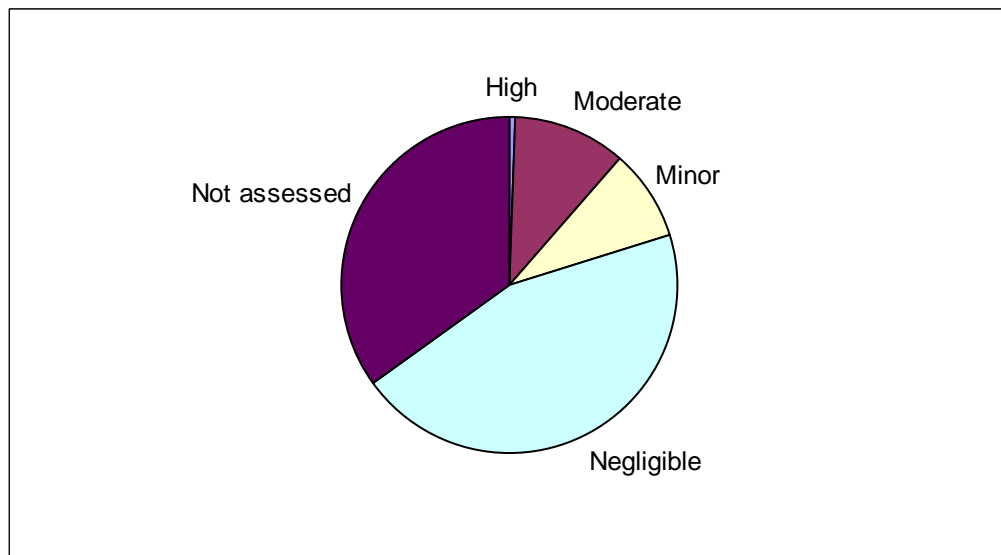


Figure 2: Incident significance for the period 1 August to 26 September 2008

#### 4.3 Significant incidents

On 3 August 2008, a Greater Wellington enforcement officer from the Environmental Protection team confirmed a sediment discharge from

Silverwood subdivision into Pauatahanui Stream. The discharge resulted from poor maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures.

On 7 August 2008, a Greater Wellington enforcement officer from the Environmental Protection team responded to an incident in Main Road, Titahi Bay where hazardous substances were discharged to surface water as a result of excavations near to a contaminated site. The investigating officer observed a thick black hydrocarbon substance which had been discovered in groundwater seeping into the 2 metre hole as it was dug. Precautions were taken by contractors as soon as the contamination was discovered, and the majority of the discharge was contained in a nearby sump.

On 8 August 2008, sediment was discharged from Horokiwi Quarry into Wellington Harbour. The discharge represented a breach of consent conditions.

On 27 August 2008, six officers were called to an incident where six stock had died on a Wairarapa farm from poisoning by phorate - an active ingredient in herbicides. The incident is currently under investigation and further soil tests are required.

On 9 September 2008, sediment discharges were observed coming from Aotea Block in Porirua, into Okowai Lagoon. The discharges were attributed to inadequate erosion and sediment control measures.

On 20 September 2008, Greater Wellington enforcement officers attended an incident at Breaker Bay where a large block of tallow washed up on the beach. Another was found on Waikanae beach on 23 September. These barrel-shaped lumps attracted a high degree of public interest as well as media attention.

#### 4.4 Incident distribution

Figure 3 shows the regional distribution of incidents. The majority of the incidents are reported in the urban areas. However, there is a continuing increase in Wairarapa based incidents for the 2007/08 year.

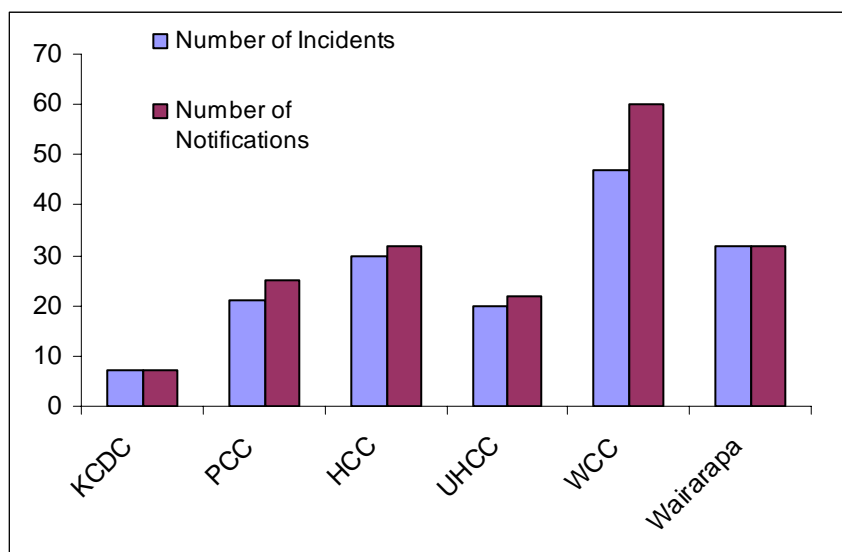


Figure 3: Incident distribution by local authority

## 5. Enforcement action

Table 1 summarises enforcement action taken from 1 August to 26 September 2008.

Table 1: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	13
Cost Recovery (invoices)	3
Infringement Notices	12
Abatement Notices	8
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	7

### 5.1 Summary of enforcement action

#### Cost Recovery

Offender	Address	Reason for the Notice	Amount due
Best Farm Limited	395 Middleton Road, Glenside, Wellington	Disturbance of stream bed – constructing a track through a stream without consent	\$ 286.88
Keith & Tony Millner	Doncaster Street cul-de-sac	Hydrocarbon spill and associated clean-up	\$1038.65
Levin Bobcats Ltd	Te Hiko Street, Porirua	Discharge of sediment to Porirua Harbour	\$ 573.75

#### Infringement Notices

Offender	Address	Offence	Fine
Macland Farms Ltd	Western Lake Road, Featherston	Breach of resource consent for water take from the Ruamahanga River for irrigation purposes	500
Rod McKenzie	Manuka Reserve, Manuka Street, Lansdowne, Masterton	Un-authorised works in watercourse, Manuka Street, Masterton	500
Aidan James Bichan, Director, Kaiwairi Dairies Ltd	Kaiwairi Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300

Offender	Address	Offence	Fine
Maurice Robin Brasell	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Vernon Grant Brasell	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Neville Francis Fisher	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Neil Leslie Greiner	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Geoffrey Thomas Harrison	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Peter John Warren	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Breach of resource consent and RMA arising from effluent discharge entering waterway	300
Prime Property Group Limited	43 Spenmoor St, Newlands, Wellington	Construction of an unauthorised track	300
Duffill Watts Limited	43 Spenmoor St, Newlands, Wellington	Construction of an unauthorised track	300

### Abatement Notices

Offender	Address	Abatement	Offence
Macland Farms Ltd	Western Lake Road, Featherston	Cease the unauthorised taking of water above amount specified in consent	Unauthorised taking of water in accordance with WAR050175
Rod McKenzie	Manuka Reserve, Manuka Street,	Cease the unauthorised taking of water above amount specified in consent	Unauthorised works in watercourse,

Offender	Address	Abatement	Offence
	Lansdowne, Masterton		Manuka Street, Masterton
Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited	Kaiwaiwai Dairies Limited dairy farm at State Highway 53, Featherston	Cease discharging dairy effluent in such a manner and at such times when the effluent will either; (a) cause runoff across land and discharge to a waterway; (b) or enter a tile drain and discharge to a waterway	Discharge of dairy shed effluent onto land and running off into water
Pukehuia Limited	43 Spenmoor Street, Newlands	Remediation of an unauthorised track, 43 Spenmoor Street, Newlands	Unauthorised track, 43 Spenmoor Street, Newlands
Leyden Downs Limited	Section 417 Taratahi District Blocks VI VII Tiffin SD	Cease unauthorised works in the bed of the Mangatarere Stream	Unauthorised steam works
Leyden Downs Limited	Mangatarere Stream catchment, Section 417 Taratahi District Blocks VI VII Tiffin SD	Remove or authorise the erosion protection structure and materials in the bed of the Mangatarere Stream	Unauthorised steam works
Leyden Downs Limited	Mangatarere Stream catchment, Section 417 Taratahi District Blocks VI VII Tiffin SD	Discharge of contaminants into surface water	Cease unauthorised discharges into surface water
The O'More Partnership	346 Paremata Haywards Road, Judgeford 5301	Undertake maintenance to the true right hand side of the existing ford crossing to ensure unauthorised sediment discharges entering the Pauatahanui Stream cease	Alleged breach of resource consent WGN080209

## 6. **Take Charge**

*Take Charge* is Greater Wellington's Pollution Prevention Program to improve site environmental management. The current program targets:

1. Grenada North – Take Charge audits complete for all sites in Grenada North area assessment, but some follow-up business to take place.
2. Non-complying businesses referred by government employees and the public.
3. EnviroSmart businesses - committed to achieving initiatives beyond compliance.
4. Service Stations in the Wairarapa - an activity based assessment to ensure consistent compliance.
5. *Take Charge* sustainable business achievement programme - 11 certificates have been issued after completion of audit recommendations (see example of certificate, below).



## Assessments and reports

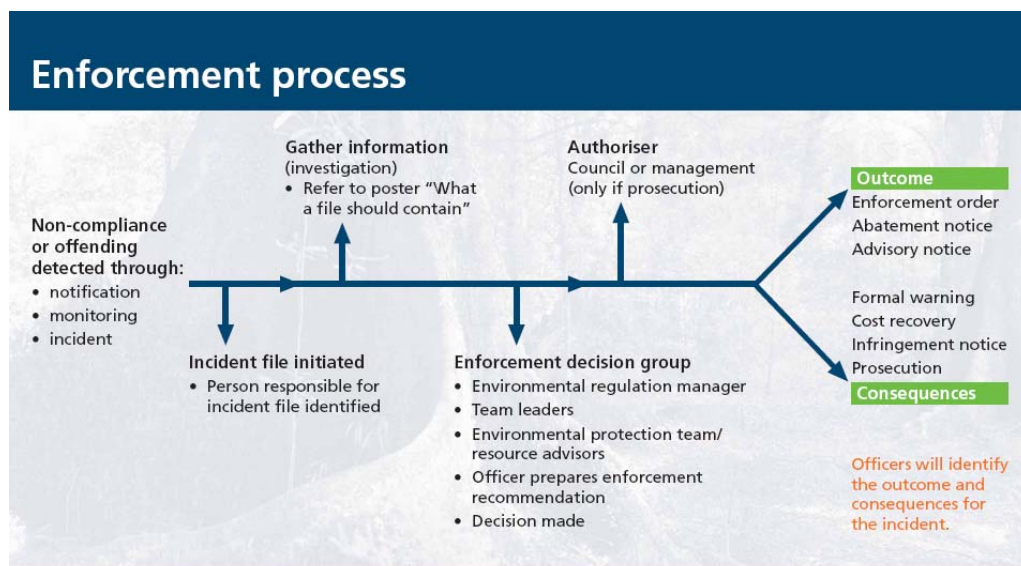
The following sites completed Take Charge audits with Greater Wellington between 1 August and 26 September 2008.

Company name	Location	Current activities	Risk at site	Compliance Status
McKee Fehl	24 Cashew St, Grenada North	Plant yard and store/maintenance	High	Minor non-compliance
AF Logistics	2-24 Dragon St, Grenada North	Chilled freight and produce	Med	Minor non-compliance
MacBilt Engineering	1 Cashew St, Grenada North	Race car workshop	Med	Minor non-compliance

## 7. Special projects

The Environmental Protection team has published a set of posters to clarify enforcement procedures for the department. These include:

- Incident response
- What a file should contain
- Qualities of enforcement officers
- Investigation timeline
- Enforcement process
- Considerations before taking enforcement action





## 8. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Notes the contents.*

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