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Committee Environment Committee  
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## Take Charge area investigation: Grenada North and Naenae

### 1. Purposes

To provide the Committee with a summary of the key points and lessons learnt from applying Take Charge, our pollution prevention programme, in Grenada North Business Park, and to inform the Committee of our intentions to undertake a new area assessment in Naenae.

### 2. Grenada North investigation

#### 2.1 Background

Since 2007 the Environmental Protection team have applied the Take Charge work programme in the industrial Grenada North Business Park (see figure 1).



Figure 1: Grenada North Business Park

This area was selected because of repeat pollution incidents in the Takapu Stream. It was considered that taking businesses through the Take Charge programme would be a useful way to reduce contaminant inputs into, and improve the water quality, of the Takapu Stream.

The Takapu Stream is a hill country stream (>200m) with a catchment of 899.4 Hectares. About 10% of the catchment is urban space, the rest is mainly farmland.

During a fish survey [EMI 2008, Joy, Death 2003] undertaken in the lower reaches of the Takapu Stream many native and introduced species were recorded. Koaro, longfin eels and banded kokopu were listed as abundant.

Stream sediment sampling [2006] conducted by Environmental Protection staff prior to the Take Charge audits identified heavy metal contamination of the stream adjacent to the study area.

## **2.2 Investigation scope**

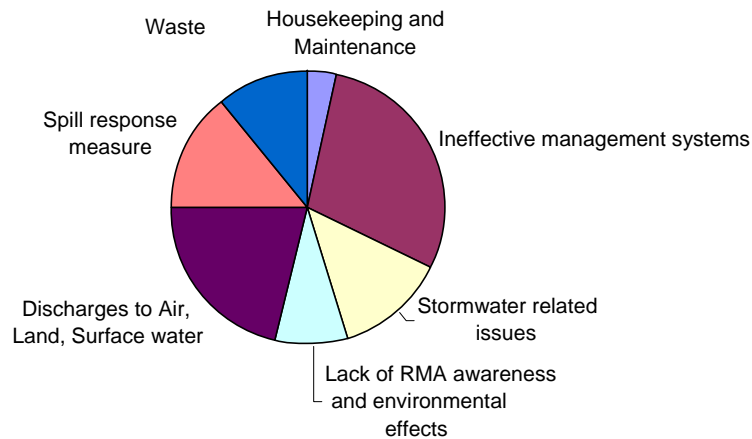
The objective of Take Charge is to assess business activities, identify actual and potential pollution sources and to remove or reduce pollution inputs by providing advice to business on pollution control methods.

Greater Wellington Environmental Protection Officers surveyed businesses in the target area to determine their number, type, and likely pollution risks. The initial area assessment identified 62 sites in the stormwater catchment. 32 of these sites were considered to pose a medium to high risk to the storm water network and Takapu Stream. These survey results were used to identify those business requiring further assessment based on their current activities and onsite stormwater management. During the initial survey visits a brief explanation of the project was given to each business, outlining the investigation objectives and purpose.

All initial site visits of the 32 businesses selected for a comprehensive assessment were completed between June 2007 and September 2008.

## 2.3 Key findings

The main issues identified within Grenada North Business Park which have the potential to lead to environmental incidents are summarised below:



Graph 1: Main issues encountered at Grenada North Business Park

Many businesses interviewed during the assessments were unaware of the relationship between activities at their site and the stream quality and ecology. However, the attitude of most business operators to the site audits and the focus on improving the quality of the Takapu Stream was positive.

Discharges to air, land or surface water were identified, such as inadequate washdown areas, or ineffective ventilation. Ineffective management systems were observed at many sites and included lack of staff instruction and the lack of provision of appropriate operating and emergency procedures.

Officers recommended practical solutions to the pollution issues identified to improve the overall environmental performance at each business; such as the identification of stormwater sumps onsite, the development of spills procedures, and the installation of washpads. These recommendations were conveyed verbally during the audit visit and followed up in a written report. More than 60 formal recommendations were made in response to our investigations, ranging between 1 and 13 per site.

There are recommendations still to be completed at three sites.

## 2.4 Key lessons learnt

The existing Take Charge area assessment methodology was very successful and proved to be an efficient use of our resources.

Most businesses encountered had limited knowledge of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Greater Wellington's regional plans and rules.

The single page audit report proved to be appropriate for the majority of smaller businesses, while the larger comprehensive report is still required for larger businesses.

### **3. New area assessment – Naenae**

With Take Charge assessments coming to an end at the Grenada North Business Park, Naenae has been selected as the new area to undertake the Take Charge programme.

#### **3.1 Selection process**

It was proposed that an area within the Waiwhetu catchment be investigated, to work alongside existing Waiwhetu Stream projects. A selection shortlist of commercial centres was established which included Naenae, Seaview, Griffins, Gracefield and Wingate.

The “1000 minds” computer programme is used as an initial assessment tool to help us assess a range of environmental, community, regulatory and logistical values and attributes. From this assessment we were able to establish the area of ‘highest priority’.

The results showed that target areas which are industrial (and or commercial) with high levels of pollution incidents reported annually (greater than 10); and which have frequent recreational use by their communities; were preferred Take Charge locations. As a result Naenae was selected as the most appropriate place to undertake the new area assessment.

**Attachment 1** shows the full list of criteria and preference values. **Attachment 3** shows the results of the weighting assessment.

### 3.2 Location



Photo 1: location of the main area in Naenae where audits will take place

The area where the majority of the audits will take place is bordered by Cambridge Terrace, Clendon Street, Naenae Road, Everest Ave and Vogel Street. There is a small industrial area on Rata Street which will also be assessed.

The target area is compact in size, and has an uncomplicated stormwater network, making it easier to track where pollution may enter the network, and easier to identify and show the businesses where the end point of their discharges is.

### 3.3 Process

The Environmental Protection team will undertake a second phase analysis walk through of the target areas, surveying businesses (using **attachment 2**) to determine their number, type, and likely pollution risks. These survey results will be used to identify those businesses requiring further assessment. During the survey visits a brief explanation of the project will be given to businesses outlining the investigations objectives and purpose.

Stream sampling will occur above and below the main outfall point to the Waiwhetu Stream to determine the level of pollution, as well as further up the catchment to provide background data.

### 3.4 Cross council, inter-agency and community engagement

Naenae is a highly appropriate area to undertake Take Charge audits as it is located in the upper part of the Waiwhetu catchment. It is a catchment where a large amount of council resources and time are being directed by both Greater Wellington and Hutt City Council (HCC), in relation to clearing contaminated

sediment, flood protection initiatives and stormwater and wastewater management. A Take Charge focus on Naenae will add to the benefits provided by other initiatives in the catchment. It is our hope that by working with businesses in this area, we will be able to raise awareness and prevent more pollution from entering the Waiwhetu Stream.

Greater Wellington has had initial discussions with officers from HCC about what level of involvement they would like to have. Information sharing will occur about any sites visited, and HCC officers will assist with the initial walk through.

The Naenae project works alongside several objectives of HCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2009-2014.

#### **4. Communication**

The Environmental Regulation department will prepare a media release focussing on the completion of the Granada North project and the positive outcomes.

## 5. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.

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**Attachment 1:** Criteria and preference values

**Attachment 2:** Second phase assessment survey form

**Attachment 3:** Results of weighting assessment