

Consents

NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2000

Search for environmental excellence

Two consent holders have been chosen as the Wellington Regional Council's 1999/2000 Environmental Responsibility Award winners.

Kiwi Point Quarry and the Salvation Army Bridge Programme stood out from the 700 consents inspected.

Around two thirds of resource consents were in full compliance with their conditions. Much of the non-compliance was relatively minor and most people fixed problems when we asked them to. Interestingly, it is not large companies that are having problems. The vast majority of non-compliance came from individuals (especially boatshed and mooring owners) and local authorities.

Last year, four businesses and a farmer were given Environmental Responsibility Awards. These were: Unilever New Zealand, Colgate-Palmolive Ltd, Winstone Aggregates Limited (Belmont Quarry), South Pacific Tyres Limited and Otaki farmer Jim Simcox.



Winstone Aggregates Quarry Manager John Savage with his 1998/1999 environmental responsibility award.

- WRC consent customer satisfaction has risen by 6 percent since 1997, according to an AC Nielsen survey. The biggest increase in satisfaction was by people making submissions on resource consents. The survey results will be used to continue to improve our resource consent services.
- If you need to refresh your knowledge of the resource management process, you'll find it all in our updated brochure series. The brochures provide the basics of the resource consent process and cover everything from applying for a consent, making a submission, to enforcement action. The new brochures are simpler, easier to follow, and more colourful than the old ones. Give us a call or drop in and pick one up.

Water in the Wairarapa

Water – there’s either too much or too little! In dry summers there are occasions when the demand for water exceeds the available supply. Central government funding has enabled the Regional Council, with a number of other organisations and local authorities, to begin a study of the water resources in the Wairarapa. The study will focus on the availability of water and how it could be used to increase productivity and development of land through irrigation. Contact Matthew Morgan in the Wairarapa office, phone (06) 378 2484 for more details.



John Coveney, Pirinoa, and his irrigator used on his dairy farm.



Last year, a Victoria University study aimed to find out how much water is needed for irrigating crops, pasture, or horticulture. Initial results from the study have just become available. A field user guide is being developed that will enable both the Regional Council and consent holders to check the most efficient and effective way to apply water to your land.

Polluters lose ratepayer subsidy

People who require extra compliance checks because they don’t meet their consent conditions will now have to pay.

In the past, consent holders were asked to remedy any problems. We would follow up to check that the remedial work had been carried out – at no cost to the consent holder. Not any more!

The new policy will mean that the polluter pays a greater proportion of the costs of ensuring they comply with their consent conditions and ratepayers will pay less. Hopefully, the ‘pollution bills’ will act as a financial incentive to keep the environment healthy.

Consents now ISO quality assured

The Consents Management Department (Wellington) recently became a Telarc registered supplier. Our work is quality assured because we comply with the International Standards Organisations quality standard ISO 9002.

A lot of bureaucratic gobbledegook? Well, the numbers and names may not be familiar, but what it means is that you now know that someone’s checking us to make sure we do as we say.

New Zealand’s premier quality certification agency, Telarc, has reviewed all of our processes and procedures and given us the quality tick. It will also check periodically that we are still up to scratch.



Green Ribbon Award

Liz Burge, of Gladstone, won one of five Green Ribbon Awards – announced by the Minister for the Environment, Marian Hobbs, in June – for her work with iwi and local government in Wairarapa.

She was nominated by the Wellington Regional Council for her work in co-ordinating comment on all matters relating to resource management on behalf of the Rangitane o Wairarapa.

Liz is a strong advocate for the importance of good communication between iwi and local government, says the WRC. Her work helped limit water-polluting discharges and encouraged the building of a fish passage at the Lake Wairarapa barrage gates.

Regional Plans: a guide to the rules in the Wellington Region

When the Regional Soil Plan takes effect on 9 October 2000, the Council will have six operative regional plans (including the Transitional Regional Plan). We have prepared a Guide to help you find out if you need a resource consent.

The Guide will be available in a ring binder, and on our website. The website user can link through to the actual rules in each of the plans. Check out the User Guide on: <http://www.wrc.govt.nz/em/manres.htm#regplan>

If your particular activity does not appear to be covered, or if you would like further clarification, give us a call on (04) 384 5708 (Wellington) or (06) 378 2484 (Wairarapa).

- Many older consents are due to expire on 1 October 2001. If yours is one of those we will notify you shortly if you need to apply for a replacement consent. Please respond promptly to allow time to process your application. With an application lodged with us six months before the old one expires, you can still operate under your existing consent.



Water is taken from the Hutt, Wainuiomata and Orongorongo river catchments and treated to provide high quality drinking water to metropolitan Wellington. Applications to renew the rights to use these water sources for the next 20 - 35 years are currently being processed.

