

Report to the Environment Committee
from Jason Wills, Section Leader Resource Quality

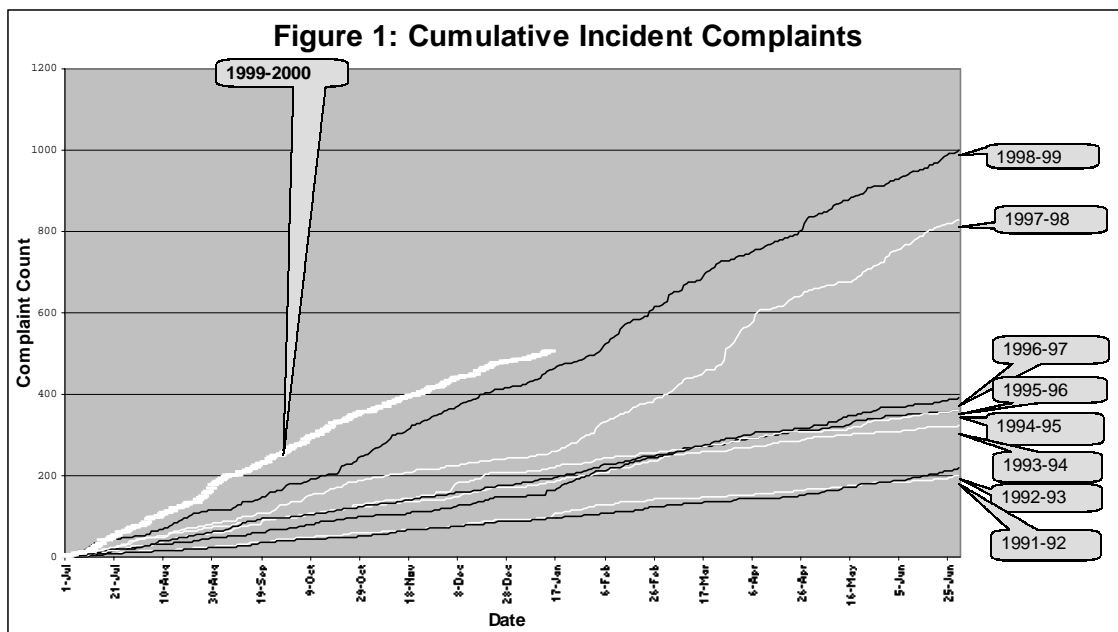
Incident Response Report

1. Purpose

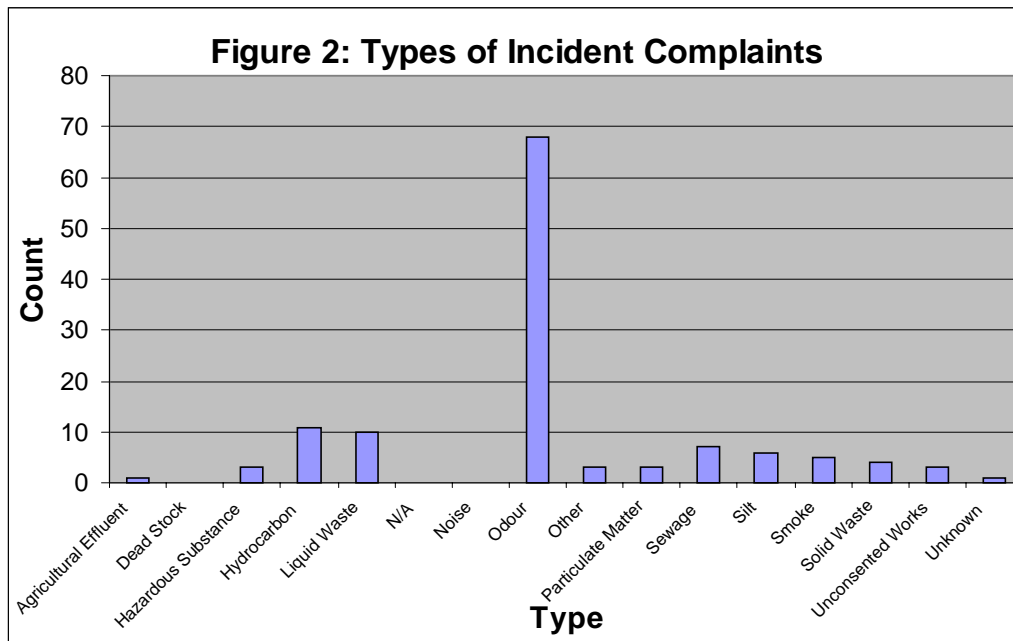
To report on recent incident response work undertaken by the Council.

2. Incident Complaints

139 complaints were received between 8 November 1999 and 16 January 2000. A summary of these complaints is attached. A comparison of complaints received to date with those received in previous years is provided by Figure 1.



The types of complaints received between 8 November 1999 and 16 January 2000 are summarised in Figure 2.



The major issues/incidents arising during the last period are highlighted below:

- Burnt Plastic and Welding Odour: Lyall Bay

The engineering works required by the Regional Council are due for completion on 1 February 2000.

- Soda Ash discharge from a vessel at Kings Wharf onto Oriental Bay.

Centreport Wellington Ltd and their shipping agent's have reviewed their unloading procedures and implemented changes to ensure that excess product is not lost overboard during discharging.

- Concrete additive discharge into a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream.

After careful consideration and collection of evidence, we have decided to issue an abatement notice to the cartage firm responsible for the spill. The abatement notice will require the cartage firm to put in drainage works by a set date. This will ensure that this incident does not recur.

- Hydrocarbon discharge: Seaview

All evidence has been collected and analysed. A final decision on appropriate enforcement action will be made soon.

- Silt discharge from a quarry: Judgeford.

A contractor, discharging silt from a quarry in Judgeford, has been issued an abatement notice. The abatement notice requires that the discharge ceases, and

that engineering works be undertaken to ensure that any silt discharged into the tributary of the Pauatahanui Stream complies with the Regional Freshwater Plan.

3. Response Times

The following table summarises our performance in meeting the target response times for the complaints received between 8 November 1999 and 16 January 2000.

A red response (target 60 minutes) is set for urgent incidents where either the environmental effects are potentially large or the pollution traceability is brief (i.e. odour). A yellow response (24 hours) is set for incidents that are not regarded as urgent but still need to be investigated as soon as possible. A blue response (within one month) is set for incidents that are not urgent and can be followed up at a later date (i.e. reports of incidents that have occurred in the past).

Priority Category	Number	Average Response Time	Target
Red	120	24.76 minutes	60 minutes
Yellow	15	3.82 hours	24 hours
Blue	4	4.94 days	31 days

Within the reporting period, five investigations did not meet the Red response time guideline of 60 minutes. These investigations were:

Complaint	Date	Time	Response Time
5054	09/11/1999	(17:00)	100 minutes.
5127	04/12/1999	(08:35)	85 minutes.
5129	04/12/1999	(12:17)	79 minutes.
5192	20/12/1999	(11:50)	61 minutes.
5199	07/01/2000	(09:21)	84 minutes.

The reasons for missing the prescribed deadline was usually multiple call-outs or heavy traffic.

4. Enforcement

During the period 8 November 1999 to 16 January 2000, one abatement notice was issued. This notice was issued to a site owner in Upper Hutt who had several large drums of fish oil which were potentially discharging into the storm-water system.

5. Communication

Weekly summaries of complaints are distributed to staff at all territorial authorities in the Western Wellington Region, Public Health Services, local Iwi (mainly via the WRC Iwi Liaison officer), and the Resource Investigations, Consents Management, Harbours, and Planning and Resources (Wairarapa) Departments of the Wellington Regional Council.

6. Recommendations

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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JANE BRADBURY
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Attachments: 1