



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' reports and the Divisional Accountant's report are attached.

**3. Resource Management Act: Annual Survey of Local Authorities
1999/2000**

We have just received the results of the above survey. This is carried out by the Ministry for the Environment as an indicator of current local authority RMA practice. It comprises resource consent processing statistics by local authority as well as nationwide practices for monitoring and enforcement and Maori participation.

This Council's response, as last year, was audited by Audit New Zealand with our agreement.

I am delighted to report that the Wellington Regional Council came top of the "tables" in percentage of notified and non-notified consents processed within time (see tables below). This year those Councils who re-set the clock with further information requests have been marked. This Council has never adopted this practice

All our notified consents and 99% of non-notifieds were processed within time. I may note that, in fact, our processing times for non-notified consents are well within the statutory timeframe - averaging about 9 days in the western part of the Region.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff concerned for a great effort - especially for all the long hours to meet our deadlines.

It was also pleasing to see that this Council was one of the very few to have all their plans in an operative state.

I **attach** a copy of the executive summary for the survey so Councillors can see the other findings.

4. **End of Year**

This has been a year of great activity and achievement. The Division has completed all its projects and even done a few extra ones. It has also made greater progress on some work than anticipated.

The only area where there has been less activity than anticipated is with Iwi

The Divisional Accountant's report gives a preliminary account of the year end position. We are very pleased to see that the Division has met its overall budget. The underspend in iwi has been offset with additional work, some of which was planned but brought forward. Unfortunately, we incurred some large legal bills, most notable was the Valley Plaza appeal in Upper Hutt that involved possible flooding issues (\$57k). This was not budgeted for and it may be appropriate that it be met by the legal reserve.

5. **Staffing**

I would like to welcome Paula Bullock as Manager, Consents Management. Paula has played a key role in the Division for a number of years. I'm sure her penchant for hard work and great people skills will stand her in good stead as a manager. I'm sure she will be a valuable addition to the Division's management team.

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attach:

Resource Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

August 2001

1. Native Plant Guide (John Holmes)

Total sales of the Guide for 2000-01 was 3300 copies. This compares with about 5,000 from the time of the Guide's launch in October 1999 to June 2000. Overall this is a pleasing result, suggesting there is still considerable interest in planting "the right plant in the right place".

2. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

The sediment cores taken from the lower reaches of the river have been analysed and are the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

Two aspects of this project have been advanced recently. The communications firm of Hill & Knowlton has been engaged to design a strategy for communicating with and educating residents and users of the Pauatahanui catchment about its importance and how to look after it. This is nearly complete. In addition, the strategy will address the communication needs of the two Councils and provide suggestions as to the role the future community trust can play in keeping the issues of the Inlet current and in people's minds.

Work is also underway on the design of a suspended sediment and flow monitoring station in the lower part of the Horokiri stream. This will provide continuous information about the level of sediment in this important stream which, when combined with manual samples from the other streams around the Inlet, will give us a very good picture of the amount of sediment entering the estuary. In short, we will be able to learn about what actually happens to the waters and bed of the estuary when it rains. As this stream is an important native fish habitat, we are taking particular care to ensure that the structure does not in any way impede the passage of fish along the stream's length. The monitoring equipment was purchased last year and should be installed by December.

4. Waitohu Stream Care Group (Nigel Clarke)

Cr. Turver officially opened the Waitohu group's new shade house and plant standing area on 23 June 2001. The shade house was partly funded by the *Take Care* (care group) programme and built by members of the group. This is a very good example of community members using the programme to establish their activities for the medium

to long term. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and energy on the group, which has been reflected in their actions over the year. This includes propagating plants for their dune and riparian planting activities (e.g., carex, pingao, ngaio, karo), working with local hapu, writing a newsletter and starting a “know your stream” resource, and monitoring water quality (with some good results).

5. **Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)**

Conrad Pharyzn has produced the landscape concept designs for the part of the stream we have been working in. These have been shown to some of the key players and others, with more meetings to come. Wellington City Council will be considering the designs on 20 August 2001 and we (WRC and WCC) will be thinking of what we can do cheaply in the short term on public land. To implement the design.

6. **Otari – Wilton’s Bush Care Group (John Holmes)**

Planting has gone exceptionally well with four planting days recently and completed a month ahead of schedule. There will be a thank you session for the 75 or more volunteers at Otari on the 11 August 2001. An invitation for Councillors to attend is in the Bulletin.

Planning for this year well under way. The Biosecurity Department will organise any necessary re-spraying/weed clearance, and seeds are being grown on for 8,000-10,000 plants to be put in next winter. The staff at Otari have provided excellent support, and given their own time to help the volunteers.

7. **Survey of Environmental Behaviour (Geoff Skene)**

As Councillors will be aware from the marine ecosystems workshop, we have undertaken a survey recently of the environmental behaviour of Regional residents. The purpose of the survey was to find out what people do, if anything, to look after the environment in their day to day lives, and what they know about pollution and how to prevent it. The survey also identifies what people perceive as the main environmental issues in the Region, how well known the Pollution Hotline is, and the kinds of environmental information people are interested in.

Not unexpectedly, the survey contains a wealth of information, which requires considerable thought as to its interpretation and presentation. I am still working on this and will present the findings to the Committee at its next meeting. Of related interest is the recent release by the Ministry for the Environment of a national survey of public awareness of climate change (and related environmental behaviour). This survey was undertaken by the same research company (UMR Research Ltd) as did our survey, and uses some of the same questions. It therefore allows for some comparisons of regional results with national ones.

8. **Promoting Change in Environmental Behaviour**

One of the functions of the Environment Co-ordination Department is raising public awareness about the environment and encouraging people to look after the environment in different ways. The basis for this is the Department's role in co-ordinating and implementing the Regional Policy Statement and the numerous methods in that document which seek the better management of natural resources through people learning to look after those resources in new ways. It relates directly to the work we do with schools, businesses and groups wanting to undertake ecological restoration work.

In the 2000-01 year, work has occurred to give effect to this aspect of our role. This has involved identifying the issues, understanding the extent of public knowledge about them, and working out how to respond to them.

What are the changes in environmental behaviour we want to see?

The first task was to identify which issues should be addressed. There are a large number of Methods in the RPS that refer to education or promotion of alternative forms of behaviour, and any number of issues that would be amenable to changes in public attitudes or actions. The RPS specifically identifies education as a way to improve the environment in relation to water quality and quantity, air quality, waste management, ecosystems, natural hazards, energy use, and soil contamination. The regional plans have similar provisions.

The State of the Environment Report, *Measuring Up*, identifies a number of critical environmental issues which remain unresolved in the Region. These are being addressed by the Council in various ways (see my RPS Implementation Report in this Order Paper) but they can also be addressed through educational means or their promotion as part of a "Sustainable Living" package. There are key issues that can be identified. As a Regional Community:

1. We produce too much waste.
2. Our day to day activities pollute rivers and streams and the coast (through direct discharges and storm water from towns and cities, and runoff from farms).
3. We pollute the air (cars, domestic fires) and contribute to global warming.
4. Introduced pests and the uses we make of land are hurting our bush, wetlands and native ecosystems.
5. We use too much energy.

These issues can be addressed separately, or combined into one all-encompassing idea – that we are having an impact on our environment that is undermining our quality of life.

What do people know about these issues?

This information has been provided by the survey of environmental behaviour mentioned above.

How can these issues be addressed?

At the beginning of the year, it was our intention to take our environmental education message on these issues to as many public events as possible as one way of reaching people. As it turned out, the amount of effort needed to develop and implement the other three aspects of the environmental education initiative prevented this from happening.

However, we have progressed this in other ways. We have taken professional advice from communications specialists about the most effective ways to reach target audiences. We have also explored with a community and a business focus group possible approaches to this kind of work.

Considerable effort has also gone into defining the purpose and functions of the 'ecobus'. Whilst the 'ecobus' primary use will be with school children, it is sensible to also design it in such a way that it can carry wider messages of importance to the Council. It is being designed with the promotion of more sustainable ways of living as one of its two functions. We intend the bus will focus on five issues above (in one form or another) and provide people with simple solutions that are memorable, fun and demonstrate what's in it for them. In the UK, the "Doing your Bit" campaign takes this approach and provides useful ideas and suggestions along these lines (see www.doingyourbit.org.uk). Like the rest of the environmental education programmes, the emphasis will be on action. The 'ecobus' will communicate ways in which people can act to deal with these issues and contribute to their solution in their daily lives.

We need to press on with the design and manufacture of the 'ecobus' and its contents because the funding is in this year's Annual Plan (2001-02 budget) and we want to use it in schools next year as well. We expect this role of promoting more sustainable ways of living to become a more significant part of our work. There are clear connections between this work and the wider Council thrust for Local Agenda 21 and, while it is necessary to make progress with the 'ecobus', there is time to allow for the development of the Council's wider communication programme.

Other actions taken to promote changes in environmental behaviour in 2000-01

- Posters and pamphlets for use in the community generally (and which will also be used in schools) were produced on water conservation, pollution prevention, and stream restoration.
- A student was sponsored to attend the YES 2000 youth environmental summit in Christchurch (chosen through a competition in *Elements*).
- The Department part funded the "Information to Motivation" Conference held at Te Papa in June.

Resource Policy Department Report Wayne Hastie Manager

August 2001

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans (Murray McLea)

As reported to the last meeting, there are a number of potential regional plan changes “in the pipeline” in addition to the withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan that has been approved by the Council. A key area under review is the rules governing the construction and operation of shallow bores on the Kapiti Coast. The review will determine if the current regulatory regime is the most appropriate way of promoting sustainable management of the freshwater resource in the area. Other changes that will be considered are of a more minor nature and result from either new information or from our experience in implementing the plans. There are some areas where we can provide greater clarity as to the intent of plan provisions.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Silt Guidelines (Paul Denton)

A letter has been sent out to territorial authorities and consultants advising them of the withdrawal of the Council’s silt control guidelines, and that we will be using the Auckland Regional Council guidelines in the interim while we produce new guidelines for our Region. The production of new guidelines is a project for this year.

2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea)

A considerable amount of work has been completed as part of our freshwater ecosystems programmes, and a number of valuable reports prepared. The findings to date will be presented in some detail to the Committee at a future meeting. The next stage of the programme will commence over the next month or so.

2.3 Marine protection (Paul Denton)

Feedback from the Councillor workshop held on 20 June has been good, and we have been able to use the information to assist us to prepare a submission on the Oceans Policy, which is the subject of a separate report to the Committee. Glen Lauder from Commonground Associates Limited has prepared a short report on the workshop that identifies a number of opportunities to progress the Council’s marine ecosystem work.

We are currently assessing the report and determining a work programme for the year. The work on marine ecosystems has now been fully encompassed as a key element in the Council’s ecosystem and biodiversity management framework.

3. **Iwi matters (Keriana Wilcox)**

Progress continues to be made in a number of areas. The second Councillor training workshop was held on 13 June and continued the focus on the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The second technical workshop for the year was held on 4 July and continued looking at water management.

The following is a summary of current Iwi projects:

- The Wellington Tenth Trust have completed a report “GIS Inventory of Maori Heritage Sites and Values in the Port Nicholson Block – Scoping Report” and “Te Wahanga Kaitiaki Whenua Business Planning Report”. The substantive project will be undertaken over the next few years.
- A contract has been finalised with Ngati Raukawa for the preparation of a Tikanga Māori report on the Ōtaki River and Catchment.
- A contract has been agreed with Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui to prepare an Iwi environmental management plan.
- A contract has been signed with Rangitaane o Wairarapa for a project to protect the Taueru Urupa.
- A contract has been signed with Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa for planting to rehabilitate an urupa.

4. **Hazards (Roz Groves)**

Following the completion of the hazardous substances and tsunami investigations we will be looking at how best to make the information available to the public over the next month or so. Together with staff from the Wairarapa Division we will also be looking at how to proceed with further investigations.

We have received an approach from Kapiti Coast District Council asking if we would support them in investigating the location of faultlines in their district. A meeting has been arranged to discuss this matter further, and we will take the opportunity to have a general discussion about hazards in the area.

Work will start soon on preparing fact sheets on the hazards in the Region. These will form a part of our communication and marketing strategy.

5. **CentrePort Environmental Consultative Committee (Wayne Hastie)**

CentrePort Limited invited the Council to nominate a staff member to represent the Council on their Environmental Consultative Committee. I was nominated for that position and accepted by CentrePort. To date I have attended one meeting.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Committee is attached for your information. CentrePort is committed to achieving a high standard of environmental performance, and the development of the Committee is seen as one of the visible initiatives that has been implemented to support this aim. The membership of the Committee is set out in the Terms of Reference.

The next meeting of the Committee is on 30 August 2001.

6. Staff

We have appointed Maree Sanders to the position of Policy Advisor (Statutory) that was vacated by Richard Peterson. Maree is currently working as a consents officer at Environment Waikato, and starts with us at the end of August.

Resource Investigations Department Report John Sherriff, Manager

August 2001

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

Since the last meeting one severe weather bulletin was received:

9 June	Heavy Rain in the Tararua Ranges
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The following rainfall alarms was received and responded to:

16 June	Rainfall : Taungata & Kapakapanui
24 June	Rainfall : Orongo Swamp & Warwicks

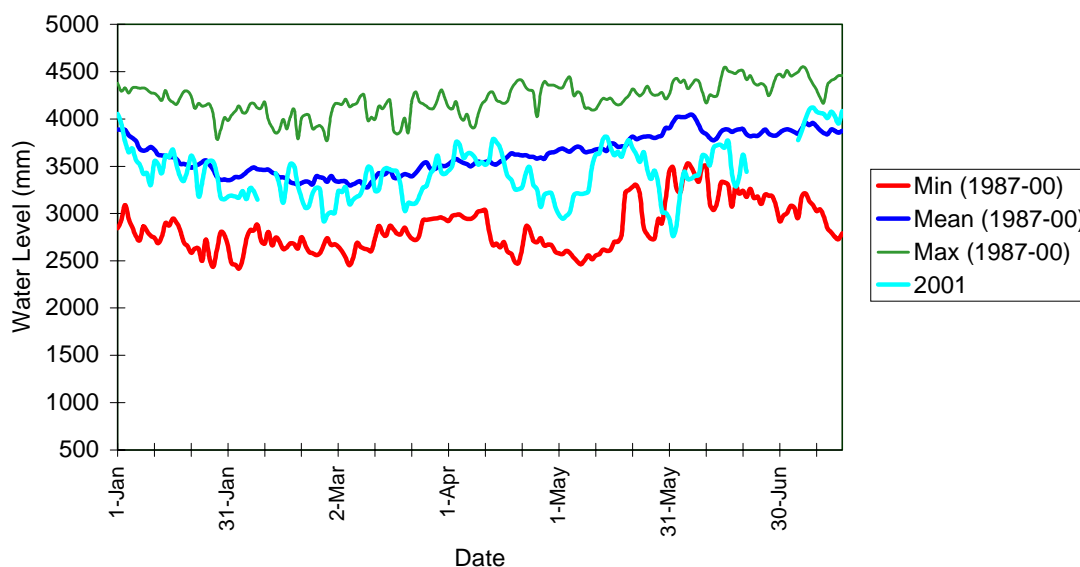
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer

Artesian pressure measured at the McEwan Park monitoring bore has been just below average levels for the first three months of this year. The continuing drought began to have an adverse effect on the artesian pressure in mid April. An increase in river flow during late May saw the pressure recover significantly to average or slightly below average levels. Use of the Gear Island Pump Station by the Utility Services Division at the end of May has caused the marked drop in pressure seen at the end of the plot. Since 1 June the aquifer level has recovered significantly to above average levels.

Water Level at McEwan Park



Kapiti Coast

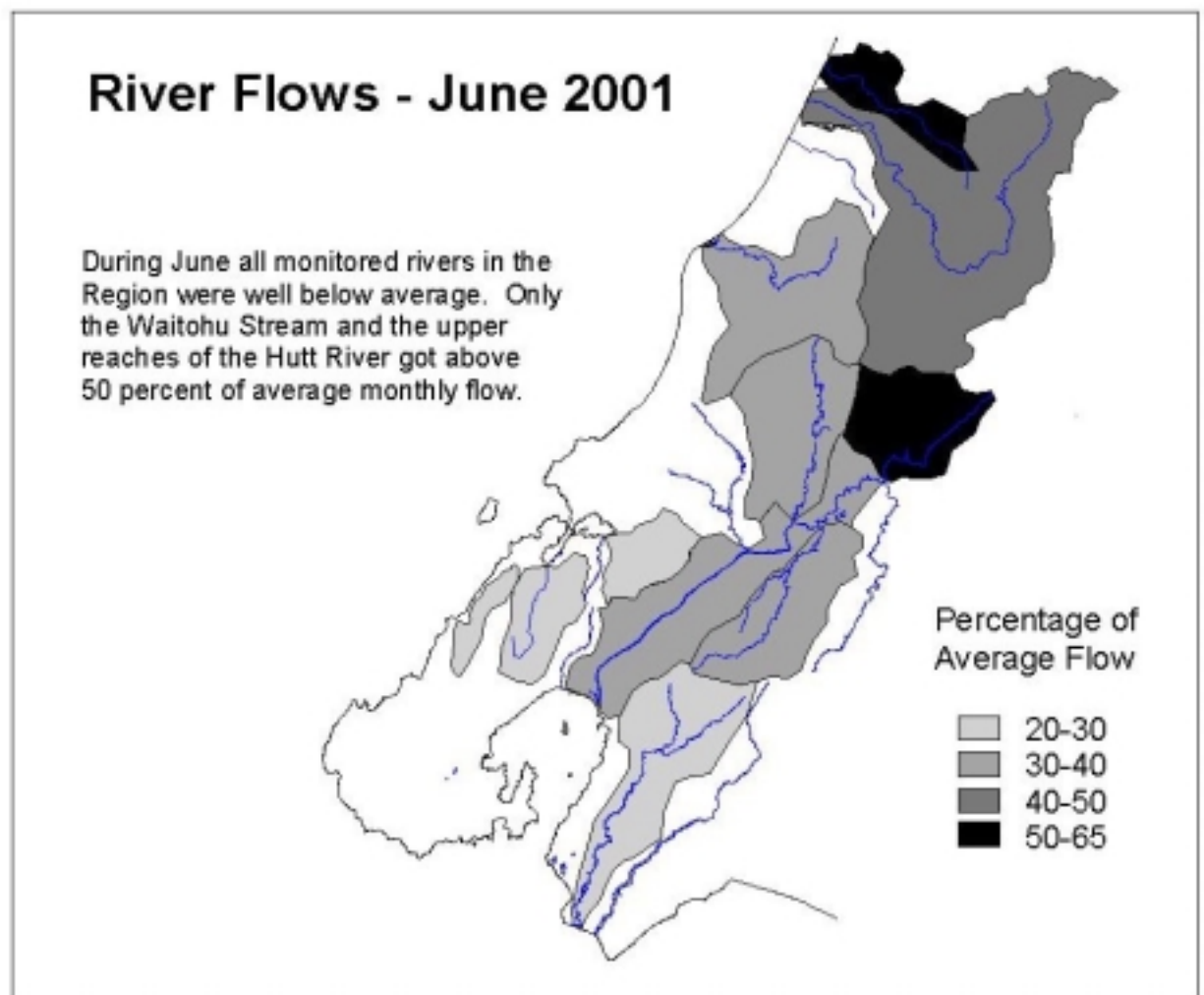
Groundwater levels at most Kapiti monitoring sites still range from below average to well below average following the extended dry period earlier this year. However, a pattern of recovery is evident along the length of the coast.

2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

In June, for the first month in a long time, most of the Region received more than 50 percent of its average monthly rainfall. Only two sites (Otaki and the rain gauge on top of our building) received less than 50% of their normal monthly rainfall. Unfortunately, no parts of the Region received anywhere near their normal average rainfall.

River and stream flows remained very low. The Waitohu Stream and the Hutt River, measured at Kaitoke, were the only sites to achieve greater than 50 percent of June average flows. The Pauatahanui Stream and Mill Creek were particularly low with 22 percent of normal flows.

The following Figure summarises the state of the river flows during June.



2.3 Air Quality Monitoring

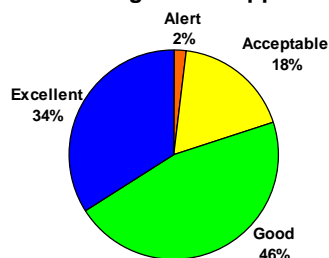
2.3.1 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

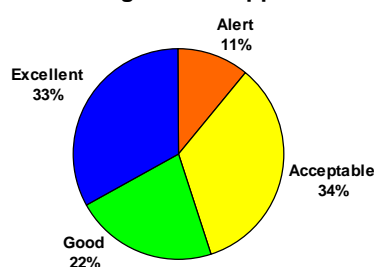
Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt

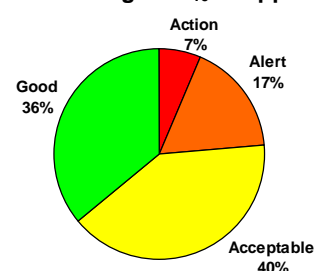
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt



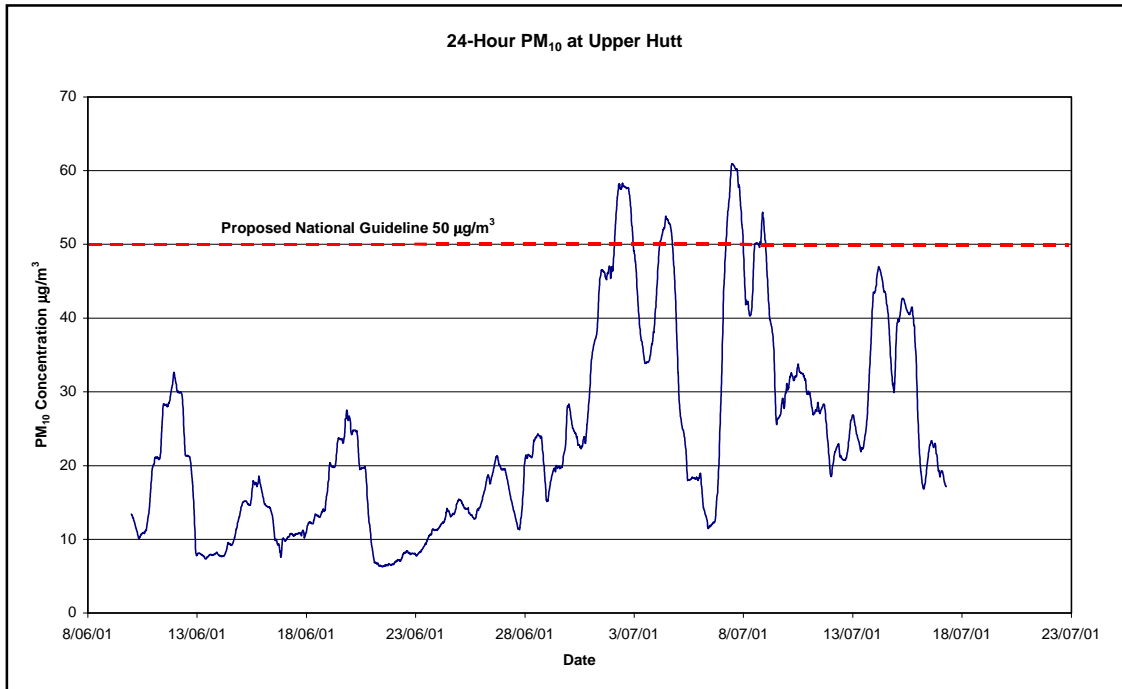
24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt



Guideline Exceedences for Particulate Matter at Upper Hutt

The entire Wellington Region experienced a prolonged period of cold calm weather from 1 July until about 12 July due to a slow moving high pressure zone over the South Island. The still, frosty weather resulted in poor dispersion conditions for air pollutants, and also prompted people to light their domestic fires for home heating.

The combination of increased emission sources and poor dispersion conditions led to the proposed National Guideline of 50 µg/m³ for particulate matter being exceeded on four occasions during that period. The particulate matter concentrations at Upper Hutt over this period are illustrated by the graph below.



2.3.2 Wellington Regional Emissions Inventory

Since 1997 the Wellington Regional Council has been developing an air emission inventory for the Region. The inventory has been constructed in a number of different development phases. Each phase has focused on quantifying emissions from different source types. Currently transportation (e.g. motor vehicles), industrial, commercial, residential (e.g. home heating), agricultural (e.g. livestock management) and biogenic (e.g. soils and foliage) emissions sources are included in the regional inventory.

The most recent phase of the inventory's development has been a review and summation of the previous inventory components and the construction of a database that integrates all the previous emissions estimates. We have also expanded the scope of the inventory to incorporate a more comprehensive analysis of greenhouse gases emitted in the Region.

Pollutants Considered in the Inventory

Five 'criteria pollutants' are included in the inventory:

- Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC)
- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Suspended particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀)

Three greenhouse gases are also quantified in the inventory:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- Methane (CH₄)

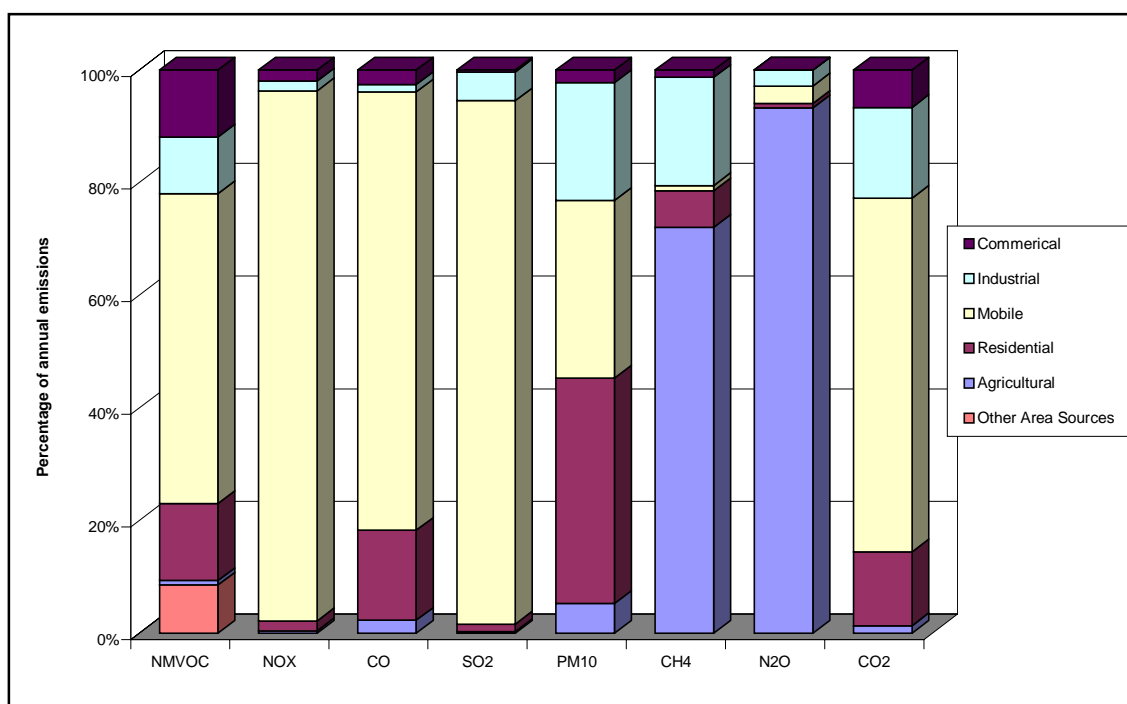
Criteria pollutants are mainly associated with local and regional scale impacts; for example, community health and visibility impacts. The climate impacts associated with greenhouse gases are on a global scale

In addition to these air pollutants, a preliminary assessment of agrochemical (fungicide, herbicide, insecticides, growth regulators and mineral oils) application rates within the Region were also quantified in the biogenic inventory.

Major findings for Criteria air Pollutants

- Within a typical year approximately 17,400 tonnes of NMVOC, 11,900 tonnes of NO_x, 52,100 tonnes of CO, 2,640 tonnes of SO₂, and 2,490 tonnes of PM₁₀, are predicted to be emitted from anthropogenic sources within the Region.
- Natural soil and plant foliage emissions are expected to contribute another 10,200 tonnes of NMVOC and 1,690 tonnes of NO_x to annual regional emissions.
- Mobile sources are the predominant contributors of NMVOC, NO_x, SO₂ and CO emissions within the Region. Emissions from motor vehicles are estimated to account for the 52% of NMVOC, 64% of NO_x, 74% of CO, 7% of SO₂ and 27% of PM₁₀ annually emitted from inventoried sources. Shipping activities are predicted to account for 86% of annual SO₂ emissions.
- Residential heating sources are predicted to release 36% of the total annual PM₁₀ emitted in the Region (see chart below). Only emissions from residential sources show any significant variation in seasonal emission rates. For example, the combined daily emissions of lawn mowers, residential heating and domestic waste burning are predicted to be 16.2, 13.4, 14.1, 14.4, and 30.1 times higher during the winter than summer for NMVOC, NO_x, CO, SO₂, and PM₁₀ respectively.
- With the exception of PM₁₀ emitted from quarries (approximately 14% of annual regional emissions), industrial sources make a comparatively small contribution to the Region's total discharge of the criteria air pollutants. However, it is important to note that the proportional contribution from industries does not provide any indication of the severity of localised impacts.

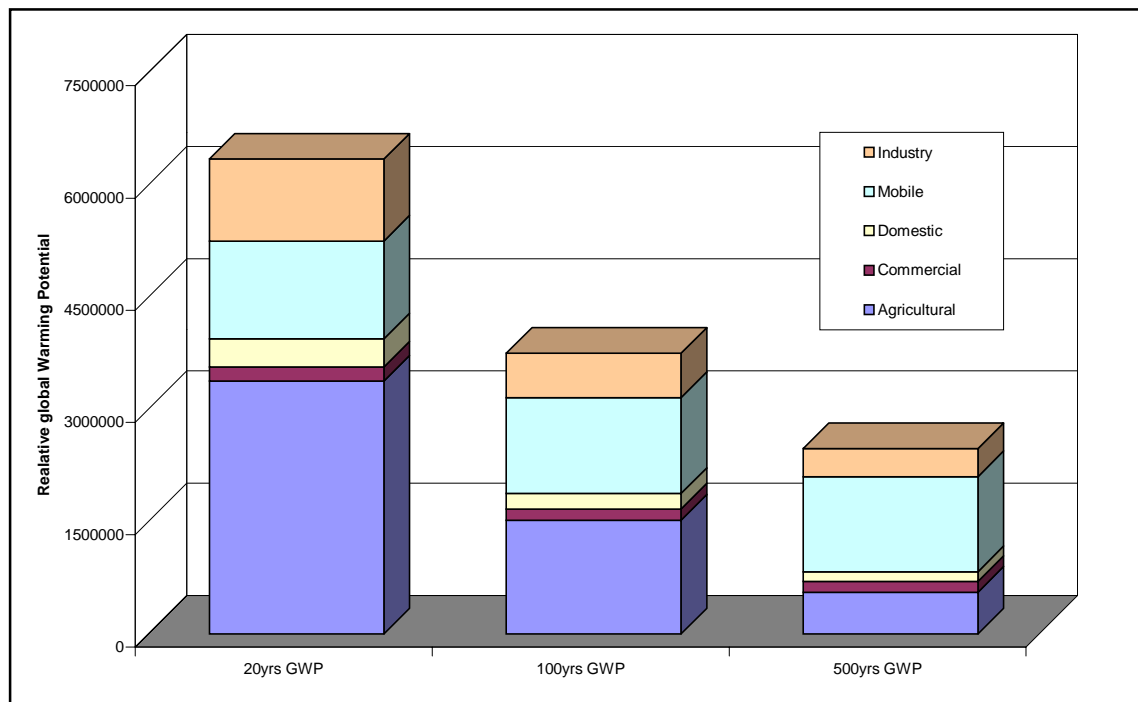
Annual anthropogenic emission rates with respect to source classification



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Approximately 1,763,00 tonnes of carbon dioxide, 76,300 tonnes of methane, and 1,317 tonnes of nitrous oxide are emitted each year from anthropogenic sources in the Wellington Region.
- Mobile sources are predicted to emit an estimated 71% of the total annual emissions of carbon dioxide (credited towards greenhouse emission). Emissions from motor vehicles alone accounting for 45% of the Region's emissions.
- Livestock and agricultural soils are the predominant source of methane and nitrous oxide emitted in the Region; agricultural sources accounting for 72% of annual methane emissions and 93% of annual nitrous oxide emissions.
- Industrial sources release an estimated 16% of CO₂, 19% of CH₄ and 3% of N₂O emitted from inventoried sources.
- The relative climate change impact of each pollutant can be estimated using a Global Warming Potential index. The GWP index varies with pollutant and the reference time frame within which impacts are considered. The chart below shows the relative global warming potential that emissions from each source category have over a 20-year, 100-year and 500-year reference time frame. The variation in accumulative GWP is due to changes in the GWP index of methane and nitrous oxide with each time reference step. The GWP of carbon dioxide is always equal to one.

Total Global Warming Potential for all inventories sources



- The results show that the proportional contribution of agricultural sources to the accumulative Region GWP decreases from 53% in a 20-year time frame, to 43% in a 100-year time frame, to 23% in a 500-year time. Conversely, the contribution from mobile sources increases from 31% in a 20-year time frame to 34% in a 100-year time frame and to 51% in a 500-year time frame.

Agrochemical Emissions

- The results from agrochemical usage in the Region should be treated as preliminary estimates based on the best available data but limited by uncertainties in land use, application rates and the crop types included.
- The preliminary findings show that herbicides are the predominant agrochemical type used in the Region. Approximately 63-69% of the total active ingredients in agrochemical applied in the Wellington Region are herbicides.
- Exotic forestry and pastoral farming account for the 92-94% of the herbicides, 18-30% of insecticides and 49-62% of mineral oils and growth regulators annually applied in a year.
- Apple production is also a significant consumer of agrochemicals accounting for an estimated 42-48% of all insecticides, 41-51% of all fungicides and 21-31% of all mineral oils, growth regulators and inorganic fungicides.

When interpreting any of the emission predictions it is important to understand that although each has been developed using the best available information, there are still inherent uncertainties in the estimates that need to be recognised. The estimates should

therefore be used as a guideline to the general magnitude of pollutant emissions from different sources, rather than as absolute values.

2.3.3 *The Sulphur in Diesel Debate*

There has been a lot of public and political interest in this issue and we have examined the potential impact on air particulate loadings within the Wellington Region. The scenario we have evaluated is as follows:

If the sulphur content in diesel was reduced from 3000ppm, as it is currently regulated, to 1000ppm as requested by Auckland Regional Council for Auckland, what would be the significance of the reduction for the Wellington Region?

We have used the same equations as were applied by ARC (*Review of Fuel Quality Requirements for Australian Transport: Chapter 6 - Vehicle Air Emissions*). The results for particulate emissions from motor vehicles in reducing the sulphur content of diesel were then applied to the calculations contained within the Wellington Regional Emissions Inventory. (Yes it is of some use!!)

Our calculations suggest that a daily reduction of 180kg of particulate matter emitted to atmosphere would result from the change in diesel sulphur content (ARC calculated a 1000kg reduction due to their higher traffic volumes). This represents a 1-2% reduction in overall atmospheric particulate loadings for the winter months or a 3-4% reduction for the summer months.

While any reduction in pollution loadings is welcome from an air quality management perspective, the magnitude of this decrease, assuming an even pollutant loading throughout the Region, is such that it would not in itself be sufficient to significantly affect the elevated levels air particulate pollution that certain urban areas experience in the winter months. Our research has shown that areas such as Upper Hutt and Masterton are predominantly affected by domestic fire emissions.

However, it is important to remember that diesel particulate emissions are road related and that a reduction in the diesel sulphur content would offer significant relief from air particulate exposure to those members of the public that live along the road corridors of the Region. Additionally, New Zealand's high sulphur content in diesel fuel is currently acting as a barrier to high efficiency low emission engine technology that has been developed overseas.

We should continue to seek as rapid a review and implementation of national fuel specifications as possible.

3. Resource Quality

3.1 Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them, and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

4. **Staffing Matters**

Bruce Croucher has joined the Department to undertake contaminated sites work. Bruce has recently arrived from England, he has a background in environmental chemistry and has considerable experience in dealing with contaminated sites.

Natasha Lewis has joined us in the role of Resource Quality Officer. Natasha has recently graduated from Otago University.

Tamsin Mitchell has been contracted on a short term basis to help both the Resource Investigations and Consents Management Departments implement our quality assurance system.

Consents Management Department Report

Paula Bullock, Manager

August 2001

1. Consent Statistics

Non notified consents were processed in a median time of nine working days for the 2000-2001 financial year. All consents were processed within statutory timeframes. The Wellington Office has processed 302 consents this financial year compared with the 276 consents processed last year.

2. Appeals

As reported verbally to the last committee meeting, we received the decisions on the ProMall and Little Blue Penguin Appeals. The Environment Court declined both applications, cancelling all consents. Upper Hutt City Council has appealed the ProMall decision to the High Court. The Regional Council is not involved in this appeal as it relates only to the variation of the District Plan.

A tentative date of 9 December 2001 has been set to hear the boatshed appeals.

3. Compliance

3.1 Abatement Notices

No abatement notices were issued since the last Committee meeting.

3.2 Infringement Notices

Two infringement notices have been issued since the last Committee meeting. Both notices were issued on 16 May 2001 for the same incident, one to the company Chemwaste and the other to a director of the company. The incident related to sawdust being blown from the site and accumulating on neighbouring properties and road. We subsequently withdrew the infringement notice issued to the director on 20 June 2001.

3.3 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

MKL

Our agreement with MKL seems to have done little to resolve the odour issue. Since the agreement was put in place we have confirmed three offensive odours. We have sought to find out the company's intentions before we consider recommencing our enforcement proceedings.

Burrell Demolition

Rob Forlong reported to the last committee meeting that we had received a favourable declaration from the High Court on the Burrell case. Since that meeting Burrell Demolition have signalled their intention to appeal the High Court decision. Judge Doogue has provided his leave, for elements of his decision to be appeal to the Court of Appeal.

4. Other**4.1 Charging Policy**

The new Charging Policy is now operative and effective.

4.2 Staffing

Staffing levels in the department are continually changing. I am now in the process of finding a new Account Manager.

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
ProMall ³	Consents associated with the development of a new shopping mall. Regional Council consents consist of several bridges, realignment of part of a stream and construction of artificial lakes	05/02/99	25/06/99	250+		13/12/99- 17/12/99	Upper Hutt City Councillors	24/12/99	Declined by Environment Court
Lambton Harbour Management ¹	Consents associated with the development of the Taranaki Street Wharf and Lagoon area	09/04/99	21/05/99	77		04/08/99 05/08/99 06/08/99	Councillor Buchanan, Tony Town (Commissioner)	06/09/99	Granted with conditions now under appeal
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00	19/04/00	20	10/05/00	Application placed on hold to allow for a three month lead deposition monitoring programme. Hearing currently scheduled to be held by end of July.			
M Goddard	Overnight stays in boatshed	11/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
B and S Pidford	Overnight stays in boatshed	31/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.

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
M Ambrose	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
M Ambrose	Consents associated with the construction of a new boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
L Ramsey	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
A and N Johns	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
O and K Martin	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	162	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
R and P Lewis	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.

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
C Feast	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Tentative Court date 9 Dec 2001.
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Orongorongo River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	4	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated outcome.	09/07/01	Commissioner Sue Driver and Commissioner Miria Pomare	20/07/01	Granted with Conditions
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Wainuiomata River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	7	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated outcome.	09/07/01	Commissioner Sue Driver and Commissioner Miria Pomare	20/07/01	Granted with Conditions

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
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Hutt River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	5	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated outcome.	09/07/01	Commissioner Sue Driver and Miria Pomare	20/07/01	Granted with Conditions
New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities.	24/07/00	29/08/00	4	08/09/00	Application on hold to allow for ambient air monitoring to be undertaken.			
Transit ⁵	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 06/07/01 Hearing due to be reconvened on 02/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler		
Tranist ⁵	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 06/07/01 Hearing due to be reconvened on 02/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler		
Kapiti Coast District Council ⁶	Consents associated with taking water from the Otaki River for supplementary public water supply.	04/12/00	12/03/01	115	22/05/01	16/07/01 – 20/07/01 Hearing due to be reconvened on 02/08/01	Commissioners Christine Foster, Alistair Aburn and Te Akapikirangi Arthur		

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
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Wellington City Council	Renewal of discharge of milliscreened effluent to the coast during wet weather events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant	20/12/00	05/03/01	9	17/05/01	Proposed hearing date of 28 and 29 August 2001.			
Transit ⁴	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+					
Transit ⁶	Realignment and safety improvements to McKays Crossing	20/07/01							

1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council

2 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council

3 These application were heard jointly with Upper Hutt City Council

4 These application will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council

5 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council

6 These applications will be jointly heard with Kapiti Coast District Council

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

August 2001

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

A small wind-generator was installed on the Front Leading Light to assist in boosting the battery charge in winter.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Eight oil pollution reports were received. Two required clean-up response, one of which was ashore, in order to prevent oil entering the sea.

On 19 July 2001 the nine-metre fishing vessel *Tritoma* was wrecked at Cape Palliser; approximately 300 litres of diesel fuel on board dispersed naturally in the rough weather conditions when the wreck disintegrated.

3. Departmental Activities

- A meeting of harbourmasters/managers of Bar Harbours was chaired in Wellington on 20 June 2001.
- A table-top training exercise was held in the Incident Command Centre on 28 June 2001, and this included support staff from other departments and observers from Maritime Safety Authority.
- The annual survey was carried out on the Department's workboat *Tiaki Moana* during July 2001.
- Various draft documents received from the Maritime Safety Authority requiring technical submissions included the formation of a Dangerous Goods Working Group, Maritime Rule 91 Water Recreational Rules, Amended Draft Marine Farm Guidelines, and the Tory Channel Navigational Safety Group.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

August 2001

1. **Project Phoenix**

The Planning Conference took place in Wellington on 20/21 June 2001 and was attended by the Auckland Group, the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the Wellington Group.

At the Conference we gained agreement from all the parties on the issues that needed to be addressed in the scenario and the co-ordinating instruction documents.

We determined the terms of reference, an outcome-framework, exercise management and administration details (governance, declarations, control, cross authority issues, exercise players, time scales).

We also had in-depth discussions on: emergency operations centres, media and public relations, the logistic chain, urban search and rescue, health, medical arrangements, lifelines utilities, water provision, energy provision, law and order, fire services, public information, welfare, logistics, communications, international aid, monitoring and evaluation and regional versus national resource control.

The next meeting in this regard will take place in November 2001.

2. **Communications**

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced. We have requested our communications contractor to investigate some other means of communications (satellite, packet, etc.) as well.

3. **Activities**

Since the previous report of the Emergency Management Department to the Environment Committee on 19 June 2001, staff have been involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- On Queens Birthday Weekend (2, 3, 4 June 2001) the Department participated in the Natural Disaster Awareness display at Te Papa. All the emergency services (fire, police, ambulance), the Ministry of CDEM, WEMO, and lots of volunteer organisations (Red Cross, Rescue dogs, St. Johns, etc.) participated. An estimated 25,600 people visited Te Papa over the three days and approximately 3,000-5,000 visited our display.
- We attended the Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee meetings for Hutt Valley (5 June 2001), Porirua (11 June 2001), Wellington (26 June 2001),

- Wairarapa (26 June 2001) and Kapiti (19 July 2001). Discussions mainly evolved around Project Phoenix. We gave presentations to the meetings and provided the organisations involved with some resilience questions covering the impact on their organisations, how completely they would respond and how they would obtain their requirements. We have obtained very good buy-in from everyone.
- WEMO had their annual emergency management exercise on 7 June 2001. We were invited to actively take part in the exercise. In preparing for the exercise we had several meetings with Price Waterhouse Coopers (consultants who ran the exercise) and the WEMO staff.
- On 8 June 2001 we attended a seminar in Lower Hutt hosted by Mobil NZ. It covered earthquakes and the storage/transport of petroleum and Mobil's Fire Plan for their storage facilities in Seaview. The seminar was very useful.
- We attended several workshops/meetings on Project Phoenix. On 12 June 2001 we presented the Phoenix concept and the relevant documentation to the First Impact Committee of the Wellington International Airport, on 13 June 2001 we met with the Wellington Lifelines, on 18 June 2001 we had an USAR scoping meeting and also a workshop with the Ministry of Health. On 25 June 2001 we met with Horizons Regional Council to discuss their role in Phoenix. We gave presentations to the Wellington Lifelines Group (10 July 2001) and the Wairarapa Lifelines Association (12 July 2001). On 17 July 2001 we had in-depth discussions with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management regarding the expected outcomes of Phoenix and on 19 July 2001 we had a regional workshop on Urban Search and Rescue which was attended by various organisations in the region. A presentation was also made to the NZ Society for Earthquake Engineers on 25 July 2001.
- We attended the NZ Chemical Industry Council Seminar at the National Library on 12 June 2001. Most discussions evolved around Health and Safety and the review of the H&S in Employment Act was discussed in detail.
- We hosted a Chinese delegation of 8 people from Tianjin on 19 June 2001. The group paid us a short visit and discussed hazards and other mutual issues.
- On 22 June 2001 we had discussions with the Wellington Lifelines Group about a Lifelines exercise planned for 31 October 2001. The WRC (EM) will provide the Lifelines Co-ordination Centre for the exercise.
- We took part in the Harbour's exercise of the Incident Command Centre on 28 June 2001. The exercise went very well and the lessons learnt will be taken into account in enhancing the operating procedures and facilities.
- The Regional Emergency Managers meeting took place on 9 July 2001. The Council's Tsunami scoping study was discussed and other topics included training, update on the formation of the CDEMG, publicity strategies, Civil Defence Plans and Project Phoenix.

4. **General**

- Since the last report, 10 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the country. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region (and reports of earthquakes felt in Wellington) were received from IGNS.

2001 June 19 - 20 km north of Greytown (3.5)

2001 June 12 - 30 km north-west of Porirua (4.6)

- Since the previous report, four Special Weather Bulletins (SWBs) were received on 9 June 2001 for heavy rain. The necessary warnings were sent out and no problems were experienced.

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position (Provisional): 30 June 2001

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the interim operating results for the year ended 30 June 2001. These numbers are provisional and subject to audit confirmation.

Environment Division
Summary Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2001

	<-----Year to Date----->			<----Full Year---->
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	6,851.6	6,851.6	--	6,851.6
Other Revenue	1,966.7	1,913.8	52.9 F	1,989.3
Total Revenue	8,818.3	8,765.4	52.9 F	8,840.9
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	7,864.6	7,801.4	63.2 U	7,636.0
Indirect Expenditure	844.8	863.7	18.9 F	825.8
Total Operating Expenditure	8,709.4	8,665.1	44.3 F	8,461.8
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	108.9	100.3	8.6 F	379.1

2. Operating Surplus

The Division's finances are sound. As a number of significant projects were completed in the last quarter, the Division has come in very close to budget.

At year end an operating surplus was produced of \$109,000 against a budgeted surplus of \$100,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$8,818,000 was \$53,000 above our budget target of \$8,765,000. The increased revenue is largely because of a number of successful prosecution actions. The most significant was Anglian Water International's unauthorised discharge of sewage from their sludge dewatering plant in November last year. The Company made a donation of \$20,000 towards enhancing the Owhiro Bay environment.

4. **Total Expenditure**

The Division's finds itself in an unusual position with a total expenditure of \$8,709,000 which is \$44,000 above budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Material Costs were some \$165,000 over budget because of the following unbudgeted expenditure:
 - Structural alterations to Level 3 to accommodate additional staff (\$35,000)
 - The *Take Charge* database developed(\$25,000) - brought forward from 2001/2
 - The shallow ground water investigation, Kapiti (\$16,000)
 - Revised Harbour Bylaws printed and advertised (\$11,000)
 - Hydrology and telemetry upgrades (\$18,000) - improved communication equipment and software
 - Aerial photography (\$35,000) - most of these costs were recovered from the Wairarapa Division.
- External Contractors and Consultants were \$99,000 under budget. The level of expenditure on iwi projects expenditure increased slightly during June, but despite this expenditure remains significantly behind budget.

The under-spend has been offset to some extent by the unsuccessful joint Valley Plaza appeal with UHCC (\$57,000). In addition, we spent more on the sediment investigation for the Waiwhetu stream than anticipated (\$20,000). Furthermore, the Porirua Stream investigation was undertaken by consultants because of staff shortages (\$12,000), and we contributed towards the Information to Motivation conference (\$18,000).

- Internal costs are \$67,000 ahead of budget. Part of the increase is from the joint purchase of the Agribase database with the Wairarapa (\$22,000). The database shows clearly the productive use of land in detail for the Region and provides a tool to model different environmental effects.

5. **Capital Expenditure**

Capital expenditure was slightly behind budget by \$20,000 (including proceeds from disposals).