



caring about you & your environment

Report 02.149

12 March 2002

File: E/6/18/3

[Report 2002.Env02149.JB:lew]

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' and Divisional Accountant's reports follow.

3. New Zealand Waste Strategy

The Council recently hosted a preview presentation on the New Zealand Waste Strategy, which was officially launched on 1 March 2002. Certainly, the sentiments behind the strategy are easy to support and the focus is completely in line with the Council's commitment to promote a sustainable region. What is now required, however, is some real commitment to the strategy and perhaps even some mandatory requirements incorporated in legislation. It would be disappointing if the strategy stayed as "a nice thing to do".

4. Impacts 2002 Conference

Councillors are reminded that this conference is taking place from 8 to 12 April. Registrations for the Councillors' Workshop on Monday 8 April have been made in the names of Councillors McDavitt (who will be addressing the workshop), Buchanan, Yardley, Barr, Turver and Evans. Two full registrations have also been secured and the idea is that Councillors will share these, with individuals choosing sessions that they would like to attend.

5. **Communications Strategy**

The Division's Management Team met with Andrew Cutler, Communications Manager, to discuss the communications strategy for the Division. As usual with the Management Team, the discussion was vigorous and hopefully the strategy will serve all our needs.

6. **Corporate Branding**

The Division's Management Team also met with the consultants who are looking at corporate branding. This was an extremely useful meeting, especially in view of the work that we are doing on promoting the Sustainable Region concept.

7. **Environment Education**

I am personally delighted at how the *Take Action* programme is progressing. One of our *Take Action* team was telling me that parents, bus-drivers and teachers, as well as children, are really interested, excited and motivated by the programme. We are planning a Councillor's tour of some of the Division's work and we will definitely be including a *Take Action* trail.

8. **Urban Growth/Development**

Similarly, I am feeling quietly positive about the urban growth work for the Western Corridor of the Region. Dr Hastie, in his report, mentions that the WRC recently participated in a two-day workshop. From my point of view it was good to see

- Planning issues being talked about. In my opinion the Resource Management Act 1991 has subsumed these issues.
- Land use planners and transport planners discussing issues together.
- Staff from Porirua City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Wellington City Council and the Wellington Regional Council working together in a positive and constructive manner and identifying common problems, as well as co-operative solutions.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) receives the report; and*
- (2) notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments

Environment Co-ordination Department Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

March 2002

1. Regional Plant Guide (John Holmes)

Sales of the native plant guide continue, albeit at a slower pace, now that it is 2½ years since its initial publication. Sales are greater around Christmas time and at the start of the planting season. Total sales since Labour weekend 1999 are 7860.

2. Horokiri Stream (Nigel Clarke)

A significant planting exercise is currently occurring at the mouth of the Horokiri Stream on the Pauatahanui Inlet. Nigel has been working on this site and at the neighbouring Kakaho Stream for the last couple of years and has achieved excellent results. Some 20,000 plants have been grown from seed at the Forest & Bird Nursery on the Inlet and are being planted out between now and July.

3. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

The third of the three investigations into the contaminated sediments has now been completed. The results will be presented to Councillors shortly. One of the questions that arises from the presence of contaminated sediments is what is the nature of the impact they might be having on the life of the stream. A contract has been let for an ecological assessment of the Waiwhetu to find an answer to this question, and the results should be available for the Committee's next meeting.

5. Review of the need for a Regional Heritage Plan (John Holmes)

Heritage Method 9 in the Regional Policy Statement requires the Council to consider whether there is a need for a regional plan for regionally significant heritage matters. Action on this method has been put on hold for the last two years because of the various national heritage reviews that were being undertaken. We consider it is now a good time to look at this question and John has started work on it. It should be pointed out that it is not intended to be a review of how heritage matters are handled throughout the Region but rather heritage matters of regional significance and whether a regional plan would materially improve the situation (if it needs improvement). We expect it will also be a helpful reassessment of the Council's role and provide useful information for the next long term financial strategy.

5. Submission on the Tertiary Education Strategy (Geoff Skene)

We have made a submission on the draft Tertiary Education Strategy. The gist of the Strategy is that the tertiary education sector needs to focus its efforts on the creation of

a “knowledge economy” based around technology, specialised products and services, and a highly skilled workforce. The submission argued this is overly constraining and that, for environmental matters, there is a need for a wider focus, encompassing the research and knowledge needs of existing industries that have environmental effects. We suggested also that there is a need for environmental awareness to be a foundation skill (like literacy and numerical skills), for more environmental education at the tertiary level so that adults can learn how to live in the environment in a sustainable way, and for more effective means of teaching environmental management skills in certain sectors of the economy.

Resource Investigations Department Report

John Sherriff, Manager

March 2002

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

The Resource Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Special weather watches (SWW) issued by the Meteorological Service provide forewarning of conditions which could lead to heavy rainfall and high river levels.

Since the last meeting of the Committee only one SWW was received. This warned of heavy rainfall in the Tararua Range on 4 February 2002.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following alarms was received and responded to:

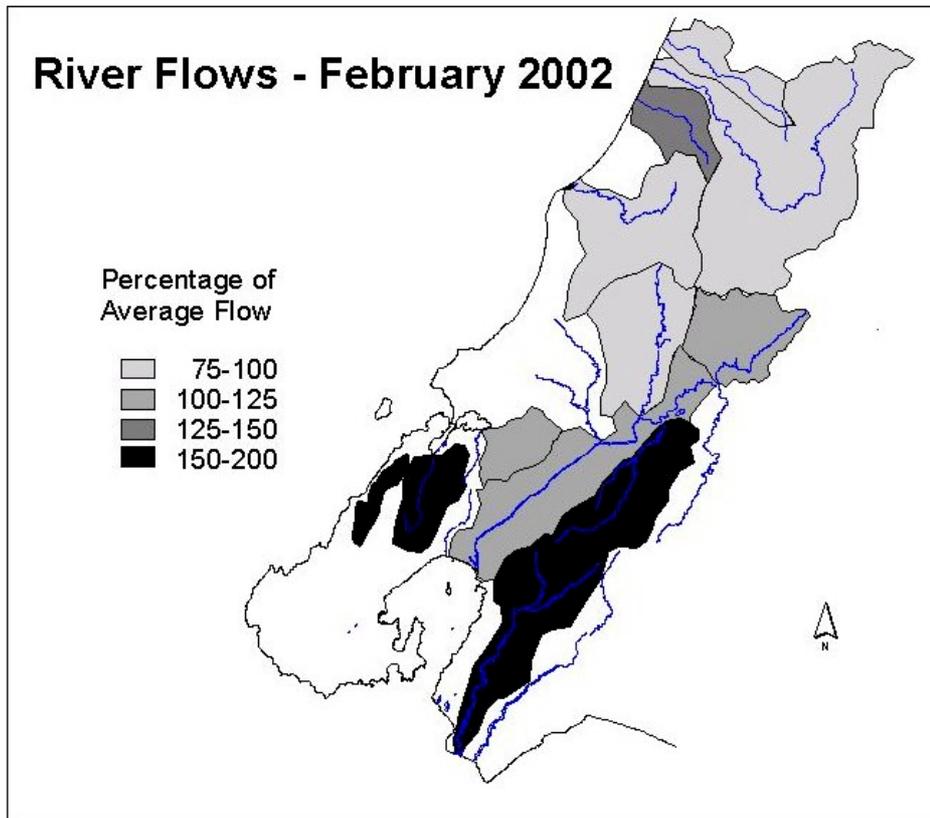
5 February 2002	Rainfall: Warwicks, Oriwa, Transmission Lines, Kapakapanui,
1 March 2002	Rainfall: Oriwa, Transmission Lines, Kapakapanui.
2 March 2002	Rainfall: Oriwa

2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast, as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

The following Figure shows river flows across the Region in February and mirrors the rainfall pattern for the month. Catchments to the south registered above average flow (almost twice the normal for Wainuiomata River, Mill Creek, and Porirua Stream), and catchments such as the Otaki, Waikanae and Akatarawa rivers were below the February average.



Usually about this time of the year staff have a heavy involvement in the Kapiti Coast area with many rivers and streams dropping to levels nearing the Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow levels. However this year, the amount of rainfall over the summer has been sufficient to keep rivers levels up and there has been adequate water to meet the demands of the public supply. Kapiti Coast District Council has put only minimal water use restrictions in place for brief periods.

Debate is raging over whether the global climate is heading into another El Nino event. The majority of forecasts say it is too early to tell and it will be towards the end of autumn before any clear indications arise. Currently we are in a neutral phase after coming out of a La Nina event which explains the large variations we have having in day to day weather. The development of a moderate El Nino would increase the chance of low rainfall in the headwaters of the Hutt River (WRC water supply catchment) during spring and also increases the chance of low rainfall in parts of the Kapiti Coast during summer. El Nino events often bring about drought conditions in the Wairarapa.

2.3 Air Quality Monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

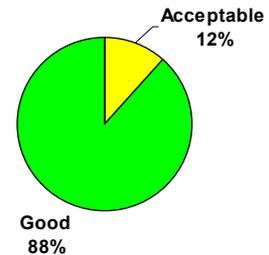
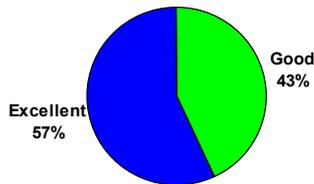
We currently monitor ambient air quality at two sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve) and Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station).

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.

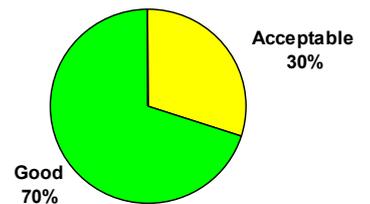
Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt 24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt 24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt



Results for the Past Six Weeks at Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt 24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt 24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt



3. **Resource Quality**

Our Resource Quality team provide a pollution response service to the western Region. They are also involved in monitoring compliance for non-consented activities, and waste management and contaminated sites issues. This year we are implementing the Council's new pollution prevention programme *Take Charge*.

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.

3.2 **Take Charge Implementation**

Take Charge is our pollution prevention programme. Take Charge is being implemented in the Seaview / Gracefield area. Staff completed a further three audits since the last report. These were Waste Management Ltd, Chemwaste and Nuplex Environmental. A total of seven audits have now been completed. Our Take Charge programme continues to be well received by participating businesses.

3.3 **Unwanted Agrichemical Collection**

Activities promoting the unwanted agricultural chemical collection in the Wairarapa are now in full swing. A feature article and advertisement was placed in the Wairarapa Time Age "Mid-Week". This free newspaper is delivered to every property in the Wairarapa part of the Region. Radio advertisements ran for two weeks ending late February. Over 2000 brochures were sent to rural properties in Masterton District. A similar number will shortly be sent to the occupiers of rural properties in Carterton and South Wairarapa Districts.

At the time of preparing this report over 100 people had responded to our contractor requesting a chemical collection.

4. **Staffing Matters**

Matthew McLarin, one of our Resource Technicians, has resigned and will leave the Council on March 21.

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

March 2002

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

The mooring chains on Barrett Reef buoy were inspected by divers after the severe weather of 6 February as a precautionary measure, and all was found to be in order.

The radio control that allows Beacon Hill to manually operate the Front and Rear Leading intensified (daylight) lights has been upgraded. The new system will also provide more information for monitoring the status of the lights.

The wind-generators from the lead lights have been removed and sent for servicing before the winter period.

2. Oil Pollution Response

- An exercise is planned for 19 March when oil pollution equipment will be deployed.
- Three reports of oil on the water were investigated but only one required the application of a small quantity of dispersant to help to break it up. The source of the oil could not be determined, but it is suspected that it originated from a storm water drain.
- On the morning of 7 February, the 25,000-ton log carrier *Jody F Millennium* went aground outside Gisborne, due to bad weather. The vessel had loaded logs in Wellington and sailed from Wellington on 2 February 2002 for Gisborne to complete loading. Her grounding created some additional work for the department. On the weekend of 9/10 February, various calls were received from her salvors requesting details of anchors, chain, etc. that might be available from Council for hire for use in the subsequent salvage attempt.

Later in the weekend, calls were received from Gisborne District Council requesting details of trained oil pollution response staff who might be available to assist in cleaning up oil spilled from the vessel. Our Council's trained oil pollution response staff were then in a state of "standby" over the next two weeks as the salvage attempts were made.

After refloating on 24 February, additional enquiries were received about the disabled ship being towed to Wellington for cargo and oil discharge.

The incident was extensively reported in the media, and both the Maritime Safety Authority and the Transport Accident Investigation Commission are undertaking enquiries into the cause of the grounding. The reports, when eventually published, will be studied with interest by harbour authorities, as some important liability issues are likely to be revealed.

Some initial reports made soon after the vessel was refloated expressed some concerns about “barely enough resources being available to refloat the *Jody F Millennium*”. For example, the availability of powerful salvage tugs in the New Zealand sea area is very limited, as is the availability of sufficient quantities of salvage equipment.

Local harbour tugs are basically designed for harbour towage operations, and whilst they may be useful in providing assistance near a port when a serious grounding has occurred, they are not designed to be “on station”: for long periods. If the casualty is a great distance from a port, owners of the tugs (mostly Port Companies) may be very reluctant to make them available at all, as they cannot be spared from their normal work. More powerful tugs often need to be sourced from Australia, with the attendant delay in arrival at the casualty site.

Similarly, the quantity of useful ground tackle (i.e. large anchors, blocks, chains and wire) stored in New Zealand ports for use in refloating a ship is also limited, and also often need to be quickly transported by air from overseas, at great cost.

In the modern port business environment, large tugs and large quantities of salvage equipment cannot be justified to just “sit around in case they might be useful every ten years”.

This emphasises the importance of prevention, and that all routine marine operations should be carried out in a risk-assessed and planned manner to reduce the chance of such an event occurring in the first place.

3. Dangerous Goods Working Group

The recommendations of a Dangerous Goods Working Group (DGWG), established in July 2000, have been approved by the Strategic Review Group of the Maritime Safety Authority.

Representing key members of the of the dangerous goods industry, the 15 person DGWG team was formed to develop cost-effective strategies to improve compliance with New Zealand and international requirements for the safe handling, land transport and carriage by sea of dangerous goods.

A major finding of the group was that approved training should be compulsory for all shoreside personnel involved in the handling or transporting of dangerous goods intended for carriage by sea. As well compulsory refresher training should be given to all vessel masters and deck officers at intervals of two to five years.

The DGWG endorsed random inspections of containers carrying, or suspected of carrying, dangerous goods to and from the wharf. These inspections will involve the Commercial Vehicle Investigations Unit (CVIU) of the Police, the MSA and technical experts.

The group also recommended that the MSA produce a summary of important points that a port company should take into account when developing or amending incident plans. The need for incident plans to be regularly reviewed and exercised was also emphasised.

A recommended programme of auditing key chemical tanker terminals against the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals (ISGOTT) has commenced at Auckland and Wellington terminals, with others scheduled.

Many of the initiatives recommended by the DGWG will require amendments to Maritime Rule Part 24A, which is scheduled to be re-drafted, to include the 30th Amendment

4. Departmental Activities

Patrick Atwood attended the quarterly Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee meeting (this is a group meeting of all of the organisations in the region that are likely call out to a Dangerous Goods incident). Kapiti Coast District Council hosted this meeting.

5. Beacon Hill Signal Station

A new PC and systems are to be installed at Beacon Hill to enable ready access to CentrePort's system to allow Beacon Hill to directly update CentrePort's electronic shipping orders.

When this is installed, it would also easily enable a still-camera at Beacon Hill to be linked into any web system, with an image updated perhaps every 60 seconds. This is planned to enable participation with NIWA in a "natural harbour environment, sea conditions" public display in the museum in about May 2002.

(The grounding of Jody F Millennium resulted in a live web-cam set up on the beach at Gisborne, which proved to be very useful during refloating attempts. This raised the thought of what could we do if we had a similar event around our region, and talks with IT revealed the above could expedite the setting up of something similar.)

6. Carp Investments

Carp Investments were the owners of the hulk of the fishing vessel *Sarfaq* that Council scuttled on 28 August 2001 at a cost of \$32,000. The liquidator's six monthly report of 26 February 2002 states that there are insufficient funds available for any unsecured creditors.

Further, the report notes that the fishing vessel *James Cook* remains moored at Miramar Wharf, pending sale by the court. A valuation report on *James Cook* estimated current market value of the vessel at \$80,000. Alternatively, if the vessel is sold for scrap it is estimated that \$30,000 would be realised.

The mortgagee is owed more than \$600,000. CentrePort Ltd is owed in excess of \$225,000.

7. General

- For about six hours on the afternoon of 6 February a very heavy southerly swell (measured at 13 metres on the Baring Head waverider buoy) battered Wellington's south coast, causing some damage, flooding and coastline erosion.

All ferries progressively ceased to operate as the afternoon passed. By early evening, after consultation with Centreport, all scheduled sailings from the port were cancelled. A log carrier due to enter port that evening was instructed where to go for shelter and to arrive back next morning. *The Lynx* remained cancelled for three days

- On 10 February a planning meeting was held on board the cruise liner *Norwegian Wind* in preparation for a major evacuation exercise planned for 18 February. This event was cancelled for security reasons, but the planning proved to be very beneficial.
- On 22 February Manager Harbours attended a very interesting meeting organised by MSA with Robin Middleton, who is SOSRep for the UK Government. SOSRep stands for Secretary of State's Representative, and this appointment followed the tanker "Sea Empress" grounding and oil pollution at Milford Haven some years ago.
- On 28 February "Operational Parnell" took place at the Auckland, Wellington and Lyttelton port entrances. This operation involved Commercial Vehicle Inspection Police, Dangerous Goods experts, MSA staff and ourselves. This operation stemmed from the Dangerous Goods Working Group (of which we are a part,) and was to highlight the quantities of undeclared and undocumented dangerous goods being trucked into the port for loading on board shipping.

In Wellington 58 of 84 containers checked contained dangerous goods and of these 18 containers were inspected internally for compliance. One shipment was found to have used batteries that were leaking and another shipment was not secured properly. These two containers were stopped until compliance was achieved and a third truck was detained for incorrect documentation.

This exercise followed the recommendations of the Dangerous Goods Working Group

- The annual Dragon Boat festival was held on a very windy harbour on the weekend of 2-3 March 2002.
- On the afternoon of 9 March 2002 an offshore power-boat race was held in Wellington Harbour.

Resource Policy Department Report Wayne Hastie Manager

March 2002

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans (Murray McLea and Nicola Shorten)

Proposed Regional Plan Changes were publicly notified on 9 February 2002. The Proposed Changes include withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan, changes to bore rules on the Kapiti Coast, and other small changes to all the other Regional Plans except the Regional Coastal Plan. Submissions close on 15 March.

A draft paper on coastal occupation charges has been completed. We will be refining the paper following internal consultation and information we gain from an inter-regional meeting of coastal planners scheduled for later this month. Coastal occupation charges will be a key agenda item at this meeting.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Silt Guidelines (Paul Denton)

The revised work on the guidelines is due to be completed by our consultant in the next few days. We propose to consult internally and externally on the document before bringing it to the Committee for approval in June.

2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea)

Progress with this project is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

2.3 Marine protection (Paul Denton)

Proposals have been obtained from consultants to prepare a community consultation strategy and to review decision-making provisions in legislation. Work should be underway by the time of the meeting. We have also obtained comment on our proposed metadata standard that will provide an index for information we collect on the study area.

2.4 Wetland Recovery Programme (Melanie Dixon)

Progress with this project is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. Iwi matters (Keriana Wilcox)

The first Ara Tahī hui for the year occurred on Friday 8 Feb. Ara Tahī elected a new chairperson, Tom Paku of Ngāti Kahungunu. Tom takes over from Aka Arthur of Ngāti Toa.

Wellington Tenth Trust has agreed to take part in the first Councillor training for 2002. This was to take place on Thursday 28 February, but has since been postponed to a later date. The new date will be confirmed in due course.

4. **Reporting on the State of the Environment (Nicola Shorten)**

Work has started on implementing the Regional Monitoring Strategy. Over the last month work has focused on timeframes and responsibilities for implementation, plan monitoring procedures, and the annual summary information on the state of the environment.

Meetings have been arranged with Iwi during March as a follow-up to the Iwi technical workshop on monitoring.

5. **Hazards (Roz Groves)**

Following a tendering process we have engaged a consultant to prepare an options paper for the management of the tsunami hazard. The paper will make recommendations based on the level of knowledge and risk to the Wellington Region.

A contract with NIWA to provide information on the meteorological hazards in the Region is in progress.

6. **Urban Growth Issues (Wayne Hastie, John Holmes and Maree Sanders)**

Together with staff from the Transport Division, we participated in a two day workshop looking at growth issues in the western corridor from central Wellington to Otaki. The workshop involved staff from Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council and was facilitated by Chip Kaufman, an urban design consultant from Australia. This was an excellent opportunity for the councils to look collectively at growth issues, and helped to provide a context for the Northern Growth Management Plan being run by Wellington City Council.

Staff from the Regional Council will be participating in the community planning week for the Northern Growth Management Plan which runs from 18 – 22 March.

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

I attended the meeting of the CentrePort Environmental Consultative Committee on 7 March. CentrePort reported that they have removed some contaminated material from the former Medical Wastes site at Miramar, and that they are having further tests undertaken of the remaining soil. CentrePort is considering the future use of the site and invited the Committee to put forward any ideas they may have, noting that any proposals would have to be of a commercial nature.

The Committee was given a presentation of the proposed harbour dredging project. The last time any dredging was undertaken at the port was in 1984. Current proposals are to deepen the berths at Aotea/Thorndon, Burnham and Seaview wharves, and to deepen the harbour entrance.

The meeting also discussed the Marine Biosecurity Strategy and the Ocean Policy, possible Australian Defence Industries development at Seaview, port noise management and the issues recorded in the Environmental Register.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

March 2002

1. Social

1.1 Community Relationships

- Because of the Department's involvement with the Chinese Embassy (hosting of delegations, providing emergency management advice to Embassy personnel, etc., the Manager was invited by the Chinese Ambassador to attend a formal dinner on 5 February at the Chinese Embassy. Margaret Shields, Chairperson WRC, and Bruce Andrell, Manager, Parks & Forests, were also invited.
- Participated as an Umpire in the Wellington International Airport's exercise on 14 February. The CIMS model was extensively used by the 14 organisations involved in the exercise and the system worked quite well.
- We met with the Lifelines Co-ordinator on 11 February to complete the Exercise write-up following the exercise that was held on 31 October 2001.
- We attended the Wairarapa Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee meeting on 20 February. Discussions were mainly about Project Phoenix, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill, and exercises.
- On 21 February we met with the Capital Coast and Health District Board to discuss their critical needs in a major event and what part WRC can play in co-ordinating the supply of those resources. The lists of critical needs have been made available to Auckland as part of the Phoenix project.
- On 22 February the Manager attended a meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority regarding the management of aircraft during an emergency event.
- On 25 February we attended the Wellington Lifelines Seminar. The Manager did a presentation on Project Phoenix.
- We are members of the Wellington Region Rural Fire Committee. In this regard we participate in exercises, training and actively take part in their Incident Management Team. We attended two meetings in this regard during February
- We are members of a planning committee comprising members from the IGNS, NIWA, MCDEM, WEMO and WRC. The committee is planning for a Natural Hazards Seminar that will take place in Wellington on 14 and 15 August 2002. Two meetings were attended in February and one on 1 March
- Attended a seminar of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences regarding "Fire following Earthquake in Wellington" that took place in Gracefield on 7 March.

1.2 Territorial Authority Relationships

- Emergency Management Staff attended the meeting of Emergency Management Officers on 4 February. Main topics of discussion were the new CDEM Bill, CDEMG Planning and strategies, Project Phoenix, training, publicity and rural fire.

- The Manager, Emergency Management attended the Council's Health and Safety Advisory Group meeting in Upper Hutt on 13 February.
- The Manager, Emergency Management attended several meetings (13, 18 and 27 February) of the region's steering group regarding Project Phoenix. Progress is good and the next planning meeting will take place in Auckland on 25 and 26 March. A meeting is also arranged with Horizons Regional Council and the Defence Force in Palmerston North to take place on 28 March to discuss logistical issues.
- The Wellington Regional Council (Emergency Management) hosted a Regional Emergency Managers Forum on 28 February 2002. All the Emergency Managers of the Regional Councils and the Unitary Authorities attended the forum. Topics discussed were CDEMG Planning and progress, CDEMG legislation, quantifying the value of an Emergency Management Office, advertising of Emergency Information in the Yellow Pages, Project Phoenix (feedback on progress), Co-ordinated Incident Management System, etc. It was a very good forum and the next forum will be in Wellington during February 2003.
- The Phoenix working group (Brian Toomey – Hutt City Council, Marshall Hyland – Porirua City Council and Rian van Schalkwyk - WRC) attended a meeting with the Divisional Manager, Transport – WRC on 5 March to discuss emergency roading access and transportation after a major event in the region (similar to the "Emergency Water Group"). It was decided that the issue would be raised at the next meeting of the Regional Land Transport Committee. At this meeting the Emergency Managers will make a presentation to the Committee and then progress it from there. In the mean time we are working very closely with Wellington City, Hutt City and Porirua City on this
- **Project Phoenix: A verbal presentation will be made to the Environment Committee on the nature of, and progress with, the project.**

1.3 Central Government Relationships

- Attended two meetings with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) on CDEM Planning (5 and 7 February 2002).
- Attended a meeting with Lynda Angus of the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management and members of the National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team on 11 February. Topic of discussion was the reception of international USAR teams into the Country, deployment and possible exercises for those teams as part of Project Phoenix.
- Attended a meeting with David Rafferty (the Treasury) and two of his colleagues as well as Hugo Vitalis (WRC) on 7 February 2002. Discussions were about damage after a major event, insurance, etc.
- Attended a meeting with John Lovell and John Titmus (MCDEM) on 14 February to discuss CD Advisory issues
- **Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill:** Parliament has upgraded the Bill from priority 3 (nice to have) to priority 2 (must do this year). The Parliamentary Order Paper of 12 March had it listed as number 22. It remains unclear whether the legislation will be enacted this year.

1.4 Iwi Relationships

Nil to report

1.5 Employee Relationships

- The Manager, Emergency Management was nominated to serve on the National Public Education Working Group comprising of Chandrika Kumaran (Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management), Phil Walls (Northland and Auckland), Alan Pearce (Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne), Josie McNee (Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, Canterbury), Michele Poole (Otago, Southland) and Rian van Schalkwyk (Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu-Wanganui). The main aim of the group will be to:
 - develop an ongoing inter-agency national public education programme to raise public understanding and awareness of the hazards we face in New Zealand and implement effective programmes to improve community preparedness.
 - co-ordinate appropriate initiatives with the key agencies involved in emergency management, including local government, Police, Fire, EQC, Health, and Education to allow for greater audience penetration through pooled resources of the co-operating agencies, and commonality of message, and avoid duplication.
 - develop a database for public education material produced throughout New Zealand which will be of benefit to the sector and which will be available on the www.civildefence.govt.nz website.
 - discuss and establish public education boundaries between what is done on a national level by central government and by CDEM groups, with the aim of maximising the benefits for all concerned.

The first meeting of the working group is planned for April. One of the immediate tasks for the group will be to decide on the concept and key messages for a national public awareness radio campaign planned for June this year.

- Debbie Cunningham, our Emergency Management Officer, attended a Public Information Managers Course at the Porirua Police College from 12 to 14 February. She was one of the staff members and a facilitator during the course.
- We attended a Tsunami workshop at the Porirua Police College on 12 February following the Tsunami seminar attended by scientists a week earlier.
- Attended the meeting of water asset managers and emergency managers on 18 February. At this meeting the “Emergency Water Group” was formed.
- Debbie gave a presentation to the MCDEM about the NSW fires on 21 February.
- Attended a meeting of the Flood Procedures working group on 27 February to discuss flood protection management and the role of the emergency management department in flooding events.

2. Environment

- Actively taking part in the Council's recycling process
- Electronic meeting room booking diary introduced

2.1 Earthquake reports

Since the last report, 18 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:

2002 Feb 13 mag. 3.6 (27 km deep)	<i>10 km north-west of Masterton</i>
2002 Feb 11 mag. 4.0 (21 km deep)	<i>40 km south-east of Blenheim</i>
2002 Feb 5 mag. 3.1 (10 km deep)	<i>20 km east of Wellington</i>

2.2 **Special Weather Bulletins**

- Since the last report no Special Weather Bulletins were received.

2.3 **Communications**

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

3. **Economic**

- Performance against PI's on target
- Expenditure within budget

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant Financial Position : 31 January 2002

1. Operating Results

Environment Division
Summary Income Statement
For the Period Ended 31 January 2002

We are pleased to report the operating results for the seven month period ended 31 January 2002.

	Year to Date			Full Year
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	3,991.5	3,991.5	--	6,842.5
Other Revenue	1,298.5	1,079.2	219.3 F	1,894.2
Total Revenue	5,290.0	5,070.7	219.3 F	8,736.7
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	4,311.9	4,494.5	182.6 F	8,068.9
Indirect Expenditure	533.8	549.7	15.9 F	949.6
Total Operating Expenditure	4,845.7	5,044.2	198.5 F	9,018.5
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	444.3	26.5	417.8 F	(281.8)

2. Operating Surplus

For the period an operating surplus of \$444,000 was posted. This is significantly above our budgets for the corresponding period. The budgets provide for a smaller surplus of \$27,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$418,000, and comprising increased revenue of \$219,000, and reduced expenditure \$199,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$5,290,000 was \$219,000 above our budget target of \$5,071,000. The increased revenue is the result of some large notified resource consent applications; the Otaki Pipeline Project (\$67,000), the upgrade of SH58 and SH2/58 (charges recovered this year - \$90,000) and the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant overflows - \$14,000.

In addition, we have passed on the costs of disposal of the hulk of "Sarfaq" (\$32,000) to the vessel owners to register our claim. However, because there is no opportunity to recover these charges, the transaction was reversed in February 2002.

During the period the annual resource management charges were processed. In total, these raised revenues of \$225,000 (last year \$200,000). The increase is mainly a result of the new charging policy which incorporates a higher staff chargeout rate.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure, at \$4,846,000, remains significantly below the level budgeted - some \$199,000 (or 3.9 %) under budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are presently under budget by \$60,000. Staff movements in the period caused the under-spend.
- Material costs are slightly under budget by \$26,000. At this stage the reduction to GIS licence fees and some lower than planned project material costs has more than offset the Commissioners' costs from the Otaki Pipeline and the upgrade of SH58 and SH2/58 hearings which are significantly above our budgets. These latter costs are fully recoverable from the applicant.
- External Contractors and Consultants were \$114,000 under budget. The level of expenditure on iwi projects expenditure has increased significantly with payment made with the "administrative assistance" payments (total budget \$105,000) being made during the period. So far six of the seven iwi are participating in this project. However, in total, the iwi budget trails by some \$85,000 behind our expected expenditure level.
- The charge for Bad Debts and Provision for Bad Debts is presently \$23,000. This comprises of the reversal of the bad debt provision of \$22,000 from Telstra Saturn who paid their outstanding bill (\$22,300) almost immediately after the close of the financial year (00/01), the unpaid "Sarfaq" debt (\$32,000) and some unpaid annual charge (traditional slow-payers).

5. Capital Expenditure (Favourable budget variance - \$81,000)

The purchase of the Ecobus, the vehicle to be used as part of the *Take Action* programme, was slightly delayed. The vehicle has now been purchased and work is progressing on its contents (\$175,000). However, the favourable variance has been offset to some extent by the purchase of three vehicles (total cost - \$18,500). These

vehicles were surplus to the Water Group's needs and are being used by the Environment Division over the summer period. Our budgets provided for a short-term lease for two of these vehicles, whilst the other is unbudgeted. It is planned to dispose of these vehicles by 30 April 2002.

Consents Management Department Report

Nigel Corry, Acting Manager

March 2002

1. **Consent Statistics**

In the period to 28 February 2002 we have received 242 consents. This compares with 273 consents received for the same period last year.

2. **Appeals**

Marilyn Goddard is the only remaining applicant appealing the decision on overnight stays in boatsheds.

There is still no date for a hearing in relation to the appeals on State Highway 58 (Haywards), State Highway 2 (Melling to Petone) and Western Wastewater Treatment Plant. However, it is still likely that we will enter mediation before a formal hearing is required.

3. **Compliance**

3.1 **General**

There has been a general increase in odour complaints over the last few weeks coinciding with some more settled weather, which has been time consuming for staff. In particular, we have received a large number of calls in relation to Taylor Preston, New Zealand Fish, Chemwaste, and the new Hutt Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant at Seaview.

3.2 **Abatement Notices**

There have been no abatement notices issued this financial year.

3.3 **Infringement Notices**

There have been no infringement notices issued since the last meeting of the Committee.

3.4 **Prosecution and Enforcement Orders**

Roadex

As you are aware, Roadex has installed a carbon filter to mitigate the asphalt odour coming from the plant. In the last month we have received very few odour complaints, none of which have been confirmed. This appears to be due to a combination of the carbon filter and a possible reduction in production at the plant.

Burrell Demolition

The date for the Court of Appeal hearing for Burrell Demolition is 7 March 2002.

Hayes Earthmoving

We are seeking to prosecute Hayes Earthmoving for an unauthorised discharge of silt from a sediment retention pond into Taupo Swamp. Hayes have been contractors on the Transit State Highway 1 Rural Section Upgrade. Charges associated with this discharge were laid on 6 March 2002.

4. Other**4.1 Staffing**

Francie Pedersen has resigned since the last committee meeting to take up the position of Sustainable Business Facilitator in the Environment Co-ordination Department within the Environment Division. We have recently held interviews to find a replacement for Francie, and hope to make an appointment soon.

We have also recently appointed Pamela Albert to fill a new role as part time administration assistant. Pamela will start on 11 March, and the appointment is on a one year fixed contract.

4.2 Regional Council Resource Consent Benchmarking Results: 2000/01 Financial Year

In February of this year, Mike Freeman of Environment Canterbury prepared a report for Regional Council Chief Executives, to present the findings of the 2000/01 Regional Council Resource Consent Benchmarking survey. This is an Internet based survey which assesses the performance of Councils in relation to jointly developed best practice procedures and performance indicators for resource consent processing. The first of these surveys was conducted in the 1999/2000 financial year.

In summary, some key findings include:

- Environment Canterbury continue to process more consents than any other council (1,993), and the Taranaki Regional Council the least (422). We processed 638 consents in the last financial year.
- Only Horizons.MW and the Taranaki Regional Council process 100% of applications within statutory timeframes. We processed 99.2% of applications within statutory timeframes. (It should be noted, however, that Horizons.MW do not follow the best practice procedures for timelines).
- Our median timeframe for the processing of non-notified resource consents without a hearing was 12 working days – this includes those consents processed in the Wairarapa. This compares favourably with other Councils, and well below the performance standard of 18 working days.

- With regard to notified consents, both with and without a hearing, we also compare favourably with other Councils, and sit on par with or below performance standards.
- In an audit of individual consents to assess performance against best practice quality procedures, we scored 88%. Again, this compares favourably with other Councils, with only Taranaki (90%), Auckland (96%), Canterbury (89%) and Otago (94%) scoring higher. Our slightly lower percentage score compared with these Councils is largely due to some minor differences in procedure in relation to things like standard conditions, and information requests. For instance, in an effort to provide communication that is targeted to our customers, and is not perceived as being overly bureaucratic, we do not always make specific reference to a section of the Act where it is not necessary.

A full copy of this report can be provided to Environment Committee members if interested.

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
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.
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 early this year.
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 ²	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 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – one appeal received.
Transit ²	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – one appeal received.
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	20/12/00	05/03/01	9	17/05/01	8/10/01 9/10/01	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart	26/10/01	Granted – One appeal received.

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
	events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant								
Transit ⁴	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		1/10/01 – 9/10/01	Helen Tobin, Richard Fowler, Barry Butcher	21/11/01	Granted – three appeals received.
Transit ³	Realignment and safety improvements to McKays Crossing	20/07/01	6/9/01	17	9/10/01	27/11/01, 28/11/01	David Hutchinson, Miria Pomare, Helen Tobin	13/02/03	Granted with conditions – in appeal period
BP Oil NZ Ltd	To change the use of an existing pipeline by resting it on petroleum product instead of seawater between shipments	20/7/01	16/10/01	17		Application on hold at request of applicant to assess further development options			
John Gabites	Discharge to air from Piggery and other land use consents.	25/09/01	01/11/01	7	12/11/01	Application on hold at request of applicant			
Sink F69 Charitable Trust	To create an artificial reef by sinking the former HMNZS Wellington	3/10/01	3/12/01	71	Not held	Hearing 25/02/02 and reconvened 6/03/02	Ian Buchanan, Irvine Yardley, Miria Pomare		
Wellington City Council ¹	Oriental Bay Enhancement Project	23/8/01	22/11/01	41		23/01/02-25/01/02	Ian Buchanan, Conrad Pharazyn, John Lumsden, Alistair Aburn, Aka Arthur	18/02/02	Granted with conditions – in appeal period.
Transit	Kaitoke Hill upgrade	20/7/01	12/12/01	2		04/02/02	Helen Tobin	20/02/02	Granted with conditions – in appeal period
Wellington Regional Council – Flood Protection	To extract gravel from the Waikanae River for flood protection purposes	04/12/01	08/02/02						

- 1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council
- 3 These applications were heard jointly with Kapiti Coast District Council
- 4 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council