

**Geoff Skene**  
**Manager, Environmental Education**

## **Environmental Education Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Business Sustainability**

As a result of the Get Sustainable Challenge there have been a number of enquiries from businesses seeking our assistance. In addition, we have started working with one of the winners of the Challenge – the Wellington YHA – to help another building with recycling and waste reduction. We have also had discussions with the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) about how we can co-operate to encourage more businesses to take up sustainable practices. There are obvious synergies between the SBN's aims and Greater Wellington's programmes for business sustainability. It is in our interest for businesses to join the SBN and get access to the information and support they need to "green" their operations. We are looking at contributing our waste audit expertise as an incentive for businesses to join the SBN and running workshops on topics of mutual interest.

### **2. Take Care**

Care group planting activity has been tailing off over the last month but most groups are still quite active, weeding, potting up, and preparing seedlings for next year.

At Makara, one of the new groups for 2006-7 has engaged a consultant to prepare a restoration plan and is negotiating with local landowners over the extent of the area to be included in the plan.

On the Moehau Stream (Upper Hutt) this year's plantings have all been recently released by Corrections Department workers. The Accor Hotels volunteers are returning to do a stream clean up soon and will weed their August planting site.

A committed core of volunteers from the Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group has been working regularly at the site. Because of concern about possible damage to lizard habitat, Hutt City Council has initiated a lizard monitoring project in the dunes where marram grass is being controlled. Richard Romijn, our own lizard expert, is helping with this.

The Paraparaumu Beach group and the Waikanae Estuary group have been planning their joint initiative for 2007, which is to restore spinifex on an eroding fore dune on the edge of the scientific reserve. Planting will take place in June.

Students from the Masters of Ecological Restoration course at Victoria University have prepared a management plan for the Nga Uruora Kapiti project which identified a suite of invasive weeds as the biggest threat to the group's aim of restoring a dawn chorus to the Paekakariki escarpment. The students presented their findings and a copy of their plan to the group on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

At the Waimeha wetland contractors have been cutting honeysuckle vines throughout the reserve in preparation for spraying. This is pursuant to a weed control plan prepared by Greater Wellington. The weed control is jointly funded with Kapiti Coast District Council.

On the Waikanae River students from Paraparaumu College planted over 600 native trees grown in the school's shade house.

### **3. Corporate Volunteers**

Ten volunteers from ANZ attended a successful working bee and planting day on Wednesday 18 October. This took place at the Forest and Bird Reserve at Pauatahanui.

Around 20 staff from the Body Shop are undertaking a clean up of the Kaiwharawhara Stream on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. They are also mulching areas already planted in Trelissick Park.

The final planting day involving trees from the Honda Tree Fund took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Over 30 staff and family members from Argest Technical Services Limited planted 1500 native trees at Te Marua. Our staff assisted Parks and Forests staff with this event

### **4. Trees for Survival**

There are currently ten schools in the region working with us in this programme in all parts of the region. Their planting sites include the Taupo Swamp, Waikanae River, Hutt River Trail, Waiwhetu Stream, and Papawai Stream. Our role is to procure appropriate seedlings for the schools and to advise the teachers and students about plant care and planting techniques. We do not co-ordinate the planting activity itself, except where it is at a care group site or other site where we are working. There is growing demand from schools to join this programme but this requires sponsorship by Rotary to enable schools to purchase a shade house.

### **5. *Take Action***

#### **5.1 Schools taking action**

The fourth term schools are working solidly now, after a shaky start due to poor weather. The schools are Martinborough School and St. Theresa's School (Featherston) – both guided – and Wainuiomata Intermediate, Mangauraki, Samuel Marsden, Naenae Intermediate, and Queen Margaret College (all self-guided). The students are now in the “action project” phase.

## **5.2 Take Action for Air**

St Bernadette's school in Lower Hutt and Queen Margaret's in Wellington continue to work on *Take Action for Air*. As a part of the action project work at St Bernadette's School, a small group of students is trialling an energy audit procedure devised by us for their school. Students are monitoring and graphing the power consumption of the school and looking at ways to reduce their energy usage. Once we know the way energy is used in the school, we will examine the options for offsetting some of that use and the potential of tree planting to counter the carbon used in generating the electricity. The school is also establishing a recycling system and composting its organic waste, and creating an organic vegetable garden.

## **5.3 Recruitment of schools for 2007**

The recruitment of schools for 2007 is underway and we have had positive responses from more schools than we can cater for. The priority areas for the year are the Wairarapa and Porirua and in both cases the schools have responded very positively. However, there are schools from all round the region signing up for the programme and there has been a strong response from Wellington city schools. Those that cannot be accommodated this year receive first priority for 2008. About a quarter of the schools that have expressed an interest wish to do the air/transport/climate change programme, with the remainder opting for the water/biodiversity/waste programme.

## **5.4 Eastern Hutt School**

At an earlier committee meeting I described the actions of the senior syndicate from Eastern Hutt School and the successful evening meeting where they presented the results of their action projects. The middle syndicate from this school has also now completed its environmental enhancement projects. The students pursued a biodiversity theme with some "weta hotels" which they constructed and presented to Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington. The students staged a picnic at the Stratton Street classroom with their parents where they shared their experiences and what they had learned. The weta hotels were hung up by our ranger, Chris Wotton, on the day. Another novel idea was to create kids' menus and activity sheets with an environmental theme which were presented to the Angus Inn for use in the family restaurant.

## **5.5 Other action projects**

Trentham School and Wainuiomata Intermediate School have both undertaken tree planting in the school or nearby. Holy Family school students are working on a school wide recycling system. Wilford school students have completed a large mural with an environmental theme.

## **6. Environmental Awards**

In 2005 Councillors raised the possibility of a Greater Wellington environmental awards scheme. Officers from the Environment Management, Catchment Management, and Water Supply, Parks & Forests divisions have

investigated this question and developed a framework for a Greater Wellington Regional Environmental Awards scheme. The scheme is outlined in detail in a report to the Policy, Finance & Strategy Committee later in this round.

In brief, however, the aim of the environmental awards programme we will propose is, as Councillors suggested, to publicly recognise and reward school groups, volunteers, individuals and organisations working with Greater Wellington to sustain or manage the region's natural resources. To win an award, an applicant will need to be working with, or have an on-going relationship with, Greater Wellington. This focus has been chosen to ensure that our awards can be differentiated from and do not duplicate other award schemes already in place in the region to which anyone can apply, e.g., the Conservation Awards, Enviroschools Awards.

Under the proposed scheme, awards would be made in three areas corresponding in general terms to the people and organisations working with Greater Wellington on environmental sustainability and the management and use of our parks and land network. These categories are:

- Schools, students, and teachers (Sustainable Project Awards and Environmental Leadership Award)
- Community groups, care groups, landowners, advocacy groups, individuals (Partners in Sustainability Award)
- Consent holders (Compliance Award)

The Partners in Sustainability Award would be open to anyone working with us to achieve a more sustainable region and could include advocacy groups, parks management groups, transport related groups, and so on. There would be four awards for schools in total (for junior, middle, and senior classes) and, while there is only one Partnership award, there is provision for merit awards in all three categories to recognise other valuable contributions. At this stage no award is proposed for businesses working with us to improve their sustainability as the Get Sustainable Challenge, sponsored by us in 2006, is a more than adequate substitute for this. The Compliance Award, which businesses would be eligible for, is a good way to recognise the contribution consent holders make to the sustainable management of the environment. This group is often overlooked when it comes to receiving recognition from the Council for a job well done.

Other details concerning judging, cost, marketing and other aspects of the implementation of the scheme are described in the Policy & Finance paper.

**Murray McLea**  
**Acting Manager, Environmental Policy**

## **Environmental Policy Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans**

#### **1.1 Regional Policy Statement review update**

Tami is providing an update of the Regional Policy Statement review in a separate report.

#### **1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan**

The outstanding matter in this plan change related to conditions on a rule requiring resource consent for heavy vehicles to use a stopbank. The High Court made an interim decision which was considered by staff on the Wairarapa Flood Protection department and the appellant (J Barton). We filed our response to the Court on 29 August 2006.

#### **1.3 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan**

Draft Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan will limit the taking of additional water from three groundwater aquifers and six streams in the Wairarapa. It has been sent to affected consent holders and other interested people for their comment. The closing date for comments is 24 November 2006. Once comments are received we will be reporting to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and recommending how the Council should proceed.

### **2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation**

#### **2.1 Annual environment report cards**

The annual environment report cards will be presented to this meeting of the Environment Committee.

#### **2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems Programme**

Construction of two fish passes in the Kaiwharawhara Stream are now complete. The passes are located at sites in the stream where structures in the bed result in waterfalls limiting the upstream passage of migratory native fish. One is at the confluence of the Korimako Stream with the Kaiwharawhara Stream and the other at the outlet of the culvert that goes under Churchill Drive. These fish passes are supported by the community groups associated with Project Kaiwharawhara. The costs of construction have been met by Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and Capacity.

## **2.3 Biodiversity voluntary change research programme**

As part of a national programme to develop improved policy approaches for encouraging landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity on their own land, Terry Parminter of AgResearch sent out a questionnaire to all ratepayers in the Ohariu catchment in late October. The purpose of the survey is to find out landowners' knowledge of and attitudes to the Ohariu Stream and its biodiversity. Terry personally visited six landowners, who between them own over half the catchment, in early November.

## **2.4 Draft Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Draft Coastal and Marine biodiversity Action Plan was approved for public release by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee on 9 November 2006. We will be seeking comments on it from stakeholders, the Department of Conservation, iwi, city and district councils and land owners. When comments have been received and considered, approval for a completed plan will be sought from the Council.

## **3. Other**

### **3.1 Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Issues and Options document**

An issues and options document *Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* has been released by the Department of Conservation for comment. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is an important policy document for us because we have to give effect to it in our Regional Policy Statement and regional plans, and regard must be had to it when resource consent applications are considered. The closing date for submissions was 10 November 2006 and staff have made a submission.

### **3.2 Kapiti Coast District Council draft Coastal Strategy**

The Kapiti Coast District Council has prepared a Draft Coastal Strategy and invited submissions, which closed on 27 October 2006. We support development of the Strategy. Staff made a submission on the draft strategy and we commented on areas of particular interest to our coastal management role, such as coastal process, coastal hazards and water quality. We will attend a Kapiti Coast District Council hearing to consider the Strategy on 16 November 2006.

## **4. Staffing**

Ling Phang has started with us as a policy advisor. Her main task will be to work with territorial authorities in the western part of the region on their proposed plan changes and resource applications they receive. Ling has come from the Wellington City Council where she worked as a resource consents planner. She will also assist with preparation of the revised RPS.

Tim Park has also just started with us. He will be filling in for Melanie Dixon while she is on parental leave. Key work for Tim will be the review Greater Wellington's Wetland Action Plan and implementation of the Wetland Incentives Programme. Tim is an ecologist with a lot of experience in the Wellington region, having worked for us, KCDC, QEII Trust and Boffa Miskell. Tim has just come back from Tanzania where he worked on a VSA programme.

**Ted Taylor**  
**Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations**

## **Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Flood warning**

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee three events triggered a total of 23 alarms (Wairarapa 11 alarms, Western area 12 alarms).

The opening to Lake Onoke closed on the 10th of September and remained closed for the next 11 days before a channel to the sea could be cut.

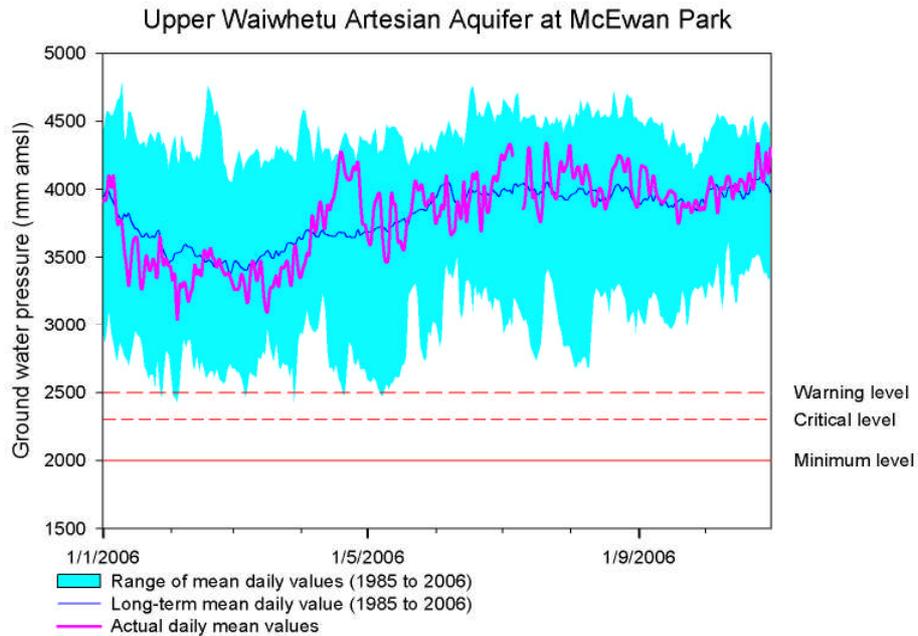
The water level in Lake Wairarapa was above the target level of 9.95m for the month of September. The spring target level of 10.00m was exceeded for the whole of October apart from a few days at the beginning. This was due to a combination of high Ruamahanga River base flows and a blocked outlet at Lake Onoke. A high Wairarapa Lake level of 10.94m was recorded on the 26th.

### **2. Groundwater levels**

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites in the western region and 62 sites in the Wairarapa. We use three of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone, Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast, and Baring in Wairarapa as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

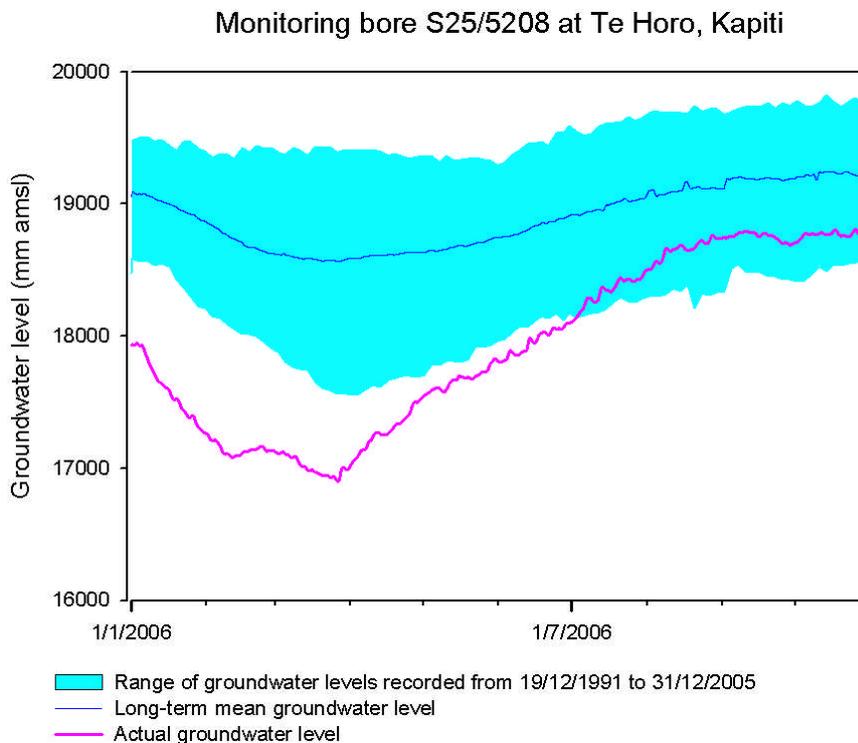
#### **2.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer**

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring well has been at or about the long-term mean this year. The pressure is well above the seawater-intrusion alarm levels.



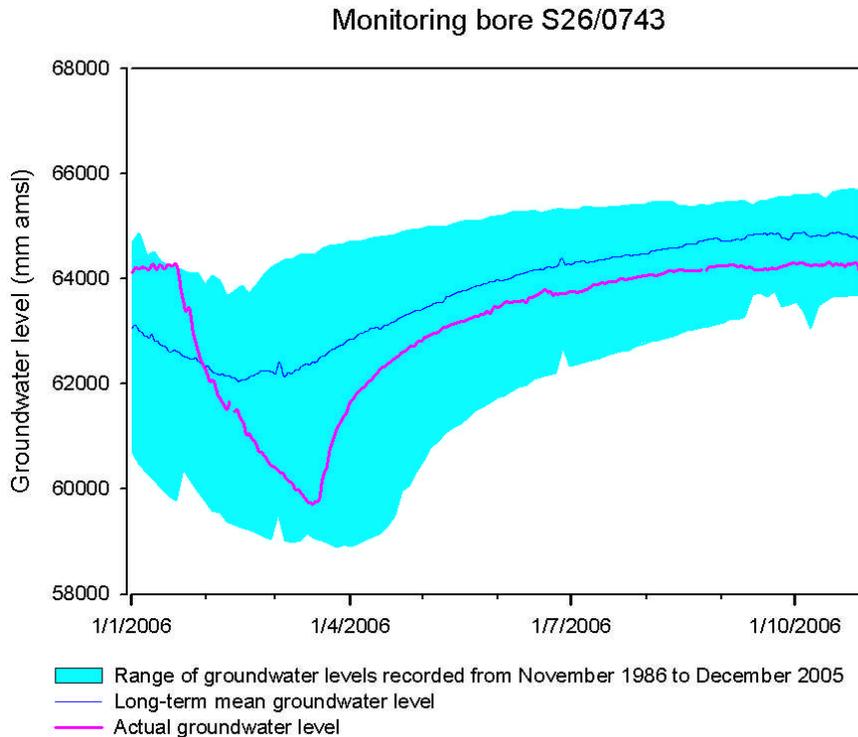
## 2.2 Kapiti coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in Kapiti aquifers have largely recovered from their summer lows. The hydrograph below shows the record from a Greater Wellington monitoring well on the Hautere Plain. This well intercepts a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, whose level is now back within the long-term range of values recorded at this site.

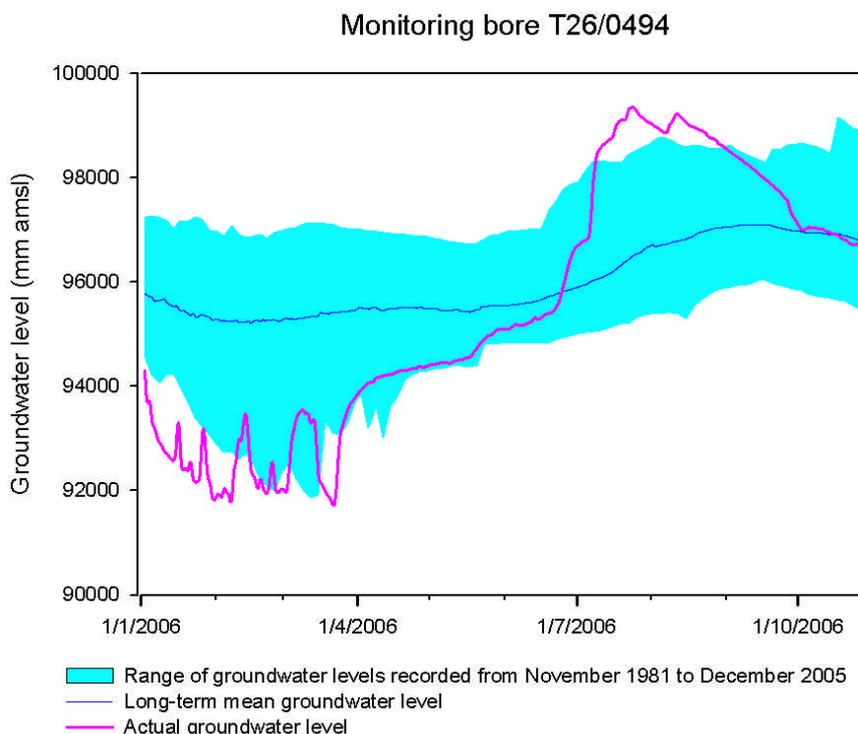


### 2.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Monitoring of levels at the Baring well in Parkvale, located in a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer (data illustrated below), shows that groundwater is around the seasonal recovery point but still below the long-term mean for this time of year.

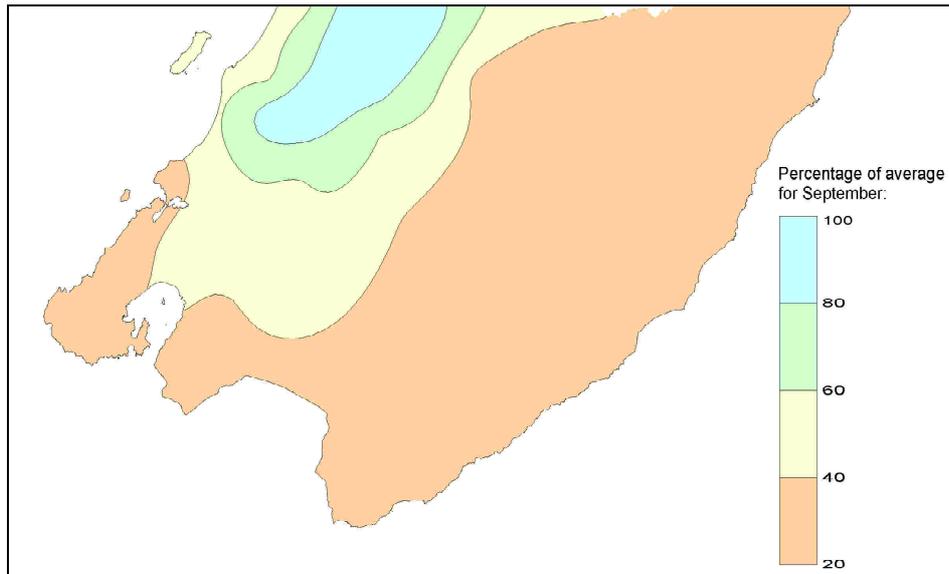


On the other hand, as a result of the winter rainfall unconfined/semi-confined aquifers have settled to around the long term mean for this time of year. This is illustrated in the plot below of water levels in the Oliver Deep well at Te Ore.



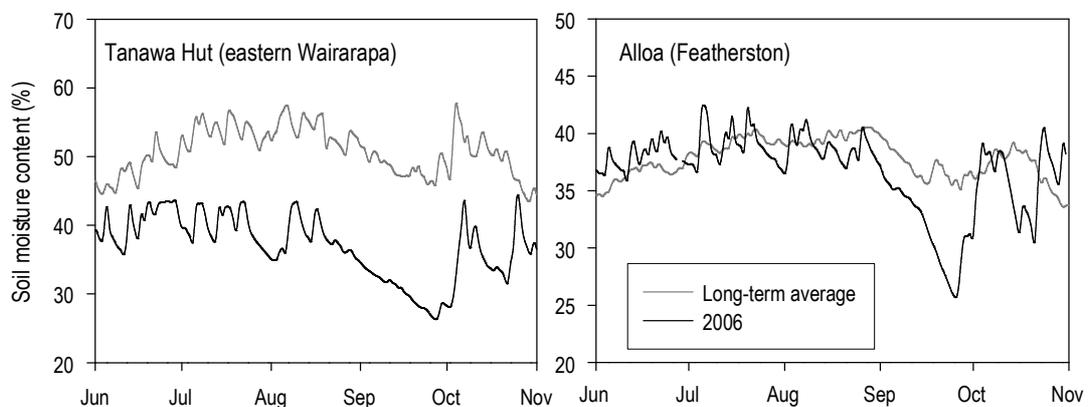
### 3. Rainfall and river flows

September 2006 was extremely dry for the time of the year in some parts of the Wellington region. As shown in the figure below, rainfall was as low as 20-40% of the long-term average for September in much of the Wairarapa, Wainuiomata, and Wellington city. Eastern Wairarapa was the driest part of the region, with only 23.5mm of rain recorded at our Tanawa Hut rainfall station, the lowest since records began in 1956. The low rainfall, particularly in the east, was a result of frequent anticyclones over the Tasman Sea, producing dry conditions and stronger westerlies than normal.



**Rainfall during September 2006 as a percentage of the long-term average rainfall for September**

The low rainfall in September resulted in a large decrease in soil moisture conditions in the Wairarapa. As shown in the figure below, soil moisture at two indicative locations (Tanawa Hut and Alloa) remained well below the long-term average throughout September 2006, but rainfall in October pushed soil moisture back up to the pre-September levels. Similarly, river flows remained below average for the time of the year throughout September, with fewer ‘freshes’ than normally experienced during spring.



**Recent soil moisture compared to long-term average**

In contrast to September, October 2006 was wetter than average particularly in the east of the region where rainfall was over double the long-term average for October (illustrated below). Anticyclones ('highs') predominated over the southeast of Australia and the Tasman Sea, with below average pressures southeast of New Zealand. This pattern produced more frequent southwesterlies than normal over New Zealand, and many more days than average with strong winds over the South Island and the southern North Island. The southwesterlies were interspersed with some significant southerly storms, notably on the 4th-6th, and the 24th-25th (NIWA, 2006<sup>1</sup>).

The storm event on 24 October brought widespread heavy rainfall to the region, particularly to eastern and central Wairarapa, Wainuiomata and the eastern Hutt hills. As a result, floodwarning alarms were triggered on several rivers including Wainuiomata River, Hutt River, Waiwhetu Stream, and Ruamahanga River and some of its eastern tributaries (Tauweru and Huangarua rivers). However, the flood levels reached were not significantly high compared to other floods on record.

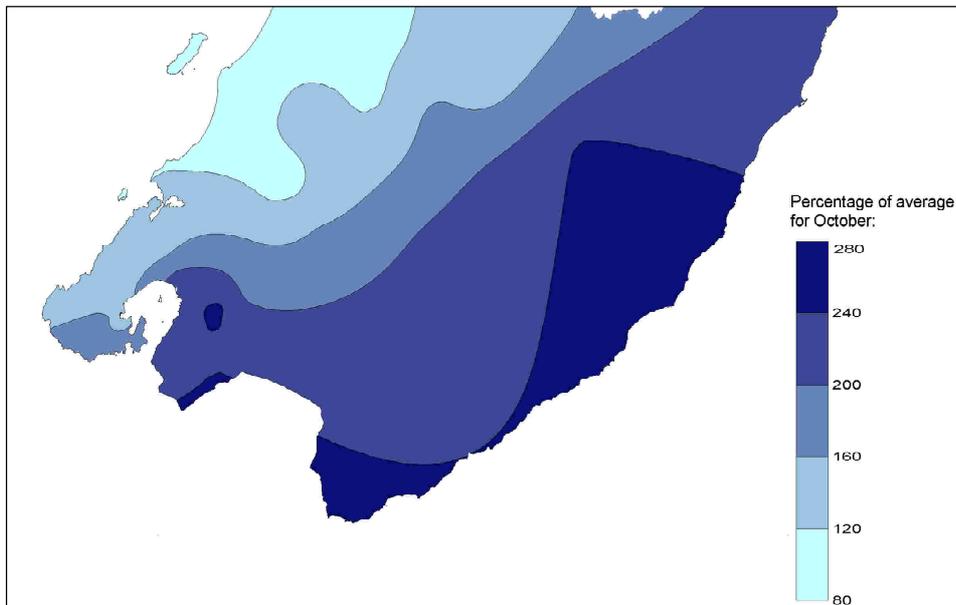


Figure 1: Rainfall during October 2006 as a percentage of the long-term average rainfall for October

## 4. Air quality monitoring

### 4.1 Air quality

The level of contaminants measured in the region's air is assessed against the target of achieving air quality which is 'acceptable' or better. Acceptable air quality is defined as concentrations of contaminants in air which are less than 66 % of the relevant limit set by the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ).

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Summary for October 2006

**Monitoring results year-to-date (1 July 06 to 31 October 06)**

Site	Location	Percentage of time 'acceptable' or better		
		PM <sub>10</sub>	CO	NO <sub>2</sub>
Lower Hutt airshed	Birch Lane, Lower Hutt	99.2%	100%	100%
Wainuiomata airshed (from 30/9/2006)	Wainuiomata Bowling Club	100%	-	-
Upper Hutt airshed	Savage Park, Upper Hutt	100%	100%	100%
Wairarapa airshed	Wairarapa College, Masterton	91.7%	100%	100%
Traffic monitoring site	Corner Victoria and Vivian Streets, Wellington City	97.5%	100%	100%
Traffic monitoring site	Melling intersection, SH2, Wellington	100%	100%	-
Traffic monitoring site	Ngauranga Gorge, SH1, Wellington	98%	100%	100%

**4.2 National environmental standard for air quality**

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in the period 1 September to 31 October in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

**5. Contaminated sites**

The Department maintains the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) which records sites that because of their land use, past or present, may be contaminated. There are currently 1784 sites on the register. This register is able to be accessed by authorized council and territorial authority staff and this has occurred 4804 times this financial year. In this period there have also been 55 requests for information from the public.

**6. Bathing water quality**

The summer bathing season started on 1 November and with that our annual recreational bathing site monitoring programme. To provide better information for the public we've just completed a review and update of our bathing water quality website - it now provides a lot more information than just weekly bathing results, including key findings from the *Will I Get Sick if I Swim* report, and addresses issues such as blue-green algae

## **7. Staff**

I am making good progress towards finalising the structure of the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department. As part of this process I have consulted staff by circulating a proposed structure and invited feedback. The responses to date indicate that it will be possible to have a new structure in place before the end of November.

Simon Hansen, one of our Environmental Monitoring Officers has resigned and returned to his previous field of work dealing with commercial electrical appliances. We are in the process of filling this vacancy.

**Al Cross**  
**Manager, Environmental Regulation**

## **Environmental Regulation Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 July 2006 to 3 November 2006 we have received 244 consent applications. This compares with 226 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 203 consents. This compares with 218 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 12 working days, remaining steady from the last period.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is also attached for information.

### **2. Appeals and objections**

#### **2.1 Appeals**

##### **Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind**

We still have not received notice of a decision of the appeal hearing of Project West Wind consent decisions<sup>1</sup> from the Environment Court.

##### **Greater Wellington: Flood Protection Department – Scadden's stopbank**

This relates to an appeal by A J Barton<sup>2</sup> on a decision that granted consent to Flood Protection to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River near Martinborough. A Court hearing will be on 22 November to determine remaining matters around the location and use of an access track crossing and running adjacent to the new stopbank.

##### **Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL)**

This is an appeal by D T S Riddiford of a joint decision that granted consent to MCDL for a 30-lot subdivision at Tora, South Wairarapa. Mediation raised new concerns about the location and design of the proposed community

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<sup>1</sup> The decisions on the jointly processed consents were released on 21 December 2005. Key issues included landscape effects, proximity of residences to the site, traffic, noise and ecological effects.

<sup>2</sup> The Environment Court has struck out a number of aspects of the appeal relating to consideration of Regional Freshwater Plan provisions and section 5 and 104 RMA considerations.

wastewater treatment system, and the applicant has subsequently changed the proposed location. We are assessing possible options before a further possible round of mediation.

### **A E & S W Benton Partnership**

This relates to an appeal by the applicant on a decision which declined consent to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation near Kahutara.

Mediation on this appeal of a benchmark-setting decision to decline an application to take groundwater from the Kahutara groundwater zone (affected by a moratorium not to 'accept' further applications) continues. We have undertaken technical work to better establish evidence supporting that the aquifer is over-allocated and, following the 10 October mediation round, have asked the applicant to provide further information and possible conditions to support their position. This case is particularly important in that it may establish a precedent for Greater Wellington regarding the formal 'status' of moratorium groundwater zones and the level of technical evidence necessary to support a status, which could be reasonably far-reaching for us. We are yet to receive further information from the applicant; therefore no further mediation dates have been set.

### **Masterton District Council**

No progress has been made on the appeal by Masterton District Council against the decision on stage two – the Castlepoint sea wall. The onus is on Masterton District Council to come up with an integrated foreshore management plan.

## **3. Compliance and Enforcement**

### **3.1 General**

We are developing our summer monitoring programme across the region, and will be hiring two students during summer to provide support to the team to enable us some space to undertake compliance field work.

Meanwhile we continue our programme of regular monitoring of major consented activities.

### **3.2 Specific Compliance**

#### **Exide Technologies Ltd fail to comply**

Exide finally completed the cartridge house enclosure, confirmed by site visit on 3 November. The works enclose the filter press machinery helping to contain dust emissions during maintenance and drum changeovers, and delays had been due to building and land use consent delays and delays in securing contractors for construction work.

We have served an infringement notice on Exide for not meeting the August deadline. In the meantime, we are waiting to view monitoring results for the last three months to determine whether or not Exide has been able to meet the

lower lead discharge limits for the site. We continue to be hopeful that the temporary dust control measures in place during the August-October period will have enabled Exide to meet the lower limits given that pre-August measurements indicated that they would be able to achieve compliance at two of the three site boundaries.

### **Taylor Preston Ltd (TPL) – consent review requested**

We will be meeting with Gorge Action Group (GAG) and TPL together in mid November to discuss issues around the TPL's compliance performance and proposals for an action plan of continual improvement at the site to enable TPL to meet conditions of their discharge permit. GAG had previously requested that GW review TPL's air discharge permit, in light of ongoing odour issues at the plant. However, we have decided that we will not be seeking a review at this stage, after careful consideration of the relevant issues including current work by TPL to address last summer's problems, as discussed in my September report. I will update the Committee on the meeting outcomes.

### **Wellington City Council (WCC), Capacity and United Water International (UWI)**

We recently met with staff from the three agencies to discuss an unconsented discharge of untreated sewage to Lavendar Bay from the short outfall bypass at Moa Point Waster Water Treatment Plant. The event occurred during heavy rainfall on 26 August, and lasted one minute, and was due to a malfunction in electronic equipment controlling the pump station.

WCC and UWI had already made a range of operational improvements to the plant over the last 18 months to reduce the incidence of these types of discharges. However, I am still concerned that the activity remains unconsented, particularly for discharges exceeding the plant's design standard.

Subsequently, it is very pleasing that WCC and UWI have agreed to investigate consenting of this discharge with the possibility of including an application as part of the suite of replacement Moa Point discharge permits to be lodged in 2007.

## **3.3 Abatement notices**

Six abatement notices have been served since the last Committee meeting.

- Three abatement notices was served on J T Cook (landowner) and Kevin Anderson Combined Projects Ltd to provide a management plan for the long term use and removal of around 3,000 tyres from a property in the Castlepoint area. The tyres have the potential to breakdown and release contaminants into the site and to groundwater, and also exist as a fire hazard. We are currently working through options with the parties for addressing the abatement notice requirements.
- An abatement notice was issued to Universal Trucks and Equipment, Waione Street, Petone (Occupier) and Waione Street Properties

(Landowner) to cease all unauthorised discharges to land related to plant maintenance and repair works and remove contaminated material from a soak hole in the workshop.

- Patrick Va'a of Pat's Panel and Paint in Paraparaumu received an abatement notice requiring his workshop at Ihakara Street to cease all discharges of contaminants to land from vehicle washing and other on-site practices.

### **3.4 Infringement notices**

We have issued six infringement notices since last Committee meeting.

- Truebridge Callender Beach (TCB) was served two infringement notices for illegal reclamation works in a streambed, and failure to comply with discharge permit conditions to install specific erosion and sediment control measures at an earthworks site in Woodridge, Newlands. This is the second set of infringements issued to TCB in the space of a month. We enjoy a good working relationship with TCB, and we are working with them to ensure we don't get a repeat of these types of incidents in future.
- Allied Concrete were infringed for breaching their abatement notice at Landfill Road, Brooklyn in two separate instances in August 2006. The existing abatement notice required them to ensure no offsite discharges of concrete waste.
- Robert Catsburg carried out substantial excavations of the bed of an unnamed tributary of the Takapu stream without the necessary resource consent in September 2006. An infringement notice was issued for this offence.
- Foster Architects Ltd was issued an infringement notice for inadequate erosion and sediment controls at a small subdivision in Mt Victoria in July 2006. Significant discharges of sediment to the stormwater network occurred as result of this incident.
- Exide Technologies Ltd were served an infringement notice relating to a breach of their resource consent, discussed in section 3.2 above.

### **3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

We have four prosecution and four enforcement order proceedings currently underway.

#### **Tonkin and Taylor and Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd**

Tonkin and Taylor (Hutt City Council's consultant), and Tenga Pickering Contracting Limited are being prosecuted for an unauthorised prolonged discharge from a large sediment pond at Silverstream Landfill, connected with Stage 2 landfill works, that entered Hulls Creek and the Hutt River. The discharge occurred in January 2006 during summer low flows.

We are continuing to discuss the scope of charges laid against Tonkin and Taylor before we are able proceed to the first call over to present the summaries of facts in relation to charges. No hearing date has been set.

### **Burrell Demolition Ltd**

This is a prosecution regarding the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington. The case will proceed to a trial by jury, with a pre-trial call over set for 9 November. No hearing date has been set. Mr Burrell has expressed a desire to discuss the charges and landfill activity consenting issues with us. While we have responded positively to his request to meet, we are yet to receive any formal reply from Mr Burrell.

### **Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Droque Construction Ltd**

This is a prosecution against the three parties, for failing to comply with an enforcement order relating to the removal of non-cleanfill material from a cleanfill site in Wainuiomata.

Both companies pleaded guilty to the three charges against each of them at the 8 November hearing. The Court also confirmed new enforcement orders requiring a further roading plan (identifying the area of contaminated material) and a plan for removing the non-cleanfill material to be completed by 13 December 2006. Furthermore, a contribution of \$5,000 towards our costs was agreed.

The Judge decided to delay sentencing until 15 December to be able consider the defendants performance against the enforcement order conditions. This is an interesting approach enabling sentencing to be otherwise more or less lenient depending on actual performance.

### **Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James / 282 Ohiro Road**

This prosecution concerns ongoing discharges of sediment into Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision.

The case was heard in the Environment Court on 6 November with an excellent result for Greater Wellington. The company pleaded guilty to charges and was convicted and fined \$2,000. The defendant also agreed to pay \$3,500 towards our costs. Furthermore, an enforcement order has been set requiring adequate an erosion and sediment control plan to be established and approved by Greater Wellington, prior to its implementation.

It is interesting to note that the Court felt that the approach taken by Greater Wellington to resolve the issue with the defendant was sensible. It also determined that the defendant had, in the judge's view, a 'low level' of culpability for the discharges to Owhiro Stream largely due to stormwater inputs to the site from upslope. Nevertheless, the hearing outcome marks two years of work by the Pollution Control team to deal with discharges first through education and then by enforcement action.

### **Ohiro Properties Ltd / 318 Ohiro Road**

An enforcement order were sought following unauthorised destruction of a small stream without consent in Brooklyn in April 2004, and subsequently appealed by Ohiro Properties.

We have filed for costs in relation to the abandoned appeal, and have sought final substantive enforcement orders from the Environment Court. An Order to be agreed between the parties is being drafted to be signed off in mid November. The order is likely to cover site planting requirements, erosion and sediment control planning, and reinstatement of the small stream including associated remedial plans.

### **J Gabites**

An enforcement order is being sought to cease discharges of sediment and piggery effluent to a tributary of Mangaroa River at Maymorn. The order's application marks the culmination of extensive investigations of the discharges.

The Court has requested the formal mediation, and we have been advised that Mr Gabites will accept. Mediation is now likely to occur early next year.

In the meantime, we have met with Mr Gabites' legal counsel to discuss a possible contaminant management plan for the site.

## **3.6 Take Charge**

*Take Charge* initiatives were well represented at the recent Kapiti Garden Day held at labour weekend. Posters reflecting the *Take Charge* programme and the Drain Six project framework and outcomes were prepared for the Greater Wellington display, receiving favourable feedback.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 06.623).

## **3.7 Significant Incidents**

Significant incidents for the period are discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 06.623).

The Pollution Control Annual Report Card summarising incident data and trends for the last financial year is provided in the Annual Environment Report Cards Report (report 06.632).

# **4. Major resource consents and other matters**

## **4.1 Key notified consents update**

### **Hilton Hotel: Wellington Waterfront Investments**

A decision to grant applications for a five-star Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions has been appealed by five parties including the

applicant; Miro Property Holdings and Prime Commercial Investments; Wellington Civic Trust and Waterfront Watch; Wellington Indoor Sports and Intercontinental Hotel. The appeals are reasonably broad in nature, while the applicant has specifically appealed traffic management conditions.

We will now wait for any notice of possible s274 parties intending to join any of the appeals, and in the meantime are commencing preliminary work to prepare to defend the decision.

### **Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust**

A decision to grant the new joint applications for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand was released on 19 October. Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations.

In its decision, the Hearing Panel noted that the aquarium would offer a significant marine learning facility with the potential for considerable educational benefits for the wider Wellington community, and would likely generate a considerable economic benefit through tourism. Ecological enhancements around this already degraded site would also accrue.

The Panel considered that, in the face of the range of evidence presented, adverse effects on natural character would be mixed while noting that community perceptions of effects on landscape values and change in character due to the proposed aquarium building were more significant. Amongst a range of matters, other adverse effects deemed to be minor included traffic management, exposure to natural hazards, effects on geological features, sustainability, māori culture and public access.

Greater Wellington matters were determined to relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations; these included discharges of aquarium process water and brackish water. The Panel considered that the associated effects would be minor.

Media enquiries have been directed through Wellington City Council as lead agency, and it is fair to say that media interest to date has been moderate.

The appeal period closes on 13 November.

### **Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: WCC/Capacity**

These applications for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant were heard in late October.

The Officer's report recommended approval of consents subject to conditions including stringent ecological and infrastructural monitoring and reporting requirements, and a mixture of 20 and 10-year terms for the various discharges.

The hearing has been adjourned while the panel completes deliberations.

### **Capital and Coast District Health Board**

This is an application to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital, including the hospital's Total Energy Centre.

The need for a hearing has been largely eliminated, and we are still waiting for final approval of the draft conditions by the applicant prior to finalising the Officer's report.

### **Hutt City Council**

This is an application for retrospective emergency and ongoing river re-alignment works on Wainuiomata River adjacent the Coast Road and Wainuiomata Golf Club, which are being processed on a limited notified basis. One submission was received from Wainuiomata Golf Club. A pre-hearing meeting was held on 6 November with the applicant agreeing to consider mitigation options which would limit impacts on Wainuiomata Golf Course land. The applicant will respond to the Wainuiomata Golf Club before draft conditions are considered.

### **N & E E Reid**

These are applications to replace and extend on existing consents for the discharge of piggery effluent from herd of 11,000 animals to land and odours to air, north of Clareville, Carterton.

Following a GW-commissioned review of soil conditions and treatment capacity in the Carterton-Clareville area, the applicant has now indicated to us that they will not be increasing herd size and extending their disposal area to treat piggery effluent. We will continue to process applications and prepare an Officer's report for a likely hearing date in mid December 2006.

### **Masterton District Council**

Application for managing the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities has been placed on hold for further information. Once information is received, the applications will be notified which is now unlikely to take place before the end of 2006.

### **Prema Investments Ltd**

This is an application for discharging communal wastewater to land arising from a 6 lot subdivision at Whangaimoana. We have received clarification from the applicant regarding off-site discharge effects, and the applications were jointly notified with South Wairarapa District Council on 22 October.

## **M B and H F Herrick**

We recently held a pre-hearing meeting with parties connected with replacement consent applications to take groundwater for irrigation from two existing bores at Taumata Island, Carterton. Submitters are primarily concerned about the potential impact of the abstraction on the Taumata Oxbow reserve wetland. We will now, with the applicant, consider options to gather monitoring information over summer to assess impacts on the reserve wetland, before completing the consent process.

## **Rathkeale College**

Rathkeale College located at Opaki, north of Masterton, has applied for a short term replacement consent to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River, near Masterton. The application is to use the current system over the next two years until investigations into a new land-based system have been completed and new applications can be made. We are currently negotiating conditions with the applicant, and expect a consent will soon be issued.

## **4.2 Department integration**

I have completed considerable discussions with senior Environmental Regulation staff regarding a preferred Department structure and options for refining roles and responsibilities across the region, and expect to soon release a discussion document outlining the draft structure.

In the meantime, we have completed a successful trial of a new non-notified officer's report and consent certificate package regionally on a trial basis. We will next commence work on our notified officer's reports, crucial to support a quality output in the typically more exposed area of our consents work; and we continue general work to develop integrated processes.

I continue to be heartened by the positive approach to the new structure taken by all, and I am pleased to witness the regular team and monthly Department meetings continuing to pull the Department together.

## **4.3 Staff issues**

I am very happy to tell you that I have appointed Miranda Robinson to the vacant Team Leader's position in the Wellington Consents and Compliance team. The appointment is well deserved reflecting Miranda's demonstrated strengths and capabilities in this role on display during the six month period she acted in the role prior to her permanent appointment.

Geoff Ewington has joined the Pollution Control team based in the Wairarapa, replacing Stephen Yeats. Geoff comes to us from a rural Wairarapa background and as a graduate in Physical Geography and Environmental Studies, thus providing a valuable base for pollution control work in the Wairarapa.

Amy Holden has started with the Wellington Consents and Compliance team. Amy is a soon-to-be Masters graduate in physical geography and brings valuable research exposure in water allocation and geohydrology to our work.

I also welcome back Tracey Grant from parental leave to the Wellington Consents and Compliance team on a part time basis. Tracey will return some much needed experience to the team.

I continue my recruiting programme, with interviews for the vacant Pollution Control Team Leader's position imminent.

I will soon be advertising for a fixed-term Team Leader position to replace Miranda Robinson while she is on parental leave.

I am pleased to advise that Natasha Tod has been appointed as Acting Team Leader while Sonia Baker is on parental leave in early 2007. Natasha will spend the rest of the year in transition to the acting role. I will also be seeking another fixed-term appointment to replace Joanna Noble – also to depart soon on parental leave.

Finally, I will be looking for another permanent senior resource advisor to fill the vacant position in the Wellington team to replace Miranda Robinson following her promotion.

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
Masterton District Council	To construct a sea wall at Castlepoint.	02/06/04	09/07/04	10	-	14-15 March 2005	Cr Chris Turver Aka Arthur (Iwi) Dr Michael Hilton (Minister's appointee)	11/04/05	Granted – under appeal
LARO / Flood Protection	To relocate a stopbank and extend the bed of the Ruamahanga River, South Wairarapa.	16/08/04	29/09/04	3	09/12/04	23/03/05	Christine Foster	02/05/05	Granted – under appeal
A E & S W Benton Partnership	To take groundwater from two bores for irrigation purposes, Battersea, South Wairarapa.	09/12/04	09/02/05	9	17/03/05	11/10/05	Christine Foster Tony Cussins	09/03/06	Declined – under appeal
Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd	To discharge contaminants from communal wastewater system to land and air arising from 30 lot subdivision.	04/02/05	19/05/05	22	-	2-3 November 2005	Paul Thomas Roger Land	14/12/05	Granted – under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 2	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point, Wellington.	02/05/06	07/06/05	Approx 9000	-	Commenced on 8 August, completed 7 September 2006. (approx. 13 days)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	19/10/06	Granted - appeal period ends 13 November
N & E Reid	To discharge of piggery effluent to land, Carterton.	30/06/05	16/02/06	29	13/03/06	Set for 11 and 12 December 2006	Cr Chris Turver John Read Liz Burge (Iwi)	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal, Makara.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000+	-	September to November 2005.	Jim Lynch David McMahon	21/12/05	Granted – under appeal

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
Waterfront Investments Ltd	'Hilton Hotel' building and public space proposal, Queens Wharf, Wellington.	23/12/05	27/02/06	Approx 1000	-	Hearing commenced on 3 July, adjourned on 31 July, and closed 8 Aug.	Cr Chris Turver Cr Chris Laidlaw David McMahon Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	19/09/06	Granted - under appeal
Eurocell Sawmilling Limited	Installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill, Upper Hutt.	15/02/06	26/04/06	59	09/05/06	Hearing held on 18, 19 and 28 July.	Cr Sally Baber Cr Glen Evans Cr Terry McDavitt	10/08/06.	Granted – no appeals
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western WWTP, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Hearing held commence on 19, 20 and 27 October	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	-	-
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To extract gravel from Hutt River for flood protection purposes.	15/06/06	26/07/06	5	-	No hearing required.		4/10/06	Granted – no appeals
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.		-	-
Hutt City Council	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	06/11/06	Parties to consider mitigation options & draft conditions.	-	-	
M B & H F Herrick	Replacement consent application to take groundwater for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06	-	-	-	-
Rathkeale College	To discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River, Rathkeale College, Opaki	31/05/06	2/10/06	None received	-	No hearing required.	-	-	-

**Mike Pryce**  
**Manager, Harbours**

## **Harbours Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Harbour navigation aids**

The Barrett Reef buoy mooring chain needed further adjusting after another severe southerly storm on 24 October. During this bad weather, the main radar scanner at Beacon Hill became defective and needed to be removed for repair. The standby radar and scanner are in use until it is repaired and returned.

All navigation lights operated satisfactorily

### **2. Oil pollution**

Three reports of “oil pollution” were reported during the period and one required Harbours to assist Resource Investigations with a response as the pollution originated from a storm water drain outlet at Seaview.

On 5 October 2006 the oil spill response equipment was serviced and checked for Maritime New Zealand.

Two Greater Wellington staff members attended the Field Operations (Marine Oil Pollution Response) Course in Auckland during October.

### **3. Other Activities**

- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is progressing.
- On 16 October the Manager, Harbours (who is also appointed by Taranaki Regional Council as an Alternate Harbourmaster for New Plymouth) carried out another audit of the operations of Westgate Port Taranaki Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC) system.
- A small yacht broke loose from the Onepoto pile moorings, Porirua Harbour, during the bad weather on 24 October and went aground. It was refloated by Harbour Rangers the next day and temporarily re-moored at Onepoto. It has been declared a wreck (under delegated authority to the harbourmaster under LGA 650K) and a Public Notice advertises it for sale for disposal unless an owner comes forward to take responsibility for it.
- On 30 October 2006 a fully-clothed 21-year-old Wellington man in ankle-deep water was swept off Breaker Bay beach by a large wave and drowned.

- On 31 October 2006, the Manager, Harbours gave a presentation to a group from the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies College, Canberra concerning strategic planning.
- The annual “Skyshow” fireworks display was held on Lambton Harbour from three anchored barges on Saturday 4 November 2006.

#### **4. Port & Harbour Safety Code**

A review into Cook Strait Ferry Safety was released by Maritime New Zealand on 24 October. The release unfortunately coincided with a well-publicised ten-hour crossing of Cook Strait in bad weather by the ferry *Challenger* (“Kaitaki”) later that evening, which received much unfavourable media publicity. Although the Cook Strait Ferry Review was a stand-alone document and review, it does contain many linkages with the Port & Harbour Safety Code, Risk Assessment and Safety Management System.

The Manager, Harbours attended the National Advisory Committee meeting of 25 October 2006 which is working on recommendations concerning the approval process and auditing requirement of the Safety Management Systems.

**Rian van Schalkwyk**  
**Manager, Emergency Management**

## **Emergency Management Department Report – November 2006**

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### **1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

#### **1.1 Exercise Capital Quake '06**

Exercise Capital Quake '06 was the biggest civil defence emergency management exercise ever carried out in New Zealand.

Several months of preparation have taken place to prepare participating organisations for Exercise Capital Quake '06 which took place on 14 and 15 November 2006.

Positive relationships have been built between ourselves and other organisations with similar roles and responsibilities in civil defence emergency management. These relationships will have long lasting effects. It is paramount that we all work well together and that we know each other better.

The scenario for Exercise Capital Quake '06 was worst case, and was based on what could be expected when the Wellington Fault moves.

The exercise revealed severe consequences ranging from people trapped inside collapsed buildings, train tunnels and vehicles caught up in landslides, thousands of injured people, lack of resources, loss of infrastructure services, loss of transportation, etc.

Emphasis in managing this event was on:

- Urban search and rescue – many buildings collapsed with hundreds of people trapped inside them. We have had limited search and rescue capability and national and international aid were required immediately. There were problems in getting and maintaining those resources due to constraints such as access (road, rail, air and sea), fuel to support their operations, availability of adequate personnel, and the availability of suitable equipment.
- Treatment and movement of the injured – thousands of people were injured and many hundreds needed urgent medical care. It was difficult for medical personnel and ambulance crews to get around our cities and districts with all the obstacles such as debris, glass, etc.

- Provision of welfare – we required **shelter** for more than 50,000 people displaced from their residences and with some commuters already on the road travelling to and from Wellington, **emergency water** (the water supply shut down very quickly after the initial shock due to automatic seismic shut-off valves and the number of breaks on the bulk and local supply networks), provision of **emergency food** (most food are being supplied from warehouses in Palmerston North), and **counselling** services (for traumatised people)
- Health – damage to hospitals and medical centres, injuries to medical staff, shortage of medical supplies (medical supplies were exhausted by the end of day one)
- Sanitation – to keep all of us safe we urgently needed to deal with the disposal of sewage and refuse, the removal of debris from our roads and streets to get that desperately needed access and to control the spread of disease.
- Restoration of lifelines – the requirement to repair our infrastructure became evident very quickly. That included the repair of water supply, roads, energy (electricity, gas and fuel), telecommunications, ports, etc.). In doing this we needed access for moving contractors' plant for rescue and lifelines restoration work

Most organisations with roles and responsibilities in emergency management have made full use of this exercise opportunity to test our respective emergency management systems and tools. We needed to review the effectiveness and efficiency of our planning to determine our capabilities and capacity to manage such an event.

A final 'Exercise Capital Quake' report will be tabled at the next meeting of the Committee.

## 1.2 Public Education Initiatives

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risks and the Act itself (s.17 (1) (a) (g)).

At the last meeting of the Committee I have reported about our initiatives that were underway, for example emergency management information in Greater Wellington's 'Elements' newsletter, the Yellow Pages, the development of posters, flyers, booklets (e.g. Are you Ready?), hazard fact sheets, household emergency plans, etc. We have also reported about two major events that were coming up, namely Disaster Awareness Week (from 9-15 October 2006) and the Earthquake Commission's 'The Earth Rocks' - an earthquake-related extravaganza that was held at Te Papa over Labour weekend (21-23 October 2006).

### 1.2.1 Disaster Awareness Week

The CDEM Group, in conjunction with the Ministry of CDEM ran a campaign during Disaster Awareness Week from 8-14 October 2006.

The Wellington CDEM Group Office staff, along with representatives from the Ministry of CDEM, Wellington City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Wellington Free Ambulance, NZ Red Cross, NZ Fire Service, Victoria University students, and staff from Te Papa gave out brochures, fact sheets, drink bottles and 15-litre emergency water containers to morning rush hour commuters at the Wellington Railway Station on International Disaster reduction Day, the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

The Minister of Civil Defence and a councillor from Wellington City also participated in this event.

We repeated a similar exercise with supermarkets in the region.

We received very positive feedback from the public on our initiatives.

### 1.2.2 'The Earth Rocks'

'The Earth Rocks' was an action-packed, informative, and fun weekend of earthquake-related activities and displays at Te Papa. More than 17,500 visitors attended the event over the three days and they were entertained by 'Cocksy', New Zealand's favourite DIY man and Suzy Cato (children's TV presenter).

Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with Wellington City Council, the Kapiti Coast, Masterton and Carterton District Councils represented the Wellington Region CDEM Group in providing a static display. Promotional materials were given away to the public who visited our display. We also gave away 15-litre emergency water containers as part of our drive to encourage residents to store emergency water.

## 2. Environment

### 2.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 24 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. The following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

Oct 15 2006 **Mag:** 3.9 **Depth:** 40 km *20 km east of Palmerston North*

Oct 09 2006 **Mag:** 3.2 **Depth:** 30 km *10 km north-east of Wellington*

## **2.2 Special Weather Bulletins**

Thirteen weather events occurred during October (up to 29 October) during which we have received thirty-two Special Weather Bulletins (seven for heavy rain, twenty-one for strong wind and four for heavy snow). All the relevant agencies were notified in time. Several slips have occurred causing damage to houses and road infrastructure.

## **2.3 Communications**

Weekly tests of the radio and satellite communications networks are being carried out and both systems are functioning well.

Richard Waddy  
Manager, Environmental Support

## Financial Position: 30 September 2006

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### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the year ended 30 September 2006.

<b><u>Environment Division</u></b>				
<b><u>Summary Income Statement</u></b>				
<b><u>For the Year Ended 30 September 2006</u></b>				
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>Full Year</b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>
Rates	2,421	2,421	--	9,686
Other Revenue	429	500	71 U	2,033
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>71 U</b>	<b>11,719</b>
<b>Less:</b>				
Direct Expenditure	2,247	2,504	257 F	10,410
Indirect Expenditure	377	402	25 F	1,581
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>2,906</b>	<b>282 F</b>	<b>11,991</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>211 F</b>	<b>(272)</b>

### 2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$226,000, compared to a budgeted surplus of \$15,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$211,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$71,000, and offset by lower than expected expenditure of \$282,000.

### **3. Revenue**

Total Revenue at \$2,850,000 is some \$71,000 less than our budget target of \$2,921,000.

- Most of the revenue shortfall arises from notified consents at various stages of completion. The consent applications for the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau will be completed soon. In the Wairarapa, N & E Reid's application to replace and extend on existing consents for the discharge of piggery effluent from a herd of 13,000 animals to land and odours to air, north of Clareville, Carterton is also progressing.
- Our annual charging round for resource management consents is being managed concurrently for both offices. We plan to process these in November. This will be the first time that such charges have been dealt with early in the financial year.

### **4. Total Expenditure**

The Division's total expenditure at \$2,624,000 is some \$282,000 (or 10.7%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$142,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. With the restructure almost complete, and key management appointments made, we expect that the above saving will reduce as the year progresses.
- Consultant costs were less than budget by \$31,000.
- Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets. These are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance.
- Internal charges were lower than budget by \$59,000
- Most of the underspend arises from a reduced call for work for consent monitoring from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation. As these transactions are mainly within the Division (both revenue and spend) the overall effect is nil.

### **5. Capital Expenditure**

At this stage, the capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) is at a lower level than anticipated.

Most of the underspend is with the groundwater model project. This major capital item (total \$200,000) planned for the Wairarapa is slightly behind. In addition, some of the vehicles budgeted to be replaced in September have been held over until November.

The Beacon Hill upgrade and equipment for the Safety Management Systems (\$400,000), the largest single capital expenditure item is progressing. The new equipment required has been identified, estimates sought, and an architect engaged. The architect will review the integrity of the Beacon Hill Building and check whether the building needs any additional strengthening before a new radar system is installed. In addition, the working area, in the station, needs to be modified to accommodate the new safety equipment.