



Report 10.478
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Committee Regulatory
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Environmental Protection Report

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Environmental Protection team in the Wellington region during the reporting period.

2. Communication

A full list of incidents for the last period can be found at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/incident-report-summaries/>

No further communication is necessary for this report.

3. Background

The Environment Management Group manages environmental incidents via the following:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing notifications of environmental incidents, environmental effects and alleged non-compliance with resource consents and regional plans
- Investigations into confirmed breaches and when necessary enforcement actions for those involved to provide consequences and an environmental outcome
- Take Charge, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems

4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary for the period 10 July to 20 August 2010

A total of 132 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1 according to primary pollution type.

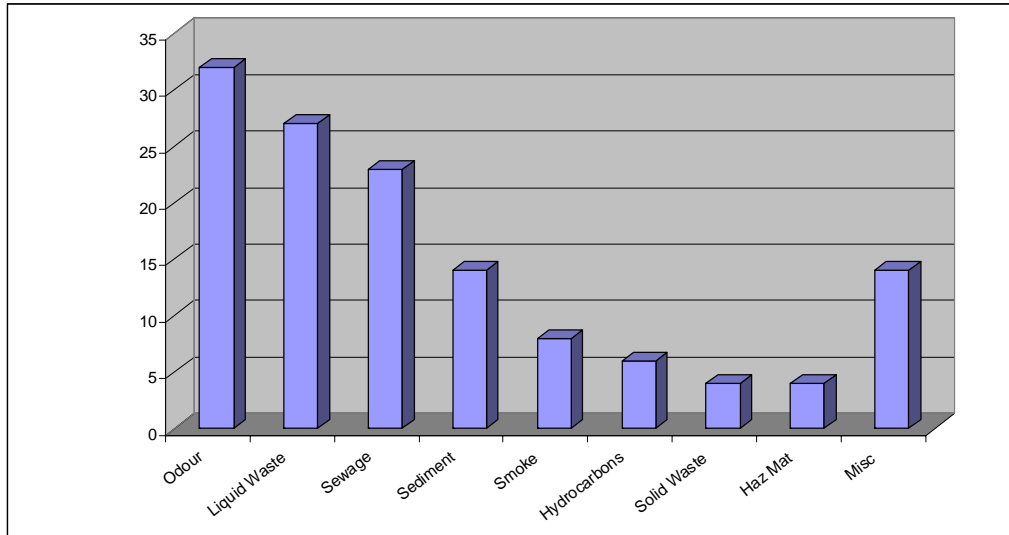


Figure 1: Summary of incidents by pollution type for period 10 July to 20 August 2010

During this period there have been a significant number of odour, liquid waste and sewage incidents. The majority of sewage incidents involved discharges from the Wellington City Council sewer network.

For just under half of the liquid waste incidents the source of the waste was unable to be identified, which is mainly due to the difficulty of tracing discharges through the stormwater network.

24% of the incidents reported in this period were related to odour discharges, up from 19% in the last reporting period. The two largest single sources of odour were a landfill in Hutt City and an industrial site in Masterton.

4.2 Incident significance

Incident significance is ranked by the combined factors of severity, extent and duration of environmental effects, and the ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended in this period were considered to have negligible effects and only 2 of the 132 incidents were considered to be significant. The “Not Assessed” category mainly reflects incidents that did not merit a site visit from Greater Wellington, including those where the incident was referred to another agency to assess.

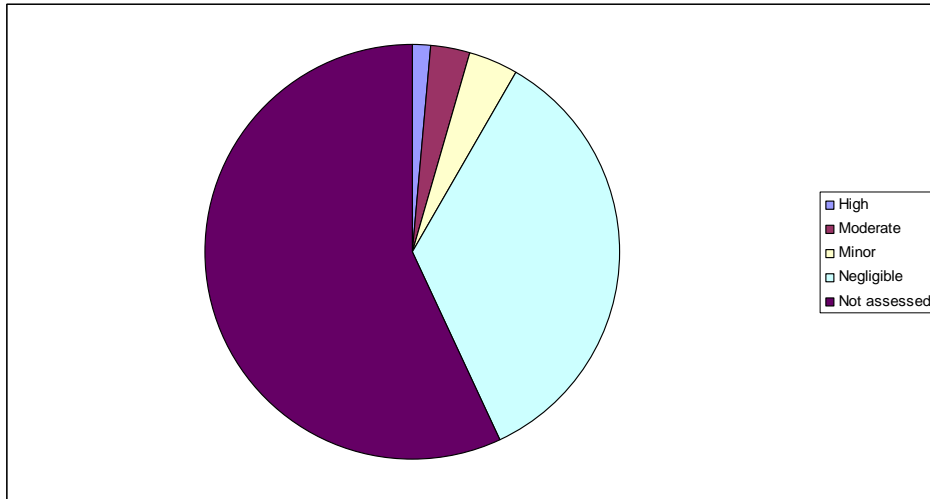


Figure 2: Incident significance for the period 10 July to 20 August 2010

4.3 Significant incidents

Two incidents were ranked of high significance during this period. One involved unauthorised works in the Pauatahanui Stream, leading to a significant discharge of sediment into the watercourse. Enforcement actions from that incident will be reported in next reporting period. The other relates to a further notification for a case that is already under investigation by the Environmental Protection team, involving unauthorised stream works, including reclamation, at a property in Judgeford.

4.4 Incident distribution

Figure 3 shows the regional distribution of incidents. The majority of incidents are reported in the urban areas of Wellington and Hutt City. Most of the incidents reported in the Hutt City Council area were for odour, and the majority of incidents reported in the Wellington City Council area came from liquid waste and sewage incidents.

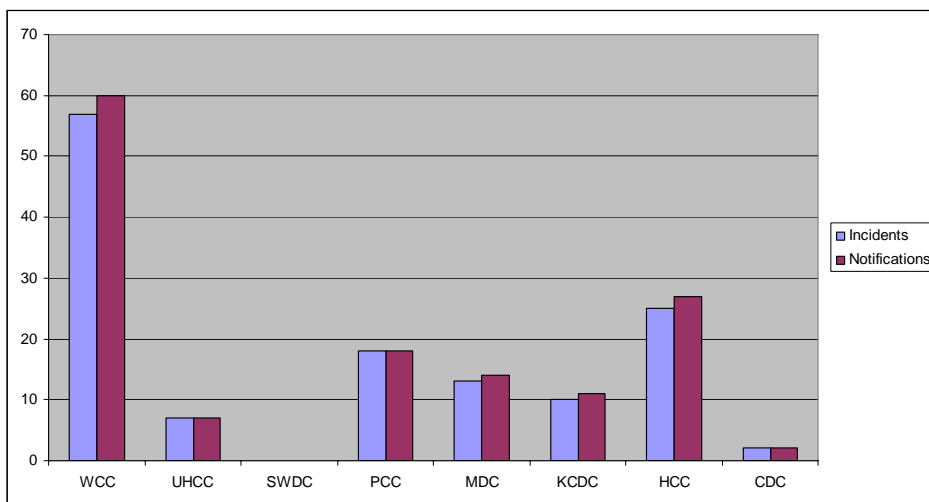


Figure 3: Incident distribution by local authority for the period 10 July to 20 August 2010 Investigations

5. Enforcement action

Table 1 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 1: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	6
Abatement Notices	17
Infringement Notices	6
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (informations laid)	6
Prosecutions (resolved)	1
Cost Recovery	7

5.1 Summary of enforcement action

Table 2: Advisory Notices

Individual/company	Location	Reason for notice	Advisory Request
Company	Wellington	Discharges to stormwater	Cease discharges
Company	Martinborough	Breach of consent condition requiring water meter to be installed	Install water meter
Company	Masterton	Effluent ponding	Adhere to consent conditions regarding ponding
Company	Carterton	Ponding of effluent	Stop ponding from occurring
Individuals	Featherston	Discharging of effluent from lack of deferred storage for winter milking	Add appropriate deferred storage facility
Company	Martinborough	Discharging of effluent from lack of deferred storage for winter milking	Add appropriate deferred storage facility

Table 3: Abatement Notices

Individual/company	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Company	Lower Hutt	Unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land where they may enter water	Cease the unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land in circumstances where they may enter water
Individual	Lower Hutt	Unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land that may enter water	Cease the unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land in circumstances where they may enter water
Individual	Judgeford	Deposition of sediment to a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream	Reinstate the stream channel; remediate the stream channel
Company	Judgeford	Deposition of sediment to the bed and reclamation of a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream	Reinstate the stream channel; remediate the stream channel
Individual	Greytown	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land entering water	Cease the discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water
Individual	Greytown	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to bed of watercourse	Remove all contaminated substances from the bed of the watercourse and dispose of appropriately; remove all contaminated substances and dispose of appropriately

Individual/company	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Company	Greytown	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land entering water	Cease the discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water
Company	Greytown	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land entering water	Cease the discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water
Individual	South Wairarapa	Unauthorised taking of water for irrigation	Repair and maintain the border dyke irrigation system
Individual	South Wairarapa	Unauthorised taking of water for irrigation	Fence off Creek to prevent stock access
Individual	South Wairarapa	Unauthorised damming and diversion of water for irrigation	Submit a report of flows in Creek and take rates for the period from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011
Individual	Otaki	Deposition of materials on bed of stream	Remove unauthorised materials
Individual	South Wairarapa	Unauthorised taking of water irrigation	Prepare and submit the annual report
Individual	South Wairarapa	Unauthorised taking of water irrigation	Prepare and submit the annual report including
Company	Grenada North	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to water	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants to the Takapu Stream
Individual	Grenada North	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to water	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants to the Takapu Stream

Individual/company	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Company	Masterton	Discharge of contaminants to land	Cease the unauthorised discharges of contaminants, namely dairy effluent, to land

Table 4: Infringement Notices

Name/Company name	Location	Reason for the Notice	Infringement Fee (Incl GST) \$
Company	Seaview	Unauthorised discharge to air from Hutt Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant, Seaview, Lower Hutt	300
Company	Lower Hutt	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land that may enter water	1,000
Individual	Lower Hutt	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land that may enter water	750
Company	Grenada North	Unauthorised discharge of hydrocarbons to the Takapu Steam	1,000
Individual	Grenada North	Unauthorised discharge of hydrocarbons to the Takapu Steam	750
Company	Porirua	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to land entering water	300

Table 5: Cost Recovery

Individual/company	Location	Reason for the Notice	Amount due
Company	Seaview	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with resource consent	\$236.25
Individual	Porirua	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Brooklyn	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Lower Hutt	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Individuals	Johnsonville	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Porirua	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with Resource Management Act 1991	\$2,126.25
Company	Grenada North	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$1,057.50

NB: In accordance with Greater Wellington’s Resource Management Charging Policy (2009), a minimum standard charge of \$236.35 will apply to all environmental incidents inspected. Additional charges may apply in circumstances where the incident investigation costs exceed the minimum standard charge.

6. Take Charge

Take Charge certificates have been issued to 16 of the 21 businesses that were awaiting certification in the previous reporting period. A further five businesses are to be certified pending the submission of final information.

A Pollution Solution newsletter has been produced and sent to over 180 businesses in the region to raise awareness of the problem of discharges from

vehicle grooming on commercial properties and clarify Resource Management Act obligations.

Greater Wellington and the Motor Trade Association (MTA) are currently working together to see if there is a way they can work in collaboration to deliver Take Charge audits across the region. This could be a good opportunity for industry buy-in and a way to offer education to a large group of businesses at once.

Capacity Infrastructure Services recently approached the Environmental Protection team to discuss the problem of frequent discharges from cleaning processes at bars and restaurants in the Central Business District in Wellington. These incidents are often reported to both Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington, and Take Charge has come up with a three-pronged approach to tackling the problem. A letter is to be sent to the owners of bars and restaurant businesses on Courtenay Place and Blair and Allen Streets, to be followed up by a visit from Take Charge staff who will hand out educational material to staff. A media release to highlight the problem is also being considered.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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