

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

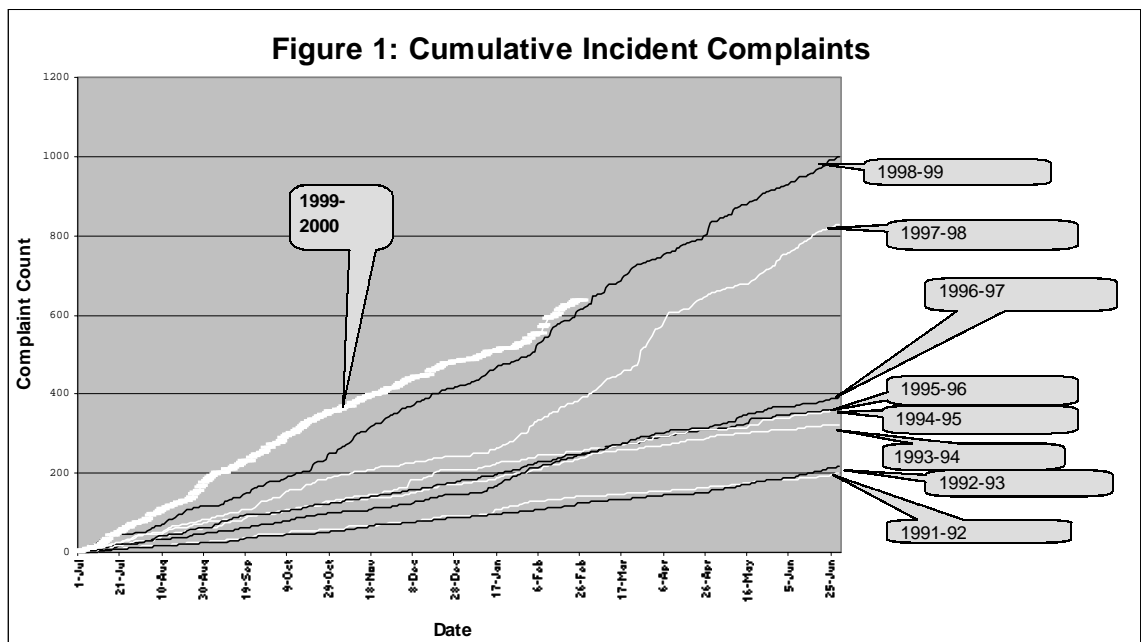
Incident Response Report

1. Purpose

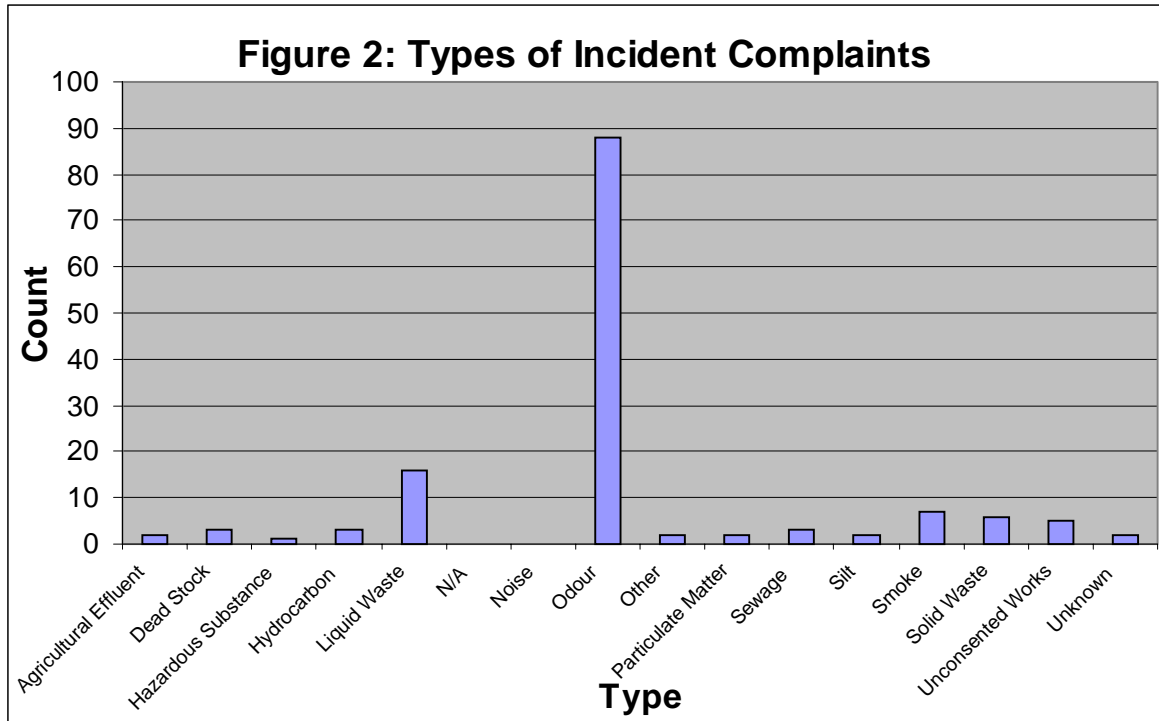
To report on recent incident response work undertaken by the Council.

2. Incident Complaints

142 complaints were received between 17 January 2000 and 28 February 2000. A summary of these complaints is attached. A comparison of complaints received to date with those received in previous years is provided by Figure 1.



The types of complaints received between 17 January 2000 and 28 February 2000 are summarised in Figure 2. The higher than usual number of liquid waste complaints relates to the seasonal problem of paint being washed into the stormwater system.



The most recent major issues/incidents are highlighted below:

- Burnt Plastic and Welding Odour: Lyall Bay

The engineering works required by the Regional Council have been completed.

- Hydrocarbon discharge: Seaview

A prosecution is being sought against New Zealand Oil Services Limited for a discharge of oil at Seaview in October last year.

- Silt discharge from a quarry: Judgeford.

Engineering works have been completed.

3. Response Times

The following table summarises our performance in meeting the target response times for the complaints received between 17 January 2000 and 28 February 2000.

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

Priority Category	Number	Average Response Time	Target
Red	122	26.43 minutes	60 minutes
Yellow	17	10.95 hours	24 hours
Blue	3	9.71 days	31 days

Within the reporting period, four investigations did not meet the Red response time guideline of 60 minutes. Two investigations did not meet the Yellow guideline of 24 hours. These investigations were:

Complaint	Date	Time	Response Time
5282	01/02/2000	(16:27)	124 minutes.
5298	02/02/2000	(10:51)	64 minutes.
5309	03/02/2000	(16:20)	85 minutes
5291	04/02/2000	(11:57)	206 minutes.
5306	04/02/2000	(14:15)	120 minutes.
5418	15/02/2000	(11:16)	25.5 hours.
5386	19/02/2000	(15:00)	49.8 hours

The reasons for missing the prescribed deadlines were usually multiple call-outs, large call-outs or heavy traffic.

4. **Enforcement**

During the period 17 January 2000 and 28 February 2000, two abatement notices were issued:

- To Clive Taylor Limited Paraparaumu, on 15 February 2000. This notice required that drainage works be undertaken to ensure no illegal discharges were allowed from their site.
- To Daryl Soderburg and Martin Owens, Wainuiomata, requiring them to undertake remedial works in Catchpool Stream.

5. **Communication**

Weekly summaries of complaints are distributed to staff at all territorial authorities in the Western Wellington Region, Public Health Services, local Iwi (mainly via the WRC Iwi Liaison officer), and the Resource Investigations, Consents Management, Harbours, and Planning and Resources (Wairarapa) Departments of the Wellington Regional Council. Comment was given to Wellington Newspapers, in reply to questions about the large number of jellyfish in the harbour. In the last two weeks we have had a number of people calling in confusing jellyfish for large paint spills.

6. Recommendations

That the report be received and the contents noted.

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Attachments: 1