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Report to the Environment Committee
from Tamsin Mitchell, Acting Section Leader Resource Quality

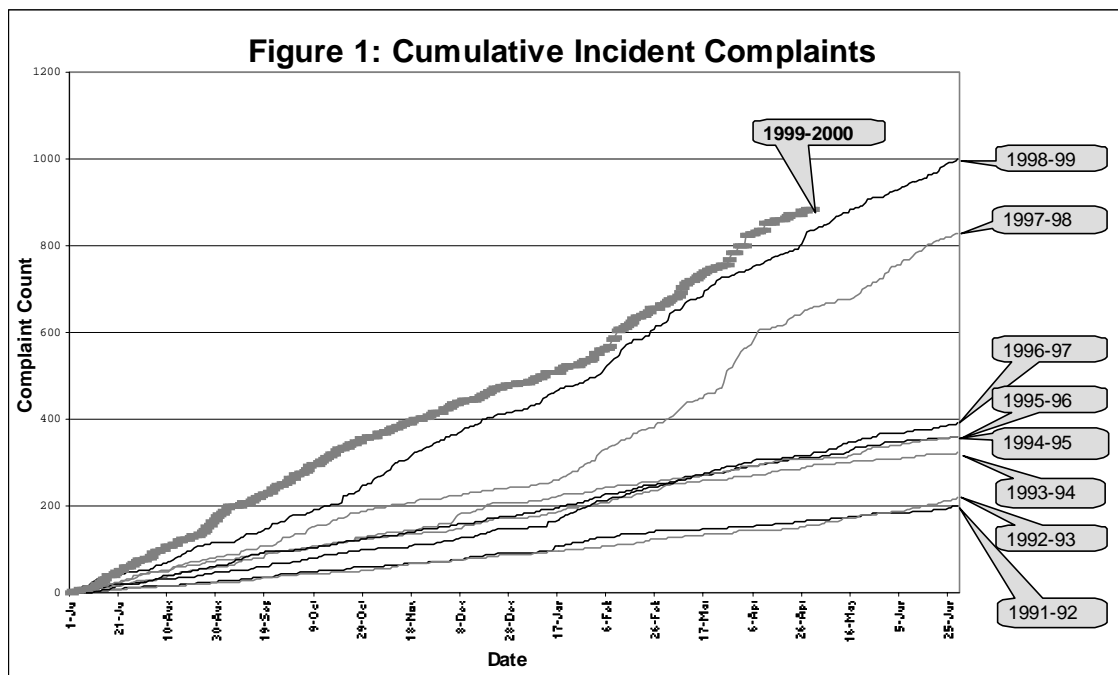
Incident Response Report

1. Purpose

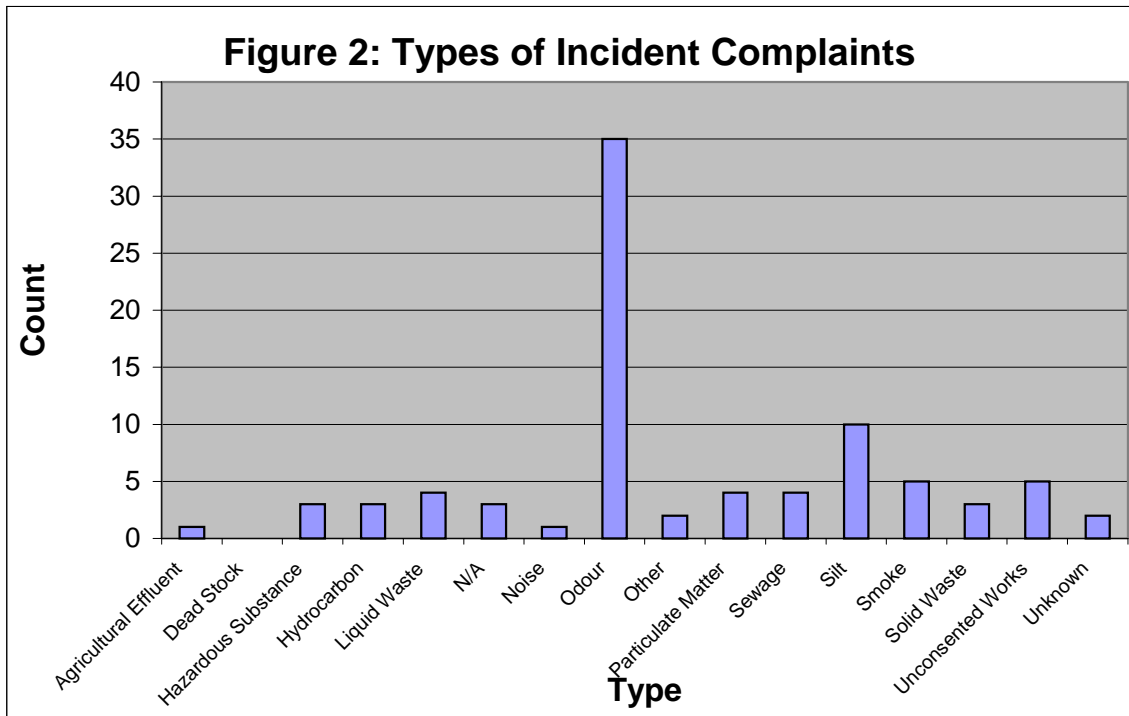
To report on recent incident response work undertaken by the Council.

2. Incident Complaints

Eighty six complaints were received between 1 May 2000 and 31 May 2000. A summary of these complaints is attached. A comparison of complaints received to date with those received in previous years is shown in Figure 1.



The type of complaints received between 1 May 2000 and 31 May 2000 are summarised in Figure 2.



The major issues/incidents arising between 1 May 2000 and 31 May 2000 are highlighted below:

- Silt run-off from earthworks: Whitby.

Significant silt from earthworks from a subdivision development in Whitby was discharged from a silt retention pond after heavy rain into a tributary of the Pauatahanui Stream. A written explanation is being sought before we decide whether enforcement action should be taken.

- Offensive odour from market gardening operation: Paekakariki.

In response to a complaint, offensive and objectionable odours were confirmed beyond the property boundary. The odour was due to animal manure being applied to land. As this complaint followed several others of a similar nature, an abatement notice has been issued.

- Silt discharge from a quarry: Judgeford.

There have been further incidents of quarry contractors discharging silt from Wharfes Quarry, Judgeford. The quarry operator has failed to comply with an abatement notice requiring the discharge of silt into the tributary of the Pauatahanui Stream to cease. An infringement notice was issued.

- Objectionable dust from furniture manufacturers: Paraparaumu.

In response to a complaint, offensive and objectionable dust was confirmed beyond the property boundary. The dust was due to loading and unloading of sawdust from a cyclone hopper. An abatement notice has been issued.

3. Response Times

The following table summarises our performance in meeting the target response times for the complaints received between 1 May 2000 and 31 May 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 happened in the past).

Priority Category	Number	Average Response Time	Target
Red	68	29.70 minutes	60 minutes
Yellow	8	10.35 hours	24 hours
Blue	8	2.92 days	31 days

Within the reporting period, 2 investigations did not meet the Red response time guideline of 60 minutes. These investigations were:

Complaint	Date	Time	Response Time
8967	04/05/2000	09:15	85 minutes
9016	12/05/2000	17:30	97 minutes

The reasons for missing these guidelines was a multiple call-out and a delay in the complaint being passed to the on-call officer for investigation.

4. Enforcement

During the period 1 May 2000 and 31 May 2000 the following action was taken:

- An abatement notice was issued to Sang Sue Ltd on 11 May 2000. This notice required the property owner to cease discharges of offensive and objectionable odour. This abatement notice was cancelled on 23 May 2000 after being appealed by the recipient. Another abatement notice for the same incident was issued on 24 May 2000 for contravening section 17 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- An abatement notice was issued to Corporate Furniture Ltd on 11 May 2000. This notice required the company to cease discharges of offensive and objectionable dust that are contravening a permitted activity rule in the Regional Air Quality Management Plan.
- A second infringement notice (\$750) was issued to John Ray Ltd, New Plymouth on 19 May 2000 for non-compliance with an abatement notice issued on 1 February 2000. The abatement notice relates to siltation of a tributary of the Pauatahanui Stream below Wharfes Quarry, Judgeford, Porirua. The infringement fee has been paid.

5. Communication

Weekly summaries of complaints are distributed to staff at all territorial authorities in the Western Wellington Region, Public Health Services, local Iwi, and the Resource Investigations, Consents Management, Harbours, and Planning and Resources (Wairarapa) Departments of the Wellington Regional Council.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Acting Section Leader, Resource Quality

JOHN SHERRIFF
Manager, Resource Investigations

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments: 1