

# **Resource Investigations Department Report**

## **John Sherriff, Manager**

**June 2000**

### **1. Resource Information**

#### **1.1 Flood Warning**

Since the last meeting the following severe weather bulletins were received:

4 June Heavy Rainfall Warning Rimutaka Ranges

The following rainfall and river alarms were also received and responded to:

25 April	Warwicks, Rainfall
7 May	Warwicks, Rainfall
	Kaitoke, River
12 May	Orongorongo Swamp and TVL, Rainfall
30 May	Warwicks, Rainfall
2 June	Warwicks and Phillips, Rainfall
3 June	Oriwa, Rainfall
4 June	Waynes Mistake, Rainfall
	Porirua, River.

#### **1.2 Quality Assurance System**

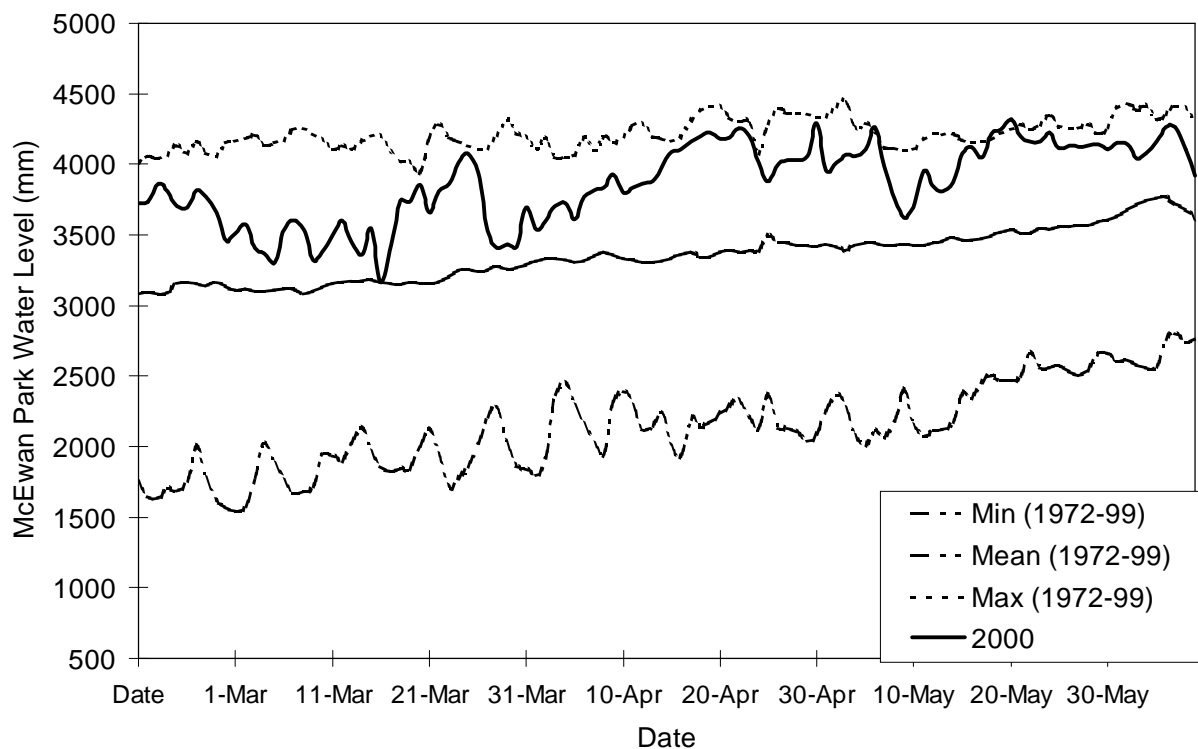
The Department has ISO 9000 accreditation for supplying environmental data. Our quality assurance system have just been audited to ensure that it still complies with the requires of the ISO standard. This audit also sought to extend the scope of our quality system to include Consents Processing and Incident Response. The audit identified a number of minor problems with the current quality system. Many of these problems have now been resolved. By 30 June 2000 we must present an action plan to TELARC, the accreditation authority, outlining how and when the remaining problems will be resolved. Provided we adhere to this action plan we will keep our current accreditation and receive a scope extension for our quality system.

### **2. Resource Analysis**

#### **2.1 Groundwater Levels**

##### ***Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer***

Artesian pressure measured at McEwan Park on the Petone foreshore has remained well above average for the entire year to date.



### ***Kapiti Coast***

Like the Waiwhetu Artesian System, the water level in aquifers on the Kapiti Coast has typically been above average. Of note is the recent increase in water level of the deep Hautere Plain aquifer to above average levels after a period of depressed values.

### **2.2 Moera Gravel Aquifer Bore**

The investigative phase of our Moera Gravel Aquifer project has been completed. Staff are currently finalising the report on this investigation. The findings of this work should be presented to the next Committee meeting.

### **2.3 Rainfall and River Flows**

Rainfall during May was generally below average across most of the Western Wellington Region. The only area showing slightly above average results was the Kapiti Coast. The Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments only received around 50 percent of the average May rainfall. Wellington and the Lower Hutt Valley were the driest areas recording between 80 and 90 mm of rainfall for the month.

River flows in all monitored rivers were below average for May, ranging from between 50 to 87 percent of normal. The attachment figure shows the percentage of average May flow in catchments across the Region. Flow in the Waitohu Stream, which dropped below the first and second stepdown levels in April, fell to a minimum of 183 litres per second in early May. This is only 3 litres per second above the first stepdown levels. The Waikanae River stayed above its stepdown levels during May.

A relatively dry spell carrying on from early April was broken in the first week of May by heavy rain. Regular rainfall since then has allowed the rivers to rise above their summer/autumn low flow regime.

## 2.4 **Air Quality Monitoring**

After having spent the past year in Masterton, the Council's air quality monitoring station has now been moved to Upper Hutt. It is located at the Trentham Fire station. The result of monitoring at Masterton will be included in the Annual Air Quality Report due for release in November.

## 2.5 **Coastal Water Quality Monitoring**

A review of our coastal water quality monitoring programme has recently been completed. This review recommended that our monitoring programme should become more integrated with similar monitoring undertaken by territorial authorities. Council staff will shortly be holding a workshop with territorial authority staff to pursue this matter.

## 2.6 **State of the Environment Report**

An electronic copy of Measuring Up is now available on the Council's web site. Measuring Up also received a commendation in the Institute of Chartered Accountants Annual Report Awards.

# 3. **Resource Quality**

## 3.1 **Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints**

A summary of pollution complaints and our performance in responding to them is reported separately.

## 3.2 **Enforcement Action**

### *Abatement Notices*

Two abatement notices were served since my last report to the Committee. The first was issued to Corporate Furniture Ltd, Paraparaumu requiring them to stop discharging dust and sawdust into the air. The second was issued to San Sue Ltd, Paekakariki requiring them to cease applying manure in a manner which gives rise to objectionable odours beyond their property boundary.

### *Infringement Notices*

A second infringement notice was issued to John Ray Ltd on 19 May 2000 for breaching an abatement notice issued on 1 February 2000. This abatement notice required John Ray Ltd to prevent the discharge of silt into an unnamed tributary of Pauatahanui Stream. This followed investigation by Council staff on 20 April 2000. The infringement fee of \$750 was paid.

Two infringement notices were issued to CentrePort Ltd on 12 June 2000. They arose from the discharge of sodium sulphate powder into the air and into the harbour on or about 11 and 12 April 2000. The incident occurred while unloading a cargo ship. The infringement fees incurred are \$1,000 and \$750.

### ***Prosecutions***

We are still waiting for a sentencing date to be set for New Zealand Oil Services Limited. It is likely to be in early August. This company have entered a guilty plea in relation to the unauthorised oil discharge which occurred at Seaview in October last year.

#### **4. Staffing**

Craig Salmon will join the Department on 3 July filling the vacant Resource Quality Officer role. Craig is currently finishing a short term contract with the Wairarapa Division working on dairy shed discharge consents.