

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – June 2003

1. Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust activities (Tim Porteous)

One of the first major initiatives of the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust has commenced. On behalf of the Trust, we have engaged a consultant, Environmental Management Services, to undertake a scoping study for a transport strategy for the Inlet. The strategy is one of the actions identified in the Inlet Action Plan. That plan indicated the need for a strategy to help reduce the impacts of roading, maintenance and vehicles on the inlet ecosystem. The scoping study will be completed by the end of June.

Work is also continuing on two other significant projects. These are the second phase of the Ecological Restoration Plan for public land around the inlet, and a set of 10 signs for key locations to tell people about the values of the inlet and the rules which relate to its use. Both projects are being carried out jointly with Porirua City Council.

Later in the year a workshop will be held to bring together scientists from around New Zealand who have studied the inlet or similar catchments and relevant agencies and the Trust. The aim is to attempt to arrive at a common view on the health of the inlet and to identify the most pressing needs for future investigation and monitoring.

2. Waste Reduction Campaign (Francie Pedersen; Stephanie Weller et al.)

As Councillors will be aware, we have started to reduce the waste that is generated in Council offices. Waste reduction has been a feature of the Masterton and Upper Hutt offices for some time. Over the last three weeks, it has been the turn of the Wellington Office to increase its waste reduction efforts. A campaign to highlight the problem and to provide a solution has been staged and recycling facilities now feature in every work area. The programme will help us meet Greater Wellington's target of reducing its waste by half in "*Towards a Sustainable Region*".

The Landfill Monster that has lurked in the entrance foyer recently is part of the awareness campaign. The Monster was constructed by a Naenae School class that was one of the first to undertake the Take Action programme in 2001.

While the campaign was devised and led by Francie Pedersen, much additional work was undertaken after hours by a number of staff to make it happen. I would like to record my appreciation to these people, and also to Councillor Yardley for her contribution, demonstrating Council backing for the programme.

3. Take Action (Eleanor Phillips; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan)

Term two has started. Holy Cross School, and Berhampore Primary's Montessori unit have been on their trails to Belmont Regional Park and the Botanical gardens. Four Pukeatua School trails have also been completed in the Wainuiomata Water Catchment Area and Black Creek. Self guided schools, Opaki Primary and Wainuiomata Intermediate, have received the multi media show and help in planning their trails.

With regard to the schools' action projects, Porirua School (having undertaken its trails in term one) intends to continue with its planting projects at the end of Term two. At Holy Cross School there are 18 different groups of pupils working on action projects. These projects include: posters on buses, plays, videos, radio advertisements, a walking school bus, leaflets, newsletters, a clean up Miramar campaign and a beach clean up, as well as wearable art (made from rubbish) and web pages.

Berhampore School pupils have started planning their action projects to make their school more sustainable. The pupils are hoping to do composting, worm bins, and a recycling scheme. A major part of the action project stage will be telling others in the school what's happening. Pukeatua School will start its action projects in June.

4. Business and the environment (Nigel Clarke, et al.)

On Friday 6 June Deloitte Consulting personnel joined with our officers to undertake a planting project at Otaki Beach as part of that company's Global Impact Day. Though the day was wet, a considerable amount was achieved, with 1,500 dune and wetland plants planted.

We have been developing stronger links with the business sector and other major organisations over the last year, with the result that a number of groups have joined us to help look after the environment. The groups and the places they worked re:

- Westpac Trust, at: Moonshine;
- ANZ Bank, at Kakaho Stream;
- ERMA at Pauatahanui Inlet; and
- Hutt Valley Polytechnic, at Horokiri Stream

John Holmes has also been successful in obtaining funding from Mobil Oil for the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Design work is currently underway to identify how best to use these funds. This adds to other work completed this year, funded partly by Centreport and partly by the Ferry Terminal.

5. Take Care programme update (Nigel Clarke, et al.)

As I indicated in my last report, care group activity has stepped up notably and most groups are working hard preparing for and commencing their planting programmes. There is a significant number of planting days to be held between the start of June and late August. These are listed in the Councillors' Information Bulletin, and Councillors are very welcome to attend.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – June 2003

1. Maintaining regional policies and plans

1.1 Regional Plans (Murray McLea)

Proposed Regional Plan Changes were publicly notified on 9 February 2002. The proposed changes include withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan, changes to bore rules on the Kapiti Coast, and other small changes to all the Regional Plans except the Regional Coastal Plan. Hearings took place on 19 November 2002, and decisions notified on 25 January 2003.

Three submitters have referred decisions to the Environment Court. We have had an initial informal meeting with Transit on two of these references. Another meeting will follow. The other reference was lodged by Mr Barton on a new stopbank rule in the Regional Freshwater Plan. It replaces a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan, which is being withdrawn. We have agreed to a mediation meeting at the Environment Court with Mr Barton.

1.2 Regional Coastal Plan (Stephen Karaitiana)

Draft changes to the Regional Coastal Plan have been approved for consultation by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. The changes relate to noise in the port area (to be consistent with upcoming changes in the WCC district plan) and coastal occupation charges.

An application lodged with the Environment Court that sought an amendment to the Regional Coastal Plan has received a positive outcome. The Court agreed with the amendments sought. The amendments will clarify items in the Plan that relate to CentrePort's applications to dredge in Wellington Harbour and to discharge contaminants. A map will be included that shows the "Harbour Entrance Area". Two discharge rules will be changed to ensure they are consistent with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Marine biodiversity (Paul Denton)

The public talk was held on 1 May at Te Papa, and the topic was "Wellington – Marine Mammal Capital of the World". It was a popular event with a good

turnout (we estimate about 170 people). The evening is the second of three lectures to be held at Te Papa.

The project web site is live, and can be found at www.wrc.govt.nz/em/harstud.htm. A student has been employed to collect information and put in into the meta database.

A consultant is working on a scoping study for marine classification within the case study area.

2.2 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

The Wetland Action Plan has now been printed and sent to submitters and other relevant groups and individuals.

Current work to implement the plan includes:

- Workshops with landowners and agencies to establish priorities for wetland incentives;
- Fieldwork is being undertaken to gather information on wetland extent and condition. This information will then be entered into the wetland database; and
- Criteria for identifying wetlands have been developed.

2.3 Freshwater ecosystems (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

The model (Point, Click, Fish) for freshwater fish that we have been developing with Massey University is now complete. Work continues to make it more user friendly for use by consents staff and resource consent applicants.

Massey University have now completed a survey of freshwater fish at 30 new sites. They are also working on a literature review of information on freshwater fish.

A streamside management workshop was held on 8 May in the woolshed at Jonathon Smiths property in Waikanae. Jonathon's farm is one of the riparian pilot project sites. Over 40 farmers attended and heard presentations about Greater Wellington's Strategy for Achieving Riparian Management and Fonterra's Environmental Assessment proposal. There was also a practical demonstration about the plants to plant and the weeds to control.

A series of booklets and brochures on biodiversity are being drafted. Topics include streamside planting, wetland restoration and fish friendly culverts and weirs.

2.4 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. Iwi matters

A joint Councillor/Iwi workshop replaced Councillor training on the Treaty of Waitangi during March. The workshop was about the Local Government Act 2002 and gave Councillors and Iwi the opportunity to discuss how Greater Wellington might react to the parts of the Act that relate to Māori.

A second joint Councillor/Iwi workshop replaced an Iwi technical workshop on Wednesday 21 May. The workshop, which was held at the Pipitea Marae discussed Iwi input into the Council's decision making processes. We are working on an action plan to implement the outcomes of the workshop.

Councillor training on the Treaty of Waitangi was held on Wednesday 28 May. Wira Gardiner of Gardiner Parata Ltd facilitated the training which was extremely informative. Notes from the workshop will be provided for Councillors.

4. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)

The results of the stakeholder needs analysis is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

5. Other

Rawiri Faulkner will join the department as our Policy Advisor (Māori) on 16 June 2003. Rawiri has been working for the Wellington City Council as a road safety co-ordinator.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report - June 2003

1. Resource information

1.1 Flood warning

The Resource Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre. 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 the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

2 May	Rainfall : Warwicks, Kapakapanui, Waikanae, Taungata
22 May	Rainfall : Horokiri, Kapakapanui.

1.2 Low flow alarms

The Resource Investigations Department also provides a low flow monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. When specified low flows or artesian water levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following low flow and groundwater alarms were received and responded to:

Step Down Level Alarms	Mangaone Stream, Waikanae River, Otaki River, Wainuiomata River @ Manuka Track, Porirua Stream, Akatarawa River.
Low Flow Alarms	Waitohu Stream, Wainuiomata River at Leonard Wood Park.

In response to these low flow alarms staff have undertaken a large number of low flow gaugings, particularly in Kapiti Coast District.

2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

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

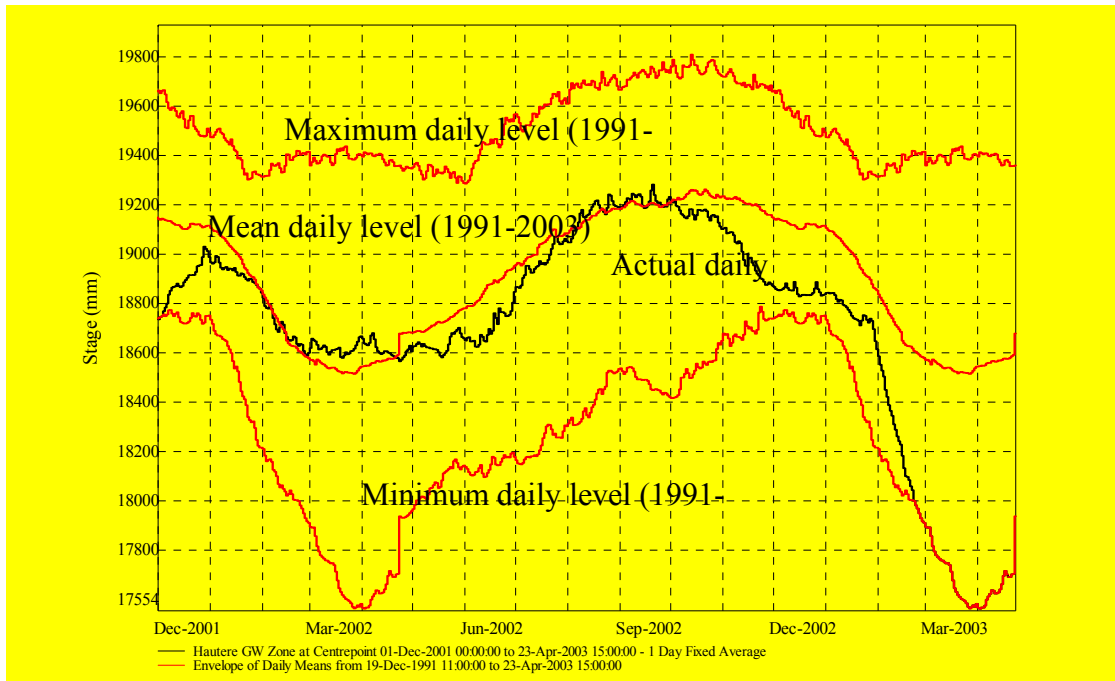
The following graphs present a comparison between water levels recorded this year and historical summary data for the McEwan Park and Hautere Plains sites.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer



Artesian pressure measured at our McEwan Park monitoring bore on the Petone foreshore dropped markedly at the beginning of February in response to reduced river flow and extensive use of the aquifer. Use of the Gear Island well-field exacerbated the decline, and on 27 March the first seawater intrusion alarm level was breached. Since that time the aquifer level has recovered to average levels for this time of the year.

Kapiti Coast



The groundwater level record from our Centrepnt monitoring site on the Hautere Plain shows that since October 2002 rainfall recharged aquifers have dropped below average levels in response to low rainfall. The decline in water level at the Centrepnt site accelerated in early February and from mid February the groundwater has been at record low levels. The latest value for this site is 23 April and the plot shows no sign of recovery. Rainfall since late April is expected to have initiated a recovery at this site.

River recharged aquifers have responded in their usual manner to the recent increase in river flow and have rise to average levels.

2.2 Rainfall and river flow

Rainfall has been low during April and closer to average in May. Throughout April, the only areas to receive near average rainfall totals were the Wainuiomata, Orongorongo and Porirua catchments.

Recently, rainfall levels increased significantly, particularly in the Tararua ranges (the important source area for many water supply areas). These increases ranged from around 20% - 30% in April to 80% - 100% in May. However, the Wainuiomata and Mangaroa catchments received less than half the average rainfall for the month of May.

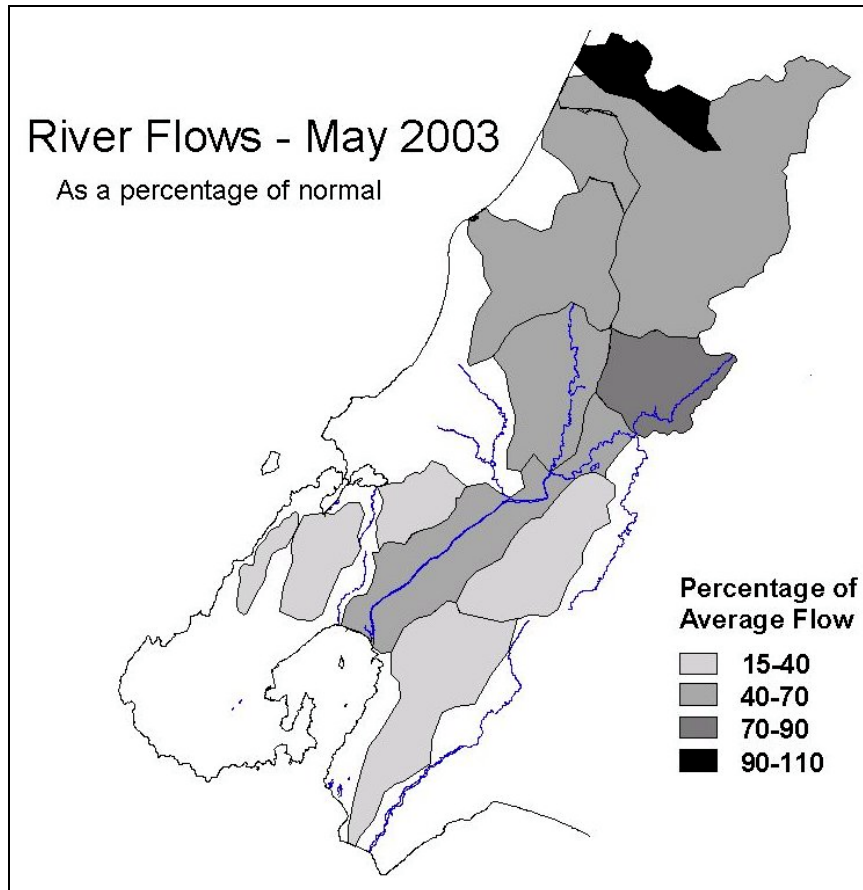
The generally lower than average rainfall for April and May caused many rivers to remain well below average. Minor storms boosted river flows temporarily, but these flows dropped away rapidly due to the dry catchments. The following figures show the April and May river flows as a percentage of their average.

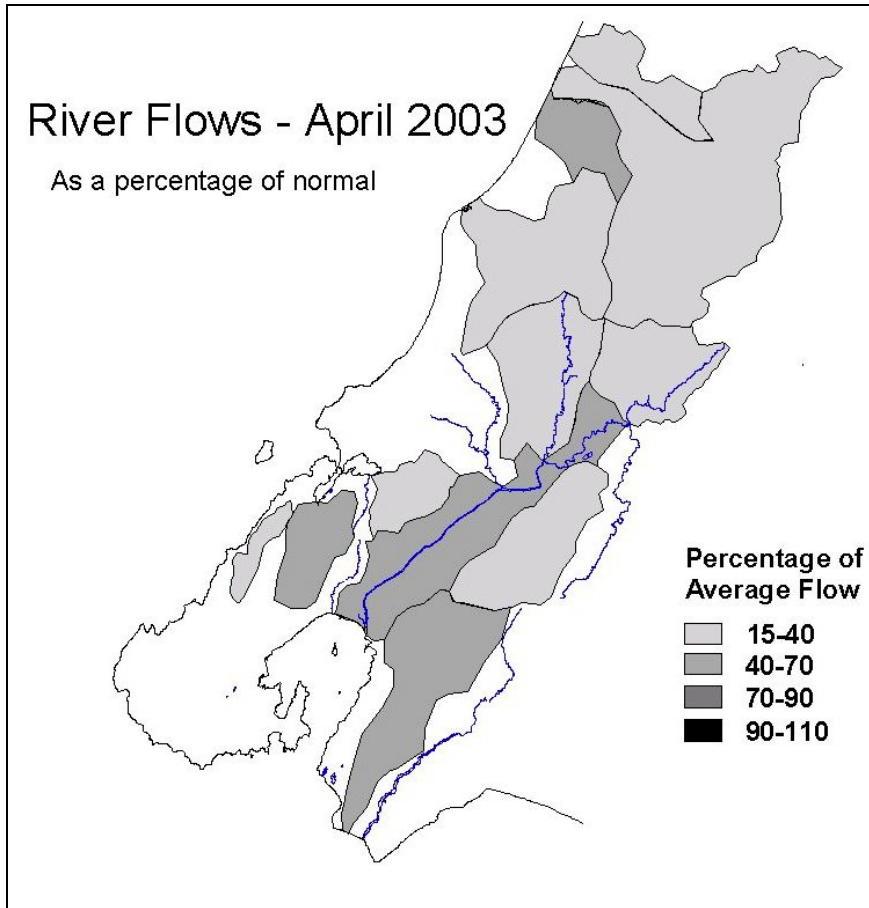
During April only one of our monitored rivers recorded more than 50% of its average flow (Porirua) with most other rivers being below 30%. In May, most rivers were between 30% and 50% of average with only the Waitohu and the Mangaone streams approaching their monthly average.

The Waitohu Stream had extremely low levels in April with the flow being under the Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow for 27 days, but in contrast, the flow in May was under the minimum flow for only 7 days.

The flow in the Waikanae River also dropped below the minimum flow for 21 days in April but only for 9 days in May.

Flow in the Wainuiomata River at the Leonard Wood Park monitoring site was below the Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow for 16 days in April, and 18 days in May.





2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

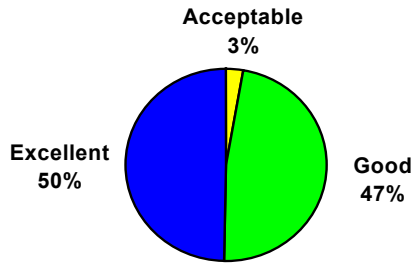
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.

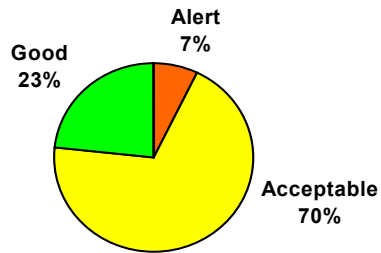
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Results for the past six weeks at Upper Hutt

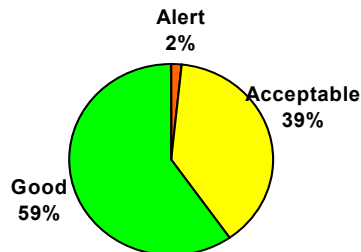
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

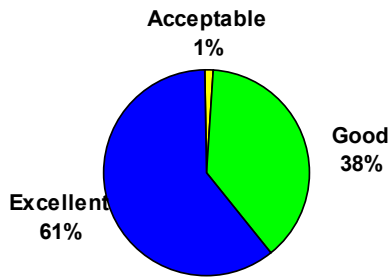


24-Hour Average PM10 at Upper Hutt

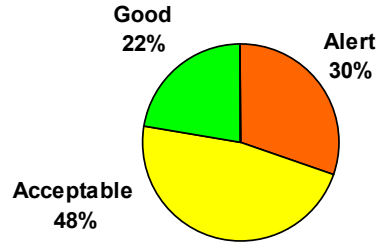


Results for the past six weeks at Lower Hutt

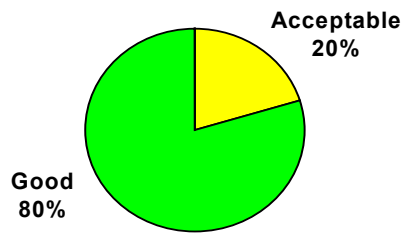
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO2 at Lower Hutt

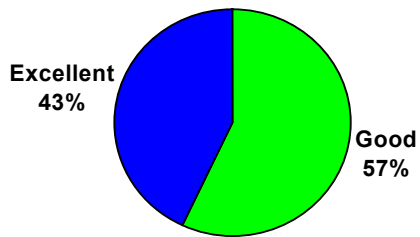


24-Hour Average PM10 at Lower Hutt



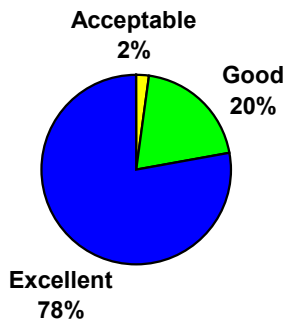
Results for the Past Six Weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro

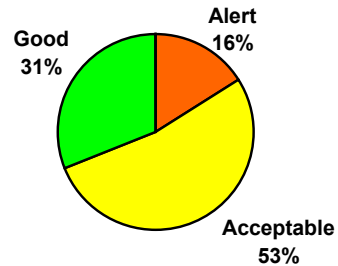


Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

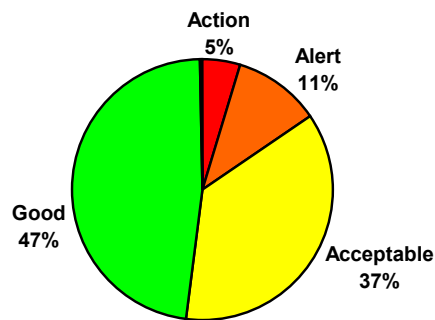
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



2.4 Stormwater investigations

Recent rainfall events of the right intensity and duration allowed us to complete stormwater sampling at two more of our study sites. We have now collected samples from five of the 11 sites originally proposed. Staff continue to be on alert to undertake sampling when suitable conditions occur.

A small team of staff has been established to prepare a plan for pursuing a regional stormwater strategy. A regionally consistent stormwater strategy is considered to be essential for achieving sustainable solutions across the Region. A first step in this process will be to meet with staff of territorial authorities throughout the Region to gain an appreciation of their level of understanding about stormwater issues and the work they are currently doing.

3. Pollution control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

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

3.2 Take Charge

Take Charge continues to be implemented at service stations across the Region. Staff recently met with the Health, Safety and Environment Co-ordinator and Public Affairs Manger of Mobil Oil NZ Ltd. to discuss our *Take Charge* programme. The feedback was very positive. Mobil have already instigated improved site management measures at their sites as a consequence of issues raised in our site audits. They were also seeking opportunities to have more regular feedback form our Pollution Control staff as the programme progresses.

4. Staff

Mike Harkness our Hydrologist has left Greater Wellington to work for Opus Consultants. Mike has worked for the Council for over 8 years. His knowledge and experience will be missed.

Tim Stewart, one of our Resource Technicians, has accepted a job with our Utility Services Division so will leave us at the end of June.

Paula Hammond
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report - June 2003

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 30 May 2003 we received 402 consents. This compares with 360 consents received for the same period last year.

All but three consents have been processed within statutory time frames. The three consents (all relating to the one project) were processed in 22 days rather than the statutory 20 days.

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

2. Appeals

We are still waiting to hear from all the State Highway appellants as to whether they are continuing to proceed with appeals against WRC consents.

The appeals against The Steam Ship Wharf Company to move the Greta Point Tavern have been resolved by consent order.

The appeals against the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant have been withdrawn.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Each year we nominate consent holders that have had three years of exemplary compliance for our Environmental Responsibility Awards. Last year we did not have any nominations. This year all compliance inspections will be completed by 30 June and we will provide nominations to the July Committee meeting.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have not issued any abatement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have not issued any infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

We have laid charges against Anglian Water Limited (the operator) for the discharge of kaldnes rings from the Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant on 8 December 2002. After investigating the incident we believe we did not have sufficient evidence that Wellington City Council (the consent holder) was culpable.

4. Other

4.1 Staff

It is with some regret that I inform the Committee that Nigel Corry has resigned from the Consents Management Department. Nigel has been an integral part of the team for almost five years. I wish him all the best with his new job at the Wellington City Council.

4.2 Remittance of Charges

As per the Council's delegations, I have remitted a portion of charges owed by Soderberg and Owens. The Soderberg and Owens' undertook unconsented works in the Catchpool Stream in January 2000 and were made to obtain a resource consent to finish the works. I have remitted \$300 of the total \$1020. I have remitted the charges on the basis that:

- The consent holders appeared to receive conflicting advice from council officers.
- Council officers spent a considerable amount of time consulting with downstream neighbours and Fish and Game. If Fish and Game had undertaken a site visit earlier, significant delays and additional costs could have been avoided.

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
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station.	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Wellington City Council	Renewal of discharge of milliscreened effluent to the coast during wet weather events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant.	20/12/00	05/03/01	9	17/05/01	8/10/01 9/10/01	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart	26/10/01	Granted, Appeal withdrawn
Transit ²	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone.	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		1/10/01 – 9/10/01	Helen Tobin, Richard Fowler, Barry Butcher		Granted – three appeals received
Steamship Wharf Limited ⁴	Relocation of Greta Point Tavern to Queens Wharf.	11/07/02	22/08/02	25		23/09/02 and 26/09/02	Irvine Yardley Miria Pomare	15/10/02	Granted with conditions – Appeals resolved by consent order
Flood Protection	To use diquat in the Waiwhetu Stream to control aquatic	25/10/02	10/12/02	20			Environment Committee	20/03/03	Granted with conditions

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
	weeds.								
NZ Fish Products Ltd	Renewal of application for a discharge to air.	01/11/02	5/02/03	7	24/02/03	14/03/03	Ian Buchanan, Irvine Yardley, Aka Arthur	04/04/03	Granted with conditions
KGH Trust	Rebuilding and enlargement of an Evans Bay Boatshed.	06/09/02	23/01/03	17		28/03/03	Ian Buchanan, Terry McDavitt, Aka Arthur	03/04/03	Granted with Conditions
CentrePort	To dredge inner Harbour and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	13		Scheduled for 11 June 2003			
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	20/05/03	9		Scheduled for 25 June 2003			
Aotea Block ⁵	To construct stage 1 of the Aotea Block Subdivision.	18/11/02	27/02/03	8		20/03/03	Stuart Kinnear, Jack Rikihana	04/04/03	Granted with conditions
Hutt City Council	Renewal of wet weather discharge of Waiwhetu Stream.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/06/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Discharge macerated sewage to Eastern Bays.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/06/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent to Waiwhetu Stream while Main Sewer Outfall is being inspected.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/06/03 at request of applicant			
Hutt City Council	Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent of up to 15 points along the Eastern Bay to enable Main Sewer Outfall to be inspected.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03	Extended to 30/06/03 at request of applicant			

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
Lyall Bay Charitable Reef Trust	Consents associated with the construction of an artificial surf reef in Lyall Bay.	16/04/03	03/06/03						
Whitby Coastal Estates	Discharges associated with bulk earthworks, Duck Creek.	16/09/02	09/05/03	20					

- 1 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council
- 3 These applications will be heard jointly with the Kapiti Coast District Council
- 4 These applications will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council
- 5 These applications will be heard jointly with the Porirua City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - June 2003

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution response

No reports of any oil spills were received.

Three Greater Wellington (GW) staff attended the Maritime Safety Authority's (M.S.A) Marine Oil Spill training course at Te Atatu, Auckland in late April and early May.

On 20 May Harbours Department carried out a marine oil spill exercise, as required annually by the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

This comprised a combined "table top" exercise in the Incident Command Centre on level 4, and equipment deployment at Chaffers Marina. There were sixty-five people who attended and assisted, with many GW staff and others from Horizons.mw (Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council), the port company, emergency services and industry.

3. Departmental activities

Manager, Harbours attended a meeting at the M.S.A. of the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Wellington on 6 May.

Manager, Harbours attended a meeting at the M.S.A. of the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee in Wellington on 7 May

On 7 May the large 92-metre stern-trawler *San Libertadore* arrived in port for a major refurbishment that involved much burning and welding activity. The Deputy Harbourmaster was heavily involved in the issuing of Hot Work Permits under our bylaws to allow this to take place in a safe manner.

Three Infringement Fines were issued over the summer period, two for not carrying lifejackets and one for speeding. None of the three offenders have yet paid their fines.

4. Events

During May the large barge *Sea-Tow 4* arrived in tow of the tug *Sea-Tow 25* on three occasions with 8,000-tonne loads of sand from Tarakohe for the Oriental Bay beach project. The sand was unloaded at Burnham Wharf and trucked around to Oriental Bay.

The recently acquired freight ferry *Purbeck* arrived in Wellington on 27 May to provide increased capacity for road freight vehicles across Cook Strait for Interisland Line.

The Lynx fast ferry ceased scheduled passenger-carrying service on 19 May. A nighttime freight-only service is planned to operate until early July, after which the vessel will leave Wellington. Present planning by Interisland Line is to replace it with a smaller non-freight fast ferry from August 2003.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – June 2003

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

The CDEMG Working Party met on 5 and 9 May to finalise the reports requested by the interim CEG. These reports were tabled at the inaugural meeting of the CDEM Group on 15 May.

The inaugural meeting of the Wellington region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) took place on 15 May 2003. The Minister of CDEM delivered a speech at the meeting and congratulated the Wellington region for its good progress in setting up our Group.

To ensure a closer working relationship, the interim CEG re-established the CDEMG Working Party, which will report back to the next meeting of the interim CEG on 3rd July.

2. Planning

2.1 Project Phoenix outcome projects

Several projects emanating from Exercise Phoenix are now underway. It is planned to have all these projects finalised before the CDEM Group Plan is implemented in 2005.

The projects include emergency water supply, emergency communications, regional reconnaissance, urban search and rescue, emergency road access, commuter management, and emergency fuel supply.

More progress is also needed on the external logistics supply and medical logistics projects.

2.1.1 Communications project

The final brief for this project has been agreed and expressions of interest are being sought on 31 May from consultants who can review our current system and make recommendations as to how the system can be upgraded or amended.

2.2 Training

Debbie Cunningham, Emergency Management Officer:

- Supervised a trial emergency evacuation at St Benedicts School in Khandallah. The children's earthquake responses were observed and advice given. Procedures for parents to collect children from school were also refined.
- Arranged a training course for the Region's rescue personnel about prioritising casualties (triage) in major emergencies. The course took place at Victoria University of Wellington and 70 people attended.
- Was one of the trainers at a Co-ordinated Incident Management Course (CIMS) which was attended by 25 emergency services and council emergency personnel.
- Assisted the MoCDEM in the revision of the National Controllers Manual, which is being revised following the introduction of the CDEM Act on 1 December 2002.

3. Other activities

3.1 External relationships

Our staff made presentations at the Earthquake Short Course, held at Te Papa over 15th and 16th May, with attendees from all over New Zealand.

SARS Planning – Staff have attended a meeting of all agencies to co-ordinate planning for SARS if it occurs in Wellington. Public Health is the lead agency for this but may call on emergency management agencies if necessary (the CDEMG concept!).

3.2 Regional meetings

Several meetings have taken place since the last Committee meeting to discuss the formation of the CDEMG, progress of our projects and proposed projects flowing from Exercise Phoenix, public education, training and emergency management systems and communications. These meetings included Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees (Porirua, Wellington and Hutt Valley), Wellington Engineering Lifelines Executive, CDEMG Working Party sub-group, Emergency Water Supply Project Group (Communications), Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS), NIWA, and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (planning of an international tsunami workshop in September 2003).

3.3 National Crisis Management System

The Government is planning a National Crisis Management Centre (NCCM) from where national agencies, such as Ministry of CDEM, Ministry of Health,

MAF, Department of Internal Affairs, and Police, can operate. The need for such a centre was identified after the September 11th 2001 event. The structural alterations in the Beehive (the former National and Regional Emergency Operations Centres) have been completed. The Government is now considering the purchase of an information management system that will be used in the NCMC. This system will be used by local, regional and national agencies. The Manager, Emergency Management is representing local government on the evaluation panel. Numerous meetings have been attended since early 2002 and the panel is now in the final stage of preparing a business plan that will go to Cabinet for consideration and hopefully approval and funding.

3.4 Re-location of Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC)

The move from Level 8 to temporary offices on Level 4 in the Regional Council Centre took place on 5th and 6th May. Construction work for our proper offices on Level 4 is scheduled for July. However, the Emergency Operation Centre is fully operational.

3.5 Exercises

Oil spill exercise on 20 May

Emergency Management staff and a small group of Council volunteers were involved in the exercise. The Level-4 emergency operations centre was used and performed well considering it had been set up less than a week earlier. A number of changes and improvements are still needed before it is fully operational.

WEMO exercise (Bali type bomb in Wellington) 26 May

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) requested the New Zealand Police to prepare a scenario, exercise the incident and report back on the findings and what needs to be done to be ready for an event like this. We are working very closely with the Police, Fire Service, Ministry of CDEM, and Wellington City on this.

Exercise AWWA

This exercise place over the Queen's Birthday weekend from 09:00 30th May to 15:00 1st June - this major rescue exercise involved 80 rescuers, 40 organising staff, 40 casualties and New Zealand's specialist rescue teams from Palmerston North and Christchurch.

Attendees were from as far as Invercargill, Auckland, Nelson, etc. The Co-ordination Incident Management System (CIMS) was used and two of our NZQA assessors, David Etchells (Upper Hutt) and Debbie Cunningham (GWRC) assessed the incident management team. Good lessons were learnt from this exercise and it was a delight to see how easy and smoothly the different teams worked together.

4. Environment

4.1 Earthquake reports

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 26 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Of these only the following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

Date	Magnitude	Depth
2 June	3.8	25km south-east of Upper Hutt
1 June	3.8	30km 20km south-east of Lower Hutt
27 May	3.0	7km within 5 km of Upper Hutt
23 May	3.5	15km 30km west of Wellington
11 May	4.5	20km 30km north-east of Castlepoint
11 May	4.3	40km within 5km of Lower Hutt
6 May	3.5	40km 70 km north-west of Otaki
4 May	3.8	40km 30km west of Porirua
4 May	3.6	30km 10km south-west of Eketahuna

4.2 Special weather bulletins

Fourteen Special Weather Bulletins (seven for heavy rain and seven for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. All the relevant agencies were notified. No incidents were experienced from these warnings.

4.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

All radios and related equipment were removed from Level 8 and re-installed on Level 4. The planned installation of extra radios from the Beehive into the mobile HQ will take place in due course as well as making the surplus radios more portable to enable easy set-up anywhere as and when required.

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 30 April 2003

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the ten-month period ended 30 April 2003.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 30 April 2003</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	5,904.5	5,904.5	--	7,085.4
Other Revenue	1,503.1	1,547.5	44.4 U	1,850.8
Total Revenue	7,407.6	7,452.0	44.4 U	8,936.2
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	6,133.1	6,723.0	589.9 F	8,064.5
Indirect Expenditure	826.5	835.5	9.0 F	1,006.1
Total Operating Expenditure	6,959.6	7,558.5	598.9 F	9,070.6
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	448.0	(106.5)	554.4 F	(134.4)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are soundly based with an operating surplus of \$448,000 posted for the period. Our budgets provided for an operating deficit of \$107,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$554,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$44,000, and reduced expenditure \$598,000.

3. **Revenue**

Our revenue line is slightly behind budget. Part of the shortfall is with a lower than expected number of notified resource consent applications completed (\$20,000). Some of these notified consent applications are almost finalised and revenue will be recognised in a later month, e.g. the Aotea block development (\$18,000).

In the past month we have had the highest number of applications for resource consents than in any other month in the financial year. When these are taken, together with the notified consents, we expect the present gap in revenues to be eliminated.

The Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) training courses for oil spill response, which our staff attend and for which we receive payment, were reduced because MSA trainers were diverted to emergency incidents. As a consequence our revenue line has suffered (\$10,000).

The new annual resource management charging system has been implemented successfully. In total, annual charges raised \$235,000 (compared to last year - \$225,000).

4. **Total expenditure**

The Division's total expenditure, at \$6,960,000, presently trails the budget by some \$598,000 (or 7.9 %) under budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are presently under budget by \$46,000. Staff movements in the period caused the underspend.
- Material costs are presently under budget by \$138,000.

The spend on RPS and Care group projects (e.g. Pauatahanui Inlet, riparian work, etc) is below budget. The work has been delayed because community processes are taking longer than anticipated. As a result we propose to carry over some of the RPS and Care group budget into the new financial year (\$21,000).

In addition, the repair and painting of the Front Lead Light (\$46,000) is slightly behind budget. We anticipate that the situation will be redressed before year-end.

External Contractors and Consultants were \$370,000 under budget for the period.

The shortfall is mainly with the collection of unwanted agricultural chemical collection (\$68,000), the stormwater investigation work (\$43,000) and contaminated sites work (\$57,000).

With the completion of the final unwanted agricultural chemical sweep, a saving of approximately \$50,000 has been realised. Some of the saving has been diverted towards the purchase of a mobile hazardous waste disposal facility.

The stormwater investigation work continues to be frustrated because of difficulties in obtaining reliable samples. We propose to carry over a portion of the unspent budget (\$35,000) to ensure that the project funding is intact.

The contaminated sites project, which covers the analysis of soil types and levels of contamination, is slightly behind schedule.

The spend on Iwi projects is slightly behind (\$16,000), compared to our budgets and we are forecasting that the expenditure gap will continue to increase.

In addition, work on the Pauatahanui inlet (\$20,000), freshwater ecosystem (\$20,000) and urban development strategy (\$17,000) has been slightly delayed.

5. Capital expenditure

The capital expenditure programme presently shows a shortfall of \$8,000. The shortfall is with work on the Ecobus. The design and branding of the Ecobus livery has been deferred until the Council's strategy and environment message has been developed fully.