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Committee       Environment Committee  
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## Pollution control report for the period 27 June to 8 August 2003

### 1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team during the reporting period.

### 2. Background

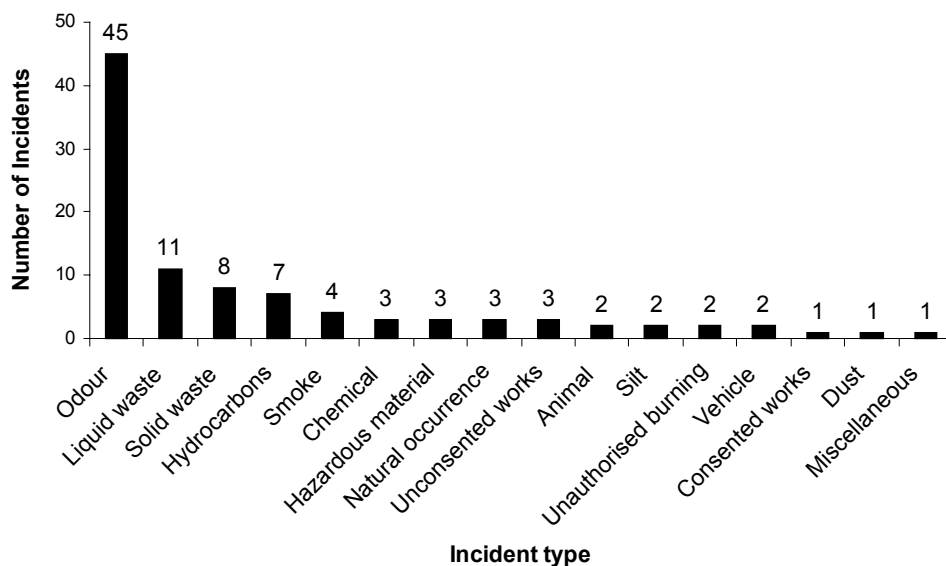
The Resource Investigations Department provides proactive and responsive services to combat environmental pollution in the Western Wellington Region. These pollution control initiatives are summarised below:

- **24-hour Incident Response**, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with the regional plans.
- **Take Charge**, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- **Special Projects**, which include the development of resource materials, or targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.
- **Selected Land Use Register**, a database of sites in the Region where hazardous activities/industries are known or suspected to have been present, and may have resulted in site contamination. This database is maintained in accordance with proposed guidelines issued by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

### 3. Incidents

A total of 98 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about these incidents can be found in Attachment 1.

**Figure 1: Summary of Incidents (27 June to 8 August 2003)**



The majority of complaints (46%) were odour related. Most were attributed to a meat-works in Ngauranga Gorge, the Carey’s Gully complex and odour from miscellaneous panel-beating workshops. Discharges of solid wastes, liquid wastes and hydrocarbons represented 27% of all reported incidents.

The most significant incidents that occurred during this period were:

- Diesel fuel was discharged into the harbour as a result of moving the San Domenico (damaged fishing vessel) to dry dock. Floating booms were installed around the vessel in anticipation of such leakage, and accumulated diesel removed in an exercise overseen by the Harbours department.
- There was a spill of bituminous emulsifier into a stormwater drain from a road works site in Roseneath. This which discharged into the sea at Little Karaka Bay, creating an extensive slick. Enforcement action is currently in process.
- An objectionable odour affecting a large part of the Woburn area was traced to a detergent manufacturing site in Petone. This issue was referred to the Consents Management Department.
- Water blasting of an asbestos cement roof led to minor contamination of an adjacent residential property in Kapiti. A risk assessment is currently underway, to determine the scope of necessary remedial action.
- A sump truck operator was witnessed dumping liquid waste into a stormwater sump in Petone. Investigations are continuing.

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and reaching the source of the complaint (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that the officers from both Consents

Management and the Pollution Control Team largely achieved target response times during this reporting period.

**Table 1: Response time summary**

Target response time	Average response time	Conformance level
Red (60 minutes)	27 minutes	95 %
Yellow (24 hours)	8 hours	89 %
Blue (30 days)	2.1 days	100 %

#### **4. Take Charge**

*Take Charge* assessments for service stations are approaching completion, with 84% of all service stations in the west of the Region having now been visited. The following issues have been encountered; a general lack of knowledge about site history, soil and groundwater contamination via drainage soakaways, and insufficient stormwater protection (many of the older sites lack oil:water separators).

Once service stations are completed, the focus of the *Take Charge* programme will move on to automotive shops, panel beaters and follow up visits to quarries.

#### **5. Special projects**

The following special projects have been implemented by the Pollution Control Team during this reporting period:

- Greater Wellington is actively promoting a regional pollution prevention officers' forum. There are now 36 members in the group, with representatives from all territorial authorities in the Region.
- We have commented extensively on Transit NZ's proposed protocol for the clean-up of hydrocarbon spills on state highways in the Region.

#### **6. Contaminated sites**

Clearance of buried ordnance at Queen Elizabeth Park has been completed by the NZ Army, with 3,192 pieces of ordnance identified and destroyed in situ. Our role was to ensure correct remediation of unexploded ordnance from a regional park and verify cleanup of a contaminated site for park users.

#### **7. Enforcement action**

Enforcement action taken during this reporting period is summarised in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Summary of enforcement action**

Advisory Notices	6
Infringement Notices	1
Abatement Notices	0
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions	0
Confirmed Breach of Resource Consent*	1

\* Referred to Consents Management Department

Keith Max of Mangaroa Metal Co. Ltd., was issued with an infringement notice for un-consented track work in Upper Hutt.

## **8. Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

- 1. receive the report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary**