

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – November 2003

1. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

Since my verbal report at the last committee meeting about the Science Workshop, we have been working with officers from the Porirua City Council to utilise the outcomes of the Workshop most effectively.

One of the clear messages of the Workshop was the need to understand the rate of sedimentation of the Inlet and the reasons why it occurs. Another was not to let the search for a scientific understanding of the area to get in the way of action on the ground. Neither of these messages are new. The important thing is to make sure that the actions that we do take can be assessed to see whether they are making a difference. To this end, we are working on a proposal for a work programme that is a mix of both action and investigations to check on the success of those actions.

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

Term 4 Schools are Cornwall Street in Masterton, San Antonio's in Eastbourne and St Francis de Sales in Island Bay. Three very successful trails were held with the children from Cornwall Street in late October and the San Antonio trails have also gone well.

Take Action is now fully booked for 2004. A number of these schools are bringing more than the usual three classes to do the programme so next year is shaping up to be a busy one for the Action Crew.

The staff is also currently working on the additional resources for teachers and the reprinting of the main teachers' resource book. With most of the books now having gone out to schools, we have the opportunity to produce a "new and improved" version, with Greater Wellington branding.

3. Take Care (Nigel Clarke; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel)

Eleven applications for support from the Take Care fund were received before the closing date of the 14th of October. These are being assessed now, using the criteria for the fund and through visits to the sites. Two applications have come from groups we are currently funding, seeking to continue their work for a further four or five years.

Staff joined about 100 volunteers from the Mormon Church to undertake a major clean up of the Silverstream (Hull's Creek) care group site on the Saturday of Labour Weekend. A great deal of rubbish was removed from the site, plants were mulched, willows removed, and wood was stacked, to clean up the stream and the steep bank below the railway line. The organisation and health and safety aspects of this exercise were considerable but the team worked exceptionally well together and the whole operation was both professional and without incident. Increasingly, we are able to manage larger and more diverse groups, and have the procedures, equipment and expertise to deal with more complex sites. There is still work to do at this site and we anticipate returning to Silverstream in the New Year to complete the clean up.

4. Waitohu Stream (Nigel Clarke)

The Waitohu Stream is listed in *Towards a Sustainable Region* as one of the six most polluted waterways in the Region. For a number of years Nigel has been working with the tangata whenua, local landowners and the care group at the mouth of the stream on improving its overall ecological condition. As Councillors will be aware, the Flood Protection Department has also commenced an investigation into the flood hazard posed by the stream. In order to meet the Water Target from *Towards A Sustainable Region* of an improvement in the water quality of the Waitohu, we have now joined forces with Flood Protection to pursue a whole stream approach to its management.

The Waitohu Stream project is an investigation into the flood hazard posed by the stream and a review of its water quality and ecosystem health. The assessment is partly a technical exercise using data about flooding and the results of water quality monitoring (amongst other measures and analyses). It will also involve a conversation with the people who live by and use the stream, and who are connected to it, to find out what those people want for their stream now and in the future. A plan for consulting the community has been completed and a newsletter for local residents is in preparation.

At the end of the process we would like to be in a position to decide, with the tangata whenua, landowners and the community, how the stream should be managed and cared for. There have already been a number of very positive actions taken by the people who live in the area for the stream and a number of others have asked about assistance with riparian retirement. The stream has very good water quality in its upper reaches, so we are hopeful that, with public support, it will be possible to improve the river ecosystem over time.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – November 2003

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plans (Murray McLea)

There are three outstanding references on the changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. A second meeting was held with Transit to discuss their two references, and we have clarified our position in a letter to them. We are in mediation with Mr Barton, but have recently written to him with a suggestion for resolving his reference. We have told Mr Barton and the Environment Court that there is no point continuing with mediation if Mr Barton finds our suggestion unacceptable. We are now waiting for hearing dates from the Environment Court.

1.2 Regional Coastal Plan/Coastal Matters (Stephen Karaitiana)

The draft changes to the Regional Coastal Plan that relate to noise in the port area (to be consistent with upcoming changes in the Wellington City Council District Plan) are still on hold. This is because the City Council would like to resolve some issues with their inner city noise changes first.

The submission period for the aquaculture discussion document has closed. We received 10 submissions, which are currently being summarised. Issues relating to ownership of the foreshore and seabed will mean that the aquaculture moratorium, due to expire in March next year, will have to be extended. However, we have not yet received any information from central government about a new timeframe.

Consultation on Oceans Policy has also been deferred as a result of the Governments proposals for consultation on the foreshore and seabed. The Oceans Policy Secretariat is unable to confirm a timetable for this work at this time.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

An application for funding to develop simple wetland hydrology guidelines has been sent to the National Biodiversity Advice Fund. The booklet would complement the existing wetland publication.

The wetland incentives programme has been approved and is now being publicised.

Biosecurity staff are continuing the fieldwork for the wetland database, gathering information on wetland extent and condition.

2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

Riparian Management Strategy: Our assessment of the benefits and costs associated with riparian management showed that the greatest benefits result from full streamside retirement and restoration of streams with high ecological value. Using GIS modelling, twelve high quality catchments have been selected for ground-truthing. They are –

- Waitohu Stream and Otaki River (flow to the Kapiti Coast)
- Pauatahanui Stream (flows to the Pauatahanui Inlet)
- Mangaroa River (Hutt River tributary)
- Karori Stream, Wainuiomata River (hill country to Cook Strait)
- Glendu Creek, Kaiwhata River (hill country to Wairarapa east coast)
- Owhangai Stream (flows to Lake Wairarapa from the Tararua Range)
- Waiohine River (Ruamahanga River tributary)
- Upper Ruamahanga River (source in the Tararua Range)
- Waihora Stream (lower Ruamahanga River tributary)

Stormwater: We have been working with Resource Investigations and the territorial authorities with a view to developing an integrated stormwater strategy/action plan.

Dairying and Clean Streams – Regional Action Plan: Staff have met with representatives from Fonterra and Federated Farmers to discuss the possible contents of a Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region. The meeting followed our comments of support for Fonterra's proposed Environmental Assessment Procedure last February, and a meeting between a Fonterra representative and staff in August. We plan to have a draft regional action plan written before June 2004.

2.3 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)

Marine biodiversity work will be the subject of a Councillor workshop on Tuesday 2 December.

The final in our series of marine biodiversity talks at Te Papa is scheduled for Thursday 27 November. The topic is Wellington's estuaries and inlets.

2.4 Other

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

3. Iwi matters (Rawiri Faulkner)

The last technical workshop was held on Wednesday 15 October. The topic was the review of the consents and capacity funding contracts.

Ara Tahi met on 12 November – this was their last meeting of the year. The main topics for discussion were the review of the consents and capacity funding contracts, and the request from Ngati Tama to join Council's governance arrangements with iwi.

4. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)

Work has started on the development of the internet portal for hazard information – one of the main recommendations from our user needs analysis. Rylee will have help gathering data from a Victoria University student who will be doing her practicum with us over the summer.

5. Other

The 'State of our environment – annual summary' is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – November 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:

3 October 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Orongorongo Swamp, Seton Nossiter Park, Warwicks, Te Marua, Horokiri, Cemetery, TVL, Waikanae, Kapakapanui, Taungata, Transmission Lines, Otaki Depot, McIntosh, Oriwa, Centre Ridge, <i>Water Level</i> : Porirua Town, Birchville, Te Marua, Waiwhetu, Cemetery, Otaki, Mangaroa, Waikanae, Taita Gorge, Waitohu, Manuka Track.
4 October 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Centre Ridge <i>Water Level</i> : Cemetery, Te Marua
13 October 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Horokiri

1.2 Project work

Staff have been assisting Utility Services in establishing the wind monitoring tower at Belmont Regional Park, and in preparing for a conductivity test at the Macaskill Lakes.

2. Resource analysis

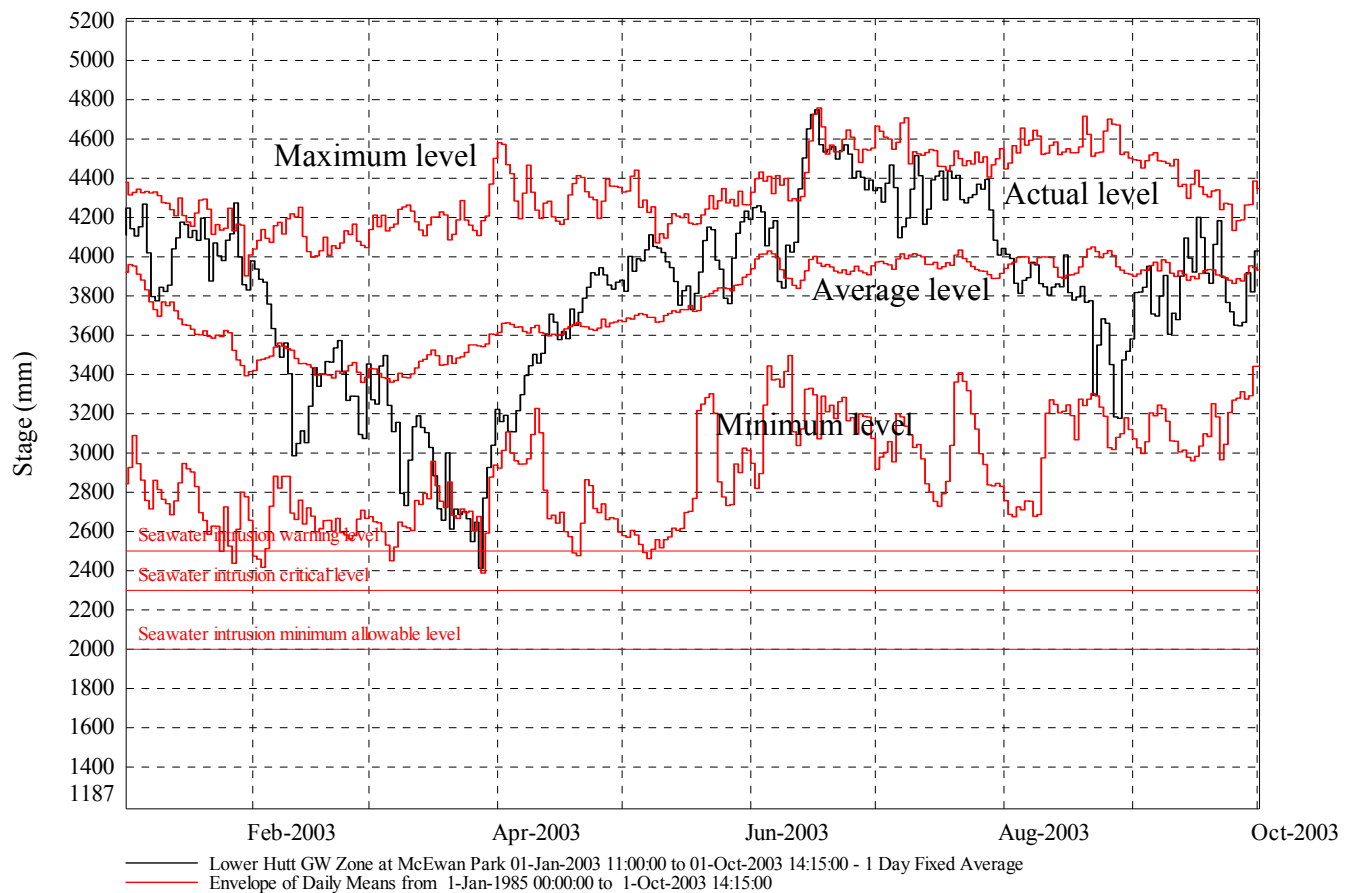
2.1 Groundwater levels

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

The water level in this aquifer is at average levels for this time of year, about 4mamsl at our McEwan Park monitoring site. At this site there are a series of low water alarm levels: 2.5mamsl, 2.3mamsl and 2mamsl. Last year the 2.5m alarm was breached once for a short period of time because of heavy use of the aquifer for public water supply, including use of the Gear Island pumping station. If the Gear Island facility is not used this summer then the aquifer level is expected to remain above the alarm levels.



Kapiti Coast

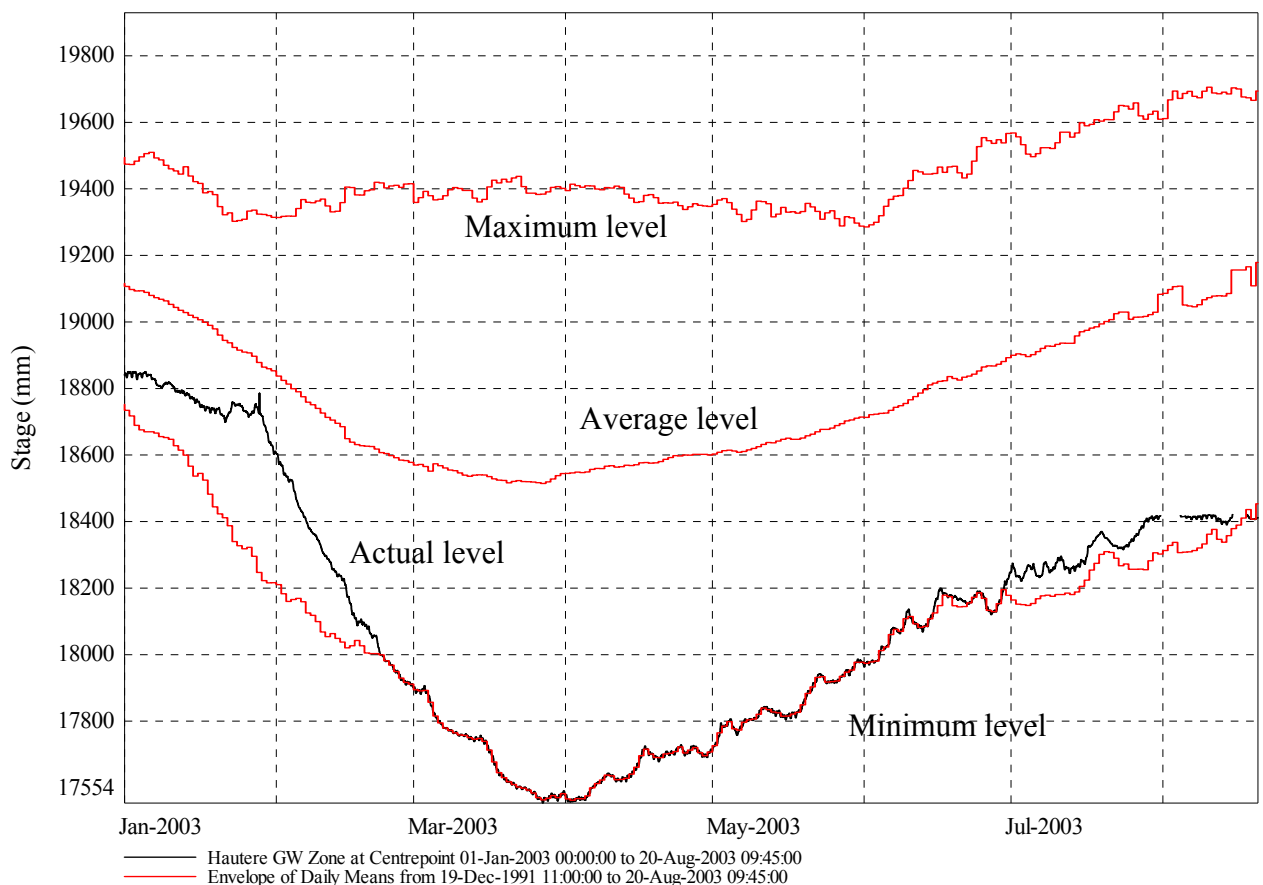
Rainfall recharged aquifer systems are at well-below to below average levels for this time of year. The record from our Centrepoint site on the Hautere Plain shows the water level is close to record low levels but is recovering at a similar rate to previous years.

River recharged groundwater systems are at about average levels for this time of year, after being at below average levels until about August. The water level in these systems is sensitive to changes in river stage so a prolonged dry period will see water levels fall in sympathy with river flow.

The water level in the shallow unconfined aquifer in Paraparaumu and Waikanae is similar to the level recorded during the past two winters. The record is too short to define a meaningful average level but qualitatively the aquifer is at above average levels.

There are currently no low water trigger levels set for Kapiti Coast aquifers.

Generally speaking we are in reasonable shape leading into summer.



2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Rainfall

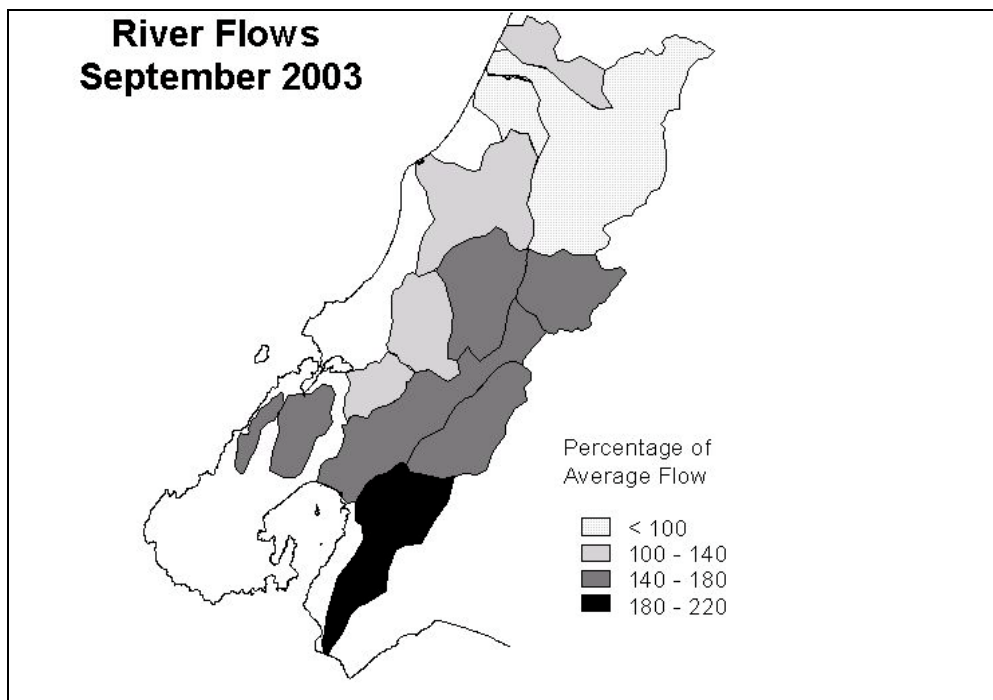
The weather during September was unsettled, with more deep depressions in the Tasman Sea than usual and below average pressure over the North Island. Rainfall for the month was above average in all parts of the western Wellington Region and for the first time this year the monthly rainfall exceeded the normal monthly average. Wellington received 150 to 200% of the usual rainfall for September, while the Kapiti Coast received about 170%.

The unsettled weather continued into October, with wet weather for the first two weeks and dry weather for most of the remainder of the month. Rainfall for October was slightly above average in Wellington, Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata, while the total in the Tararua Ranges and Waikanae was only 70 to 80% of usual.

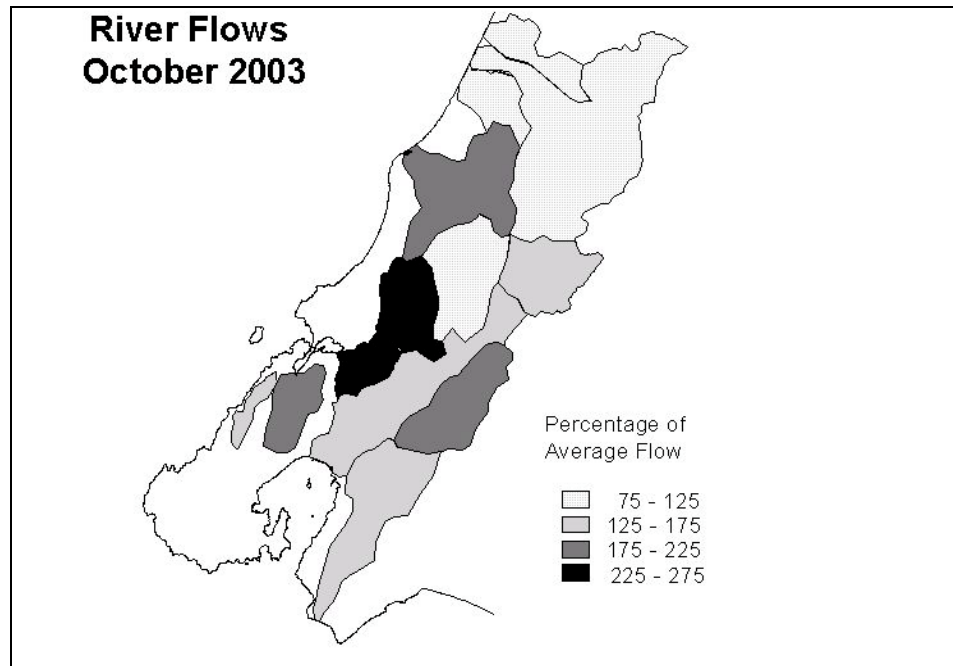
A severe high intensity rainfall event occurred on 3 October, with the heaviest rainfall during the evening occurring in the Tararua Ranges and in the hills behind Paekakariki. A report detailing the hydrology of the storm is to be published shortly.

River flows

With the regular rainfall in September, river flows increased to normal or above normal levels for the first time since June. The map below shows flows in the Hutt catchment and Wainuiomata River were more than 140% of usual for September. The Kapiti Coast rivers varied from slightly below normal for September (Otaki River and Mangaone Stream) to slightly above normal flow (Waikanae River and Waitohu Stream).



In October, high river flows at the beginning of the month were followed by average to below average flows for the remainder of the month. The storm on 3 October also increased the average flow for the month in many rivers. The result, as shown by the map below, was very high average flows for October in the nearest monitored rivers to Paekakariki (Pauatahanui Stream and Whakatikei River) and in the Waikanae River. Flows in the Hutt catchment and Wainuiomata River were also well above average, by between 125 and 175%. The northern Kapiti Coast rivers remained about usual for this time of the year.



The peak river flows on 3 October were significant in many parts of the Wellington Region, as shown by the table below. The flow in the Whakatikei River on that day is the highest on record, and estimated to have a 60-year return period.

Station	Peak flow on 3 October 2003 (m ³ /s)	Estimated return period (years)
Hutt River @ Taita Gorge	1137	4
Mangaroa River @ Te Marua	230	11
Akatarawa River @ Cemetery	269	< 2
Whakatikei River @ Dude Ranch	180	60
Waiwhetu Stream @ Whites Line East	14	4
Wainuiomata River @ Leonard Wood Park	72	3
Porirua Stream @ Town Centre	33.5	2
Waikanae River @ Water Treatment Plant	193	4 – 5
Otaki River @ Pukehinau	673	< 2
Waitohu Stream @ Water Supply Intake	37	< 2
Ruamahanga River @ Waihenga	1350	7
Waingawa River @ Kaituna	220	< 2
Mangatarere River @ Gorge	51	< 2
Waiohine River @ Gorge	696	< 2
Huangarua River @ Hautotara	59	< 2
Kopuaranga River @ Palmers	45	< 2

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.

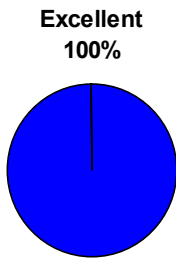
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

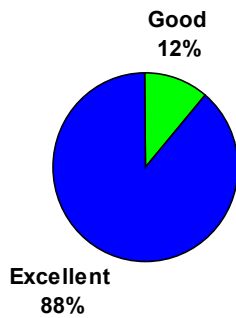
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

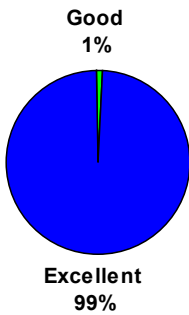


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

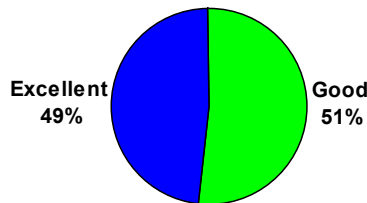


Results for the Past Six Weeks at Lower Hutt

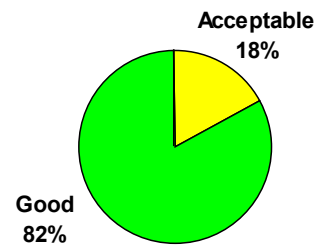
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt

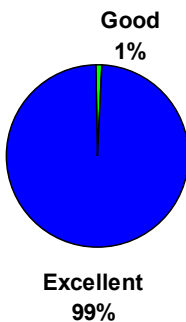


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

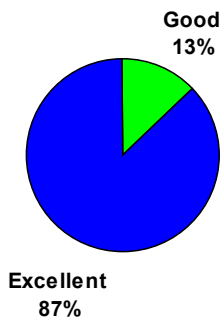


Results for the Past Six Weeks at Masterton

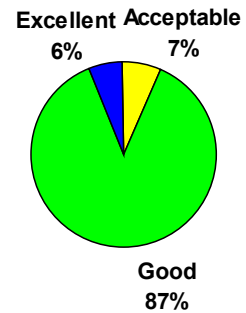
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton

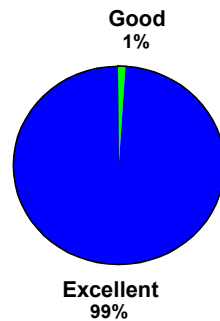


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



Results for the Past Six Weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



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.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – November 2003

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 7 November 2003 we received 230 consents. This compares with 109 consents received for the same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2003/2004 year have been completed within statutory time frames.

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

2. Appeals and Objections

CentrePort has appealed conditions of the consents to dredge the harbour entrance and conditions relating to the dredging of the harbour berths. The issues raised are currently being discussed and it is not yet clear if they can be resolved through negotiation. Mediation, if it does take place, is unlikely to occur until the new year.

The first date for mediation in the Lyall Bay Surf Reef Appeal will be 12 December 2003.

Mighty River Power (MRP) has objected to a condition placed on a non-notified discharge to air consent for their operations at Silverstream Landfill. MRP met with GW and we have drafted an alternative condition that both sides are happy to accept. A report relating to this objection will be presented at this Environment Committee meeting.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Generally it has been a quiet month for compliance issues. We are continuing to receive complaints about odours in the vicinity of the Carey's Gully site, Happy Valley, and we have reviewed the way in which we respond to these complaints with the aim of improving the 'strike' rate. In addition, we are receiving an increasing number of complaints about odour from NZ Fish, Gracefield.

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 are prosecuting Kapiti Coast District Council for taking more water from the Waikanae River than their resource consent permits. At present, the prosecution is based on one breach that occurred last summer. The prosecution was called for the first time at the District Court on 20 October 2003. It is scheduled to be called for the first time at the Environment Court on 12 November 2003.

4. Other

Rob Robson finished working for the department on Friday 7 November 2003, to take up a position with the Ministry for Economic Development.

Stephanie Livick has rejoined the department as a temporary account manager, whilst we are looking to fill the vacant position.

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	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	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			
CentrePort	To dredge inner harbour berths and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	9		11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Granted with conditions – under appeal.
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	20/05/03	13		25/06/03- 27/06/03 and 18/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	04/07/03	Granted with Conditions – currently under appeal
Lyll Bay Charitable Reef Trust	Consents associated with the construction of a artificial surf reef in Lyall Bay.	16/04/03	03/06/03	55		23/07/03 to 24/07/03	Ian Stewart Alistair Aburn Aka Arthur	11 Sept 2003	Granted – under appeal
Whitby Coastal Estates ²	Discharges associated with bulk earthworks, Duck Creek.	16/09/02	09/05/03	20		09/09/03 to 10/09/03	Jack Rikihana David Hutchinson		Granted – still in appeal period
Wellington Waterfront Ltd ³	To redevelop Chaffers Park (to be renamed Waitangi Park) – including wetland, stormwater discharges, creation of a small beach.	24/09/03	3/11/03	34 + 3 late	no		Aka Arthur Ian Buchanan		Hearing dates set for 21 & 24 November, and 1 December

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 Porirua City Council

3 These applications will be heard jointly with Wellington City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - November 2003

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactory except the Point Halswell light. A dead bird in a power transformer ashore resulted in the light being extinguished for several days. Beacon Hill advised shipping when the light was out.

2. Oil pollution response

Three reports of oil spills were received. Only one required minor clean up action.

3. Events

The Manager, Harbours, attended and represented Harbourmasters interests at the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Auckland on 14 October.

A meeting of our Regional Oil Spill Support Group was held in Wellington on 22 October.

On 24 October the hulk of the fishing vessel *Arrow* (laid up in Wellington since September 2000) was towed out of the port for scrapping.

On 28 October a well-attended function held at the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club enabled several Masters of passenger ferries operating on Wellington Harbour to give their comments and views to club members on the problems and dangers that small yachts can cause to larger vessels.

The Manager, Harbours, attended and represented Regional Council Operations at the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee meeting chaired by the Maritime Safety Authority in Wellington on 5 November.

The annual "Skyshow" fireworks display from a barge moored in Lambton Harbour on 5 November was enjoyed with many, and the standard safety precautions were in place, with no significant boating incidents reported.

Much work has been involved in reviewing submissions received to the proposed revised Navigation and Safety Bylaws. Submissions closed on 24 October.

Deputy Harbourmaster attended the Hazardous Substances & Technical Liaison Committee meeting on 11 November.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – November 2003

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan

Work on the CDEM Group Plan is progressing well. The department is in regular contact with the emergency management agencies, lifeline utilities and other role-players.

Several workshops have been arranged and two took place on 4th and 7th November with another scheduled for 9th December for the purpose of carrying out risk assessments and identifying key issues.

The November workshops covered geological (earthquake, volcanic, and tsunami) and meteorological (storms, flooding, landslides, and drought) hazards. Staff from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington, Porirua and Hutt City Councils, Kapiti Coast and Masterton District Councils, Regional Public Health, Capital and Coast Health, Earthquake Commission, Hutt Valley Health and NIWA attended the workshops.

Transportation and infrastructure failure hazard summaries have been developed with the help of staff from the Council's Harbours Department and Transport Division, as well as Wellington International Airport Company.

A meeting with personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took place on 11 November to discuss their input into the Plan. An agricultural hazard summary is being prepared.

1.2. CEG meeting – 13 October 2003

At the meeting of the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) on 13 October, items discussed were:

- CDEM Group Plan Project team
- CDEM Group Plan progress
- progress on CDEM Group work programmes (12)
- representation on the National Plan Working Group
- CDEM Group Communications Plan
- Paekakariki flood event of 3 October

The issue of funding for Group projects was raised and a report will go to the next meeting.

1.3. CDEM Group meeting – 6 November 2003

Due to a major road accident on SH2 (which prevented the Wairarapa Mayors and Councillor Buchanan (Greater Wellington alternative representative) to attend), only an informal meeting took place on 6 November 2003. The decisions of the CDEM Group will be ratified at its next meeting that will take place on 22 April 2004.

2. Other activities

2.1 External relationships

Since the last Committee meeting, we have had discussions with a number of groups about the following:

- Progress with the CDEM Group work programme (the twelve projects of emergency water supply, emergency communications, emergency fuel supply, regional reconnaissance, urban search and rescue, external supply of resources, medical logistics, public education, response capability enhancement, hazards management, public education, and commuter management).
- Training and emergency management systems and communications.
- Hazards analysis and management.

We also attended the National Lifelines Forum that was held in Wellington from 8th to 9th October 2003. This forum was very informative and most discussions were about lifeline utilities' involvement in the CDEM planning process.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 34 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Most of these seismic activities again took place in the South Island (near Te Anau), ranging between 4.5 and 6.1 on the Richter-scale.

The only earthquakes felt in the Wellington Region were the following:

2003 Nov 12 **Mag.:** 3.3 **Depth:** 25 km *10 km north-west of Upper Hutt*
2003 Nov 11 **Mag.:** 4.4 **Depth:** 60 km *30 km north-west of Wellington*
2003 Oct 25 **Mag.:** 4.0 **Depth:** 40 km *40 km south of Wellington*
2003 Oct 15 **Mag.:** 3.5 **Depth:** 20 km *40 km south-east of Martinborough*
2003 Oct 04 **Mag.:** 3.9 **Depth:** 25 km *10 km north-west of Greytown*

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Twelve Special Weather Bulletins (seven for heavy rain and five for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting up to 14th November. All the relevant agencies were notified.

3.3 Communications

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

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 30 September 2003

1. Operating Results

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

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 30 September 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	1,910.1	1,910.1	--	7,640.2
Other Revenue	422.1	530.1	108.0 U	1,947.7
Total Revenue	2,332.2	2,440.2	108.0 U	9,587.9
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	1,955.2	1,989.3	34.1 F	8,599.7
Indirect Expenditure	328.9	307.6	21.3 U	1,271.8
Total Operating Expenditure	2,284.1	2,296.9	12.8 F	9,871.5
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	48.1	143.3	95.2 U	(283.6)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory. For the period an operating surplus of \$48,000 was recorded which is slightly below our budget for the corresponding period. The budget provides for an operating surplus of \$143,000.

The result translates to a net unfavourable variance of \$95,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$108,000, and offset, to an extent, by lower than expected expenditure of \$13,000.

However, from a cash perspective the surplus funds of \$368,000 at the end of the period closely matches our budget of \$356,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$2,332,000 is some \$108,000 short of our budget target of \$2,440,000. Incomplete notified resource consent applications or work in progress caused part of the shortfall. Some of these notified consent applications are almost complete, e.g. CentrePort's resource consent applications (\$95,000) to dredge the harbour's entrance and near the vessel berths in the inner harbour.

The balance of the shortfall is from a delay in some internal transactions. The largest, the Transport air monitoring station (\$68,000), is presently being constructed. At 30 September that facility was incomplete. However, we anticipate that the station will be fully operational before mid December.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$2,284,000 is some \$13,000 behind our budget. This represents an underspend of less than 1% on a budget of \$2,297,000.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly under budget by \$29,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. Some of the underspend will be offset by recruitment costs. Our budgets assume that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- Material costs were over budget by \$18,000. The Harbours Department's insurance premiums have increased significantly as a result of an increase in the number of recent incidents involving shipping. The most prominent of these was the grounding of the *Jody F Millennium* in Gisborne in February 2002. Insurance costs for the period are some \$21,000 over budget.

Also the commissioners' fees attributable to notified consents were higher than budgeted. These fees are fully recoverable from applicants.

- Travel and Transport costs were slightly under budget by \$15,000. The reduction is due largely to less checks of the hydrology system using chartered helicopters than budgeted at this time. We expect the variance to be corrected later in the year.

5. Capital Expenditure

Overall our capital expenditure programme is some \$106,000 under budget. The under-spend is mainly with the new Air Monitoring Station for the inner city, which is being built for and funded by the Transport Department for their use.