

**Geoff Skene**  
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

## **Environment Co-ordination Department Report – March 2003**

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### **1. Ecosystems and biodiversity information (Tim Porteous)**

Work has commenced on some of the information resources to help landowners and care group's look after wetlands and bush remnants and for farmers retiring and planting stream banks. I expect that this year we will produce information on the re-vegetation of native bush areas, how to care for wetlands, and a health and safety guide for care groups. A booklet describing the land protection services offered by The Greater Wellington Regional Council, DOC, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Federated Farmers and others has been completed, and will be published shortly.

### **2. Help for Landowners Protecting Remnant Ecosystems (Tim Porteous)**

This year \$60,000 was budgeted to assist private land owners to protect bush remnants and wetlands on their land. This is done in partnership with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, the landowner, and in some cases, territorial authorities. This sum has now been fully utilised, with the Trust approving 9 new covenants in February, a number of which are wetlands, and many in the Kapiti area. This reflects the Kapiti Coast District Council's contribution to the programme. This programme has been running for three years and this is the earliest that this budget has been expended. A full list of covenants approved is available on request.

The Government has just announced the availability of two new funds for remnant areas on private land, one for advice and information, and one for improving the condition of these areas (such as fencing and pest control). We are investigating how the Council can obtain some of this funding for covenanted properties in the Region.

### **3. Ecodomains for the Wellington Region (John Holmes)**

*Ecodomains for the Wellington Region* is a report prepared for the Council by Isobel Gabites of Boffa Miskell. It is a systematic assessment and graphic representation of the Region's major ecosystems and the driving factors that shape them. Those factors are climate, top rock, topography, and active seismic and coastal processes. When combined, they create ecological systems that share similar ecological and physical processes, but which vary from one part

of the Region to another, as the factors themselves change (e.g., as the climate becomes wetter or colder).

We have used ecodevelopments to support the Council's ecosystem work in a number of ways for several years. They are used, for example, to generate the zones in the Regional Native Plant Guide. Other Councils have taken our regional domains and generated sub-domains to inform and direct their local ecological restoration initiatives (e.g., the Rural Living Guidelines published by Kapiti Coast District Council). The publication of this document now recognises the need for this information to be more widely available.

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

Take Action is well under way for this year. Three schools – Mt Cook, Porirua, and Titahi Bay – have completed the trail component of the programme, and are now working on their action projects.

The more we deliver the programme, the more we are finding that each class is different, with children at varying ages and stages of development and understanding. Our staff are required to vary their teaching styles and, frequently, the “angle” of Take Action for Water on a class-by-class basis, whilst still putting across the key messages and concepts. The passion for the environment and interests of the class teacher are also important, particularly when it comes to choosing and doing action projects. Teachers (and students) address water quality or water conservation from a number of different angles, sometimes directly (promoting behavioural change to their communities), but often with a different emphasis, e.g., a solid waste (re-cycling, worm bins, litter), or biodiversity (tree planting, weeds, habitat), or coastal emphasis (dunes, marine life, pollution).

This is having a bearing on our thinking for the next Take Action programme. We are looking currently at a range of options, from devising a wholly new programme, such as Take Action for Biodiversity, or Take Action for Air, through to offering just the existing programme, but with a choice of action projects tailored to the interests and enthusiasm of the school. In this scenario, the funding in our budget for developing a second Take Action would be used to produce resources to support any of the emphases described above. A paper setting out these options will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

**Nicola Shorten**  
Manager, Resource Policy

## **Resource Policy Department Report – March 2003**

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### **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 are receiving advice from Simpson Grierson and replies are being prepared to the references. One appeal is from 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. The two other appeals are from Transit New Zealand.

#### **1.2 Regional Coastal Plan (Stephen Karaitiana)**

We hosted a Ministry for the Environment Aquaculture Road Show event on 9 December 2002. This included presentations and a workshop designed to inform Councillors, staff and key stakeholders about the aquaculture reforms. The Ministry now tell us that work on the Resource Management (Aquaculture) Amendment Bill has been delayed again due to a claim being lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal.

A Councillor workshop on the Regional Coastal Plan changes has been scheduled for 26 March.

A draft affidavit has been prepared on the Regional Coastal Plan, to support our request to the Environment Court for a declaration over Centreport's resource consent application for harbour dredging. As part of the declaration, we are requesting that a map of the 'harbour entrance' be included in the Regional Coastal Plan. This appears to have been omitted during development of the plan.

## **2. Regional Plan Implementation**

### **2.1 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)**

A public lecture about marine biodiversity and the community was held on Thursday 14 November 2002. The evening is the first of a series of three lectures to be held at Te Papa. Speakers include Dr Rob Murdoch (Director of Research, NIWA), Victor Anderlini and Judy Hutt (Island Bay Marine Education Centre), Don Richards (Project Beach Clean Up) and City Councillor Ray Ahipene Mercer (penguin conservation).

The next public lecture will be held on 1 May 2003 at Te Papa.

The lecture was very successful and we are using the names collected at the event as contacts for further involvement in the project. We are currently preparing for focus group meetings with specific communities of interest to discover what would best fulfil the community's interest in the marine environment.

The project web site can now be found at [www.gw.govt.nz/em/harstud.htm](http://www.gw.govt.nz/em/harstud.htm). The meta database is ready to accept data, and a student has been employed to collect information and put it into the database.

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

### **2.2 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)**

An Iwi technical workshop was held on 13 November 2002 at the Raukawa Marae. The workshop gave Iwi the opportunity to input into the draft Wetland Action Plan. A final version of the Wetland Action Plan will be presented to the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee this month.

A World Wetland Day event was held at Nga Manu Reserve on 2 February 2003. About 50 people came to listen to wetland scientist Paul Champion talk about wetlands and go on a guided walk through the wetland at the Reserve.

### **2.3 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray)**

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 are being engaged to do a literature review of information on freshwater fish. We will use the results of the Massey work to provide information that will help resource.

## **2.4 Other**

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

Comments on the Proposed Environmental Assessment Procedure for Dairy Farmers supplying the Fonterra Co-operative Group was sent to Fonterra.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines, Riparian Management Strategy and a number of brochures, which were awaiting the outcome of the branding process, are now being completed.

## **3. Iwi matters (Keriana Wilcox)**

The first Ara Tahi meeting of the year was held on 26 February.

The first Iwi technical workshop was held on 12 March. The workshop was used as consultation on the LTCCP.

There will be a joint Councillor/Iwi workshop on Wednesday 19 March on the Local Government Act 2002.

## **4. Reporting on the State of the Environment**

The State of the Environment - Annual Summary was printed and distributed during January. The document was sent to schools, interested groups and individuals, organisations and media. It is also available on our web site.

We are still receiving the feedback forms that were sent out with the information. We will be analysing the responses to ensure that future publications are as useful and informative as possible.

## **5. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)**

Stakeholder Needs Analysis: meetings have been held with all territorial authorities as part of this project. A workshop and discussions have also been held with utility companies, and consultants are currently working on a community survey. The purpose of this project is to find out whether the data we collect and supply to each of these groups is useful, and how it can be improved or made more relevant.

The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences is undertaking a national coastal survey which includes seven sites in the greater Wellington Region. We are expecting the results of this survey in April.

## **6. Staff**

Keriana Wilcox has resigned from her position as Māori Policy Advisor. I would like to wish her well in her new position at the Manakau City Council.

Stephen Karaitiana has started work as a Policy Advisor with the Department. Stephen previously worked as a consultant with Beca Carter Hollings Ferner Ltd and is now working on changes to the Regional Coastal Plan.

**John Sherriff**  
**Manager, Resource Investigations**

## **Resource Investigations Department Report**

### **March 2003**

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#### **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 alarms were received and responded to:

16 January 2003	Rainfall : Cemetery
19 February 2003	Rainfall : Phillips, Kapakapanui

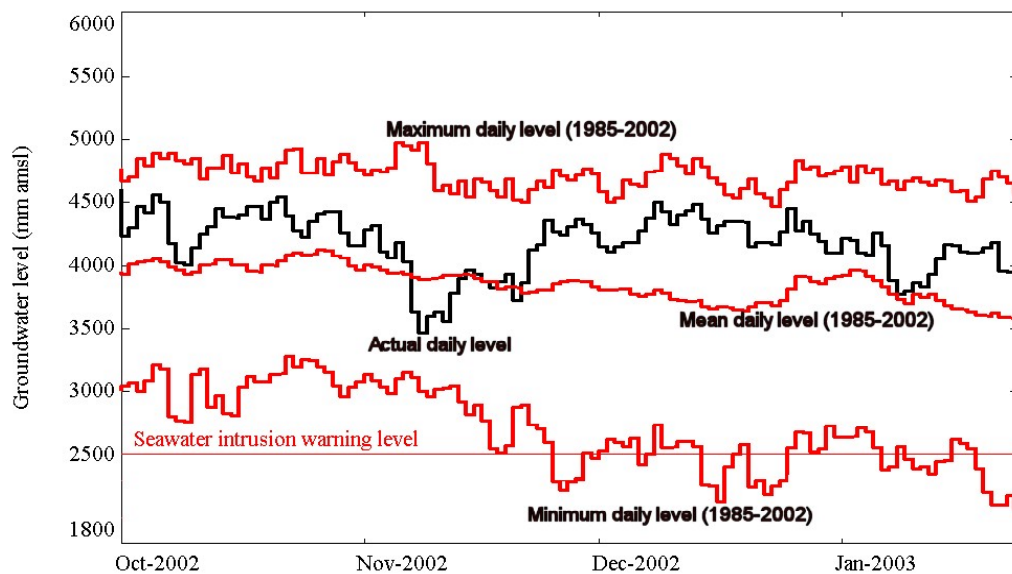
#### **2. Resource analysis**

##### **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.

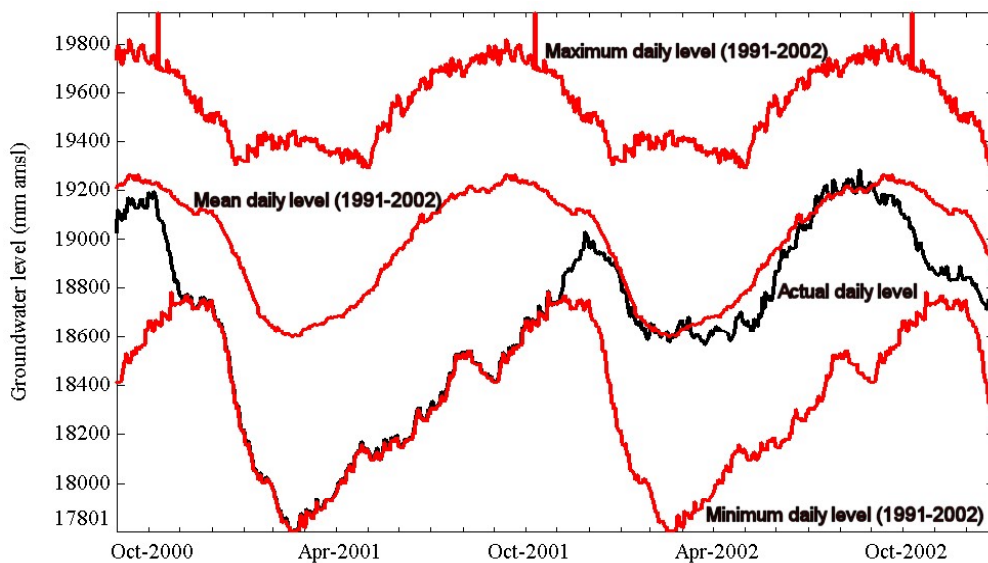
The following graphs present a comparison between water levels recorded this year and historical summary data for the McEwan Park and Hautere Plains sites.

### Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone – Upper Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer



Artesian pressure measured at our McEwan Park monitoring bore on the Petone foreshore has remained at above average levels since October 2002.

### Kapiti Coast



The groundwater level record from our Centrepont monitoring site on the Hautere Plain shows that since October 2002 rainfall recharged aquifers have fallen to below average levels in response to low rainfall. This pattern is similar to, although not as pronounced as, the water level record for the 2000/2001 summer when the Kapiti Coast last experienced an extended period of low rainfall. River recharged aquifers have responded in their usual manner to reduced river flow and have fallen to average to below-average levels.



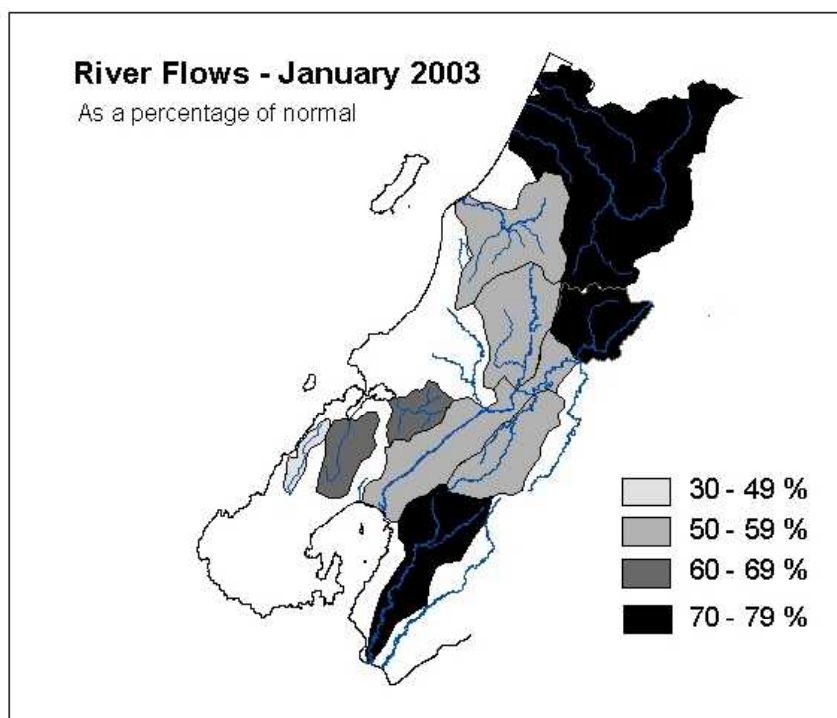
## 2.2 Rainfall and river flows

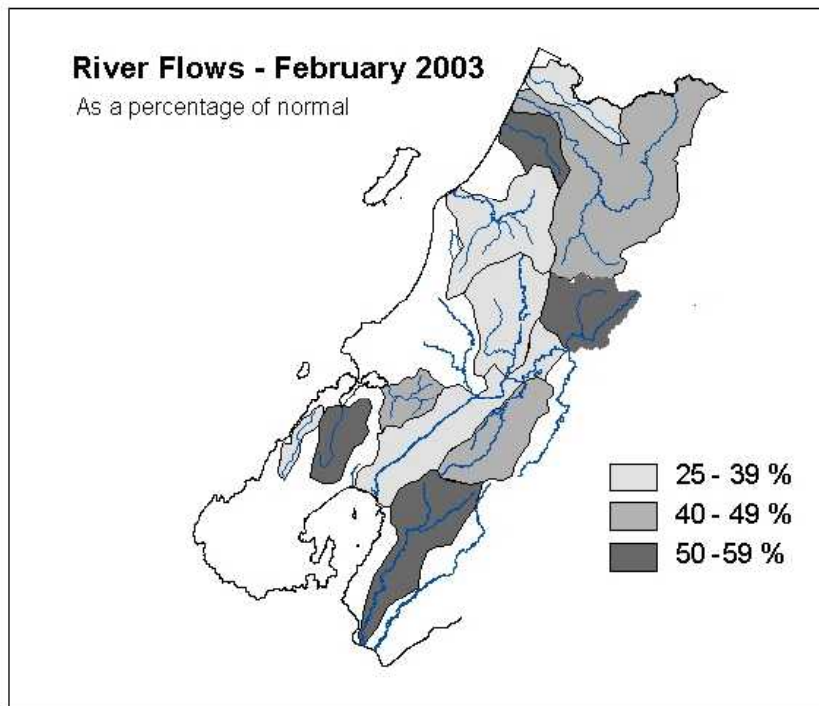
Rainfall has been very low during January and February. Throughout January the only areas to receive average rainfall totals were the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments. Wellington and the Hutt Valley received only 40% of their average rainfall, while our raingauge at Waikanae recorded less than 30%. February was even drier with less than half the average rainfall occurring across much of the Region in Wellington. Rainfall in the Tararua Ranges (the important source area for many water supply rivers) was also low ranging between 50% and 80% of average rainfall.

The low rainfall caused the Region's rivers to drop to very low levels in February. The following figures show the January and February river flows as a percentage of their average. During January none of the monitored rivers recorded above 80% of their average flow. During February there were none above 60%, with the Hutt, Akatarawa, Waitohu and Waikanae rivers all flowing at less than 40% of normal flows.

The Waitohu Stream has been particularly hard hit dropping to its lowest recorded flow of 106 l/s and a Water Shortage Direction was issued as a result. During February, flow in the Waitohu Stream has been below its Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow for 12 days and below its first step-down level for 24 days. The Waikanae River has also dropped to low levels and the Kapiti Coast District Council has enforced water restrictions.

Flow in the Wainuiomata River at the Leonard Wood Park monitoring site was below the Regional Freshwater Plan minimum flow for 13 days during February.





## 2.3 Air quality monitoring

### 2.3.1 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at two sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve) and Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station).

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	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air

	the guideline	quality
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern

**Results for the Past Six Weeks at Lower Hutt**

**8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Lower Hutt    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Lower Hutt**



**Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt**

**8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt    24-Hour Average NO<sub>2</sub> at Upper Hutt    24-Hour Average PM<sub>10</sub> at Upper Hutt**



**2.3.2 Break In at Birch Lane**

Unfortunately during February our air quality station at Birch Lane was broken into and several pieces of equipment were stolen. This equipment is being replaced and we have taken measures to strengthen the security around this and other air quality monitoring sites.

**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 Unwanted Agrichemical Collection**

The final sweep of unwanted agricultural chemical collections started on 24 February. At that time there were 75 properties with chemicals needing to be collected.

### **4. Staff**

Chris Keenan joined our Pollution Control Section on 17 February. Chris previously worked at Auckland Regional Council as a Water Quality Technician. Chris' arrival means that this section is again fully staffed

**Paula Hammond**  
**Manager, Consents Management**

## **Consents Management Department Report - March 2003**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

In the period to 28 February 2003 we received 237 consents. This compares with 240 consents received for the same period last year.

All consents have been processed within statutory time frames.

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 consents issued to The Steam Ship Wharf Company to move the Greta Point Tavern to the Queens Wharf area have been appealed.

Mr Clayton-Bray (who appealed the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant consents) has sold his land. This may resolve the appeals on the Treatment Plant.

### **3. Compliance**

#### **3.1 General**

We have been busy monitoring odorous sites around the Region. An update of our proactive monitoring is the subject of another report to Committee.

#### **3.2 Abatement notices**

The two abatement notices reported on to the last Committee have been complied with.

No further abatement notices have been issued since the last Committee meeting.

#### **3.3 Infringement notices**

The two infringement notices reported on to the last Committee meeting (NZ Fish Products and Hutt City Council) have been paid. However, Hutt City Council wrote saying they did not believe we were justified in issuing an

infringement notice, but it was a commercial decision to pay the fine rather than appeal it.

We have issued two further infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

The first notice was issued to Chemwaste for an offensive odour beyond their boundary. Chemwaste has paid the fine.

The second notice was issued to Porirua City Council for an offensive odour beyond the boundary of Spicers Landfill. Porirua City Council has paid the fine, but also sent a letter saying they believed that the circumstances that resulted in odour being produced were beyond their control.

### **3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

We have not initiated any further prosecutions or enforcement orders.

## **4. Other**

Annette McGovern and Sarah Wilks have resigned. Annette accepted a position with Opus International in Tauranga and left the council in February. Sarah is off overseas at the end of March. Both Annette and Sarah have made significant contributions to the department over the last three years. They will be sorely missed.

Two new appointments have been made.

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
New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities.	24/07/00	29/08/00	4	08/09/00	No hearing required. Report to E Committee 28/11/02		28/11/02	<b>Granted</b>
Transit <sup>1</sup>	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	<b>Granted – under appeal</b>
Transit <sup>1</sup>	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	<b>Granted – under appeal</b>
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, one appeal – mediation held <b>16 December</b>
Transit <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	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	Two appeals received

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
BP Oil NZ Ltd	To change the use of an existing pipeline by resting it on petroleum product instead of seawater between shipments.	20/7/01	16/10/01	17		29/10/02	Ian Buchanan, Glen Evans, Jack Rikihana	22/11/02	Granted with conditions
Sink F69 Charitable Trust	To create an artificial reef by sinking the former HMNZS Wellington.	3/10/01	3/12/01	72		25/02/2002 and reconvened 6/3/02	Ian Buchanan, Miria Pomare, Irvine Yardley	27/3/02	Granted by Consent Order from Environment Court
Kapiti Coast District Council	To vary condition of consent to allow water to be taken from Waikanae River when flow falls below 750l/s.	16/10/02	25/11/02	16			Ian Buchanan, Chris Turver	17/12/02	Granted with conditions
Flood Protection	To use diquat in the Waiwhetu Stream to control aquatic weeds.	25/10/02	10/12/02	20					
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			
CentrePort	To dredge inner Harbour and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	New application pending						
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material	24/10/02	New application pending						
Aotea Block <sup>5</sup>	To construct stage 1 of the Aotea Block Subdivision	18/11/02	27/02/03	8		20/03/03			
Hutt City Council	Renewal of wet weather discharge of Waiwhetu Stream.	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03				
Hutt City Council	Discharge macerated sewage to Eastern Bays	19/12/02	19/02/03	16 & 2 late	5/03/03				



<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Date Consent Lodged</b>	<b>Date Submissions Closed</b>	<b>Number of Submissions Received</b>	<b>Pre-hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Held</b>	<b>Hearing Committee Members</b>	<b>Date Decision Released</b>	<b>Granted or Declined</b>
<b>Hutt City Council</b>	<b>Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent to Waiwhetu Stream while Main Sewer Outfall is being inspected.</b>	<b>19/12/02</b>	<b>19/02/03</b>	<b>16 &amp; 2 late</b>	<b>5/03/03</b>				
<b>Hutt City Council</b>	<b>Temporary discharge of secondary treated effluent of up to 15 points along the Eastern Bay to enable Main Sewer Outfall to be inspected.</b>	<b>19/12/02</b>	<b>19/02/03</b>	<b>16 &amp; 2 late</b>	<b>5/03/03</b>				

- 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 - March 2003**

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### **1. Harbour Navigation Aids**

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

The all-round lantern at Pencarrow light was replaced and re-aligned after the old lantern was damaged by extreme weather.

The new lantern for Steeple Rock light is in position and will be operational once it can be correctly aligned.

A new energy-efficient LED light has been purchased for Falcon Shoal light; it will provide a more visible light whose flash will be on for longer than the old light, but will actually use less power.

### **2. Oil Pollution Response**

Ten reports of oil spills were investigated. Only one spill required any clean-up action. Several were false reports, caused by either “wind shadow” or by numerous jellyfish.

On 9 January Harbours Department staff conducted a quarterly oil spill response equipment check and stock-take of disperant and sorbents.

On 27 February, MSA staff were assisted in their annual equipment audit.

### **3. Departmental Activities**

- The Deputy Harbourmaster attended the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee meeting.
- Harbour Ranger, Grant Nalder attended a Police Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee meeting.
- Harbour Ranger, Greg Meikle attended a public meeting on 20 February concerning the planned surf reef in Lyall Bay.
- Harbour Ranger, Greg Meikle and Temporary Harbour Ranger, Oliver Muller completed a water safety training course.
- A function was held for our Honorary Enforcement Officers on 27 February in the Museum of Wellington, City and Sea. This is our tangible thanks to them for undertaking the work that they do, and is also a valuable opportunity to obtain feedback on events that have taken place over the summer months.

#### 4. General

The jet ski has been out in use on the water for most weekends over summer, providing The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) presence and reminding boaters of their boating safety obligations; the public response has been positive and generally a pleasing level of compliance was noted.

Two infringement notices were issued, both for failing to carry lifejackets. The first was issued by the Police Maritime Unit and the second by the Harbour Rangers.

A drowning fatality off the Wairarapa Coast in January 2003 (caused by failing to carry lifejackets) has resulted in Police taking a prosecution of the master of the vessel under s65 of the Maritime Transport Act.

There has been a GWRC presence at nearly all of the special events on the water over the summer period.

The new Strait Shipping Ltd passenger ferry *Santa Regina* (trading as “Bluebridge”) commenced commercial service on 26 December 2002.

**Rian van Schalkwyk**  
**Manager, Emergency Management**

## **Emergency Management Department Report - March 2003**

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### **1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

Councillors will be aware that the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 came into effect on 1 December 2002.

The Act requires that the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) by 1 June 2003 unites with the territorial authorities in our region to establish a CDEM Group.

The chief executives agreed, on 12 November 2002, that a Working Party be formed to prepare for the implementation and the functioning of the CDEM Group. The members of the Working Party are:

- Wayne Hastie (GW – Chairperson)
- Rian van Schalkwyk (GW)
- Kevin Montgomery (MDC)
- Paul Nickalls (HCC)
- Karen Stephens (WCC)
- Roly Williams (NZ Police)
- Ray Kennedy (NZFS)
- Greg Phillips (DHBs)

The Working Party has met on five occasions to prepare papers for the Chief Executives Group to review. These papers and presentations include:

- CDEMG Terms of Reference
- CEG Terms of Reference
- Standing Orders
- Constitution
- Structure roles and responsibilities 18 month work programme
- Communications and consultation strategy
- Model reports to Councils
- Plan for inaugural meeting of the Wellington Region CDEM Group

Meetings of the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) were held on 12 November 2002, 17 December 2002 and 3 March 2003.

It has been decided that the inaugural meeting of the CDEM Group will take place on Thursday, 15 May 2003. At the inaugural meeting, the CDEM Group will be officially formed, a Chairperson appointed, Standing Orders adopted, Terms of Reference and/or Constitution approved, the Co-ordinating Executive Group established and the future work programme agreed.

## **2. Emergency Management Marketing**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2002, the Manager Emergency Management started with a series of talks to Rotary clubs in our region.

The topic has been emergency preparedness, with emphasis on personal and organisational preparedness. So far presentations have been made to 10 clubs with a combined attendance of about 460 people. Feedback from these discussions has been positive.

The Silverstream Lions Club, the Wellington Justices of the Peace Association, the Tawa Union Parish Men's Group and other Rotary Clubs have made bookings for talks during March and April.

The Emergency Management Officer facilitated a public awareness campaign for rural fire safety. This involved radio advertising over the Christmas break and development of a brochure that was delivered to residents on the rural/urban fringe.

A draft project plan for marketing and communications activities for 2003 has been developed.

Both Emergency Management and the Resource Policy Departments are working together to implement a programme for people who do not use English as their first language.

## **3. Other activities**

### **3.1 Health & Safety**

Emergency Management Department Hazard's Register has been updated into the new standard format.

### **3.2 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Projects**

The Emergency Management Officer worked with UHCC to define a contingency planning project for high-risk areas of Upper Hutt.

A Media Management Plan for flooding events in the Hutt Valley has been developed and is currently being circulated for feedback from involved parties.

### **3.3 Wildfire Threat Analysis Project**

The Emergency Management Officer is involved in the project team working on enhancing our current wildfire hazard maps to the standards defined by the National Rural Fire Authority. This will ensure consistent threat analyses are

done across the country. The project will involve WCC, PCC, KCDC, HCC, UHCC, DoC, Greater Wellington and various fire agencies.

The project team met and developed a project plan to begin implementing the threat analysis. Other Greater Wellington Regional Council Departments that will need to have input are Resource Policy (for hazard analysis and GIS capability), and Parks and Forests.

### **3.4 Geographic Information Systems and Emergency Management Workshop**

The Emergency Management Officer facilitated a workshop of Council GIS managers and Emergency Managers to look at a number of GIS based emergency management projects that they will be involved in. This included a demonstration of how to use GIS during an emergency, discussion about data sharing between Councils and Lifelines organisations and about the Wildfire Threat Analysis project.

This workshop was very successful to introduce these projects to the people that will work on them, and also to generate discussion about the future directions of GIS information and data sharing in our region.

### **3.5 Project Phoenix Outcome Projects**

Project briefs have been developed for a project to write a regional reconnaissance plan and a project to review the regional emergency communications system. The next steps for these projects will be the formation of project teams including representatives from TAs in the region and other experts who will guide these projects.

The regional emergency communications system project will continue over the next three financial years as the possible options to enhance our current system are identified and the recommended system implemented. Funding is available for system enhancement and implementation in 2004-2005 and 2005- 2006.

### **3.6 Rescue Co-ordination**

The Emergency Management Officer has been involved in co-ordinating the activities of the regions rescue teams. This month this has involved facilitating joint training, identifying training needs and providing advice to the teams. Planning has begun for a regional rescue exercise in May 2003.

### **3.7 Regional meetings**

A number of meetings have taken place to discuss action points flowing from Exercise Phoenix, public education, training and emergency management systems and communications. These meetings included Emergency Management Officers Committee, Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees (Wairarapa, Porirua, Wellington, Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley), Wellington Engineering Lifelines, CDEMG Working Party sub-group and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.

## **4. Environment**

### **4.1 Earthquake reports**

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 51 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:

2003 Jan 16 Mag: 4.9 Depth: 70 km *40 km north of Picton*  
2003 Jan 12 Mag: 3.3 Depth: 30 km *10 km north-west of Porirua*  
2002 Dec 31 Mag: 4.5 Depth: 30 km *10 km south-west of Featherston*  
2002 Dec 31 Mag: 3.5 Depth: 25 km *10 km north of Featherston*

### **4.2 Special Weather Bulletins**

Since the Committee's last meeting that was held on 28 November 2002, twenty three Special Weather Bulletins (8 for heavy rain and 15 for strong wind) were received. All parties involved were notified and some problems were experienced throughout the region with roofs being blown off and trees being blown over.

### **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.

**Mike Pryce**  
Manager, Harbours

## **Harbours Report - March 2003**

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### **1. Harbour Navigation Aids**

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

The all-round lantern at Pencarrow light was replaced and re-aligned after the old lantern was damaged by extreme weather.

The new lantern for Steeple Rock light is in position and will be operational once it can be correctly aligned.

A new energy-efficient LED light has been purchased for Falcon Shoal light; it will provide a more visible light whose flash will be on for longer than the old light, but will actually use less power.

### **2. Oil Pollution Response**

Ten reports of oil spills were investigated. Only one spill required any clean-up action. Several were false reports, caused by either “wind shadow” or by numerous jellyfish.

On 9 January 2003, Harbours Department staff conducted a quarterly oil spill response equipment check and stock-take of disperant and sorbents. On

27 February, MSA staff were assisted in their annual equipment audit.

### **3. Departmental Activities**

- The Deputy Harbourmaster attended the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee meeting.
- Harbour Ranger, Grant Nalder attended a Police Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee meeting.
- Harbour Ranger, Greg Meikle attended a public meeting on 20 February concerning the planned surf reef in Lyall Bay.
- Harbour Ranger, Greg Meikle and Temporary Harbour Ranger, Oliver Muller completed a water safety training course.



- A function was held for our Honorary Enforcement Officers on 27 February in the Museum of Wellington, City and Sea. This is our tangible thanks to them for undertaking the work that they do, and is also a valuable opportunity to obtain feedback on events that have taken place over the summer months.

#### 4. General

The Council's jet ski has been out in use on the water for most weekends over summer, providing Council presence and reminding boaties of their boating safety obligations; the public response has been positive and generally a pleasing level of compliance was noted.

Two infringement notices were issued, both for failing to carry lifejackets. The first was issued by the Police Maritime Unit and the second by the Harbour Rangers.

A drowning fatality off the Wairarapa Coast in January 2003 (caused by failing to carry lifejackets) has resulted in Police taking a prosecution of the master of the vessel under s65 of the Maritime Transport Act.

There has been a Council presence at nearly all of the special events on the water over the summer period.

The new Strait Shipping Ltd passenger ferry *Santa Regina* (trading as "Bluebridge") commenced commercial service on 26 December 2002.

Richard Waddy  
Divisional Accountant

## Financial position – 31 January 2003

### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the seven month period ended 31 January 2003.

<b><u>Environment Division</u></b>				
<b><u>Summary Income Statement</u></b>				
<b><u>For the Period Ended 31 January 2003</u></b>				
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Full Year</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>
Rates	4,133.1	4,133.1	--	7,085.4
Other Revenue	1,000.2	1,061.6	61.4 U	1,850.8
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,133.3</b>	<b>5,194.7</b>	<b>61.4 U</b>	<b>8,936.2</b>
<b>Less:</b>				
Direct Expenditure	4,293.0	4,686.1	393.1 F	8,064.5
Indirect Expenditure	586.3	584.6	1.7 U	1,006.1
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>4,879.3</b>	<b>5,270.7</b>	<b>391.4 F</b>	<b>9,070.6</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>254.0</b>	<b>(76.0)</b>	<b>330.0 F</b>	<b>(134.4)</b>

### 2. Surplus

Overall the Division's finances are satisfactory. For the period, an operating surplus of \$254,000 was posted. The result is significantly higher than budget, which provides for a \$76,000 deficit.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$330,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$61,000, and reduced expenditure of \$391,000.

### 3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$5,133,000 is some \$61,000 below our budget target of \$5,194,000.

Part of the reduced revenue is with the notified consents (\$23,000). Our budgets anticipated that we would have processed more in the earlier part of the year. Because a number are at a final stage (e.g. British Petroleum – change to pipeline processes at Seaview) we expect that the shortfall will be eliminated by year end.

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 training staff were diverted to emergency incidents. As a consequence our revenue line has suffered (\$10,000).

### 4. Total Expenditure

The Division's expenditure at \$4,879,000 is some \$391,000 (or 7.4%) below budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Material costs are presently under budget by \$90,000.

The spend on some programme is presently at a lower than budgeted level. Examples include the Care Groups (\$44,000) and the *Take Action* (\$13,000) programmes.

- External Contractors and Consultants were \$259,000 under budget for the period.

The shortfall is mainly with the collection of unwanted agricultural chemical collection (\$103,000), the stormwater investigation work (\$47,000) and contaminated sites work (\$40,000).

Participation in the unwanted agricultural chemical collection rate has been lower than expected. A final door to door collection is presently underway.

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

The stormwater investigation work continues to be hampered by a lack of reliable samples.

The Iwi administrative projects are currently ahead (\$47,000) of budget. However, this is a small timing issue and we anticipate an underspend at year end.

#### **4. Capital Expenditure**

The capital expenditure programme is some \$65,000 short of our budget expectations at the close of the period. The shortfall is with the vehicle replacement programme. These vehicles have since been purchased.