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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 20 August to 5 November 2004

1. Purpose

To report on work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team during the reporting period.

2. Background

The Resource Investigations Department implements the following proactive and responsive pollution control services in the Western Wellington region:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme designed to improve the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- Special projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Strategic context

Greater Wellington's Pollution Control activities give effect to the following Take 10 targets to be implemented by 2013:

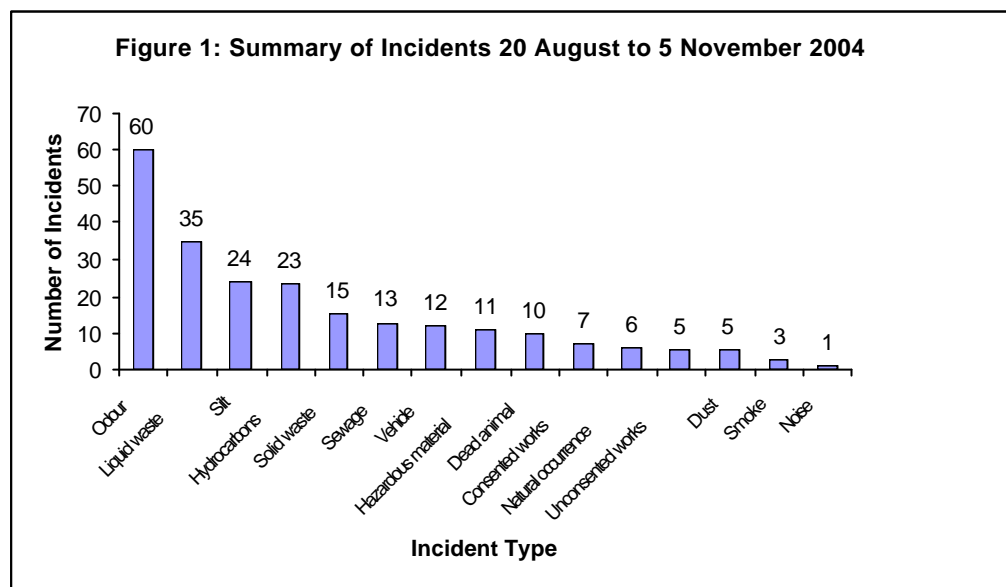
- reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- the water quality of our six most polluted streams improves;
- there will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams, and;
- there will be no overall deterioration in the health of our soils.

4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary

A total of 230 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in Attachment 1.

Although the majority of incidents were associated with odour, the number is significantly less than the same period last year, and attributed to a greater number of sites.



The most significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- A major ammonia gas release from a fishing boat at Queens Wharf led to a response by all emergency services. However, there was no significant environmental impact, other than a strong odour at the time.
- The inappropriate disposal of cleanfill material at sites in Maymorn and Wainuiomata continues. The Pollution Control Team and Hutt City Council are currently initiating regulatory proceedings in relation to the incident at Wainuiomata. The investigations are continuing at Maymorn.
- Leachate and non-cleanfill material are impacting upon the Mangaroa River in the Maymorn area. Negotiations are currently underway with land owners to prevent further impacts.
- Severe discolouration occurred in the Porirua Stream, with samples indicating elevated levels of heavy metals. Investigations did not confirm a contaminant source, although possible contributors could have been a Tawa leather factory, or flushing of a leachate line serving Wellington City Council's Northern Landfill.

- A discharge of oil from an industrial site in Belmont led to contamination of the Hutt River. Regulatory action is about to be initiated.
- Multiple discharges of silt from subdivision activities at various sites in the Region led to discussions with consultants and local authorities regarding the control of sediment-laden water entering stormwater and surface water networks.
- Inappropriate waste disposal at the Seafood City Investments Ltd site in Seaview led to an offensive odour beyond the site boundary. Regulatory proceedings have been initiated.
- Vehicular movements along a restricted section of Titahi Bay Beach are rising as the weather improves. A damaged warning sign has been reinstated and a press release describing the significance of the beach published in local papers. Proactive monitoring is being undertaken in consultation with the police.

4.2 Response summary

The time between being notified of an incident and arriving on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that the officers achieved their target response times during this reporting period.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	52 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6 hours
Blue (30 days)	3.6 days

Response to after-hours complaints is now dealt with via the AMPM call centre. There have been several instances where errors by AMPM have led to delayed or missed incidents. The Pollution Control Team is currently working with AMPM to improve their understanding to our requirements, and their ability to provide an effective service.

4.3 Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period. Significant enforcement activity undertaken includes:

- Unconsented composting activities by Sutherland and Russell resulted in them receiving an abatement notice to stop further composting.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices	9
Infringement Notices	2
Abatement Notices	4
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

- Ray Piper Panel and Paint was served with an abatement notice requiring its stack comply with permitted activity rules, following confirmation of offensive and objectionable odour beyond the site boundary. The abatement notice was complied with.
- A discharge of alkaline stormwater to the unnamed tributary of Hutt River in Belmont led to Allied Concrete receiving infringement and abatement notices. The infringement fine was paid and the abatement notice complied with.
- An infringement notice was issued to Artie Mathew Hunter after his vehicle was found parked on restricted part of Titahi Bay beach.
- Drogue Construction Limited was served an abatement notice following the disposal of cleanfill material in the bed of an unnamed tributary.
- Capital Carpets Services Limited was issued with an infringement notice following a breach of its abatement notice.
- Brooklyn Holdings Limited paid its two infringement fines, which were issued for inadequate control of stormwater run-off from subdivision earthworks.
- Graham Alexander complied with the requirements of an enforcement order to remove non-cleanfill material from earthworks at his Mangaroa property.

5. Take Charge

Take Charge site assessments will resume following the appointment of a Sustainable Business Co-ordinator in the Environment Education department.

6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team is currently undertaking the following special projects:

- Implementation of Muddy waters' recommendations continues. Workshops for territorial authority officers have been planned for

December 2004, and the development of a guideline for erosion and sediment control on small building sites is well advanced.

- Investigation of Fonterra dairy farms in the Region, to verify that they had discharge permits as required by the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land. Six suppliers did not have permits, and steps are underway to remedy this.
- Development of a spill response protocol for use by Territorial Authorities and emergency response organisations dealing with hazardous substance spills onto roads and other paved areas.
- Development of a photo profile for significant tracking activity in the region. Despite major disturbance to vegetation and soil, potential quality impact on receiving waters, and major visual impact, much of the tracking activity falls within our permitted activity rules.
- Delivery of a presentation to concrete cutting contractors in conjunction with United Networks. This outlined the environmental consequences of concrete cutting and acceptable work practices.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary