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Committee **Environment Committee**
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Investigations**

Pollution Control Report for the period 14 January to 11 March 2005

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 service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with 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, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Strategic context

Pollution Control activities contribute to the following Take 10 targets:

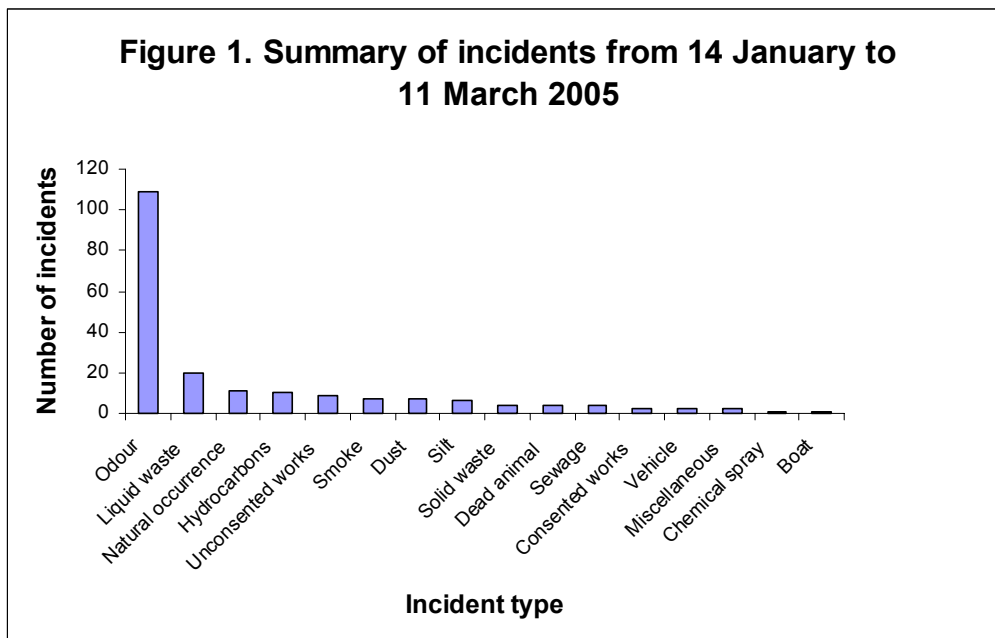
- reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- the water quality of our five most polluted streams improves;
- there will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams;
- there will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

4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary

A total of 199 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information is provided in Attachment 1.

The majority of incidents were associated with odour from industrial sources. Of the 109 reported odour incidents, the majority were attributed to Taylor Preston (23%), Carey's Gully (17%), waste treatment facilities in Seaview (23%), fish processing plants (8%) and miscellaneous sources (29%). The increase in odour complaints for Seaview industries has arisen due to a spate of complaints regarding the Hutt Valley Wastewater Treatment Scheme (HVWWS) and the Nuplex site. The Pollution Control Team is currently undertaking pro-active monitoring at the Nuplex site, while the Consents Management Department is working with HVWWS with respect to influent variability and consent non-compliance.



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

- On 8 February 2005, an offensive and objectionable odour was confirmed from the Wellington Hospital Total Energy Centre. Investigations confirmed there was no resource consent for this discharge, and Capital Coast Health is currently in the process of retrospectively applying for the necessary resource consents.
- Investigation into discoloration of the Black Creek and dead fish in central Lower Hutt confirmed the source to be inappropriate waste disposal practices by a painting contractor working for Surfaceworks Plastering. Cost recovery has been initiated for this incident.
- Several water pollution incidents were attributed to run-off from newly laid concrete into adjacent surfacewater. Following recent performance

improvements by concrete supply companies, the Pollution Control Team is now focusing on the inappropriate disposal of washwater by concrete pumping contractors.

- There were two accidents involving Mobil bulk fuel storage facilities on the same weekend in March. The aviation fuel tank in Miramar released up to 20,000 litres into its containment bund following failure of a shut-off valve and overflow alarm. A rupture in the Ngaio Gorge bunker oil bulk storage tank released oil into the containment bund. Investigations are currently underway to ascertain the causal factors and ensure appropriate steps are taken to prevent recurrence.
- In March, a mobile crane toppled over an embankment, resulting in a leak of fuel and hydraulic oil into the Botanic Gardens duck pond via the stormwater network. Greater Wellington is seeking to recover costs for the clean-up.
- Unconsented vegetation clearance and earthworks by Ohiro Properties Limited resulted in the destruction of a tributary to the Ohiro Stream. Greater Wellington has made an application to the Environment Court for an interim enforcement order requiring Ohiro Properties to re-instate the stream.

4.2 Response summary

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 officers met the mean response times for all incident response targets.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	60 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6 hours
Blue (30 days)	2.4 days

4.3 Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Infringement notices were served on the registered owners of several vehicles seen on restricted parts of Titahi Bay Beach (Fairhaven Developments, Tessa Corin Lont, Telecom Directories Limited, Aran Frederick Hinkley and Linda June Hosking).

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices	9
Infringement Notices	5
Abatement Notices	2
Enforcement Orders	1
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

Abatement notices were served on the following:

- KP & LP Wharfe, Murphy Enterprises Limited to stabilise an embankment (resulting from sediment pond failure) and to divert surface water around the site.
- C & M Transport Limited to clean-up oil contaminated soil on site, improve secondary containment for oil storage, and discharge process waste water to the trade waste system.

Advisory Notices were issued for a range of incidents where impacts were minor, typically requiring an activity to cease and the affected area to be cleaned-up.

5. Take Charge

The Pollution Control Team is working with Vector to develop an environmental management guideline for contractors involved in power cable installation and maintenance.

Following the confirmation of Resene Paints as the source of paint input to the Waiwhetu Stream, the Pollution Control Team is working with the Company to ensure appropriate upgrade of site stormwater drainage.

Exide Technologies has requested that Greater Wellington undertake a Take Charge assessment of its battery recycling plant at Petone, following confirmation of significant lead contamination in the Te Mome Stream, attributed to uncontrolled releases from this site.

A new Take Charge project is proposed for an industrial area in Paraparaumu, to be conducted in conjunction with Kapiti Coast District Council. This will involve an assessment of all industrial sites within the stormwater catchment of Drain 6.

6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team and Consents Management Department are continuing to work on developing resource materials, implementing the

recommendations of the Muddy Waters initiative presented to Environment Committee on 24 June 2004.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary