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**Committee** Environment Committee  
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## **Pollution Control Report for the period 11 March to 1 May 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:

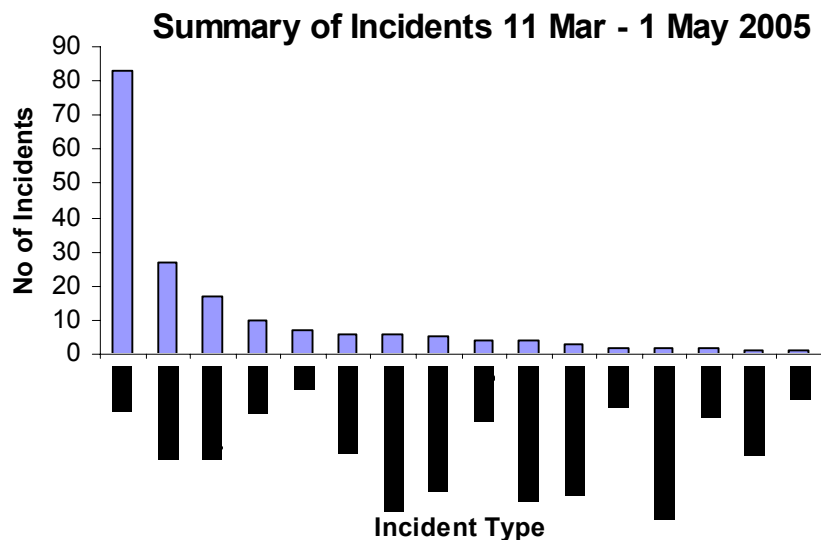
- reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- the water quality of our five most polluted streams improves;
- there will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams;
- there will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

## 4. Incidents

### 4.1 Incident summary

A total of 180 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 emissions from industrial sources. Of the 83 reported odour incidents, 29 (35%) were attributed to the Carey's Gully Complex, 18 (22%) to Taylor Preston, and 14 (17%) to the Seaview wastewater treatment plant. It appears that the rise in odour complaints for the Seaview wastewater treatment plant is attributed to illegal trade waste discharges, which the Hutt City Council and plant operator are currently investigating.

There has also been a recent increase in discharges of liquid waste to the environment, principally to stormwater (70%) and surface water (18%).



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

- Recurring discharges of silt into Owhiro Stream from earthworks undertaken by Ohiro Properties Ltd. These earthworks included the clearance of vegetation and unauthorised works in the bed of a stream. An interim enforcement order is being sought from the Environment court to prevent further unauthorised works on the site and the rehabilitation of the stream. Abatement notices have been issued to address silt control issues.
- Power Boat racing in the Porirua Harbour resulted in several noise complaints from nearby residents. Subsequent monitoring of noise levels at nearby residential boundaries showed that the activities exceeded noise standards for the coastal marine area. Council Officers have contacted the organisation involved and advised that they need to reduce noise levels for future boat racing activities or obtain a resource consent.
- A large diesel spill occurred at Lindale, Paraparaumu after the fuel tank of a Freightlines truck ruptured. The spilt diesel entered a stormwater drain but

was recovered with only a minor effect on the environment. We are seeking to recover the costs arising from clean-up activities.

- The storm event which occurred on the 30 April 2005 caused the loss of the access road on Pencarrow lakes. Emergency works were undertaken by the owner to restore the access roadway.
- There were a total of four discharges of dilute sewage to Lavender Bay from the short outfall serving Wellington City Council's sewage treatment plant (now operated by United Water International) on 31 March and 1 April. The discharges were attributed to a number of discrete electrical and mechanical failures, all of which have now been rectified, or are in the process of being addressed.

## 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 identifies that the officers were able to achieve the mean response times for all incident response targets for this period. It should be noted that the 'Blue' response has now been changed from 30 days to 7 days, which is considered to be a more appropriate target.

**Table 1: Response time summary**

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	29 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	10.5 hours
Blue (7 days)	1.63 days

## 4.3 Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

**Table 2: Summary of enforcement action**

Advisory Notices	11
Infringement Notices	0
Abatement Notices	9
Enforcement Order Applications	1
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

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.

No infringement notices were issued for this period. An Infringement Notice served for driving on a restricted part of Titahi Bay beach will now proceed to a court hearing at the recipient's request. A fixture has been set for 30 May 2005 in the Porirua District Court.

Abatement notices were served on the following during this period:

- Ohiro Properties Ltd, Melanie Templeton and Lance James s(32(1)(a)(i) for unauthorised discharges of silt from a subdivision into the Owhiro Stream.
- Warren Leslie and Metal Immersions Ltd, s(32(1)(a)(i), for unauthorised discharges to air from garnet blasting.
- Gary Smith and Bodyworks Panel and Paint Ltd, s(32(1)(b)(i), for unauthorised discharges of solvent to the air.

An interim Enforcement Order has been sought against Lance James and Ohiro Properties Ltd in relation to unauthorised works in the bed of a stream on Ohiro Properties Ltd site in Ohiro Road. This was heard at the Wellington District Court on 16 May 2005.

## **5. Take Charge**

A new Take Charge project is now underway. This involves assessment of an industrial area in Paraparaumu, situated within the stormwater catchment of Drain 6 (which is a tributary of the Wharamouku Stream). This work is being done in collaboration with Kapiti Coast District Council, and the first stage comprising 40 sites is scheduled for completion in July 2005.

## **6. Special projects**

The Pollution Control Team contributed to Greater Wellington's submission to Ohiro Properties Limited's application to change rule 30 in the Wellington City Council District Plan. It was considered that the subdivision of land currently zoned rural would adversely affect the quality and flow regime of the Owhiro Stream, and the associated ecosystem.

Discussions are underway to develop a pollution control Memorandum of Understanding between Greater Wellington and Porirua City Council. A similar agreement between Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council has now been signed.

The Pollution Control Team is working with Vector (a national electricity network infrastructure contractor) to develop environmental guidelines for use by their contractors in the Wellington region.

Following our proactive investigations of uncontrolled discharges of process wastewater from Exide Technologies, Petone, Exide have agreed to participate

in a *Take Charge* assessment on their battery recycling facility. Staff are investigating the effects of the discharges on the stream. Exide are also carrying out a parallel environmental monitoring exercise.

## **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