

# **Environment Management Division Quarterly Review**

June 2006

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## 1. Divisional Manager's Report – Nigel Corry

This is my first quarterly report where I have been Divisional Manager for the entire quarter, and it also represents the last report where I will be reporting under the 'old' Divisional Structure. As of next quarter, the Managers and I will report as per the structure effective from 1 July 2006.

For me, this quarter has been dominated by going through the process of developing, and consulting on, this new Divisional structure. It is well worth taking the time to note how impressed I have been with the overall attitude of all in the Division when going through this work. While feedback was, at times, frank, it was always well thought out, thoughtfully presented, and fair. There has been a strong willingness from everybody to make a new structure based on function, as opposed to geography, work. I am extremely pleased where we were at by the end of this quarter, and am excited by the prospect of moving forward with the new structure.

During the quarter, I have also focused a considerable period of time on managing our response to implementing the requirements of the Building Act 2004. You are aware that we have been able to engage Paula Hammond to assist us in this work, and reports will have gone to Council prior to our meeting outlining the requirements of the Act, as well as seeking approval to undertake consultation on the Dangerous Dams Policy. There has already been some media interest in the Dangerous Dams Policy, and it is going to be a challenge to ensure that the significance of this policy is not overplayed.

You also know that John Sherriff left the organisation at the beginning of July, and there is a briefer than usual report from the Resource Investigations Department this quarter. This also represents the last quarter where Nicola Shorten will be providing a report, as she departs around mid- August for parental leave. Nicola will be greatly missed as she provides an excellent level of leadership in a department where there are some significant areas of work occurring. We, of course, wish her well as she tackles motherhood!

Finally, as with the last quarterly report, the financials are reported combining both the Wellington and Wairarapa offices, and there is a separate report from Ted Taylor summarising the work in the Wairarapa office for the quarter.

A brief summary of work highlights for each Department is provided below.

### **Environment Education**

The *Take Action* programme achieved a major milestone in completing the *Take Action for Air* training module. The development of this training material was undertaken in conjunction with Transport staff, and represents a good example of different Divisions working together, and breaking down 'silos'. There has also been some good success in the business sustainability area, where the results of the Majestic Building waste Reduction Trial were reported, with an extremely impressive 48% reduction in waste and recycling management costs resulting from the Trial. Based in part on the success of this project, the waste reduction programme for business will be expanded, with the help of a Sustainable Management Fund grant from the Ministry for the Environment, and in conjunction with the Wellington City Council. Complementing this work with business is the success of the EnviroSmart programme, where we have recruited 12 businesses to participate in the programme, a result that is one of the highest in the country. Work in this area emphasises the benefits of the 'transition' in the

environmental education programme away from the *Take Charge* delivery of our relationship with businesses, to one more focused on sustainable business management. I would also like to note the highly successful Restoration Day programme in late May, which was oversubscribed with more than 180 people turning out on a wet day to join in the annual celebration and training event for those involved in care groups and ecosystem restoration.

### **Resource Policy**

Efficiency and Effectiveness reviews of our Regional Plan are in the process of being taken through the Environment Committee, with some potentially significant changes recommended in relation to the Freshwater Plan. In short, these changes relate to ‘capping’ takes from a number of rivers and groundwater areas in the Wairarapa. The Regional Policy Statement review has continued throughout the quarter, with the release of *Our Region – their future* for public consultation, presentations on the review process to all Councils in the region, Councillor workshops, and staff presentations. We have also been working on ensuring that we have everything in place to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Standards for Air. We have recently had our first exceedences in relation to this standard (in the Wairarapa air shed) and will be reporting this in local newspapers at the end for the month (as required by the Standard). Overall, however, we are not overly worried about our compliance with this Standard. In conjunction with the Wellington City Council, we have nominated project Kaiwharawhara for New Zealand Post Excellence Award. There has also been some good progress in relation to the Waiwhetu Project, with studies being completed in relation to determining the level of contaminants entering the stream from the stormwater system.

### **Consents Management**

This was an extremely busy quarter for the Consents Department, with a number of major notified consents going through the system including the Hilton ‘Outer T’ application, the second Wellington Marine Conservation Centre suite of applications, and seven other notified applications. The Hilton and Marine Conservation Centre application have been characterised by an unprecedented level of public interest, with a huge number of submissions that have been a genuine challenge to deal with. Media interest has been high in these applications, and this has been extremely well managed. Most of us cannot remember of a time when we have had such a glut of major notified applications going through the system. In addition to this work, we have also been involved in more than a month of hearings at the Environment Court in relation to the Meridian West Wind appeals. The Wellington and Wairarapa offices have also been working extremely well together to co-ordinate systems and processes, and this has resulted in an excellent ‘head start’ for the Environmental Regulation Department.

### **Resource Investigations**

A major milestone was achieved when the water quality sampling testing tenders were awarded for the next three years. Contracts were ultimately awarded to Biostandards, EOS Ecology, and Hill Laboratories. A *Take Charge* assessment programme was undertaken in the Gracefield area, continuing a trend of successful catchment based *Take Charge* assessments. This work is a useful starting point for further assessment of stormwater discharges referred to earlier as part of the Waiwhetu project. *Take Charge* continues to be a highly worthwhile programme. We also released a ‘Small Site Guideline’ publication in the quarter which provides practical guidance for developers and local authorities around how to manage sediment loss from small development sites. This publication continues our leadership role in promoting good practice around silt and sediment control which has developed through the *Muddy Waters* Programme.

## **Harbours**

A major exercise, *Operation Hard Rock*, was one of the highlights this quarter for the Harbours department. A Tier 3 oil spill exercise, this involved the Harbours Department (and a number of other GW staff) and also the Harbour Master and staff from Marlborough District Council. A number of Councillors visited Beacon Hill during the quarter. Planning work around the upgrades to the Beacon Hill station is a priority for the coming quarter.

## **Planning and Resources – Wairarapa**

There are a number of appeals and objections on the go in the Wairarapa at the moment, notably around an application to take groundwater from the Battersea groundwater zone (the Benton application). There has been some political interest in this application, and subsequent appeal, particularly around costs. The prosecution against Lansdowne Developments Limited has recently been successfully resolved in favour of the Council. We also continue to submit on a large number of consent applications to District Councils as part of our planning work in the Wairarapa.

The Division's financial situation at the end of the quarter follows, along with the full Department Managers' reports. These provide additional information on the issues raised above, and also in relation to the Departments overall work programme.

Nigel Corry  
Divisional Manager, Environment Management

## 2. Divisional Financial Reports

### 2.1 Financial Performance Statement

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Financial Performance Statement Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
10,037	9,831	9,831	Rates & Levies	9,831	9,831	10,037
165	166	94	Government Grants & Subsidies	94	145	165
1,364	1,607	1,467	External Revenue	1,467	1,610	1,364
16	14	14	Investment Revenue	14	14	16
974	1,024	1,009	Internal Revenue	1,009	1,008	974
<b>12,556</b>	<b>12,642</b>	<b>12,415</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,415</b>	<b>12,608</b>	<b>12,556</b>
			<i>less:</i>			
5,757	5,811	5,986	Personnel Costs	5,986	5,859	5,757
1,135	1,358	1,311	Materials,Supplies & Services	1,311	1,451	1,135
235	222	186	Travel & Transport Costs	186	206	235
1,631	1,432	1,502	Contractor & Consultants	1,502	1,379	1,631
5	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	5
1,955	1,917	1,993	Internal Charges	1,993	1,964	1,955
<b>10,718</b>	<b>10,740</b>	<b>10,978</b>	<b>Total Direct Expenditure</b>	<b>10,978</b>	<b>10,859</b>	<b>10,718</b>
-	-	7	Financial Costs	7	-	-
(8)	5	-	Bad Debts	-	-	(8)
1,243	1,296	1,296	Corporate & Department Overheads	1,296	1,296	1,243
323	343	401	Depreciation	401	374	323
(60)	(5)	(24)	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets	(24)	(9)	(60)
1,498	1,639	1,680	<b>TOTAL INTERNAL CHARGES</b>	1,680	1,661	1,498
<b>12,216</b>	<b>12,379</b>	<b>12,658</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,658</b>	<b>12,520</b>	<b>12,216</b>
<b>340</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>(243)</b>	<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(243)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>340</b>

#### 2.1.1 Revenue

##### Year to date revenue budget variances increases

Total Revenue at \$12,642,000 is some \$227,000 more than our budget target of \$12,415,000.

- Most of the increase arises from Meridian's wind farm consent application and the attendant commissioners' costs (recoverable);
- Additional notified consents processed for a major activity – e.g. Meridian notified consent (\$196,000);
- Biodiversity initiatives - additional grant funds received from DoC (\$51,000);
- Ministry for the Environment contribution towards monitoring air quality (\$34,000); and
- Part-recovery of the wave rider buoy charges (\$22,000).

##### Year to date revenue budget variances decreases

- A reduced call on Harbour's and Resource Investigation's staff time with consent monitoring (\$44,000).

### **Actuals vs. Forecast for the year ended 30 June 2006**

- Revenue came in at \$12,642,000, and this is slightly ahead of our forecast by some \$34,000. Maritime New Zealand, reimbursed us our costs of \$18,000 for our part in Operation Hard Rock, held on 3-4 May. This contribution had not been provided for specifically in our forecast.

#### 2.1.2 Expenditure

##### **Year to date expenditure budget variances**

The Division's total expenditure at \$12,379,000 is some \$279,000 (or 2.2%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$175,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. We assume for budgeting purposes that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- Materials, Supplies and Services costs were more than budget by \$47,000.

Meridian's resource consent applications for Project West Wind, a wind farm near Makara, have been completed. Commissioners' costs, associated with the application amounted to some \$160,000, and these have been taken into account.

During the period the State of Environment Report (SER) was completed with printing costs slightly less than we budgeted (\$10,000).

- Consultant costs were less than budget by \$70,000.

Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets. These are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance.

Some of the projects that fall into this category are as follows:

- policy works - special marine studies (\$44,000).
- investigatory works - groundwater (\$45,000) and soil analysis (\$21,000).

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$170,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with this type of work there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects.

These shortfalls have been offset, to an extent, by the additional costs that arose from the independent review of the *Take Care* Programme (\$19,000), Biodiversity work (\$36,000), Pollution response work (\$43,000) and Ambient air quality (\$29,000).

- Internal charges were lower than budget by \$76,000

Most of the underspend arises from a reduced call for work for consent monitoring from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation.

### **Actuals vs. Forecast for the year ended 30 June 2006**

The Division's total expenditure came in at \$12,379,000 or \$141,000 less than our forecast.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- The personnel line at \$5,811,000 was some \$48,000 less than our forecast. The underspend is caused by staff changes and movements in the last few months of the year at a level slightly higher than anticipated.
- Material costs at \$1,358,000 appear to be underspent by some \$93,000 compared to our forecast. However, most of the spend has been analysed and more properly shown as contract labour costs, which form part of consultant costs, instead of project materials. Examples include contractors engaged in the Wetland project and design work for the state of the environment report, Measuring Up.
- Consultant costs came in at \$1,432,000, an overall increase of some \$53,000 compared to our forecast.
- Some of that increase is caused by the reclassification of material costs.
- In addition, some of the increased spend has been offset with the collection of unwanted agrichemicals (\$40,000) has been set aside because of time constraints and the Waiwhetu Stream Project not requiring any funds from this division.
- Internal charges were some \$47,000 less than anticipated in our forecast and these were caused, mainly, by Wairarapa Technical Service's and Resource Investigation's charges for compliance work coming in at a lower level than anticipated.
- Depreciation charges are lower than expected by some \$31,000 less than our forecast. Because some assets were acquired or commissioned later in the year than expected and these attracted a lower depreciation charge.



## 2.2 Funding Impact Statement

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Funding Statement Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
338	263	(242)	Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(242)	88	338
323	343	401	Add Back Depreciation	401	374	323
(60)	(5)	(24)	Book (Gain)/Loss on Sale of Assets	(24)	(9)	(60)
601	601	135	<b>Funds from Operations</b>	135	453	601
84	10	36	Asset Disposals	36	24	84
-	-	200	New Loans	200	-	-
299	165	165	Transfer from Reserves	165	35	299
<b>984</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>984</b>
			<i>less:</i>			
431	124	506	Asset Acquisitions	506	262	431
235	234	-	Capital Projects	-	-	235
-	-	-	Investment Additions	-	-	-
-	4	15	Loan/Debenture Repayments	15	-	-
16	14	14	Reserve Interest Received	14	14	16
165	-	-	Transfer to Reserves	-	82	165
<b>847</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS APPLIED</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>137</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>NET FUNDS SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>137</b>

### 2.2.1 Capital Expenditure Items and reserve transfers

#### Actuals vs. Forecast for the year ended 30 June 2006

The following additional capital items have been acquired. A replacement vehicle has been purchased for the new Divisional Manager following the restructure (\$30,000), the Upper Hutt - Wellfield monitoring equipment (\$18,000) has been commissioned and the Transport emissions Air Quality station programme was some \$40,000 more than forecast.

Harbours – Capital expenditure of \$200,000 for the safety management systems (loan funded) has been transferred to the new financial year. The loan has not been raised nor have we incurred any attendant interest costs. Because no transactions have occurred, the 2006-07 capital and internal loan budgets have been adjusted.

Wairarapa – two capital items (a vehicle - \$30,000 and hydrology equipment - \$20,000) have been deferred until the new financial year. A reserve transfer, net of disposal proceeds, of \$38,000 is proposed.

Resource Policy – under-spends from 2005-06 carried over into the new financial year. These are for the Marine protection (Wairarapa beach survey) - \$44,000, and QE11 National Trust/Biodiversity works - \$130,000 (estimated).

## 2.3 Capital Expenditure

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Capital Expenditure Statement Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
-	-	-	Land Acquisitions	-	-	-
-	-	50	Building Acquisitions	50	-	-
247	105	106	Vehicle Acquisitions	106	82	247
-	-	-	Furniture & Fittings Acquisitions	-	-	-
180	19	350	Plant Acquisitions	350	179	180
4	-	-	Computer Equipment Acquisitions	-	-	4
-	-	-	Structures Acquisitions	-	-	-
-	-	-	Flood Protection Infrastructure Acquisitions	-	-	-
-	-	-	Parks & Forests Infrastructure Acquisitions	-	-	-
-	-	-	Water Infrastructure Acquisitions	-	-	-
-	-	-	Floodplain Mgmt Plan Acquisitions	-	-	-
<b>431</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>Total Asset Acquisitions</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>431</b>
<b>235</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Capital Project Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>235</b>
(84)	(10)	(36)	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(36)	(24)	(84)
<b>582</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>Net Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>582</b>

### Year to date variances

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) at \$348,000 is generally in line with our budget, after deducting the Harbour - Safety Management Systems (\$200,000) which has been carried over into the new year and the slightly increased spend on the vehicle replacement programme.

The Air Quality station programme has been completed slightly over (\$120,000 vs \$80,000) budget. The Transport Division provided funds of \$105,000 towards the station.

The following additional capital items have been acquired. A replacement vehicle has been purchased for the new Divisional Manager following the restructure (\$30,000). The previous incumbent drove off with the new manager's vehicle.

Also the Upper Hutt - Wellfield monitoring equipment (\$18,000) has been commissioned for the Water Supply, Parks and Forests Division. The project has been funded by that division.

The harbour vehicle which had been held-over for use over the summer months by the Harbour Ranger has since been sold (June).

In addition, a vehicle in the Wairarapa due to be replaced this year has been deferred until next year.

### Forecast adjustments for year ended 30 June 2006

#### *Harbour - Safety Management Systems (\$200,000)*

The budget provides \$200,000 for the new Harbour Safety Management Systems by way of a loan. The acquisition and implementation of the Harbour Safety Management Systems is the next step that follows the port and harbour risk assessment. In December 2005, that assessment was completed and some formative plans formulated. However, these were plans not final and

yet to be implemented. Accordingly, the capital expenditure programme and loan funds have been reduced by \$200,000 with both items transferred into the next financial year (2006/07).

*Wairarapa – Managers vehicle (\$18,000)*

The Manager's vehicle, planned to be replaced this year, has been carried over into 2006-07. The vehicle has not reached the threshold at which it can be replaced (i.e. either 4 years old and/or 100,000 kms. or are 5 years old).

*Wairarapa – hydrology equipment (\$20,000)*

The remote/telemetered water quality monitoring instrumentation upgrade has been held over until other options have been tested fully and transferred to 2006/07.

## **2.4 Unbudgeted Expenditure Items: Additional funding requirements**

### **2.4.1 Waiwhetu Stream Project**

The 2005/06 financial year has seen the amalgamation of the contaminated sediments remediation project (run by the Environment Management Division) and the floodplain management study (run by the Catchment Management Division) into one project ("The Waiwhetu Project").

As a result of this amalgamation, the sediments project has had to be advanced so that decision points that affect the flood project can be concluded by 30 June 2006. This has resulted in the need for additional funding for consultants to undertake the following work:

- Workshop to narrow down remediation options;
- Detailed assessment of the feasibility of the two "shortlisted" options; and
- Detailed chemical testing of sediments to determine acceptability for landfill disposal and acceptability of liquid waste for disposal via trade waste sewer.

The total cost of the additional work is estimated at \$75,000. The Hutt City Council has agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost. Our contribution amounts to \$37,500.

These funds have not been drawn down because the Catchment Management Division funded the project fully.

### **2.4.2 Sustainable Business Network**

We have been working with Sustainable Business Network on a regional "sustainable business challenge", an awards programme for businesses that assist them to become more sustainable.

The Sustainable Business Challenge is a business environmental awards programme. Business receive awards for their implementation of waste reduction, energy efficiency, resource use efficiency, environmental management systems, and so on. The Challenge would be carried out in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network (SBN). In addition to awards, however, all businesses that enter receive an assessment of their environmental performance and consultant's advice from the SBN. This makes the programme different from most awards

programmes – it's really designed to foster and increase business sustainability and is thus in line with GW's aims for businesses in the region.

Through funding from GW of \$20,000 we would become the cornerstone sponsor and the awards would be known as the *Greater Wellington Sustainable Business Challenge*. There are also second and third tier sponsors. The programme has been run successfully by Environment Bay of Plenty; and we have engaged the consultancy that ran the challenge in that region.

The challenge is a high profile media event and includes radio and newspaper promotions. It will provide quite a bit of media coverage for GW. There is a formal dinner/event at which the awards are presented.

The cost of the programme amounts to some \$20,000. The project has been funded from savings within the Environment Education Department.

### 2.4.3 Beacon Hill Communications Station

One of the key recommendations of Marico's report is to improve the Beacon Hill facility, and this is intended to cover equipment, staff training and staff numbers. Currently, there are five full time permanent employees, two of whom remain on the former Harbour Board terms.

While Beacon Hill has always been able to provide an adequate 24/7 service, this has come at the expense of elevated leave balances and staff working on 12 hour shifts. This is not sustainable.

To resolve this, the full-time staff complement of the station has been increased to six. Staff have since resumed working 9 hour shifts instead of the 12 hour shifts as previously. There are obvious other benefits – the risk of fatigue and human error minimised, and new staff trained to meet the requirements of the safety management systems. The financial cost is estimated at around \$50,000 pa.

## 2.5 Items included in the forecast and re-budgeted in the 2006-07 year

### 2.5.1 QE11 National Trust

The QE11 National Trust has approved further covenants and we have committed funds for which we are yet to receive reimbursement claims from land-owners, these amount to some \$120,000. As a consequence outstanding claims of \$120,000 have been carried over into 2006/07.

### 2.5.2 Biodiversity Projects

Greater Wellington has been successful with its proposals to complete a range of biodiversity projects with funds provided from the Department of Conservation. At year end a balance (unspent commitment) of \$10,000 has been carried over into the new financial year.

### 2.5.3 Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Survey

The coastal and marine ecosystem survey for the Wairarapa beaches has been delayed because the previous survey (Wellington harbour, south coast and Kapiti coast) has only just been completed. We have carried-over the unspent budget (\$14,000) into the new financial year.

### 3. Departmental Financial Summaries

#### 3.1 Total revenue

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Total Revenue Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
532	567	567	Environment Support	567	567	532
9,268	9,506	9,274	Managing Resources	9,274	9,480	9,268
1,467	1,547	1,553	Harbours	1,553	1,539	1,467
1,288	1,024	1,022	Environment Education	1,022	1,022	1,288
12,555	12,643	12,416	Environment 06	12,416	12,608	12,555

#### 3.2 Total expenditure

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Total Expenditure Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
538	544	574	Environment Support	574	540	538
8,877	9,174	9,450	Managing Resources	9,450	9,341	8,877
1,543	1,561	1,577	Harbours	1,577	1,600	1,543
1,259	1,101	1,058	Environment Education	1,058	1,039	1,259
12,217	12,380	12,658	Environment 06	12,658	12,520	12,217

#### 3.3 Operating Surplus/Deficit

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
(7)	23	(7)	Environment Support	(7)	27	(7)
392	331	(176)	Managing Resources	(176)	139	392
(76)	(14)	(24)	Harbours	(24)	(61)	(76)
29	(78)	(36)	Environment Education	(36)	(17)	29
338	263	(242)	Environment 06	(242)	88	338

#### 3.4 Funding Impact

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Funding Surplus/(Deficit) Year ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
-	(1)	-	Environment Support	-	34	-
-	417	-	Managing Resources	-	139	-
(33)	32	-	Harbours	-	(38)	(33)
171	(49)	-	Environment Education	-	19	171
139	399	-	Environment 06	-	154	139

### 3.5 Capital Expenditure

<b>Last Year Actual YTD \$000</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$000</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$000</b>	<b>Environment Net Capital Expenditure Year ended 31 March 2006</b>	<b>FY Budget \$000</b>	<b>FY Forecast \$000</b>	<b>Last Year Actual FY \$000</b>
-	30	-	Environment Support	-	-	-
501	300	225	Managing Resources	225	193	501
31	19	245	Harbours	245	45	31
49	-	-	Environment Education	-	-	49
<b>582</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>Environment 06</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>582</b>

#### **4. Department Managers' Reports**

## 4.1 Environment Education Department – Geoff Skene

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### 4.1.1 *Take Action*

#### **Term 2 Schools**

Term two guided and self guided schools completed their outdoor investigations and have begun working on ways to take action in their local environment. Self-guided schools in term two were Wainuiomata Intermediate, Pukeatua (Wainuiomata), St Claudine (Wainuiomata), Eastern Hutt, Tawa Intermediate, and Discovery School (Whitby). The guided schools were Wilford (Lower Hutt), Epuni (Lower Hutt) and Holy Family (Canons Creek).

A further school, Papakowhai (which also did the programme in 2001) initiated the programme themselves in term two from the Council's web site. We did the multi-media for them, and they have completed the field trip. They will be doing their action phase this term. I haven't counted them as one of our schools yet, but if they complete their action projects they will have met all of our criteria.

#### **New programme**

*Take Action for Air* has been completed and is ready for schools to use. *Take Action for Air* follows the "investigate-explore-take action" format used in *Take Action* and focuses on known air quality issues in the region stemming from domestic fires and motor vehicles.

#### **Number of schools**

Since my last report St Bernands College (Lower Hutt – three classes) has pulled out due to the departure of a key teacher from the school. At the same time, St Theresa's school (Featherston – three classes) has joined up as a guided school for term four. Wadestown School has deferred from term three to term four. In term four Hutt International Boys School has opted not to participate. However, three classes at St Bernadettes will do *Take Action for Air* in term three. Overall, the total number for calendar 2006 is 25 schools (not including Papakowhai). This amount of change is not really surprising given the number of schools we are dealing with and the fact that schools usually commit to the programme between 6 and 12 months before they commence it.

### 4.1.2 *Take Charge*, business sustainability etc

#### **Majestic Building Waste Reduction Trial**

This project was reported to the May meeting of the Environment Committee. A total of 23.5 tonnes of recyclable material was collected over the three month trial period. Recycling and composting has been instituted for the building and, overall, waste management and recycling costs have been reduced by 48%.

#### **SMF application for office waste trials**

This application (made with WCC) was successful. It will enable us to run waste reduction exercises for businesses in three Wellington office buildings. Work has commenced with WCC planning the project.



## **EnviroSmart**

EnviroSmart will commence in the Wellington region later this month following a successful recruitment drive that filled 12 of the 13 available places. The businesses include a number of printing houses and there are four manufacturers. Michelle contributed to the recruitment alongside Landcare Research staff by contacting a number of the businesses with whom she has worked.

## **Get Sustainable Challenge**

The closing date for businesses to join the *Get Sustainable Challenge* was June 30. Invitations to participate in the Challenge were widely distributed throughout the region via business networks and there was a two page article on business sustainability in the Dominion Post in the middle of June. At 30 June, 23 businesses had entered, with the possibility of one or two more to come. Once again, Michelle worked alongside the SBN people to recruit businesses.

## **Website**

Michelle has completed the updating of the business sustainability pages of the web site. This is a huge improvement on what was there previously.

## **GW waste reduction**

The Bokashi system is still in operation and working well. We are also still looking at how to reduce the amount of hand tissue in the bathrooms.

## **GW suppliers**

Chris Gray has approached us with the opportunity to contact a number/or all of our suppliers as he has to write to them for his purposes. We could use this opportunity to gather some information on their business sustainability. We are looking at what we might wish to know and of whom. It is highly unlikely we would want to get information about all of the suppliers but we may want to ask the major ones some questions. This is continuing.

### 4.1.3 Community and restoration

#### **Corporate volunteers**

Twelve volunteers from Accor Hotels attended a planting day at Moehau Stream on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Approximately 350 trees grown by Upper Hutt Forest & Bird were planted. There were six corporate planting events this year in total. We are getting a lot more enquiries about corporate events, often by small groups that are too small to make a difference. We try to aggregate them so that a planting event achieves something. There will be a Honda Tree planting event on the Kakaho Stream (Gray farm) for BP and ANZ staff in July.

#### ***Take Care***

With winter's arrival, care groups have moved into planting mode and have commenced their major planting events. In the last six weeks the following groups have been active:

- The Churton Park group planted 500 flax, carex, and totoe beside a tributary of the Porirua Stream on June 10. Forty people attended, a good outcome for this new group;

- The Glenside Streamcare Group on the Porirua Stream held a planting day on June 10;
- At Henley lake there was a planting day on June 17<sup>th</sup>
- The Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group planted over 1000 pingao and spinifex in June. The group featured in two articles in the Dominion Post and Eastbourne Herald in connection with Restoration Day;
- The Waitohu Group continues to hold regular working bees every Monday. The group held their annual mid-winter swim and AGM on Sunday June 25;
- At Riversdale, the dune management group had a planting day in June;
- The Island Bay dune group had two planting days and has one more to come. Some 2600 pingao, spinifex, and other coastal species are being planted;
- The Ngati Awa group has purchased materials for two shade houses and is setting them up;
- Wellesley College students planted spinifex and pingao to fill gaps in the Days Bay dune on June 14. Bollards and rope have also been installed to keep vehicles and people off the dunes;
- At the Waikanae estuary, group members planted 900 plants at two planting events;
- At Hulls Creek work has commenced on the removal of willows, funding for which has come from the Sustainable Management Fund.

The Waikanae Estuary group has now received \$63,000 from various sources (SMF and Government Condition and Advice Funds) to enable it to expand its restoration work in the estuary. Like the Hulls Creek Group, it is the group that receives these funds, not Greater Wellington.

### **Restoration Day**

Restoration Day, the annual celebration and training event for care groups and people restoring ecosystems in the region, was held on May 27. Around 180 people attended on a day that was cold and wet. They joyfully went out into the weather to undertake workshops alongside streams and in the bush. At least eight of us were in attendance, and Councillors Evans and Glensor also attended. People came from as far away as Masterton and Kapiti. There were probably around 60 more at this event than last year's, showing that ecological restoration in the region is in good heart.

### **Conservation Week/Awards**

We have nominated the Greendale Care Group, Kena Kena School, and Jo and Trish Taylor (Riversdale Dune Management Committee) for Conservation Awards. The results will be known in early August. We are also setting up displays for Conservation week at the Cathedral (*Take Care*) and at Pataka (*Take Care*).

### **Digger School**

Richard Morgan has started assisting with the training of digger drivers at a Wairarapa training school. Richard explains the biology and working of stream ecosystems and does some simple stream testing with the trainees to highlight the ecological values of water ways. This is expected to be an ongoing quarterly event.

## 4.2 Resource Policy Department – Nicola Shorten

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### 4.2.1 Policy and Plans

#### **Regional Freshwater Plan**

##### *Plan change 1*

The final outstanding appeal on Plan change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan is close to resolution. A new rule requires resource consent to drive heavy vehicles on stopbanks. The Council appealed the decision of the Environment Court to exclude a length of stopbank within the Lower Wairarapa Development Scheme from the rule. The High Court has allowed the Council's decision to the extent that conditions should be included in the rule that prevent future changed use that could have unpredictable consequences. The Council has worked through possible conditions on the rule with the respondent and these have been put back before the High Court for a final judgement.

##### *Plan change 2 – water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment*

Following the hearing on 27 February 2006, the Hearing Committee prepared an interim decision which was sent to submitters for their response by 19 April 2006. A final decision was approved by the Council on 1 June 2006 and notified in the following week. Submitters have until mid-July to lodge appeals to the Environment Court.

##### *Efficiency and effectiveness reporting*

The evaluation of provisions in the Regional Freshwater Plan has been completed (as required by s35 of the RMA). The Evaluation Report was presented to the 12 April meeting of the Environmental Committee. The only immediate action recommended was for staff to investigate appropriate plan changes for identified fully allocated resources that no more water should be taken from (3 groundwater zones and 7 rivers). This work has been completed and the draft plan change will be presented to the 20 July Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting.

The evaluation of provisions in the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land has been completed (Department of Conservation. I have also been involved in this process, but will be bowing out now.

Consultation and work on the draft plan change on Port Noise provisions in the Regional Coastal Plan continues. This is a joint plan change with Wellington City Council and is designed to improve and align the provisions in our respective plans. A proposed plan change will be presented to the August meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

#### **Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Review**

The two weekly RPS Review Steering Group meetings continue. The project plan runs to a fairly tight timeline - main areas of work on this project this quarter have been:

- One Councillor workshop has taken place – the purpose of the workshops was to discuss the content of the RPS review discussion document.

- The final text for the RPS review discussion document was provided prior to, and approved, at the Policy Finance and Strategy Council meeting on 27 April.
- On 22 May the printed discussion document “Our region – their future” was sent to key stakeholders and interested parties. Information on the review, the discussion document and a feedback form was also placed on Greater Wellington’s website
- During the week commencing 29 May a two page spread was placed in six community newspapers across the region - this advertised the review of the RPS and sought feedback on the most important issues to be addressed.
- Workshops have been held with Greater Wellington staff in the Wairarapa, Wellington and Upper Hutt. The workshops outlined the review process and the type of questions being posed in “Our region – their future”.
- Staff, along with Crs Ian Buchanan, Sally Baber and Chris Turver, have presented information on the RPS review to Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council. Cr Buchanan spoke to the Wairarapa authorities about the RPS.
- The time period for submissions on “Our region –their future” closed on 30 June. Eighty submissions had been received. A number of time extensions have, however, been granted to agencies.
- A Councillor workshop has been scheduled for 15 August. At this workshop a summary of comments received on “Our region – their future” will be discussed, along with the issues staff recommend should be addressed in the next RPS.

#### 4.2.2 Water

##### **Riparian Strategy**

With the exception of two pilot programmes on this side of the region (Kakariki and Karori streams), implementation of this Strategy is the responsibility of the Wairarapa Operations department.

##### **Other**

Central government have released an information paper on the key outcomes they are seeking for the Water Programme of Action. Murray attended a meeting of RMG that considered the proposals, and organised a two day meeting of regional council staff from around the country. The meeting looked at what councils are doing in the work areas that the National Programme touches on and how central government can assist our work.

#### 4.2.3 Air

Paul and Tamsin have been working through just what needs to be done as a result of the National Environmental Standard (NES) following Perry Davy's departure. The following is a summary:

- A contract has been let to complete an emission inventory for the Wainuiomata airshed.
- NIWA has been contracted to develop straight line paths for the Wairarapa airshed.
- Resource Investigations were instructed to remove references to the NES on graphs displayed on our internet site. The information on these graphs is not checked.
- A procedure has been put in place for public notification of breaches in any airshed in the region.

#### 4.2.4 Biodiversity

##### **Wetland programme**

###### *Wetland database*

Newly found wetlands are being added to the inventory as they are discovered.

###### *Wetland incentives and advice*

In total this year, 21 landowners have joined the wetland incentives programme and 20 landowners have received incentives (not necessarily the same landowners). Subsidised weed control and the fencing remain the most popular incentives offered.

###### *Other*

We are putting a small amount of money and staff time into a FORST funded wetland research project (from the Resource Investigations Science and Research budget). As part of this project Bev Clarkson (Landcare Research, Hamilton) and Brian Sorrell (NIWA, Christchurch) spent three days in Wellington in June. Work involved:

- setting up monitoring in about four wetlands (this includes permanent plot sites, crude hydrological monitoring and soil samples).
- going on a 'one-day tour' of wetlands in the region, to get a handle on the nature of the wetlands in the region and some of restoration issues.

##### **Freshwater ecosystems**

Concept plans have been prepared for fish passes at nine locations on five streams. The sites were chosen on the basis that enhancing fish passage would be relatively straight forward and there is community interest in improving fish passage at the locations. Consent applications are currently being prepared for the construction of fish passes at five of these sites. This quarter, consent applications have been prepared and granted for the construction of fish passes at two of the sites and tenders have been called for.

## **Marine biodiversity**

A report on the survey of the intertidal zones of the Kapiti Coast, Plimmerton Beach, Titahi Bay, and Makara estuary has been completed and was presented to the 12 April meeting of the Environment Committee. A similar study is now needed for the Wairarapa to complete the region, and this will be done over the coming summer.

As stated last quarter, the draft coastal and marine biodiversity action plan has been updated with the priority work areas and distributed to the working group for comment. The next step is to get approval from the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee so that the plan can be released for consultation. We won't take this step until we know the future of the biodiversity function generally.

## **Project Kaiwharawhara**

This quarter, 10 signs have been erected at locations that highlight the adjoining stream is part of the wider Kaiwharawhara catchment. Work has also progressed on two fish passes at places where there have been barriers to fish passage further upstream. The resource consents for the work have been obtained and the construction work is expected to be completed during the next quarter.

This project is being nominated by Greater Wellington and the Wellington City Council for a New Zealand Post Management Excellence Award. Wellington City Council communications staff are currently turning our words into something worthy of an award.

Churton Park (new group) did a site clean-up at their intended planting site on 8th April, followed by three planting days. They are enthusiastic at this stage and are active in developing community interest and participation.

## **Pauatahanui project**

Tim continues to provide input into the "Vegetation Frameworks" project. As part of developing an overall restoration plan for the rural part of the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment, Greater Wellington and Porirua City Council are jointly funding this one year project, along with the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Land Management Fund. The project has involved developing a vision and support for planting and vegetation management in the Waikanae and Pauatahanui Inlet catchments. It aims to provide ongoing benefits to individual landowners and the whole community. Peter Handford and Associates are contracted to deliver the project, which will be completed in August 2006. By then, the following will have been completed in relation to both catchments:

- A review of existing information about the catchments including current vegetation, soil and water values, and management issues;
- Contact with a sample of landowners with significant landholdings to obtain their views on soil and water issues and to begin the identification of opportunities for enhancing vegetation management;
- Wider contact with all landowners, including a mail out of information, the holding of "drop-in" meetings and follow up mail outs;

- Completion of a broad-scale vegetation framework presented in graphical form based on issues and opportunities put forward by landowners. The framework also indicates where the community has identified the need for more vegetation;
- Scoping of what is needed to implement the framework, including the provision of a network of advice and support, sources of information and advice, co-ordinated pest control, access to plants and funding;
- Completion of three property plans (including one sub-catchment group as a means of co-ordinating the needs of lifestyle block owners) to serve as a demonstration of what can be achieved;
- Production of a series of information sheets to address issues not covered by other agency publications;
- Establishment of a website through which landowners can access information specific to their needs.

Tim continues to attend the monthly Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust (PICT) meetings.

### **Waiwhetu Project**

Tim has attended three meetings of Waiwhetu Working Group this quarter, a Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting, and a public consultation meeting (residents and industry) and bus trip. Tim and I also attend ongoing meetings of the Steering Group (this includes Geoff Dick, John Eyles, and officers from HCC).

A study aimed at determining the level of contaminants continuing to enter the Waiwhetu Stream via the stormwater system has been completed. The project sampled the two major stormwater systems at the point of discharge into the stream during normal low flow conditions and during “first flush” situations following a significant rainfall event. Testing of the samples was undertaken for a range of heavy metals and the results were compared to the ANZECC guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality. The results show that during periods of normal flow the guidelines are exceeded for chromium, copper, lead and zinc. During “first-flush” flows there are exceedances for cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc. These are particularly high for copper, lead and zinc. Discussions are now underway with Hutt City Council to identify the responses necessary to address the problem.

A second project, designed to establish the significance of contaminated groundwater infiltration as a source of contaminants into the stormwater system, is underway. Approximately 30% of the 93 industrial/commercial sites in the Gracefield Industrial area are listed in the Regional Selected Land Use Register as having a history of storing, using or manufacturing hazardous substances. The high groundwater level and shallow stormwater drains in this area introduce the risk of contaminated groundwater entering the Waiwhetu Stream via infiltration into stormwater pipes. The project is due for completion in March 2007.

No tenders were received for the MfE part funded project assessing suitability of *Electrokinetic Remediation* to stream contaminants. Further discussions are underway to determine if the trial is viable.

## **Other**

Final figures for the QEII Trust programme this year show that 205.5 hectares of private land have been covenanted. This includes seven lowland forest remnants, three areas of coastal or semi-coastal forest and three wetlands.

Greater Wellington (Tim) facilitates the Wellington/Wairarapa Land Protection Forum, an association of representatives of various agencies involved in private land such as Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and some territorial authorities. Since 2002, the Forum has made applications to the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds which were set up to enhance biodiversity on private land. A total of \$50,318 was received this year, and work funded has included pest plant and animal control, fencing and restoration planting.

Other work for Tim this quarter has been:

- One meeting each of Wellington and Wairarapa Land Protection Forum held
- Meeting of “Biodiversity Practitioners” group (Greater Wellington staff) held
- Landowner visits to discuss legal protection and biodiversity management issues

Two more meetings of the Biodiversity Co-ordinating Group (BCG) to discuss the structure of our biodiversity function in the future.

### 4.2.5 Hazards

#### **It’s Our Fault project (Ohariu component)**

This project is running behind time. We are now expecting a draft report in July.

#### **Wairarapa work**

##### *Martinborough fault project*

GNS was contracted to do this work, and we received the draft report in June. We have commented on the draft, and expect the report to be finalised in the next week or two.

##### *Upper Hutt City fault trace project*

A joint project with Upper Hutt City Council to provide information on fault lines in Upper Hutt was completed in early December. The findings were presented to the 12 April meeting of the Environment Committee. The work will be used to improve the information in the Upper Hutt City Council District Plan.

##### *Wairarapa fault trace project*

It has been agreed with CDC and SWDC that work is needed on the faults in the Wairarapa (similar to the Upper Hutt fault trace project) which can hopefully be included in the combined District Plan (as a plan variation). Most funding will come from Greater Wellington with contributions from CDC and SWDC.



The contract for this work has been let and we expect the results by the end of August this year.

**Coastal erosion regional review**

The report reviewing coastal erosion literature and compiling information on what erosion has occurred in the region (and where and when) has been completed.

## Other

*Hazard news:* The most recent Hazard News (used to be the hazards newsletter) was produced in May, and is available on the Greater Wellington website.

*Student research:* We are assisting a Victoria University PhD student, Pauline Blake-Johnston with some funding for her project on cliff erosion on the southeast Wairarapa coast (Resource Investigations Science and Research Fund). Basically the project will measuring present rates of cliff line evolution and failure through consistent surveying, historical research of cliff line failure through the study of aerial photos and mapping, building an holistic overview of prevailing coastal processes utilising environmental parameters collated by NIWA, building a localised overview of climatology with collation of weather data from the MetService, and quantifying localised El Niño effects

The principle output will be a modelling tool which will predict future cliff failure rates along the south-eastern Wairarapa Coast. This will provide useful information for Greater Wellington's on-going hazards work.

### 4.2.6 Statutory Resource Management Work – District Plans and notified consent applications

The relevant Environment Committee Resource Policy Department Reports over this period have provided a summary of resource applications and plan changes received and submissions made over the last period.

Since the last Committee Report three notified resource consent applications have been received. No submissions have been made. We have received one Plan Change from KCDC. A comment was made on this change about the wetland within the site and the proposed future management. One request for written approval has been received.

### 4.2.7 GIS

John took and resolved 100 helpdesk calls this quarter (255 this year), and continues to maintain the GIS databases.

Main areas of work for John this quarter were:

- Mapping work for the Wellington Regional Strategy
- Mapping work for the Pauatahanui Project
- Constituency review mapping work
- Parks and Forests work (vegetation and weed mapping, map creation and updates)
- Biosecurity work (GIS database for the KNE programme, plants database analysis, BioWorks data checks and data supply/install)
- Transport work (travel plan maps, route analysis and mapping, forward planning maps).

#### 4.2.8 Other

Piotr prepared a submission on the Outdoor Walking Access Consultation document. The submission was presented to the June meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

A submission on the Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill. The submission was presented to the May meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

## 4.3 Consents Management Department – Al Cross, Acting Manager

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### 4.3.1 Summary

Consents Management has received 150 consent applications this quarter (compared with 137 received in the last quarter) and issued 84 consents (compared with 100 issued in the last quarter). Fourteen of the applications received were for bore permits (compared with 36 in the last quarter).

### 4.3.2 Median processing times (Includes time extensions under S37)

The median time for processing non-notified consents was 14 working days, up from 9 working days in the previous quarter. This reflects a reduction in the number of bore permit applications and the traditional increase in compliance work during the last quarter of the year to complete annual inspection requirements. At the same time, most staff have been involved in processing notified consent applications, which has diverted efforts away from work on non-notified applications.

Overall, the median processing time for the year to 30 June was 11 working days (excluding section 37 time extensions), this exceeds our KPI in this area by one day.

### 4.3.3 Notified consents

We worked on a large number of notified consents this quarter which are summarised below:

- Wellington Waterfront Investments - Hilton Hotel: hotel and public space development on the Queens Wharf 'outer T
- Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust: Aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point
- Eurocell Sawmilling Limited: Wood waste fuelling of boilers, Upper Hutt
- Whitby Coastal Estates: 81 lot subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby
- WCC Capacity - Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: Replacement consents for Western WWTP, Karori Stream and Wellington south coast.
- Capital and Coast District Health Board: Wellington Hospital campus diesel and gas-fired appliances, incorporating the Total Energy Centre
- GWRC Flood Protection Department: Hutt River gravel extraction
- GWRC Bioworks: Application of Endathol across GW region for aquatic pest plant control.
- Hutt City Council: Seaview wastewater treatment plant replacement consents

The hearing on the **Hilton Hotel** consent applications before a panel of five commissioners commenced on 3 July, following a considerable period of assessment involving GW staff, and an independent district planning consultant, the Waterfront Technical Advisory Group and Wellington City Council (WCC) internal experts. The process to date has been both challenging and complex for the project team, particularly due to the requirement for assessment against the WCC District Plan and Waterfront Framework and considering the scope and extent of 'city' related matters such as building and public space design, traffic, wind, noise and shading. However, other aspects such as the proposal's high public profile, and the strength and number of submissions have also influenced the scale of the process we have run for these applications. Consequently, we have provided considerable staff time to this

project, and central to our efforts has been a collective desire to ensure a robust process and a thorough assessment of the proposal.

A reasonable level of media interest early in the process has been repeated more substantially around the time of the release of the officer's report, with reports on national and local radio and in various local and national print media. As part of our process, we prepared Q&A documents and a media release to support this work.

A second set of applications for the Wellington **Marine Conservation Centre** Trust were lodged in May, after a decision was unable to be reached on the first set of applications to both WCC and GW. A staggering 8,900 submissions were received (5,500 in support and 3,400 in opposition), which is virtually unheard of in the context of New Zealand's resource management history. In this instance it is reflective of the approach by both the applicant and submitter groups to provide pro-forma submissions to the public. The applicant, for instance, sent over 60,000 pro-forma submissions to Wellington residents. It is worth noting that a trend of increasing numbers of pro-forma submissions is developing with recent larger and higher-profile applications, which will begin to have ongoing and significant administration implications on Council staff.

The **Eurocell Sawmill Limited** application to install a wood-fired boiler at an operational sawmill in Upper Hutt will be heard in mid July. It has drawn a reasonable level of interest from the immediate community, with submissions raising a number of issues including potential health effects, degrading air quality, pollution modelling accuracy and localised pollution effects. Our assessment work has been highly technical and quite significant in that it incorporated our first application processed under the National Environmental Standards (NES) for Air.

**Whitby Coastal Estates'** joint applications to Porirua City Council and GW for various consents relating to the development of a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby, was heard in late June. Amongst a range of matters, our officers recommended conditions to deal with adverse effects of riparian bush removal, and stream re-alignment and piping, including the attachment of bond conditions to ensure that required stream-side planting will be successful (a new approach in Wellington region). The applicant has endorsed these conditions; a decision is due in late July.

We are currently working through with the applicant further information issues on a range of environmental and infrastructural matters regarding **Wellington City Council/Capacity's** application to replace consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant (the Plant). No hearing date has been set but the applicant has requested that a hearing be put back to October to accommodate the availability of the applicant's technical experts.

Applications were lodged recently by **GW Flood Protection** for gravel extraction in the lower reaches of Hutt River. Up to 80,000 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel is proposed to be removed annually over a five-year period for flood protection purposes.

**Capital and Coast District Health Board** has applied to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital. These appliances include the hospital's Total Energy Centre, a former 'Think Big' project, designed to power the hospital during local grid power failures and also from time to time to provide electricity to the national grid on a commercial basis.

Following successful negotiation with submitters' concerns on applications for the **Hutt Valley Wastewater Service's** main outfall discharge from the Seaview plant, the deliberations committee of Byrdie Ayres (Minister's Appointee) and Cr Glen Evans has made a recommendation to the Minister of Conservation to consider a decision on this restricted coastal activity.

The **Greater Wellington Bioworks Department's** applications to discharge the herbicide Endathol to waterways throughout the Wellington region was negotiated out with submitters located as far away as the Waikato. A decision was released in May.

#### **Limited notified consents**

No submissions were received on the **Department of Conservation's** application to change consent conditions to enable the removal of a vegetation buffer strip at Catchpool and a decision was recently released. Similarly, we expect that the two submitters supportive of the **Dulux** application to discharge particulates and solvents to air at their Seaview facility will withdraw their desire to be heard.

#### 4.3.4 Appeals

##### **Ongoing appeals and objections**

This appeal on the joint GW/Wellington City Council decision in relation to consents for **Ridvan Gardens** has now been resolved following successful mediation, with a consent order signed by the Environment Court on 3 May. The mediation process was, in the end, relatively straightforward and resulted in the addition of a single minor condition to the consents processed by Greater Wellington. Furthermore, possible conflicts between proposed changes to Wellington City Council consent conditions and Greater Wellington consents covering the mitigation of sediment discharges from the site did not eventuate.

The **Meridian Project West Wind** appeals have now been heard in the Environment Court, with court proceedings ending on 7 July according to schedule. The hearing has run smoothly for both GW and WCC. This reflects the fact that our witnesses have been well-briefed and prepared, and cross-examination being limited to critical matters to highlight to the panel and improve their overall understanding of issues important to our case.

The abatement notice served on **New Zealand Forestry Group** (NZFG) (and subsequently appealed) seeking the removal of an illegally placed gabion bridge abutment from Karori Stream was cancelled on 16 May 2006. This followed a further Court-granted extension to the stay of the abatement notice in order to enable NZFG to provide further information on the structural integrity of the structure. We subsequently received information from NZFG to satisfy these concerns, representing a satisfactory conclusion to the enforcement action. This now paves the way for GW to recommence processing of NZFG's consent application, on a limited notification, to construct the bridge and consider related effects.

**Save the Point Incorporated** (Save the Point) in April filed a declaration application with the Environment Court in relation to the split decision on the Marine Education Centre applications. The declaration sought to determine whether or not a split decision was in fact tantamount to a decision to decline, and also sought to challenge the presence of Cr Sally Baber on the hearing panel on the basis of a conflict of interest. WCC and GW filed an application with the Court to defend the declaration; however, the declaration was subsequently withdrawn by Save the Point.

#### 4.3.5 Compliance issues

##### **General**

While odour from **Taylor Preston Limited (TPL)** has waned in the last quarter, in line with less favourable atmospheric conditions, we have continued to maintain dialogue with both TPL and **Gorge Action Group (GAG)**. We met with TPL management in April, to discuss recent odour incidents and general plant operations (such as breakdowns and site practices) connected to compliance with their air discharge permit. We have stated our displeasure with the current situation and, in particular, their limited approach to plant breakdowns. GAG is yet to take up offers both from TPL and GW to meet to discuss a range of matters, and have instead sought detailed complaint data, and enforcement and odour monitoring information from us. We are uncertain whether the information sought is to be used for any particular purpose, or if they are merely just collecting information.

We are currently completing our investigation of a prolonged and significant discharge from the **HCC Silverstream Landfill** that emptied the entire contents of two sediment retention ponds into Halls Creek and ultimately the Hutt River, and soon will be in a position to determine if any action is to be taken.

The **Sink F69 Charitable Trust** (the Trust) has provided a detailed monitoring report following the storms of 4 and 5 March, and consequent damage to, and movement of, the Frigate Wellington (the Frigate). The report, in compliance with the terms of their coastal permits, provided a reasonably detailed account of the state and position of the vessel, damage and safety and hazard issues, likely future impacts by storm events including effects on debris movement, and the predicted corrosion and decay of the structure over time. While some members of the public have questioned whether the Trust is breaching their consents by the vessel moving or becoming a hazardous feature, I am satisfied that the Trust is compliant.

**Exide Technologies Ltd** (Exide) will commence its longer-term lead monitoring programme in August, in line with directions from the Environment Court (following an appeal on its revised consent conditions). However, while good progress is being made in modifications to certain parts of their operations to reduce sources of lead contaminated dust, in line with new consent conditions, we are concerned that the cartridge house enclosure may be delayed beyond the deadline imposed in their resource consent. This is a cause for serious concern given the expectations of Court, GW, Regional Public Health and the local community to meet their conditions. We have expressed our concern to Exide and warned them that non-compliance may result in enforcement action being taken.

We are also currently investigating discharges from **Gabites** farm in Mangaroa Valley. Results from investigations of watercourses on the property to date reveal high concentrations of sediment and a number of nutrients suggesting that pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks are major contributors.

The department completed scheduled compliance inspection work under a very challenging set of circumstances driven by our larger than normal load of notified applications. Additional help from students has also aided our successful completion of inspection work while we have not been operating at a full staff compliment.

### **Abatement Notices**

We did not serve any abatement notices in the last quarter.

### **Infringement Notices**

We have issued five infringement notices this quarter. Details of the notices served are below:

- Earthworks Marlborough, Tonkin and Taylor and Wellington City Council all for a discharge of sediment-laden water from earthworks to Karori Stream at Karori Park.
- Earthworks Marlborough for a discharge of hydrocarbons to Karori Stream at Karori Park.
- Taylor Preston limited for an offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary of their property.



#### 4.4 Resource Investigations Department – Ted Taylor for John Sherriff

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##### 4.4.1 Water quality sampling and testing tender

New contracts have been put in place for the collection and testing of water quality sampling. These contracts run for the three year period: 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2009.

Contracts were awarded to;

Biostandards	Collection of river water samples and associated microbiological testing	\$81,026.92
EOS Ecology	Biological analysis of water samples	\$97,897.00
Hill Laboratories	Physical and chemical testing of water samples	\$344,076.00

##### 4.4.2 Stormwater

A draft Regional Stormwater Management Action Plan has been produced and is at the stage of internal review before initiating discussions with the relevant stakeholders.

##### 4.4.3 National environmental standard exceeded

The national environmental standard for PM<sub>10</sub> is 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup> based on a 24-hour average. This was exceeded in Masterton for the period beginning midnight 8 June. This is the first exceedance of the PM<sub>10</sub> standard for the region since it took effect in September 2005. Further exceedances within the next 12 months will trigger the requirement to implement the public notification procedure outlined in the standard and impose restrictions on any new resource consent applications. (A second exceedance at Masterton was recorded for the period beginning 1 July – public notification is now required.)

## 4.5 Harbours Department – Mike Pryce

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### 4.5.1 Navigation aids

All operated satisfactorily, with only routine maintenance required.

Barrett Reef buoy moorings were splayed-apart on 2 July. (Some stud-damage and wear was found after the storm of 3 - 4 March).

### 4.5.2 Exercises

On 3 and 4 May, Maritime New Zealand tested, *Operation Hard Rock*, a major Tier 3 oil spill exercise, in which Harbour's and six other GW staff participated in. In addition, staff were involved in the International Tsunami Exercise, *Pacific Wave* and the National Terrorism Exercise, *Guardian*.

The National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum meeting was held on 9 May in Wellington.

### 4.5.3 Shipping news

#### **Strait Shipping**

On 12 June, Strait Shipping's "new" ferry, *Monte Stello* arrived in Wellington. However, because the ship's engines need more maintenance work the vessel is not expected to enter the Cook Strait service until October 2006. The ship has been moved to Interisland Wharf and will be at this berth for several months while the work is carried out.

#### **Toll-Interislander**

On 16 May, the ferry, *Challenger* berthed in Wellington, and discovered a large and heavy fishing net some 40 metres in length and weighing about eight tonnes tangled on its bow. The net was lodged across the ferry's bulbous-bow, with one end fouling the bow-thruster unit. Divers cleared the net from the bow-thruster, and a crane hired to remove the net from the harbour for disposal.

### 4.5.4 Hulks

In the early hours of 25 May the bow mooring lines of the hulk of the fishing vessel *James Cook*, laid up at Miramar Wharf, were cast-off by vandals, causing the old ship to swing at right angles to the wharf and the bow to go aground at low tide. Subsequently, the vessel was re-floated and re-moored. The hulk is only one of several other old hulks that are languishing at wharves around the port. As there is not any organised local ship-breaking industry in New Zealand the disposal of such redundant ships is problematic, and Wellington looks likely to be "stuck" with a collection of such hulks.

### 4.5.5 Other events

On 10 June a Cook Strait jet-ski race from Wellington to Tory Channel and return was planned. After discussions with the organisers about safety aspects and weather conditions, a jet ski race inside Wellington Harbour was substituted.

A Chinese seaman was lost overboard, and presumed drowned, from the outward-bound oil tanker, *Formosa Thirteen* near the Wellington Harbour entrance on 12 June 2006.

#### 4.5.6 Bad weather

The southerly storms of 15 May and 15 July resulted in passenger ferry sailings being cancelled for most of the day.

On 10 June, the Navy tanker, *HMNZS Endeavour* spilled a small amount of diesel near Queens Wharf. Most of the spill - some 1,000 litres of diesel - was held on deck and cleaned-up by the ship's crew, with about 50 litres escaping overboard. Because the ship's personnel also called Emergency Services such as Fire Services and Police the event attracted some public interest even though it was only a small spill.

#### 4.5.7 Beacon Hill councillor visit

On 30 May 2006, Councillors Sally Baber, Chris Laidlaw, Glen Evans and Terry McDavitt, members of the Environment Committee, visited the Beacon Hill communications station. Earlier planned visits had to be cancelled for various reasons.

A few weeks prior to that visit the CEO and Nigel Corry completed a visit of the station.

## 4.6 Planning and Resources Department – Ted Taylor

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### 4.6.1 Consents and compliance

#### **Consent Statistics**

For this quarter we have received 61 consent applications and issued 63 consents. This compares with 45 applications received and 68 consents issued in the same period last year.

The median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for non-notified consents for this period was 10 working days. Overall the median processing time for the year to date is 10 working days which meets our KPI for this function.

The notified consents we are currently processing are;

- N & E Reid: An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. The application is on hold pending further information. Aqualink consultants are evaluating the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to sustainably accept the nutrient load.
- Masterton District Council: An application for consents to manage the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities on the site. The application is on hold pending further information.

#### **Appeals and Objections**

##### *Masterton District Council*

Masterton District Council's proposed stage two of the Castlepoint seawall. No further progress on this appeal in the quarter.

##### *LARO – Scadden's Stopbank*

John Barton has appealed this decision. No further progress on this appeal in the quarter.

##### *Martinborough Coastal Developments*

The decision granting consents for a community wastewater scheme servicing a proposed coastal subdivision at Tora has been appealed by the applicant and D Riddiford. No further progress on this appeal in the quarter apart from Court decisions relating to the status of the Riddiford appeal and associated matters.

##### *A E & S W Benton Partnership*

This application to take groundwater in the Battersea area was declined. The applicant has since appealed the decision. Three of the submitters who opposed the application have joined as parties to the appeal. Mediation was held on 19 June with a further meeting scheduled for 10 October.

## **Compliance**

### *General*

The compliance programme for the year was completed with consents monitored according to procedures.

### *Abatement Notices*

During the quarter abatement notices were served on;

- S J and J E McLachlan requiring that a groundwater abstraction well be properly constructed and details of the associated irrigation system submitted. This relates to resource consent conditions that have not been met.
- International Timber Processors Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- A J Smith requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- Capital Precut Solutions Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- K and A Sage requiring that improvements be made to their dairy effluent management system.

### *Infringement notices*

No infringement notices were served in the quarter.

### *Prosecution and Enforcement Orders*

The prosecution against Lansdowne Development Ltd and Bruce Buchanan Ltd in regards to an unauthorised discharge of silt laden water in March 2005 is scheduled to take place in the Environment Court in Wellington on the 18th and 19th of July.

## **Pollution Control**

Seventeen incidents were responded to in the quarter. None of these incidents were of widespread significance. This compares with 21 incidents in the same period last year.

### 4.6.2 Policy and Planning

#### **General**

Statutory resource management work has involved making 21 comments or submissions (18 same quarter last year) on 28 applications to district councils (21 last year) in the quarter. Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa is still continuing apace.

### **District Plans**

The combined district plan has been delayed further and is now due to be notified around the end of August. It is most likely that we will make submissions on the plan to ensure that matters that are of significance to the region in a planning context are taken account of.

### **Appeals**

From a planning perspective we are party to the appeals referred to in section 1.2.3.

#### **4.6.3 Resource Investigations**

### **Rainfall and rivers**

Overall rainfall in the Wairarapa was around the monthly mean for the period with higher totals in some areas in April and June.

River flows were above the monthly means in April and May but around the mean in June.

### **Flood warning**

Flood warnings were issued for a minor flood in late June.

### **Groundwater levels**

Groundwater levels were recovering well from the summer irrigation season lows.

**Performance Indicators**

**Environment Education  
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06  
Review for the Period Ended 30 June 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 1: Environment Education Core Services</b>			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	310	314	
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit of office hazards was completed in June.
<b>Major Activity 2: Provide Environmental Education Services</b>			
A report will be completed describing the activities of the Department in promoting change in environmental behaviour, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.	56	44	<p>The Department has promoted good environmental behaviour in a number of ways throughout the year. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six corporate planting events for businesses and organisations wanting to get involved in environmental care. One event occurred in the June quarter (Accor Hotels staff at Moehau Stream). At two of these events, and a public planting day at Mangaone, trees were provided by the Honda Tree Fund.</li> <li>• The annual Ecological Restoration Day (an educational event for care groups and others restoring the natural environment), held on the 27 May. 180 people attended this event.</li> <li>• Staging the second annual Enviroschools Awards for schools excelling in their delivery of environmental education.</li> <li>• The completion of work to restore the salt marsh at the Kakaho Stream at Pauatahanui.</li> <li>• Efforts to increase the reduction and recycling of waste at Greater Wellington's head office. A Bokashi waste system for the management of organic waste was implemented in</li> </ul>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p>February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting the Ministry for the Environment to stage the 2006 national Youth Environment Forum for senior high school students.</li> <li>• Providing plants and advice for high schools working on the Trees for Survival programme</li> </ul>
<p><i>Through the Take Care programme and together with the Resource Policy Department, existing Care Groups will be maintained and five new Care Groups will be established and assisted in providing local environmental care, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	<p>214</p>	<p>207</p>	<p><i>Thirty two funded care groups have worked steadily on their projects this year (27 of which are from previous years). In the last quarter most groups have started their winter planting programmes. The groups work continuously throughout the year, clearing weeds, planting and nurturing their plants, and measuring the ecological changes they are causing (e.g., fresh water, bird, and forest monitoring). Some of the major achievements this year are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Five new projects were funded and have commenced, three with new groups (Enaki, Ngati Awa, Churton Park) and two with existing groups at new sites (Porirua Stream, Kaiwharawhara Stream);</i></li> <li>• <i>Formal evaluation of the programme showing the programme is delivering its educational and social outcomes (reported to the Environment Committee in September);</i></li> <li>• <i>Two well attended training events for care group members (on wetland plant identification, coastal plant propagation);</i></li> <li>• <i>Good progress on the clearing of willows and replanting at the Moehau Stream through the combined efforts of Community Service Volunteers, Fergusson Intermediate pupils, Upper Hutt City Council, and care group members;</i></li> <li>• <i>The procurement of \$38,000 from the Sustainable Management Fund by the Hulls Creek Group for a fish pass and willow removal. Work to remove the trees has commenced, and the stream now has a much more natural appearance;</i></li> <li>• <i>The Waikanae Estuary group has received \$63,000 from various sources to enable it to expand its restoration work;</i></li> </ul>



Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Otari-Wilton's Bush group planted a further 3000 plants in its restoration area.</i></li> <li>• <i>Significant amounts of re-vegetation by most groups, e.g., groups at Henley Wetland, Owhiro Stream, Waitohu Stream, Paraparaumu Beach, Eastbourne Beach, Island Bay Beach, Greendale, Riversdale, Enaki Stream, Papawai Stream, Waikanae River ;</i></li> <li>• <i>The completion of the dune restoration at Days Bay;</i></li> <li>• <i>A Conservation Award for the Otari-Wilton's Bush Care Group. The Trelissick Park group, Manuka Street group, and Henley Lake group also received Weedbuster Awards.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The Otaki North group did not work actively during the year, pending the finalisation of issues surrounding the mouth of the Waitohu Stream. The O Te Pua wetland group was wound up in May after five years, following the departure from the district of the lead person. During its life, the group achieved increased legal protection for the wetland, raised awareness, cleared the wetland of willows and worked on the control of other weeds.</i></p>
<p><i>The Take Action environmental education programme for school children will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	262	243	<p><i>Term two guided and self guided schools completed their outdoor investigations and have begun working on ways to take action in their local environment. Self-guided schools in term two were Wainuiomata Intermediate, Pukeatua (Wainuiomata), St Claudine (Wainuiomata), Eastern Hutt, Tawa Intermediate, and Discovery School (Whitby). The guided schools were Wilford (Lower Hutt), Epuni (Lower Hutt) and Holy Family (Canons Creek).</i></p> <p><i>Major achievements of Take Action for the year have been:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Twenty four schools and 3300 students completed the programme, 1000 more students than the previous year;</i></li> <li>• <i>Take Action for Air, the companion programme to Take Action, was completed and will be taken up by the first school in July;</i></li> <li>• <i>A significant number of Hutt city schools undertook the programme. By December 2006 this will increase the</i></li> </ul>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>uptake in that area from 20% to 39% (the regional average is 45%);</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The programme was formally evaluated and reported to the Environment Committee in August 2005;</i></li> <li>• <i>We have provided a growing number of schools with support for their on-going environmental education initiatives (e.g., teacher clusters, professional development, help with recycling, waste reduction);</i></li> <li>• <i>Nine of the 15 schools receiving EnviroSchool awards in November were Take Action schools;</i></li> <li>• <i>Greytown School (a Take Action school) won a Conservation Award in August 2005. Silverstream School received a Weedbusters Award for their work at Hull's Creek.</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Together with the Resource Investigations Department, the Take Charge environmental education programme for businesses will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	<p>90</p>	<p>69</p>	<p><i>There were 17 Take Charge follow-up visits completed for Drain 6, a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream at Paraparaumu. These visits were to review progress made in implementing the recommendations of the original audits. From these visits 15 reports were issued that require action on outstanding items. There were five other Take Charge assessments undertaken on businesses as follow-ups from incidents and investigations.</i></p> <p><i>The Majestic Building waste reduction trial was completed and reported to the Environment Committee in May. A total of 23.5 tonnes of recyclable material was collected over a three month period. Recycling and composting has been instituted for the building and overall waste management and recycling costs reduced by 48%.</i></p> <p><i>Recruitment of businesses for EnviroSmart has been completed successfully and the programme will commence in the region on 25 July.</i></p> <p><i>The Get Sustainable Challenge was launched and 23 businesses have entered, as at 30 June. The Challenge is being delivered by the SBN with Greater Wellington as the principal sponsor.</i></p>

**Resource Policy  
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06  
Review for the Period Ended 30 June 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 1: Resource Policy Support</b>			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	528	470	On track
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			The audit has been completed and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.
<b>Major Activity 2: Developing Regional Policy and Plans</b>			
The statutory process will be followed to implement any changes to the Regional Policy Statement or regional plans that are directed by the Council, within budget.	60	165	<p>An outstanding appeal on Plan change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan, relating to the driving of vehicles on stopbanks, has been largely resolved. The Environment Court decision was not in our favour and was appealed to the High Court. The High Court has allowed the Council's appeal – conditions should be included in the rule that prevent future changes in use that could have consequences on the stability of the stopbank.</p> <p>The Council has worked through possible conditions on the rule with the respondent and the results have been put back before the High Court for a final judgement.</p> <p>Plan change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan establishes minimum flows and water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment. Following two pre-hearing meetings, a hearing was held on 27 February 2006. The Council made its decisions on submissions on 1 June 2006.</p> <p>Evaluations of the efficiency and effectiveness of provisions in the Regional Freshwater Plan and the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land have been completed. These evaluations are a requirement of the Resource Management Act 1991 and have been received by the Environment Committee.</p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
The Regional Plan User Guide will be maintained to the satisfaction of the Divisional Manager, Environment, within budget.	Nil	3	The User Guide is up to date.
A review of the Regional Policy Statement will be completed to the satisfaction of Council, within budget.	28	75	<p>A workshop for Councillors took place in November 2005 to discuss the State of the Environment Report (the first stage in the review of the Regional Policy Statement). The draft project plan for the Regional Policy Statement review was also discussed at the Councillor workshop.</p> <p>During the last six months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation reports for each chapter of the current Regional Policy Statement (RPS) have been completed. Note that the Iwi chapter has not yet been completed.</li> <li>• Three Councillor workshops have taken place – the purpose of the first two workshops was to bring Councillors up to date with RMA requirements, the RPS process, and to provide the opportunity to discuss the issues and options for the ‘new’ RPS. The purpose of the final workshop was to discuss the content proposed for inclusion in the RPS review discussion document.</li> <li>• Meetings were held with staff from each of the territorial authorities in the region. The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss the RPS process, gather feedback on the current RPS and thoughts about the ‘new’ RPS, and to talk about their involvement in the process. Meetings were also held with the Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment.</li> <li>• A workshop was held with members of Ara Tahi on 15 March to discuss the review process, involvement and contribution from Ara Tahi.</li> <li>• <i>Our region – their future</i>, the discussion document on the review of the RPS, was approved at the Policy, Finance and Strategy meeting on 27 April. The document was sent to key stakeholders and interested parties on 22 May.</li> </ul>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A two page spread was placed in the six community newspapers across the region, providing information about the review and seeking feedback. Information and a feedback form was also placed on the Greater Wellington website.</li> <li>• Workshops have been held with Greater Wellington staff in the Wairarapa, Wellington and Upper Hutt. The workshops outlined the review process and the type of questions being posed in “Our region – their future”.</li> <li>• Staff, along with Crs Ian Buchanan, Sally Baber and Chris Turver, have presented information on the RPS review to Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council.</li> <li>• The time period for submissions on “Our region – their future” closed on 30 June. A number of time extensions have been granted to agencies.</li> </ul>

**Major Activity 3: Implementing Resource Management Policies and Plans**

<p><i>The implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans will have continued by progressing the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wetland Action Plan;</i></li> <li>• <i>Kaiwharawhara Stream Plan;</i></li> <li>• <i>Riparian Management Strategy;</i></li> <li>• <i>The Council’s Carbon Footprint Programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>Freshwater Ecosystems Programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>QEII Trust private land protection programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan;</i></li> <li>• <i>Waitohu Stream improvement project;</i></li> </ul>	<p>421</p>	<p>737</p>	<p><b>Wetland Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This year 21 landowners have joined the wetland incentives programme and 20 landowners have received incentives (not necessarily the same 20). Subsidised weed control and the fencing remain the most popular incentives offered. About 0.5 km of fencing has been subsidised under this programme so far.</i></li> <li>• <i>In June, scientists from NIWA and Landcare Research visited the region as part of a national wetland research programme. Four wetlands from this region have been included as ‘case studies’ in this programme – two are on private land and two are on regional council land. Participating in this research programme will help address gaps in our knowledge about wetlands.</i></li> </ul>
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Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan;</i> <i>within budget and to the satisfaction of Council.</i></li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Our first 'Wild about waters and wetlands' newsletter was sent to over 100 landowners who have been involved in the Streams Alive or wetland programmes.</i></li> <li><i>'So you're thinking about building a pond' – a guide to the design, management and consent requirements for landowners was produced and distributed.</i></li> <li><i>An Estuarine Wetland Plant Identification Day was organised and held at Waikanae Estuary.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Kaiwharawhara Stream Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Three signs were erected in early December at Kaiwharawhara Road (highlighting the work carried out in School Road), Trelissick Park (providing a focus on the heritage and natural values of the area) and near Otari. The signs contain generic information about the Kaiwharawhara catchment and Project Kaiwharawhara, together with site-specific information about work that has been completed in each of the locations.</i></li> <li><i>Councillors and officers from WCC and GW, along with representatives from the various groups involved in the work, were taken on a tour of the area and shown the signs on 9 December 2005.</i></li> <li><i>Ten further small signs have also been erected at locations that highlight that the adjoining stream is part of the wider Kaiwharawhara catchment.</i></li> <li><i>A night-time trip along the stream was organised and held for members of the Group. Various endangered fish were spotted.</i></li> <li><i>Work has progressed on two fish passes at places where there have been barriers to fish passage further upstream. The resource consents for the work have been obtained and the construction work is expected to be completed during the next month.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Riparian Management Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The riparian strategy was completed in July 2002. There are three pilot programmes – two of which (the Karori Stream and the Kakariki Stream) are being managed by the Environmental Policy department.</i></li> </ul>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>Streamside planting is continuing on the streams.</i></p> <p><b>Carbon Footprint</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Council's carbon footprint for the 2004-5 financial year has been calculated, and shows a slight decline from the previous year's figure. This "improvement" is from a lower amount of electricity used for water supply (18.5 million Kwh compared to over 20 million the previous year). Other areas of energy use showed an increase. The carbon footprint for the 2005-6 year will be calculated after the end of the financial year when the figures for energy use are available.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Marine Biodiversity Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A survey of the intertidal zones of the Kapiti Coast, Plimmerton Beach, Titahi Bay and Makara estuary. This work continues the work done in the Wellington Harbour and South Coast last year. The results were presented to the Environment Committee at their 12 April meeting.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Freshwater Ecosystems Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A field survey of potential sites for constructing fish passes this year has been carried out. Nine locations on five streams have been identified and a report containing concept designs for fish passes at these sites has been completed. Consents applications have been granted for the construction of fish passes at two of the sites.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>QEII National Trust private land protection programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Commitments totalling \$74,622 have been made this year to covenant projects which, when finalised, will protect 215.2 hectares of predominantly lowland forest.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Good progress has been made to ensure that the flood protection study is integrated with the broader stream</i></li> </ul>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>rehabilitation programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The results from a project sampling the stormwater from the Gracefield area have been received. The results confirm that elevated levels of contaminants are entering the stream via the stormwater system. Discussions have commenced with Hutt City Council to explore possible solutions to the problem.</i></li> <li>• <i>An allied project examining the levels of contamination in groundwater is due for completion by 31 March 2007.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Waitohu Stream improvement project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A report on this project was presented to the Landcare Committee in March, and the Environment Committee in April. The report summarised the findings of a range of technical investigations (and consultation). The report was sent for public comment in May.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The “Vegetation Frameworks” project, jointly funded by MfE’s Sustainable Management Fund, Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington and involving the development of a broad scale restoration plan for the rural parts of the Pauatahanui catchment is nearing completion. The project has been very well received by landowners and options to ensure the project continues into the future are currently being explored.</i></li> </ul>
<b><i>Through the Take Care programme together with the Environment Education Department, existing Care Groups will be maintained and five new Care Groups will be established and assisted in providing local environmental care, to the satisfaction of Council and within budget.</i></b>	21	73	<b><i>Refer to the performance indicator measures for the Environmental Education Department.</i></b>
Written requests for advice on regional plans will be replied to within five working days.	69	49	All requests have been actioned appropriately.
All submissions will be subject to the Department’s quality control process and meet the required deadlines.	34	64	A number of submissions have been made on resource consents and changes to district plans. A summary of submissions is reported to each meeting of the Environment Committee.



Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<p>Natural hazard investigations will be undertaken, reports prepared and information made available to the community to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</p>	103	61	<p>A joint project with Upper Hutt City Council to provide information on fault lines in Upper Hutt was completed in early December. The findings were presented to the 12 April meeting of the Environment Committee. The work will be used to improve the information in the District Plan.</p> <p>A report reviewing coastal erosion literature and compiling information on what erosion has occurred in the region (and where and when) has been completed.</p> <p>Production of the six-monthly web based newsletter 'Hazard News' continued this year (December 2005 and May 2006).</p>
<p><b>Major Activity 4: Reporting on the State of the Region's Environment</b></p>			
<p><i>An annual report card containing summary information for the following resources will be published to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hydrology</i></li> <li>• <i>Groundwater</i></li> <li>• <i>Freshwater quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Coastal water quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Recreational water quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Air quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Soil quality</i></li> </ul>	191	169	<p><i>The report cards were printed and distributed in December 2005.</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<i>A comprehensive State of the Environment Report will be published to the satisfaction of Council and within budget.</i>	81	90	<p><i>A series of technical reports were completed for the State of the Environment Report (SER). The technical reports include information and data about the state of the resource, the adverse effects of activities on that resource, and how we are responding.</i></p> <p><i>The findings of the technical reports were reported to the Environment Committee between July and September 2005, and the key findings for all chapters were presented to a councillor workshop in November.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring up, the state of the environment report for the Wellington region was approved by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in December 2005. It was then distributed, and posted on Greater Wellington's web site.</i></p>

#### **Major Activity 5: Maintaining Geographic Information Systems**

Databases will be maintained within budget.	63	64	Database maintained within budget.
Ninety percent of all help desk enquiries are resolved within one hour.	26	29	255 help desk calls were received, and all of these were resolved satisfactorily.

**Consents Management  
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06  
Review for the Period Ended 30 June 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 1: Consents Management Support</b>			
Customer contact programmes will be completed within budget and to the satisfaction of the Divisional Manager, Environment.	139	53	The Account Managers use a customer matrix that allows us to analyse customer contacts. Customer contacts are up to date.
The Department will conduct at least two workshops for customers on how they can obtain best value from the resource consent process.	9	32	<p>We held the Wellington Regional Erosion and Sediment Control Forum in late October (in conjunction with the pollution control team). This forum was well received by the TA participants who continue to rely on GW leadership in this area.</p> <p>We also held two submitters workshops in late May, which were reasonably well attended by interest groups and staff received highly favourable feedback for the sessions. We last held workshops for submitters in 2002.</p>
<p>Consent applicants will be charged for the costs of processing their consents in accordance with Greater Wellington's Resource Management Charging Policy.</p> <p>Consent holders will be charged for compliance monitoring in accordance with Greater Wellington's Resource Management Charging Policy.</p>	2	33	All annual charge invoices were sent out in the first week of November. However, this was a little later than anticipated and we have had minimal queries.
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit was undertaken in June 2006, with the department's results being reported back to the divisional health and safety representative. A report with recommendations was subsequently compiled for the divisional manager.

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 2: Managing Consent Applications</b>			
<p><i>All consents will be processed according to the procedures set down in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Consents Processing Procedures Manual, within budget.</i></p> <p>Consents will be processed in accordance with any agreements between Greater Wellington and individual iwi.</p> <p>More than 50% of non-notified consent applications will be processed in 10 working days or less (following the receipt of full information).</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 435 <u>WAR</u> 240</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 359 <u>WAR</u> 292</p>	<p><i>Two consents were not processed according to the Resource Management Act 1991 and CMD procedure manuals.</i></p> <p>These non-notified consents were processed outside statutory timeframes during the quarter. One was due to an understandable but regrettable mistake in the consent process. The other as a result of a poor practice.</p> <p>Our processes require that all consent applications are sent to the relevant iwi for comment. Generally, this system continues to work. New contracts up to the end of 2005 were issued this quarter. These now need to be reviewed – this should be done in co-ordination with the Secretariat as it is time that we revised the principles on which we base these contracts.</p> <p>The median processing time for non-notified consents this quarter was 14 working days compared to 9 working days in the previous quarter. Overall, for the year, the median processing time was 11 working days.</p> <p>During the quarter, the number of bore permit applications decreased, down from 60 last quarter, with compliance work - annual inspections a priority.</p>
<b>Major Activity 3: Monitoring Compliance</b>			
<p><i>All consents will be monitored according to the procedures set down in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Compliance Monitoring Procedures Manual, within budget.</i></p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 192 <u>WAR</u> 87</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 226 <u>WAR</u> 68</p>	<p><i>Consents monitoring is on-going throughout the year. All consents have been monitored according to procedures and within budget.</i></p>

**Resource Investigations  
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06  
Review for the quarter ended 30 June 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 1: Administration</b>			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	729	679	
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit was completed.
<b>Major Activity 2: Resource Information</b>			
All flood and low flow artesian pressure alarms will be actioned in accordance with documented procedures.	45	49	<p>Eleven rainfall alarms and one water level alarm were received during the quarter. These were all responded to in accordance with our documented procedures.</p> <p>In the year to date a total of 53 rainfall alarms and six water level alarms have been received.</p>
<b>Major Activity 3: Resource Analysis</b>			
<p><i>An annual report card containing summary information for the following resources will be published to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hydrology</i></li> <li>• <i>Groundwater</i></li> <li>• <i>Freshwater quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Coastal water quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Recreational water quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Air quality</i></li> <li>• <i>Soil quality</i></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WGN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">274</p> <p style="text-align: center;">132</p> <p style="text-align: center;">118</p> <p style="text-align: center;">50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">97</p> <p style="text-align: center;">307</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">723</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WGN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">326</p> <p style="text-align: center;">87</p> <p style="text-align: center;">97</p> <p style="text-align: center;">64</p> <p style="text-align: center;">82</p> <p style="text-align: center;">243</p> <p style="text-align: center;">52</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">730</p>	<p><i>Monitoring programmes are on-going.</i></p> <p><i>On 15 December 2005, report cards were presented to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 4: Pollution Control</b>			
<p><i>All complaints and notified pollution incidents will be responded to, recorded and, where appropriate, followed up to the satisfaction of the Environment Committee and within budget.</i></p> <p><i>An annual pollution report card will be produced to the satisfaction of the Council.</i></p> <p><i>The number of reported pollution incidents will reduce to 1270 in 2005/06. (This target is 85% of the total number of complaints received in 2002/03).</i></p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 281</p> <p><u>WAR</u> 71</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 154</p> <p><u>WAR</u> 78</p>	<p><i>236 incidents were notified and responded to in the quarter.</i></p> <p><i>An annual report card was presented to the Environment Committee on 30 May 2006.</i></p> <p><i>Our target for the year was 1,270 incidents. At the end of the year 1,211 incidents were notified; this represents 95.3% of the target.</i></p>
<p><i>Together with the Environment Education Department, the Take Charge programme for business will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	34	100	<p><i>There were 17 Take Charge follow-up visits completed for Drain 6, a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream at Paraparaumu. These visits were to review progress made in implementing the recommendations of the original audits. From these visits 15 reports were issued that require action on outstanding items. There were five other Take Charge assessments undertaken on businesses as follow-ups from incidents and investigations.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 29 Take Charge audits were completed during the year; in addition 28 re-visits were completed.</i></p>
<p>The Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) will be maintained and public enquires will be responded to as received.</p>	72	72	<p>At the end of the quarter 1,769 sites were included on SLUR.</p> <p>We received and responded to 80 enquiries about the status of sites during the quarter.</p> <p>In the year to date a total of 301 enquiries have been received and responded to.</p>
<b>Major Activity 5: Services</b>			
<p>Information, advice and services will be provided in accordance with agreed specifications.</p>	10	16	Achieved.

## Harbours

### Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06

**Review for the Year Ended 30 June 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 1: Harbours Department Support</b>			
The Department will meet its short-term performance indicators within budget.	490	498	
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			In June 2006 an internal audit was carried out. Ongoing H&S reports are carried out as required by the Council.
<i>The Port and Harbour Safety Management System will be commenced and implementation started.</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>On 23 February, Marico NZ presented the Wellington Harbour risk assessment report to the Environment Committee. The risk assessment provides a basis on which to develop and implement the Safety Management System, which will follow during the 2006/7 year.</i>
<b>Major Activity 2: Communications Service</b>			
<i>The Beacon Hill Harbour Communications Station will provide a 24 hour, 365 day service which is in accordance with Council agreed operating standards and within budget.</i>	<i>363</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>Since 2 September, an Automatic Identification System (AIS), which tracks the movement of sea vessels, has been installed at Beacon Hill. This system has proved very useful and will form part of our Safety Management System. An additional staff member has been employed.</i>
<b>Major Activity 3: Navigation Aids</b>			
All other routine repairs and maintenance will be carried out in accordance with a maintenance plan to be approved by the Divisional Manager, Environment.	69	142	During the period all navigation aids have operated satisfactorily with only routine maintenance necessary. After the southerly storm of 3 and 4 March 2006, divers checked the Barrett Reef buoy moorings. The "legs" of the moorings had some stud-damage and excessive wearing, and these have been re-splayed.

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<b>Major Activity 4: Pollution/Emergency Response Services</b>			
<p><i>Reports of oil spills in harbour waters will be checked within 30 minutes and clean-up action for actual oil spills commenced within one hour of being reported in harbour waters and within three hours of being reported in regional coastal waters, all within budget.</i></p> <p><i>A formal log will be kept and incidents followed up, where possible.</i></p>	6	13	<p><i>Thirty reports were received and all of these were checked within 30 minutes. Most of these were “false alarms”. Only one required some clean-up work.</i></p> <p><i>On 3 and 4 March 2006, a southerly storm broke-up the hulk of F69-Wellington, into three sections. Subsequently, the wreck was re-mapped by the commercial dive companies which use it.</i></p> <p><i>On 25 May, the f/v “James Cook” came adrift and grounded near the Miramar Wharf. The hulk was refloated after almost 12 hours aground.</i></p> <p><i>On 12 June 2006, a Chinese seaman was lost, presumed drowned, overboard from an oil tanker, near the Wellington Harbour entrance.</i></p>
<p>All staff will be certified according to Maritime Safety Authority oil spill response training requirements.</p>	13	26	<p>On 16 November 2005, a tabletop exercise was conducted with 14 GW staff participating.</p> <p>On 3 and 4 May, Maritime New Zealand held “Operation Hard Rock”, a major test of a Tier 3 oil spill response. Harbour staff and six other GW staff took a part in the exercise.</p> <p>Other Maritime New Zealand course. The Deputy H/M attended a revalidating Management Course. 14 GW staff members attended a Fundamentals Course. Three GW staff members attended a Field Operations Course. One GW staff attended a Management Course. One Harbour Ranger attended a Maritime New Zealand workshop in Christchurch.</p>



Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Maintenance check sheets will be completed every three months to the satisfaction of the Manager, Harbours.	30	59	On 27 September, 10 January, 29 March and 28 June oil spill equipment was checked and serviced as required.
<b>Major Activity 5: Enforcing Maritime Safety Regulations</b>			
All operators and operations will have valid licences and permits as required under harbour regulations and bylaws. A record will be kept.	3	3	Under the current regulations only a few licences for smaller craft is required.