



Report 06.84
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 27 January to 10 March 2006

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the western Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

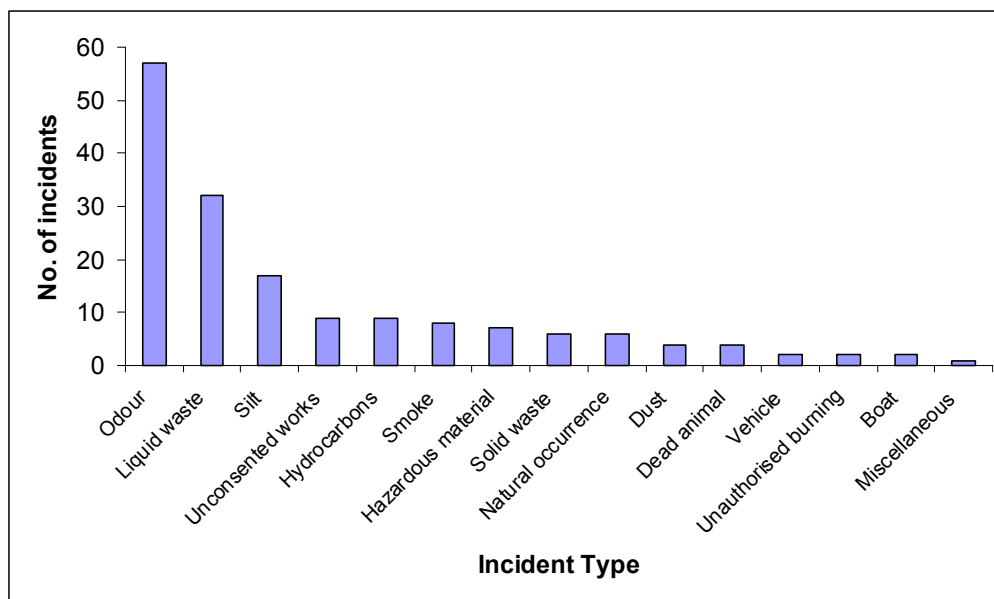
- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium-sized industry.
- Special Projects, which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

3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 166 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 27 January to 10 March 2006



Significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- Errors in the decommissioning of a silt pond at the Silverstream landfill caused a major silt discharge into Hutt Creek and the Hutt River. The Consents Management Department is currently considering regulatory options.
- Unauthorised stream works were identified at several properties on Flighty's Road, Pauatahanui. Retrospective consents are being sought where appropriate, and regulatory options are being considered.
- An investigating officer confirmed Taylor Preston Limited as the source of an offensive odour. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- A large quantity of non-cleanfill material was disposed of at the C&D Cleanfill site in Happy Valley. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- Emergency works to repair a sewer pipeline in Eastbourne resulted in a discharge of treated sewage effluent into the Waiwhetu Stream for several days. This discharge was authorised under emergency works provisions, and public health warning signs were erected by Hutt City Council.
- Operational problems at the Taylor Preston's wastewater treatment plant resulted in the discharge of stock effluent into the Ngauranga Stream. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- An explosion in an underground fuel storage tank at Caltex Paraparaumu mobilised all emergency services. However, there was no discharge of hazardous substances off the site, and an investigation is now underway into the cause and possible soil contamination around the tank.

3.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that yellow and blue incident response targets were met comfortably, with a minor exceedance for 'red' responses, due to officers being unable to deal with incidents in failing light.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	76 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	5.9 hours
Blue (7 days)	2.6 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	7
Infringement Notices	6
Abatement Notices	3
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	1

- Informations have been laid with the District Court to prosecute C&D Cleanfills for illegal streamworks in a tributary of the Owhiro Stream.
- Two abatement notices were issued to Barry Hughes in response to extensive unauthorised earthworks. The notices required him to install erosion and sediment control measures, and to authorise or reinstate illegal works in tributaries of the Speedy Stream.
- An abatement notice was issued to Guy Weaver of Guy Weaver's Auto Village in Paraparaumu, requiring no further discharge of contaminants form commercial car washing into the Wharemauku Stream.

The Pollution Control Team is currently considering regulatory options for other environmental incidents that occurred during this reporting period.

5. Take Charge

Pollution Control Officers have completed assessments of all businesses along the northern side of Ihakara Street in Paraparaumu, as part of the Drain 6 investigation. This study is summarised in a separate paper to this Committee.

A proposal to modify delivery of the *Take Charge* programme is now being implemented, which substantially streamlines programme delivery and reporting.

An initial visit has been made to the Wellington Zoo in preparation for a full Take Charge assessment later in the year.

6. Special projects

6.1 Algal Monitoring

Ten river sites were visited in February 2006 to determine whether toxic algae were present. Toxic species were confirmed at three of the sites, although toxin levels were not at a sufficient concentration to cause concern. Greater Wellington continues to work with Regional Public Health and territorial authorities in the region to coordinate our response to toxic algae in several of the region's rivers.

6.2 Pollution Control Report Card

A report card has been produced to summarise the content of the Pollution Control annual report.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report; and*
- 2. Note the contents.*

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary