



Report 07.643
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Committee Environment
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Pollution Control Report

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the 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 to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- 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 102 incidents were recorded during the reporting period 13 July to 12 August, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

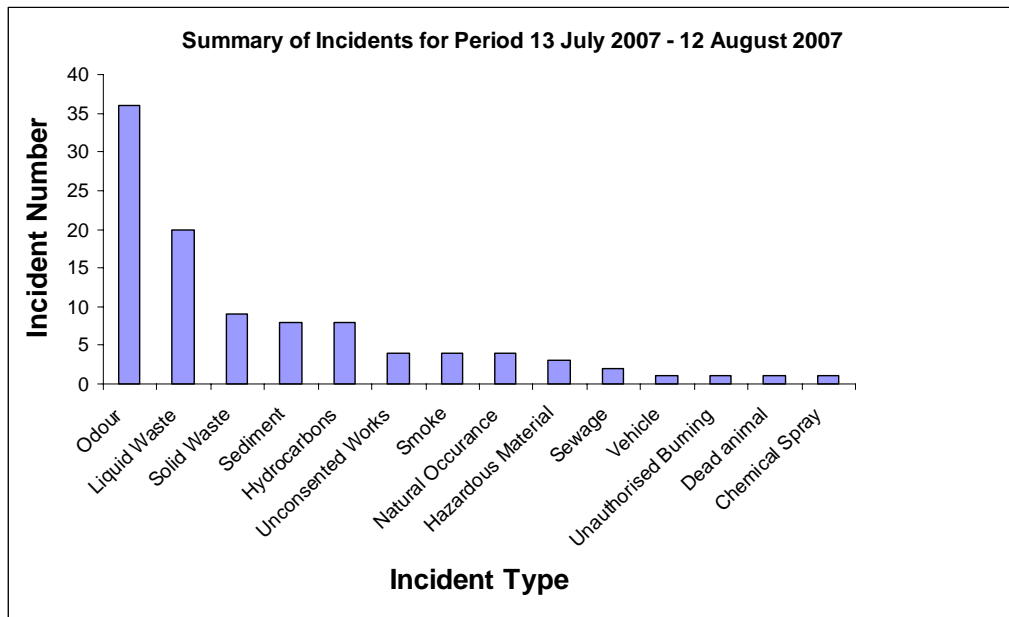


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 13 July to 12 August

Pollution Control has noticed a significant reduction in smoke related incidents due to a reduction in calls from a regular complainant.

A forestry logging operation undertaken by Makara Forest Partnership has resulted in exposed logs and debris on the flood plain along the Ohariu Stream. Pollution Control is considering enforcement options for remediation of these works.



During an investigation of the Wellington Egg Company Limited chicken farm at the start of August, officers observed piles of chicken wastes discharged to land beside local streams. Samples taken indicated high levels of faecal coliforms and nutrients in a drain at the farm and effects on water quality in the adjacent stream. Abatement notices have been issued to the landowners and the company to cease further unauthorised discharges at the property.



1. Burnt chickens in incinerator



2. Piles of faeces leaching out of shed

An incident in Mohaka St, Wainuiomata involved a stream bank next to a new residential development. The developer recontoured and raised the bank of a tributary of Black Creek, no sediment control measures were put in place and works were undertaken without resource consent, resulting in sediment release to the stream. Greater Wellington issued an abatement notice to cease further sediment discharges. Since then the bank has been pulled back 5 metres from the stream. Hutt City Council has also been involved.

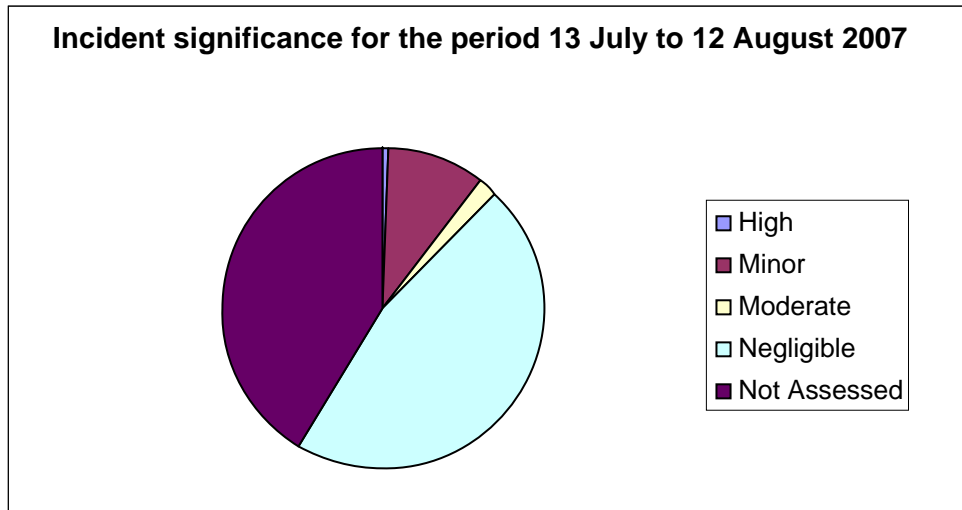


Pollution Control investigated sediment discharging from a large pile of construction waste materials tipped into a watercourse in Masterton. The material reclaimed a section of the stream and was used to construct a crossing. After direction from officers the materials were removed.



3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, extent and duration of environmental effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible affects. The incidents categorised as “Not Assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, extent or duration of environmental effects



3.3 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 all target response times were met within the target response time.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	28.7
Yellow (24 hours)	4.81
Blue (7 days)	1.86

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	1
Infringement Notices	8
Abatement Notices	18
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

Summary of Infringement Notices

31 July 2007 An infringement notice was issued to M&M Construction for breaching a consent condition by diverting an unnamed stream in the Hutt River catchment prior to the completion of the construction of a stilling basin and rip-rap.

8 August 2007 Oriel and Kerrie Martin received two infringement notices for an unauthorised extension of boat shed decking between two boatsheds at Paremata Road, Pauatahanui, and use of a boatshed for accommodation purposes.

The infringement notice for the unauthorised extension of structures was subsequently withdrawn.

16 August 2007 Kilmory Farms Ltd of Moreton Road, Carterton, received an infringement notice for unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to surface water from a dairy shed and storage pond.

17 August 2007 David Fogarty was issued two notices for unauthorised tracking activities and for depositing material in an unnamed tributary of Mitchell Stream, Colonial Knob, Porirua.

17 August 2007 Anthony De Vries FI Investments Ltd received two notices for discharging sediment to a watercourse, and failure to comply with a previous abatement notice, at Mohaka Street, Wainuiomata.

Note: Infringement notice 1213 to Oriel and Kerrie Martin for the unauthorised extension of structures was subsequently withdrawn on 8 August 2007.

Summary of Abatement Notices

- 17 July 2007 An abatement notice was issued to Lesley Bradshaw for burning treated timber.
- 17 July 2007 Ratan Parbhu received two abatement notices, one to avoid unauthorised sediment discharges entering an unnamed tributary of the Owhiro Stream, and another to authorise, or remove the illegal fill material and reinstate the stream to its prior condition, at two sections of an unnamed tributary of the Owhiro Stream.
- 19 July 2007 Christopher Mason and Alexander Road Developments Limited were issued two abatement notices to cease works in and around the bed of a tributary of Hulls Creek, Upper Hutt. The works were in preparation for an unauthorised piping of the stream.
- 20 July 2007 Anthony De Vries and F I Investments Ltd received two abatement notices for sediment discharges from earthworks into adjacent watercourses, from a subdivision at the end of Mohaka Street.
- 27 July 2007 Gary Wakelin received an abatement to authorise, remove or mitigate an illegal diversion structure (stopbank), or its effects, in a floodplain, as it impedes flood flows, adjacent Masterton-Martinborough Road, Carterton.
- 27 July 2007 Clive Thompson and Parkvale Mushrooms Ltd received two abatement notices for illegal discharges of liquid waste to an unnamed tributary of the Parkvale Stream.
- 30 July 2007 Smart Dogs Capital City and Teleports NZ Limited (landowner) received an abatement notice for unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land from vehicle grooming and onsite processes. Both recipients were asked to provide Greater Wellington with a copy of the drainage plan for the site, including any modifications to ensure compliance.
- 1 August 2007 Scot and Judy Preston received an abatement notice for an illegal stopbank at Grays Road, Pauatahanui. They were required to authorise, remove or mitigate the effects of the structure.

8 August 2007	Oriel and Kerrie Martin received an abatement notice requiring them to cease using boatsheds for accommodation purposes, and to remove an unauthorised fence erected between two boatsheds.
17 August 2007	David Fogarty was issued a notice to authorise or remove a structure and deposited materials in an unnamed tributary of Mitchell Stream, Colonial Knob, Porirua.
22 August 2007	Two notices were issued to four parties connected with Wellington Egg Company, to cease discharges of egg waste and poultry effluent to land, and discharges to air from burning chicken carcasses, at Judgeford, Pauatahanui.
30 August 2007	Partsworld Holdings (NZ) Ltd and Maurice McNabb were issued a notice for illegal discharges of oily wastewater at Mortex Parts World, Wingate, Lower Hutt.

Note: Abatement notice to Smart Dogs was cancelled on 3 August 2007 because the recipients moved premise and were no longer operating from this site.

5. *Take Charge*

The Pollution Control team are continuing audits in Grenada North. The initial area assessment identified 62 sites in the storm water catchment, 32 of these sites were considered to pose a medium to high risk to the storm water network and Takapu Stream.

The final assessment was undertaken at Astra Print Ltd to complete EnviroSMART audits for 2006-07 business enrolments. We have received the EnviroSMART business intakes for the 2007-08 year, so far 12 businesses have enrolled in the programme. Pollution Control is scheduling these visits to be completed by November 2007.

EnviroSMART is a programme run by Landcare Research to promote sustainable business practice. The *Take Charge* audit ensures that businesses gain their bronze level accreditation in the EnviroSMART programme.

6. Special projects

On 8 May 2006, an abatement notice was served to Adam Turner for unauthorised filling of a wetland at Greys Rd Kakaho Stream catchment. The notice requested that Adam undertake a survey to establish pre-existing extent of the wetland area, install erosion and sediment control works, and remove all materials that have encroached into the pre-existing wetland, back to the natural ground level. It also required that the newly formed batter face be re-vegetated as soon as practicable.

These photos show the site before and after remedial works were undertaken. The after shot shows native bulrush rhizomes' emerging after fill material was removed.



3. Before remedial works



4. After remedial works were undertaken. Rhizomes visible.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the contents.***

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary