



Report 07.761  
Date 20 November 2007  
File ENV/17/02/01

Committee Regulatory Committee  
Author Nic Conland, Pollution Control Officer

## Pollution Control Report for the period 12 August to 2 November 2007

### 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 environmental baseline conditions and trends, determine compliance with the permitted activity rules, and characterise environmental pressures.

### 3. Incidents

#### 3.1 Incident summary

A total of 240 incidents were recorded during the reporting period 12 August to 2 November, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

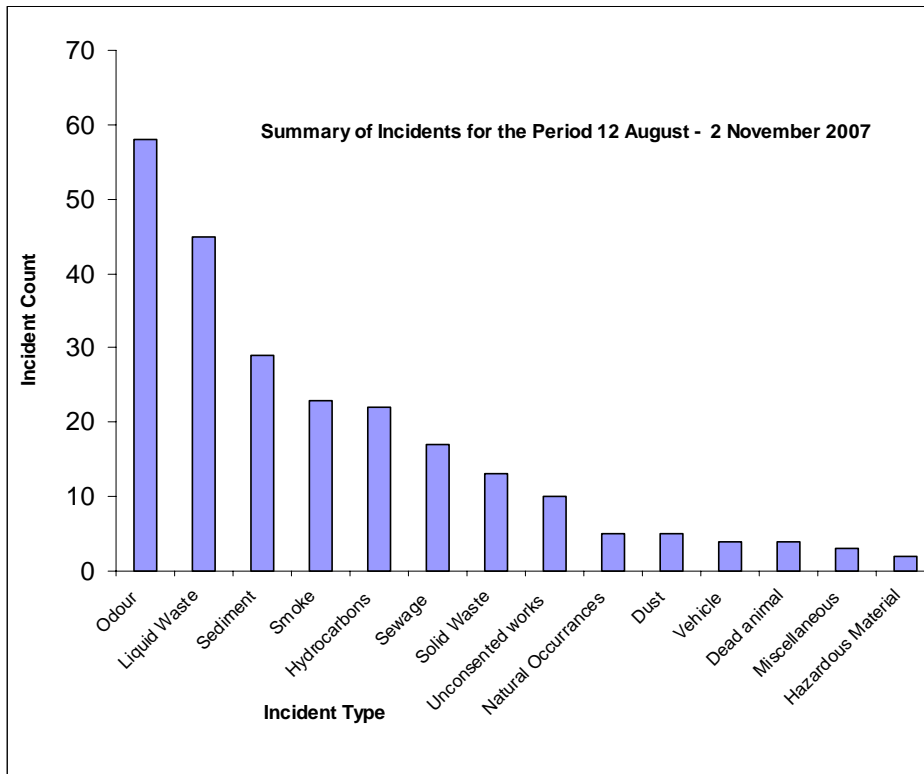


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 12 August to 2 November 2007

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

Greater Wellington Pollution Control officers investigated a significant discharge to the Waiwhetu Stream after an overflow from the Naenae reservoir during maintenance by Greater Wellington's water supply station at Waterloo, Lower Hutt. During the 45 min discharge some 875m<sup>3</sup> of water was released down a steep bank causing erosion to the bed and bank of the Waiwhetu Stream. Greater Wellington released a media statement after numerous calls from local residents. Greater Wellington's Water Supply and Distribution Department are putting in place measures to avoid a repeat event and remediating of stream and reserve area.



Pollution Control officers have investigated trucks with construction waste crossing the Pauatahanui stream at Judgeford, Porirua. A local cleanfill operator has approached Greater Wellington for a resource consent for an appropriate crossing structure.



On 19 September 2007, Pollution Control officers confirmed an offensive odour at the Living Earth composting site. During the evening there were 22 calls from the wider Brooklyn catchment. Officers were also able to confirm an offensive odour of a similar character in the Mitchell Street area. An enforcement decision is being prepared.



Pollution Control officers are investigating the effects from a water take which may be effecting an important giant Kōkopu habitat in Paekakariki. The existing consented take is operating at full capacity with increasing demand for further water in the area. Further investigations and input from the EMI Department is required to fully assess the impacts on the stream.



Pollution Control officers investigated the discharge of hydrocarbons to the south coast from an abandoned vehicle. The investigating officer arranged for the car to be removed and the beach cleaned up. Costs will be recovered from the owners for the clean up and the removal of the vehicle.

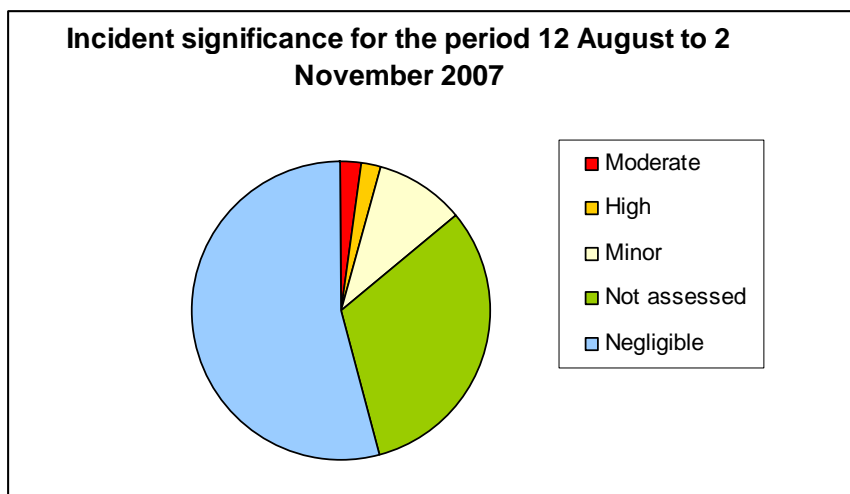


Pollution Control officers investigated illegal works in a Wairarapa wetland. Works were undertaken on a farm in Carterton to take water for irrigation purposes. The investigating officer, in consultation with Greater Wellington’s ecologist Tim Park, has instructed the owner to remediate the site.



### 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)	36.7 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6.0 hours
Blue (7 days)	2.3 days

## 4. Enforcement action

There have been fewer infringements issued in the reporting period. The practice of issuing an abatement notice to each party responsible for an incident has meant the abatement notice numbers remain consistent. Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	15
Infringement Notices	1
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (and information's laid)	0

### Summary of Infringement Notices

14 September 2007

Breach of Abatement Infringement Notice I229

Abatement Notice A164 issued on 1 August 2007 requiring the land owner to either;

- a) authorise the illegal diversion structure;
- b) remove the illegal diversion structure; or
- c) mitigate the effects of the diversion structure by 5 September 2007.

Greater Wellington was informed via a phone

conversation that the landowners had chosen to mitigate the effects of the illegal diversion structure. Observations by enforcement officers during a site inspection attended by the landowners on 14 September 2007 confirmed that mitigation works hadn't been completed.

**Note:** Infringement notice 1227 was paid on 29 August 2007.

#### Summary of Abatement Notices

31 October 2007                      Juken New Zealand Limited and Hiroyuki Kawado (Director) were issued with an abatement notice for illegal discharges of liquid waste to an unnamed tributary of the Parkvale Stream.

Note: David Fogarty has submitted a resource consent application to authorise the structure in Mitchell Stream.

## 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. Two sites were audited in this area in the reporting period at Ergoform Limited (a furniture manufacturing company) and Supreme Painting and Powder Ltd.

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. One of the sites from the Granada North assessment area has also elected to participate in the EnviroSMART programme.

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. Six of these businesses have had their *Take Charge* audit to help them the bronze level accreditation through EnviroSMART.

The *Take Charge* team has also developed a certificate to present to those officer who have completed Greater Wellington's *Take Charge* assessment and completed the recommendations within the report.



## 6. Special projects



### **Household hazardous waste collection**

On 18 and 19 August, staff from the Environmental Regulation and Policy departments assisted Hutt City Council in its annual household hazardous waste collection, and also provided the use of the Greater Wellington's HazMobile.

The collection was set up as a sequence of drop-off points manned by volunteers, who uplifted waste items from peoples' cars. There was a great turn out on both days, with 364 attendees in Upper Hutt, and 621 in Lower Hutt.

Products ranged from used paint to old gas canisters, PCB light fittings and waste oil, with the addition this year of an electronic (e-waste). A total of

6191 kgs and 10,829 kgs of general household hazardous waste was collected from the Hutt Valley, and approximately 10,000 and 20,000 kgs of E-waste.

Of what was collected, a large amount was able to be reused or recycled, and the remainder was sent to be destroyed or treated for disposal either in New Zealand – or in the case of certain battery types and intractable chemical waste – overseas.

## **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.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Nic Conland**  
Team Leader, Environmental  
Regulation

**Al Cross**  
Manager, Environmental  
Regulation

**Nigel Corry**  
Divisional Manager,  
Environment Management  
Division

**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary