

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – March 2008

1. Maintaining regional plans

1.1 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. Submissions on the plan change closed on 15 October 2007 and four submissions were received (no further submissions).

Staff reports have been completed and are ready to send to submitters. Submitters will now have the opportunity to be heard and the appointment of a hearing committee is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

The status of proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan has not changed since the last Committee meeting. The plan change sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities and is being done jointly with Wellington City Council. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs. The end result will provide for port noise management that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries.

Decisions on the plan change were made by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and notified on 6 October 2007. One appeal to the Environment Court, from Wellington International Airport, was received in November 2007. In December 2007, CentrePort joined the proceedings.

2. National Environment Standard for the measurement of water takes

The Government announced in February 2008 that the National Environment Standard for the Measurement of Water Takes is now being drafted. It follows a proposed standard that was notified in November 2006. Greater Wellington's submission in February 2007 supported the scope and content of the proposed standard and commented on the need for electronic records (continuous recorders), the importance of careful installation and maintenance, and the frequency of recording and transferring data.

Our State of the Environment Report *Measuring Up 2005* identified that limited information on the amount of water actually taken and used by resource consent holders is hampering our ability to allocate water efficiently. We said in *Measuring up* that more metering of resource consents for water takes was needed. The national environment standard is consistent with the approach Greater Wellington is taking.

3. Submission on the Public Health Bill

Greater Wellington made a submission on the Public Health Bill. The submission supports the purpose of the Bill which is to improve, promote, and protect public health to help attain optimal and equitable health outcomes for Maori and all other population groups. We also supported the intent of the Bill in providing for a risk management approach to the public health.

Other areas of interest in the Bill are:

- a reporting requirement for regional councils. The Director-General or any DHB may require a written report on any matter concerning the functions of the regional council that affects or may affect public health. Specific reference is made to management of water sources used as drinking water and air quality. We have requested further clarification of this requirement.
- control of nuisances. The scope of the matters that may constitute a nuisance are fairly broad and there is some overlap with regional council functions under the RMA (“emissions or discharge”, “dirt or odour” and “composting”). With the exception of “emissions and discharges” the overlap is not likely to be problematic and we supported this part of the Bill.
- power to make public health bylaws. The circumstances allowing territorial authorities to make public health bylaws do not seem to add anything to their ability to make bylaws under the Local Government Act 2002, and the processes are not as robust as the processes for proposing bylaws required in the LGA. There is also some overlap with regional councils’ ability to control activities under the RMA that does not add any value. We did not support this part of the Bill.
- emergency provisions. The Bill deals with the interrelationship between the exercise of emergency powers for public health purposes and the exercise of powers arising from a declaration of a state of emergency under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002. We supported this part of the Bill.
- health impact assessments. Local authorities can choose to undertake health impact assessments to identify and assess whether proposed actions will have a positive or negative effect on public health before those actions are taken. We supported this part of the Bill.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – March 2008

1. Rainfall and River Flows

1.1 Rainfall

In general, January 2008 was an extremely dry month in many parts of the Wellington region. The Wairarapa valley and south-eastern Wairarapa were particularly dry, with rainfall totals for January about 15-20% of the long-term average for the month. Of note, only 10 mm of rainfall was recorded during the month at our rainfall stations in Masterton and the Longbush valley. It was the driest January since monitoring began in 1963 at 'Alloa' near Featherston, and the second driest since 1926 in Masterton. The month was characterised by anticyclones east of the South Island, resulting in frequent easterlies over the North Island – a typical weather pattern of La Nina.

In contrast to the generally dry January conditions, high rainfall for the month was recorded on the Kapiti coast and western Tararua Ranges. This was due to a localised prolonged storm on 7-8 January. Rainfall totals exceeding 250 mm over 24 hours were recorded in the lower Tararua Ranges, causing large floods in the foothill catchments.

Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for January 2008, compared to long-term average

	January 2008 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for January (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for January
Waikanae Water Treatment Plant	191.5	73	262
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	35.4	80.5	44
Wainuiomata Reservoir	65.5	106	62
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	257	456	56
Alloa (Featherston)	13.2	63.7	21
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	20.5	62.6	33

Following on from a dry January, February 2008 had very low rainfall throughout most of the Wellington region. Rainfall was less than a third of average for the month on the Kapiti Coast and the Wairarapa plains, and less than half of average in parts of the Tararua range, the Tararua foothills, and eastern Wairarapa hills. On the Wairarapa plains (at 'Alloa') it was the driest February since 1973 – following on from the driest January on record at this site. The low rainfall during February was a result of stable weather conditions and more north easterlies than normal over the region, a situation that is typical of La Nina.

Except on the Kapiti Coast and western Tararua ranges (which were affected by the large storm of 7-8 January) the rainfall for 2008 to date has been well below average, and less than a quarter of average on the Wairarapa plains.

Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for February 2008 and during 2008 to date, compared to long-term average

	February 2008 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for February (mm)	2008 rainfall to end of Feb (mm)	Long-term average to end of Feb (mm)	Percentage of long-term average, year to date
Waikanae Water Treatment Plant	22.5	76	214	149	143%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	47.2	76	81.4	157	52%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	55.5	108	121	214	57%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	206	456	463	845	55%
Alloa (Featherston)	15.5	68	28.5	132	22%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	24.5	77	45	140	32%

1.2 Rivers

Due to the low rainfall in January 2008, many rivers of the region had lower than average flows for the month. The exceptions were rivers and streams of the Kapiti coast, which were affected by the storm on 7-8 January. The storm resulted in very high flows in the Waitohu and Mangaone streams, with estimated flood return periods of 10-15 years. The Hutt River also experienced a small flood as a result of that storm, meaning that the average January river flow was higher than December's.

Flows remained low in the Wairarapa rivers and streams, with the Waingawa River experiencing its lowest average January flow since 1981. By the end of the month, the Waingawa River and Ruamahanga River at Wardells were at their estimated 5-year return period low flows and the Ruamahanga River at Waihenga at an estimated 20-year return period low flow.

January 2008 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow January 2008	Long-term average for January	Percentage of long- term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	8.12 m ³ /s	3.63 m ³ /s	224%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	13.1 m ³ /s	16.1 m ³ /s	81%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.33 m ³ /s	0.57 m ³ /s	58%
Waiohine River at Gorge	10.6 m ³ /s	17.8 m ³ /s	60%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	18.0 m ³ /s	46.0 m ³ /s	39%

Due to the low rainfall in February 2008 and preceding months, the rivers and streams of the region had lower than average flows for the month. All the monitored rivers had monthly mean flows less than half the long-term average for February. The monthly mean February flow in the Hutt River (at Birchville and Taita Gorge) was the lowest since February 1983, and many of the Wairarapa rivers had their lowest February flows since 1994.

February 2008 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow February 2008	Long-term average for February	Percentage of long- term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	1.44 m ³ /s	3.45 m ³ /s	42%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	5.15 m ³ /s	14.44 m ³ /s	36%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.17 m ³ /s	0.37 m ³ /s	46%
Waiohine River at Gorge	5.92 m ³ /s	16.90 m ³ /s	35%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	10.08 m ³ /s	45.74 m ³ /s	22%

1.3 Summer 2007/08 rainfall and river flows

February 2008 followed three months of relatively dry weather. As shown in Figure 1, the rainfall for the four months from November 2007 to February 2008 was significantly below average in all parts of the region except the Kapiti Coast. Rainfall for this period was as low as 35% of long-term average on the Wairarapa plains and less than 60% of average in the eastern hills, parts of the Tararua Range, Wainuiomata, Orongorongo Range and Wellington city. Statistical analysis of the rainfall totals for summer (December to February) shows that although in many parts of the region the summer was significantly dry, there was more rainfall than during the summer of 1972/73 (when there was a notable drought).

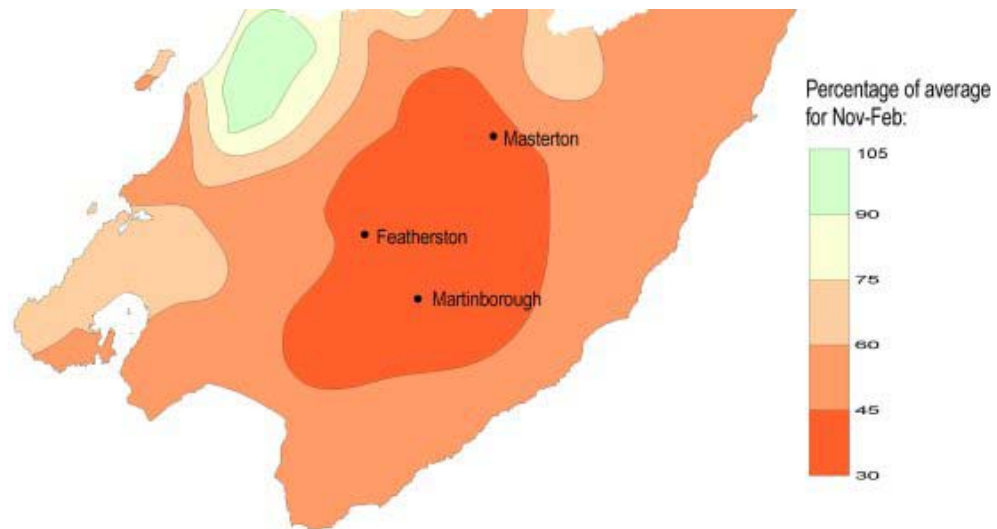


Figure 1: Rainfall during the period Nov 2007 to Feb 2008 as a percentage of the long-term average

Summer (Dec-Feb) 2007/08 rainfall statistics at key monitoring stations in the Wellington region

Site	Year records began	Long-term summer average (mm)	Summer 2007/08 rainfall (mm)	Summer 2007/08 compared to average	(Previous) driest on record	Comment about summer 2007/08
Karori Reservoir ¹	1879	246	160.6	65%	113 mm in 1972/73	In lowest quartile of record
Kaitoke Headworks	1951	466	205.6	44%	204 mm in 1972/73	Second lowest on record, after 1973
Bull Mound (Sth Taranua Range)	1980	904	491.5	54%	538 mm in 1988/89	Lowest on record
Wainuiomata Reservoir [†]	1890	344	168.5	49%	128 mm in 2000/01	In lowest 10 th percentile
Waikanae WTP	1970	263	261.5	99%	117 mm in 1977/78	
Alloa (Featherston)	1964	216	104.5	40%	82 mm in 1972/73	3 rd lowest on record
Tanawa Hut (Eastern Wairarapa)	1956	233	140.5	60%	75 mm in 1997/98	

The lowest river flows (7-day and 28-day mean flows) experienced during the 2007/08 dry spell to date are most significant for the Wairarapa rivers. Return periods in the range 4-15 years have been assigned to the low flows in the Ruamahanga River and its western tributaries, although the 7-day lowest flow in the Ruamahanga River at Waihenga may have been more severe (to be confirmed). In general, the lowest flows were not as low as flows experienced

¹ Driest on record taken to be the driest in the last 50 years

during droughts of 1978 and 1985². The Hutt and Wainuiomata rivers have had low flows this year with estimated return periods of 3-4 years. In the Wainuiomata River, lower flows were observed in March/April 2001 and in the Hutt River lower flows occurred in autumn 2003.

Low flow statistics for 2007/08 to date, for major rivers in the Wellington region

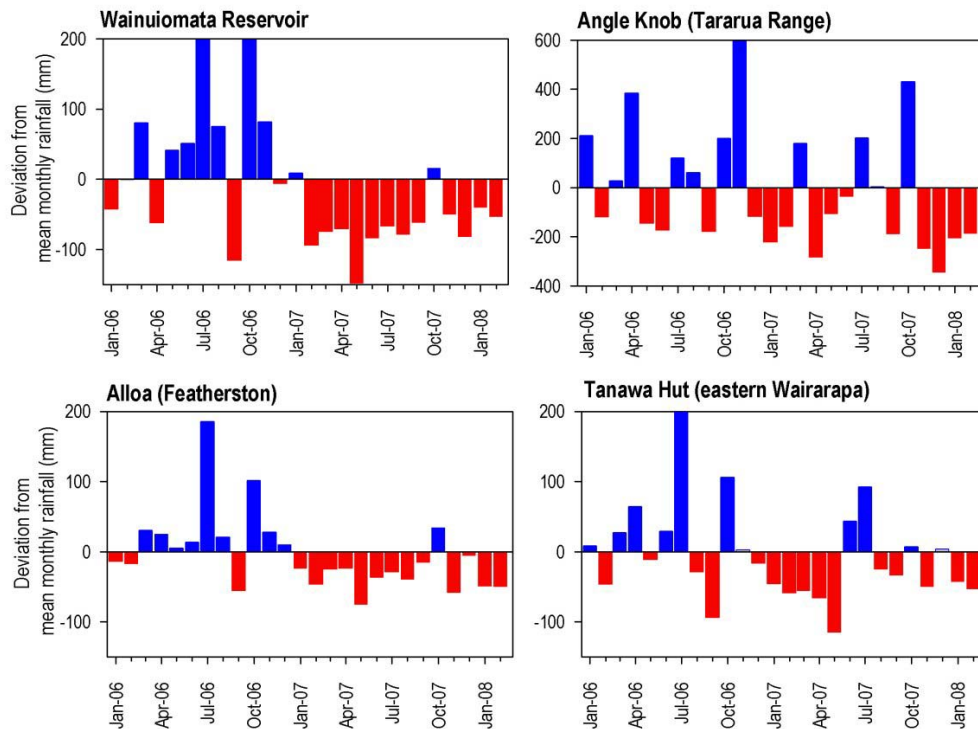
	Lowest 7-day mean flow		Lowest 28-day mean flow	
	Flow (m ³ /s)	Est. return period	Flow (m ³ /s)	Est. return period
Waikanae River at WTP	0.94	2 years	1.13	2 years
Hutt River at Birchville	2.40	3 years	2.83	4 years
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.13	4 years	0.16	4 years
Ruamahanga River at Wardells	1.9	10 years	2.5	11 years
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	5.5	30+ years?	8.4	15 years
Waingawa River at Kaituna	1.02	4 years	1.6	8 years

1.4 Longer-term perspective

In addition to the recent months of low rainfall, in general 2007 was drier than average. In some parts of the region, October was the only month of 2007 when there wasn't a significant rainfall deficit (Refer to graphs below). Of note, at Alloa (Featherston) the 12 month period from 3 February 2007 was the second driest since records began in 1964 (the driest 12 month period on record was in 1972/73). As a result, soil moisture levels are now significantly below average for the time of the year.

The extended dry spell during autumn 2007 was linked to El Nino, whereas the current drought is occurring during La Nina conditions. The La Nina is expected to persist through autumn 2008. La Nina conditions can lead to low rainfall throughout the Wellington region, but particularly on the Wairarapa plains, Kapiti coast, Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata. For comparative purposes, the last La Nina occurred in 2000/01 and the last strong La Nina was in 1988/89. These events are associated with some of the lowest historic flows in the Wainuiomata, Hutt and Ruamahanga rivers.

² At most sites flow records do not go back as far as 1973. There is data for 1972/73 for NIWA's site Hutt River at Kaitoke, and the record for the 2007/08 summer will be analysed once it has been received from NIWA.



Monthly rainfall as deviation from average at selected sites in the Wellington region, since January 2006. Blue bars indicate rainfall was above average and red bars indicate rainfall was below average.

2. Floodwarning

The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the Wellington region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre and the Masterton office. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

In January one event triggered six river alarms in the Western part of the region. There were no events in February.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for a day in early January and then for 45 days from the 10th. This is the longest period that the lake has been blocked since at least 1971. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa rose to above the target level as a consequence of the blocked lake outlet but since the opening on the 24th of February have reduced to around the target level.

3. Groundwater levels

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Low groundwater levels have been recorded in the Lower Hutt Aquifer in all monitoring wells throughout the summer. Low levels in the aquifer have been caused by increases in the volume taken from the Waterloo well field for the metropolitan potable water supply. This is a consequence of low flows in the

Hutt River reducing the amount of water that can be taken from the river. The Gear Island well field was also utilised in late January 2008 causing a significant decline in groundwater levels. To the end of February the 2.3m 24hr mean level consent condition at the McEwan Park well had not been triggered.

We are working with Bulk Water in maintaining a close watch on aquifer levels; they have been modifying abstraction from the well field to maintain levels above 2.3m.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels at our deep confined monitoring bore in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast have been below long term minimum for January and February. This is a continuation of a slow long term decline in levels in this borehole.

Groundwater levels in our deep confined monitoring bore in Waikanae have been below average for November and December, but are above long term minimums. No significant usage of the Waikanae bore field has occurred through January and February.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels for most Wairarapa Groundwater zones are at or around all time low levels, reflecting the low recharge over the summer and high irrigation demand. Low levels are most evident in rainfall recharged aquifers (e.g. Parkvale). Some majority river recharge aquifers are showing less stress, due to the buffering capacity of the rivers maintaining groundwater heads.

In the Te Ore Ore area the Oliver Deep borehole has been at all time low levels for most of the last 12 months. In January and February 2008 levels have continued to drop with the current level approximately 2m below long term average. This reflects low recharge and high irrigation demands.

The Oliver Shallow borehole has had a less extreme response compared with the Oliver Deep borehole, although levels are still below the long term minimum. Levels in the shallow system are probably more influenced by recharge from the Ruamahanga River and less affected by takes for irrigation.

In the deep confined Parkvale aquifer monitoring bore levels are still tracking below long term minimum. Less than average winter rainfall recharge is postulated to have led to low summer levels.

Water levels in the monitoring bore in the rainfall recharged, semi confined Martinborough aquifer have been below average since August 2007. Levels in the aquifer have continued to drop reflecting low rainfall recharge in late winter 2007 and throughout the summer.

4. Air quality monitoring

4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in January or February in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

5. Water quality

5.1 Recreational water quality monitoring

Weekly water quality monitoring commenced at 100 popular beach and river bathing sites in November and will continue until the end of March. Results of testing are uploaded to the website as soon as they are received; these are displayed on a map using the 'traffic light' red, orange and green system to denote the level of risk of contacting waterborne diseases when swimming.

High enterococci numbers were recorded at Owhiro Bay in early February (beginning 4 February) which led to warning signs being erected. An investigation was initiated by Wellington City Council but no clearly identifiable cause was found. The beach, after a number of retests, subsequently tested clear (14 February).

5.2 Toxic blue-green algae

Growths of mat-forming toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) continued to be present in many of the region's rivers in January and February, particularly evident and of concern in the Hutt River.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – March 2008

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 12 January 2008 to 29 February 2008 we have received 119 consent applications. This compares with 64 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 78 consents. This compares with 75 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 10 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July stands at 15 (no change since January).

We have received almost double the level of applications since January compared to the same period last year. We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications, and enforcement activity by the consents and compliance teams remains reasonably heavy. Bore permit numbers have remained at a moderate level over the period. In addition the continuing water restrictions activity has placed a particularly heavy burden on the Masterton consents and compliance team.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 4, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties is also attached for information.

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

WCC has appealed the 23 January GW hearing panel decision on replacement applications for WCC/Capacity's ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. The appeal is substantial covering a wide range of matters including monitoring and reporting requirements, UV irradiation treatment requirements and pilot study reporting. However, consent duration appears to be the central issue, with terms imposed of 25 years (fully treated effluent discharge to Cook Strait via the long outfall and discharge of process odours), and 10 years (mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened

effluent discharge). Wellington Marine Fishers' Association also joined the process as a section 274 party (a party to the appeal proceedings).

We expect to soon commence mediation with the parties but are yet to receive notice of the date for the first call-over at the Environment Court.

Greater Wellington: Flood Protection Department – Scadden's stopbank

In a positive turn of events Mr Barton has sought to discontinue his appeal to the High Court. At the same time discussions with Mr Barton regarding our respective positions on key matters both related and unrelated to Mr Barton's appeal are progressing slowly (for instance stopbank access, culvert capacity and upgrade issues affecting Whakawiriwiri Drain, water take consenting issues) but we are hopeful that we can still reach some form of resolution on these.

This appeal relates to A J Barton's appeal to the High Court on the Environment Court's decision to uphold GW's decision on the Flood Protection Department's proposal to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. The appeal concerns the status and use of a paper road and implications on it of the proposed stopbank upgrade.

There is no other significant activity on current appeals to report to the March meeting.

Other ongoing appeals

- ***Waterfront Investments Limited – Hilton Hotel:*** Constructing and operating a Hilton Hotel on Queens Wharf Outer-T, Wellington. Close to receiving a decision from the Environment Court.
- ***Wellington City Council/Capacity – Western Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Continued operation of Western Water Treatment Plant including discharges to the Karori South Coast and Karori Stream. Mediation to recommence in May.
- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (stage 2) at Castlepoint. Comments on proposed Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) on stage 2 being provided to MDC and now awaiting their response. Public meeting held on 3 March to discuss proposals for stage 2.

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

There are no general matters to report to this meeting.

3.2 Specific compliance

The summer dry continues as does water restrictions on all consented surface water takes throughout the Wairarapa. The additional work generated for the Masterton consents and compliance team has been substantial. Communications with consent holders and to a lesser extent, monitoring inspections, remain a daily occurrence interspersed with regular heavy bursts of activity to increase restrictions on a range of watercourses or temporarily remove restrictions (following rainfall events and ‘freshes’). We have also installed a webpage link to flow and updated restriction information to enable consent holders to check information and re-establish or cease takes accordingly.

Restrictions on the Wellington side of the region have been limited, although restrictions on consented takes in the Waiwhetu Aquifer are now entirely possible given current declining aquifer levels.

Meanwhile, summer odour complaint numbers across the region have been amongst the lowest for many years. While traditional odourous activities (such as Carey’s Gully complex, Taylor Preston Abattoir, and Reid’s Piggery) have still generated complaints, numbers have been well down. The apparent improvement needs to be treated as a positive development, particularly given the relative frequency of odour generating conditions during the summer.

3.3 Abatement notices

We have issued eleven abatements in the last period (compared to nine for the previous period), covering unauthorised stream works, and air and land discharges.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.121).

3.4 Infringement notices

We have issued seven infringement notices in the last period (compared to five for the previous period), for breaches of resource consent (stream works and dairy effluent discharges), unconsented stream works and offensive and objectionable odours.

Infringements are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.121).

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Three prosecutions and three sets of enforcement order applications are currently before the Court – and there has been considerable activity in the last period. A number of orders are currently being implemented.

Lance James, Brooklyn Holdings and Brooklyn Rise Ltd

This is a new prosecution¹ resulting from the complete failure of the parties to meet basic requirements (provision of certain plans, failure to meet timelines) of enforcement orders affecting unconsented works at two separate subdivisions in Ohiro Rd, Brooklyn.

The orders required erosion and sediment control plans to prevent excessive ongoing discharges of sediment into Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision (282 Ohiro Rd); and vegetation replanting, erosion and sediment control and reinstatement of a small stream (reclaimed without consent) (318 Ohiro Rd).

In all, five sets of charges were laid against each of the parties, and it is unfortunate that we found ourselves in the position that prosecution was necessary despite repeated communications with the parties.

Capital Egg, Peter van Dyk, Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station

The prosecution concerns charges against four parties for illegally dumping chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Te Kamaru (Terawhiti) Station resulting in a direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Eight charges (between four parties) had been laid in total for discharging from a trade premise to land and discharging to water.

The final hearing and sentencing took place on 11 February securing convictions against Capital Egg, and confirming Capital Egg's agreed restitution of \$12,500 to restitution in the catchment and \$5,000 contribution to GW's legal costs. In light of the defendants' offer and a request for the individual charges to be dropped, Judge Thompson discharged Peter van Dyk without conviction. Earlier, enforcement orders for monitoring, and riparian planting and physical mitigation of the affected tributary of Oteranga Stream against Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station were also confirmed together with an additional contribution to GW's costs of \$5,000.

As reported at February committee, the Judge had already commented that the level of offending here was at the serious end of the scale, and subsequently noted unusual features of the case such as the parties' obliviousness to possible significant contamination issues in the first place.

This is an excellent result for our first fully defended hearing for some time. The restitution and costs contributions confirmed are in the same order of magnitude of the more significant sentences coming from the Environment Court in recent times. We have subsequently issued a press release on the result.

¹ Informations laid on 22 February 2008.

Cardno TCB (TCB) - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development

The case relates to a breach of consent conditions involving the failure to implement a stream mitigation plan in a tributary of Duck Creek at the James Cook Drive subdivision site in Whitby. The mitigation plan was designed to minimise adverse effects to stream aquatic life. Charges were laid with the Environment Court on 20 September, and only involving the consent holder's consultant.

The third call on this prosecution occurred on 13 February 2008. In a positive development, TCB entered a guilty plea and have offered restitution and a contribution to GW's legal costs. We are now preparing a joint summary of facts in preparation for sentencing, which has been set down for 11 April at the Court.

J Gabites

This case relates to enforcement orders against J Gabites farm in Mangaroa Valley for ongoing discharges from pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks to tributaries of Mangaroa River.

In a positive turn of events, Mr Gabites has agreed to our terms for the Enforcement Order. The orders require monitoring of nutrient levels in surface and groundwater for a further year. Any nutrient monitoring results above background levels may see us consider further action.

While the mediation process had been terribly slow I am pleased we finally have an outcome we can measure and enforce.

3.6 Take Charge

The *Take Charge* programme has continued to focus on the Grenada industrial area over the last quarter. We are continuing to work through a programme of revisiting 32 of the 62 initial businesses visited, and considered to pose a medium to high risk to the stormwater network and Takapu Stream.

We have received 12 enrolments for the *EnviroSMART* business programme, and have completed all audits of the businesses involved.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.121).

3.7 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of particular note for Greater Wellington centre on air discharges and water takes including:

- ***Exide Technologies – lead in air discharges:*** We have received Exide's response to our 'please explain' letter in relation to the November breach of the lead in air southern – Waione Street – boundary limit. Exide confirmed a result of 1.67 ug/g (boundary limit is 1.5) result for the three-

month-to-November following sample retesting. The breach was largely due to transporting of bins connected to their dust extraction process through open areas, and a number of ‘housekeeping’ matters as reported in the media. We are currently considering our possible enforcement options. Media interest has remained high.

- ***Methyl Bromide fumigation – CentrePort:*** This is not a significant incident but instead a course of work we have undertaken in response to concerns raised in various quarters about methyl bromide fumigation at CentrePort over the last month. The issue has arisen largely in response to an Environment Court decision on Nelson City’s plan provisions and associated thresholds for safe use of methyl bromide meaning that fumigation will now be more tightly controlled at Port Nelson. We have acted quickly and decisively on the basis on the Nelson findings initially vetting the 22-23 February fumigation event at CentrePort and worked with CentrePort to develop an agreed monitoring framework (to determine whether effects are being experienced beyond the boundary in light of the Nelson decision) to be rolled out in March with the next phase fumigation event. We will also be meeting with Regional Public Health to gain a better understanding of possible public health risk and associated effects.

Other significant incidents for unconsented activities for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.121).

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Stronvar Properties Ltd

After a significant delay, we have now received further information on a range of substantial matters including community wastewater treatment, and the operation and integrity of the proposed lake. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater, which we will be working through with the applicant.

These are applications for a 56-lot subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton involving applications for discharges of wastewater (from a community waste water scheme) and sediment from earthworks, taking water (for communal water supply), and erecting a dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake.

WCC/Capacity: United Water International sludge dewatering plant

These are WCC/Capacity’s replacement applications for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey’s Gully Complex.

At the last Committee meeting I explained that pre-hearing meeting participants had asked the applicant to address the overall issue in a more

integrated manner, and requested further information from GW, prior to a second pre-hearing meeting. I also told you that proposed ceasing of sludge composting at Living Earth Limited would affect the current UWI applications potentially changing odour management at Carey's Gully.

While we have provided information to participants, WCC have been unable, in light of additional work they have been undertaking, to determine the impact of these wider site changes on the applications and integrated operations generally. As such, the second pre-hearing will be delayed and I expect that we will soon be advising submitters accordingly.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

The hearing for these applications ended on 3 March. The officer's report initially recommended applications be declined; however, during the hearing this was modified to recommended applications be granted following outstanding issues being largely resolved. Those issues primarily concerned impacts on the historic heritage (heritage fabric) of Clyde Quay Wharf, impacts on the existing Overseas Passenger Terminal building's heritage values, and both construction and longer-term effects on mariner users. The application offered a range of additional mitigation measures including retention of certain wharf heritage fabric features, modifications to the building design, and reduced impacts on mariner users (provision for access and services during and post-construction).

These are applications for the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, including building a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking. The proposed development also includes structural strengthening of the Clyde Quay Wharf, wharf public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end.

The process has attracted considerable media interest both prior to and during the hearing.

O'More Partnership

A hearing is now being scheduled for 3 and 4 April.

This is a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford which is being considered jointly with PCC. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream diversion, and piping and reclamation.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- **Webstar:** Replacement applications for air discharges associated with continuing printing operations, Masterton. Further proactive monitoring completed and hearing being planned for April.
- **Winstone Aggregates Ltd:** Extending quarrying activity at Belmont Quarry, Lower Hutt. On hold for further information.

- ***MDC – Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** Replacement to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, and to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Deferred for amended applications to incorporate new ponds and additional land for land-based discharges/treatment.
- ***Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department:*** Replacement applications to spray diquat and manually clear weed from Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt. Submissions received on 18 December.
- ***Kelson Heights limited:*** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with HCC.
- ***T & T Landfill:*** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with WCC.
- ***Carrus:*** Aotea Block, Porirua – Stage 9. Further information needed prior to making notification decision.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council:*** Greytown wastewater treatment plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited:*** Air discharges from their Waingawa plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- ***Masterton District Council:*** Masterton Landfill closure. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification.

Limited Notified

M B & H F Herrick

As I reported to you in February we have largely completed our assessment work and a hearing is now being set down for mid April.

This is a replacement (renewal) consent application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a significant Wairarapa wetland. The application was limited notified in 2006 and two pre-hearings were held late in 2007.

Kintyre Trust

A second pre-hearing was held on 7 February which saw key operational issues and odour management concerns being effectively resolved with submitters. At the writing of this report, the officer's report and draft conditions were being finalised, and I expect that parties will shortly 'sign-off' on agreed conditions thus avoiding the need for a hearing.

This application is for setting up a medium-sized rendering plant at an existing abattoir at Gladstone. Notice was served on eight parties and two submissions were received from Rangitaane o Wairarapa and the neighbouring Hurunui-orangi marae, and an initial pre-hearing was held on 9 August.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***KCDC - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:*** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihanga and Te Moana Road in Waikanae. The

application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition. Key issues raised impacts on wahi tapu, water quality and flood conveyance and wetland effects. No date has been set for a hearing.

- ***Te Waka Water Co Ltd:*** Taking groundwater for irrigation, Kapiti Coast. Currently working through issues with a single submitter following a 13 February pre-hearing meeting. Hearing tentatively scheduled for mid April.
- ***Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept:*** Global consents for structures and stream bed works in Waitohu Stream, Otaki. Applicant is resolving concerns with submitters.
- ***Hutt City Council:*** Wainuiomata River gravel extraction and river realignment. On hold pending further information.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

South Waitohu Stopbank: A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki.

Lincolnshire Cleanfill: A large cleanfill proposed for the Lincolnshire Farm area north of Newlands.

Westchester Drive Extension: A roading project connecting to the current Mark Avenue extension, north of Newlands.

Puketiro Windfarm: We anticipate applications for a 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area will be lodged later in the year.

4.3 Other applications

Neptune Power - Tidal Energy Turbine

There has been no further progress on the Neptune Power's application as they seek to resolve issues with affected parties.

Taylor Preston Limited (TPL) – Upgrading Rendering Plant

This application awaits an independent peer review by Roger Cudmore or Aurora Pacific to determine if the proposed modifications can in fact address most of the existing odour issue.

4.4 Department projects

Resource management charging policy

The Department is again reviewing the current charge-out rate. The process has been joined onto the Council's annual plan process and will focus on the officer charge out rate.

Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
South Wairarapa District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston.	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold			
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Further information supplied late February 2008. Information currently being reviewed		-	-
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited)	To discharge particulates and other contaminants to air from three heatset lines, driers and thermal oxidisers associated with printing operations, Ngamutawa Rd, Masterton.	08/02/07	22/02/06	2	08/05/07 08/11/07	Hearing scheduled for 11 April 2008	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)		
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua.	12/12/06	2/5/07	13	31/05/07	Hearing set for 3& 4 April	Cr Baber, Christine Foster, Ra Pomare (iwi appointee)		
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified) WGN070019	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works). Amended proposal to be submitted before Easter 2008	-	-	-
M B & H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent applications to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06 30/10/07	Hearing scheduled for 9,10 April 2008	Cr Baber, Cr Buchanan, Liz Burge (iwi appointee)	-	-

Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07	13/7/07		16/10/07 Second pre-hearing to be held, March 2008	On hold at applicant's request to prepare response for 2 nd pre-hearing			
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07	10/7/07		30/08/07	Hearing to be tentatively set for late April/early May			
Kintyre Trust (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air from a rendering plant at Gladstone, east of Carterton.	28/5/07	27/7/07		09/08/07 07/02/08	Resolution reached between Council staff, applicant, and submitters. Draft consent conditions presently being circulated to all parties for approval			
Masterton District Council	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/5/07	1/8/07		12/11/07	Applicant altered proposal so hearing scheduled for March delayed. Awaiting amended/new applications which are likely to be renotified			
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance.	10/05/07	22/06/07	95		Applicant currently negotiating with submitters. Pre-hearing meeting to be scheduled			

Wellington City Council WGN080003	Discharge of treated wastewater and intermittent discharge of non treated wastewater to the CMA, occupation of the seabed by a pipe, discharge to air from Moa Point ventilation system.	2/07/07	15/08/07	24		Hearing held 10-12 December. In deliberations	Chris Turver (Chair), Cnr Donaldson, Elizabeth Burge (iwi appointee), Richard Heerdegen (DoC appointee)	Decision released 23 January 2008. Granted.	Appealed by Wellington City Council.
Capital Wharf Limited & Wellington Waterfront Limited WGN060332	Coastal permits required for the redevelopment of the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, Wellington.	19/09/07	12/11/07	2		Hearing scheduled to commence 18 February-4 March	Crs Baber and Lamason, David McMahon		
Te Waka Water Co Ltd WGN060297 (Limited notified).	To take and use water from an existing bore (R25/5208) in the Kapiti groundwater and domestic supply and irrigation purposes.	19/04/06	10/01/08	69	Held on 13 February 2008.	Hearing likely to be scheduled for mid April			
Kapiti Coast District Council (Limited Notified) WGN080150	To undertake various activities associated with the construction of Section 5 (Otaihanga Rd to Te Moana Road) of Western Link Road.	9/10/07	7/12/07	5		Awaiting peer review of wetland effects			

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours Department

Harbours Department Report – March 2008

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

Two reports of oil spills were received during this period, and one required minor clean-up action.

3. Harbour Hulks

On 21 February 2008 the 45-metre hulk of the trawler *Atlantic Elizabeth* was towed from Miramar Wharf, Evans Bay, by the CentrePort tug *Toia* and scuttled in Cook Strait in 1,700 metres of water.

The hulk had been moved to Miramar Wharf on 4 December 2007 for preparation work, with the bulk of this carried out under the able supervision of Deputy Harbour Master Patrick Atwood and our part-time employee Bill Humphries. This also included the scuttling and flooding plan, and all went smoothly on the day.

On 25 February the hulk of the trawler *Seafire* was moved from Waterloo Quay wharf to Miramar Wharf for final preparations for scuttling (presently scheduled for mid-March 2008).

4. Events

Harbours Department staff were on the harbour on 13 January during the “Thundercat” racing, and then again on 26 January in support of the “Ocean Swim” in Oriental Bay.