

## **Catchment Management Division**

Departmental Managers' Update  
for period ending 22 August 2008

---

### **Biosecurity (Wayne O'Donnell)**

---

#### **1. Pest Animals: (Ray Clarey)**

##### **1.1 KNE Programme**

Forward programming has been a strong focus over the past two months to consolidate the work programme and project funding for the 2008-09 RPMS Operational Plan, 2009-2010 Annual Plan and for the shared funding agreements with Territorial Authorities for the 2009-2010 financial year.

The task also identifies areas of resource shortfall and triggers efforts to source ways and means to progress the aim of optimising ecological health in selected sites.

Most of the monitoring undertaken over the past 10 years discloses that the KNE programme is having beneficial effects with the current methods used. There is now opportunity to fine tune the programme to match available resources. Drivers for this may be influenced by the KNE re-evaluation programme and whatever eventuates for the proposed 'maintain the gains' programme.

As part of the refinement process all contracts with service providers have been reviewed and agreed except one. Areas for revision included the hourly charge rates and the schedule of tasks. With the demand for more areas to be treated (and also to be totally funded) by GW Parks, Wellington City and Porirua City Councils, there needs to be more reliance placed on contracting. There is still a need for Pest Animals staff to be involved in these initiatives to do the planning, assess the budget requirements, arrange the various permissions and manage risks.

##### **1.2 Publicity about seasonal pest control**

Media releases have been prepared or already published for hares, magpies and rooks to inform the public about the control measures generally necessary at this time of year for these seasonal pests. Typical banners are 'Coping with long-eared tree vandals', 'On patrol for seasonal aggressors' and 'Rooks a threat to crops and pasture'. The rook article has been particularly helpful in getting the public to report recent sightings and allows staff to investigate the possible establishment of new rookeries.

### 1.3 Vertebrate Toxic Agents – Who’s the Boss

The importation, manufacture, sale, distribution and use of vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs) is jointly controlled by the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act under the jurisdiction of the NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) together with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) Act under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA).

The NZFSA ensure that VTAs are manufactured, assigned trade names and traded in accordance with legislation. The NZFSA also ensure that food safety and /or market access is not compromised.

ERMA’s responsibilities centre on environmental and immediate personal safety attendant with the manufacture, distribution and use of VTAs.

The NZFSA carried out an audit on compliance concerning VTAs in March and April of this year. It included interviews, examinations of records and procedures, storage, labelling and signage plus disposal and site clearance at all points in the importation, manufacture, distribution, sale and end use of VTAs. The audit disclosed a significant number of non compliances. A recommendation from NZFSA is the need for the Authorities to provide urgent ongoing education, followed by timely in-depth audit across all participants operating in the VTA industry sector.

Staff have continually found the use of VTAs to be a complex issue during and subsequent to the transfer of pesticides from the old legislation. However compliance and attention to risk management is essential.

### 1.4 Projects for Parks Department

The Biosecurity Pest Animals team carries out a significant amount of vertebrate pest control as a preferred contractor or contract manager to the Parks Department. The following is a summary of works undertaken in the past few months.

- Pakuratahi Forest: (Tunnel Gully) - Volunteers are still actively trapping this area under supervision of a Biosecurity team member.
- Speedys Reserve: - Bait station servicing is due to start late August 2008, but may be delayed due to lambing.
- Korokoro Valley: - Bait station servicing is due to start late August 2008. Most of the service lines will need to be re-cut and marked.
- East Harbour: - Hutt Valley Contracting Services completed a service round for the Mainland Island section during July 2008. Approximately 270 (22.4%) rodent blocks were consumed between May 2008 and July 2008 which is an increase in bait

consumption by 12% compared to the last service round. Volunteers are baiting the Timms possum traps with meat for feral cat control.

- **Whitireia Park:** - Servicing of these bait stations was completed on 11 July 2008. A spotlight search for possums was carried out on 10 July 2008. No possums or hares were seen. Four rabbits were shot.
- **Wainuiomata Mainland Island:** - All bait stations and traps were checked and replenished during July 08. Carrots were used to bait the possum traps. Diphacinone paste (Ratabait in biodegradable bags) was used in the bait stations.
- **Kaitoke Regional Park:** - Pindone carrot bait will be used to control rabbits throughout the camp ground and top terraces of the park as soon as the weather permits. The area will be baited twice with a one week interval between feeds. Night shooting will take place soon after poisoning to try and get any remaining rabbits.

## **2. Pest Plants: (Richard Grimmett)**

### **2.1 KNE & Reserves operations**

Staff are developing a best practice process for regional KNE operations. This will include flow-charts for site selection, yearly budgets, regional and district priority lists and ecological site management protocol. The processes required to plan, manage, monitor and report activity are also being revised and documented to ensure most efficient use of resources and collaboration with all stakeholders.

Staff have also recently finished writing guidelines for weed control (site preparation and maintenance) around restoration planting sites.

During the period Biosecurity Officers met onsite with Territorial Authority staff to assess work achieved last year and plan combined activities for this year. This was also undertaken with Take Care representatives where they were involved. Biosecurity Officers assessed and orientated contractors on 18 sites for 2008/09 contracts.

### **2.2 Communications**

Staff are working with the IT Department on opportunities to use the proposed upgraded GW website for reporting on pest management activities. Information such as activities undertaken, results, maps and details on pests are being considered.

The Department has commenced producing fortnightly articles for local papers, with themes alternating from pest plant to pest animal topics. The plants focus is currently on the purpose of the RPMS purpose, particularly occupier responsibilities.

Staff are helping organise a weed swap day in conjunction with DoC, scheduled for Saturday 16 September. GW will be contributing a number of native plants, and providing a pest plant display for educational purposes. A number of informative newspaper articles will be prepared leading up to the event.

Staff recently organised a biodiversity focused meeting in Masterton for relevant agencies to attend. This was an opportunity for practitioners to meet and discuss their activities and identify opportunities for collaborative work. The meeting was well attended.

### **2.3 Surveillance**

Surveillance is being lifted in priority for the coming years to gather information that will allow better prediction of RPMS methods allocation to species. Total control species are still being found at a higher rate than what can be delimited. Control activity is now generally on much smaller infestations and control activity is achieved for less cost on more sites. The surplus funds will be allocated to delimit sites of known surveillance species and report on actions required for those species known to be in the region, as a priority for the next five year review.

For this period 619 property surveys were completed, focusing on known infestation sites. Twenty new pest plant sites were identified.

Six Total Control sites were surveyed with 91 sites remaining to survey for the year. Each delimiting survey involves around 100 additional properties. Based on current findings, an additional 350 infestations could be located. However, control work is now focused on small infestations with contractors able to cover considerable sites within the single contract.

### **2.4 Training**

Wayne Cowan (Upper Hutt) recently organised a comprehensive Biosecurity Officer training course for Department staff and contractors. A number of Horizons RC staff also attended. The course was focussed on regulatory responsibilities as an Authorised Person under the Biosecurity Act. The training also covered other relevant statutes. Training was delivered by Mark Dunston, a qualified lawyer who has been involved in similar training for staff implementing the Tb NPMS. Most of the attendees sat the test for LGITO unit standard qualifications.

As a result of staff being bitten on two occasions recently, a dog avoidance training session was included as part of the Biosecurity Officer training. All Biosecurity staff attended this session. The training session was tutored by Damian Munn from Direct Service Solutions Ltd. This company has the contract to control dogs (and other animals) in Wellington and parts of Auckland city. Damian provided a very worthwhile and practical presentation, complete with a live dog, and provided simple strategies to avoid getting bitten when confronted with a hostile dog.

### 3. Bovine Tb: (Graeme Butcher and Grant Crawford)

#### 3.1 2008/09 vector control programme

The AHB approved vector control programme for the 2008/09 year includes:

- 191,965 ha possum control
- 40,293 ha of possum and ferret surveys
- 210,670 ha of pig surveys
- trend and performance monitoring

The table below summarises the areas contracted for the 2008/09 year.

	Possum Control (ha)	Ferret Control (ha)	Ferret & Possum Surveys (ha)	Pig Survey (ha)	Total
GW BioWorks	83,229	0	26,161	0	109,390
J G McCaslin Ltd	6,327	0	0	0	6,327
Professional Guiding	67,782	0	14,132	0	81914
T Oakly	0	0	0	210,670	210,670
Still to be let	34,627	0	0	0	34,627
<b>Totals</b>	<b>191,965</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,293</b>	<b>210,670</b>	<b>442,928</b>

**3.2** The following table details areas of the 2008/09 control programme which have been completed as at 18 August 2008.

	Possum Control (ha)	Ferret Control (ha)	Ferret & Possum Surveys (ha)	Pig Survey (ha)	Total
GW BioWorks	0	0	0	0	0
J G McCaslin Ltd	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Guiding	3,585	0	0	0	3,585
T Oakly	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,585</b>

Most contractors are still completing projects which were carried forward from the 2007/08 year, or are experiencing delays due to weather / ground conditions.

#### 3.3 Tendering progress

There is only 34,627 hectares of possum control to be let for the 2008/09 year. The majority of contracts had already been let under the two year preferred supplier parcels for BioWorks

and Professional Guiding. It is proposed that the remaining contracts will be tendered in September.

### 3.4 2008/09 approved contractors

The AHB have advised that 11 contractors have passed the pre qualification process and are approved to work in the Wellington Region for 2008/09.

### 3.5 Monitoring

During the 2008/09 year, 110 trend monitors and 38 performance monitors are required.

### 3.6 2007/08 Contracts – Incomplete

The following table highlight projects that were scheduled for completion in 2007/08 but were incomplete at 30 June 2008. The table details the progress towards completion.

Project	Stratum area (ha) Total ha	Progress 30 June ha completed	Progress 30 July ha completed	Progress 18 August ha completed	Contractor
Te Wharau HR 4	1,610	0	0	0	J McCaslin
Wairongomai HR 2	4,717	2,358	2,358	2,358	J McCaslin
Bideford HR 2	1,014	710	1,014	1,014	Professional Guiding
Bideford HR 3	816	570	816	816	Professional Guiding
Taueru Maungaraki MR 3	3,411	2,729	3,411	3,411	Professional Guiding
Holdsworth Carterton HR 4	1,296	1,166	1,296	1,296	BioWorks
Holdsworth Carterton HMR 2	536	536	536	536	BioWorks
Holdsworth Carterton HMR 3	846	0	423	846	BioWorks
Kahutara Pirinoa HR 1	2,908	1,454	2,908	2,908	BioWorks
Kahutara Pirinoa HR 3	2,510	1,255	2,510	2,510	BioWorks
Kahutara Pirinoa HR 4	3,369	0	1,000	3,000	BioWorks
Sth East Wai – Stg 3 HR 6	2,977	0	0	2,500	BioWorks

Sth East Wai – Stg 3 HR 2	1,119	0	0	0	Stratford's
Stronvar HR 1	4,700	2,350	2,350	2,350	Stratford's
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31,829</b>	<b>13,128</b>	<b>18,622</b>	<b>23,545</b>	

### 3.7 Contractor progress for 2007/08 Contracts

Progress to complete the carry forward operations has been light during July to August due to unfavourable weather conditions.

- J G McCaslin Ltd                      No progress made. Work recommenced late August.
- Professional Guiding                Successfully completed their programme.
- BioWorks                                Completed five stratum. Two projects proposed to be completed early September.
- Stratford's                                No progress made. These South Island contractors are waiting for improved weather conditions before returning to the Wairarapa.

### 3.8 Pig Survey Progress

The following table details pig survey progress to date for the 2008/09 year.

Project	Area (ha)	Required Samples	Samples received to date
Akatarawa	20538	30	13
Bideford	39023	40	0
Castle Hill	4529	30	0
East Alfredton	4900	20	0
Homewood Riversdale	25789	120	0
Kapiti	30,966	50	1
Mataikona	6,779	40	0
Moonshine	6,035	20	15
Otaki Crown	3,551	15	2
Pakowai	6,909	60	2
Stronvar	25,976	85	0
Tinui	35,675	120	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>210,670</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>35</b>

### 3.9 Infected Herd Status

		I Herds @ June 2008	I Herds @ end of July (one clear test in brackets)	Target I Herds @ June 2009
VFA	Cattle	0	0	9
	Deer	0	0	
VRA	Cattle	9	10 (4)	

## Flood Protection (Graeme Campbell)

---

### 1. **Manager's comments**

The Department has started the new financial year well, with good progress being made on all of the major projects, in particular the adoption of the Boulcott Alignment will enable us to move quickly into the detailed design and consent stage of the project. In addition to this, good tenders were received for the Strand Park stopbank stage of the Ava to Ewen project and staff anticipate being able to appoint a contractor within budget shortly.

The investigation programme is also progressing well, with good progress being made on both the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan and the Waingawa scheme review. Some of the issues raised by the Lake Wairarapa stopbank assessment have proved a bit more complex than initially anticipated and it will take another few months to develop a report for consideration by this Committee.

It was sad to farewell Nerisa Fa'aumu who had been our departmental secretary for four years. Fortunately she is not lost to the organisation, as she has taken up a secretarial role with Parks on Level 4. We are currently recruiting a new departmental secretary. We also welcome Alistair Allen as a graduate engineer working on the Hutt capital works projects with Daya Atapattu. With Alistair on board the Department has close to a full complement of technical staff to enable progress to be made on investigations work in particular.

### 2. **Western Floodplain Management Plans [Daya Atapattu]**

#### 2.1 **Ava to Ewen project**

Tenders for the Strand Park stopbank reconstruction contract closed on 18 August 2008. Four tenders were received. Officers are currently evaluating the tenders with the intention of appointing a contractor by mid-September 2008. The Strand Park stopbank reconstruction project involves raising and strengthening of the existing stopbank, upsizing two stormwater pipes, providing access to a future riverbank car park from Market Grove, and lighting along the stopbank footpath.

In addition to the proposed lighting along the Strand Park stopbank, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Hutt City Council officers will also investigate options for providing at least minimum lighting along the Alicetown stopbank footpath. Opahu Stream stage 2 planting is now programmed for the end of September 2008.

#### 2.2 **Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project**

The Boulcott/Hutt project reached a major milestone with GWRC's adoption of the Boulcott alternative as the preferred alignment for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank. A newsletter outlining the process for obtaining statutory approvals and constructing the adopted alignment will be distributed to the adjacent property owners and other stakeholders in early September 2008.



The detailed process will be reported to the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 25 September 2008.

### **2.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank**

Submissions on the resource consent for removing five trees for filling at the upstream end of the Wine Glass site closed on 8 August 2008 with five submissions received. The submission from the Wellington Golf Club is in support and the other four from the adjacent property owners oppose the tree removal.

We are now analysing the submissions and expect to meet with the submitters prior to a hearing to explore opportunities for resolving some of the issues.

### **2.4 Maoribank investigations**

Officers are currently preparing concept designs and cost estimates for the mitigation options identified in stage 1 of the study. The budget requirements for the most urgent works are proposed to be included in the Flood Protection Operating Plan for consideration through the next LTCCP (2009-2019).

### **2.5 Kapiti floodplain management**

#### **2.5.1 Waikanae River**

Officers have investigated the build-up of gravel within the lower reaches of the river and have identified that between XS 20 to XS 40 (Tutere Street to Queens Road) average riverbed levels are approximately 550 mm higher than they were in 1991. This equates to a volume of about 9,000 m<sup>3</sup>. This poses an increased flooding risk to residential properties in Otaihanga and significant pressure on the south bank, with potential for flood waters to overflow into the scientific reserve and the residential areas beyond. Officers are presently consulting with DoC and other interested parties with the intention of preparing a resource consent to extract this gravel.

Three responses have been received to a letter sent to nine property owners on the seaward side of Makora Road, seeking their views about the recommendation to delay further house raising for one year and bring forward the strengthening of the riverbank edge adjacent to the Otaihanga Boating Club. The responses were in favour of the strengthening of the riverbank edge as a first priority.

Officers have commenced scoping the work required for the floodplain management plan review. Stage 1 of the review will involve evaluating the work done since adoption of the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan in 1997 and updating the hydrology and hydraulics data.

#### **2.5.2 Friends of the Waikanae River (FWR)**

The FWR held a successful Annual General Meeting on 16 July 2008 in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Ngaio Road, Waikanae.

A site walkover organised to finalise any changes needed to the Waikanae planting plan was also held and the planting plan is now almost complete. The FWR are continuing to plant sites identified in the planting plan. There is continuing interest in the rehabilitation of the Dricon site on the Waikanae River. The annual walkover of the Waikanae River with the FWR and other interested groups will be held on 9 October 2008.

### 2.5.3 Friends of the Otaki River (FOR)

After the success of the Chrystalls extended stopbank and walkway opening, the FOR have continued to plant native trees at Chrystalls Bend.

The FOR have requested that a second footbridge be constructed across the Waimanu Stream to complete the walkway loop around Chrystalls lagoon. Operations staff have offered to supply a disused bridge stored at the Mabey Road depot. Officers are drawing up plans to modify this bridge to suit the site and comply with a building consent. The works will be funded from the Otaki environmental enhancement work carried out as part of the Chrystalls extended stopbank.

The annual walkover of the Otaki River with the FWR and other interested groups will be held on 25 September 2008.

### 2.5.4 Chrystalls extended stopbank

Fencing of the stopbank has been completed and the stopbank easements were surveyed. At the eastern end of the stopbank bands of willow were also planted along the berm, between the stopbank and the river. Native trees are being planted between the bands of willows by the FOR. The willows will be removed once the natives have established sufficiently.

### 2.5.5 South Waitohu stopbank

Staff are continuing to investigate options for reducing the overall cost of this project. In the meantime we are proceeding with the preparation of the consent application and easement arrangements with the landowner.

### 2.5.6 Isolated works

GWRC and Kapiti Coast District Council officers attended a meeting with 11 landowners in Arcus Road, Te Horo, on 2 August, to discuss the impact of flooding in recent years and clarify the respective responsibilities for maintenance of the Mangaone Stream and the overflow paths. The landowners advised that there had been significant flooding in the area in 1998 and 2005 but the largest and swiftest flooding had occurred in January 2008, with flood waters coming very close to entering a number of houses. GWRC officers advised the landowners that it is presently the landowner's responsibility to ensure that the Mangaone Stream and the overflow paths are kept clear of obstructions. It was agreed that a request be made for GWRC to carry out an annual inspection of the Mangaone Stream and report back to the Arcus Road Flood Management Group. It was also identified that an updated flood hazard assessment of the area may be required in future.

### **3. Western Operations [Jeff Evans]**

#### **3.1 Hutt River**

Willow planting is now complete on the Hutt River. Native infill planting is still under way in a number of areas along the riverbank.

Track maintenance work has now been completed on the Taita berms and at County Lane in Silverstream. Staff have also been kept busy removing fallen trees with the recent bad weather.

#### **3.2 Hutt River ranging services**

Throughout the last period the usual undesirable activities have continued. There were a number of illegal piles of rubbish dumped and trail bikes and vehicle misuse was evident in a number of areas. One car was confiscated by the Police for cutting up the grass at Moonshine and another was stolen, burnt out and dumped at Stokes Valley.

Even with the bad weather, people were still out and about enjoying the brisk river air and its surrounds. Areas like County Lane and below Belmont School had a steady stream of dog walkers, even on the stormiest days.

#### **3.3 Otaki River**

The annual willow planting run was carried out over the entire length of the river. A number of areas required clearing out and replanting, mainly because of the old booth willow stock dying off. There was a lot of wind damage to trees because of the recent storms and staff have been busy clearing them off access tracks.

There was a public planting day held at Chrystalls Bend on 5 July and new survey pins have been installed on top of the Chrystalls Bend stopbank.

#### **3.4 Waikanae River**

The willow planting run is complete. Staff have cut down and cleared a number of areas for the Waikanae friends' groups to plant native shrubs in and a number of wind blown trees have been cleared up.

#### **3.5 Watercourses**

Wind blown trees have been removed from many of the watercourses in the region because of the bad weather.

Staff were kept busy in the Mangaroa and Collins Creek area of Upper Hutt after high winds blew over seven large trees in a line. These trees caused blockages and large machinery needed to be brought in to remove them. The Waimeha mouth was cut on 17 July and staff are monitoring the Waitohu Stream mouth.

### 3.6 Gravel extraction

#### 3.6.1 Western area

Gravel extraction figures for the western area to the end of July 2008 are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2 - Gravel extraction - Western area

River	Area	Contractor	2008/09		2007/08
			Period [m <sup>3</sup> ]	Year [m <sup>3</sup> ]	Full year [m <sup>3</sup> ]
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	3,626	3,626	42,728
	River	Horokiwi	5,549	5,549	66,201
Otaki	River	Winstones	0	0	38,006
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	0	2,740
	Below Greenaway Road	Various	0	0	0
Waitohu	River	Mills Albert	0	0	2,502
<b>Total</b>			<b>9,175</b>	<b>9,175</b>	<b>152,177</b>

#### 3.6.2 Wairarapa

The final gravel extraction figures for Wairarapa for 2007/08 are detailed in Table 3 and compared to the previous year. The volume extracted is only down on the previous year by 2,980 m<sup>3</sup>. The 2006/07 extraction volume is the highest recorded.

Table 3 - Gravel extraction - Wairarapa

River	Extraction 2007/08 Full year (m <sup>3</sup> )	Extraction 2006/07 Full year (m <sup>3</sup> )
Dry	3,020	500
Huangaaru	2,093	6,603
Mangatarere	2,434	1,800
Pounui	90	0
Ruamahanga - Upstream of Double Bridges	14,354	13,999
Ruamahanga - Double Bridges to Wardells	36,636	44,726
Ruamahanga - Wardells to Waiohine	32,408	49,599
Ruamahanga - Waiohine to Lake Onoke	18,285	20,340
Tauanui	1,124	260
Tauherenikau	67,545	64,137
Turanganui	112	626
Waingawa	12,850	12,840
Waiohine	93,370	69,765
Waipoua	3,344	5,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>287,665</b>	<b>290,645</b>

## 4. Wairarapa Operations [Mike Longworth]

### 4.1 Wairarapa river schemes

The work programmes in the Wairarapa rivers for this financial year 2008/09 are under way with pole planting. Staff members are completing the various documentation and reports

associated with the management of the river schemes for the 2007/08 year.

The higher flows over July caused some bank erosion in the Waingawa River, necessitating remedial action to limit the damage. A five year return period flood at Waihenga (Martinborough) on the Ruamahanga on 31 July caused the floodways in the lower valley to operate. This is the first time the floodways have operated since the Hikinui and Awaroa sills were rebuilt following the 2006 floods and debris fences erected in front of the Hikinui sill. It was satisfying to see both sills perform as expected and the debris fences catching debris, which once would have caused damage to the sill and downstream fences in the floodway. There was some damage to the Tauanui River banks and Mahaki floodgate, which was repaired immediately. The continuous wet weather and high base flow in the Ruamahanga River in the lower valley is causing concern, as the banks are very wet and prone to slumping.

## **4.2 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

### Development work

The detailed planning for the development work budgeted at \$752,000 for this year is being developed. Construction work will not start until the summer. The proposed work this year includes:

- Wave-lap protection at Maclands and Sutherlands
- Rock berm at Butchers
- Boulder groynes in Pukio area
- Stopbank upgrading in the lower Tauherenikau

## **4.3 Investigations and technical advice**

### 4.3.1 Private stopbanks around Lake Wairarapa study

The study to investigate the state of private stopbanks and other private structures associated with preventing flooding around Lake Wairarapa has commenced with the consultants' report now available. Options for GWRC's involvement, if any, are being developed for reporting to Council.

### 4.3.2 LIDAR survey in the Wairarapa

New Zealand Aerial Mapping has completed a LIDAR survey of a number of areas in the Wairarapa associated with Regional Council projects, such as the Waiohine stopbank upgrade and Waingawa scheme review. The survey results will be available within a month as base data for river modelling work associated with the two projects.

### 4.3.3 Waingawa River Scheme Review

Staff and consultants associated with the review have held a couple of meetings and are making good progress with the analysis of data associated with the scheme review. They

expect to meet with the Scheme Advisory Committee within the next month to present the findings to that point.

#### 4.3.4 Waiohine stopbank upgrade

A staff steering group has held two meetings to plan this project. Once the planning is sufficiently developed, the project will be reported on in detail to the Committee. The project will encompass more than just upgrading the stopbanks, as it will also look at the residual flooding risk once the stopbanks are complete and how to mitigate the erosion risk from the Waiohine River.

#### 4.3.5 Technical advice

Staff have responded to three significant requests for advice over this reporting period. These include information requests from the public, local authorities, and also flood protection comment on resource consent applications to GWRC.

### 4.4 Drainage schemes

The drainage schemes are being closely monitored by staff through the current wet conditions. At this point there is nothing significant to report.

## 5. Investigations and Assets [John Eyles]

### 5.1 Waiwhetu cleanup project

The project team has been working diligently to complete the detailed design and consultation activities in order to lodge a consent application in October. The lessons learned from the trial are being applied to the detailed design and consenting of the main cleanup. At the same time as the cleanup we will take the opportunity to widen and deepen the stream channel from the Bell Road bridge to the mouth, which will have substantial flood protection benefits.

The project continues to be of considerable public interest, with consultation meetings being well attended and coverage in *The Hutt News*. Significant progress has also been made in engaging with iwi, with the help of Kiri Parata and Mike Grace, our Maori Liaison Officers.

A paper presenting the results of the Waiwhetu Remediation Trial has been accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference of the Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) in November. This will be a joint presentation between GWRC and URS to discuss the results of the trial, as well as the current work following the trial. The presentation and conference is a good opportunity to showcase the Waiwhetu project to a national audience and discuss the way forward with other scientists, local government officials, contractors and policy-makers at the conference.

We also believe we have learnt from the lessons noted in the recently published report on the Mapua contaminated site cleanup and will not be making the same errors. Specifically the visit to Mapua 18 months ago, the trial process used and the different management

structure will achieve a better result.

The next Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 14 October.

## 5.2 Asset management

Annual asset management inspections have been completed on all the major watercourses in the Western area. The results show that on the whole our flood protection assets are in good condition and are being maintained appropriately. The results from the annual audits will be reported back to the Committee in October.

Resourcing for the implementation and operation of the SAP asset management software is being considered by the department. Jacky Cox has been nominated to represent the department in the SAP asset management project as a Subject Matter Expert. The project is due to start in September.

## 6. Strategy and Technical Support [Sharyn Westlake]

Table 1 summarises the number of formal written requests for advice responded to over the period from 5 July to 20 August 2008. These include information requests from the public, local authorities and also Flood Protection comment on resource consent applications to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GRWC).

Table 1 - Requests for advice received

	5 July to 20 August 2008	Year to date
Requests brought forward	2	2
Additional requests received	53	53
Responses provided	51	51
Outstanding requests	4	4

The “lull” in requests for advice appears to have eased off, as the last reporting period had double the number of requests for advice compared to either of the previous two reporting periods of last year.

Plan Change 15 - *Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan*, to review the current District Plan standards that manage the flood risk posed by the Hutt River, has been received from Upper Hutt City Council. We are in the process of providing comment on the proposed Plan Change.

Sharyn Westlake provided support to Ling Phang from GWRC’s Environmental Policy Department in providing evidence at the Porirua City Council Hearing on the proposed Porirua City Centre Revitalisation Plan. Flood Protection’s evidence centred on the importance of recognising flood risk to the Porirua City Centre in a greater than 100 year return period flood event, as the secondary overflow path passes through the city centre.

## Land Management (Dave Cameron)

---

### 1. Manager's comments

#### 1.1 Carbon Workshop

A carbon workshop was held recently in Masterton to give landowners an up-to-date picture of what was happening in relation to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), what opportunities there are to take advantage of existing carbon markets, the likely impact of an ETS on farm businesses, and the support available from regional councils.

The day was extremely well attended with close to 200 people in attendance. Since that time staff have received a number of inquiries from landowners looking to take advantage of erosion control assistance through Farm Plans. Currently there are three afforestation projects being considered for 2009. These cover in excess of 150 hectares and while the change in land use is supported there will be increased demand on existing land management budgets. The 2008/09 budget allows for 150 – 200 hectares of conservation woodlots to be established each year.

#### 1.2 Poplar and Willow Research Collective

The Poplar and Willow Research Collective has received support from the MAF Hill Country Erosion (HCE) fund for a programme of poplar and willow breeding, propagation, and promotion over the next four years. A presentation was made on behalf of the Collective to a recent meeting of regional council Chief Executives.

The meeting was in support of matched funding from regional councils as the breeding programme has been severely restricted since 1996 and is in desperate need of funding. MAF have agreed to fund \$175,000 per annum for the next four years on the proviso that the same amount was provided by regional councils.

A draft funding model was presented to the meeting. If approved Greater Wellington's annual contribution would rise from \$7,500 to \$25,000 per annum. Further work is required to secure specific funding from each regional council.

#### 1.3 Afforestation Grant Scheme Planting

During late July/early August a total of 90 hectares of forest was established on the Onetai property, situated on the Masterton - Riversdale Road. This planting which was contracted back to Greater Wellington by the landowner is the first planting from the recently established Regional Council pool of Afforestation Grant Scheme funds. Agreements have been signed between MAF and the landowner in relation to ownership of the carbon credits, which in this instance are retained by the Crown.



## 1.4 Winter Planting

The winter planting programme began in mid-June and very good progress has been made in recent weeks. The wet spell of weather has not deterred staff and contractors and the programme is on target to be completed by the end of September. Soil conditions have been very good through most of the season, however access has been somewhat difficult during this last spell of wet weather which lasted for the best part of three weeks.

Seedling planting has also started. To date planting gangs have been focussing small blocks where replanting is occurring following harvesting. In the coming weeks the focus will shift to a 100 hectare block at Blairlogie.

## 2. Farm Plans (Don Bell)

### 2.1 Delegated approvals - New Plans, Reviews and Annual programmes

<b>Approvals</b>	<b>New Plans, Reviews</b>	<b>Annual Plan Target</b>	<b>Total 10 Year Expenditure</b>	
New Sustainability Plans	0	3	\$0	
New Conservation Plans	0	2	\$102,212	
Ten Year Reviews	0	20	\$458,354	
<b>Programme delivery</b>	<b>Annual Programmes Undertaken</b>	<b>Annual Plan Target</b>	<b>Expenditure to date</b>	<b>Annual Plan Budget</b>
Annual Programmes	38	130	\$97,400	\$565,000
Isolated works	0	5	\$0	\$10,000

### 2.2 Planning Comment

In the period 12 July to 22 August, twenty-eight hill country erosion control Annual Programmes and one Isolated Works were approved totalling \$153,198 (\$54,817 Regional grant).

Land Management staff have been focussed on the delivery of annual programmes during what has been a rather testing winter period. A particularly note-worthy achievement has been planning and managing the country's first Afforestation Grant Scheme plantation on Onetai, involving 90 hectares of radiata pine.

In spite of weather delays, three helicopter flights have delivered over 6000 poles to hill country properties for contractor planting. The development of an auger-planting technique enabled planting to commence on time in mid-June, irrespective of areas of low soil moisture conditions at the time.

A very successful public planting day was held at Fensham Reserve (Darryl & Cheryl Shields property) made possible by the purchase through the Honda TreeFund of 1000 native wetland plants and weedmats. Local dealer, Southey Honda also sponsored a sausage sizzle for the participants who included thirty senior pupils from Carterton's Southend School, members of the Fensham Group, Enaki Stream Care Group, Masterton District Council, Forest and Bird, and Wairarapa Stars Trust.

### **3. Akura Conservation Centre (Stan Braaksma)**

#### **3.1 Nursery Operations**

- The three metre pole cut for Land Management is nearing completion. Indications are that the Nursery production will be just over 12,000 poles. This result is very poor and shows the effects of a double drought on stool growth and the inability to grow both the required height and diameter increments. To provide sufficient poles to meet demand, 6,000 poles were purchased from Aokautere this year. Demand for poles will be down by 30% on 2007 figures.
- The extended wet season has added to extraction problems especially at Mangapakeha where the ground is highly saturated, the main access track has also been disrupted by continuing logging truck traffic, and a small amount of slip erosion damage.
- Both the new cutting crew and Aokautere operation have taken some time to adjust to the specifications for pole cutting. It is pleasing to report that this situation is now remedied and consistent grades of poles are being presented. Our contractors commence pole and stake cutting for the Flood Protection Department in the next few weeks.
- Shelterbelt trimming has just been completed at Akura. This was last done three years ago. It has required immediate clean up to maintain nursery access.
- Cutting material has been harvested for the blanking of last year's production blocks. One year cuttings will be transferred into gaps resulting from mortalities in last year's planting. There will be no new blocks established this year.

- Mangapakeha Nursery has been clear of stock all winter although there are still some minor fencing issues still to complete.

### 3.2 Trading

- Trading has been brisk through June and July this year. It is noted that sales have slowed considerably through August. Soil conditions at most planting sites are now very saturated.
- There has been good uptake for a very broad range of plant species, and still a very high demand for native species.
- Pinus radiata seedlings have been sourced from two nurseries this year. We have been able to exit 100,000 seedlings from an original order of 300,000 from Murray's Nursery, Woodville. Fortuitously this has not incurred any penalty. The wet soil conditions and difficulty of access to one major job has exposed some issues with the current transport and distribution of plants. This has resulted in considerable double handling and packaging of tree stocks.
- There has been a good return of Dynex sleeves for recycling, many are still entire, and have been sorted for re-use. The recycling programme and costs will be reviewed after the winter as currently there is no discounting for recycling or levy applied for new plastic product. Our commitment is to encourage the collection of the plastic sleeves from planting sites on farms.

### 3.3 Staffing

- The current levels of staffing of at Akura are coping well with the current workloads. The pole cutting crew are available for hourly rate work such as loading, pole cartage and bundling, should additional assistance be required.
- Saturday morning trading is generally being handled by one staff member.

### 3.4 Budget

The Akura Business Unit operating surplus at the end of July is showing a large deficit. This will be rectified by the time August figures are presented as there is a backlog of internal charges to post.

Activity	Budget 2007/08 – Operating Surplus	July Operating Surplus 2008/09
Nurseries	9,000	(6,700)
Trading	(44,000)	86,500
<b>Total</b>	(35,000)	79,800

#### 4. Biodiversity (Michelle Bird and Jacki Byrd)

##### Western Zone

- Planting has been completed in the Waitohu Stream with the planting of 4,000 plants.
- The review of the Streams Alive programme is nearing completion. Recommendations are due to be forwarded by the end of August.

##### Eastern Zone

- Weed control and planting contracts confirmed for planting and release spraying.
- The most popular riparian booklet 'Mind the Stream' is to be reprinted and a meeting has been held to determine if any changes need to be made.
- The Ohariu Voluntary Incentives Project – this project is entering its final year and a field day is planned for October.
- Meetings have been held with Tane Tree Trust and the Freshwater Action Group.
- Six days have been spent undertaking planting and spraying in the Kaiwhata and Mangaroa Catchments.

#### 5. Operations (Kevin Burdan)

The 2008/09 winter work programme is being hampered by the extremely soggy ground conditions making access to some of the work sites very difficult. Despite these conditions progress is continuing at a good rate with very few days where the contractors have not been working.

- Properties involved with contract pole planting to date this winter - 30
- Properties involved with pole planting since 1 July 2008 - 21
- Properties involved in contract seedling planting and release spraying this winter - 13
- Properties involved with seedling planting since 1 July 2008 - 8
- There have been three helicopter pole flights this winter.

There has been no silviculture done during this period.

## Integrated Catchment Management (Ian Gunn)

---

### 1. TCM Concept

The governance structures are now in place to further develop this process. Geoff Dick, Nigel Corry and Murray Kennedy form the executive ensuring the delivery of the project. An establishment committee comprising Nicola Shorten, Phillipa Crisp, Ted Taylor, Mike Grace, Tim Porteous, Dave Cameron, Wayne O'Donnell and Ian Gunn will develop and implement the work programme. The establishment committee has met. It is focusing on "getting our house in order" and considering how to roll the concept out across the Council. The challenge is to achieve this cultural change across the Council.

Potential training opportunities are being explored with the Department of Conservation. They have developed computer based and field work programmes which at this time are useful in educating all staff on biodiversity/ecology issues.

Further analysis is required to determine whether one or two pilot projects are practicable within our existing resources. At this time the two catchments being considered are the Waikanae and Mangatarere River catchments.

Shortly Council will prepare new regional plans. The establishment committee are considering the feasibility of splitting the region into 5 areas for the preparation of the new regional plans – Kapiti Coast, Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour, Ruamahanga River and the Eastern Wairarapa Hill Country. It is thought that such a division identifies areas with similar issues.

I have received a copy of Leila Chrystall's thesis, "A Resource Inventory for the Ruamahanga River Catchment, Wairarapa, New Zealand." I am waiting to receive official notification that the thesis has been publicly released by Massey University. In terms of the future, Leila comments in a recommendation (Attachment 2) for the future are as follows:

"This report has identified that parts of the Ruamahanga Catchment have a less diverse range and abundance of freshwater species than other parts of the Wellington region. Chemical and biological measures indicate that water quality is degraded, and in some places is not much better than the water quality of the Manawatu River (a much more densely populated catchment). It is interesting to note that the Horizons Regional Council is proposing quite drastic policy measures to address the water quality issues in the Manawatu Catchment."

### 2. Lake Wairarapa

The Establishment Board for the Lake Wairarapa Moana Project has held its first meeting. A concept plan for the development of Lake Domain has been prepared and is out for consultation currently. A planting day will occur on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September at Lake Domain.