

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday 17 May Councillors' Session

12.00-1.00pm	Councillors' Registration
1.00-1.15	Welcome and Introduction Councillor Charles Manning (Christchurch City Council)
1.15-2.15	Financial Contributions Facilitator: Sarah Dawson (Boffa Miskell Ltd)
2.15-2.30	Tea / Coffee
2.30-3.45	Length of time Plans and Policy Statements take to prepare and make operative and implications for their review. The fine line between stifling development and responding to community views Facilitator: Councillor Charles Manning (Christchurch City Council)
3.45-4.00	Tea / Coffee
4.00-5.00	Hearings / Decision Making - (featuring special guest appearances) Facilitator: Kim McCracken (Davie, Lovell-Smith Ltd)

NZPI Conference

5.00-7.00	Cocktail Registration Function <i>Sponsored by Lincoln University, Environmental Management and Design Division</i>
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Thursday 18 May

8.00-9.00am	Registration
9.00-9.30	Powhiri: Ngai Tahu
9.30-9.50	Opening Address: Robert Schofield, NZPI President
9.50-10.40	Keynote Address: Tā Tipene O'Regan Accommodating Two World Views in One National Planning Framework <i>Sponsored by Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd</i>
10.40-11.10	Morning Tea <i>Sponsored by Simes Limited</i>
11.10-11.55	Keynote Address: Dr Wendy Sarkissian Developing Community and Planners' Literacies in Community Participation <i>Sponsored by Christchurch City Council, Environmental Services Unit</i>
11.55-12.15pm	Panel Perspective: Diana Shand (Councillor, Canterbury Regional Council) and Pam Richardson (Federated Farmers)
12.15-1.15	Lunch
1.15-2.20	Workshops / Papers - Session 1 <i>Sponsored by Opus International Consultants Limited</i>
2.20-2.50	Afternoon Tea
2.50-4.00	Workshops / Papers - Session 2
4.00-4.30	NZPI Awards
4.30-5.15	Address: Minister for the Environment, Hon. Marian Hobbs
7.00	Optional Dinner Evening (A choice of venues for dinner around Christchurch)

Friday 19 May

7.30am	NZPI AGM Breakfast Meeting Cophthorne Central Hotel, Colombo St
9.15-10.00	Keynote Address: Carl Binning Protecting Indigenous Biodiversity -- A Practical Approach <i>Sponsored by Canterbury Regional Council</i>
10.00-10.45	Keynote Address: Dr Glen Lauder New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy - The Implications <i>Sponsored by Canterbury Regional Council</i>
10.45-11.15	Morning Tea
11.15-12.00	Panel Perspective: Sue Thomson (Buller District Council), Ross Little (Councillor, Canterbury Regional Council), Mark Christensen (Anderson Lloyd) <i>Sponsored by Buller District Council</i>
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.00-5.00	Field Trips - (Choice of 9)
5.00	Free Evening

Saturday 20 May

8.45-10.00am	Keynote Address: Sir Peter Hall The Future of Planning <i>Sponsored by Davie Lovell-Smith</i>
10.00-10.30	Morning Tea
10.30-11.15	Keynote Address: Professor Patrick Troy The Direction of Urban Planning <i>Sponsored by Christchurch City Council, Environmental Policy and Planning Unit</i>
11.15-12.00	Keynote Address: John Kari Urban Sustainability in Practice <i>Sponsored by Ministry for the Environment</i>
12.00-1.00pm	Panel Perspective: Professor Ali Memon (Lincoln University), Margaret Cousins (Councillor, Hutt City Council), Kobus (Kingston Morrison)
Mentz	
1.00-2.00	Lunch
2.00-3.00	Workshops / Papers - Session 3 <i>Sponsored by Woodvale Limited</i>
3.00-3.30	Afternoon Tea
3.30-4.30	The Great Debate: "New Urbanism Will Save Our Cities" Chair: Judge Jon Jackson (Environment Court)
4.30-4.35	2001 Conference - Tauranga Representative
4.35-4.45	Closing Comment: NZPI President, 2000-2002
4.45	Close
7.00-2.00am	Conference Dinner - Christchurch Convention Centre <i>Conference Dinner sponsored by the Carter Group of Companies</i> <i>Entertainment sponsored by Boffa Miskell Limited</i>

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

April 2000

1. Trees for Survival (Nigel Clarke)

On behalf of Trees for Survival, Nigel has successfully sought a \$500 grant from a State Insurance Community Fund for equipment to be used by school students on planting days.

This year's seedlings have been distributed to local schools in the last month. Nigel has also been giving Horizons MW and associated schools and service clubs advice on how to set up a Trees for Survival programme in their Region.

2. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

On March 10 a meeting was held to commence a process for cleaning up and enhancing the Waiwhetu Stream. The meeting was attended by many people who are concerned about, or have an interest in, the stream, the tangata whenua, and the relevant management agencies (such as the Hutt City Council and the Regional Council).

It was agreed that the preparation of a community Vision and Action Plan would be a suitable way to address the stream's problems, based on the success of the Pauatahanui Inlet approach. This will be managed by the Regional Council with the support of the Hutt City Council. Tim will be undertaking this work. He is currently identifying people and organisations who wish to be represented on the community group which will be set up to distil and articulate the vision and steps needed to make a real difference to the stream.

3. Horkiri Stream (Nigel Clarke)

This is another ecological enhancement project which has recently commenced. It involves the restoration of the small estuary where the Horokiri Stream (the stream running through Battle Hill) joins the Pauatahanui Inlet, one stream to the east of the Kakaho estuary enhancement. We estimate it will take three years to complete this work (primarily to allow for locally sourced seed to grow to an appropriate size).

Nigel has identified land owners, ordered the first lot of plants, and gained the assistance of the local Forest & Bird nursery in caring for the plants. He has also obtained the agreement of the Department of Corrections to carry out some of the work in the future.

4. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

All major commercial landowners along the lower Kaiwharawhara stream have been contacted and given a draft project brief for the stream clean-up and riparian planting project. Other businesses and local schools will be receiving a newsletter inviting their participation in the next few weeks. Meetings have also been held with some of the major players at the stream mouth (TranzRail, CentrePort, Transit NZ and DOC), and with the Trelissick Park and Ngaio Gorge Working Group, to discuss aspects of the project and get necessary agreements about their roles. Wellington City Council is carrying out an assessment of what is needed for clearing the stream of some of the larger debris, and has some funds available to help with the project.

5. International Landcare Conference (Geoff Skene)

At the beginning of March, I was fortunate to attend this conference in Melbourne. The conference dealt with the work of community “landcare” groups in dealing with Australia’s major environmental problems (included were groups dealing with streams, wetlands, native vegetation, salinity and sustainable agriculture generally). Speakers came from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Britain and several other countries. There were many lessons to be taken for our own future community care groups and environmental work but the major lessons are:

- The world is starting to see the environment as an “asset”, to find ways to “value” it (and its component parts), and to think of national economies as existing within a wider environmental framework. One speaker described the economy as a “wholly owned subsidiary of the natural ecosystem”.
- If the environment is a capital asset, sustainability can be understood as the ability of that asset to generate income but not decrease in value. At the moment we are spending our environmental capital as if it were income.
- A catchment based approach to resource management (which we are heading towards at Pauatahanui) is the preferred approach for much Australian environmental management.
- Catchment management is allowing an ecosystem approach to be taken but what this is still being developed and debated.

- The number of care groups in Australia now approximates 10,000. A review of the success of these programmes by the Federal Government last year gave a strong endorsement to the care group approach.
- There is much to be gained through the bringing together of major corporate enterprises and needy catchments or habitats. However, businesses need a “business link”, a reason for participating that fits with their corporate objectives (though not necessarily a money making reason).
- There is good scientific evidence that “participatory learning” (being in a care group) will help people change the way they think and act.
- Biodiversity is a word that only a few people really understand. To get farm or community buy-in to doing something about “biodiversity”, we must talk about the specific rare plant or animal that the land owner “owns” or cares for.
- Some of the most successful long term care projects in Australia have come about through the combination of a community care group and the local school. Each new cohort of children rehabilitates the community’s enthusiasm.
- The principal barriers to effective care projects in Australia include a problem we do not have to worry about – snakes!

Managers Report, Resource Policy

Wayne Hastie, Manager

April 2000

1. **Regional Plans**

A summary of the status of the various Environment Court references on regional plans is attached. Changes from the last meeting are shown in bold.

(1) **Regional Coastal Plan (Wayne Hastie)**

The Council adopted the Plan at its meeting on 9 March 2000. The Plan has now been forwarded to the Minister of Conservation for approval, and is currently being assessed by Department of Conservation staff. Council staff have supplied additional information to the Department of Conservation in relation to Iwi consultation and the appeals on the Plan.

The Minister of Conservation has been invited to launch the Plan once it is approved.

(2) **Regional Plan for Discharges to Land (Kirsten Forsyth)**

The Plan became operative on 17 December 1999. There is nothing further to report to the Committee since the previous meeting.

(3) **Regional Air Quality Management Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)**

We have reached agreement with the Moir Street residents on their appeal that related to discharges from spray painting operations. A consent order will be placed before the Environment Court on 27 March 2000. Assuming that the Court signs the order, the Council will be able to finally approve the Plan and make it operative.

In relation to the Moir Street residents' appeal, we have agreed to produce and distribute a brochure for spray painters alerting them to the conditions on the rules in the Plan and the potential penalty for non-compliance. The brochure will also suggest that they maintain a log of paint usage as a means of demonstrating compliance with the Plan.

While ultimately agreeing to the resolution of the appeal, the residents were not happy that we would not agree to additional testing in their area. In our view, such testing could not be justified in light of the results of the recent stack testing. We have advised the residents that they could pursue additional testing through a submission on the annual plan.

(4) **Regional Freshwater Plan (Kirsten Forsyth, Murray McLea)**

The Plan became operative on 17 December 1999. There is nothing further to report to the Committee since the previous meeting.

(5) Regional Soil Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)

Significant progress has been made since the last meeting. The Court has accepted a letter from Mr Riddiford withdrawing his status as an interested party to the Federated Farmers appeal. Mr Riddiford has also agreed to withdraw his appeal to the High Court, although we have not yet received formal notice of his withdrawal.

We have sent the Environment Court draft consent orders for both the Transit New Zealand and Federated Farmers appeals, together with an explanation of some technical issues in relation to latter appeal. Once the consent orders are signed, the Council will be able to approve the Plan and make it operative.

2. Regional Plan Implementation**(1) Community and School Beach and Stream Management (Jo Fagan)**

We have continued to work with Naenae School and on 10th March held a water monitoring exercise for their students at the Waiwhetu Stream. The exercise was assessed in relation to the development of the Environmental Trails.

Seaweed cleanups occurred during 1-1 9th March, and the Council supported these through media releases.

(2) On-site Sewage Treatment (Kirsten Forsyth)

This is the subject of a separate report to the Committee. Essentially there has been further consultation with territorial authorities and the brochures are being modified to incorporate the feedback received.

(3) Review of Air Discharge Problems (Nicki Kinghorn)

No further action this month.

(4) Promotion of Code of Practise for the Management of Agrichemicals (Nicki Kinghorn)

No further action this month.

(5) Sustainable Land Management (Nicki Kinghorn)

A draft sustainable land management action plan is being prepared. Further discussion with Regional Council staff and other organisations is planned for April.

3. **Iwi matters (Tracey Whare)**

The Council adopted the proposal for strengthening its relationship with tangata whenua at its meeting on 9 March 2000.

Iwi were provided with the opportunity to provide input into the draft Annual Plan. Four Iwi authorities provided written comments, and the Policy and Finance Committee considered these on 9 March. The Policy and Finance Committee recommended that some matters be referred back to standing committees for further consideration.

Training on Maori matters is occurring on a number of fronts in the Council. In the last month, Councillors had their first training session and Resource Policy staff continued their training with a **noho marae** at Whakarongotai **marae**. Feedback from both events has been positive.

4. **Staff**

Paula Reeves has been appointed as Policy Advisor to replace Bianca Sullivan who resigned. Paula is currently working as a Senior Policy Analyst at Waitakere City Council. Paula has a background in wetland ecology and working with the community.

Regional Coastal Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 920/96	Titahi Bay Residents' Association	A Memorandum of Parties signed by the Council and the Titahi Bay Residents' Association has been filed at the Environment Court. Porirua City Council and Kim Arnold are registered as interested parties to the proceedings and have not signed the Memorandum. The matter is now back before the Court. Hearing held on 13 th December 1999. Appeal resolved by Environment Court Decision W 612000 , 1 February 2000.
RMA 921/96	Titahi Bay Residents' Association	Settled by consent order 18 October 1999.
RMA 701/98	Graeme Ebbett	Settled by consent order 18 October 1999.
RMA 926/96	Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited	Settled by consent order 17 March 1999
RMA 915/96	Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand	Settled by consent order 9 July 1998
RMA 904/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 906/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 905196	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 907/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 908/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 909196	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 23 February 1999
RMA 910196	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 911/96	The Minister of Conservation	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 925/96	Lambton Harbour Management Limited	Withdrawn
RMA 949/96	Lambton Harbour Management Limited	Settled by consent order 8 May 1998
RMA 923196	Tranz Rail Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 902196	Daniel Thomas Spencer Riddiford	Settled by consent order 20 August 1998
RMA 913196	EWJ & J Sims	Withdrawn

Regional Plan for Discharges to Land

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 308197	Masterton District Council	Settled by consent order 11 November 1998
RMA 309197	NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers Research Association	Settled by consent order 13 November 1998
RMA 313/97	Wellington City Council	Settled by consent order 13 November 1998
RMA 314/97	Tranz Rail Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 315197	Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 316/97	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 320197	PJ Atkinson	Part struck out as invalid by Environment Court The remainder was settled by consent order 21 September 1999.

Regional Air Quality Management Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 584198	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 25 March 1999
RMA 583198	Shell NZ Limited	Settled by consent order 6 April 1999
RMA 524198	Dow AgroSciences	Settled by consent order 7 September 1999
RMA 586198	Moir Street Residents' Group	Negotiations in progress Stack testing completed. Results discussed with the Residents' Group and compromise proposal forwarded for their consideration. Draft consent order agreed by all parties and placed before the Court.

Regional Soil Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 1537/98	Department of Conservation	Settled by consent order 12 August 1999.
RMA 1460/98	Federated Farmers (Wairarapa)	Agreement reached with Federated Farmers. Jurisdictional hearing held at the Environment Court on 1 November 1999 at which time Mr Hedley withdrew from the proceedings. Evidence was completed for a Court hearing, but this became unnecessary when Mr Riddiford withdrew from the proceedings. A draft consent order is now before the Court.
RMA 1459/98	Transit New Zealand	Agreement reached by the parties and a draft consent order has been placed before the Environment Court.
RMA 1458	Winston Aggregates Limited	Settled by consent order 19 February 1999
RMA 1456/98	Dan Riddiford	Waiver application declined by the Environment Court. Decision appealed to the High Court. Application to strike out proceedings laid with the High Court. Mr Riddiford has indicated his intention to withdraw the appeal.
RMA 1461/98	Jim Hedley	Court declined Mr Hedley a waiver for late service of notice on WRC on 13 April 1999. Reference can not be heard by Court

Regional Freshwater Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 471/99	Wellington Fish and Game Council	Settled by consent order 23 July 1999.

Over the previous three months groundwater levels on the Kapiti Coast have again been generally higher than for the same period in previous years. These high levels can be attributed to relatively high rates of summer recharge compared with previous years.

2.2 Moera Gravel Aquifer Bore

The Moera Gravel Aquifer bore reached its target depth of 150 m in early March. At this stage the Council's work programme was temporarily suspended while we allowed the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science to conduct geophysical work that will contribute to the understanding of earthquakes in this area. This work will also contribute to our understanding of groundwater in the Hutt Valley. The bore is currently being made ready to conduct a pump test which will determine how much water is available from the Waiwhetu Gravel Aquifer. This pump test will run for about seven days and should be completed by the end of April.

2.3 Rainfall and River Flows

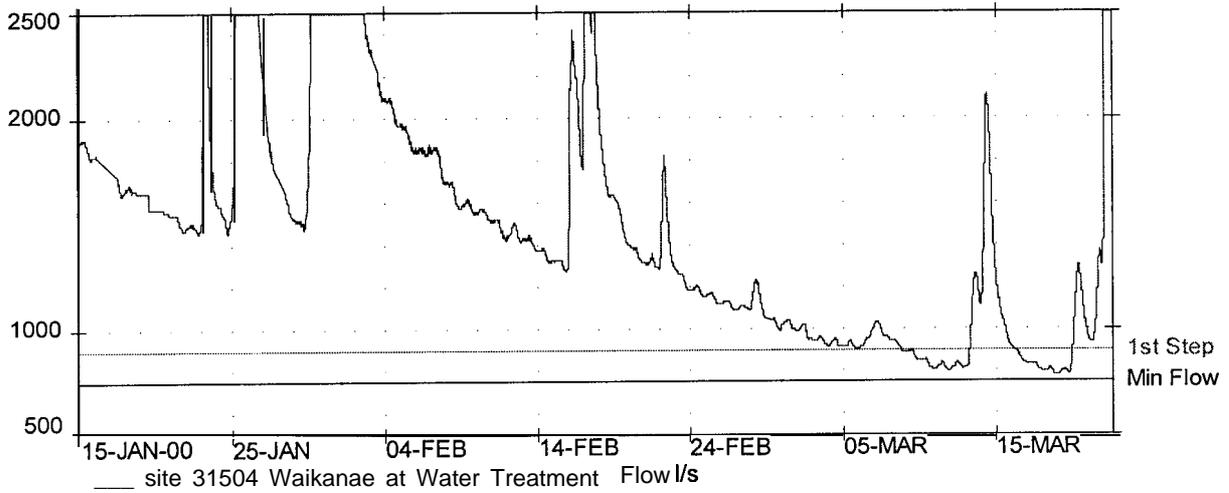
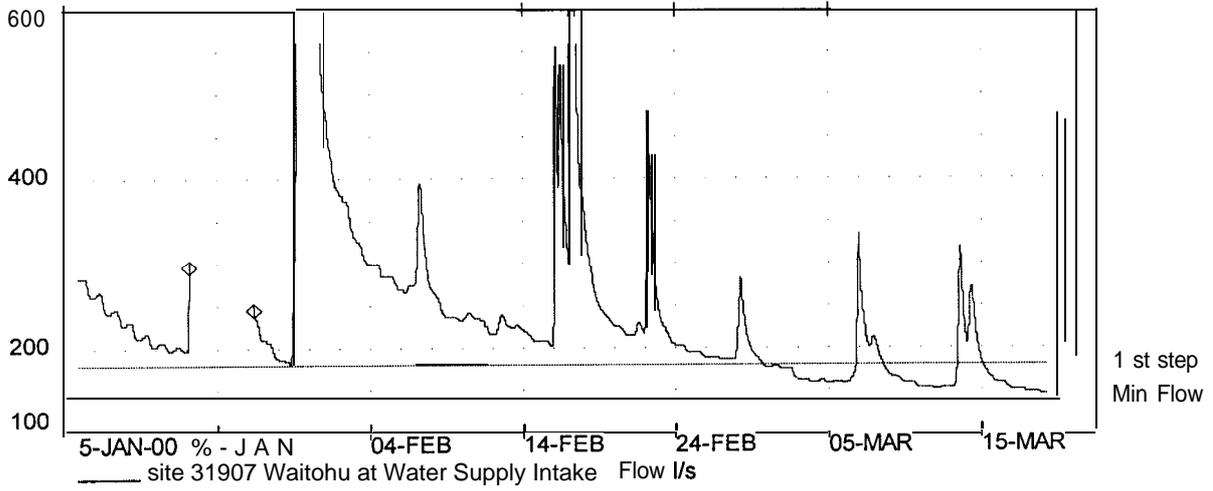
Rainfall across the western Wellington Region was largely below average during February. The only monitored area to receive its average rainfall during February was the Orongorongo Ranges.

Rainfall totals were as low as 35% of average in the southern Tararuas, Wellington and Petone. The northern Tararuas (feeding the Waitohu Stream and Otaki and Waikanae Rivers) received only 50% of normal rainfall while on the Kapiti Coast between 30% and 50% of average rainfall was recorded.

All monitored rivers experienced below average flows except for the Orongorongo and Wainuiomata Rivers which received rainfall from several southerly rainfall events (refer to the attached Figure). On the Kapiti Coast, river flows were as low as 40% of the February average in the Otaki River and Waitohu Stream, and 60% in the Waikanae River. The Hutt River had 85% of normal flow, while the Porirua Stream and Pauatahanui River were 75% and 60% of average respectively.

The attached hydrographs show that on several occasions flow in the Waitohu Stream dropped below the first and second **stepdown** levels set in the Regional Freshwater Plan (to a minimum of 145 litres per second on 18 March) and came close to the set minimum flow of 140 l/s. They also show that the Waikanae River reached a low of 780 l/s litres per second on 18 March, only 30 litres per second above its set minimum flow.

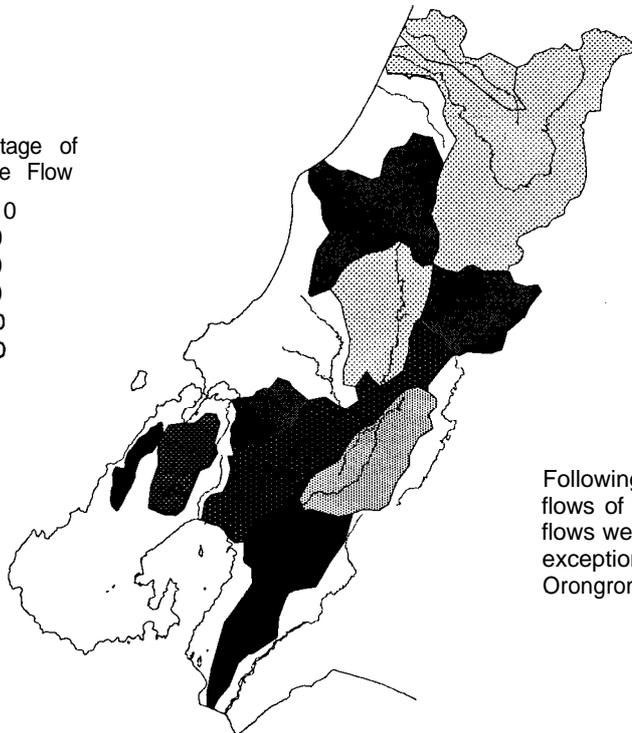
Flow in the Wainuiomata River fell below the first and second **stepdown** levels at Leonard Wood Park during February despite the flow being above average for the month



The above hydrographs show the flow in litre per second in the Waitohu Stream and the Waikanae River. The first stepdown and minimum flow levels as set in the Regional Freshwater Plan are marked on the hydrographs. Both rivers have dropped below their first stepdown level over summer but have not yet breached their minimum flows.

River Flows - February 2000

- Percentage of Average Flow
- 90-110
 - 80-90
 - 70-80
 - 60-70
 - 50-60
 - 40-50



Following the higher than average flows of January, February river flows were below average with the exception of the Waitiuiomata and Orongrong catchments.

3. Resource Quality

3.1 Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints

A summary of pollution complaints and our performance in responding to them will be reported to the Committee at the meeting.

3.2 Enforcement Action

Two abatement notices have been served since the last meeting.

1. On 15 February 2000 an abatement notice was issued to Clive Taylor Ltd, Paraparaumu requiring them to undertake works to prevent discharges into a waterway.
2. On 14 March 2000 an abatement notice was issued to Daryl Soderberg and Martin Owens of Wainuiomata requiring them to undertake remedial works in Catchpool Stream.

On 15 March 2000 we commenced Court proceedings against New Zealand Oil Services Limited for an unauthorised oil discharge which occurred at Seaview in October last year.

3.3 Munitions Site Investigation

A draft report on the Munitions Site Investigations has been received and is currently being reviewed by staff. The findings of this report will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Staffing

Jason Wills, Lyndell McGregor and Mike Ede have all resigned and will be leaving the Council in the coming month. Jason is pursuing interests in the private sector and Lyndell will be working for Environment Waikato out of their Taupo office.

After 12 years service with the Wellington Regional Council, Mike is going home to Blenheim to take up the position of Hydrologist with Marlborough District Council.

I wish them all well in the future.

Consents Management Department Report

Rob Forlong, Manager

April 2000

1. Consent Statistics

The Department's median processing time for non notified consents is 10 working days (161 consents). There have been no late consents so far this financial year.

2. Appeals

The Owhiro Bay Boat ramp appeals are due to be heard on 27 March 2000. I shall update the Committee on progress at the meeting.

The Paraparaumu and Waikanae sewage appeals were not resolved before the callover on 13 March 2000. My understanding (and that of the appellants) was that we had all reached agreement last year and KCDC was simply to do the paperwork. Unfortunately, I was wrong and KCDC came back with a number of last minute changes to the draft consent orders.

We were extremely disappointed with these changes as KCDC had more than enough time to tell us about the problems so that they could be resolved. Hence, the submitters and ourselves felt that we had been ambushed. However, all the parties met on 16 March 2000 and agreed to new wording. Hopefully, this is the end of the matter.

We are having one last attempt at mediation on the outstanding appeal against the PCC Sewage decision. If that does not work then we have a Court date in late May.

We have provided our response on the Promall appeals to the Environment Court.

3. Compliance

3.1 Medical Waste Limited

Over the past few weeks we have had a number of complaints about Medical Waste Limited. We have confirmed four alleged breaches of their resource consent conditions relating to excessive discharges of smoke and/or odour. We are presently determining whether further enforcement action is required.

3.2 Abatement Notices

Since the last Committee meeting we have issued three abatement notices. One each was issued to the Wellington City Council and their business unit CitiLandfills for

offensive odours from the southern landfill. The WCC's inability to control odour from the Landfill is a serious concern. We are very close to running out of options and unless the WCC considerably improve their management of the landfill, a prosecution is likely in the medium term.

The other abatement notice was issued to Castro1 New Zealand Limited for offensive odour from their Transformer oil regeneration plant.

3.3 Enforcement Orders

The application for enforcement orders against Anglian Water International (NZ) Limited and Wellington City Council (Moa Point Sewage Treatment Plant) remains adjourned.

The application remains adjourned.

3.4 Prosecution and Interim Enforcement Orders

Unfortunately, I was forced to lay further charges (for allegedly breaching an interim enforcement order) against Burrell Demolition. That has meant that a hearing date has still not been determined.

4. Other

4.1 ISO Registration

We have completed our application for ISO registration and were to be audited by Telarc on 6 March 2000. Telarc were unable to visit us then so we are presently arranging a new date.

4.2 Workshops

A blatant advertisement. The Councillor workshop on running resource consent hearings will be run immediately after the meeting.

4.3 Customer Satisfaction Survey

The biannual Customer Satisfaction Survey has begun. We hope to report the results to you by the end of the financial year.

4.4 Resource Management Charging Policy

We have begun reviewing the Resource Management Charging Policy which sets our fees and charges for Plan Changes, consent processing and compliance monitoring of consents. The Policy was adopted in 1997 and runs for three years.

The formal review will begin with a report to the Policy and Finance Committee in the next few weeks.

Craig Calland has joined the department to replace Andrew Jones. Craig has a degree from Waikato University. Prior to that he worked in a wide range of jobs including semi-professional cricketer in the UK and as a pyrotechnician.

Craig Press has resigned from the department. He plans to complete his Master of Public Policy degree and then cycle across Canada. Craig put a lot of time and effort into coastal compliance and he leaves us in a strong position in that area.

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
Kapiti Coast District Council	Consents associated with the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant	12/03/98	28/05/98	19	13/08/98	13/09/98 to 14/09/98 Interim decision released Hearing reconvened on 15/03/99	Councillor Buchanan, Councillor Shields, Te Taru White (Commissioner)	Final decision released on 22/04/99	Most consents Granted with Conditions Now Under Appeal
Porirua City Council	Consents associated with the Porirua Wastewater Treatment Plant	20/12/97	27/05/98	7	Applicant chose not to have a pre hearing	07/12/98 Interim decision released Hearing reconvened on 23/4/99	Councillor Buchanan, Councillor McDavitt, Ian Stewart (Minister of Conservation appointee)	Final Decision released on 03/06/99	Recommendation to Grant (must go to the Minister of Conservation for final approval) Now Under Appeal
Kapiti Coast District Council	Consents associated with the operation and upgrade of the Waikanae Wastewater Treatment Plant	19/06/98	24/07/98	23		17/09/98 to 18/09/98 Interim decision released Hearing Reconvened on 15/03/99	Councillor Buchanan, Councillor Shields, Te Taru White (Commissioner)	Final Decision released on 22/04/99	Declined Now Under Appeal
Wellington City Council (Commissioning) ¹	To construct a boat ramp at Owhiro Bay	04/06/98	24/07/98	31	18/08/98	02/09/98 to 03/09/98	Russell Howie (Commissioner), Frank Boffa (Commissioner)	16/09/98	Granted with Conditions Now Under Appeal Court Date set for 3 April 2000
Peter Hunt ²	Consents associated with the development and operation of a cleanfill	13/02/98	15/09/98	3	Application has been stopped because applicant is yet to pay a Notified application fee				

Tapu Te Ranga ¹	Consents associated with the operation of a cleanfill	11/11/98	08/08/99	73		28/09/99, 29/09/99 and 14/10/99	Councillor Buchanan, And from WCC Councillors Armstrong and Hutchings	05/11/99	WRC Consents granted with conditions, WCC consent declined, WCC consent was appealed but the Appeal was withdrawn
ProMall ³	Consents associated with the development of a new shopping mall. Regional Council consents consist of several bridges, realignment of part of a stream and construction of artificial lakes	05/02/99	25/06/99	250+		13/12/99-17/12/99	Upper Hutt City Councillors	24/12/99	Granted with conditions Now under appeal
Lambton Harbour Management ¹	Consents associated with the development of the Taranaki Street Wharf and Lagoon area	09/04/99	21/05/99	77		04/08/99 05/08/99 06/08/99	Councillor Buchanan, Tony Town (Commissioner)	06/09/99	Granted with conditions Land use consents (WCC) now under appeal
Marathon Developments and Porirua City Council ²	Consents associated with the development of the lower Taupo Swamp area	21/08/99	17/09/99	26	02/11/99	15/12/99-16/12/99	Councillors Buchanan, and Shields and Commissioner Graeme Miller (PCC appointee)	12/01/00	Granted with conditions
WRC Operations (Wairarapa)	Culverts – Whakawiriwiri Stream	21/08/99	17/09/99	14	06/10/99	15/12/99	Commissioners Russell Howie and David Watt	02/02/00	Granted with conditions
Chemwaste	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from the treatment of industrial wastes	02/10/99	03/11/99	14	19/11/99	28/01/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson, McDavitt	17/02/00	Granted with conditions

WRC – Utility Services	To intermittently discharge supernatant from Wainuiomata water treatment plant to the Wainuiomata River	19/11/99	21/01/00	4	03/02/00	Issued resolved with out need for a hearing. See report 00.198			
Horokiwi Quarries ¹	Consents associated with proposed cleanfill	02/08/99	23/11/99	6	20/12/99	28/01/00	Commissioner Russell Howie (WCC appointee) and Councillor Turver		Granted with conditions
Medical Waste	Review of consent conditions for the discharge of contaminants to air arising from		17/12/99	24		14/02/00 and 16/02/00	Commissioners Russell Howie and Christine Foster	03/03/00	Changes to conditions 11 and 13 and condition 7 confirmed
Castrol	To discharge combustion gases from a Transformer Oil Regeneration Plant to air.	29/11/99	04/02/00	14	17/02/00	15/03/00	Councillors Allen, Buchanan and McDavitt		
Higgins	Discharge to air the contaminants from hotmix asphalt plant	15/07/99	23/02/00	33	09/03/00	Scheduled for 07/04/00			
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00							

- 1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council
- 3 This application will be heard jointly with Upper Hutt City Council
- 4 This application will be heard jointly with Kapiti Coast District Council

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

March 2000

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

1.1 Wave Rider Buoy

CentrePort Ltd has requested that Council consider the provision of a waverider-buoy to give swell height information at the harbour entrance. This will be primarily for use by fast-ferries whose operating ability is determined by significant wave height, but also for the general information of other harbour users. Information on potential costs and cost-recovery arrangements from fast-ferry operators is being sought.

1.2 Power to Somes/Matiu Island Lighthouse

As previously reported, the Department of Conservation-owned underwater power supply cable to Somes/Matiu Island failed some months ago, and power supply is presently via diesel generators.

Various issues have resulted in some indecision on the part of the Department of Conservation as to whether or renew the power cable or not.

As a prudent interim measure, back-up batteries have been fitted to the navigation light at minimal cost in order to reduce total reliance on the diesel generators.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Five pollution reports were received. Only one actual oil slick required action when, on 20 March, an aircraft reported an oil slick in Cook Strait nine miles south of the airport. Of unknown origin, it dispersed naturally under favourable wind and tide conditions. The fast-ferry *Condor Vitesse* was diverted slightly in order to sail through the area to check the slick, with the possibility of the vessel using its waterjets to help to break-up the slick if it was still persisting.

2.1 Chatham Islands

On 10 March the Wellington-based fishing vessel *Seafresh 1* caught fire near the Chatham Islands. The fire was extinguished and the vessel was towed to an anchorage in Hanson Bay, on the eastern side of the main island.

On the morning of 17 March the vessel suddenly took in water and sank with about eighty-five tonnes of diesel oil on board. A large oil slick raised fears about the fishery stocks of the Chatham Islands. At very short notice, I was requested by the Maritime Safety Authority to form part of their Tier 3 Response Team, and flew direct to the Chatham Islands early that afternoon.

Operations were based in the offices of the Chatham Islands Council in Waitangi, (in use as the Incident Command Centre, and ably supported by their General Manager, Terry Melville). Action was taken to place a protective harbour boom across the entrance to the Te Whanga lagoon, to rig a local fishing vessel with spray booms for dispersant spraying and to temporarily plug tank vent pipes on the sunken ship which were leaking oil. After the oil pollution threat was stabilised, I returned from the Chathams on 22 March after an interesting experience.

Subsequently the wreck was found to have the invasive Asian seaweed undaria on the hull, and on 26 March the Ministry of Fisheries declared the vessel a risk under Biosecurity legislation and instructed the owner to raise and remove the wreck within thirty days.

3. **Extended “Harbour” Limits.**

Present harbour bylaws only apply to the gazetted harbour limits of Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti. The recently reviewed legislation gives Regional Councils the ability to extend the areas under their control out to twelve miles around the entire regional coastline. In the case of Wellington Regional Council, the area could extend from Otaki on the west coast, round through Cook Strait and up to north of Castle Point on the east coast.

Harbour limits determine the area in which Council has jurisdiction to manage navigation and safety and enforce Council’s bylaws.

The majority of the high intensity boat activity currently occurs within these existing harbour limits. If the compulsory carriage of lifejackets were made mandatory by Council bylaws, the present harbour limits would mean that boats launching from beaches in significant parts of the Region would not be covered by the policy.

Discussions with Maritime Safety Authority staff have confirmed that in order to control the coastal area off the beaches it would be simpler to align the harbour limits to the offshore boundary.

Another advantage to Council would be that during an oil spill the Harbour Master could exercise powers to control all vessels. Under the present Maritime Transport Act, the Regional On-Scene Commander can only control New Zealand vessels outside harbour limits.

Council is already responsible for Tier 2 oil pollution response in regional coastal waters out to twelve miles.

Prior to introducing new harbour bylaws, Council may wish to consider the issue of the extension of harbour limits.

4. Departmental Activities

On 10 February the “Equipex 2000” training exercise was held on Glasgow Wharf, with a very good attendance of our regional oil spill response support group. Deputy Harbourmaster, Patrick Atwood, demonstrated the operation of various oil recovery devices (skimmers and oliophilic rope mops).

On 3 March, I gave a presentation to a Maritime Safety Authority staff conference at Masterton on the maritime roles of Regional Councils.

On 8 March, a function for our Honorary Launch Wardens was held at our offices at Queens Wharf. This was a tangible “thank you” to them for the volunteer work they do for us, and also provided a valuable source of informal feedback on developing problems, etc.

5. General Events/Information

Councillors may have noted from media reports that Marlborough District Council is considering a modification of their harbour bylaws in an attempt to address the issue of fast ferry wash. In the Tory Channel and Queen Charlotte Sound area, ferry wash has been claimed to be causing adverse environmental effects and to be posing a danger to small craft.

The stripped-hulk of the 41-metre steel-hulled fishing vessel *Sarfaq* has been moored at Miramar Wharf in Evans Bay since July 1998. There are proposals by the owner to allow interested groups to scuttle the vessel as a fish reef and/or dive site at one of two locations. On 2 March a meeting and inspection with interested parties was held on board *Sarfaq* at Miramar Wharf in order to ascertain what oil-removal, cleaning and other work needed to be done before the vessel could be considered as being suitable for scuttling.

On the evening of 10 March, the wooden-hulled harbour cruise launch *Sweet Georgia* suffered an engine fire whilst on a cruise in Evans Bay with about sixty persons on board. They were quickly evacuated onto other vessels without injury. Deputy Harbourmaster, Patrick Atwood, and Harbour Ranger, Greg Meikle, attended the incident when the vessel was near the shoreline north of Greta Point. Greg Meikle assisted the fire service by shutting-down the still-running engine on *Sweet Georgia*, and then assisted the wharf police when the police launch towed the powerless *Sweet Georgia* back across the harbour to its berth. He also inspected the engine room of the vessel for leaks when it was safely back in its berth.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

April 2000

1. Emergency Management Group

On 23 March 2000 the Minister of Emergency Management made his first announcement about the future of emergency management in New Zealand.

The main points were:

- Emergency Management will be known as Civil Defence and Emergency Management
- the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Bill will be introduced by the end of the year
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management Groups will be based on regional council boundaries, with regional councils having an administering authority role
- there is a commitment to the four Rs, (Reduction of risks, Readiness, Response and Recovery)
- there is a commitment to a national capability
- there will be enhanced professional development.

At present we are, as a collective, working very effectively as an “informal EMG”. We have already built really good partnerships with the emergency services (Fire, Police, Ambulance), Defence Force (Army and Air Force), Department of Corrections, the Lifelines Groups, Airport Company, Earthquake Commission, Insurance Council, Rural Fire, Regional and Local Authorities and other departments of the Wellington Regional Council. We have formed committees responsible for training, publicity, logistics contingency planning, emergency services, and strategic planning. The result of this pooling of expertise and resources means that we are better organised than ever before. Knowing each other and working together much more closely gives us more confidence, and we all feel that we are better equipped to cope with any emergency.

We are all anxiously waiting for our EMG to be established and to get on with the job (see Dr Bradbury’s report).

The Ministry for Emergency Management is at present developing guidelines for establishing EMGs. We have been working with Ministry staff on these guidelines. The Committee may be interested to know that our Foundation Document is being used by the Ministry and other regional councils in this work.

2. Communications

Apart from the normal weekly testing of the radio communication network, additional and more extensive tests were successfully carried out. The Wellington Regional Council now has a “state of the art” network that will play a very important part during any major emergency. The network is specifically designed for emergency situations, is very robust, is Council-owned and is very easy and inexpensive to maintain. The recent upgrading of the system (mainly for Y2K purposes) added significant value to the network.

As part of our technological advances, we investigated the possibility late last year of buying into a satellite-system. It was decided not to go ahead with it (because of its dependability on landlines), and to spend the money on enhancing our own radio system. It is of value to note that the “Iridium” satellite network has since been terminated (20 March 2000) and that their 66 satellites were de-orbited.

3. Activities

Since the previous report of the Emergency Management department to the Environment Committee on 15 February, this department was involved in various activities relating to exercises, training, public information and general emergency management planning.

Exercises:

- We are involved with the Wellington City Council’s exercise planned for 30 and 31 March. In this regard, we are working closely with them on planning the exercise, desired outcomes, etc.
- We are working with Regional Councils in putting together a seminar regarding the Logistics Contingency planning for the Wellington region, which will then be followed up by an appropriate exercise later this year.
- We are working on our Regional exercise planned for 27 April. A similar exercise will be held in the Wairarapa on 9 May. The scenario of the proposed exercise will be that of a Tsunami. The permanent, as well as mobile, headquarters will be used in this exercise.
- We are working with the Wellington International Airport in planning an exercise at the airport. The scenario will be an air crash.
- We are working with the Hutt Valley Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee in planning a combined exercise, that will take place in the Hutt Valley later this year. The scenario is not **finalised** yet, but it may be that of a commuter train crash while on its way to Wellington with about 900 passengers aboard.

Training:

- All Wellington Regional Council staff involved with emergency management will again be trained in headquarters operations, communications, emergency administration, the Co-ordinated Incident Management System and in setting up and taking down the mobile Headquarters. We are also looking at “motivational” training for these staff that will include topics like team building, conflict handling, intergroup relations, communications, performance achievements, etc.
- We attended an excellent course on “Earthquake and Society” at the GNS on 28, 29 February and 1 March. The material presented, and the presenters, were of

outstanding quality and the new research information that was made available is of utmost value in our planning processes. For example, new information on wave movement in the harbour following a major earthquake makes it necessary for all of us to re-think our present planning strategies. According to the information, the Petone foreshores will subduct and the estimation is that the shoreline will move at least 200 metres into Petone! We are trying to get the information on video and then present it to the Environment Committee in the near future. Other topics covered were: earthquake forecasting, risk-based insurance, risk perception and disaster prevention, crises management, public relations, communications, tools for long-term integrated planning, Lifeline responses and the transfer of disaster research information into practice. The last day of the course was spent on a field trip to study the Wellington Fault.

Public Information:

- In a combined effort, the Environmental Education and the Emergency Management departments made use of the opportunity to display our respective information on hazards and educational strategies during the Hutt River Festival (12 February) and the Petone Street Fair (19 February). Our displays attracted a great number of people and our messages were successfully conveyed to the public.

Emergency Management Planning:

- We are working very closely with the other regional councils as well as the local authorities in our region in developing a sustainable logistics contingency plan. In this regard we have met with Auckland Regional Council a couple of times (February and March) and also had meetings with the territorial local authorities, emergency services and the Lifelines in our region. We are planning a seminar/workshop/exercise towards the end of this year to which all the role-players (government departments, local authorities, emergency services, Lifelines, health authorities, financial institutions, the insurance industry and other essential participants) will be invited to take part. The desired outcome should include total resource management, how to communicate availability of resources, identifying how other parts of New Zealand could support the Wellington region with resources that are lost in an event, and, if not in this country, from where, internationally, we could obtain such resources.
- We joined forces with Wellington City Council in doing an aerial reconnaissance of critical facilities, access routes, water intakes, etc. of the region. The idea is to put a "Reconnaissance Plan" together that could be used in the case of a major disaster. The Plan will include "before" photographs of roads, bridges, critical facilities, etc. as well as a pre-determined route to be flown.
- We are working with the two Hutt Councils and our Flood Protection department in developing "non-structural options" for the Hutt River Floodplain. Because of a very tight timeframe, we meet regularly to discuss issues and to determine which options are the more viable to be implemented.

4. Representative Visits

- As a member of the EQC working group we are investigating emergency management information that organisations make public. These organisations include local authorities, government departments, Police, Fire, Ambulance, the insurance industry, etc. At present about 20 organisations put out more or less the

same information at high cost. The idea is to streamline the information so as to make it available in a format acceptable to everyone. The first phase that we are working on includes a set of four posters (reduction of risks, readiness, response and recovery) as well as corresponding information in the Yellow Pages.

- We are much involved with the non-structural options part of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. We are working with the Hutt Councils in developing measures to reduce risks on the floodplain and to put strategies into place to enhance response and recovery actions during a flooding event.
- We had a long discussion with the policy writers of the Ministry for Emergency Management regarding “Guidelines” for the establishment of EMGs. They regard Auckland and Wellington as the most advanced in setting up EMGs.
- We have met with the new Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Hospital (Margo Mains) to explain the Wellington Regional Council’s role in emergency management and the role that she will have to play during an event. We also discussed combined exercises, the EMG and the communications network in the region, of which they also form a part.
- We had discussions with about seventy organisations with a Civil Defence responsibility in the Wellington Region to determine the best way in which we could publish their respective roles. A new format has been developed and it will be tabled for the Environment Committee to approve.
- We attended a couple of meetings of the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineers, chaired by John Norton of the Ministry for Emergency Management. At this stage we are working on issues like: urban search and rescue, determining critical facilities, and compiling a registered list of earthquake engineers, building inspectors, environmental health officers, etc. The emergency management department will include, upgrade and maintain this data on its Resource Database.
- We arranged a visit for the emergency management officers of the region to the Met Services on 8 March. It was a very informative visit, especially with regard to our role as the provider of severe weather warnings to 34 organisations in the region.
- We attended the monthly meetings of the Emergency Management Managers, the Insurance Council, the Rural Fire Committee and the Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees. Main topics of discussion were the EMG, Logistics Planning, Publicity, Communications and Exercises.

5. General

- Three Special Weather Bulletins were received from the Met Service since the last Environment Committee meeting on 15 February 2000, namely on Tuesday, 14 March. They were all for Heavy Rain. All the involved agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.
- Since the last report, more than 40 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the country. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region were received from IGNS:
 - 07 February – Paraparaumu (3.5)
 - 07 February – Paraparaumu (3.6)
 - 08 February – Masterton (3.7)
 - 15 February -Wellington (3.8)
 - 26 February – Porirua (4.0)

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: February 2000

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to present a summary of the operating results for the eight month period ended 28 February 2000.

<u>Environment Division</u>			
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>			
<u>For the Period Ended 28 February 2000</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	3,761	3,761	
Other Revenue	1,218	1,313	95 u
Total Revenue	4,979	5,074	95 u
Less:			
Direct Expenditure	4,250	4,679	429 F
Indirect Expenditure	630	682	52 F
Total Operating Expenditure	4,880	5,361	481 F
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	99	(287)	386 F

2. Operating Surplus

A net operating surplus of \$99,000 was recorded for the period. This compares favourably to the budgeted Operating Deficit of \$287,000.

The net favourable variance of \$386,000 comprises a revenue shortfall of \$95,000. This is offset in turn by expenditure savings in the order of \$481,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue amounted to \$4,979,000 or 98.1% of our budget target of \$5,074,000.

Some of the shortfall is with the Emergency Management Grant (a reimbursement of expenditure incurred for the 1998/99 financial year). This grant, funded by Central Government, is yet to be paid by the Ministry of Emergency Management. We anticipate payment of some \$3 1,000 by 3 1 March 2000 or approximately 9% of our direct costs (\$344,000 for that year).

The internal charge from the Utility Services Group also contributes to this shortfall. The Moera gravel aquifer investigation was about a month late in starting and so we are unable to charge our customer.

4. Expenditure

Total Operating Expenditure was \$4,880,000, that is \$48 1,000 (9%) below budget.

This variance is caused by:

- (1) Personnel costs are presently under budget by \$127,000. This is because the appointees for the Hazard Analyst and Education Co-ordinator positions did not take up their positions until the end of November/beginning of December and we did not appoint any replacement for a staff member on unpaid leave.
- (2) Material Costs are slightly below budget by \$10,000. The Regional Freshwater Plan has now been printed. The total printing costs of these plans amounted to \$20,000. Some of these costs are recoverable from external parties, consultants, etc. Additionally, we have recently reprinted the Wellington Regional Native Plant Guide, a 3,000-copy print run
- (3) External Contractors and Consultants are \$163,000 under budget because:
 - At this stage Iwi projects are some \$84,000 short of budget. Several initiatives are in various stages of implementation and we expect this under-spend will be reduced considerably by year-end.
 - The Petroleum Storage Hazard Analysis study (\$40,000) was temporarily delayed because of information access problems. These have now been resolved.
- (4) Internal Charges are \$133,000 below budget. This is mainly due to the Resource Investigations Department's demand for laboratory services currently running at a lower level than budget.

5. Capital Expenditure

Currently our capital expenditure is \$63,000 under budget. The purchase of a replacement motor vehicle has been deferred until September 2000. That vehicle is yet to complete four years of service.