

**Geoff Skene**  
**Manager, Environmental Education**

## **Environmental Education Department Report □ May 2007**

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### **1. *Take Action***

#### **1.1 Schools commencing *Take Action* for Water and for Air**

Term two brings a combination of both schools doing the standard biophysical programme and schools doing the new programme on air, transport, and climate change. The “water” schools are St Michaels School (Hutt City), Chanel College and Lakeview School (Masterton), Wadestown School and Strathmore Community School. The “air” schools are Kenakena (Kapiti), Muritai (Eastbourne) and St Brigids.

#### **1.2 Environmental projects by Term One Schools**

The eight schools that commenced in the first term are working solidly to implement environmental changes in their schools. Queen Margaret College is undertaking waste and energy audits and will follow up with schemes to recycle and reduce their energy use. Students are also working with Greater Wellington Communications staff to do a radio advertisement on a water theme. The school is also keen to help a care group in its work.

At Canon’s Creek school students will soon take part in the planting of a māori medicinal community garden. As part of this they will learn about the uses of the garden and the cultural significance of the plants they are planting (e.g., hebe, flax, kawakawa, mānuka). This is a joint project with Porirua City Council, which has supplied the plants and arranged for a person to show the students how the plants are used. This school has also completed a waste audit and is looking at recycling and composting alternatives (half the school’s waste is paper).

Russell school students are planning tree planting in the school’s grounds and a waste audit. They are keen to set up a recycling and food waste system. They also are looking at building a rainwater tank to irrigate their plants. The students are studying plants this term and visiting Trash Palace to learn more about recycling.

Waste reduction is a popular theme for these first term schools. St Brigid’s school is organising a waste audit, as is Glenview School. St Patrick’s school is focusing on recycling, composting and worm farming.

Schools from both term one and term two have committed to ongoing work with local care groups. Glenview will be helping the Maara Roa group and St Patricks and Lakeview schools have joined up with the Henley Lake care group. Kenakena School will work with our Waikanae Estuary care group and St Michael's school is planting with the Hull's Creek care group.

### **1.3 Maatauranga Taiao Training**

The *Take Action* team has been providing professional development for the Maori Education for Sustainability Advisors, and around 15 teachers involved in this programme, training them in the concepts and delivery of *Take Action*. This is good recognition for the quality of our programme. The Ministry of Education is paying for this training.

### **1.4 New Curriculum □ letter from the Minister**

Councillors will recall that we wrote to the Minister of Education in March about sustainability in the draft new curriculum. The Minister, the Hon. Steve Maharey, has replied, saying that the government is mindful of the need to further develop children's understanding about sustainability and that the process of analysing submissions on the curriculum is not yet complete. He also commends Greater Wellington for the work it is doing.

### **1.5 Regional Youth Environment Group**

Although the predominant focus of our work is in the primary area, we do assist a number of high schools and colleges to deliver environmental education initiatives. The largest of these is the Trees for Survival programme. Secondary school students from around the region meet regularly at Greater Wellington to discuss their environmental projects and support one another. This group is lead by the Secondary School Education for Sustainability advisor and staff from other councils. The first meeting for this year was devoted to helping students recruit new members for the groups they run in their schools, and learning about social marketing. The Enviroschools movement is spreading into the secondary sector and will be holding its first 'Youth Jam' later in the year. Students from Paraparaumu College and Hutt Valley High School will be attending.

### **1.6 Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator**

The new Wellington region Enviroschools Co-ordinator commenced work in our offices in the second week of May. We are pleased to have this arrangement now in place and will look forward to working with the co-ordinator to further the programmes of both organisations.

## **2. Environmental Restoration**

### **2.1 New Groups for 2007- 8**

There were eight applications for care funds for 2007-08. Assessment of these has been completed and the applicants notified. There were four river/stream related applications, three dune projects, and one estuary project.

The approved projects are:

- Makara estuary and stream (known as the Makaracarpas)
- Waikanae Beach dunes
- Petone Beach dunes
- Albemarle Stream (Wellington)
- Onslow College stream (Wellington)
- Kaitawa group project on the Wharemaukau stream (Kapiti)
- Whangaehu Stream (will be undertaken by Wairarapa staff)

The Island Bay Dunes group (already working with us) applied for funding for a subsequent year, so this application was deferred till next year.

## 2.2 Hull's Creek and Waikanae Estuary groups

These two groups have been very busy in the last few months. Both groups received funding from the Sustainable Management Fund and are working to implement their funding by 30 June. At Hull's Creek, the group has had a very productive period: a consent application has been lodged for the construction of the fish pass (at the junction with the Hutt River) and rock for the pass has been delivered. A sign describing the project is being designed and staff from the Department of Defence has been making a track so the public can enjoy the restoration area. St Michael's school students will work on the site later in the year as part of *Take Action* for Water. Students from Victoria University's ecological restoration programme are using the site as a case study and an open day is planned to coincide with the completion of the fish pass.

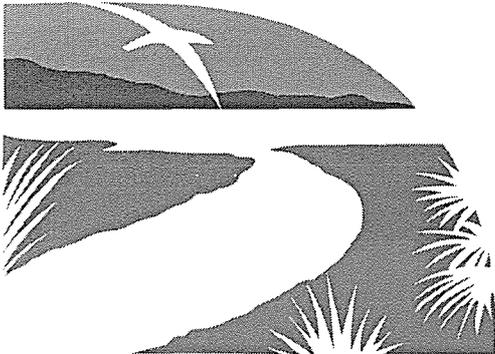
The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department is undertaking an investigation into the health of Hull's Creek which will provide firm information to help with the stream's rehabilitation.

The Waikanae Estuary group has erected a second shade house with *Take Care* Funds to cope with its expanding activities. The group received \$38,000 from the Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) in 2006 and has spent \$10,000 thus far on site preparation and plants. The remainder will be spent in the second quarter as most of it is for plants. The group produces a regular newsletter which is attached to this report. This group is an excellent example of what *Take Care* can be; a small community effort given seed money and advice by Greater Wellington which has grown into a wider collaborative exercise able to draw funds from other sources and achieve a potent ecological outcome.

A second SMF application was made for funding for the next 3 years, but at a significantly reduced rate (\$11,000). The group has learned recently that it has been successful.

# Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

## News Update – April 2007



Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.



### It's time to start planting! – Saturday 28 April '07

**WHEN ?** Meet for a nine o'clock start

**WHERE ?** Meet at the Manly Street entrance opposite Hadfield Place

**WHAT?** Please come prepared... Solid footwear is essential.  
Don't forget a jacket in case of cold weather and a sunhat in case of sun!

**WHO?** Children are welcome.  
Anyone under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult.

**WHY?** The estuary reserve belongs to all of us. Getting involved to help plant and maintain native plantings in the estuary is an important step towards restoring a wetland of national significance.

It also means new friends, new skills and most importantly... fun!

Are you interested in being an 'early bird' worker on planting days?

The committee is looking for people to assist with moving plants and helping to set up early on planting days.  
Please contact our secretary, Maureen, if you are available to assist. (phone 902 4892)

## Funding Update

Our current project funding grant from the Sustainable Management fund of MfE is for the period ending 30 June 2007. We are on target to fully utilize the \$38,600 funding pursuant to the terms of the contract.

The funds have been spent as follows:

- 300 trees planted in nodes 12 and 13 in August 2006.
- 1000 spinifex for planting (by the D.U.N.E. group) in node 1 this winter.
- 4,500 trees for planting this winter by us.
- 2000-3000 seedlings for growing-on for planting next winter.
- weed clearance and control, principally in node 15 on the Waikanae side of the river.
- Shadehouse potting materials.

This funding has certainly given us a huge initial boost toward our long term objective of restoring native vegetation to the Estuary Scientific Reserve.

To keep the momentum going, we have applied to the Sustainable Management Fund for funding of \$11,000 per annum for the next three years. This is sufficient funding for planting 2000-3000 trees per annum. We will hear soon if this application has been successful. If not, we will apply to other agencies for funding of tree planting in 2009 and beyond.

## Weggerly Dune Restoration

To some it is a weed infested wasteland, to others it is a challenge to let the natives shine. Identified in Geoff Parks restoration plan as RPS 15 the Weggerly Dune on the sunny Waikanae side of the river was put in the too-hard-for-now basket but a shining example of collaboration has enabled the restoration to go full steam ahead.

In a joint effort between the Waikanae Estuary Care Group, Friends of the Waikane River, Kapiti Coast District Council and Greater Wellington (biosecurity division) the dune will be systematically controlled of invasive weeds and planted in predominantly kanuka and ngaio.

As the site cops the westerly winds, some large pines have been left to provide shelter as will lines of ngaio which are to be planted with the aim of establishing shelter belts along the natural contours of the dune. The remaining areas will be planted with kanuka.

As the most visually dominant site in the estuary it is an area that will provide a constant reminder for the community of what can be achieved with a little vision and not that much hard work.



Weed control in progress –  
Large trees are mulched and taken away

## Shade house Update

For those of you with green fingers and if you have either a Tuesday or Thursday morning free, how about coming along to one of our regular fortnightly shadehouse working bees. At the moment we have approximately 2000 plants awaiting potting up. Shadehouse working bees scheduled for the next two months are:

Thurs 19 April, Tues 1 May, Thurs 17 May, Tues 29 May, Thurs 14 June, and Tues 26 June

If you are interested in helping, please contact Deb phone 905-1396 or Lyn 905-2748 for more details - thanks very much!

## More Weed(s) Removed from the Estuary

Local police have contributed to weed control in the Estuary this summer, as reported in the March 29 edition of the Observer.

In a display of ruthless efficiency, five examples of an introduced weed species were removed within hours of being intentionally planted in the Estuary, not far from the Manly Street entrance.

Local residents have certainly demonstrated their keen interest in what happens in the Estuary. And as reported in the article, Care Group activity will certainly help to deter further illicit activity of this kind.

## Estuary Open Day – Saturday 26 May

The Waikanae Estuary Care Group is holding an Open Day in conjunction with one of the regular planting days in May. The purpose of this Open Day is to share with local residents the work, vision and enthusiasm of the Care Group and to encourage more people to come and join the fun.

The Department of Conservation have kindly organised for Geoff Park to lead a walking tour around the estuary reserve on this day to share information about the restoration plan that he was contracted by the Department of Conservation to write in 2005. It is this plan that all restoration work carried out by the Care Group is based upon.

Planting activities on the day begin at 9am with the Walking Tour commencing with Geoff Park at 10am. Meet at the Manly Street entrance (opposite Hadfield Place).

## Annual General Meeting – Monday 18 June, 7pm

Paraparaumu Library – Community Meeting Room

The committee warmly invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc. In the next newsletter we will include the agenda for the meeting and nomination forms for those of you interested in being more involved by becoming a committee member. We are looking for people who have a passion for the local estuary environment to come and join us to assist with the planning for future restoration work within the estuary. Please consider joining this friendly and exciting committee - don't be shy!

## Contact details....

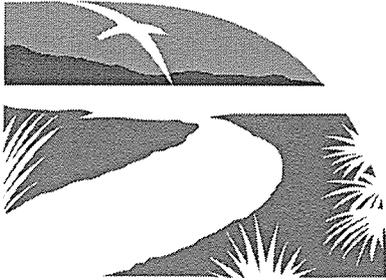
Chairperson	Jeff Eaton
	Phone 905 1396
Secretary	Maureen Kortens
	Phone 902 4892

### News Update Mail Out

If you have received this newsletter by mail and you would prefer to have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Kerry Penny.

Email – [kerry.penny@gw.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.penny@gw.govt.nz)

Phone (04) 801 1029



Waikanae Estuary Care Group Inc.

# Working Bee Calendar

**SH** = Shade House Working Bee

**WB** = Planting Working Bee

## April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	<b>28</b> WB	29
30						

## May

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	<b>1</b> SH	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	<b>12</b> WB	13
14	15	16	<b>17</b> SH	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	<b>26</b> WB	27
28	<b>29</b> SH	30	31			

## June

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	<b>9</b> WB	10
11	12	13	<b>14</b> SH	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	<b>23</b> WB	24
25	<b>26</b> SH	27	28	29	30	

**Murray McLea**  
**Acting Manager, Environmental Policy**

## **Environmental Policy Department Report □ May 2007**

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### **1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans**

#### **1.1 Regional Policy Statement review**

One workshop was held with councillors on 18 April. At this workshop, staff presented the draft provisions for landscape, heritage and the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region. A further workshop scheduled for 4 May was subsequently postponed to ensure the new approach to the development of methods satisfactorily worked across all topics. This workshop will now occur on 22 May between 9.30am and 12.30pm. A copy of the proposed approach and examples for freshwater and regional form were sent to Councillors for their information on 4 May.

Staff are also in the processes of preparing the second RPS review newsletter and updating the topics and provisions in response to feedback. The newsletter will summarise the draft approach for all topics and seek wider feedback to help inform the development of the proposed Regional Policy Statement. The period for feedback is likely to be between 1 June and 6 July. Full copies of the topic provisions and information about the review process will also be on the website. Greater Wellington's household newspaper, Elements will also outline the opportunity to find out more and comment if people wish. Presentations to territorial authority elected representatives are also now being organised.

#### **1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan**

Plan change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan was notified in December 2006 following approval by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. This plan change revises provisions for port noise. It is a joint plan change with Wellington City Council and is designed to improve and align the provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan with Wellington City's District Plan.

Public submissions on the plan change closed on 26 February 2007. Submissions were received from eight submitters. Further submissions closed on 18 April 2007. Further submissions were received from two submitters. Arrangements for a joint hearing are being made, with a suggestion for a date in early July.

### **1.3 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan**

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was approved for public notification by the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee at its 8 May meeting. This plan change will limit the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. It follows consultation with the community on a draft plan change. The plan change will now be advertised in newspapers and submissions will be called for. It will also be sent to affected consent holders and other interested people.

## **2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation**

### **2.1 Pauatahanui project**

An application to the Biodiversity Condition Fund to support biodiversity enhancement work on the major landholding in the Kakaho sub-catchment of Pauatahanui Inlet has been successful. A grant of \$60,000 has been made available. The project involves the permanent fencing off of riparian and wetland areas to improve water quality in the stream.

In addition, the application to the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Land Management Fund made by the NZ Landcare Trust in partnership with GW and Porirua City Council for funding to engage a Catchment Co-ordinator has been successful, subject to confirmation. A grant of \$75,000 for each of two years will allow the catchment management work with private landowners started by Peter Handford in the Pauatahanui and Waikanae catchments to continue.

### **2.2 Waiwhetu Project**

Negotiations on the level of financial assistance from the Crown for the clean up of the contaminated sediments in the stream are continuing.

### **2.3 Wetland Action Plan**

The *Wetland Incentives Programme* has proven popular since it began in 2003. As in past years at this time, the programme is fully subscribed. Subsidised weed control and fencing remain the most popular ways to use the incentives offered.

A review of this programme is underway. The review is currently focussing on Greater Wellington staff who have been involved with wetland management in different areas of work; Regional Parks (Parks & Forests), Key Native Ecosystems (Biosecurity), Otaki river mouth (Flood protection), and Community group coordinators (Take Care Programme). Also, a targeted survey of the approx 100 landowners who have been involved in the Wetland Incentives Programme has been posted out, and already a quarter have been returned.

## **2.4 Freshwater Ecosystems Programme**

We are currently working with care groups on fish passes in the Owhiro Stream and at Hulls Creek. Three small passes are planned in the Owhiro Stream and a single large pass will be constructed at Hulls Creek. A resource consent application has been made for the fish pass in Hulls Creek. Construction will follow once the consent application is granted.

## **3. Staff changes**

Laura Paynter has started work with us as a policy advisor. The initial focus of her work will be on the Regional Policy Statement. She comes to us from the Historic Places Trust and before that she worked with Wellington City Council.

Christina Parnell-Harris is the new Secretary/Administration Assistant for the Environmental Policy and Environmental Education Departments. She has recently completed a degree in Geography at Victoria University and has been working for environmental consultants, Hill Young Cooper Limited.

**Ted Taylor**  
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

## **Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report □ April 2007**

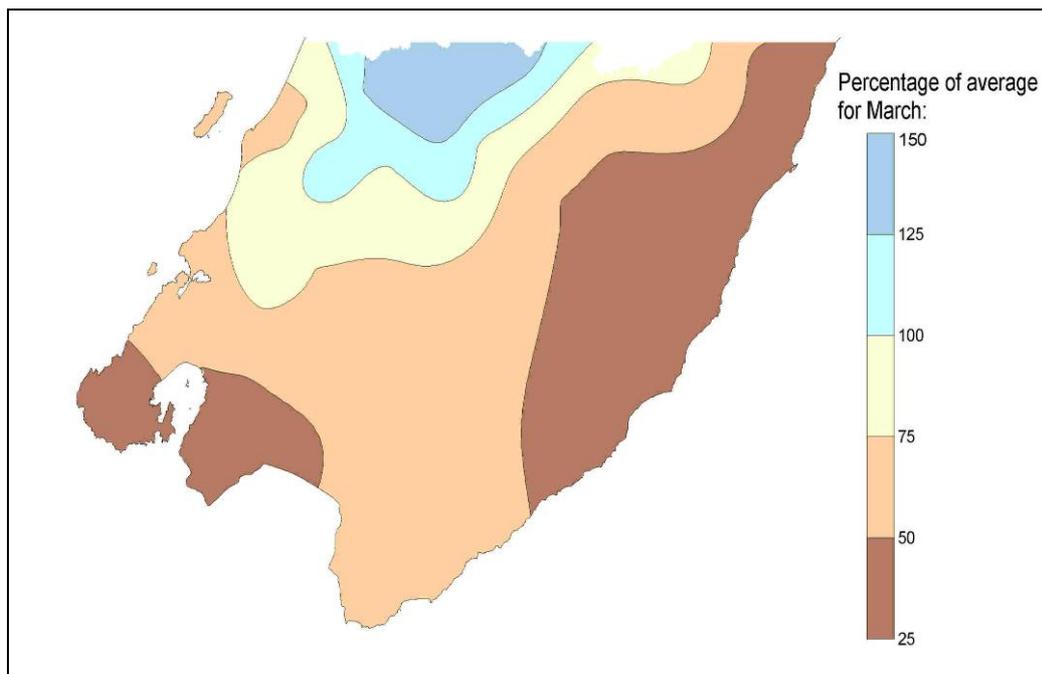
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### **1. Rainfall and River Flows**

#### **1.1 Rainfall**

Summer-like weather continued into March with generally dry and settled conditions. Rainfall was well below average throughout much of the Wellington region, particularly in the south and east. In eastern Wairarapa, Wainuiomata, and Wellington city rainfall was between a quarter and half of the long-term average for March. The dry conditions in those areas were due to the predominance of anticyclones to the east of the North Island, resulting in prevailing north to northwesterly airflows.

Despite the generally dry conditions during the month, a northwesterly front brought heavy rainfall to the Tararua Ranges on 17-18 March. The 200-300 mm received over these two days resulted in above-average rainfall for the month in the ranges.

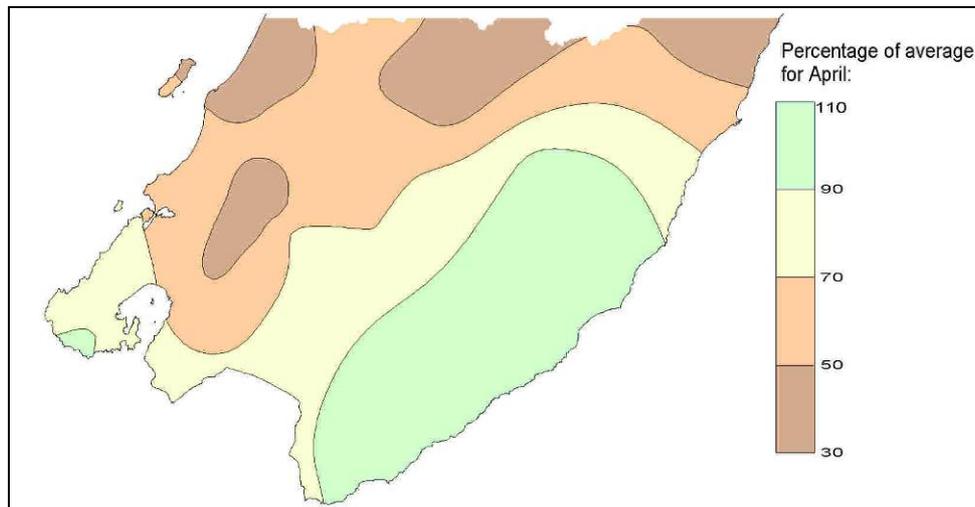


**Rainfall during March 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for March**

**Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for March 2007, compared to average**

	March 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for March (mm)
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	54	60
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	33	86
Wainuiomata Reservoir	52.5	127
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	627	446
Alloa (Featherston)	56	82
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	46	102

Although April 2007 was characterised by typical autumn weather with the arrival of cooler nights and more unsettled weather than experienced during March, the month was still drier than usual throughout much of the Wellington region. Rainfall was particularly low compared to ‘average’ in the Tararua Ranges, Kapiti coast and northern Wairarapa; some places received less than half the long-term average rainfall for April. However, south eastern Wairarapa and Wellington city had rainfall totals about normal for the month, in part due to southerly fronts which passed over the region on 12th and 28th April.



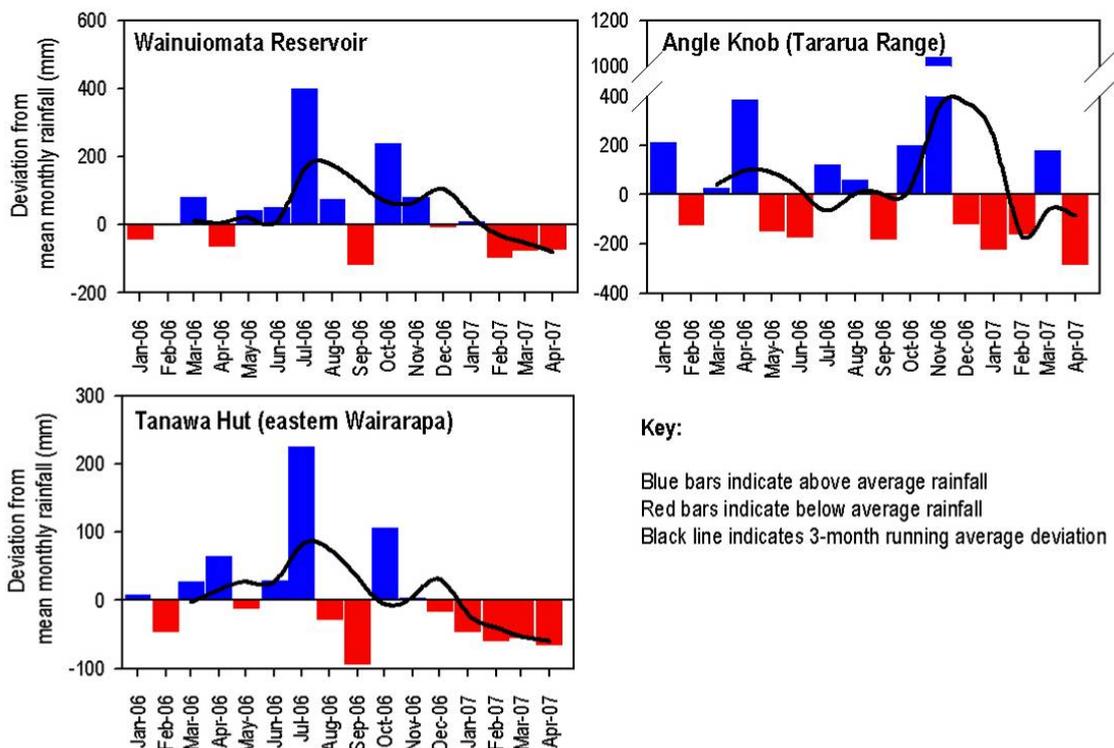
**Rainfall during April 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for April**

The low rainfall in most of the region during April carries on the trend of a dry autumn and 2006/07 summer. Rainfall totals for 2007 to date are well below average. In general, we have received about two-thirds of the usual rainfall for the year to date. However, the south (e.g. Wainuiomata, southern Wairarapa) and east have had only about 30% to 50% of the average rainfall to the end of April.

**Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for April 2007 and 2007 to date, compared to average**

	April 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for April (mm)	2007 to date (mm)	Average year to end April (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for year to date
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	24.5	67	182	283	64%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	86.8	97	225	340	66%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	76.5	147	259	490	53%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	194	477	1267	1780	71%
Alloa (Featherston)	55.4	79	170	294	58%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	40.0	106	124	349	36%

Although the longer term climate pattern has fluctuated between wetter and drier than normal months over the last year, the rainfall during April has continued a recent trend of below average rainfall. The running average 3-month rainfall deficit remains negative (indicating that, in the medium term, we are in a drier than average phase). Although we are in a ‘neutral’ phase (neither El Nino nor La Nina), climate models suggest that a La Nina will develop over autumn / winter. La Nina conditions in New Zealand during winter bring less south-westerly winds and warmer than normal conditions. Low pressure systems tend to form in the northern Tasman Sea and cross the North Island bringing with them some days with intense rain and strong easterly winds<sup>1</sup>.



**Monthly rainfall deviation from average at key monitoring locations**

<sup>1</sup> MetService seasonal forecast for April / May 2007

## 1.2 Rivers

Average river flows for March tended to be below normal in most of the region's rivers, primarily due to a lack of "freshes". However, the Wairarapa rivers with headwaters in the Tararua Ranges (such as the Ruamahanga and Waiohine rivers) had slightly above average monthly mean flows, due to a large fresh on 18 March. Although the Hutt and Waikanae rivers were also affected by rainfall in the middle of the month, the average flows for March still remained below average due to stable low flow conditions at the beginning and end of the month.

### March 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow March 2007	Long-term average for March	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	1.93 m <sup>3</sup> /s	2.84 m <sup>3</sup> /s	68%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	10.1 m <sup>3</sup> /s	15.1 m <sup>3</sup> /s	67%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.33 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.48 m <sup>3</sup> /s	69%
Waiohine River at Gorge	20.7 m <sup>3</sup> /s	17.4 m <sup>3</sup> /s	119%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	49.7 m <sup>3</sup> /s	49.3 m <sup>3</sup> /s	101%

Average river flows for April 2007 remained significantly below the long-term average for the time of the year, due to fewer than average freshes. In fact, some of the major rivers (e.g. Waikanae River, Hutt River, Waitohu Stream) experienced their lowest flows for the year to date at the end of April. There were no significant freshes during the month.

### April 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow March 2007	Long-term average for March	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	1.17 m <sup>3</sup> /s	3.07 m <sup>3</sup> /s	38%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	6.85 m <sup>3</sup> /s	15.7 m <sup>3</sup> /s	44%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.24 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.49 m <sup>3</sup> /s	49%
Waiohine River at Gorge	7.29 m <sup>3</sup> /s	18.7 m <sup>3</sup> /s	39%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	17.1 m <sup>3</sup> /s	59.0 m <sup>3</sup> /s	29%

## 2. Floodwarning

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee river alarms were triggered three times in the Wairarapa and once in the Western part of the region, all relating to the rainfall event in the middle of March. Ten warning lists were issued in the Wairarapa.

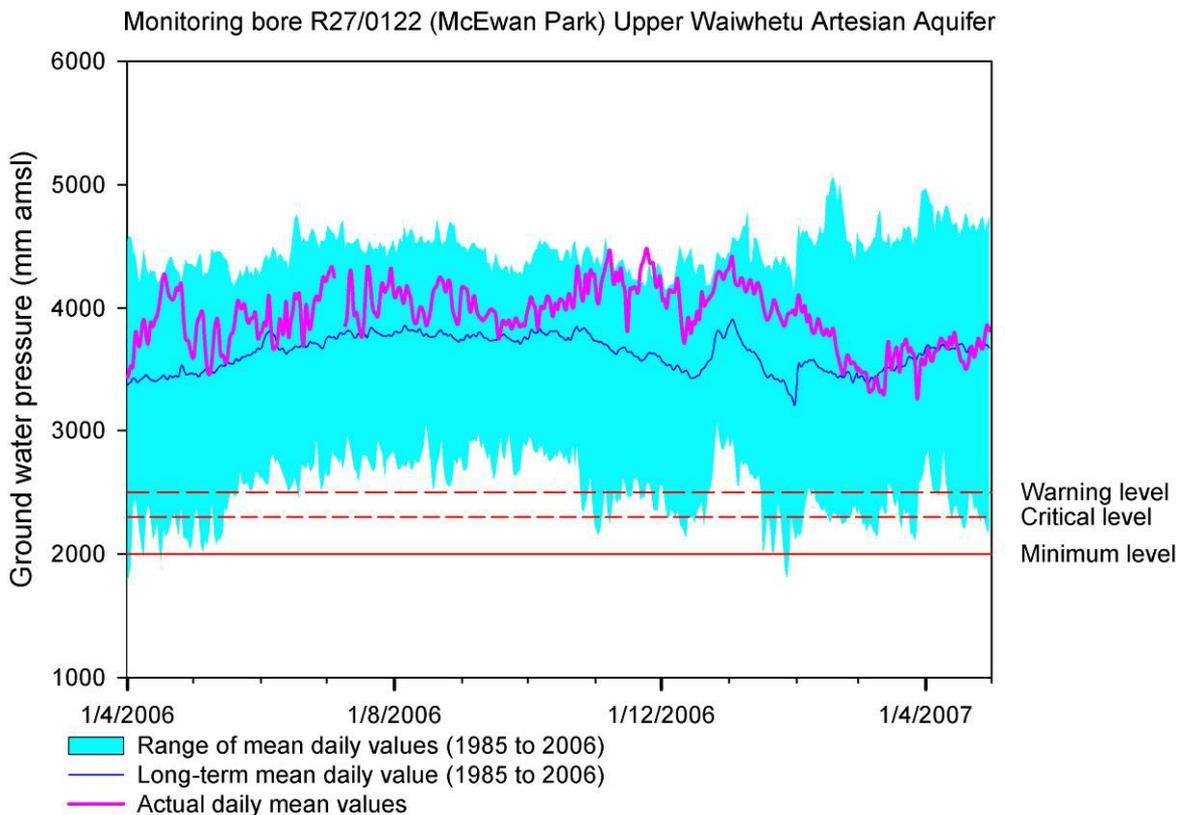
The outlet from Lake Onoke blocked through from mid February to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and again in the periods 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> April to the end of the month.

Lake Wairarapa has been maintained around the seasonal target levels except for a short period in mid March.

### 3. Groundwater levels

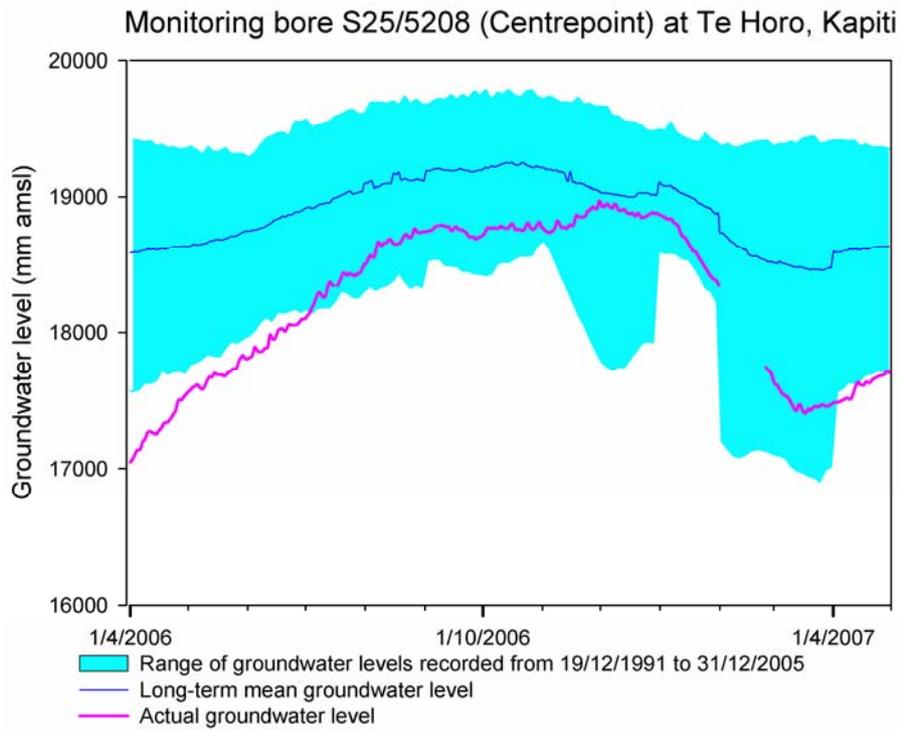
#### 3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the Hutt aquifer are at their long-term average for this time of year. The levels are well above the trigger levels for saline intrusion.

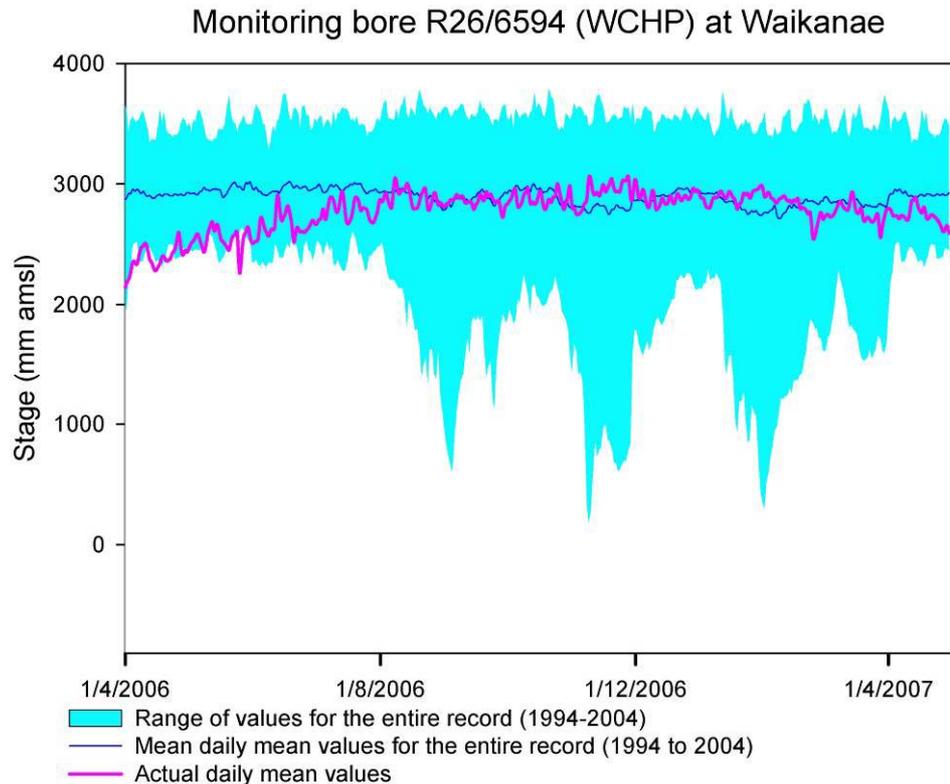


#### 3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels at our monitoring bore S25/5208 in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast are close to the long-term minimum for this time of year. Levels in Te Horo have been below the long-term average for almost two years now – possibly a reflection of low winter recharge in the past few years.



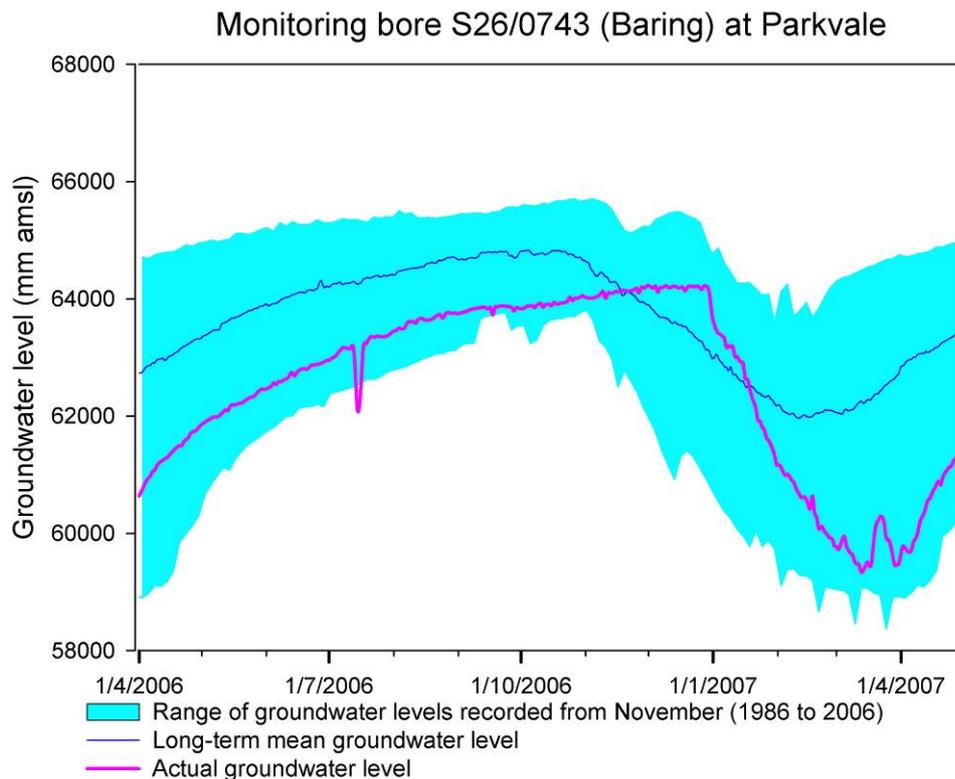
Groundwater levels in our deep confined monitoring bore R26/6594 in Waikanae are below long-term average levels for this time of year. This could reflect use of the KCDC well field in April.



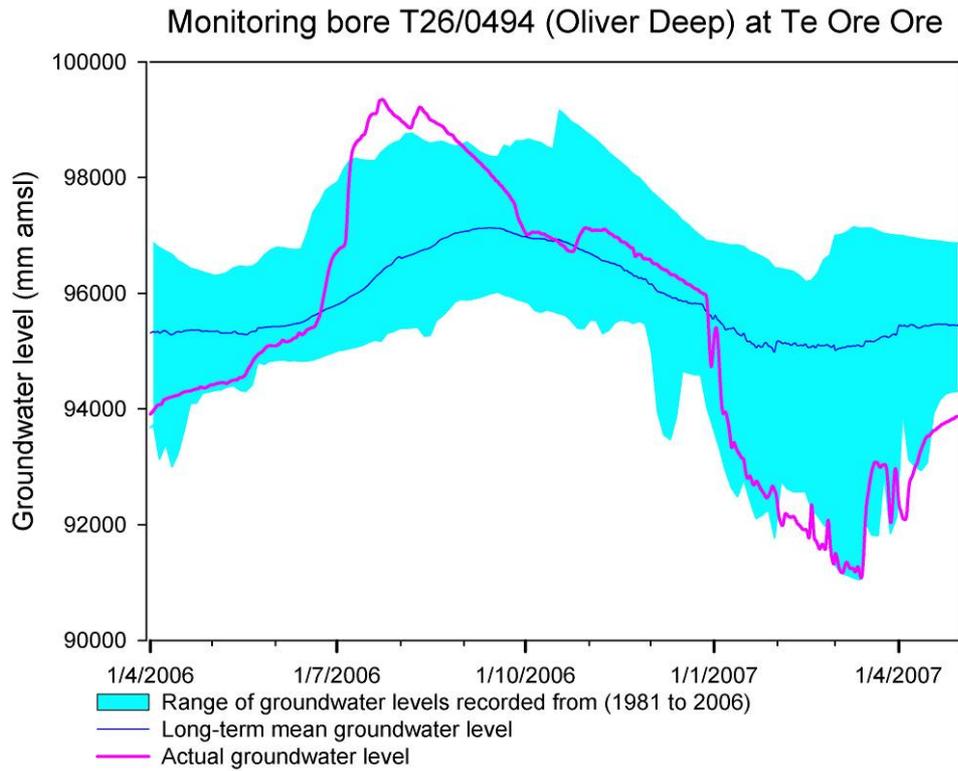
### 3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in the Wairarapa have generally dropped reflecting low summer rainfall and irrigation pressure. Levels are lowest in the river recharged, or mixed river/rainfall recharged aquifer systems. Rainfall recharged systems are generally at average levels for this time of year.

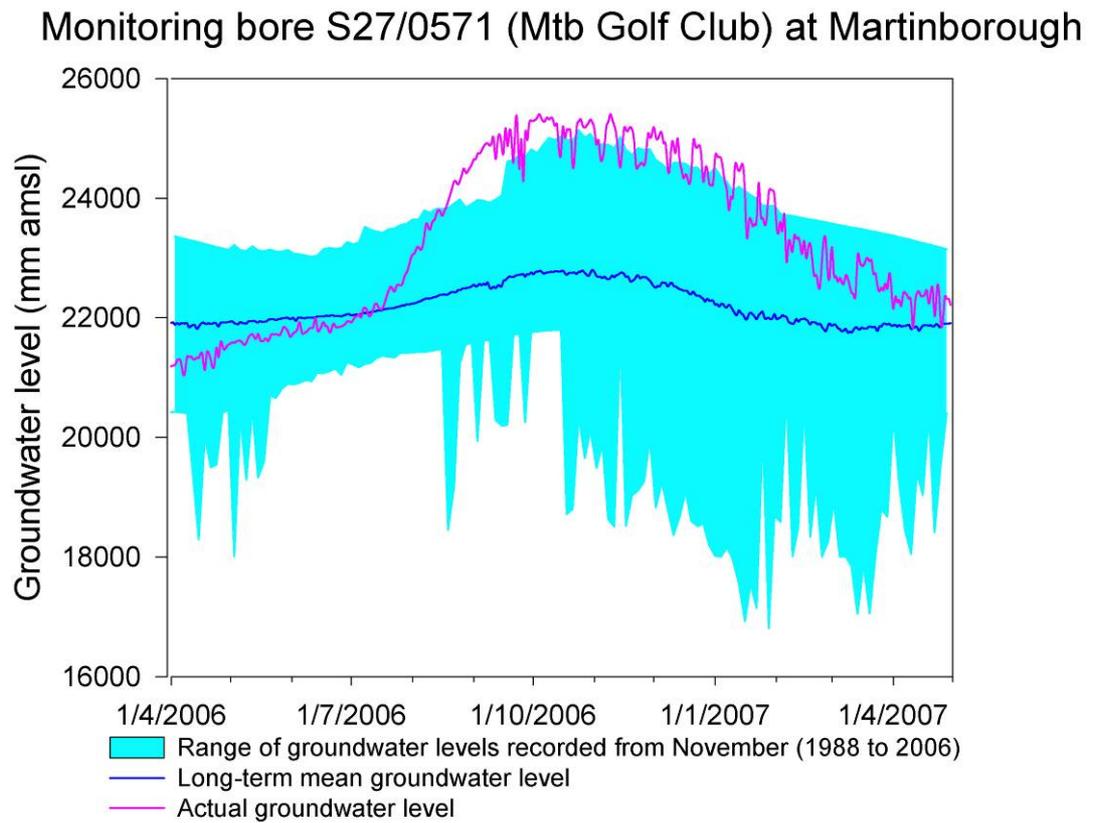
At our monitoring bore S26/0743 in the deep, confined Parkvale aquifer levels have dropped to below long-term median for March and April, but are still tracking above the long-term minimum.



In the mixed rainfall/river recharged Te Ore Ore aquifer, the levels at our monitoring bore T26/0494 have been at long-term minimum levels all summer. This is a reflection of high irrigation demand, low river levels and low rainfall.



Water levels in our monitoring bore S27/0571 in the rainfall recharged, semi confined Martinborough aquifer are above average for this time of year. This is a reflection of good recharge during the 2006 winter months.



## **4. Instream Flow Assessment**

The settled weather and low river flows during February, March and April have meant that Environmental Monitoring and Investigations staff have been able to progress the instream flow assessment investigations for priority waterways.

The investigations have included: dissolved oxygen and continuous temperature monitoring of Ruamahanga River, Papawai Stream, Kopuaranga River and Parkvale Stream, concurrent low flow gaugings, and an IFIM (instream flow incremental methodology) survey of the Lower Ruamahanga River.

This latter work will help determine whether the current minimum flow for the Lower Ruamahanga River in the Regional Freshwater Plan is appropriate for protecting trout habitat and providing for recreational use.

In addition to this work, a report has been produced outlining the results of stage 1 of the Otukura Stream instream flow assessment.

The results of both the Lower Ruamahanga River and Otukura Stream assessments will be presented at a later date.

## **5. Air Quality Monitoring**

### **5.1 National environmental standard for air quality**

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in the period 1 March 2007 to 30 April 2007 in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

### **5.2 Airshed Monitoring**

We believe we have finally found a site to install an ambient air quality monitoring station in the Karori air shed that complies with the requirements of the NESAQ. Finding a suitable site has been a challenge given the topography and density of development in Karori.

The site is in Karori Park within land leased to the Terawhiti Bowling Club. We have the approval of the bowling club and are currently seeking land use consent from Wellington City Council. We also have to obtain a temporary lease to occupy the reserve, a process that includes public notification.

## **6. Contaminated Sites**

### **6.1 Selected Land Use Register**

The Department maintains the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) which records sites that because of their land use, past or present, may be contaminated. There are currently 1798 sites on the register. This register is able to be accessed by authorized council and territorial authority staff and this has occurred 4465 times in March and April. In this period there have also been 68 requests for information from the public.

## **7. Soil Quality Monitoring**

As part of a long-term soil quality monitoring programme samples were taken from 24 locations, 10 in the Wairarapa and 14 around Otaki. Market gardens and dairy farms were included in this years sampling round. The results of testing these samples will be reported later in the year.

## **8. Bathing Water Quality**

A summary of the results of the past summer's monitoring, which was completed on 1 March, will be reported by the end of the financial year.

## **9. Water Quality**

### **9.1 Wellington Harbour**

Samples of sediment collected from a number of sites in the Wellington Harbour are currently being tested for a range of water quality parameters

### **9.2 Didymo**

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) are seeking agreement from regional councils to participate in the Didymo Long Term Management Programme as lead partners in regional programmes. This reflects councils' resources, local knowledge and proven ability to co-ordinate regional programmes. A lower North Island agency meeting was held on the 23 April to discuss BNZ's expectations of each organisations role in the partnership. Catchment Management's Biosecurity Department would have a lead role in this partnership but the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department would also play a part, particularly in undertaking surveillance and monitoring.

**Al Cross**  
**Manager, Environmental Regulation**

## **Environmental Regulation Department Report**

### **May 2007**

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#### **1. Consent statistics**

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 17 March to 20 April 2007 we have received 79 consent applications. This compares with 92 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 54 consents. This compares with 85 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) drops to 12 working days. During the period we have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications, with considerable pre-application work on several large pending notified projects as well. Bore permit numbers have also continued to remain low.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is also attached for information.

#### **2. Appeals and objections**

##### **2.1 Appeals**

###### **Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind**

Following the Court's issuing of the confidential minute, subsequent mediation has now been completed and amended plans presented to the Court by Meridian Energy. The Court has since confirmed a timetable for the final appeals. We have responded to Meridian's proposal stating that the amended site plans are within the scope of the original applications. In terms of Greater Wellington (GW) issues we believe that the potential environmental effects resulting from the amendments are also within scope and can be dealt with by the original conditions of consent. The other parties also had the opportunity to respond by late April, and it will be interesting to see their final respective positions on the amended plans, environmental effects and procedural matters. The Court is then finally likely to decide on the appeals in late May or early June.

It appears that some of the detail behind this process was provided to the press by one of the other parties in early April; however, it is important to stress that the primary detail behind this process still remains confidential.

### **Waterfront Investments Limited – Hilton Hotel**

Agreement has now been reached between parties on a very broad range of relevant matters, which will be considered by the Court in the July hearing. It has taken two rounds of mediation and in particular the planners caucusing, to get to this point. We had initially hoped that the range of matters would have been substantially refined, but this hasn't really been the case. Experts' discussions on traffic matters is still expected to occur prior to evidence being exchanged in May 2007, with a Court hearing set down for July and expected to last two to three weeks.

The decision to grant applications for a five-star Hilton Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions, was appealed by five parties including the applicant; Miro Property Holdings and Prime Commercial Investments; Wellington Civic Trust and Waterfront Watch; Wellington Indoor Sports (subsequently withdrawn) and Intercontinental Hotel; and including two section 274 parties (other submitters who haven't directly appealed).

### **Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust – Aquarium of New Zealand (MEC)**

The Court requested clarification on jurisdictional matters affecting the GW parts of the decision, regarding the relationship between Foreshore and Seabed legislation and the RMA and Greater Wellington's right to manage proposed activities in the CMA at Te Raekaihau Point. This information is integral for us understanding the scope of evidence we need to prepare in response. As I reported in March, other matters related to our interests will not feature significantly in the process from here. Evidence will be exchanged in May with a hearing set down for two weeks from 2 July.

The decision to grant the new joint applications for the MEC was appealed by Save the Point Trust, Chris Webster and Lili Prince, with two additional parties joining the appeal. Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including jurisdictional issues, structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations. WCC-decision related matters include natural character, landscape values, amenity, traffic management and sustainability.

### **Capacity/Wellington City Council: Western Wastewater Treatment Plant**

All parties have accepted WCC's request to the Court allows mediation to be delayed to July. This is due to other significant commitments tying up their project team regarding the timetable for WCC Clearwater consent applications, including replacement applications for the UWI Carey's Gully sludge dewatering plant (lodged in late April) and Moa Pt wastewater discharges.

Capacity/Wellington City Council (WCC), New Zealand Forestry Group and Action for Environment Incorporated have appealed Greater Wellington's decision to enable the applicant to continue to discharge effluent to the Wellington South Coast and Karori Stream (including discharges of odour). The decision enabled 20-yr durations for the main outfall discharge and air permit, and 10-yr durations for each of the three discharges of milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast. Issues covered by the appeals include the term of consent, effects on the receiving environment, and the state and ongoing integrity of the effluent pipeline.

### **Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd (MCDL)**

We have received the consent order from the Environment Court regarding the modified community wastewater treatment system. This follows completed mediation on an appeal by D T S Riddiford on a joint decision that granted consent to MCDL in relation to discharges from a community wastewater system connected with a 30-lot subdivision at Tora, South Wairarapa.

### **A E & S W Benton Partnership**

Mediation on these appeals continues with the Court recently imposing a two month extension beyond the end of March for all parties to consider GW's proposed conditions, enabling us sufficient time to gain a possible agreement. There are a number of areas of contention including the duration and purpose of the revised conditions (taking water vs pump testing for possible future use).

These appeals relate to a declined application to take groundwater from the Kahutara groundwater zone, which is affected by a moratorium not to 'accept' further applications.

### **Prema Investments Ltd**

A decision granting consent for Prema Investment's joint applications to discharge communal wastewater to land from a 6-lot subdivision at Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa, has been appealed. The appeal has cited a condition on the subdivision consent requiring one lot (a possible additional disposal field) to be set aside until three-years of groundwater monitoring has been completed establishing whether there is a connection with the proposed disposal field. The appeal does not specifically cite the discharge permit, and we are currently seeking clarification whether or not Greater Wellington will be a respondent or a (section 274) party to the appeal.

### **Greater Wellington: Land and River Operations Department (LARO) – Scadden's stopbank**

No further progress has been made on A J Barton's appeal to the High Court on the Environment Court's decision to uphold GW's decision on LARO's proposal to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. The appeal relates to the status and use of a paper road and implications of the stopbank upgrade.

## **Masterton District Council**

After a year of no progress, the Court has asked Masterton District Council to advise on steps made to establish an integrated foreshore management plan, in relation to proposed the Castlepoint sea wall.

## **2.2 Objections**

### **Pauatahanui School – Objection to consent conditions**

In late March we received a section 357 objection to consent conditions imposed on a non-notified consent. The objection primarily concerned requirements for fencing off the wastewater treatment disposal field, and minor wording issues. We are working through these issues with the applicant and Regional Public Health and I anticipate these will be resolved, before reporting to this committee for a decision on the objection. The objections process is the only right of appeal open to applicants of non-notified consents under the Resource Management Act, and we seldom receive them.

## **3. Compliance and enforcement**

### **3.1 General**

Routine and follow-up inspections of dairymshed discharges across Wellington region continue, and we have issued a significant number of advisory notices to consent holders who are not complying with their consents. We are likely to be serving infringement fines (or taking other action) on a small number of consent holders at this stage, on the basis of poor discharge practice.

### **3.2 Specific compliance**

#### **Carterton District Council – land-based trials operating beyond term**

This concerns a land-based wastewater discharge trial which has been operating without a current resource consent in place, for the second time in less than five years.

In this case the illegal discharge has been occurring with our knowledge since the start of the year. Incomplete applications were lodged prior to Christmas and further information was not received until mid April. Earlier in late March a large degree of frustration with progress led us to ask CDC to cease the unconsented activity and instead discharge to Mangatarere Stream (which is consented). While this was not the best outcome environmentally, we believed it was at the same time it is important not to create substantial inconsistencies in the treatment of other unconsented activities. CDC has been particularly cooperative, and I expect that consents will soon be processed. The matter has featured in the Wairarapa media, although not in the last month.

#### **Taylor Preston Ltd – change of consent conditions process confirmed**

Following my report to you in March, the first stage of consent variation applications is now imminent. We will shortly receive an application to modify

the review condition to enable a continuous review window to be maintained. This means a new review condition would enable the consent to be reviewed at any time in the future. The substantive application to include rendering plant modifications is still expected in June.

### **N & E Reid – implementing consent conditions**

We are putting substantial time and effort into working with the Reids to implement the conditions of their replaced consents to discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air (from a herd of 11,000 animals) north of Clareville, Carterton. The consent holder has hired an operations manager to help establish the required monitoring framework, and while some of the tighter timelines for monitoring and operations are proving difficult to meet I am satisfied at this stage that reasonable progress is being made.

### **Whitby Coastal Estates - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development**

Investigations of two incidents continue relating to implementing stream works and erosion and sediment control measures on site at James Cook Drive. The incidents relate to the implementing of a mitigation plan required by consent conditions, and critical to the appropriate management of the development activity.

## **3.3 Abatement notices**

We served five abatement notices in the last period to:

- Atom Hire Limited and Wellington City Council to undertake appropriate erosion and sediment control in a newly developed part of the Kiwi Point Quarry site, Ngauranga Gorge.
- Bettany Gears Limited to ensure that waste oil from swarf bins are not discharged to land and removing contaminated soil from the yard, at Paraparaumu (connected to a Take Charge audit of Drain 6).
- Wellington Seafood Limited to provide a drainage plan to avoid the potential discharge of fish waste to stormwater at their site in Mt Cook, Wellington.
- Piling and Drilling Services Limited to improve waste oil storage on site to prevent discharges to land at Paraparaumu.

## **3.4 Infringement notices**

Eight infringement notices have been issued in the last period to:

- John Cook and Kevin Anderson for failure to comply with abatement notice requirements in relation to the appropriate management and relocation of around 3,000 tyres from a property in the Castlepoint area.

- Metal Immersions Limited (two notices) for failure to comply with an abatement notice requiring burning of plastic coated metal products, Tawa.
- Wellington Racing Club for burning tyres at Trentham, Upper Hutt.
- Anthony Craig, of Tony's Workshop for discharging a white spirits degreaser to stormwater from their premises in Mt Cook, Wellington.
- J F Spears for unauthorised ponding of dairymilk effluent at Te Horo.
- Lowell Manning for the unauthorised construction of a timber erosion protection wall in the bed of Wharemauku Stream.

### **3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

We recently prepared a news release detailing the unprecedented run of success in recent enforcement actions for GW. It was very disappointing that this good news story was not picked up by the media – and I expect we will in future prepare releases around single cases at critical times to better catch the media's interest.

Only one enforcement order is currently before the Court, following several prosecutions and enforcement order proceedings being resolved recently. However, a number of orders are currently being implemented.

#### **J Gabites**

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

We have received some information from Mr Gabites' consultants, including soil and water sampling results, which show extensive contamination of the site and leaching of contaminants to local watercourses. An erosion and sediment control plan and contaminant management plan, including interpretation of soil and water sampling results and proposed measures for mitigation will be provided in full prior to mediation on 29 May. If a satisfactory agreement is not reached at this time, council will proceed with a court hearing in July.

#### **Burrell Demolition Ltd**

We have received various engineering reports relating to the state of the culvert and fill above and around the culvert itself. The information contained in the reports has been quite limited which has placed a great deal of unnecessary pressure on staff to provide specific advice on a satisfactory level of information. We have to date issued instructions to Mr Burrell to commence remedial works around the culvert entrance.

This prosecution regards the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington. Mr Burrell had elected a trial by jury and had entered guilty pleas prior to the trial.

### **Paddy Hannan, Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Droque Construction Ltd**

We will soon be monitoring performance against enforcement order requirements following a successful prosecution and re-issuing of enforcement orders against Paddy Hannan, Paddy Hannan Contracting Ltd and Droque Construction Ltd.

This case concerned a breach of an enforcement order requiring the identification and removal of non-cleanfill material from a cleanfill site in Waiu St, Wainuiomata.

### **Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James/282 Ohiro Road**

We will monitor on-site performance now that we have approved an enforcement order-directed erosion and sediment control plan to prevent excessive ongoing discharges of sediment into Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision. We have since signed off on a final erosion and sediment control plan, and works are still imminent.

### **Ohiro Properties Ltd/318 Ohiro Road**

These orders relate to restrictions on vegetation clearance, erosion and sediment control and reinstatement of a small stream, which was reclaimed without consent. We expect to soon sign off on an erosion and sediment control plan, and will require applications connected to stream reinstatement works.

## **3.6 Take Charge**

Initial audits of the Grenada North Industrial area to identify key businesses have been completed. This has been a major undertaking to date and the level of cooperation and interest from businesses has been pleasing. Revisits will follow an initial sweep of all businesses, and in my mind represents a typical approach to investigating industrial parks that we may look to bring into our future programme as it grows in future.

While we have undertaken a number of revisits, again, the *Take Charge* programme was less active than usual in the period given reduced staff numbers and priorities in significant enforcement work by the team.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.151).

## **3.7 Significant incidents**

### **Dumping of chicken manure and carcasses – Terawhiti Station**

We have completed our initial investigations of illegally dumped chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Terawhiti Station and resulting direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream.

This is a very serious incident and we are now close to finalising our enforcement decision.

Other significant incidents for the period are discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.151).

### **Illegal rubbish dumping in Wairarapa**

We have been investigating illegal rubbish dumping – a somewhat common problem around the region. Our latest incident concerns dumping on a property in the Gladstone area, which has been reported prominently in the Wairarapa Times-Age and involved Carterton District Council (CDC) Mayor, Gary McPhee, who has denounced it, proposing voluntary clean-up work, and promising to investigate other alleged dump sites. We continue to work with CDC to both investigate and fix the Gladstone dumping issue.

### **Odours from spray-painting operation – Masterton**

We have received numerous complaints in the last couple of months about odours from a new spray painting operation in Bentley Street, Masterton. The incidents have received a high profile in the Wairarapa Times-Age, and around a dozen adjoining neighbours have together recently signed a petition officially seeking information from Greater Wellington about investigations to date. We are currently investigating the incidents to determine what action needs to be taken.

## **4. Major resource consents and other matters**

### **4.1 Key notified consents update**

Fully Notified

#### **Capital and Coast District Health Board**

This is an application to discharge contaminants, including particulates, to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital, including the hospital's Total Energy Centre. We are still waiting for final approval of the draft conditions by the applicant prior to finalising the Officer's report.

#### **Prema Investments Ltd**

A decision was released on 28 March granting consent for Prema Investment's joint applications to discharge communal wastewater to land from a 6-lot subdivision at Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa. The decision has been appealed already discussed in Section 2.1 of this report.

#### **Stronvar Properties Ltd**

These are applications for a 56-lot subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton involving applications for discharges of wastewater (from a community waste water scheme) and sediment from earthworks, taking water (for communal water

supply), and erecting a dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake.

There have been delays in receiving further information on a range of substantial matters including community wastewater treatment, and the operation and integrity of the proposed lake. The delay is reasonable given the complexity of the matters being considered.

### **Masterton District Council**

Applications for managing the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities has been placed on hold for further information. We understand that information requested is pending, and once received we will then publicly notify the applications.

### **Palliser Bay Station**

This is a joint application for discharges from a community wastewater scheme associated with a proposed 22-lot subdivision on Cape Palliser Road, South Wairarapa. Submissions have not raised issues relating to wastewater discharges, and are now proceeding without a hearing for the applications to GW.

### **Webstar**

Processing on replacement application from Webstar (Blue Print Group Limited), Masterton, to discharge fine particle matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and other contaminants to air from printing and gas-fired boilers has been delayed until a pre-hearing has been completed in mid May and a short-term trial of new discharges from new printing equipment assessed (by June). The processing of this application will consider air quality within the Masterton air shed, which sometimes exceeds NES for Air thresholds for PM<sub>10</sub> of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **Staites Drive Developments Limited**

A pre-hearing to resolve matters relating to GW applications (erosion and sediment control, stream diversion and the piping of intermittently flowing streams) was not successful, and a hearing was held on 3 May. These applications are for a proposed 100-lot subdivision at Staites Drive, Whitby. The proposal also provides for a permanent dammed artificial wetland to attenuate stormwater, and we have recommended a planting and construction management and associated bond conditions to mitigate effects of moving a permanent stream on site.

### **GW Flood Protection Department**

Seven submissions were received on joint applications to permanently divert flood waters from a proposed 2.1 km extension to Chrystalls stopbank in Otaki. Submissions relate mostly to the designation application to KCDC, and I am hopeful that we will resolve GW related matters enabling the associated consents to be processed without a hearing.

### **O'more Partnership**

Submissions on applications to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford, closed on 2 May. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream piping. The stream piping works itself is a non-complying activity under the Regional Freshwater Plan, which means that all associated applications must also be rated similarly. The significance of this status will no doubt provide challenges for us in assessing the proposal.

Limited Notified

### **Hutt City Council**

This is an application for retrospective emergency and ongoing river re-alignment works on Wainuiomata River adjacent to the Coast Road and Wainuiomata Golf Club, which are being processed on a limited notified basis. One submission was received from Wainuiomata Golf Club. A further pre-hearing meeting was held in February, and the various parties are still considering draft conditions and mitigation options.

### **Hutt City Council**

We have received three submissions for applications to place a channel structure and divert stream flow in a small stream adjacent Marine Drive, Eastbourne, for flood protection purposes. Parties are considering mitigation options via draft conditions to resolve outstanding concerns, and I expect that a hearing will not be required.

## **4.2 Upcoming consent applications**

This is a new section of my report, indicating major projects of particular note that are currently at the pre-application stage and likely to draw considerable public and/or media interest or be otherwise relevant to GW operations:

**Masterton Wastewater:** The pre-application process for the replacement applications for Masterton Wastewater Plant has already drawn considerable media interest in the Wairarapa. The issue is highly charged given that the treated effluent currently discharges to Ruamahanga River – an increasingly outmoded practice nationally. Applications likely to be received this month will include a combination of land and water-based discharges.

**United Water International sludge dewatering plant:** WCC / Capacity will lodge replacement applications this month for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey's Gully Complex. This is the first set of consents due for replacement since overall Carey's odour issues became more prominent in the Brooklyn-Mornington community around 2001. Hence, I anticipate considerable public interest in these applications.

**Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT):** Applications are expected within the next month for a proposed new apartment and public space development at the site of the former OPT in Lambton Harbour. The development bares

similarities with the Hilton applications, in that we will once again be considering a range of district planning matters (traffic management, urban design, heritage, public amenity, noise and wind effects) in our assessment.

**Puketiro Windfarm:** Pre-application work has commenced for the proposed 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area near Pauatahanui. We anticipate applications will be lodged later in the year.

We have received two preliminary enquiries for **salvaging and scrapping old hulks** currently docked in various locations around Wellington Harbour. The operators, both based out of Wellington, are looking at options for scrapping all hulks currently available to ensure commercial viability, and are confident that operations can be made viable. On the basis of information presented to us to date, we have advised that should consents be required they could be processed non-notified.

### **4.3 Department projects**

#### **Resource Management Charging Policy Review**

We notified the draft Resource Management Charging policy on 21 April following Richard Waddy's report to this Committee in March. We have sent a summary newsletter to all consent holders, and contacted in person some of most affected consent holders. We have also prepared a press release, which had not been reported at the time of writing this report. Submissions close on 21 May 2007. One hearing date has been set for 7 June in Masterton with another to be finalised shortly in Wellington.

#### **Muddy Waters and Small Streams Issues Workshops**

Work has commenced within the department to develop and provide two sets of workshops covering Erosion and Sediment Control issues (for contractors specifically) and issues affecting the development and management of small streams (for territorial authority staff, contractors and consultants). These will run before July this year

#### **Hutt City Council enforcement MOU**

The initial stages of finalising arrangements and implementing a one-year trial of new delegations with Hutt City Council relating to illegal discharges to their stormwater network is nearly complete. As this Committee heard in February, these delegation arrangements will enable HCC monitoring officers to investigate and recommend minor level enforcement action (up to abatement and infringement notice level) to Greater Wellington. We look forward to the efficiencies it will create for our Pollution Control team, in responding to fewer discharge incidents in the Lower Hutt area. Equally, HCC now have the level of ownership they desire in dealing with incidents affecting their stormwater infrastructure.

#### **4.4 Staff issues**

I continue my recruiting programme, for existing vacancies in both Pollution Control and Consents and Compliance, and I am currently firming up positions connected to the new departmental structure.

I introduced Katie Mossman (Pollution Control Team) to the Committee in March and will announce a second Pollution Control Officer in early May. I am also in the final stages of recruiting a replacement Resource Advisor to the Wairarapa Consents and Compliance team.

It is pleasing that this is the shortest report on staff issues I have compiled in the last nine months.

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
Masterton District Council	To construct a sea wall at Castlepoint.	02/06/04	09/07/04	10	-	14-15 March 2005	Cr Chris Turver Aka Arthur (Iwi) Dr Michael Hilton (Minister's appointee)	11/04/05	Granted – under appeal
LARO / Flood Protection	To relocate a stopbank and extend the bed of the Ruamahanga River, South Wairarapa.	16/08/04	29/09/04	3	09/12/04	23/03/05	Christine Foster	02/05/05	Granted – under appeal to the High Court
A E & S W Benton Partnership	To take groundwater from two bores for irrigation purposes, Battersea, South Wairarapa.	09/12/04	09/02/05	9	17/03/05	11/10/05	Christine Foster Tony Cussins	09/03/06	Declined – under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 2	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point, Wellington.	02/05/06	07/06/05	Approx 9000	-	Commenced on 8 August, completed 7 September 2006. (approx. 13 days)	Helen Tobin Ray O'Callaghan Euan McQueen	19/10/06	Granted – Under appeal
Meridian Energy Limited	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal, Makara.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000	-	September to November 2005.	Jim Lynch David McMahan	21/12/05	Granted – under appeal
Waterfront Investments Ltd	"Hilton Hotel" building and public space proposal, Queens Wharf, Wellington.	23/12/05	27/02/06	Approx 1000	-	Hearing commenced on 3 July, adjourned on 31 July, and closed 8 Aug.	Cr Chris Turver Cr Chris Laidlaw David McMahan Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	19/09/06	Granted - under appeal

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
WCC Capacity	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Western WWTP, South Karori, Wellington.	29/03/06	08/05/06	14	-	Hearing held - commenced on 19, 20 and 27 October.	Cr Glen Evans Miria Pomare (Iwi) Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointee)	21/12/06	Granted – under appeal
Prema Investments Ltd	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 6-lot subdivision, Whangaimoana, South Wairarapa.	24/07/06	22/11/06	5	-	5 March 2007	Cr Rick Long Liz Mellish (Iwi) Cr Bev Clark (SWDC) Mayor Adrienne Staples (SWDC) Peter Craig (SWDC)	29/3/07	Granted – Under appeal
South Wairarapa District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston,	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold			
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Hearing delayed as applications on hold.		-	-
Palliser Bay Station	To discharge communal waste water associated with a 22-lot subdivision, Cape Palliser Rd, South Wairarapa.	24/01/07	22/2/07	6	-	Expect to be resolved without hearing.		-	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required. Applicant considering draft conditions.		-	-

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
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited)	To discharge particulates and other contaminants to air from three heatset lines, driers and thermal oxidisers associated with printing operations, Ngamutawa Rd, Masterton.	08/02/07	22/02/06	2	8/5/07				
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To permanently divert Otaki River flood flows associated with the extension of Chrystals stopbank, Otaki.	15/2/07	30/3/07	7	-	-	-	-	-
Staithe Drive Developments Ltd, Staithe Drive North, Whitby	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of sediment-laden stormwater, piping of intermittent streams and damming stormwater in detention dam.	21/11/06	12/01/07	6	-	Scheduled for 3 - 4 May	Cr Chris Laidlaw Cr Margaret Shields	-	-
G - W Bugden (OIMore Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc. discharges), Judgeford, Porirua	12/12/06	2/5/07						
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified)	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	Parties to consider mitigation options - draft conditions.	-	-	-
M B - H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent application to take groundwater for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06	Hearing delayed as application on hold	-	-	-

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
Kaitawa Crematorium (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air associated with gas-fired crematorium appliances, Waikanae.	25/10/06	9/02/07	14	-	Application currently on hold	-	-	-
Formway Furniture (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants from construction of plastic furniture parts, Gracefield.	17/07/06	12/01/07	2	-	No hearing required – issues resolved with submitters.	-	16/03/07	Granted – no appeals received
Hutt City Council, Marine Parade, Eastbourne (Limited Notified)	Land use consent, water permit and coastal permit associated with works to modify the channel of an unnamed stream, for flood mitigation purposes.	1/3/06	23/1/07	3	9/3/07	Expect to be resolved without hearing.	-	-	-

**Mike Pryce**  
**Manager, Harbours**

## **Harbours Department Report □ May 2007**

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### **1. Harbour Navigation Aids**

Work for the routine three-yearly change-over of Barrett Reef buoy is progressing, with the repainting of the buoy ashore commencing on 24 April.

All other navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

### **2. Oil Pollution**

Three oil pollution incidents were reported during the period - none of which required a response from Harbours staff.

### **3. Harbour Hulks**

On 20 March a meeting with the Official Assignee was held regarding the liquidation of the company who owned two old trawlers laid up in the port. The vessels last three owners have all been placed into liquidation. These vessels have now been abandoned by the Official Assignee and are legally ownerless.

At this time there is no one to attend to any repairs, or to adjust or replace mooring lines on these abandoned vessels. If any of the vessels went adrift there would be no one to request payment for any towage, re-mooring, replacement of mooring lines, or for any damage caused to other craft or structures whilst adrift. If they sank and spilled oil, there would be no one to pay clean-up costs or prosecute for the spillage.

Wellington also has three more derelict vessels laid-up at Miramar Wharf which are also suitable candidates for scuttling.

On 9 April an article was published in the Dominion Post entitled "Capital becoming harbour for hulks" which gave details of other hulks lying in disrepair at other harbour wharves. The article produced a flurry of telephone calls and emails from various scrap metal merchants in Australia and New Zealand with suggestions of how they could assist in disposing of these vessels. These suggestions ranged from plans to scrap all or some of the hulks in Wellington, tow some to another port for scrapping, and tow some to another port for refurbishing for further use.

Business proposals were provided by several interested parties. However, some of the proposals were clearly opportunistic, where it was expected that the vessels would be provided at no cost and with any outstanding financial

liabilities written-off. The schemes had lengthy timelines and very uncertain outcomes, and were dependant on favourable outcomes of compliance issues.

If scrapping takes place, there is a risk of the vessel catching fire during such operations, especially if inexperienced people are involved. There is also a risk of the operation stalling part-way through, often after the relatively-easy accommodation superstructure has been cut-away, and sections of deck plating opened-up. The vessel is thereafter “open to the elements” and will gradually fill with rain water. If it was contemplated to scrap any vessel in Wellington, then some area of the port/harbour would effectively operate as a ship-breaking yard for many months.

Some consider that such hulks are suitable for use as “dive wrecks” for use in dive sites. Such people (or groups) usually have inadequate funds to do this, have no approved Resource Consent to scuttle them anywhere, and would be faced with the costs of the removal of oil from the vessels and the stripping-out to a suitable safety standard for use as a dive-wreck. If volunteer-labour was used, this would tend to make it a lengthy process, with uncertain timelines, and with the new owners also liable for any fees for berthage. CentrePort are owed many thousands of dollars in outstanding berthage fees for some hulks.

In the event that anybody expressed interest in acquiring the vessels, they would need to be aware of many of the above complications. Mere acquisition of the vessels would not automatically include any agreements to continue to use existing berths, and the ability to carry out any work may also be restricted. Any sale to new purchasers would ideally be conditional on them being removed from the port forthwith, in a safe and approved manner. Most of the hulks are old vessels, and after a long period of lay-up, are now “out-of-class”, with all safety and survey certificates expired.

The most certain option is to scuttle the hulks in Cook Strait in a position 12.5 miles southwest from Cape Palliser in the southern part of the charted “Explosives Dumping Ground” in a position 41-45 South, 175-00 East, in a depth of 1,700 metres of water. It is just outside the 12-mile limit, so is outside the Greater Wellington (GW) area of jurisdiction. A Dumping Permit would be required from Maritime New Zealand for each hulk. The standard requirements include the need to remove all “floatables” and all oil from the hulks prior to scuttling. The distance from their present berths to this site is 37 nautical miles. The hulks would need to be towed to the scuttling site by a MNZ approved towing vessel. If the Dumping Permit was issued to GW, then we would be responsible for ensuring that the hulks were safely scuttled in the approved position. “Fair weather” is usually required to undertake this operation. Use of explosives to blow a hole in the hull plating at the scuttling site would be likely, so an approved explosives contractor would be required to be used. Towing the hulks out in daylight early in the day provides adequate time to tow the hulk into position and safely sink it before nightfall.

Removal of “floatables” and oil from hulks would need to be carried-out by an approved contractor.

GW carried out a similar operation when the derelict fishing vessel *Sarfaq* from Wellington was scuttled in the same position on 28 August 2001. Since then, the fishing vessel *Arrow* from Tarakohe, barge *Steel Mariner* from Picton, fishing vessel *San Domenico* from Wellington have been scuttled in that position, with the fishing vessel *Szap5* from Nelson planned to be sunk there before December 2007.

Applications for Dumping Permits for five hulks were submitted by GW to Maritime New Zealand on 24 April 2007. Letters were sent to those who had expressed interest in scrapping the hulks to provide GWRC with detailed business plans, complete with any approvals, by 30 June 2007.

#### 4. Other Activities

- On the afternoon of 17 February the yacht *Structural Analysis* impeded the passage of the outward-bound ferry *Aratere* during a yacht race. This was a dangerous incident and the Master of the ferry submitted a formal incident report to Maritime New Zealand. There were no extenuating circumstances to excuse the incident so the skipper of *Structural Analysis* was sent a \$200 Infringement Notice on 26 February and this was paid to GW on 21 March.
- On the late evening of 21 March the ferry *Aratere* stopped off Island Bay with engine problems on a voyage from Wellington to Picton. Limited power and speed was available after an hour, and the vessel abandoned the voyage and returned to Wellington early next morning to discharge cargo and rectify the problem. *Aratere* resumed commercial sailings on the morning of 24 March.
- The coastal tanker *Taiko* made its last sailing from the port after twenty three years and hundreds of New Zealand coastal voyages. Later in the month the ship was renamed *Atlantia* under Panamanian flag and sailed to China. A replacement coastal tanker is expected to arrive in about four months.
- On the afternoon of 30 March an injured engineer was “medevaced” by helicopter from the Cypriot-flag 82,214 tonnes-deadweight bulk carrier *Pedhoulas Merchant* transiting Cook Strait whilst bound from Australia around Cape Horn to Brazil.
- On 2 April a “possible Tsunami Warning” for Cook Strait was received after a major earthquake in the Solomon Islands, anticipated to arrive about 3.30p.m. Local shipping and marinas were advised. There is an anecdotal report of a large surge washing into Mana marina around 1230 am.
- Late on the evening of 8 April, smoke and a small fire affected the No.2 cargo hold of the bulk-carrier *Tasman Commander* (18,468 gross tonnage, built 1995) loading pulp at Aotea Quay. Eight fire appliances attended. The smouldering fire was confined to a parcel of 400 tonnes pf pulp loaded in Wellington, and a large quantity had to be moved to reach the

seat of the small fire at the bottom of the pulp stack. All the pulp loaded in Wellington was water-damaged (from damping-down operations) and was unloaded again in Wellington. Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood attended the incident for over four hours throughout the night.

- At 3a.m. on Saturday 14 April, when the small tug *Nautilus III* was towing the 28 metre steel barge *Kimihia* into Wellington Harbour, the barge capsized. The barge was loaded with 300 tonnes of rock from Tarakohe, intended for discharge in Seaview Marina. The 300 tonnes of rock was dumped onto the seabed, on the line of the main leading light into the harbour, adjacent to the mid-point of Barrett Reef. The barge remained afloat, upside down, still attached to its tug.

Initially it was not known whether the barge would follow the rocks to the bottom, and steps were taken to direct the tug and barge towards the eastern side of the channel in case the barge sank. The tug was then directed to proceed inwards to Evans Bay. Discussions with CentrePort took place to permit the berthing of the upturned barge at the southern-end of Miramar Wharf.

Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood and Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder were informed at 3.15am and went to the scene in our workboat *Seacare* at 5.30am to clarify the status of the barge, they assisted the tug skipper to berth at Miramar Wharf at about 9.10a.m.

Concurrent with the above activity, there was concern for the exact location of the 300-tonnes pile of rocks and how much this had reduced the depth of water in the channel. Until this was known for certain, ferries and other shipping were routed around the area of the casualty as a precaution. Later that same afternoon NIWA were contacted and contracted to undertake a detailed hydrographical survey of the area on our behalf on a priority basis. After some recommissioning and set-up work on their survey vessel, the survey was carried out on the afternoon of 15 April. On the basis of the information received, ferries were allowed to revert to their normal tracks, and CentrePort were advised of the position and reduced-depth of water found.

The upturned barge was parbuckled-over and righted after a day and a half operation which was finally successful on 18 April, during which time staff on *Seacare* stood-by in case of oil pollution from the engine compartment when the barge was righted. A detention-order on the barge by Maritime New Zealand was temporarily lifted to allow the barge to be towed back to Picton, empty and in daylight, so that it could be resurveyed and repaired in Picton, and where investigations into the cause of the casualty would continue.

The pile of rock lost from the barge forms a heap 25 metres by 20 metres, and is just less than 2 metres high. It has reduced the depth at chart datum to 12.8 metres (in an area where the general depth was previously about 14.5 to 15 metres) and being virtually exactly on the leading line, could be a hazard to deep-draught ships rolling and pitching heavily in adverse

southerly weather conditions. The hazard would increase if CentrePort carried out their consented dredging plans. The owners of the barge and their insurers have been clearly advised of the potential liability of being required to remove the rocks. (Ferries are of too light a draught to be affected).

- On 17 April Toll Interislander's large ferry *Challenger* was officially renamed *Kaitaki*, after a period of sailing with both the original name and "trading" names displayed.
- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is progressing, but is taking longer than anticipated, with the construction timeline probably extending to February or March 2008.

## 5. Port Harbour Safety Code

Marico Marine New Zealand has been engaged to continue work for us to complete the Safety Management System (SMS) for Wellington. Work on drafting of the Harbour Safety Plan continued. They have also been assisting with guidance on equipment specifications required for the upgrade of Beacon Hill equipment.

Rian van Schalkwyk  
Manager, Emergency Management

## Emergency Management Department Report May 2007

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### 1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

#### 1.1 CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

Exercise Cruickshank has provided another opportunity for our GEOC to be tested, including our communications and information management systems.

The new generator in the basement will provide essential back-up for the GEOC and give us more confidence that we will be able to operate in an emergency.

#### 1.2 CDEM Conference 2007

The theme for this conference is: *Keeping Pace: Technology and Modern Emergency Management*

The two-day conference will take place at the Wellington Convention Centre on 4 and 5 October 2007 and it is expected that between 250 and 300 delegates will attend the conference. Our Councillors will also be invited to attend.

Planning for the Conference is going according plan and most of the speakers have now been confirmed.

#### 1.3 CDEM Group Work Programme

Six CDEM Group work programmes are listed in the CDEM Group Plan to be completed in the 2006/7 year. The Group's Work Programme is progressing well with several projects underway (hazard information review, debris disposal arrangements, emergency management agency communications system implementation, tsunami evacuation planning, and recovery management). The project on rural fire management alignment has not started yet.

#### 1.4 Public Education Initiatives

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risks and the Act itself (s.17 (1) (a) (g)).

##### 1.4.1 Fulton Hogan Safety Day - "Disasters on the move"

On 27 April Chris Killeen (one of our emergency management officers) presented at a safety day for about 230 regional staff of Fulton Hogan. The day

was divided into six slots of approximately 50 minutes each and the presentation topic was 'disasters on the move'. The focus was on Wellington hazards and how they may affect Fulton Hogan staff at their place of work, at home and in their vehicles.

A highlight of the day was to experience Fulton Hogan's sincere concern of their business and their employee's safety. The day went very well, their staff asked lots of questions and we gave away household plans, get ready get through pamphlets and also an emergency preparedness checklist for vehicles and equipment.

#### 1.4.2 Disaster Awareness Week 2007

The Regional Public Education Group has decided to use the key theme "*my family will survive a disaster... will yours?*" in the Wellington Region for the Disaster Awareness Week in October 2007.

The objective of Disaster Awareness Week is to raise the awareness of hazards in the Wellington Region and persuade individuals and/or communities to adopt preparedness behaviours. This campaign centres on the *family*, as if an individual is not interested in self preservation they generally will want to save/reduce the impacts on their family.

The campaign promotes the ability to survive a disaster, attempting to reduce the influence of fatalism as a barrier. Taking on an all hazards approach, we will show that the three key messages will aid in survival across all of the hazards.

We intend to distribute 'goodie bags' which will contain fridge magnets, scenario cards and information on family focused preparedness. We are also looking into a newspaper based media campaign that will highlight the differences between a well-prepared and an ill-prepared family.

In 2007 we aim to be more aggressive with our approach with a reality based campaign, which will highlight that it is possible for individuals and families to survive hazards if they are prepared.

### 1.5 Other activities and initiatives

#### 1.5.1 Solomon Islands Tsunami Response

The 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 saw a devastating earthquake in the Solomon Islands and a subsequent tsunami. The Group office responded to the threat of a tsunami and ensured timely information was distributed to local CDEM Territorial Authorities.

In addition, the National response warranted some intervention, both during and after the event, by the Group Office. This resulted in the collation, analysis, discussion of the information being disseminated to the Group Office and for formal recommendations being made to MCDEM for undertaking through the national Tsunami Group.

### 1.5.2 Marae Project

This project is a pilot project to develop an emergency response plan for Marae. The project was initiated by Ngāti Kahungunu who engaged the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management and the Kohunui Marae in Pirinoa, South Wairarapa as one of four Marae in the country to agree to this concept.

Following an initial Hui in Hastings with Ngāti Kahungunu and Hui at Kohunui Marae provided the opportunity for local, regional and national CDEM officers to give advice and expertise on the planning process and to offer support throughout this process. Whilst MCDEM will now dissolve their involvement in this process with this Marae, the local and regional representation will continue as ultimately the project can be of direct benefit to all Marae in the Wellington Region given the expertise of Greater Wellington CDEM and Iwi Liaison officers.

### 1.5.3 Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Association (WELA)

Craig Hamilton (our Emergency Management Officer in the Wairarapa Office) is the project manager for the 'Priority Utilities Sites for Response & Recovery', a project that was presented to the executive of both WELA and the Wellington Engineering Lifelines Group (WELG). This project was also approved and supported by the CDEM CEG and Group.

## 1.6 Staff

Jessica Hare has been appointed as Emergency Management Officer in the place of Jo Guard and started with the Council on 16 April 2007. The Department is now fully staffed.

## 2. Environment

### 2.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 59 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. No earthquake was felt in the Wellington Region:

### 2.2 Special Weather Bulletins

No Special Weather Bulletin (for heavy rain and/or for strong wind) was received since the last meeting on 3 April 2007.

### 2.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. The satellite network is being tested on a monthly basis.

Both systems are well maintained and regular checks are carried out on the battery and generator backup systems, the re-positioning of antennae where necessary (high winds cause antennae to turn out of position) etc.

Richard Waddy  
Manager, Environmental Support

## Financial Position: 31 March 2007

### 1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the period ended 31 March 2007.

<b><u>Environment Division</u></b>					
<b><u>Summary Income Statement</u></b>					
<b><u>For the Year Ended 31 March 2007</u></b>					
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>Full Year</b>	
	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Forecast</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
		<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>	<b><u>\$000s</u></b>
Rates	7,264	7,264	--	9,686	9,686
Other Revenue	1,565	1,534	31 F	2,229	2,033
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>8,829</b>	<b>8,798</b>	<b>31 F</b>	<b>11,915</b>	<b>11,719</b>
<b>Less:</b>					
Direct Expenditure	7,417	7,702	285 F	10,528	10,410
Indirect Expenditure	1,223	1,174	49 U	1,562	1,581
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>8,640</b>	<b>8,876</b>	<b>236 F</b>	<b>12,090</b>	<b>11,991</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>267 F</b>	<b>(175)</b>	<b>(272)</b>

### 2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$189,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$78,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$267,000, comprising increased revenue of \$31,000, and lower than expected expenditure of \$236,000.

### 3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$8,829,000 is slightly, some \$31,000, higher than our budget target of \$8,798,000.

- The notified consent applications for the Hilton Hotel, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant, Whitby Coastal Estates, the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau, and N & E Reid's application for the discharge of piggery effluent, have been completed.
- Resource management compliance charges have been processed for both offices. In total the charges amounted – Wellington \$263,000 (last year - \$267,000) and Wairarapa \$191,000 (last year - \$180,000).
- There are a number of notified consents in progress. In Wellington Staithes Drive Development have applied for a 100 lot residential subdivision at Whitby. Similarly, the Wairarapa has a number in hand; Prema Investments a community wastewater, Stronvar Properties Ltd a residential subdivision at Masterton, and Palliser Bay Station a residential subdivision on the South Wairarapa Coast.
- The Resource Management Charging Policy has been revised. As part of the Special Consultative Procedure we are presently consulting with our resource consent customers. In brief, these are the main features of the updated policy:
  - An increase in the charge out rate from \$70/hr to \$85/hr – a realistic increase of around 3.5% per annum since 2001.
  - Application fees reset to more accurately reflect the actual cost of processing various consent applications.
  - The present policy for environmental incident inspection charges is included.
  - An annual review of the charging policy as part of the annual plan and LTCCP processes.
  - No change to the customer service charge of \$35 per resource consent.
  - Minor changes to some compliance monitoring charges.
  - More equitable charges to State of the Environment (SOE) resource consents to better reflect increased surveillance of “stressed” local environments.

Overall, we anticipate that our revenue line will increase in the order of \$250,000 - \$300,000 pa once the updated policy takes effect from 1 July 2007.

## 4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$8,640,000 is some \$236,000 (or 2.7%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$258,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. With the restructure in place, and with only three months of the year to run, most of the saving is considered permanent. Also, with the new holiday provisions that have taken effect from April, the underspend is expected to reduce.
- Travel and Transport costs were over budget by \$41,000

In part, this variance is caused by a change in transport arrangements and the use of pool vehicles in the Wairarapa. In addition, we have undertaken a larger number of *Take Action for Water* projects at schools than budgeted, and to do so these needed buses to transport the children.

- Consultant costs were over budget by \$44,000.

Legal costs for specialist advice that accrues from pursuing a prosecution is the main reason for the increase over budget (\$76,000). We have recovered some of this cost in the form of fines and court costs imposed recovered from perpetrators. However, such recoveries only offset such costs partially.

- Internal charges were lower than budget by \$96,000

A new software package for resource consent applications, monitoring, pollution response and biosecurity is progressing. However, work is not as advanced as anticipated and we have not received any charge for our share of the project.

The reduced call for work for consent monitoring from the departments - Wairarapa Technical Services, Harbours and Resource Investigation has had an effect. As these transactions are mainly within the Division (both revenue and spend) the overall effect is nil.

## 5. Capital Expenditure

At this stage, the spend on the capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) is at a lower level than anticipated.

Most of the underspend is with the groundwater model project. This major capital item (\$200,000) is progressing.

The work carried out to date has demonstrated that the shallow groundwater resource and surface waters (rivers, wetlands, springs etc) are linked closely. Although this was

not unexpected, the connection and relationship with the dynamics of the overall water resource is significant.

While the overall focus of the project remains to develop a numerical model that will enable sustainable allocation of groundwater, the nature of the investigation has changed from using data from existing bore logs plus that obtained from drilling a few new deep bores to studies of the shallow groundwater system which will involve a larger number of shallow bores as well as surface water measurements.

The numerical modelling component of the project is progressing well with good correlation at a coarse level with the known hydrogeology, even at this early stage.

However, this work will be incomplete by year end. We estimate that some \$100,000 will be underspent and we propose to carry over these funds into the new financial year.

The Beacon Hill communication facility upgrade and equipment for the Safety Management Systems is less advanced than anticipated and we plan to carry-over funding into the new financial year (2007-08). The funds set aside for the purchase of equipment (\$400,000) is considered adequate. However, the \$200,000 allocated for the upgrade of the building is not sufficient. The cost of the new building has been estimated at \$600,000.

We propose to fund the additional \$400,000 from realised savings, which we estimate at \$100,000 and additional loan of \$300,000. There will be a financial costs associated with servicing the loan in terms of interest and repayments. However, the actual impact on the rate line will be minimal, with an estimated \$30,000 being required per annum (over a 20 year term) to finance the loan.