

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environmental Education

Environmental Education Department Report – August 2007

1. Take Action

1.1 Term three schools

Staff have completed training the teachers who are participating in Take Action in term's three and four. The team is busy with eight schools this term: Waitohu, Waikanae, Queen Margaret College, Otari, Kura Kaupapa O Maori (Masterton), Kahutara, Fernridge (Masterton) and Discovery (Porirua). Students are currently carrying out their classroom based work or undertaking the field trip component.

At the same time, schools from term's 1 and 2 are also continuing with their practical projects. Notable achievements include:

- St Patrick's School (Masterton) is working with a local plumber and irrigation supplier to design and install a 300 litre water tank fed from the roof which will be used for watering the grounds. The school has also re-instated its composting and worm farming system.
- Queen Margaret College students produced a fantastic short advertisement for radio which has aired on local stations.
- Kenakena School is establishing a long term relationship with the Waikanae Estuary Care Group. They have already been planting the estuary and are looking into the possibility of a school shade house to grow material for replanting around the estuary.
- Students at Muritai School (Eastbourne) have been raising funds for trees for the school by selling no longer needed toys. The senior students participated in a local science fair, adopting an environmental theme. The work presented showed very clearly that they had understood the message of Take Action.
- Chanel College (Masterton). Take Action funding has been used to buy plants for riparian planting alongside the school stream. Around 70 metres on the northern bank was planted up in July.
- Canon's Creek School is establishing a recycling system this term as a result of a waste audit.

2. Conservation Week

The week of 6-12 August is Conservation Week. We are marking this in a number of ways. Students from Kenakena School are working with the

Waikanae Estuary Care Group on the 7th. Lakeview students will be working with the Henley Lake Care Group as well. Displays on the care group programme have been put up at the Cathedral and at Parliament for the Conservation Awards. The Council has nominated a number of care groups, schools, and others for these awards. They are:

- Volunteer Wellington
- Island Bay Coast Care
- Jean Luke (a long standing volunteer at Queen Elizabeth Park)
- Raumati South School
- Friends of the Otaki River.

The Waikanae Estuary Care Group was also nominated by another party. At the time of writing, the outcome of the awards is unknown.

3. Greater Wellington Environmental Awards

I am pleased to be able to report that we have received 13 applications thus far for the community and school sections of our award programme, even though this is a new venture. The closing date has been extended for two weeks to ensure all those who wanted to take part could do so.

4. Business sustainability

4.1 Get Sustainable Challenge

At 30 June there were 35 businesses participating in the Challenge and working through the workshops and related material. There has been a very pleasing increase in the size of the businesses taking part. The awards component of the Challenge will wind up on 5 September with the presentation at the Embassy Theatre (details are in the Councillors' Information Bulletin). Businesses that don't want to be a part of the awards can still undertake the Challenge at any time to improve their sustainability.

4.2 Office waste reduction trial

The office waste reduction trial in six Wellington office towers has concluded. Overall 57 businesses took part and 27 tonnes of recyclable material was diverted from landfill. Negotiations are still underway to provide recycling in these buildings on a permanent basis.

4.3 Porirua business initiative

We have found it difficult to recruit businesses in the Porirua area to our sustainability programmes. To try to understand this and get something happening there, Michelle has started working with Porirua City Council and Business Porirua. Their initial efforts are directed at finding out why businesses are not adopting sustainable practices by undertaking some market research. The aim is to understand what the barriers are to companies participating in current programmes such as EnviroSMART and the Get Sustainable Challenge and to look at other options that might be more useful.

4.4 EnviroSMART

The second year's intake of businesses for the EnviroSMART programme commenced the programme at the beginning of August. Eleven companies are taking part, joining the same number from the previous year. Those initial companies have been great ambassadors for the programme and speak very favourably about the benefits – environmental and financial - they have received. Word of mouth has been responsible for some of the second group deciding to get involved but we also put a lot of effort into communicating the programme through business newsletters, local papers etc. It is pleasing to see that Wellington and Hutt valley businesses in particular find this programme worthwhile.

5. Care groups and environmental restoration

5.1 Albemarle care group

This care group started its work a few months ago, having been successful in the recent funding round and joined the Take Care programme. The Albemarle Stream runs down from Northland, in Wellington city, to join the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The group held their first public day on Saturday 4 August and 45 locals turned up to help out – a fantastic response. The aim of the day was cleaning up the stream and at the end of the day 750kgs of rubbish and recyclables were taken to the Southern Landfill; there was an old fridge, tyres, plastics and *four* kitchen sinks! There is still a vast amount of rubbish in the stream which the group and our staff will remove shortly.

6. Take Care newsletter

The first edition of what is expected to be a regular newsletter for care groups was distributed in early July. One of the issues that emerged from the survey of care group members in 2005 was a desire on the part of these people to feel part of a wider network. The newsletter, along with events like Restoration Day and various training workshops, will go towards meeting this need.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – August 2007

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Policy Statement review

On 8 June 2007 Greater Wellington released the draft provisions (issues, objectives, policies and methods) recommended for inclusion in the next Regional Policy Statement. Comment was sought until 13 July 2007.

Full copies of the draft provisions were sent to all chief executives, mayors and senior policy staff at the regions city and district councils, along with key stakeholders. A newsletter summarising the content, including how to request or view full copies of the provisions, was also sent to all city and district councillors, council staff, stakeholders involved in the development of the provisions, and a wide range of interested parties. A press release and an article in Elements (delivered to all households) also advertised the availability of both the newsletter and the provisions.

During the consultation period Crs Chris Turver and Sally Baber and staff visited each city and district council. Cr Chris Turver and Tami Woods provided an overview of the draft provisions and their likely effect, and answered any questions.

Greater Wellington has received a number of very late submissions and requests not to release of a proposed Regional Policy Statement in October from Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council and Hutt City Council. These matters, and the resulting impact on the Regional Policy Statement timetable, have been outlined in report to the 14 August meeting of the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee.

1.2 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities. This plan change is being done jointly with Wellington City Council. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs. The end result will provide for port noise management that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries.

The plan changes were notified on 19 December 2006. There were 8 submitters. A hearing on both plan changes was held on 2 July 2007. The Hearing Committee will report its

recommendations to the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee once their deliberations are complete.

1.3 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. Submissions on the plan change closed on 29 June 2007 and four were received. These submissions are currently being summarised and, when completed, the summary of submissions will be publicly notified and further submissions called for.

2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

An update of Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation, and comments on notified resource consents and district plans are contained in separate reports to this Committee.

2.1 Waiwhetu Project

Negotiations are continuing with the Minister for the Environment relating to the level of central government support for the clean up of the contaminated sediments in the lower reaches of the stream.

2.2 Wetland Action Plan

The review of the *Wetland Incentive Programme* is going well with the return of approximately half of the questionnaires for the landowners. Almost all the landowners were very supportive of the programme and how it has helped them develop and achieve the active management of wetlands on their property. A few respondents were not so supportive, but these were people who wanted to dig up wetland areas to create ponds for water fowl and were disappointed when they were advised such activities required a resource consent. It was apparent that a very high standard of advice has been given to all people that have been involved with the programme.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – August 2007

1. Rainfall and River Flows

1.1 Rainfall

June 2007, in contrast to May, was dominated by cold southwesterlies. In these conditions the Wellington region is relatively sheltered from rainfall, and therefore most of the region had below average rainfall for the month (Figure 1). The Kapiti Coast and Hutt catchment were particularly dry, with rainfall being approximately half the long-term average for June in some places. However, following months of below-average rainfall, some parts of eastern Wairarapa received about or above average rainfall during June. The ‘drought’ in the eastern hills was eased by rain events on 12th, 16th and 17th June.

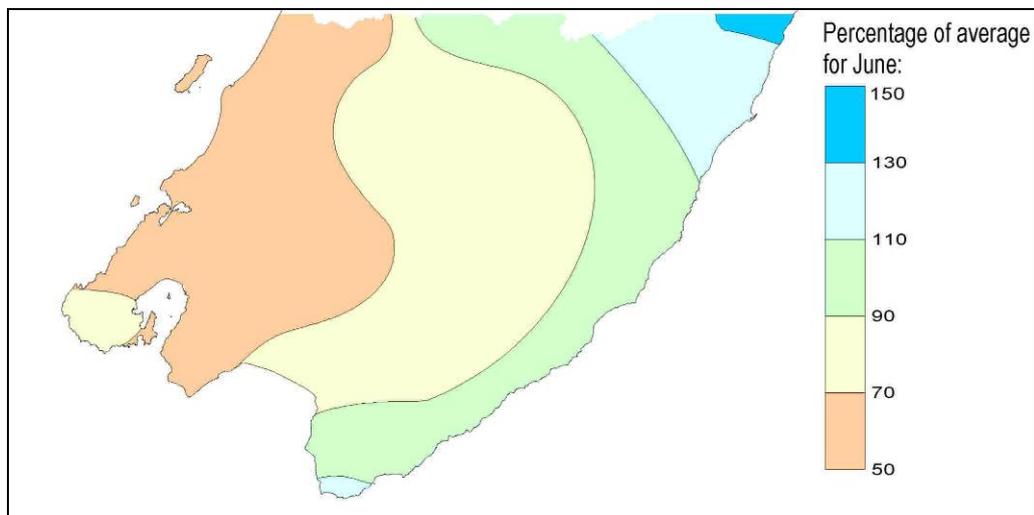


Figure 1: Rainfall during June 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for June

July 2007 was an unsettled month with frequent low pressure systems affecting the region and more north easterly winds than usual for the time of the year. As a result, the Kapiti Coast and inland parts of the region had below average rainfall (Figure 2). The Wairarapa plains, and the Pakuratahi, Mangaroa, Wainuiomata, Orongorongo catchments had rainfall totals between 60 and 80% of the long-term average for July. In contrast, Wellington city, north eastern Wairarapa and northern Tararua Ranges received normal to above normal rainfall for the month.

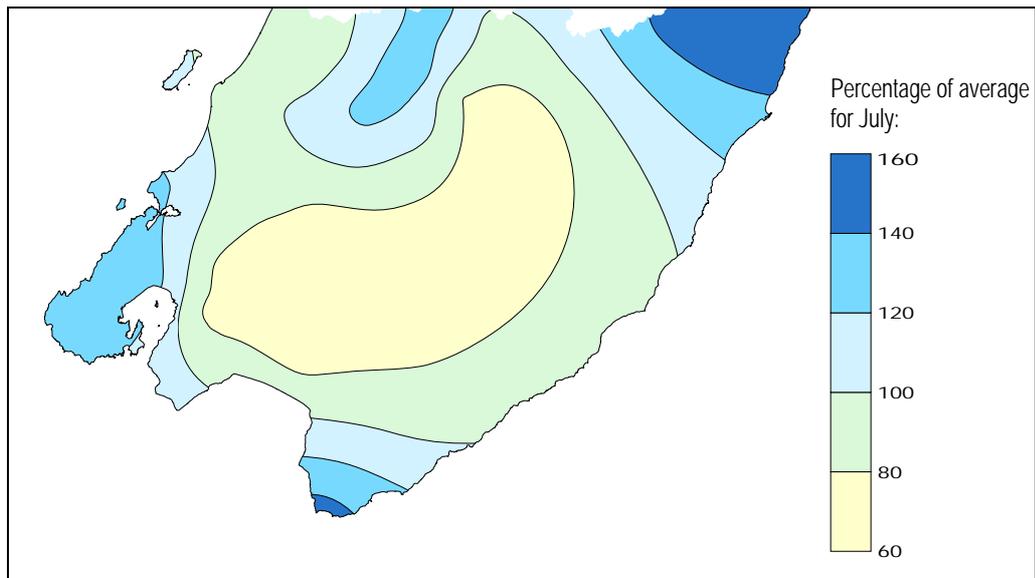


Figure 2: Rainfall during July 2007 as a percentage of the long-term average for July

The rainfall received at Tanawa Hut in the eastern Wairarapa hills during June 2007 more than doubled the total rainfall for 2007 to date. The autumn drought continued to be eased by regular rainfall throughout July. The above-average July rainfall experienced in north eastern Wairarapa was primarily due to heavy rainfall over 16-18th July; this was the same storm event that caused severe flooding in parts of the Hawkes Bay.

Despite this rain, the Wellington region has had below-average rainfall during 2007 to date with some areas (e.g. Wairarapa plains and Wainuiomata catchment) having only about half the rainfall usually expected by this time of the year (Table 1). However, the rainfall deviation from average graphs (Figure 3) suggest that the ‘dry phase’ has ended in some parts of the region.

Table 1: Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for July 2007 and 2007 to date, compared to average

	2007 to end-July (mm)	Average year to end July (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for year to date
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	353	570	62%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	568	729	78%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	585	1140	51%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	3252	3678	88%
Alloa (Featherston)	264	622	42%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	591	792	75%

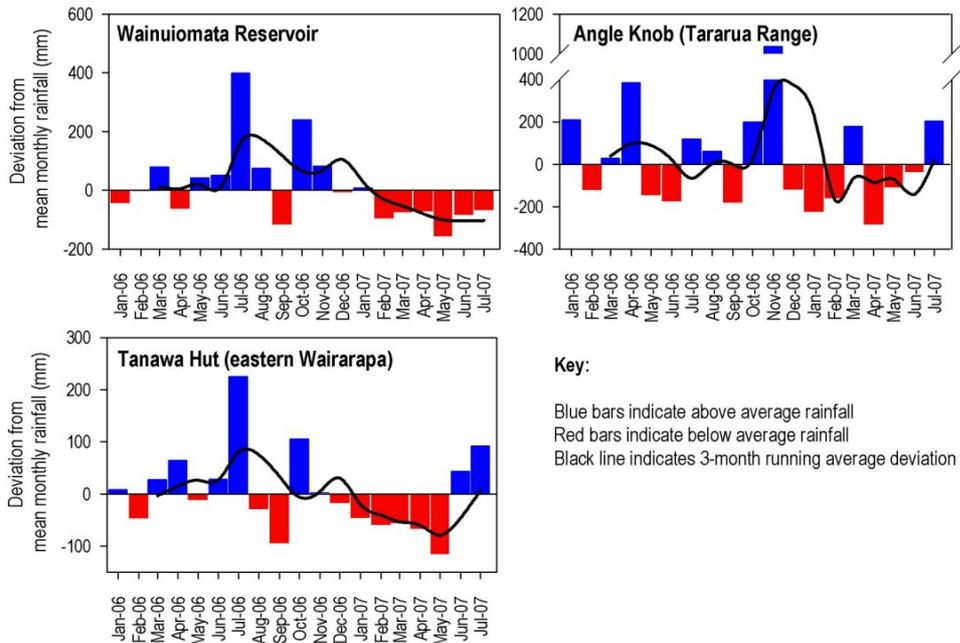


Figure 3: Monthly rainfall deviation from average at key monitoring locations

1.2 Rivers

Due to the below-average rainfall in June in most of the region, river flows remained well below average for the month (Table 2). Rivers in the western part of the region had fewer than normal ‘freshes’ for the time of the year during June.

Table 2: June 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow June 2007	Long-term average for June	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	2.04 m ³ /s	5.58 m ³ /s	37%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	10.4 m ³ /s	29.9 m ³ /s	35%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.35 m ³ /s	1.19 m ³ /s	29%
Waiohine River at Gorge	20.8 m ³ /s	28.9 m ³ /s	72%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	54.8 m ³ /s	115.9 m ³ /s	47%

Similarly, river flows in some parts of the region remained below the long-term average for the month of July (Table 3). However, in rivers with headwaters high in the Tararua Ranges (e.g. Waiohine and Otaki rivers) flows were above average, primarily due to a large ‘fresh’ at the beginning of the month. The north eastern Wairarapa rivers (e.g. Tauweru) had high flows following the rainfall on 16-18th July.

Table 3: July 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow July 2007	Long-term average for July	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	5.3 m ³ /s	6.3 m ³ /s	85%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	29.1 m ³ /s	35.1 m ³ /s	83%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	1.03 m ³ /s	1.52 m ³ /s	68%
Waiohine River at Gorge	39.4 m ³ /s	30.2 m ³ /s	131%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	126.3 m ³ /s	143.7 m ³ /s	88%

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.

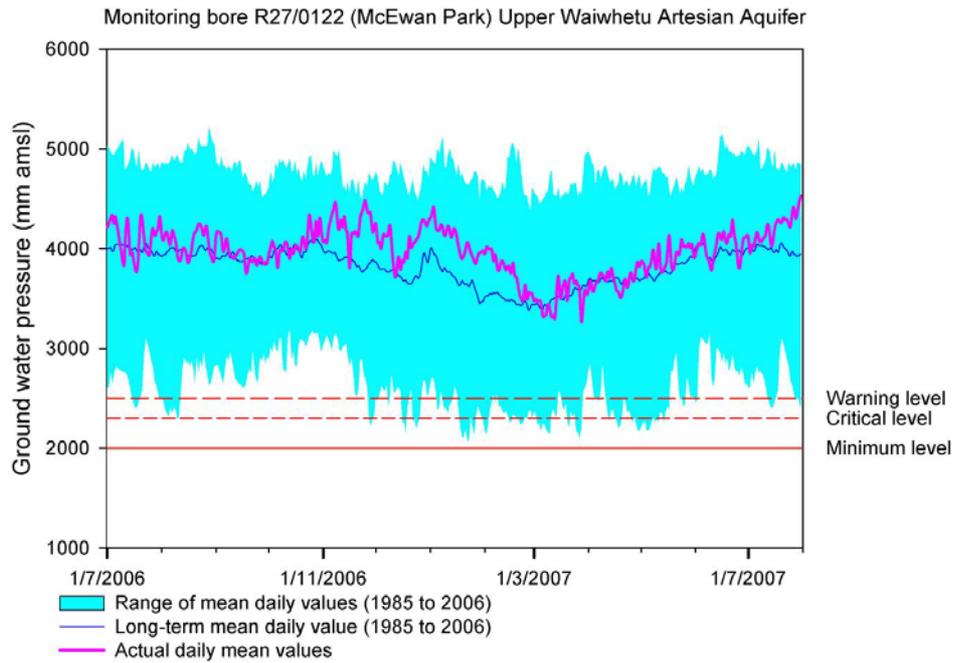
Since the last meeting of the Committee one event triggered one river alarm in the Wairarapa. This was a very short exceedance of the alarm level at the Waihenga monitoring site on the Ruamahanga River.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for 21 days in June and July. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above the target level for this time of year.

3. Groundwater levels

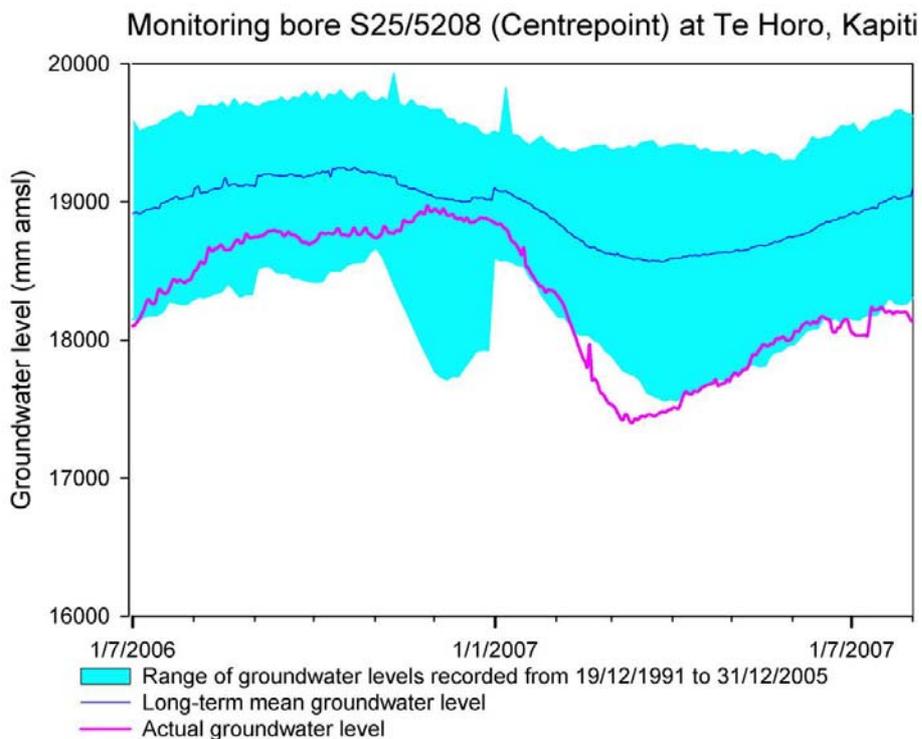
3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the Hutt aquifer were around long term average for June and above long term average for July. The levels are well above the trigger levels for saline intrusion.

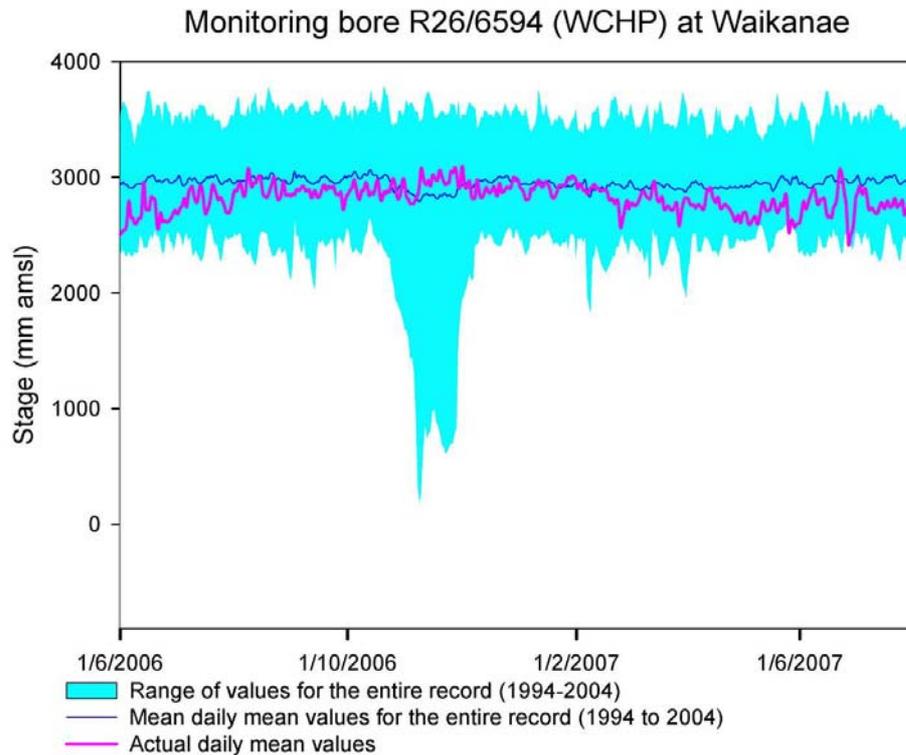


3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels at our monitoring bore S25/5208 in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast are below the long-term minimum for June and July. Levels in Te Horo have been below the long-term average for almost two years. This could be reflective of reduced recharge to the system from drier than average winters or the effect of increased groundwater abstraction in the system. Field and desk top investigations will be carried out through the coming year to outline the cause of dropping water tables in the Te Horo area.



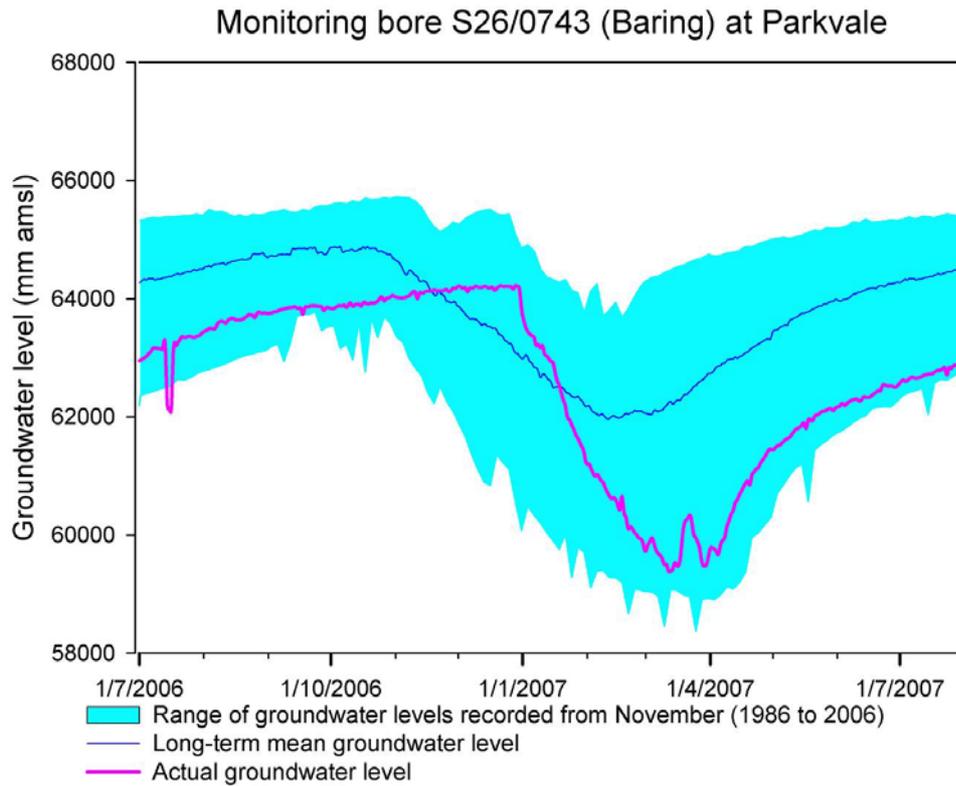
Groundwater levels in our deep confined monitoring bore R26/6594 in Waikanae have been below average for June and July, but are above long term minimums. These levels have recovered to average in late July. Lower levels in June and July are reflective of lower than average rainfall and river flows reducing recharge to aquifers. Recovery of water levels in late July is reflective of increased recharge to the aquifer system. It should be noted that the KCDC well field in Waikanae had minimal use through this summer.



3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in the Wairarapa through June and July were generally low reflecting lower than average rain and river recharge through this period. If lower than average recharge continues through the coming months, it would be expected to see low groundwater levels through the next irrigation season.

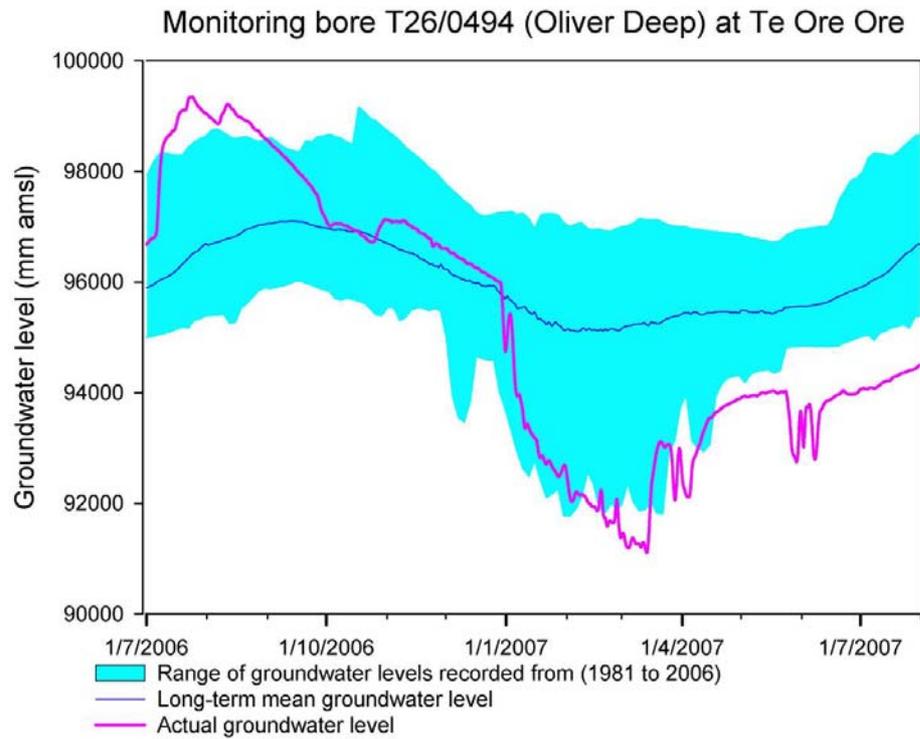
At our monitoring bore S26/0743 in the deep, confined Parkvale aquifer levels were below the long-term median for June and July, but tracking just above the long-term minimum. This is a reflection of below average rainfall recharge and on-going groundwater abstraction pressures.



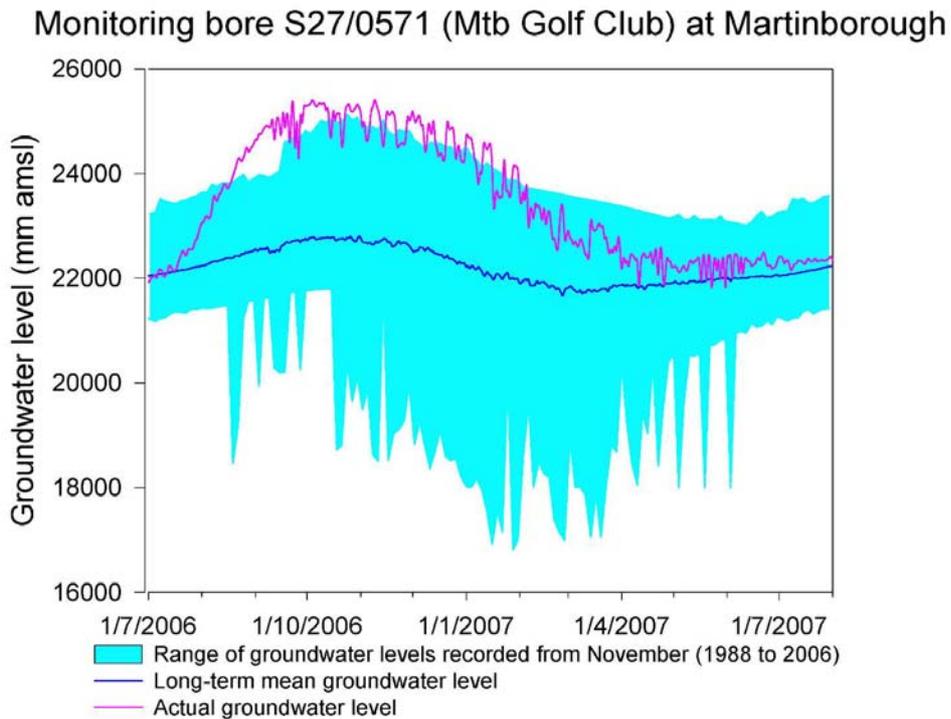
In the mixed rainfall/river recharged Te Ore Ore aquifer, the levels at our monitoring bore T26/0494 are significantly below long term minimum and have been at this level for most of the summer. This is a reflection of high irrigation demand, low rainfall recharge and a lack of major river flows for the period.

We have been advised by local property owners that during summer the Poterau Spring system dried up further than it ever has previously.

What are we doing about this? The system is currently 100% allocated so in the short term no further abstractions will be allowed. In the longer term safe yields will be reviewed following the completion of the Wairarapa Groundwater Study. This area will be a 'case study area' in the modelling project. One or two shallow wells will be drilled this coming summer along the Poterau Spring system to better understand this groundwater system.



Water levels in our monitoring bore S27/0571 in the rainfall recharged, semi confined Martinborough aquifer were just above average for June and July. This is a reflection of good recharge during the 2006 winter months, plus some rainfall recharge through the year.



3.4 Groundwater investigations

3.4.1 Sentinel wells

New saline intrusion monitoring wells have been installed in the Petone foreshore with associated telemetry currently being put in place. These new wells will be in operation for monitoring the Waiwhetu aquifer during the 2007/2008 summer period.

4. Air quality monitoring

4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

With the exception of one event the limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in the period 1 June 2007 to 31 July 2007 in any of the region's monitored airsheds. The one exceedance was for fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) in the Wainuiomata airshed on 28 June; any further exceedance in this air shed in this year will, in accordance with the standard, need to be publicly notified.

5. Contaminated Sites

5.1 Contaminated Land Management

A meeting has been held with officers from the region's territorial authorities to discuss the relative responsibilities of regional councils and territorial authorities with respect to contaminated land. We have, until our expert in contaminated land left, provided more information and advice to the territorial authorities in our region than is required under our RMA functions.

It was agreed that Greater Wellington would continue to hold the register (refer section 5.2) which is consistent with the Ministry for the Environment's view on this matter and is of mutual benefit to us and the territorial authorities.

We further agreed that we would work with the territorial authorities to explore ways in which they could get advice in relation to contaminated land bearing in mind that none could support their own expert. The driver for territorial authorities to work together on this was to ensure there was reliable and consistent advice across the region.

5.2 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 1799 sites on the register. This register is able to be accessed by authorized council and territorial authority staff and this has occurred 1154 times in the period. In this period there have also been 41 requests for information from the public.

6. Water quality

6.1 Wellington Harbour

The study of sediment quality in the Wellington Harbour is progressing with some of the sediment chemistry results received and all of the benthic ecology results. When all of the results have been received and interpreted this will be reported to the Committee.

7. Staff

In early August we will be interviewing candidates for the two vacant positions in the Department, Environmental Scientist, Groundwater and Environmental Scientist, Land and Water Contamination. While we are hopeful of getting suitable replacements for these positions, the number of applicants with the right skill mix has been very limited. This is a reflection of the tight job market for appropriately qualified and skilled people.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – August 2007

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data now reflects the entire region. In the period from 25 May to 20 July 2007 we have received 129 consent applications. This compares with 112 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 92 consents. This compares with 91 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) drops to 17 working days. During the period our focus has shifted more to completing compliance inspections prior to 30 June. We have also continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications, with considerable pre-application work on several large pending notified projects, and a number of other notified and limited notified applications as well. Bore permit numbers have also continued to remain at a low to moderate level.

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

This relates to the joint decision to grant consents to Meridian Energy to establish a (66-turbine) wind farm south of Makara.

Following the Environment Court's May release of its decision on the appealed Project Westwind applications, the Court on 20 July released the final revised consent conditions. Most of the amended conditions associated with the twelve revised sites relate to the WCC consent (landscape-visual, noise and earthworks conditions primarily), with only minor changes to two earthworks and streamworks conditions required for GW consents. We are currently working with Meridian to consider and approve Environmental Management Plans detailing the management of specific effects mainly associated with earthworks on site-by-site basis.

Waterfront Investments Limited (WWI) – Hilton Hotel

The Court hearing commenced on 31 July following a pre-hearing conference setting out the format and likely duration of proceedings. The hearing is expected to take two to three weeks. This follows the serving of evidence and earlier the agreement reached between parties on a very broad range of relevant matters to be considered by the Court, and the exchange of material relating to bus and service vehicle movements around Shed 6.

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 hearing for the MEC appeals concluded on 12 July after nearly two weeks.

Evidence from the majority of the parties has been exchanged and rebuttal evidence is being prepared in early June; however, at the writing of this report we were yet to see the evidence of Chris Webster.

While GW is the junior player in these appeals considering the substantive land use, landscape/amenity and traffic issues resting with WCC, the challenge by Chris Webster on jurisdictional matters (GW's right to administer proposed activities in the coastal marine area at Te Raekaihau Point) has been difficult for us to prepare for given that the appellant in question neither clarified her scope of evidence for the Court nor provided evidence by the exchange deadline in late June. Furthermore, the Court had ultimately allowed a broad scope of evidence and cross-examination to be pursued.

Despite these difficulties the evidence presented and performance in cross-examination by our officers was completed to a high standard, putting us in the best position possible to defend the appeals. At this stage the main issues of contention appears to surround whether the site is an 'outstanding landscape' or is itself appropriate for the aquarium development.

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

Mediation between parties on these appeals will commence on 20 August.

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.

A E & S W Benton Partnership

A consent order will soon be signed off by all parties following the completion of mediation. The order will enable the consent holder to undertake an extensive pump test over a four year term. While water taken may be used for irrigation, the primary rationale behind the shorter term and reduced take is to enable groundwater data to be gathered which should to some extent help us understand the longer term sustainability of the Kahutara aquifer. Clearly others will also expect to take water from this aquifer in the future. As such, it is very important in the intervening four years that progress is made toward completing the Wairarapa Conceptual Groundwater Model as well as completing additional monitoring of the aquifer's use.

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

Prema Investments Ltd

This relates to 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, which was appealed by the applicant. Following discussions with staff from both GW and SWDC, the appellant has now withdrawn their appeal.

The appeal 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. GW had joined the appeal as a (section 274) party.

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

We are currently in discussions with Mr Barton regarding our respective positions on key matters at the heart of Mr Barton's appeal. We hope we are able to reach a satisfactory resolution soon thus avoiding the case being heard in the High Court.

This relates to 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

This is an appeal by the applicant against a decision on applications for a coastal protection sea wall at Castlepoint. Stage 1 of the sea wall was approved subject to conditions, and the appeal against some aspects of this part of the project was resolved in 2005 and this part of the sea wall has now been constructed. Stage 2 of the sea wall was declined.

Initially, Court mediation in 2005 determined a course of action where an Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) would be developed by interested parties to look into coastal processes in the area where consent was declined. Following a long period where no progress was made, the Court initiated mediation on 30 April this year bringing back on track the IFMP process. Following the circulation of agreed objectives for the IFMP process, the appellant has now submitted a revised timetable which requires a draft IFMP to be completed by 31 October 2007.

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

In terms of general compliance, staff have completed end of year inspections and are now preparing compliance reports.

3.2 Specific compliance

Taylor Preston Ltd (TPL) – change of consent conditions process confirmed

Following my report to you in May, we have now processed the first stage of consent variation applications - to change review conditions on the existing consent. Taylor Preston has voluntarily applied to change consent conditions making it in effect easier for GW to formally review the operation should future odour management practices not solve the ongoing problems.

I am pleased to also tell you that significant progress has been made by TPL on plans for a solution to continuing odour problems including a high-specification treatment system: This is subject to final resolution of some outstanding commercial issues.

Applications to change consent conditions for the substantive upgrade will be lodged before the end of the year (probably in October or November). The GW-devised process will be relatively inexpensive, not requiring public

notification but will involve GAG in vetting the application and GW assessment. Installation work would take place during winter 2008.

GAG and TPL met recently at a GW brokered meeting to discuss the proposed upgrades. The mood at the meeting was incredibly positive and it is fair to say that GAG is satisfied with the proposal and process.

I am more optimistic than ever that a solution (within reason) to long-lived community concerns is in sight and a significant burden on GW staff (investigating complaints and managing community relationships) will be lessened.

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. We have received a response from the consent holder to our 'please explain' letter and I hope to shortly decide what action to take.

NZ Fish Products (NZFP)

It is interesting to note that NZFP have finally closed their Gracefield operation relocating to a greenfield site near Marton in the Manawatu.

The operation of NZFP close to other commercial enterprises has provided us a number of compliance challenges over quite a number of years.

Transit NZ: Dowse to Petone Upgrade

Works are due to commence in early August to commence on the long-awaited improvements to State Highway 2 between Dowse Drive and Cornish Street in Petone.

The works involve fly-overs at Korokoro and Maungaraki intersections a new Petone/Alicetown entrance (replacing the exiting Korokoro entrance), and a new service road and intersection to replace that at Cornish Street/ SH2.

3.3 Abatement notices

We served two abatement notices in the last period to:

- Aurora Enterprises Limited to remove illegal erosion protection structure in a tributary of the Waiwhetu Stream in Naenae.
- Kerry Richardson of Wainuiomata for an illegal structure which had diverted Moores Valley Stream.

3.4 Infringement notices

Six infringement notices were issued in the period to:

- Graeme Hodder of Featherston for breaches of Resource Consent regarding application of dairy shed effluent to land and water (two notices).
- New Zealand Fish Products for discharging offensive and objectionable odours beyond their site boundary on three separate occasions in February, March and May (three notices).
- M & M Construction for contravening a resource consent for stream works at King Charles Drive, Upper Hutt.

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Two new prosecutions have been filed in the last period. However, only one enforcement order is currently before the Court, following several prosecutions and enforcement order proceedings being resolved recently. A number of orders are currently being implemented.

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

I verbally reported to the May Committee meeting that on 14 May we had laid charges against four parties for illegally dumping chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Te Kamaru (Terawhiti) Station resulting in a direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Eight charges have been laid in total for discharging from a trade premise to land and discharging to water.

The defendants have sought an adjournment to allow them sufficient time to put a proposal for mitigation to GW, which has been granted by the Court. We haven't received a proposal as yet.

We will now wait for further directions from the Court.

Goodman Contractors Limited, Stanley Goodman and Colin Landy

On 29 May we filed charges against three parties for an unconsented discharge of a substantial quantity of sediment to a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream in late November. The incident was significant in our view given the sensitive receiving environment of the Pauatahanui stream and inlet, thereby warranting prosecution.

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.

Mediation to date has not proved particularly fruitful. Mr Gabites has provided soil and water sampling results, and now a final erosion and sediment control plan and nutrient/contaminant management plan. We are reviewing these plans currently to determine their adequacy with the aid of an independent expert, and we will meet with Mr Gabites representatives within the coming month to determine whether we are able to once and for all resolve our concerns out of Court.

While the July mediation date was cancelled, at this stage we reserve the right to proceed to a Court hearing should we not be satisfied with progress or the quality of the plans submitted.

Burrell Demolition Ltd

Mr Burrell is now commencing remedial works around the culvert entrance following the lodging of engineering reports earlier, and we expect complete information regarding fill over the culvert to be lodged shortly to enable full works on the culvert to continue in line with the enforcement orders.

This enforcement order (and former prosecution proceedings) regards the unauthorised laying of a culvert in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, Happy Valley, Wellington.

Brooklyn Holdings and Lance James/282 Ohiro Road

We are continuing to monitor on-site performance against enforcement orders directing erosion and sediment control plans to prevent excessive ongoing discharges of sediment into Owhiro Stream from the Brooklyn Valley Rise subdivision. Performance against the orders has been to some extent inadequate, with ongoing compliance issues experienced. We will be meeting with the relevant parties soon to reinforce our expectations of performance. I am hopeful that we can resolve this without going back to Court.

Ohiro Properties Ltd/318 Ohiro Road

There have been no major developments with progress on complying with current enforcement orders. The orders relate to restrictions on vegetation clearance, erosion and sediment control and reinstatement of a small stream, which was reclaimed without consent. We still expect to soon sign off on an erosion and sediment control plan, and will require applications connected to stream reinstatement works. Timelines in the enforcement order at this stage are still not being met, which is concerning, and we are still placing pressure on the consent holder to comply in a more timely fashion.

3.6 Take Charge

Initial audits of the Grenada North Industrial area to identify key businesses has been completed, and we are currently completing revisits. Sediment and stormwater sampling has also been completed, and together with information from revisits these will help us target at-risk businesses more effectively. At the same time we have issued five abatement notices to businesses in the Drain

6 (Paraparaumu) catchment to ensure that audit advice provided to enable them to comply with our regional plans is followed through.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.495).

3.7 Significant incidents

Earthworks at Colonial Knob

In June routine inspection work in the vicinity of Colonial Knob led us to an area of substantial earthworks including tracking and filling on and near the summit access track. Initial works were required to clear a large slip blocking access to the radar facility at the Knob; however, actual work is far more extensive. Porirua City Council has already issued an abatement notice to stop works. We will continue to investigate the earthworks and determine whether enforcement action is necessary.

This is also reported in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.495).

Exide – excessive discharges of lead across southern boundary

We have now received a response to our ‘please explain’ letter regarding an alleged spike of lead discharged across the Southern boundary at Exide’s Petone plant in March 2007. Following three sets of retests over all samples from the affected three-month period, we can confirm that Exide breached its resource consent for the discharge of lead beyond the plant boundary. The three-monthly rolling average was confirmed at 2.08 ug/g, and the March spike itself 9.44 ug/g. Our initial concerns about the accuracy of the sampling and testing regime have been allayed, with just six of the 45 readings being outside acceptable limits for accuracy (in other words, markedly different from the average reading).

We are still waiting for further information from Exide in relation to monitoring and maintenance practices before we are able to make an enforcement decision.

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 finally in the process of confirming conditions, and I expect to see an Officer’s report finalised soon.

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, hence there was no requirement for GW to arrange and participate in a joint hearing. The subdivision application has now been approved by SWDC, which now gives the applicant the certainty to provide further information to GW so that the wastewater discharge applications and land use consents for stream works and culverts can be processed.

Webstar

A pre-hearing on a replacement application from Webstar (Blue Print Group Limited), Masterton, to discharge fine particle matter (PM₁₀) and other contaminants to air from printing and gas-fired boilers, has been completed. The applicant will investigate issues raised by the single submitter regarding the significance of odours discharged beyond Webstar's boundary further over the next two to three months. A short-term trial of new discharges from new printing equipment assessed will also be extended to tie in with revised timeframes. The processing of this application will consider air quality within the Masterton air shed, which sometimes exceeds NES for Air thresholds for PM₁₀ of 50 ug/m³.

GW Flood Protection Department – Chrystalls Stopbank

This application concerns a proposed 2.1 km extension to Chrystalls stopbank in Otaki. Good negotiation work on possible GW-related mitigation conditions by staff enabled issues to be resolved and the consents to be granted without a hearing. The decision was released on 12 July and we are just waiting for the appeals period to run its course.

O'More Partnership

We have completing an assessment of submissions and effects of a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford. 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.

We have been keeping the applicant informed of our developing position on the associated effects and how that may affect a recommendation to a hearing committee.

No hearing date has been set at this point.

MDC - Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Replacement applications for Masterton Wastewater Plant were lodged in early May and following preliminary assessment, the applications were notified on 4 July. Submissions closed on 1 August with around 60 submissions received.

These applications are to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, and to land in the general vicinity of Masterton waste water treatment plant.

WCC/Capacity: United Water International sludge dewatering plant

At the June meeting I verbally reported that on 16 June we notified around 3500 property addresses in the Brooklyn, Mornington, Owhiro, Kingston area for WCC/Capacity's replacement applications for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey's Gully Complex. 95 submissions were received.

Currently we are appointing a peer reviewer to assist us with the technical assessment work.

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.

Winstone Aggregates Limited

These are joint applications to GW and Hutt City Council (HCC) associated primarily with the development of a quarry overburden area at their Belmont Quarry site. Applications include the reclamation of watercourses on site, and the discharge to Hutt River of sediment from exposed fill material.

Twenty-five submissions were received by the 10 July close. We are in discussions with the applicant, Hutt City Council and submitters, and have tentatively set a 30 August pre-hearing date.

WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

These are replacement applications from WCC/Capacity for ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, including discharges of treated and semi-treated effluent (mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened) to Cook Strait via the long outfall, and discharges of odours associated with the effluent treatment process.

Applications were notified on 19 July, and submissions close on 15 August.

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, including reducing the extent of work required.

Hutt City Council

This concerns applications to place a channel structure and divert stream flow in a small stream adjacent Marine Drive, Eastbourne, for flood protection purposes. All three submitters accepted the draft conditions, and the consents were approved on 26 July, without needing to be heard.

GW Flood Protection Department – Waitohu Stream Operations Work

These are replacement consents for flood protection operations along much of its flood plain length from upstream of State Highway One to the coast. Notice was served on 56 parties, with two submissions received. The applicant is currently working through issues with submitters in order to resolve concerns, thus avoiding the need for a hearing.

Kaitawa Crematorium

Matters with submitters were resolved and the air discharge permit for the Kaitawa Crematorium – Waikanae Cemetery site – was granted (without a hearing) on 16 July.

I had reported several months ago that in a major turn of events, the application for the original Kaitawa Crematorium proposal (proposed for central Waikanae) was withdrawn. The availability of the Waikanae site was negotiated with KCDC.

The applications had been served on ten parties, with five submitting (four in support). Regional Public Health lodged a neutral submission.

Skip-E Bins

These were applications to discharge dust and other particulates to air from the operation of a waste transfer station and resource recovery centre at Kapuni Grove, Porirua. The applications had been served on five parties, with no submissions received. A decision was released on 5 July.

K R & S M Shaw

This application is for diverting water from a small tributary of the Mangatarere Stream for the hydro-electricity generation purposes. One submission was received from a neighbouring landowner. We are currently asking the applicant if they wish GW to conduct a pre-hearing meeting or go straight to a hearing.

Kintyre Trust

This application is for setting up a small rendering plant at an existing abattoir at Gladstone. Notice of the application has been served on eight parties and submissions close on 27 July.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

Neptune Power - Tidal Energy Turbine: A proposal for a trial tidal energy turbine to be placed off the South Wellington coast. This is the pre-cursor to a supposed 7,000 turbine, multi-billion dollar proposal for the Cook Straight area, as reported recently in the media. Applications are expected within the next couple of weeks.

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

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

T & T Landfill: An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn.

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

Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT): Applications are now expected around September for a proposed new apartment and public space development at the site of the former OPT in Lambton Harbour.

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

4.3 Other applications

Western Link Road

Applications for sections three and four of the proposed Western Link Road have now been processed on a non-notified basis. The sections extend from Kapiti Road to Otaihanga Road. The applicant has put in considerable work at the front end of this process to provide outline environmental management plans for the entire formation. Our assessment process has not been inconsiderable, with 14 separate consents being processed; including consents for stream crossings, groundwater diversion and abstraction, wetland disturbance and sediment discharges.

KCDC are now working on applications for Section Two (Raumati to Kapiti Road) and are working through details and consultation on the Waikanae River-crossing stage (Section 5: Otaihanga Road to Te Moana Road).

4.4 Department projects

Resource Management Charging Policy Review

We now have a new Resource Management Charging Policy following the decision of the June Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee to adopt it. We are currently rolling out the new policy to our customers.

Watercourse and You pamphlet

We have, in collaboration with the Flood Protection Department, produced an excellent pamphlet targeted at land owners affected by small streams. The pamphlet discusses land owner responsibilities, consenting issues and what not to do. I expect that the pamphlet will have wider distribution amongst land owners and consent holders.

The pamphlet is discussed in report 07.495, and will be presented to you with the delivery of this report.

4.5 Staff issues

Jonathan Hampson has joined our Wairarapa Consents and Compliance team. A recent arrival from Wales, Jonathan has previously worked for the UK Environment Agency managing environmental assessment processes for development projects across South Wales.

Fiona Betteridge, a Resource Advisor with the Wellington Consents and Compliance team, has taken up a new position in compliance and environmental education with Auckland Regional Council. Fiona added much value to our compliance work in particular, and I wish Fiona all the best in her new role. We are currently seeking a replacement for her.

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 McMahon	21/12/05	Granted. Decision appealed. Env Court decision released 20/07/07 DELETE FROM TABLE ?
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 McMahon Stuart Kinnear Miria Pomare (Iwi)	19/09/06	Granted - under appeal
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. Mediation date set for 20 August 2007

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
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)	29/03/07	Granted – SWDC consent under appeal, GW registered as s274 party to appeal, appeal now withdrawn
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	-	SWDC consent hearing held 17 May 2007. GW resolved consents without need for hearing	N/A	Decision to be made following SWDC hearing and provision of further information	-
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	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	Further investigations into odour concerns currently being considered			
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept.	To permanently divert Otaki River flood flows associated with the extension of Chrystalls stopbank, Otaki.	15/2/07	30/3/07	7	No	Not required	-	12/07/07	Granted – appeal period closes 6 August
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	25/05/07	Granted – no appeals lodged
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua.	12/12/06	2/5/07		31/5/07	To be set once further info received			
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 applications to take groundwater from two bores 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 Cemetery.	19/03/07	18/06/07	4		Not required		16/07/07	Granted
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	Not required	-	26/07/07	-
Wellington City Council	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07	13/7/07	95		On hold pending supply of further information and peer review			
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim 4 intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07	10/7/07						
K R & S M Shaw (Limited Notified)	To divert a tributary of the Mangatarere Stream, including associated disturbance of the bed, to generate hydro-electricity in the Managatarere Valley, west of Carterton.	23/2/07	6/7/07	1					
Kintyre Trust (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air from a rendering plant at Gladstone, east of Carterton.	28/5/07	27/7/07						

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 undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/5/07	1/8/07						
Skip-E Bins (Limited Notified)	Discharge of contaminants to air associated with the operation of a re-distribution/recycling centre.	4/4/07	7/06/07	None	No	Not required		5/07/07	Granted No appeals
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance.	10/05/07	22/06/07	2		Applicant currently negotiating with submitters			
Wellington City Council	Discharge of treated wastewater and intermittent discharge of non treated wastewater to the CMA, occupation of the seabed by a pipe, discharge to air associated with the operation of the Moa Point Waste Water Treatment Plant.	2/07/07	15/08/07	Submission period still open					

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – August 2007

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

The rotation of Barrett Reef buoy is in hand. The buoy which had been out “on station” for three years was retrieved and brought ashore on 24 July by harbours staff, for routine maintenance. Work has been carried out on the renewal of the ground-chains and anchor-block systems on the seabed at the entrance to the harbour where the buoy is moored. This needed to be completed before the refurbished buoy can be put back into position. The redeployment of the buoy is scheduled for 3 August 2007.

All shipping was advised that Barrett Reef buoy was “missing” for a period, and Beacon Hill staff continually updated this information.

All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

Three reports of “oil pollution” were reported during the period, none needed further clean-up action to be taken.

Four GW staff attended a Fundamentals of Marine Oil Pollution Response Course in June.

3. Harbour Hulks

The removal plan to take the “floatables”, oils and other equipment from two of the derelict the trawlers has commenced. The bulk of the diesel fuel has been removed from *Atlantic Elizabeth*, as have some of the fishing nets. The removal of the diesel oil removed a significant environmental risk. The electronic navigation equipment was removed from both vessels. The rudders and propeller shafts were been welded and “locked” to meet the Maritime New Zealand towing requirements detailed on the associated Dumping Permits for the vessels.

No suitable hulk demolition plans were received by 30 June 2007 as previously requested from interested parties, who were considering demolition operations. The companies have been advised of this.

On Friday night, 13 July, the derelict hulk *James Cook* moored at Miramar Wharf was set on fire by unidentified vandals and considerable damage was done to the accommodation and bridge areas. Numerous fire appliances attended the spectacular blaze. On 23 July the companies owning two of the hulks at Miramar

Wharf were put into liquidation in the High Court. The Official Assignee issued a Disclaimer Notice on 27 July.

4. Other Activities

- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is progressing, but issues regarding a neighbouring property, which is between the signal station and the channel into the harbour, need to be resolved before proceeding further with the upgrade
- A Cook Strait Ferry Forum meeting was chaired on 12 July
- A VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) working group meeting was held on 13 July
- A NAC (National Advisory Committee) meeting concerning the Port & Harbour Safety System was held on 18 July.

5. Port & Harbour Safety Code

The draft of the Harbour Safety Plan is completed, and is to be submitted to Council for their endorsement of the policies contained in the document.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – August 2007

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC)

Chris Killeen, our training officer, has prepared new manuals to help people set up and manage the GEOC. He has developed 7 booklets so far, that are step-by-step guides to all of the desk functions in the GEOC.

During training, our volunteer staff have commented that the manuals are easy to use and follow.

1.2 CDEM Conference 2007 - *Keeping Pace: Technology and Modern Emergency Management*

The above conference is to be hosted by Wellington on 4 and 5 October 2007.

A 'Conference Planning Committee' has been established and meets on a fortnightly basis. The conference budget runs at about \$150,000 and we have already received very good sponsorship for the conference.

1.3 CDEM Group Work Programme

Five CDEM Group work programmes are listed in the CDEM Group Plan for the 2006/2007 year. The progress on these programmes is as follows:

- CDEM Group Recovery Plan – due to restricted resources and the importance of the programme it was decided to extend this programme for finalisation in the 2007/2008 year. Much progress has already been made with the programme. The Group Emergency Management Office is leading this project
- Hazard Information Review - this programme is being managed by the Council's Hazard Analyst. Several meetings and workshops attended by staff from the Institute of Geological Services and emergency management have been held over the last year. The final report is scheduled for the end of July 2007.

- Debris Disposal Arrangements –the programme is being carried out by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). Several workshops have been held with emergency management staff and resource management planners attending.
- Rural Fire Management Alignment - this programme has not been started yet due to a lack of resources. The NZ Fire Service is the lead agency for this project with input from the Rural Fire Authorities.
- Emergency Management Agency Communications System Implementation – the CDEM Group Office has lead this project and it was completed in November 2006.

There are five CDEM Group work programmes listed in the CDEM Group Plan for the 2007/2008 year. They are the CDEM Group Public Education Strategy (underway – lead by the Group Emergency Management Office), an Audible Warning Systems Review (underway – lead by Wellington City Council), Watercourse Review and Mitigation Programme Development (not started yet), Tsunami Evacuation Planning (underway – lead by the Group Emergency Management Office), and the Audit of Emergency Operations Centres (underway – lead by the Group Emergency Management Office. We are in negotiation with the Ministry of CDEM to determine who actually should be carrying out these audits).

1.4 2007 Community Preparedness Survey

Greater Wellington has appointed Peter Glen Research in 2004 to carry out a region-wide community preparedness survey. Follow-up surveys were carried out in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The 2007 survey has revealed that residents of the greater Wellington Region continue to have widespread awareness of the major hazards that could affect their region.

The incidence of emergency supplies in the home is steadily increasing; however, there still remains a significant gap between those that consider themselves informed, and those who consider themselves prepared. We are continuing to address this shortfall.

- **72%** of respondents claim to have emergency food supplies (up from 70% in 2006, 65% in 2005 and 61% in 2004).
- **71%** of respondents claim to have emergency water supplies (up from 71% in 2006, 69% in 2005 and 68% in 2004).
- **74%** of respondents claim to have other emergency supplies and equipment (e.g. torch, radio etc) (up from 75% in 2006, 69% in 2005 and 2004).

- Although it is steadily improving, a disappointing **38%** of respondents claim to have an emergency plan for their household (up from 27% in 2006, 26% in 2005 and 31% in 2004). In most cases, the household emergency plan is a verbal agreement rather than a written document.

The full survey report may be obtained from the Wellington Region CDEM Group Office.

1.5 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)).

1.5.1 Disaster Awareness Week 2007

In February, 2007, the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) formed a National Public Education Reference Group tasked with developing a national strategy and building on the mass media programme of “Get Ready, Get Thru”. Our CDEM Group Office is represented on this Reference Group.

This Group has met on several occasions over the last three months and work is progressing satisfactorily.

Disaster Awareness Week continues to take up a great deal of time, and over the last month we have been working with our designer to finalise the outputs that we are going to use. We are using the theme: “*my family will survive a disaster – will yours?*” and all the territorial authorities are working with us and are contributing financially to this campaign.

Jessica Hare, our emergency management officer, is leading this project and the campaign will include valuable preparedness material (brochures, booklets, fridge magnets, hazard sheets, etc.) that will be handed out to our communities during that week. We have also received great sponsorship from the Dominion Post in getting our messages across. The emphasis this year will not only be to make our communities aware, but also to get them to do something about it (awareness into action).

1.6 Other activities and initiatives

1.6.1 Review of situation reports

As a group we took the information available from the Northland floods and applied it to our own systems to find out how they work. It led to a revamp of our Situation reports and Incident Action Plans.

1.6.2 Databases

In the process of updating our contacts and resources lists on the Resource Management database.

1.6.3 Group Reconnaissance Plan

We have been involved in confirming what infrastructure is of interest to the Group for reconnaissance and we are working on reviewing and amending how the Reconnaissance Plan will work during an event. In this regard we are working with Transit NZ and Wellington City Council as well as the helicopter companies that will actually carry out the reconnaissance work during an emergency event.

1.6.4 Staff training

CDEM Group Office staff attended training on 'Advanced Driving' (Jes Hare), Logistics Management (Craig Hamilton and Chris Killeen) and a National Counter Terrorism Exercise Writing Course at Porirua Police College (Craig Hamilton).

Craig has also run a small desktop exercise for the CDEM Group Office staff in relation to the Northland flooding event. The emphasis was on testing the new Situation Report form and the development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP). It was also an opportunity to provide some training to the 2 new employees.

1.6.5 Public Education

We were invited to Solway College to give a 1 hour talk to 2 classes of 12 to 13 year olds about Greater Wellington, our role in the Council, Emergency Management in general and personnel preparedness. This was part of the College's work on career advice and one of their social themes of crisis and challenge.

1.6.6 Controllers and Recovery Managers Course

We are preparing for this course that will take place in the Wairarapa from 16 to 18 August 2007.

All the controllers and recovery managers as well as emergency management personnel of the territorial authorities and the regional council will be participating in this course.

1.6.7 Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Association (WELA), namely:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was the first in the last 3 years with a turnout of 35 people from across the region representing the major utility companies and district and regional councils.

The AGM was precluded with a presentation from the Ministry for the Environment on Climate Change and Lifeline Utilities.

Two WELA projects are currently underway, namely:

- Priority Emergency Route project - is nearing completion with the development of draft maps. A final meeting will be used to confirm the route information.
- Priority Utility Sites for Response and Recovery project - ongoing with the collection and analysis of data.

2. Environment

2.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 42 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. The following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

- July 21 2007, Magnitude 3.3, 30km deep, 10 km west of Upper Hutt
- July 8 2007, Magnitude 4.2, 20km deep, 10 km south of Porangahau
- July 7 2007, Magnitude 3.8, 60km deep, 30 km west of Porirua
- June 15 2007, Magnitude 3.3, 25km deep, within 5km of Upper Hutt
- June 15 2007, Magnitude 3.5, 25km deep, within 5km of Upper Hutt
- June 12 2007, Magnitude 3.8, 50km deep, 20 km south of Wellington

2.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Sixteen Special Weather Bulletins (6 for heavy rain and 10 for snow) were received since the last meeting on 21 June 2007. Apart from surface flooding, no problems were experienced.

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: 30 June 2007

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the Division's operating results for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Environment Division				
Summary of Income Statement				
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007				
	Year			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Rates	9,686	9,686	--	9,686
Other Revenue	2,218	2,033	185 F	2,226
Total Revenue	11,904	11,719	185 F	11,912
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	10,795	10,410	385 U	10,626
Indirect Expenditure	1,613	1,581	32 U	1,561
Total Operating Expenditure	12,408	11,991	417 U	12,187
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(504)	(272)	232 U	(275)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result provides for additional expenditure items over and above our budgets. For the period the operating deficit came in at \$504,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$272,000.

The result translates to a net unfavourable variance of \$232,000, comprising increased revenue of \$185,000, and expenditure at a higher level of \$417,000.

This unfavourable variance has been caused by providing for scuttling the 7 hulks – we estimate the total cost at \$245,000 to do so.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue came in at \$11,904,000, some \$185,000, higher than our budget target of \$11,719,000.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- The notified consent applications for the Hilton Hotel, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant, Whitby Coastal Estates, the Wellington Marine Education Centre at Te Raekaihau, Staithes Drive Development 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 annual charges came in at – 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 Winstone Aggregates extending quarrying activity at Belmont Quarry, Lower Hutt, and Greater Wellington Flood Protection work at South Waitohu Stopbank, Otaki. Similarly, the Wairarapa has some 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. The updated policy which took effect from 1 July 2007 and we anticipate that our revenue line will increase by around \$250,000 - \$300,000 pa.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$12,408,000 is some \$417,000 (or 3.5%) more than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$91,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. However, the new holiday provisions introduced in April offset a significant amount of the underspend that we reported previously. In addition, a staff member took up our offer for a one-time sick pay payment as part of a severance agreement.
- Materials Supplies and services were over budget by \$119,000

Commissioner fees that accrue from processing notified consents is the main cause of the increased spend. In particular, the Hilton Hotel and Wellington Marine Education Centre consents attracted significant hearing fees and these costs have been passed on to the applicants as set down in our charging policy.

- Travel and Transport costs were over budget by \$65,000

In part, this variance is caused by 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 \$391,000.

Additional legal fees that arise from prosecuting pollution incidents are the main reason for the increase over budget. We have had some relief in the form of fines imposed and costs recovered from perpetrators. However, these recoveries only offset such costs partially.

We have provided for the disposal of hulks (seven), declared ownerless, and considered a risk to the harbour and navigation. Work is well advanced for the scuttling of these and we have provided some \$245,000 in our accounts to cover the cost of removing these from our harbour waters.

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

A new software package for resource consent applications, monitoring, pollution response and biosecurity is being developed. However, at this stage, because the contractor is not as advanced as our budget anticipated we have not been charged at the level that we budgeted.

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

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) came at a lower level than our budgets anticipated.

Most of the underspend is with the groundwater model project and the Beacon Hill communication facility upgrade.

The groundwater model project, a 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 is 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.

We have carried over \$100,000 of the underspend into the new financial year.

The Beacon Hill communication facility upgrade and equipment for the Safety Management Systems is less advanced than anticipated. Accordingly, we have not taken up the loan that we budgeted. These funds will be drawn down in the 2007/08 financial year.