

Pollution Control Annual Report 2004-2005

Resource Investigations Department and Wairarapa Division
Greater Wellington Regional Council

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1. Introduction

Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team manages pollution in the west of the region via a 24-hour, 7-day incident response service, site inspections, and targeted investigations. The Planning and Resources Department provide a similar function in the Wairarapa. Investigating officers evaluate the significance of each incident, assess compliance, determine necessary action, and gather evidence and take enforcement action where appropriate.

This report summarises the Council's pollution control activities over the financial year 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. A total of 1,258 environmental incidents were logged by Greater Wellington during this reporting period, which gave rise to a total of 1,476 individual complaints. Table 1 summarises the geographical distribution of incidents in the region, while Table 2 presents results by type of incident/complaint.

Table 1: Geographic distribution of incidents in 2004/05 (and 2003/04)

Territorial authority area	Number of incidents	Proportion of total
Wellington City Council	591 (560)	47% (50%)
Hutt City Council	306 (269)	24% (24%)
Upper Hutt City Council	70 (45)	6% (4%)
Porirua City Council	119 (107)	9% (9.5%)
Kapiti Coast District Council	83 (59)	7% (5.3%)
Wairarapa	89 (81)	7% (7.2%)
Total	1,258 (1,121)	100%

Table 2: Reported incidents and complaints 2004/05 (and 2003/04)

Classification	Incidents 2005 (2004)	% of all Incidents	Complaints 2005 (2004)
Odour	428 (491)	34.0%	624 (799)
Liquid waste	192 (134)	15.3%	194 (136)
Hydrocarbons	101 (51)	8.0%	104 (51)
Silt	90 (51)	7.2%	96 (53)
Unconsented works	71 (68)	5.6%	71 (69)
Smoke & dust	66 (45)	5.2%	65 (45)
Sewage	61 (57)	4.8%	61 (58)
Solid waste	51 (46)	4.1%	51 (46)
Natural occurrence	45 (24)	3.6%	46 (24)
Hazardous material	44 (53)	3.5%	45 (53)

Classification	Incidents 2005 (2004)	% of all Incidents	Complaints 2005 (2004)
Vehicle	31 (30)	2.5%	32 (31)
Dead animal	23 (28)	1.8%	25 (29)
Other	55 (43)	4.4%	62 (43)
Total	1,258 (1,121)	100%	1,476 (1,437)

When compared to the previous financial year, there has been a 13% increase in pollution incident numbers and a 7% increase in complaints. There has been a marked upward trend in both incidents and complaints since 1998, as illustrated by the dotted trend line in Figure 1. This trend is attributed to a range of factors, including growing public awareness of the Pollution Hotline service and more effective liaison with our territorial authority counterparts.

When compared to the previous year, water pollution by silt, hydrocarbons and liquid waste show the most marked increases. Only nuisance odour shows a significant reduction compared to previous years. Sections 1.1 to 1.10 of this report provide a more detailed analysis of recent trends for specific pollution classes.

Figure 1: Incidents and complaints

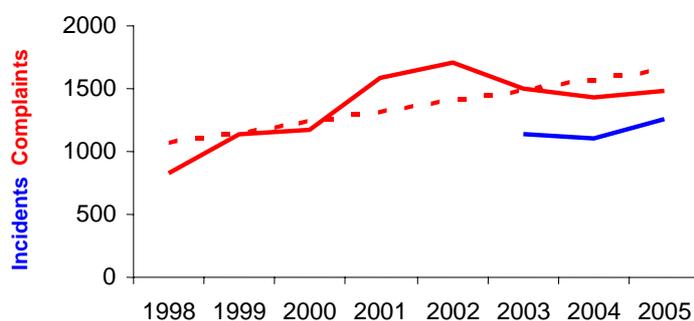
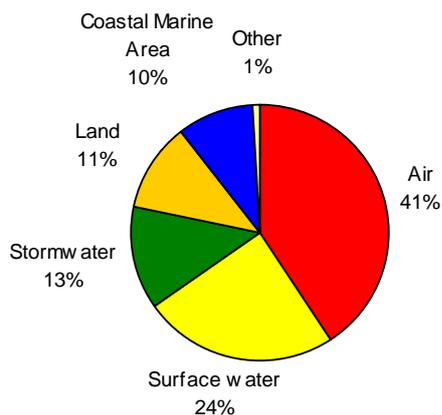


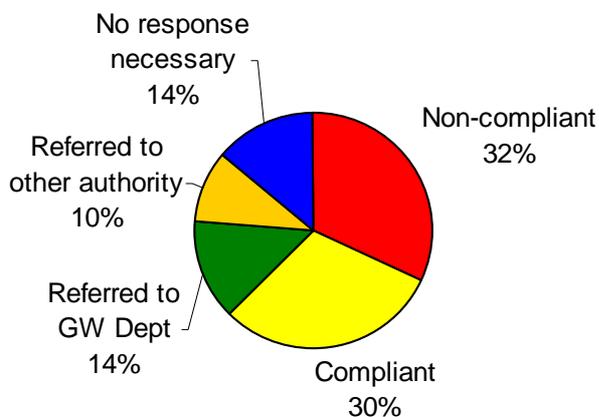
Figure 2 shows that, as in previous years, air pollution was the most commonly occurring incident type. This was mainly due to industrial odour, and represents 41% of all reported incidents. Water pollution was also relatively common, with 37% of incidents attributed to a combination of stormwater and surface water pollution by silt, oil, paint and other contaminants.

Figure 2: Parts of the environment affected by pollution incidents



A third of all reported incidents were confirmed as breaches of regional rules or the Resource Management Act 1991, and resulted in some form of further action. Another third were found to be compliant when investigated, with no regulatory action required. A quarter of all reported incidents fell outside the jurisdiction of Greater Wellington, and were referred to the appropriate territorial authority or other regulatory agency. No response was necessary for 14% of reported incidents, typically because notification was received some time after the incident ended.

Figure 3: Classification of reported incidents



All reported incidents are ranked according to their significance, based upon their severity, extent and duration of adverse environmental effects. Table 3 illustrates that only 6 reported incidents were considered to be of high significance, with over 90% being ranked as low significance, or were not assessed. There was a similar distribution for incident significance in the previous year. The incidents categorised as ‘not assessed’ are those where there were no adverse effects, where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, extent or duration of environmental effects.

Table 3: Significance of reported incidents

Significance Class	Incidents 2005 (2004)	% of all incidents 2005 (2004)
Extreme	0 (0)	0 (0)
High	6 (7)	0.5 (0.6)
Moderate	43 (42)	3.4 (3.7)
Minor	53 (36)	4.2 (3.2)
Very low	592 (481)	47.1 (42.9)
Not assessed	564 (555)	44.8 (49.5)
Total	1,258 (1,121)	100 (100)

The most significant incidents that occurred during the year are listed in Table 4. Some of the more commonly occurring incidents are also presented in this table *in italics*, indicating their relative significance.

Table 4: Overview of incidents

Rank	Incident Description (& Responsible Party)	Significance Score	Significance Class
1	Stream destroyed by subdivision earthworks (Ohio Properties Limited)	5000	High
2	Damming of a stream causing flooding (Richard Garlick Property)	4762	High
3=	Silt discharge to stream from earthworks (Ohio Properties Limited)	4680	High
3=	Silt discharge to stream from earthworks (Brooklyn Holdings Limited)	4680	High
5	Land slip due to forestry & tracking activity (Brent Jacobsen)	4666	High
6	Herbicide discharge into Porirua Stream (unknown source)	4567	High
7	Sewage leak following landslip (Wellington City Council)	4428	Moderate
8=	Spray drift from aerial pesticide application (Willy Falloon)	4424	Moderate
8=	Chemical leakage from drums onto land (Courtenay Trading Co Ltd)	4424	Moderate
8=	Latex spill (20 tonnes) onto Kings Wharf (Crawford Carrying/CentrePort)	4424	Moderate
8=	Diesel discharge into Hutt River (C & M Transport Ltd)	4424	Moderate

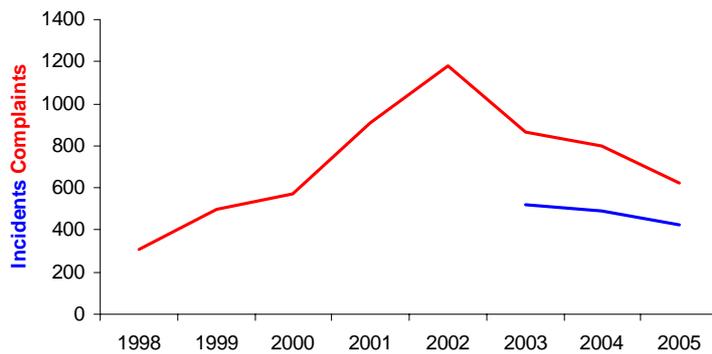
Rank	Incident Description (& Responsible Party)	Significance Score	Significance Class
8=	MDC oxidation ponds (Masterton District Council)	4424	Moderate
8=	Silt discharge to stream from quarry (Otaki Quarry)	4424	Moderate
8=	Silt discharge to stream from earthworks (Ohiro Properties Limited)	4424	Moderate
8=	Re-alignment of Wainuiomata River (Shane Edwards)	4424	Moderate
183	Paint wastewater discharge to stormwater (various)	3273*	Low
184	Concrete wastewater discharge to stormwater (various)	3192*	Low
201	Unconsented stream culvert (various)	3130*	Low
280	Vehicle driving on restricted beach (various)	3053*	Low
365	Abandoned vehicle in watercourse (various)	2574*	Low
366	Oil spill to road from vehicle accident (various)	2528*	Low
532	Nuisance odour from industrial site (various)	1980*	Low
555	Car wash wastewater discharge to stormwater (various)	1759*	Low
556	Solvent odour from spray painting (various)	1629*	Low

*indicates average score for this incident type

1.1 Nuisance odour

Nuisance odour was the predominant incident class, representing one third of all reported incidents. However, there was a substantial decline in odour incidents when compared to previous years, with this year's complaint numbers representing approximately half of those reported in 2001 and 2002. As in previous years, the majority of reported incidents were associated with the Carey's Gully complex (comprising the Southern Landfill, United Water sludge dewatering plant and Living Earth composting plant) and the Taylor Preston meatworks in Ngauranga Gorge. However, there were also numerous odour incidents attributed to the Seaview wastewater treatment plant in winter, following illegal discharges to the trade waste system from a local industry. The development of new inner city apartments is contributing to an increase in odour complaints about adjacent businesses that pre-date the apartments, most notably fish processing and spray painting.

Figure 4: Odour incidents & complaints



The downward trend in odour incidents since 2002 is attributed to a combination of unsettled weather and infrastructure improvements at key sites. There has been a significant reduction in odour incidents attributed to the



New bio-filter to control odour from Taylor Preston meat works.

Taylor Preston meat works since the installation of a biofilter at the site. Recent improvements in the control of fugitive emissions has also resulted in a significant improvement in performance at the United Water sludge dewatering facility at Carey's Gully.

1.2 Liquid waste

Pollution incidents involving liquid waste have more than doubled since 2002, and typically involved the disposal of paint, detergent or concrete waste into stormwater drains or watercourses. The increase in liquid waste incidents is attributed to growth in the building sector and home renovation activity, in conjunction with growing public awareness about water pollution.



Contractor removing paint and silt from a stormwater sump.

Significant initiatives taken by Greater Wellington to combat liquid waste pollution include release of the 'Save the Drain for Rain' pamphlet, and a focus on reducing stormwater pollution via the Council's 'Be the Difference' campaign.

1.3 Hydrocarbons

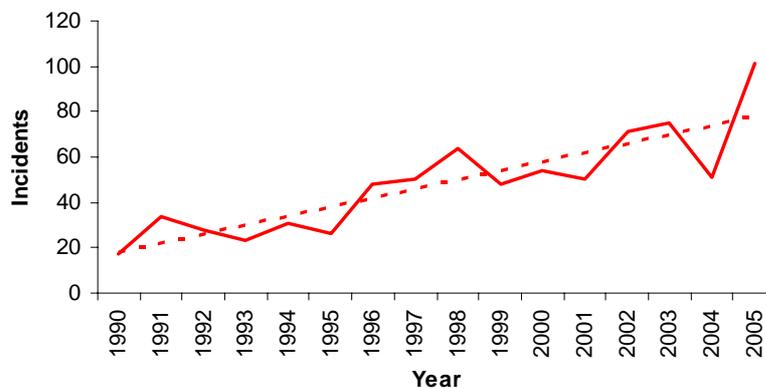
Hydrocarbon incidents include the accidental or intentional disposal of fuel and oil, typically into stormwater drains. Accidental discharges typically involved automotive fluids leaking into roadside drains following vehicle accidents, or leaks from above ground bulk storage tanks or pipes. Examples of typical intentional discharges include the draining of vehicle fuel tanks onto paved surfaces (if filled with incorrect fuel), and the disposal of sump oil or edible oil into stormwater drains.

There has been an upward trend in hydrocarbon incidents since 1990, and a marked increase since the previous year. The long term trend could be attributed to growing vehicle ownership and improved reporting, rather than an actual deterioration in environmental performance. Although many vehicle workshops and service stations in the region no longer accept waste oil, there is little evidence to date of intentional waste oil disposal to stormwater drains.



Clean-up of a diesel fuel spill at Makara.

Figure 5: Hydrocarbon incidents



Greater Wellington's Take Charge programme has focused upon preventing accidental and intentional hydrocarbon discharges into the stormwater system. Our assessments of service stations and motor vehicle workshops have emphasised stormwater protection and the appropriate storage and disposal of fuels and oils. Greater Wellington and territorial authorities in the region also developed the 'Save the Drain for Rain' pamphlet for stormwater protection.

1.4 Silt

The shortage of flat sections in the West of the region has effectively forced developers onto steeper sites, increasing the risk of soil erosion during vegetation clearance and earthworks. Few developers adequately control muddy run-off from their sites, which can cause heavy silt loading for nearby streams and rivers. Silt incidents have increased threefold since 2002, which is largely attributed to the growth in building activity, and greater regulatory scrutiny.

Greater Wellington identified this emerging problem and initiated the 'Muddy Waters' programme in conjunction with territorial authorities, to up-skill regulators, and guide developers and contractors in how to control erosion and silt loss at construction sites. Further detail of the Muddy Waters programme is presented in section 4.2.1 of this document.



Silt from vehicles crossing the Makara Stream.



Overwhelmed silt control measures at St Ives subdivision site in Porirua.



Good erosion control measures at a Johnsonville subdivision.

1.5 Unconsented works

This category includes stream works (such as erosion protection, channel diversion or culvert placement), earthworks and vegetation clearance that have been done without the necessary resource consent being obtained. Most unconsented works were associated with the establishment of building platforms, access roads or erosion protection. There has been a marked increase in unconsented works over the last five years. The doubling of unconsented work incidents since 2003 is largely attributed to the building boom and greater scrutiny by regulatory officers.

Where those responsible for unconsented works are able to obtain resource consent retrospectively, Greater Wellington encourages them to do so. However, there is likely to be an additional penalty for intentional avoidance of due process. Where unconsented works would not qualify for a retrospective resource consent, the owner is typically required to remove non-complying structures or reinstate affected areas, and may also incur a financial penalty.



Unconsented culverting of a stream at Happy Valley.



Unconsented dam and stream abstraction at Te Horo.



Unconsented cross-blading of the Waikanae River.

1.6 Smoke and dust

The number of incidents associated with smoke and dust has remained relatively constant over recent years. The most common source of dust nuisance were windblown dust from contractors' yards, building depots and bark yards. Smoke incidents most commonly occur due to open burning of solid waste or vegetation at commercial and residential properties, burning of tyres, or where heat is used to remove oil or plastic residues from surfaces.

The Pollution Control Team is developing Memoranda of Understanding with several territorial authorities throughout the region, which clarify regulatory jurisdiction for smoke and dust incidents. The introduction of the National Air Quality Standard will also strengthen the Council's ability to regulate smoke arising from the open burning of oil, tyres, coated wire and bitumen.



Open burning of tyres at Te Ore Ore in the Wairarapa.



Dust nuisance from demolition site at Korokoro Hospital.



Burning and burial of tyres at a Wainuiomata industrial site.

1.7 Sewage

Greater Wellington responds to incidents involving the uncontrolled discharge of sewage to land or water, which typically occurs as a consequence of pump failure, pipe blockage or pipe defects. The significant variability in sewage incident numbers over recent years gives no cause for concern with respect to the management or maintenance of municipal sewerage infrastructure in the region.

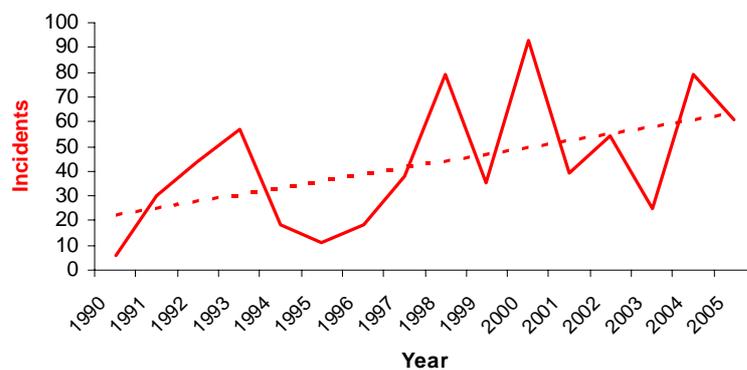


Cleaning-up a sewage overflow in central Wellington.

However, there have been recent indications of inadequacies in the maintenance of domestic on-site sewage treatment systems (such as septic tanks), resulting in the discharge of sewage to land and water.

A reporting and response protocol is in place for sewage incidents, via which territorial authorities notify Greater Wellington and the Regional Public Health service about any uncontrolled sewage release from their infrastructure. Greater Wellington and territorial authorities in the region are also developing a database of septic tanks in the region, so that their impact on environmental quality can be better assessed.

Figure 6: Sewage incidents



1.8 Solid waste

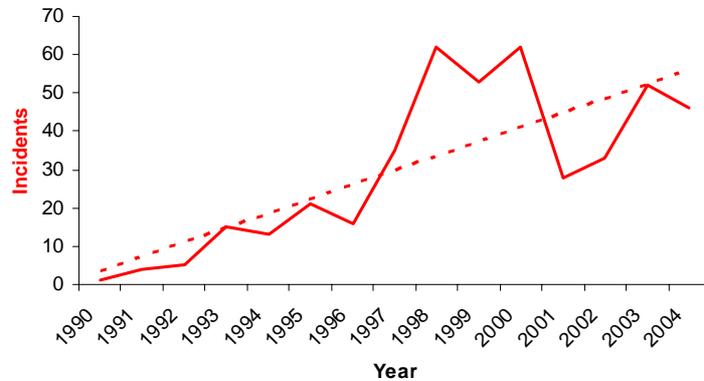
Solid waste incidents refer to the inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste, which is typically dumped on private land, roads, or recreational areas such as stream channels or parks. There has been a long term



Removal of car bodies buried in an Upper Hutt garden.

upward trend in solid waste incidents (see Figure 7), and it is anticipated that this will continue as people try to avoid disposal fees at municipal landfills.

Figure 7: Solid waste incidents



1.9 Natural occurrences

This incident category was added in 2004, and reported incidents included algal blooms, pollen, seaweed, jellyfish swarms, flood debris, erosion and dead animals. Natural occurrence incidents last year were double those for the 2004 reporting period, which was largely due to an increase in flood related incidents.



Flood debris at Seatoun Beach after January storms.

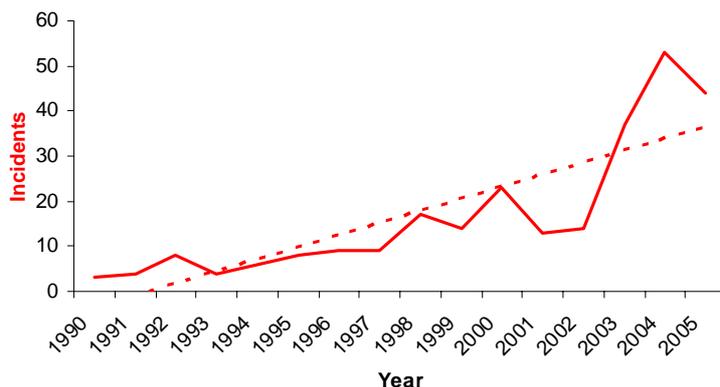


Algal bloom at an ornamental lake, Raumati South.

1.10 Hazardous substances

Incidents involving hazardous substances include requests for the collection of household agrichemicals, spills and leaks from accidents on roads and at industrial sites, and intentional dumping to avoid disposal fees. There has been a notable upward trend in hazardous substance incidents over recent years, as illustrated in Figure 8. The continuing rise in hazardous substance disposal fees may be contributing to this trend.

Figure 8: Hazardous substance incidents



In 2002, Greater Wellington funded the provision of a HazMobile for the collection and packaging of hazardous waste in the region. The HazMobile is loaned to territorial authorities for household hazardous waste collection in their areas. Since 2002, the HazMobile has been mobilised each year by Upper Hutt City Council and the Hutt City Council, collecting an average of approximately 7 tonnes of hazardous waste per year.



Hazardous materials dumped beside the Owhiro Stream at Brooklyn.



Household hazardous substance collection using the HazMobile.

2. Regional incident summary

Table 5 illustrates the distribution of incidents amongst territorial authority areas in the region. As in previous years, almost 75% of incidents occurred in the areas administered by Wellington City Council and the Hutt City Council. These areas have only 61% of the region's population. This imbalance is probably attributed to Wellington and Seaview/Gracefield areas being the focus for much of the region's industrial and commercial activity.

Table 5: Regional incident summary

TYPE	Territorial Authority					
	WCC	HCC	UHCC	PCC	KCDC	WAIR*
Odour	260	149	1	13	5	0
Liquid waste	106	42	12	13	4	15
Hydrocarbons	63	12	6	8	7	5
Silt	40	18	7	12	12	1
Sewage	28	14	3	4	9	3
Natural occurrence	19	7	1	8	6	4
Hazardous material	16	9	3	7	5	4
Unconsented works	16	13	16	10	9	7
Solid waste	15	10	9	8	4	5
Smoke & Dust	15	14	4	10	8	15
Dead animal	5	7	2	3	2	4
Vehicle	1	5	2	14	5	4
Other	7	6	4	9	7	22
Total	591	306	70	119	83	89

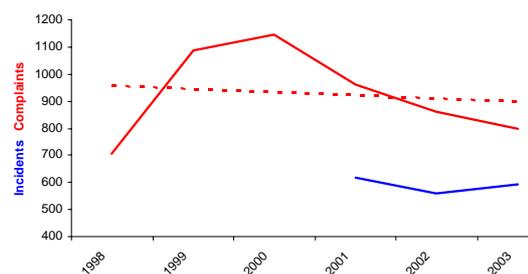
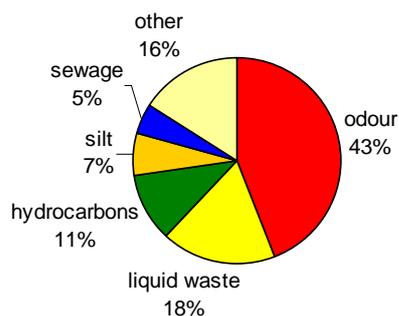
* Wairarapa territorial authorities comprise Carterton DC, Masterton DC & S. Wairarapa DC.

Territorial authorities containing larger urbanised areas showed a similar distribution of incident types, with odour, liquid waste, hydrocarbons and silt dominating. By contrast, incidents in the more rural areas tended to arise from waste, smoke, silt and unconsented works.

Most territorial authority areas show an increasing trend in complaints and incident. Complaint numbers in Wellington City have been relatively stable over the last three years, as a decrease in odour complaints has been offset by an increase in other forms of pollution. The only clear downward trend in the region is in the Wairarapa, where incident numbers have, for some reason, been declining steadily since 2001.

The following sections provide an assessment of incidents and complaints by geographic area.

2.1 Wellington City



Incidents: 591 (560 in 2003/2004)

Complaints: 798 (861 in 2003/2004)

Significant incidents:

- A 20 tonne shipping container fell from a parked trailer on Kings Wharf in December 2004. Approximately 20 tonnes of carpet adhesive escaped onto the wharf, some of which entered the harbour, resulting in minor discoloration around the wharf, and latex deposits in Chaffer's Marina. CentrePort and Pacifica Shipping implemented a prompt clean-up, and civil actions are currently underway to determine liability for this incident.
- In December 2004, there was an uncontrolled release of up to 7 tonnes of cement dust during bulk transfer from a ship (the Westport) to Golden Bay Cement's silos on Aotea Quay. This discharge breached the company's resource consent for discharges to air. Greater Wellington monitored the clean-up and recovered costs for this incident. The company has since improved its site management procedures to prevent a recurrence.
- A growing number of hazardous substance incidents associated with the Wellington rail marshalling yards and ferry terminal led to an investigation by the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee (see section 4.2.2 for further information).
- There were two accidents involving Mobil bulk fuel storage facilities on the same weekend in March 2005. Failure of a shut-off valve released up to 5,000 litres of kerosene in Miramar, while a rupture in the Ngaio Gorge bulk storage tank released less than 100 litres of light fuel oil. In both instances, fuel was held in on-site secondary containment structures, preventing any adverse environmental impact. Despite this, Mobil has investigated both incidents and upgraded site infrastructure to prevent a recurrence.
- In March 2005, a large mobile crane toppled over an embankment, releasing fuel and hydraulic oil into the Botanic Gardens duck pond via the stormwater network. Greater Wellington deployed booms to contain the spill, and recovered clean-up costs from Titan Cranes.

- The Pollution Control Team has dealt with repeated non-compliance from subdivision developments by Brooklyn Holdings Limited and Ohiro Properties Limited, both of which have the same director. Their activities resulted in the destruction of a tributary to the Ohiro Stream at Brooklyn, and multiple discharges of silt-laden run-off into the Ohiro Stream. Greater Wellington obtained an interim enforcement order (currently under appeal to the High Court) requiring Ohiro Properties to re-instate the stream, while Brooklyn Holdings was served with an abatement notice requiring them to install appropriate erosion and sediment control measures.

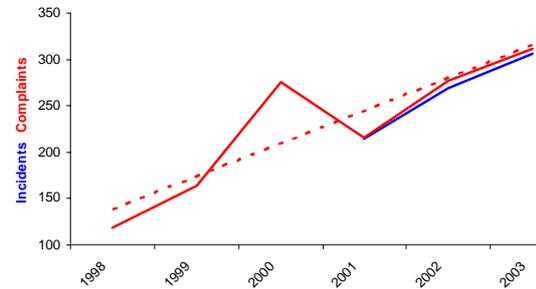
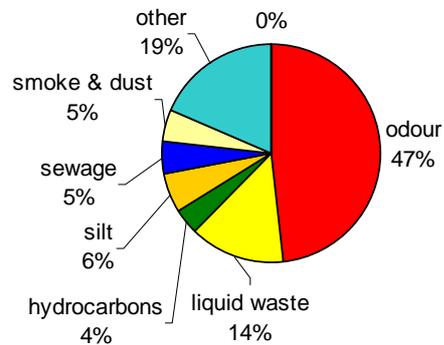


Unconsented earthworks destroyed this stream channel in Brooklyn.

- During a period of 24 hours in March, there were several discharges of dilute sewage to Lavender Bay from the short outfall over serving Wellington City Council's sewage treatment plant at Moa Point (operated by United Water International). The discharges resulted from multiple electrical and mechanical failures at the plant. Wellington City Council was served with an abatement notice requiring a range of site improvements, all of which have been completed.
- A broken sewer main in downtown Wellington caused a major sewage discharge into the Wellington Harbour at Frank Kitts Park in May 2005. Wellington City Council responded promptly to repair the discharge, remove contamination and warn the public of potential health risks.
- A contaminated stormwater discharge to Houghton Bay in June 2005 was traced to leachate coming from a closed landfill site. An advisory notice was issued to Wellington City Council prohibiting further discharge, and improvement works are currently underway.
- There were multiple discharges of silt into streams from the Horokiwi and Waitohu quarries. Pollution Control officers had previously visited these sites under the Take Charge programme, and are currently working with site managers to ensure silt control provisions are upgraded at these sites.
- Silt discharges from two subdivisions in Johnsonville resulted in discoloration of the Ngauranga and Stebbings Streams. Pollution Control Officers discussed the adequacy of silt control provisions with their

designer (Truebridge Callendar Beach), who subsequently implemented necessary improvements.

2.2 Hutt City



Incidents: 306 (269 in 2003/04)

Complaints: 311 (277 in 2003/04)

Significant incidents:

- In December 2005, an accident at the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant led to contaminants entering the Te Mome Stream (a tributary of the Hutt River). Exide Technologies mobilised an immediate emergency response to this incident, and has subsequently improved infrastructure and procedures at the site to prevent a recurrence. A subsequent investigation by Greater Wellington revealed significant heavy metal contamination in the Te Mome Stream. Exide Technologies has since commissioned an independent investigation into the severity and extent of this contamination, its likely source, and to determine the risk it presents to the public and the environment.

- Odour complaints along the Wainuiomata Coast Road in July 2005 led to a review of stormwater and waste disposal activities at the Wainuiomata landfill. A site investigation confirmed that heavy metals were not being adequately controlled on site, allowing them to enter the site stormwater drainage system. Further sampling confirmed that heavy metals were entering the Wainuiomata River. Greater Wellington required the Hutt City Council to remediate contaminated areas and



Unconsented culvert installed in a Wainuiomata stream.

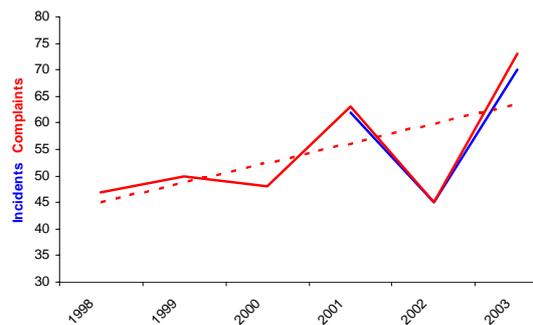
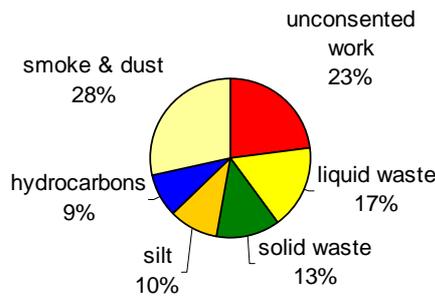
improve stormwater and waste management practices at the landfill. Improvement works were underway at the time of writing.

- Pollution Control Officers identified a range of illegal activities being conducted by Drogue Construction at a cleanfill site in Waiu Street, Wainuiomata. These activities included burying large volumes of non-cleanfill demolition waste, discharges of contaminants to surface water, unconsented diversion of a stream and the construction of an illegal culvert. An enforcement order was issued to Drogue Construction, requiring these issues to be addressed. Most items in the enforcement order had been complied with at the time of writing.
- Following repeated investigations in conjunction with Hutt City Council Officers, Resene Paints at Naenae was confirmed as a source of paint discharges into the Waiwhetu Stream. The company has since made extensive site improvements to reduce the risk of further pollution, and incidents of discoloration in the Waiwhetu Stream appear to have reduced.



Unconsented culvert and stream reclamation at a Wainuiomata cleanfill.

2.3 Upper Hutt City



Incidents: 70 (45 in 2003/04)

Complaints: 73 (45 in 2003/04)

Significant incidents:

- In December 2005, major land slips caused by track construction and logging operations choked the Witako Stream and blocked Blue Mountains Road. The Pollution Control Team has since worked with

landowners in the area to rehabilitate the affected site and minimise further impact on the Witako stream.

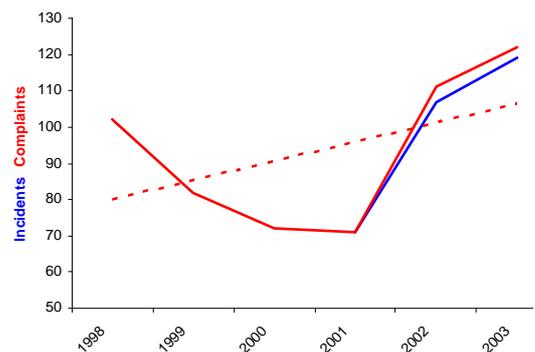
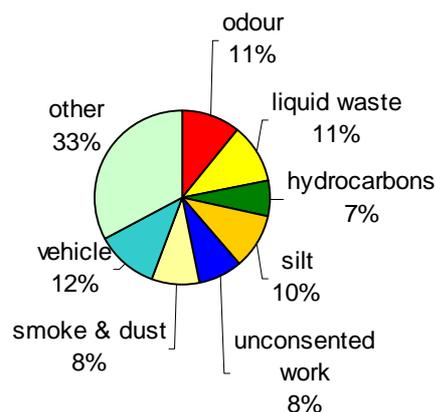
- Pollution Control Officers worked with the Regional Public Health service following the occurrence of several legionella cases in Upper Hutt. An abatement notice was subsequently issued to Sutherland & Russell Limited, requiring no further production of compost at its site, unless done in accordance with a resource consent.



Stream channel destroyed by landslide in the Blue Mountains.

- Bank erosion along the Mangaroa River at Maymorn is exposing the contents of an historic landfill site. Local landowners and our Flood Protection Department are currently preparing a plan to divert the river and protect this bank, to prevent further loss of contaminants into the river.
- The Gabities pig farm has now closed, and there are plans to dispose of accumulated pig slurry onto adjacent land, pending subdivision of the site. Greater Wellington officers are working with the site owner to ensure that these plans do not result in adverse impacts upon adjacent land and watercourses.

2.4 Porirua City



Incidents: 119 (107 in 2003/04)

Complaints: 122 (111 in 2003/04)

Significant incidents:

- Developers of the large Aotea Block subdivision installed inadequate erosion and sediment control measures, resulting in significant silt export into the Pauatahanui Inlet. Both Summerset Villages Limited and Carrus Limited were issued with infringement notices, and stricter conditions have been imposed via conditions in subsequent resource consents.
- Premature removal of a sediment retention pond at the St Ives subdivision led to discoloration of the Pauatahanui Inlet. An infringement notice was issued to St Ives Group Limited. The developer reinstated the sediment pond, and was in the process of stabilising exposed surfaces at the time of writing.



Silt discharge to stormwater at the Sunlink subdivision development.

- Unconsented operations at Landfill Porirua Limited's cleanfill site involved the diversion of Mitchell Stream, flood control works, extension of a culvert, bulk earthworks and dumping of non-cleanfill materials. A retrospective consent was obtained for the culvert extension and bulk earthworks, and an advisory notice was issued requiring removal of non-cleanfill materials. Investigations are continuing into stream diversion and flood works.
- Power Boat racing in the Porirua Harbour resulted in multiple noise complaints from affected residents. Subsequent monitoring confirmed that the racing significantly exceeded the 55 dB(A) limit for activities in the coastal marine area. Organisers have been advised that future events will require a resource consent unless noise levels are reduced.
- There have been multiple pollution events in the Porirua Stream throughout the year. Most were attributed to contaminants such as waste oil, detergent and paint entering stormwater drains in the Tawa industrial area and subdivision development at Churton Park. The Pollution Control Team has conducted compliance

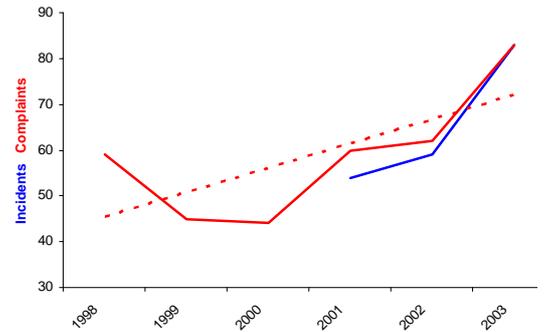
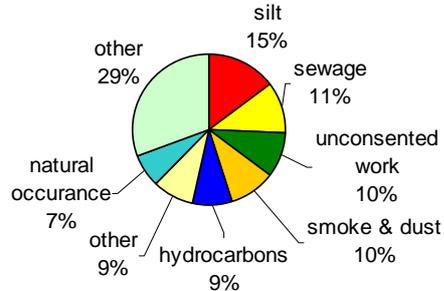


Motorcycle riding on a restricted part of Titahi Bay beach.

surveys in these areas to identify actual and potential sources of pollution.

- Officers responded to several instances of vehicles being driven or parked on restricted parts of the Titahi Bay beach. Vehicle use on the foreshore within the coastal marine area is restricted to prevent damage to the underlying Pleistocene fossil forest.

2.5 Kapiti Coast District



Incidents: 83 (59 in 2003/04)

Complaints: 83 (62 in 2003/04)

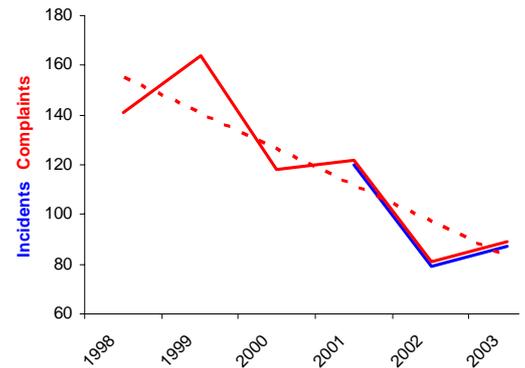
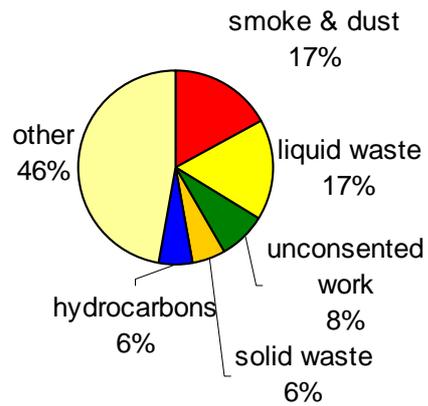
Significant incidents:

- A ruptured truck fuel tank resulted in a diesel spill of up to 300 litres, which entered stormwater drains at Lindale, Paraparaumu in April 2005. A Pollution Control Officer arranged for the containment and recovery of spilt diesel, and is currently in the process of recovering costs incurred from Freight Lines Limited.
- A head-on collision between a car and truck carrying sludge from the Paraparaumu sewage treatment plant caused a large spill of sewage sludge on State Highway 1 near Waikanae. Emergency services blocked the road and arranged for a prompt clean-up.



Sewage sludge clean-up on State Highway 1 near Waikanae.

2.6 Wairarapa*



Incidents: 89 (81 in 2002/03)

Complaints: 89 (81 in 2002/03)

Significant incidents:

- Since December 2005, an organic orchard owner in South Wairarapa has lodged several spray drift complaints against a neighbour. The Council has stepped back from investigating these complaints after civil litigation proceedings began in 2005.
- The spring-fed Fleet Street Stream in Masterton dried up for the first time in history in January 2005. A large scale fish and eel relocation programme was initiated, and significant staff time was spent trying to determine whether this was due to illegal abstraction. However, no single cause was identified.
- Damming of a Masterton stream resulted in the flooding of upstream properties. This issue was dealt with by way of an abatement notice requiring removal of the dam.
- In late summer, a toxic algal bloom affecting Masterton's oxidation ponds resulted in a large part of the Ruamahanga River being closed to recreational use for a period.
- In February 2005, an unconsented sandblasting operation was shut down



Abandoned vehicle in the Ruamahanga River at Masterton.

* Comprising Masterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council

at Blackrock Road in rural Masterton, in an area being developed for lifestyle blocks. The business has subsequently been granted resource consent to operate from its new premises.

- In May 2005, a truck containing approximately 5,000 litres of aviation fuel rolled down a gully and landed upside down in a tributary of the Taueru River at Taueru. Council staff, contractors and the New Zealand Fire Service worked to decant the fuel from the truck and remove the vehicle from the stream. There was no significant adverse environmental effect arising from this incident.
- In April 2005, a large volume of contaminated stormwater was pumped from a sub-division stormwater detention pond at Titoki Street, Masterton into the nearby Lansdowne Stream. Regulatory action was pending at the time of writing.

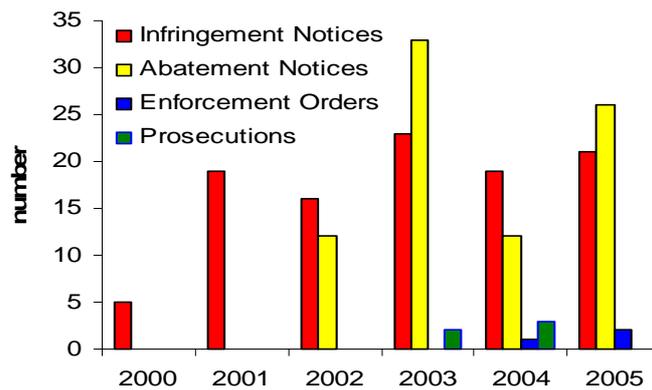
3. Regulatory action

Greater Wellington's regulatory officers took a range of enforcement action during the year, as summarised in Table 6 and Figure 4. The following sections provide further details.

Table 6: Regulatory action summary

	Pollution Control	Consents Management	Wairarapa Division	Total
Advisory Notices	61 (63)	0 (5)	0 (0)	61 (68)
Infringement Notices	9 (6)	8 (5)	4 (8)	21 (19)
Abatement Notices	17 (5)	6 (3)	3 (4)	26 (12)
Enforcement Orders	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)
Prosecutions	0 (2)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (3)

Figure 9: Enforcement action since July 2000



3.1 Informal action

The Environment Division uses advisory notices to deal with minor non-compliance, and direct the recipient to take specified action. They continue to be an effective regulatory tool, enabling officers to resolve many environmental incidents quickly.

3.2 Formal action

3.2.1 Retrospective resource consents

Some non-compliant activities can be dealt with by issuing a resource consent retrospectively, where there is a need to control future effects or ongoing maintenance. This approach may require the applicant to undertake supplementary work, and does not preclude the use of other regulatory tools such as infringement fines or cost recovery.

3.2.2 Infringement Notices

Infringement notices can be issued for specified offences under the Resource Management Act 1991, to punish offenders and deter others. An infringement notice can impose a fine of \$300 to \$1,000, depending on the nature of the offence. The 21 infringement notices served during this reporting period are summarised in Table 7.

In the west of the region, infringement activity mainly occurred in response to works in watercourses, disposal of non-cleanfill material, and offensive odour emissions. By contrast, infringement activity in the Wairarapa was mainly a consequence of illegal waste discharges from dairy sheds or piggeries, and excessive abstraction of water. None of these infringement notices were appealed, and in two cases, unpaid infringement fines were referred to the District Court for recovery.

Greater Wellington has suffered a significant setback regarding infringement of drivers on restricted parts of Titahi Bay beach, as an Environment Court judge indicated that it was not appropriate for infringement notices to be issued to the registered owner of a vehicle if the driver was not identifiable. Greater Wellington is currently considering its options with respect to this matter.

Recipient	Location	Offence	Date
Higgins Concrete Ltd	Wellington	Discharge of waste water	13-Jul-04
Orica Chemicals	Wellington	Discharge of contaminants to land	15-Jul-04
Brooklyn Holdings Ltd	Wellington	Discharge of contaminants to land	09-Aug-04
Wellington City Council	Wellington	Unconsented works in stream	06-Sep-04
Capital Cleaning Services Ltd	Wellington	Breach of Abatement Notice	09-Nov-04
Wainuiomata Golf Club	Hutt City	Deposition of contaminants into river	20-Aug-04
Allied Concrete Ltd	Hutt City	Discharge of waste water	27-Aug-04
Nuplex Environmental Ltd	Hutt City	Unconsented works	05-Aug-04
Nuplex Environmental Ltd	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to air	20-Dec-04
Brian McNeil	Upper Hutt	Discharge of dairy effluent to land	10-Mar-05
TSE Group	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to water	22-Jul-04
URS New Zealand Ltd	Kapiti	Unconsented works	28-Jul-04
St Ives Group Limited	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to surface water	02-Nov-04
Artie Mathew Hunter	Porirua	Unauthorised vehicle on Titahi Bay beach	19-Nov-04

Recipient	Location	Offence	Date
Tessa Corin Lont	Porirua	Unauthorised vehicle on Titahi Bay beach	19-Jan-05
Aran Frederick Hinkley	Porirua	Unauthorised vehicle on Titahi Bay beach	19-Jan-05
Linda June Hosking	Porirua	Unauthorised vehicle on Titahi Bay beach	19-Jan-05
Greater Wellington - Land & River Operations Dept	Masterton	Discharge of contaminants to river	17-Sep-04
Greater Wellington - Land & River Operations Dept	Masterton	Unconsented works in river	17-Sep-04
Contractor, Masterton	Masterton	Unconsented gravel extraction	19-May-05
Contractor, Masterton	Masterton	Unconsented gravel extraction	19-May-05

3.2.3 Abatement Notices

Abatement notices are a formal instruction issued to require someone to do something or stop doing something, to resolve an environmental problem and/or comply with regulatory requirements. If an abatement notice is not complied with, the Council can prosecute or issue an infringement notice. A total of 26 abatement notices were served during this reporting period, as summarised in Table 8. There has been a significant increase in the issue of abatement notices this year.

Table 8: Abatement notices issued 2004/2005

Recipient	Location	Offence	Date
Higgins Concrete Limited	Wellington	Discharge of waste water	28-Jul-04
Allied Concrete	Wellington	Discharge of waste water	27-Aug-04
Ohiro Properties Ltd	Wellington	Discharge of contaminants to land	23-May-05
Lance James	Wellington	Discharge of contaminants to land	23-May-05
Melanie Templeton	Wellington	Discharge of contaminants to land	23-May-05
Wellington City Council	Wellington	Discharge of sewage to water	26-May-05
Wainuiomata Golf Club	Hutt City	Deposition of contaminants in river	20-Aug-04
Ray Piper Panel Beaters & Spraypainters	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to air	26-Aug-04
Droque Construction Ltd	Hutt City	Deposition of non-cleanfill material	11-Oct-04
C & M Transport Ltd	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to river	11-Mar-05
Gary Smith	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to air	27-Apr-05

Recipient	Location	Offence	Date
Bodyworks Panel & Paint Ltd	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to air	27-Apr-05
Exide Technologies	Hutt City	Discharge of contaminants to land	10-Jun-05
Brian Mc Neil	Upper Hutt	Discharge of dairy effluent to land	24-Mar-05
Marcel Boschma	Upper Hutt	Discharge of dairy effluent to land	24-Mar-05
Sutherland & Russell Ltd	Upper Hutt	Unconsented manufacture of compost	20-Aug-04
Richard Naera	Upper Hutt	Deposition of non-cleanfill material	29-Jun-05
Terry Doran	Porirua	Unconsented works in stream	26-Aug-04
Carrus Ltd	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants into stream	24-Nov-04
KP & LP Wharfe	Porirua	Stabilisation of a quarry embankment	21-Jan-05
Warren Leslie	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to air	15-Apr-05
Metal Immersions Ltd	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to air	15-Apr-05
Metal Immersions Ltd	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to air	27-May-05
Industrial Premise, rural Masterton	Masterton	Discharge of contaminants to air	03-Mar-05
Farmer, rural Masterton	Masterton	Failure to remove obstruction from stream	15-Mar-05
Commercial fisherman, rural Masterton	Masterton	Discharge of contaminants to air	30-Mar-05

3.2.4 Enforcement orders

Two enforcement orders were sought during this financial year, each of which is summarised below.

The first was an interim enforcement order sought in response to unconsented works in a stream channel by Ohiro Properties Limited. The interim enforcement order required that all further earthworks on the site cease, that the stream channel be reinstated, and that erosion and sediment control measures be installed at the site to prevent excessive silt loss to the Owhiro Stream. The order was granted by the Environment Court, although this decision is currently the subject of an appeal by the recipient to the High Court.

The second was also an interim enforcement order sought for Drogue Construction Limited, in response to a range of non-complying activities at a cleanfill site including burying large volumes of non-cleanfill demolition wastes, discharges of contaminants into surface water, diversion of a stream and the placement of an illegal culvert. The interim enforcement order required these issues to be addressed, and compliance is mostly completed. The outstanding works relate to the removal of non-cleanfill materials.

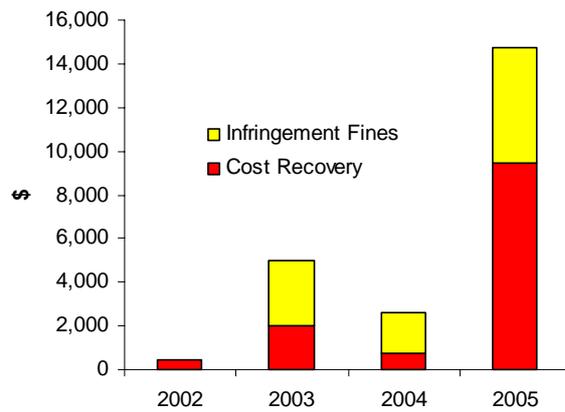
3.2.5 Prosecutions

No prosecutions were initiated this year.

3.3 Cost recovery

For instances of minor non-compliance, it is our policy to recover costs incurred (time and materials). Figure 11 shows that the Resource Investigations Department has substantially improved its cost recovery performance in recent years.

Figure 11: Costs recovered



4. Pollution prevention

4.1 *Take Charge*

Take Charge is Greater Wellington's pollution prevention programme. The objective of *Take Charge* is to improve environmental performance of participating businesses across the region. It provides an environmental assessment of facilities, activities and management procedures, following which participants are provided with a short report outlining opportunities to address non-compliance, improve environmental performance and realise opportunities for waste minimisation. Key achievements of the *Take Charge* programme during this year are summarised below:

- Greater Wellington and Kapiti Coast District Council are co-operating with an investigation into water contamination in the middle Wharemu Stream catchment in Paraparaumu. To date, this has involved an initial review of 85 industrial/commercial sites in the stream catchment, detailed assessment of activities and infrastructure at 32 of these sites, and sampling of stream sediments. Issues identified to date include inappropriate storage of hazardous substances, incorrect connection of drains, washwater discharges to the stream, lack of awareness of pollution control devices (separators, interceptors etc.) and un-consented contaminant discharges to air. Officers are currently working with these businesses to identify and implement practical solutions to these issues, and to improve their overall environmental performance. This programme is scheduled to be completed in December 2005.
- The Pollution Control Team contributed to an environmental management guideline being prepared by the network utility operator Vector, for use by contractors involved in power cable installation and maintenance. This contribution included proposing pollution control measures and presenting them to Vector's contract managers.
- Resene Paints at Naenae implemented a major upgrade of its dangerous goods storage area, to reduce the risk of off-site stormwater contamination by paint waste. Greater Wellington officers were involved in evaluating the company's proposal for stormwater upgrades.
- Exide Technologies invited Greater Wellington officers to review site stormwater management practices at its battery recycling plant in Petone. This revealed that existing provisions were largely satisfactory, with only



Take Charge assessment at an industrial site in Moera.

minor issues requiring attention (most of which will be addressed by the company's proposal to re-seal the entire yard surface).

4.2 Special projects

4.2.1 Subdivision silt control – the 'Muddy Waters' project

In the previous financial year, the Pollution Control Team noted that developers in the region were clearing and building on steeper sites, which was causing increased siltation of many watercourses in areas under development pressure. The Muddy Waters programme was initiated, to provide information to developers and contractors, and to better equip regulatory agencies in the assessment and processing of development applications. This resulted in the delivery of a series of information workshops for territorial authority officers, contractors, consultants and developers, a new guideline (Developing Small Sites), and a package for regulatory officers in the region, comprising checklists, guidelines, standard resource consent conditions, a tool for estimating silt loss, and a guide to the use of flocculation for treating silts suspended in water.

4.2.2 Hazardous substance incidents at Wellington's Port

The Pollution Control Team noted a growing trend in hazardous substance incidents at the Port of Wellington, principally around the Interislander terminal and associated rail and truck marshalling areas. This issue was raised at the region's Hazardous Substance Technical Liaison Committee, which tasked a small group to investigate emergency management plan provisions at



Overturned trailer spilled 20 tonnes of latex solution onto Kings Wharf.

the Port. This identified a number of shortfalls, which are currently being addressed by Wellington City Council's Hazardous Substances Officer, and the Workplace Safety Group of the Department of Labour.

4.2.3 Proactive odour monitoring

Officers from Greater Wellington have been monitoring the Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston sites, to better understand the relationship between site activities, odour emissions, and complaints in the surrounding community. Although the weather has not generally been favourable for this programme, some significant observations have been made.

5. Miscellaneous

5.1.1 Regional Pollution Prevention Officers Forum

Greater Wellington initiated and co-ordinates a regional pollution prevention officer's forum, designed to share information and resources between regulatory agencies involved in pollution control. This group has grown rapidly to over 50 members, and has created closer operational ties with territorial authorities and other agencies in the region.

5.1.2 Memoranda of understanding

The Pollution Control Team is working to develop Memoranda of Understanding with territorial authorities in the west of the region, to clarify jurisdictions and responsibilities with respect to pollution incidents. Agreement has already been reached with Wellington City Council, and discussions are progressing with Porirua City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council. However, the Hutt City Council has chosen not to participate. It is expected that this initiative will be concluded by mid 2006.

5.1.3 Fonterra accord

Pollution Control officers visited dairy farms in the west of the region to ensure that all held relevant resource consents. This work was done as part of the Fonterra 'clean streams' accord



Cattle with unrestricted stream access at Otaki.

5.1.4 'The Inspectors'

The television production company Top Shelf has been filming Pollution Control Officers responding to incidents, for a future edition of the television series 'The Inspectors', which will be screened in 2006.



Filming for 'The Inspectors'.

6. Annual overview & direction for 2005-2006

The continued upward trend in incident numbers over recent years remains a concern, and is considered likely to continue in coming years due to a combination of raised public awareness and stricter regulatory controls. The following outlines some of the key areas for attention in the coming year:

- Continue to work closely with territorial authorities in the region via the Regional Pollution Prevention Officer's Forum, and take steps to align our respective regulatory responses via Memoranda of Understanding and a programme of staff secondments.
- Continue our pro-active odour monitoring programme for Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston, with an option to extend it to New Zealand Fish Products, Nuplex Environmental and Hutt Valley Wastewater System in response to future incidents.
- Continue to expand our use of cost recovery, with an initial focus upon streamlining the administrative process and refining the criteria defining when cost recovery may be an appropriate option.
- An amendment to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 introduced a regulatory role for Regional Councils wishing to accept it. Greater Wellington is currently evaluating the implications of this law change, to determine whether it is appropriate for us to perform such a role.
- Where resources allow, we will conduct permitted activity monitoring to determine the effectiveness of specific rules in the Regional Plans. It is anticipated that this will focus upon septic tanks, stormwater and water takes in excess of 20,000 litres per day. If resources permit, it may also be possible to consider cleanfill sites and discharges to municipal stormwater systems from subdivision sediment ponds.