



Report 04.507
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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
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Acting Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 22 July 2004.

2. Divisional Matters

2.1 Last Meeting

This is the last scheduled meeting of the Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee prior to the October local government elections. I would like to acknowledge the productive way in which the Committee has addressed the business of the last triennium. There has been much achieved.

Best wishes to those standing again for election and congratulations to Crs Kirton and Turver on their early return to their seats.

2.2 Financial Year

The Division finished the last financial year with an operating deficit of \$733,000 relative to the original budget. The main variation was the extensive flood damage repairs from the February event.

Approvals for flood damage expenditure and for other items at the six months review meant that overall expenditure was within the total funding approved by Council.

2.3 Storm Event – 16 – 19 August

A large slow moving depression developed off the east coast during the week of 16 to 19 August initially bringing a period of very cold temperatures and heavy snow falls down to low levels. This closed the Rimutaka Road from 7.00am on Monday 16 August until 11am on Wednesday 18 August, apart from a brief

opening for an hour and a half on the Tuesday. Following the snowfalls, a prolonged southerly storm occurred on Tuesday and throughout Wednesday giving rise to widespread surface and river flooding throughout the Wairarapa.

Whilst the Tararua fed western rivers did not get particularly high, the eastern hill catchments experienced significant flooding. The Taueru River experienced a 24 year flood event, the Huangaroa River again overtopped the Ponatahi Bridge and its lower stop banks, and a 15 year return period flood was experienced at Waihenga. Other rivers experienced 2 – 3 year events.

Flood warnings were issued to most lists and Wairarapa road closure information was co-ordinated and supplied to the media. Snow, flooding, or slips closed some 25 roads during the event with both State Highways closed at different times and other key secondary routes closed. A major slip also closed the railway north of Mauriceville.

Two reports of stock losses were received from properties near the Ruamahanga-Waiohine confluence. Whilst flood warning logs show that correct warnings were issued, the nature of the event and the levels of surface runoff are thought to have resulted in not enough time for stock to be moved. Staff have discussed these circumstances with the affected farmers so that any necessary changes can be made.

Staff once again did a very commendable job in monitoring flooding, field conditions, and road closures, and getting this information out to individuals and the public.

2.4 Staffing Matters

Dave Bayley has been appointed as Senior Biosecurity Officer, Pest Plants. Dave replaces Kevin Worsley who retired late last year.

Harvey Phillips has been appointed to the position of Biosecurity Officer, Pest Animals to replace Dave Bayly and shifting his direction from animals to pests. A replacement for Harvey will be made in due course.

Cielle Stephens has been appointed as Biosecurity Officer, Monitoring and will be focusing on Bovine Tb and RPMS monitoring tasks.

Jenny Rodgers, Biosecurity Officer at the Upper Hutt office, has resigned to take up her OE.

Alton Perrie has joined the Resource Investigations Section as Environmental Scientist – Water Quality/Freshwater Ecology, taking over from Summer Warr who is now overseas. Alton has an MSc from Waikato University.

3. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)

Pest Plants

3.1 Eradication species

Smilax

A new site has been located at Langdale Road, Tinui. This discovery is significant as it is the only known site in the Masterton District outside of the township.

All other sites of smilax have been inspected. Control over the past few years with Roundup has given mixed results with some sites showing significant regrowth and other sites having good control. Staff will undertake an assessment of some sites to determine whether it is location or the chemical that is creating the problems.

Perennial nettle

Upper Hutt staff accompanied the DoC manager for Somes Island on a joint inspection and mapping programme of the island for perennial nettle on 10th August. A joint control programme will begin with initial work in November and maintenance control in February.

New sites of moth plant in Upper Hutt and sweet pea shrub in Porirua have also been located during this reporting period.

3.2 Containment Species

Boneseed

Letters were sent to occupiers in Riversdale, Lake Ferry and other South Wairarapa coastal settlements offering free control of boneseed. Approximately 800 letters were sent with freepost envelopes. The response to the offer has been very poor with less than a third of the forms returned. An inspection of the Riversdale township has revealed that far more properties have infestations than forms returned. A request to property owners to respond was included in a recent MidWeek newspaper article.

Some time has been spent by various staff assisting with the control of boneseed in the Kapiti area.

3.3 Suppression Species

Sites of the various species continue to be located on a regular basis with five new sites of banana passionfruit being located in Porirua. Staff continue to deal with regular queries and complaints relating to these species.

3.4 Vigilance Species

Numerous sites of monkey apple have been located throughout Wellington and Kapiti.

Sites of mile-a-minute are also being located. Many of these sites are on a large scale and in difficult terrain.

These recordings suggest that these plants may not be included in the Regional Pest Management Strategy at the next review unless they can be adequately zoned to achieve effective control.

3.5 Publicity

Letters have been sent to all contractors and eelers throughout the region highlighting our concerns relating to the spread of aquatic pests. This letter is part of the joint campaign with DoC, MAF and Fish & Game.

Staff are working with DoC on producing the “Plant Me Instead” booklet.

Staff attended the Wainuiomata Catchpool open day on 8th August. This was a DoC organised event that provided the public with hands on experience on revegetation projects. The event was well attended.

Kapiti Coast

3.6 Vigilance species

A further 50 sites of monkey apple have been recorded in the Kapiti area.

3.7 Eradication species

All smilax sites in the Kapiti area have been controlled.

3.8 Containment species

The boneseed service delivery area north of the Waikanae River to the Horizons Regional Council boundary is currently being worked. The Waikanae beach area has been completely surveyed and it is pleasing to report that very few mature boneseed plants remain. The Te Horo and Otaki beach areas are yet to be surveyed and cleared.

Pest Animals

3.9 Tauherenikau KNEMA

Biosecurity Pest Animals and Pest Plants staff are currently working collaboratively to undertake a long-term control programme to rid the Tauherenikau Racecourse bush and adjoining Donald’s Bush of invasive plants and predator pests for the purpose of enhancing the biodiversity values and long-term sustainability of these covenanted areas.

Biosecurity staff have met with the landowner and Wairarapa Racing Club representatives to seek support and approval to undertake the work. All were most supportive and keen to see enhancement work go ahead as the racecourse together with the native bush have a high public profile.

Being centrally located, Tauherenikau is ideally suited for future use as an educational facility for the promotion of biodiversity to local school groups and other interest groups.

A Department of Conservation staff member is currently assisting with a trapping survey of a small spring-fed wet area within Donald's Bush to determine the presence of native mudfish. If any are found, this will be another highlight and will add additional biodiversity values to the covenants.

Planning is under way with physical protection work scheduled to commence later this year.

3.10 Feral Pigs

Wild pigs have made their presence known once more at some residential properties in Hazelwood Avenue in South Karori. The pigs have been coming in from the Long Gully area of Wellington's south coast. Biosecurity staff have recently searched the area and are convinced that some of the pigs have been destroyed and the others have returned to the area behind the Happy Valley Landfill. DoC is assisting by testing a new trap design they hope to perfect for use on offshore islands.

3.11 Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

A proposal is being considered to provide a predator buffer around the Sanctuary. The concept is to target mustelids and rodents on the outskirts of the predator fence and further out into Wrights Hill and Denton Park/Polehill Reserves which are part of the Wellington City ongoing possum control programme.

This operation would help protect rare bird species that are already spilling over into the adjoining reserves from the Sanctuary and provide protection in the event of a breach to the fence caused, for example, by a falling tree. The recent capture of a weasel inside the Sanctuary has heightened the need for vigilance. The Biosecurity Department has loaned 25 mustelid traps and tunnels to the Sanctuary to help capture any other weasels that may be present.

The predator buffer programme will not go ahead until the funding shortfall is addressed. The current budget for the reserves is only for possum maintenance and is not sufficient to include predator control. An application is likely to be forwarded to MfE to gain access to Biodiversity Condition Funding.

3.12 Speedys Reserve

Speedys Reserve at Kelson (HCC) is undergoing a possum control operation. This area is a challenging block to work with bluffs, deep gorges and waterfalls. This will provide an important wildlife link as the Kelson Bush operation will be

extended up to the Dry Creek boundary of Belmont Regional Park and then down into the head of Speedys Stream taking in Kaitangata Crescent. Possum control was started in Kelson Bush in 2001. The native birds and vegetation have been thriving since. With this large area being treated, things will only get better for native bird life and residents gardens.

3.13 Bait Stations Adapted for Dual Role

Pelifeed bait stations, used extensively by GW for possum control in the metropolitan areas, now have a modification so that they can be used to target rodents only. This modification has resolved the problem of treating rats in areas where possums are present, but where different bait types have to be used for each of them.

Rodent numbers often need to be controlled before possum control is carried out. In large bush areas when toxins such as Feratox are used, rats interfere with the Feratox baits, pulling them out of the conventional stations onto the ground and eating the non toxic flavoured coating but leaving the cyanide pellet. This has potential to expose possums to the destabilised toxin, creating poison shyness. The bait stations still have a dual use as the attachment can be easily removed for use for possum control. Bait stations hold nine 28-gram rat blocks at a time. This method is being used in East Harbour Regional Park to stop rodents eating the bait off the possum kill traps. Without bait, the traps are virtually useless.

3.14 The Feral Cat Dilemma

The Biosecurity Pest Animal's team is facing an ongoing battle with the control of feral cats at various Key Native Ecosystem management areas around the Wairarapa. The feral cat situation appears to be far worse than first thought. Feral cats are a major contributor to declining biodiversity values and the team feels it is only 'treading water' attempting to remove them from predator management areas. Following is a sample of three operations with the results of feral cat trapping since permanent trap sites have been established and checked on a monthly basis.

- **Morisons Bush** had 217 permanent trap sites established over 2,700 hectares in February 2003. To the present time there has been **155** cats trapped. Prior to this, short trapping operations were carried out annually in the year 2000/2001 with **81** cats trapped. Again in 2002/2003 there was **77** cats trapped making a combined total of **313**.
- **Sulphur Wells** had 60 permanent trap sites established over 1,580 hectares 12 months ago and over that period **23** feral cats have been trapped.
- **Mount Bruce/Pukaha Buffer** had 243 permanent trap sites established over 2,223 hectares in September 2002 and up to the present time there has been **82** feral cats trapped.

Staff are in no doubt that the cat problem is exacerbated by the practice of cat dumping. People do not consider the problems they cause by abandoning them.

The practice increases the stray cat population, which in turn increases the threat to native wildlife.

Feral cats live in a wide range of habitats, including sand dunes, pasture, scrub, exotic and native forests. Of all the introduced predators, the feral cat is probably second only to the stoat in terms of threat levels to native wildlife. Cats are large, strong, fast, and able to climb trees and swim. They are natural predators that pose a real risk to our threatened native species such as birds, lizards and insects.

The Biosecurity Department intends to develop a strategy in conjunction with participating branches of the SPCA, selected Territorial Authorities and selected private veterinarians, to better manage the adverse affects of feral and unwanted cats on native fauna. This will be the subject of a report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee in the near future.

3.15 National Education and Training Seminar, Rotorua 21-23 July

This seminar was organised by the NZ Biosecurity Institute in association with the Vertebrate Pest Management Institute NZ and Environment Bay of Plenty. The theme for the conference was ‘Biosecurity for Biodiversity – Forging the Links’. The conference addressed the core reasons for all biosecurity work; why there is so much effort to keep new invasive alien species and organisms out of New Zealand and how best to manage the ones already here. Keynote presentations were given by representatives of the Ministry of the Environment for Japan, the Global Invasive Species Programme Group, the Australian Quarantine Inspection Services and the Invasive Species Specialist Group. The use of concurrent sessions for distinct themes was a feature and allowed for over 50 presentations during the conference.

3.16 Communications

- A combined Pest Animals and Plant display was set up at the annual Home and Garden Show held at the Westpac Stadium over the three days 20 to 22 August. Particular attention was given to gauging the number and interest levels of visitors to help decide whether it is worth continuing to attend this event. In past years attendance levels have fluctuated and appear to be better if the weather is wet.
- Ken Wright is presenting to the Kapiti Probus Club on 26 August. Ken is regularly called upon to talk to service clubs and organisations.
- Four Biosecurity staff are visiting Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) on 24 and 25 August to lend a helping hand to kick start TRC’s new focus on integrated pest animal management and optimising ecological health. The staff will give a series of presentations based on the theme of ‘how we do it’.
- Chris Horne, a GW service provider, was interviewed on the National Radio programme Spectrum about his role as a possum control contractor in the Outer Green Belt of Wellington City. Of note is that Chris said that when possum control started in the Otari/Wiltons Bush in 1996 that he knew of

only two kereru and ten tui. Now they are numerous and have spread everywhere.

3.17 Rodent Monitoring

The rodent monitoring programme was established in January 2002 to assess levels of rodents present after possum control. Monitoring occurs in January, April, July and October.

Two years data show strong trends for a July peak in rodent tracking index. This peak corresponds with the end of fruiting season for tawa and mahoe. In beech forest, there is the potential for less dominant tree species, such as rimu, tawa and hinau to provide ground food sources from seedfall in July. Canopy food sources are light during winter so the rodents are having to come down out of the canopy to feed on the ground.

Rat tracking indices are lower in KNEs where brodifacoum in 150m grid bait stations is religiously refreshed every three months compared to KNEs where other possum control methods are used, or where brodifacoum is used but on a limited scale. Mice numbers were not greatly affected by the baiting regime.

More data and deeper analysis is needed to detect which variable (season, forest type, possum control method) has the most significant effect on rat and mouse numbers.

The rodent tracking tunnels also detected one mustelid in Fensham Reserve.

Bovine Tb

3.18 2004/05 Programme

The Animal Health Board has approved the following programme for the 2004/05 year:

	AHB Approved Hectares
Possum control	349,767
Ferret control	35,467
Surveys	89,668
	<hr/> 474,902

The above programme is currently under review. Several strata may not require control due to low trend monitoring results. The area currently under review is approximately 75,000 hectares.

3.22 Monitoring Results

The following monitoring results have been recorded since the last report.

Operation	Strata	RTC	Contractor
Bideford	HR 1	0.2	GWRC BioWorks
Bideford	MR 2	0.7	GWRC BioWorks
Martinborough	MR 1	1.0	Trend
SE Wairarapa – Stage 1	HR 1	0.4	J McCaslin
Te Wharau	HR 6	2.2	Trend
Te Wharau	HR 7	1.8	GWRC BioWorks
Te Wharau	MR 3	3.4	Trend
Te Wharau	MR 4	2.2	Trend
Kahutara-Pirinoa	HR 1	0.6	GWRC BioWorks
Masterton Flats	HR 1	2.9	Horizons Regional Council (fail)
Masterton Flats	HR 1	4.8	Horizons Regional Council (fail redo)
Masterton Flats	HR 1	0.0	Horizons Regional Council
Masterton Flats	MR 1	1.1	Horizons Regional Council
Whangaehu-Mauriceville	HR 1	0.2	J McCaslin
Whangaehu-Mauriceville	HR 2	0.2	GWRC BioWorks
Ponatahi-Longbush	HR 1	0.0	GWRC BioWorks
Ponatahi-Longbush	HR 2	0.1	GWRC BioWorks
Taueru-Maungaraki Ext	HR 1	4.0	Trend
Waiorongomai	HR 1	1.0	Trend
Waiorongomai	HR 2	1.8	Trend
Woodside	MR 1	0.3	GWRC BioWorks
Holdsworth-Carterton	HR 1	2.1	GWRC BioWorks (fail)
Holdsworth-Carterton	HR 2	0.0	GWRC BioWorks
Mangaroa-Kaitoke	HR 1	3.7	Trend
Mangaroa-Kaitoke	MR 2	2.9	Trend
Pakowhai	HR 1	0.0	Professional Guiding
Pakowhai	HR 2	0.1	Professional Guiding

3.23 South East Wairarapa Stage 3 Operation

Consultation meetings have been completed with major landowners adjacent to the DoC Estate, and Haurangi Park user groups. Further meetings are scheduled with coastal communities (24 August) and other Park users (30 August). Staff have received excellent support from AHB representatives and members of the Regional Animal Health Committee. This operation will be a difficult one to conclude as the DoC Estate incorporates a gazetted Recreational Hunting Area. Hunter interest in any proposed use of 1080 is very high.

Staff are currently working with the AHB and Landcare Research Ltd on options to undertake a 2,000 ha trial in the operational area using a deer repellent coating on cereal 1080 baits. The trial will involve intensive monitoring of the effects on feral deer. Trials have already been undertaken in the North Island on repellent applied to 1080 carrot bait.

4. Land & River Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)

4.1 Winter Planting Programme

This year has been one of the wettest in the last ten years. The winter of 1995 produced prolonged rainfall in the January to July period. Records from Tanawa Hut, north of Tinui, show the seven-month rainfall in 1995 totalled 1266mm, compared to the 2004 figures of 1114mm. The records for the same period in the last six years have been some of the driest since records began at Tanawa Hut, which only serves to compound the notion that it is a very wet year.

During June and July of this year ground conditions for planting were excellent, however in the last three weeks access to planting sites has been made difficult because of the very high number of rain days and the lack of drying winds. Actual planting conditions are good with soil moisture levels allowing for good depth of planting, especially the planting of poles.

As at 20th August, 70% of the poles were planted and 60% of the conservation woodlot planting had been completed. The majority of new shelterbelts are to be planted in September/October.

4.2 Riparian Management Programme

In June this year the Council has started to fund the priority streams programme (tentatively called Living Streams). This programme has identified 12 catchments throughout the region that have high ecological value, but are currently at risk due to human impacts. The aim of the project is to increase the biodiversity in these areas by removing the weeds and planting natives in the riparian zones, providing fish habitat, while increasing the bird and insect populations in the riparian landscape.

At the moment the works in the riparian project are focusing in 4 catchments spread throughout the region. These catchments include the Waitahu, and Otaki catchments on Kapiti Coast, Mangaroa catchment in Upper Hutt and Waihora catchment in South Wairarapa. Five private landholders have contacted the Council to be involved in the project and have been allocated money to remove weeds and plant 1075 m of stream at widths of approximately 1-10 m.

4.3 Ecosourcing Policy

As a result of the increased use of native plants throughout the region the Council has adopted an eco-sourcing policy. All indigenous plants used and sold by the Council will be sourced from different ecological domains. The Akura Conservation Centre is currently working towards implementing this policy with an aim to have all native plants eco-sourced by 2007.

4.4 Conservation Forestry - Tauanui Logging

2,000 tonnes of logs were produced from Tauanui during July. These logs generated a net return of \$37.50 per tonne – our highest returns from Tauanui to date and well in excess of returns from Hiwinui.

Until the storm event of last week, the roads had been standing up to the traffic and weather conditions extremely well. In the most recent event several slips came down on to the road through the farmland. In addition the Tauanui River severed the road in several places most notably at the foot of a major slip that blocked the Tauanui in 1987.

4.5 Technical Services Activities

The Technical Services workload over the last quarter has been:

- Work on the gravel license system re-issuing long-term and annual licences for 2004 / 05 year.
- The Awhea River & Stoney Creek five yearly surveys have been completed. The resurvey involved the surveying of 26 cross sections of the rivers from the sea to the headwaters of the two catchments. Results show that overall there has been little change in the 5 years. This is a promising result given the scale and size of the February floods.
- Aerial photography of flood event 18th August, with helicopter photo flights for the Kopuaranga River and the Lower Valley.
- A large number of private farm and soil conservation mapping requests have been completed.

4.6 Flood Event – 18 August

Another significant south-easterly event caused significant floods both in the Ruamahanga River, and rivers flowing within the eastern hills, causing widespread surface flooding throughout the Wairarapa valley.

It may be prudent for the Wairarapa Flood Damage Sub-Committee to meet and consider the flood damage once it has been determined given that the next scheduled meeting will not occur until November/December.

The ongoing wet conditions in the eastern hills has resulted in widespread land slipping. The Maungaraki and Awhea Schemes have both reported significant slip damage. Usshers Hill, south of Tukurumuri on the White Rock road, has been closed for several days.

Floodwaters again overtopped the stopbanks in the Lower Huangarua, downstream of the Ponatahi road. The repaired stopbank following the February floods just held. Floodwaters did affect the houses downstream of this area but not to the extent of the February events. Significant scouring affected the Dry River bridge just south of Martinborough.

The Taueru River peaked just above the February flood level at 12.6 metres. In the main the floodwaters were contained within the riverbanks. Overflows were observed in the lower section of the Taueru River.

There was extensive flooding again on the Whangaehu and Kopuaranga River floodplains.

In the Waipoua River there has been further erosion at the Akura Conservation Centre. This event has scoured a large hole in the stopbank in the upstream section of the nursery.

Within the Ruamahanga River system damage is reported in the vicinity of the Masterton Oxidation Ponds, downstream of the Waiohine River junction at Sheltons and Guscotts, and the floodgate at the Mahaki Culvert has been damaged.

4.7 Te Whiti Stopbank Upgrade

Progress on the upgrade has slowed due to the wet conditions. The upgrade is 50% completed. Staff are pleased at how this section has coped with the August floods. Setting the stopbank back in the lower section has helped increase the freeboard along much of the stopbank (0.5 metres). Also the preferred alignment of the river has reduced the impact of flood events on the Lamb/Pike partnership area.

4.8 Kopuaranga River Meeting

Early in August 35-40 residents from the Kopuaranga River valley attended a meeting to discuss flooding issues. Residents are strongly of the view that –

- The February flood events were very large events
- It has been an extremely wet year
- The flood events are occurring more often – there was extensive flooding again in August
- This has a significant effect on the community both isolating it and threatening houses
- Following flood events the water levels take a considerable time to decline which is restricting the ability of the farming community to utilise the river flats.

Representatives from the Department of Conservation, Masterton District Council, and Fish & Game all support the investigation of a tree clearing (primarily willows) scheme.

There was extremely strong support for staff to investigate the feasibility of a scheme which both clears trees strategically and to replant natives from the confluence at Rathkeale College to the headwaters at Hastwell.

Staff have given their commitment to consult with the community with a preferred option late this year or early in the new year. The community is aware

that any scheme will have to be considered by Council in next year's LTCCP process.

4.9 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review

The review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme continues. A meeting has been held with landowners located on the Tauherenikau River upstream of the SH2 bridge. Two preferred options were selected for further study.

Shortly it is planned that there will be a similar meeting with Tauherenikau River landowners downstream of the SH2 bridge.

There is a specific focus on the Tauherenikau River because there has been considerable cross-subsidy of works by the Scheme since the mid-1990's. In the upper reaches maintaining the river channel has been the focus with less expenditure on the development of a vegetation buffer zone.

Lower down the Tauherenikau River there is a considerable build up of gravel in the area called the Diversion. The former Wairarapa Catchment Board previously shortened the length of the river. The diversion is filling up with gravel and the river is now sitting up above the adjacent floodplain. Gravel abstraction is being carried out to try and slow down the gravel build up.

4.10 Lake Opening Tender

The tender for the opening of Lake Onoke has been awarded again to P Warren of Pirinoa. The tender price has increased reflecting the additional monitoring the contract now places on the contractor.

5. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)

5.1 Environmental Incidents

Date	Incident	Outcome
30 June	Discoloration of Enaki Stream observed by staff. Due to river works.	Enforcement action being considered.
9 July	Pig and sheep carcasses dumped at Ruamahanga River, Carterton	Disposed of by Council staff
14 July	Discoloration of Waipoua River, Masterton	Unable to trace source
22 July	Unlicensed gravel extraction, Ruamahanga river at Carterton	Person responsible has since renewed his licence.
3 Aug	Dairy effluent reported in tributary of Waiohine river	Reported some days after it was noticed. Unable to trace source

5.2 Notified Consents

Consent Application	Status
Water Races - Carterton District (2)	Further information to be provided by applicant now that definitive judgement has been given on the Alexander case.
Water Races - South Wairarapa District (2)	Conditions close to agreement. If not agreed, hearing will be scheduled.
Featherston Sewage – discharge	Application now to be amended to include a summer discharge to land trial.
East Leigh Ltd – Riversdale. 140 lot subdivision. Land Use Consents (3), Water Permit, Discharge Permits (3)	Application to be jointly determined with Masterton District Council as the lead agency. On hold until further information provided by applicant.
Coastal protection Works - Castlepoint - Masterton District (5)	Notified on 12 June 2004. Submissions closed on 9 July 2004. On hold awaiting further information from the applicant.
Sewage discharge. – Lake Ferry settlement – South Wairarapa District (3)	Application received 17 June 2004. Additional information requested and awaited from applicant. Likely to require a joint hearing.

5.3 Enforcement

Abatement Notices

Nil issued.

Infringement Notices

An infringement notice was issued to a contractor for illegal diversion of a stream at Solway, Masterton, has been withdrawn. The contractor proposed a new approach that sees the wetland and stream moved, but retained as part of the subdivision.

5.4 Appeals

<i>Appellant</i>	Nature of Appeal	Status
I Alexander	Appeal of abatement notice requiring irrigation to cease	Appeal to High Court has been validated. Progressing on “swift track” with appellant submission due by mid September.

5.5 Mangatarere Water Allocation Plan

Four submissions were received, and these were subsequently advertised for cross submission. Cross submissions closed on 9 July 2004 with two cross submissions received from Federated Farmers and the Department of Conservation. The officer’s report is being prepared, preparatory to a hearing.

5.6 Water Forum

Following up on the status reports that were presented at the last meeting of the Committee, a water forum is to be held on September for well drillers, pump installers, and farmer and horticultural groups. The aim of the forum is to inform attendees of the current status of the resource and the related activities of the Council.

5.7 Masterton District Council Wastewater

A letter has been sent to Masterton District Council’s consultants advising that Greater Wellington will not be providing requested river discharge standards on which the design of the upgrade may be based. It has been explained that the design standards should be derived from the consultation undertaken by Masterton District and the submissions made to their consent application. Drawing on these outcomes, the consent hearing will ultimately determine the standards.

Copies have been received of the Pond Location Report, the most recent Newsletter and Progress Report as required by consent conditions. Further information has been requested in relation to the Pond Location Report.

5.8 July Hydrology

Rainfall

Rainfall totals in the Wairarapa for July were at or below average in the Tararuas and Eastern hill country but above for the Lower Valley.

Rainfall in the Tararuas at Angle knob was only 390mm (63%) of the July long term average of 616mm. This is in marked contrast to June that had over a metre of rain.

Tanawa Hut in the eastern hills had 135mm (81%) of its July long term average. This trend was reflected at Masterton that had about 85mm (85%) of its long-term average based on figures from East Taratahi and Te Ore Ore sites.

Alloa in the Lower Valley was the only site with above average, although only just, with 126mm (109%)

Rainfall at the three representative sites was as follows:

Site	Location	July		June		July	June
		mm	Average	mm	Average	% of average	
Angle Knob	Tararua Ranges	390	616	1164	656	63	177
Alloa	Middle Valley	126	116	170	112	109	152
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	135	167	170	144	81	118

Rivers

River flows for July were below average for both the Tararua and valley catchments based on the two main recording sites. The only high river flow floodwarning issued was for the Huangarua at Hautotara on 22 July.

Comparisons with average flows are as follows:

Site	July		June		July	June
		Average		Average	% of average	
Waiohine	19.5	29.1	47	28	67	171
Waihenga	120.5	137.4	179	112	88	160

Flows recorded as m³/s

Floodwarning

	July	Financial Year to date	Previous Year to Date
No. of events	2	2	2
No of Lists Issued	2	2	7

Once again the Huangarua River exceeded the lower and upper flood alarms. Huangarua River has now exceeded the flood alarms six times since January of this year.

The Tinui and Whareama first level of warnings were issued, based on the MetService Heavy Rainfall criteria.

Lake Onoke gap closed once during the month.

Groundwater

The monitoring bore for the Parkvale shallow aquifer continues to show a good recovery in response to rainfall, with a prediction that recovery by the start of the irrigation season will be the closest to previous levels achieved for many seasons.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Steve Blakemore
Acting Divisional Manager, Wairarapa