

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – May 2006

1. **Envirosmart**

In the last year we have been developing some new tools for businesses which want to move beyond mere compliance to a broader approach to business sustainability. There are plenty of businesses which want to embrace more thorough-going environmental practices such as cleaner production, recycling, waste minimisation, energy efficiency and so on. One of the new tools we offer is the Get Sustainable Challenge (see below), and another is the service for office based companies wanting to recycle and reduce their waste (see the report on the Majestic Centre).

A third tool is “Envirosmart”, a new national programme for businesses that want to go beyond compliance and achieve a recognised accreditation for their level of environmental performance. In association with Wellington, Porirua, and Hutt City councils, we are assisting around 55 businesses to join this programme over the next three years (it is most applicable to manufacturing businesses) and learn how to reduce their solid waste, use energy, water, and other raw materials more efficiently, develop sustainable procurement policies, and adopt environmental policies to guide their operations. The programme provides successful businesses with the Enviromark Gold accreditation.

Envirosmart was launched in Auckland at the end of February. In our region, costs are shared between Greater Wellington, contributing local councils, central government, and the businesses participating. The programme is delivered by Landcare Research. Recruitment of businesses has commenced and is progressing well. It is expected that the quota of businesses for the first year will soon be filled.

2. **Get Sustainable Challenge**

The launch for the *Get Sustainable Challenge* will take place on Thursday 25 May. Businesses will be able to enter the Challenge up to June 30. Judging occurs in July/August with the awards dinner taking place on 31 August. While some businesses will win awards, all businesses taking part receive feedback from the judges in a report detailing how they can improve their environmental performance. These recommendations are accompanied by a range of programmes and resources, provided by the Sustainable Business Network, that help businesses implement the recommended sustainability improvements.

3. Take Action for Air

Work has been progressing rapidly on this programme for schools. It will be ready to use in a self-guided format from July this year. Two schools have already signed up for term three. *Take Action for Air* follows the “investigate-explore-take action” format used in *Take Action* and focuses on known air quality issues in the region stemming from domestic fires and motor vehicles, as well as climate change.

The programme puts considerable emphasis on alternatives to motor vehicle use, promotes public transport, getting students active, and walking or cycling to and from school. It recommends travel planning to schools and promotes action projects to bolster the “lungs of the community” – the parks, open spaces, and vegetated areas in school neighbourhoods. The programme is aimed primarily at 10-12 year olds as it requires (and provides) a good understanding of the nature of the air we depend on and the atmosphere around us.

When *Take Action* was first conceived it was thought that a new programme would be developed every two years (e.g., covering water, soil, biodiversity, the coast etc). It soon became clear that this was not practical and that *Take Action for Water* adequately met the need for an education programme for the biophysical environment. However, the Committee decided there was a need for a second programme dealing with air quality, climate change and related issues. This has been developed throughout the last year and tested with teachers. We are confident it will be taken up by schools which have already undertaken *Take Action* to extend and re-enforce student’s environmental learning, as well as new schools.

4. Take Action

Term two schools are progressing well, with both guided and self guided schools undertaking their outdoor investigations. Meanwhile, students from term one schools are still working on ways to take action in their local environment. Self-guided schools this term are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Pukeatua (Wainuiomata), St Claudine (Wainuiomata), Eastern Hutt, Tawa Intermediate, and Discovery School (Whitby). The guided schools are Wilford (Lower Hutt), Epuni (Lower Hutt) and Holy Family (Canons Creek).

Some of the projects currently being undertaken are:

- Ngaio School has established a student “envirogroup” which has begun promoting better environmental practices to students. An environmentally friendly car washing service has started at the school and the students are planning to monitor the health of the Korimako Stream (which feeds into the Kaiwharawhara);
- Tui Glen (Stokes Valley) is setting up paper recycling and composting;

- Taita Central, which also did *Take Action* two years ago, has been featured in the Health Promoting Schools newsletter for the low incidence of graffiti attacks on its environmental murals. The students have also moved into worm farming their kitchen and food scraps;
- Epuni School on the Waiwhetu Stream has linked up with the Waiwhetu Action Group and is planning an awareness raising exercise amongst businesses in their area on the drains-to-streams message;
- Mauriceville School is working with its community on the removal of willows from the stream. A planting programme is being developed for the planting season using some of the trees provided by Honda. The students are being assisted by DOC staff from Mt Bruce to increase the amount of habitat for birds on the stream;
- St Patricks primary school students at Kilbirnie are planting up the school grounds to increase the amount of lizard and weta habitat. They have established a worm farm to provide compost for their garden..

5. Sustainable Management Fund Applications

We made three applications to the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund for 2006-07, all of which have recently been approved. The Hulls Creek care group will receive \$38,000 to build a fish pass on the creek at the Hutt River and undertake a significant weed eradication exercise that is beyond the capacity of the *Take Care* programme and the group to address. The Waikanae Estuary care group has also been granted \$38,000 to enable it to expand its restoration efforts to encompass much more of the estuary (they were also successful in being granted \$25,000 from the government's Biodiversity Condition Fund). Wellington City Council also made an application (which we supported) to introduce recycling in multi-tenanted office buildings and change environmental behaviour in the commercial sector. This builds on the work described in the report on the Majestic Centre elsewhere in this Order Paper.

6. Staff matters

Susan Hutchinson-Daniel, who has led the *Take Action* team so ably for the last two years, is leaving the Department to join the Transport Division to work on travel demand issues. Susan has worked extraordinarily hard for *Take Action* and has done a great deal to help our schools develop their environmental education capacity. Under Susan's leadership, the team has significantly increased the number of students doing *Take Action* and developed the new air quality programme. We look forward to working with her in her new role.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – May 2006

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plan Changes

There has been no change to the status of Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan since the last meeting of the Environment Committee.

Following a hearing on Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment) on 27 February 2006, the Hearing Committee prepared an interim decision which was sent to submitters for comment. Following receipt of comments from the three submitters that attended the hearing, the Hearing Committee's recommendations have been forwarded to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee for decision.

1.2 Regional Policy Statement review update

Main areas of work on this project since the last meeting of the Environment Committee have been:

- A Councillor workshop on 19 April – the purpose of the workshops was to discuss the draft content in the discussion document on the review of the Regional Policy Statement *Our region - their future* and confirm any amendments required.
- The draft content from the chapter on iwi and resource management was provided to Ara Tahi for comment on 19 April.
- *Our region - their future* was approved for release in mid to late May at the Policy Finance and Strategy meeting on 27 April.

- Councillors Ian Buchanan and Sally Baber, along with staff, attended a Porirua City Council meeting on 4 May and gave a short presentation on the Regional Policy Statement review process, and some of main points from *Measuring up 2005* for Porirua City.
- Councillor Buchanan and staff attended a Wellington City Council workshop on 16 May and gave a short presentation on the Regional Policy Statement review process, and some of main points from *Measuring up 2005* for Wellington City.
- *Our region - their future* was posted to key contacts on 22 May. Feedback is sought through to 30 June 2006. Supporting information and a feedback form was launched on Greater Wellington's website on the same day.
- A two page spread about the review was advertised in the six community newspapers in the region on the week commencing 29 May.

2. Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation

2.1 Freshwater ecosystems programme

Concept designs for fish passes at weirs and culverts have now been prepared for nine sites in four urban streams - the Owhiro, Kaiwharawhara and Waiwhetu streams, and Hulls Creek, a small tributary of the Hutt River. The sites were chosen on the basis that enhancing fish passage would be relatively straight forward and there is community interest in improving fish passage at the locations. Consent applications have now been lodged for the construction of fish passes at 2 of these sites.

2.2 Wetlands programme

National wetland research project

Dr Bev Clarkson (Landcare Research, Hamilton) and Dr Catherine Chague-Goff (NIWA, Christchurch) spent three days in Wellington in May as part of a National Wetland Research Project. Several staff helped them set up permanent plot sites in four wetlands:

- Cameron's Valley, next to Lake Kohangapiri, East Harbour Regional Park
- Fensham Reserve, west of Carterton
- Te Hapua wetland complex - on private land in Te Horo, Kapiti Coast
- Poplar Ave wetland (Queen Elizabeth Park)

Bev Clarkson, who is also a trustee of the National Wetland Trust, was particularly impressed by the quality of the wetlands she saw in our Regional Parks.

2.3 Biodiversity on private land

Greater Wellington's programme supporting landowners entering into QEII National Trust covenants on their land is now fully committed for the current financial year. The \$70,000 is supporting thirteen projects throughout the region which, when complete, will give perpetual legal protection to 215 hectares of predominantly lowland forest and wetlands.

The Wellington/Wairarapa Land Protection Forum (facilitated by Greater Wellington) was again successful in securing funding for improving biodiversity on private land from the latest round of grants from the national Biodiversity Condition Fund. A total of \$34,000 was secured for six projects. In total, since the inception of the fund in 2003, the Forum has been successful in sourcing over \$250,000 for private land biodiversity initiatives in the region. The funding is mainly used for the control of pest animals and plants that threaten the ecological viability of bush and wetlands.

Greater Wellington also assisted Masterton District Council with a successful application to the Fund to secure funding to engage a Biodiversity Co-ordinator for the District for a 12 month period.

2.4 Submissions on district plans and resource consents

Notified consents

Since the last Committee Report three notified resource consent applications have been received. One submission has been made.

A submission made was a proposed Shell Service Station on Hutt Road in Petone. The submission was "comment only" and noted that the proposed site was identified on Greater Wellington's Selected Land Use Register as a site with a history of using, storing or manufacturing hazardous substances. Greater Wellington sought that, prior to any hearing or decision, that the applicant determine whether the site is contaminated and the risks to the environment and human health.

Staff have been continuing discussions with the applicant for a childcare centre at 100 Pharazyn Street, Melling as a result of a Greater Wellington submission. The submission raised concern over the accuracy of fault line information and emergency procedures in the event of a flood.

Staff have also reviewed a Mitigation Plan prepared by representatives for Whitby Coastal Estates. The Mitigation Plan was developed to help address concerns raised by Greater Wellington on long-term stormwater impacts and loss of significant vegetation as a result of the proposed subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby.

Plan changes

Three plan changes have been received since the last committee report. No submissions have been made.

A Plan Change to Wellington City's District Plan in relation to heritage provisions is currently being assessed.

Greater Wellington has also reviewed and made comment on a proposed Structure Plan prepared by Wellington City Council for Lincolnshire Farm. Lincolnshire Farm is roughly the area bound by State Highway 1, Grenada North, Woodridge/Newlands and Horokiwi ridge. This area was identified by Wellington City Council as a potential Business Park in the Northern Growth Management Framework. The Structure Plan, when recognised in the District Plan, is intended to provide certainty as to how and where development will occur. The proposed Plan has the overall objective of enhancing, protecting and linking significant landscapes, ecological and natural features. The principles are:

1. Making the connections: Streams and parks;
2. Connecting communities; and
3. Connecting the region.

The objective and principles were supported by Greater Wellington. In particular, support was given to the incorporation of a strategic link road from State Highway 1/Grenada to the Hutt Valley.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – May 2006

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

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

Details of alarms received are provided to the Committee to fulfil reporting requirements set out in the Annual Plan.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

21 March 2006	Rainfall: Warwicks, Kapakapanui
8 April 2006	Rainfall: Seton Nossiter Park, Wayne's Mistake, River Level: Porirua Stream
25 April 2006	Rainfall: Warwicks, Kapakapanui, Taungata
10 May 2005	Rainfall: Kapakapanui

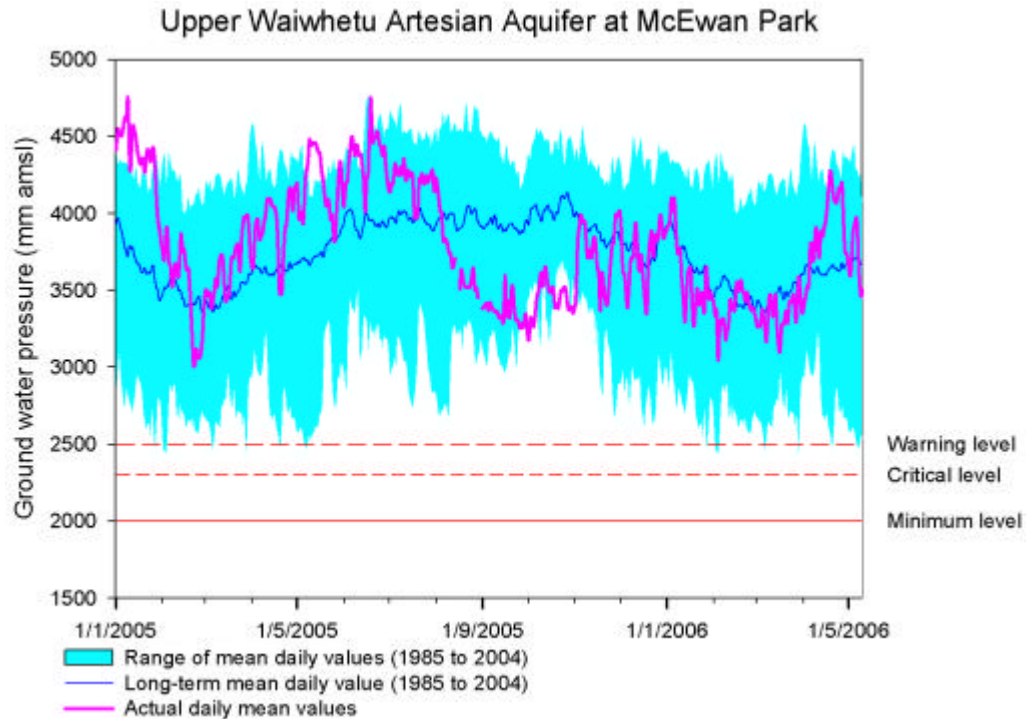
2. Resource analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas. Records from these two bores and a synopsis of the situation are provided to the Committee at each meeting.

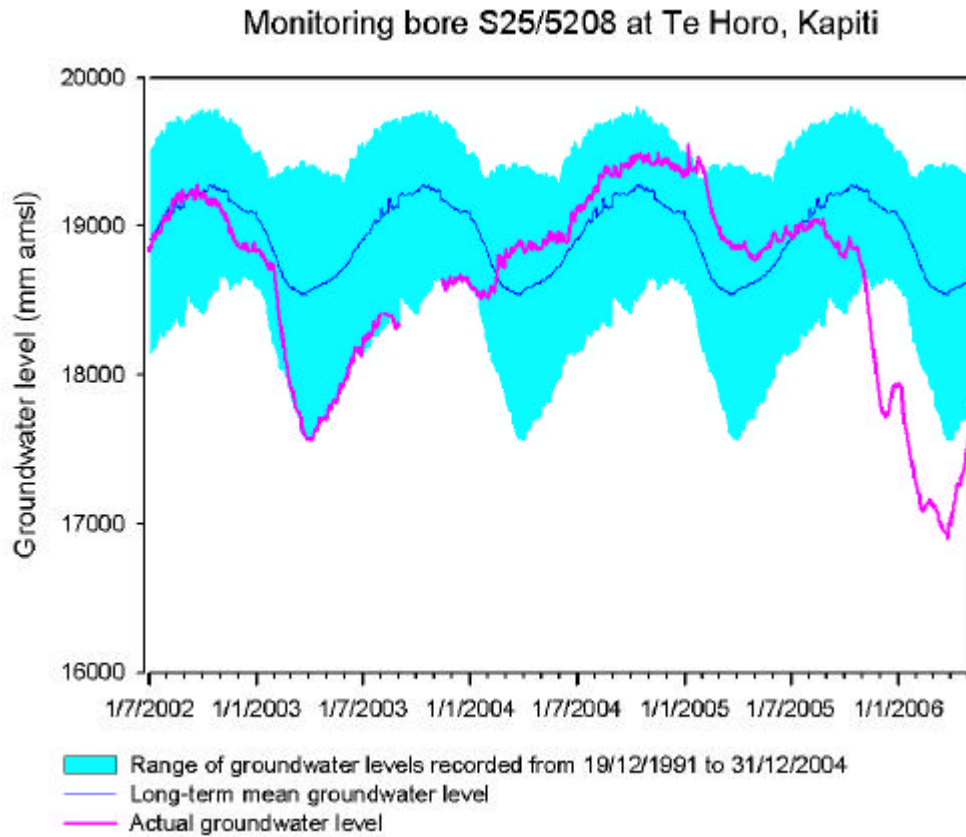
2.1.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring well has been at or above the long-term mean this year. The pressure is well above the seawater-intrusion alarm levels.



2.1.2 Kapiti Coast

Groundwater levels in Kapiti aquifers have begun their winter recovery from their summer low. The hydrograph below shows the record from a Greater Wellington monitoring well on the Hautere Plain. This monitoring well intercepts a deep rainfall-recharged aquifer, which is still at record low levels but on the way up.



2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Weather conditions during March were cool and wet. The mean monthly temperature was the third lowest on record for Wellington. Low pressure systems were more frequent to the east of the North Island, and brought frequent cool southerlies to the region. The resulting monthly rainfall pattern was dominated by higher than normal rainfall totals around the south and east of the region (Figure 1). The Tararua Ranges received less rainfall than normal for the month. Dry conditions persisted on the Kapiti Coast, which continued to have lower than normal monthly rainfall totals.

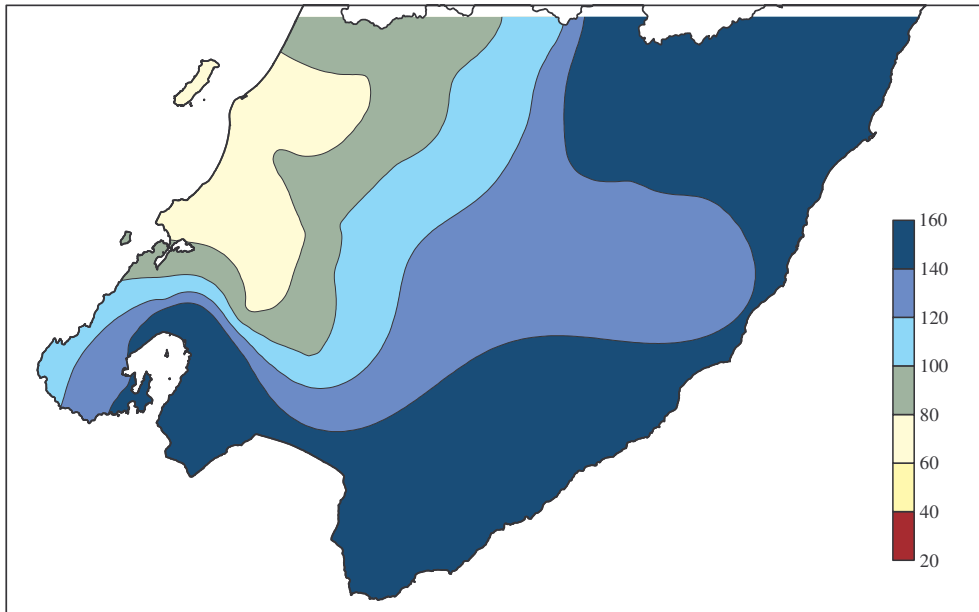


Figure 1: Rainfall during March 2006 as a percentage of average for the month

In contrast to the cold conditions experienced in March, April was considerably warmer than normal in the Wellington region. The mean monthly temperature at Wellington Airport was a record high of 16°C. Rainfall totals for the month were normal to above normal for most of the region (Figure 2). However, the south coast of Wellington and Wairarapa was notably drier than normal. This rainfall pattern was the result of frequent north-westerly airflows across the North Island.

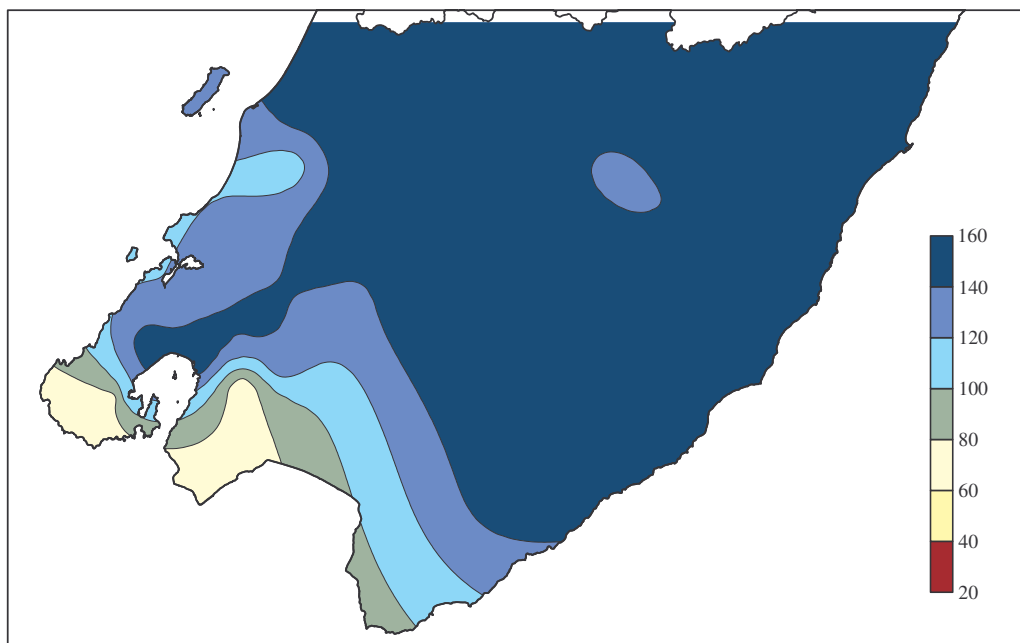


Figure 2: Rainfall during April 2006 as a percentage of average for the month

Low rainfall in the Tararua Ranges during March resulted in lower than normal flows for all rivers with a Tararua source catchment (Table 1). Flows in the Waikanae River remained below the first stepdown of 1.4 cumec for most of the March, but were well above the minimum flow.

Flow conditions improved during April with flows in most catchments being close to average monthly values. Mean monthly flows in the Waikanae and Akatarawa catchments remained low. This reflects the lower than normal rainfall received in these catchments throughout autumn.

Table 1: Mean monthly river flows in the Wellington Region during March and April (m³/s).

	March 2006	Long term March Average	April 2006	Long term April Average
Wainuiomata @ Manuka Track	0.43	0.48	0.55	0.49
Hutt @ Taita Gorge	8.91	15.14	16.24	15.63
Mangaroa @ Te Marua	1.09	1.43	1.79	2.32
Akatarawa @ Cemetery	1.50	3.17	2.56	3.62
Porirua @ Town Centre	0.33	0.37	0.46	0.50
Waikanae @ WTP	1.23	2.90	2.07	3.07
Waitohu @ WSI	0.33	0.47	0.75	0.48
Mangaone @ Ratanui	0.08	0.17	0.15	0.17

2.3 Air quality monitoring

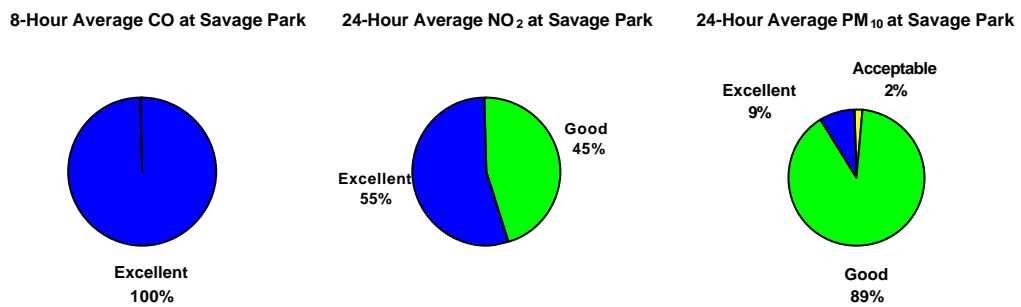
2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three permanent sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Savage Park) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). Our mobile ambient monitoring station is still located at Trentham Fire Station and will soon be moved to a site in the Porirua airshed.

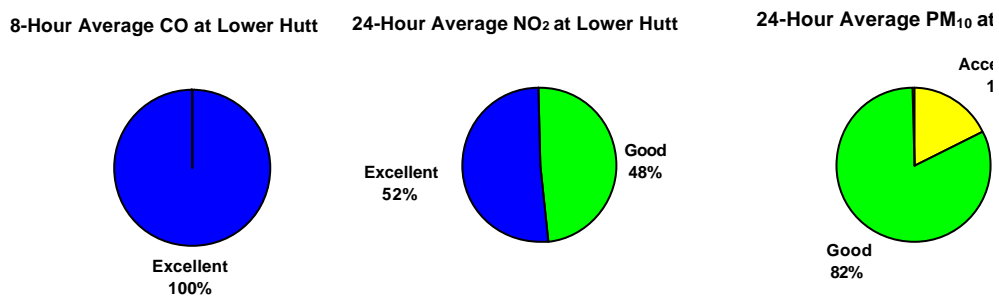
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Results for the past six weeks at Savage Park, Upper Hutt



Results for the past six weeks at Birch Lane, Lower Hutt



Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



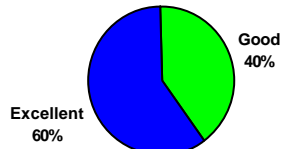
24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



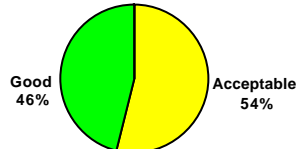
2.3.2 Traffic emissions monitoring

Results for the past six weeks at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

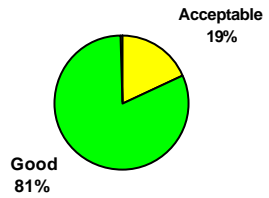
8-Hour Average CO at Corner V



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Corner V



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Corner V



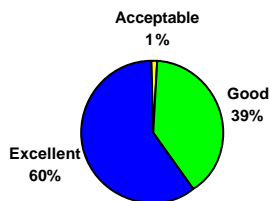
Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro

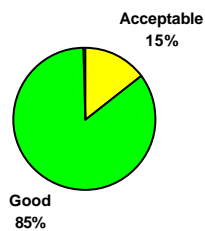


Results for the past six weeks at Ngauranga Gorge

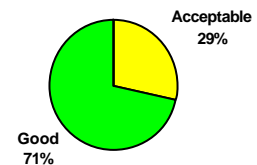
8-Hour Average CO at Mobile Transport



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Mobile Transport



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Mobile Transport



3. Pollution Control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

4. Staff

Perry Davy our Air Quality Scientist left Greater Wellington on 12 May after 11 years service. Perry has been instrumental in ensuring that our air quality programmes are amongst the best in New Zealand. Over the years he has made significant contribution to, not only our monitoring and investigations programmes, but also to our policy development and implementation, resource consents management and latterly helping the Transport Division implement monitoring programmes for the RLTS. Perry is leaving to travel overseas.

Duncan Ross has joined the Pollution Control team. Duncan is originally from Scotland where he has experience in landfill management. For the past two years Duncan has worked for an environmental consultant here in Wellington.

This is my last Environment Committee. I will be leaving Greater Wellington at the end of June to take up the role of District Manager, Central Coast with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.

Al Cross
Acting Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – April 2006

1. Consent statistics

In the period from 1 July 2005 to 15 May 2006 we have received 459 consent applications. This compares with 479 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 427 consents. This compares with 376 over the same period last year.

One consent processed since the last Committee meeting was not completed within statutory timeframes, although all others were. The one consent processed outside timeframes occurred as a result of a highly unfortunate mix up between the processing officer and the applicant, who both believed the application was 'on hold' and a section 92 had been issued. This regrettably did not occur and resulted in the application going over time.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) is currently sitting at 11 working days, probably reflecting the reduced number of bore permit applications over the period.

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

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Ridvan Garden Developments Limited

This appeal has now been resolved following successful mediation, with a consent order signed by the Environment Court on 3 May. The mediation process was in the end relatively straightforward and resulted in the addition of a single minor condition to the consents processed by Greater Wellington. Furthermore, possible conflicts between proposed changes to Wellington City Council (WCC) consent conditions and Greater Wellington (GW) consents covering the mitigation of sediment discharges from the site did not eventuate. We now await the delivery of the consent order.

2.2 Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind

Appeals of the Meridian Project West Wind consent decisions¹ by ten submitter parties² and Meridian has moved towards an Environment Court (the Court) hearing. Unfortunately, mediation was not able to resolve any of the GW matters subject to appeal. Consequently, hearings are set to commence in the week of 6 June and are likely to run for at least a month. This is not a surprising scenario given the broad scope of the appeals in relation to matters such as earthworks, roading, visual amenity effects, landscape, turbine numbers, noise, traffic, construction, and recreation, heritage and ecological effects.

While the substantive issues subject to appeal rest with the WCC consents, the broad scope of appeals against GW consents has required a comprehensive and extensive approach being taken towards the preparation of evidence. We had hoped that the scope of evidence might have been reduced by the release of an agreed summary of appellants' issues; however, this has not been the case. Evidence will be finalised following the exchange of rebuttal evidence in late May.

2.3 New Zealand Forestry Group

The abatement notice served on New Zealand Forestry Group (NZFG)³ seeking the removal of an illegally placed gabion structure from Karori Stream was cancelled on 16 May 2006. This followed a further Court-granted extension to the stay of the abatement notice in order to enable NZFG to provide further information on the structural integrity of the structure.

We were concerned that the gabions, intended to support the bridge platform, were not structurally sound and may in fact fail in a high flow event. We have since received information regarding the structural integrity of the gabions and their foundations. Following assessment of this information we are satisfied that the gabion structure itself is stable.

This represents a satisfactory conclusion to the enforcement action, and now paves the way for GW to recommence processing of NZFG's consent application to construct the bridge and consider related effects. Applications are likely to be processed limited notified.

It should be noted that an infringement notice was also served in relation to the placement of the structure without a resource consent, which has since been paid.

2.4 Declaration Proceedings: Save The Point Incorporated

Save the Point Incorporated (Save the Point) recently filed a declaration application with the Environment Court in relation to the split decision on the applications jointly processed by WCC and GW. The declaration sought to

¹ The decisions on the jointly processed consents were released on 21 December 2005.

² Also including a number of s274 parties.

³ Served on 22 December 2005.

determine whether or not a split decision is in fact tantamount to a decision to decline. The declaration also sought to challenge the presence of Cr Sally Baber on the hearing panel on the basis of a conflict of interest. Cr Baber had, prior to the hearing, declared no such conflict of interest and this position was reaffirmed following a challenge by Save the Point earlier in the consent hearing.

WCC and GW commenced preparations to defend the declaration, and an application to strike out proceedings was filed with the Environment Court. The basis for the application was:

- That the Environment Court does not have jurisdiction to hear the declaration as we consider it to be a High Court matter;
- That Local Government Act provisions were incorrectly applied to a Resource Management Act process; and
- A split decision is not a decline.

Following the lodgement by the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre of a new set of consent applications on 3 May 2006, and withdrawal of first set of applications on 5 May, Save the Point subsequently filed notice with the Environment Court to discontinue the declaration proceedings.

3. Compliance and Enforcement

3.1 General

The department is now lifting its efforts on the compliance inspection front as we face year-end. This is normally a very busy period for us as a considerable number of scheduled compliance inspections and their associated reports can only be completed toward the end of the financial year. We also face a challenging consents workload with a significant number of notified consent applications either lodged or at pre-lodgement stage, which will impact compliance work. These challenges are compounded by the fact that we are not operating at a full staff complement. As such, we have engaged three students on a part time basis to assist with the more straightforward compliance inspections.

3.2 Sink F69

The Sink F69 Charitable Trust (the Trust) has provided a detailed monitoring report following the storms of 4 and 5 March, and consequent damage to, and movement of, the Frigate Wellington (the Frigate). The report, in compliance with the terms of their occupation permit, provided a reasonably detailed account of the state and position of the vessel, damage and safety and hazard issues, likely future impacts by storm events including effects on debris movement, and the predicted corrosion and decay of the structure over time.

The Trust confirmed that the vessel initially split in two, separating at the bow between the gun turret and bridge, then into three at its mid and stern sections,

while sliding in an anti clockwise direction (and moving 50m from the bow). The sliding action caused the lower deck and next deck to collapse and embed themselves further into the seabed. The collapse of the lower decks and subsequent embedding has created more clearance between the top of the vessel and the sea surface, thus lessening the likelihood of a repeated occurrence in a similarly sized future storm event. Also, it is worth noting that there have been no further reports of debris washing ashore on Wellington south coast beaches since mid March.

3.3 Exide Technologies Limited

Exide Technologies Ltd (Exide) commenced short-term higher emission limit monitoring on 1 April. Meanwhile, Exide's Air Monitoring Manual for longer-term lead monitoring has been finalised, enabling the monitoring programme to commence on 1 August 2006 as directed by new consent conditions.

Good progress is being made, including the completion of a new filter press (in accordance with consent conditions), ongoing yard resurfacing, and the installation of a new spark suppression system earmarked for completion in June 2006. These improvements will help to eliminate plant failure and reduce maintenance shutdowns as well as aiding the clean up of waste material which provides a source for lead contaminated dust.

Exide will soon release the first of its community newsletters, in conjunction with GW, Hutt City Council and Regional Public Health, which is expected to largely centre on progress with plant modifications anticipated by consent review.

3.4 Taylor Preston Ltd

We met with Taylor Preston management in mid April, following a series of odour incidents during mid and late summer and general concerns regarding compliance with their air discharge permit.

Recent odour problems appear to be linked with plant breakdowns or limitations in the current odour treatment system. We have stated our displeasure with the current situation and, in particular, their limited approach to plant breakdowns.

At our recommendation, Taylor Preston has offered to meet Gorge Action Group (GAG) to discuss a range of matters. We have offered to facilitate the meeting and are currently waiting for GAG's response to Taylor Preston's invitation. We will also be meeting separately with GAG to report back on our meeting with Taylor Preston, and to follow up on recent correspondence with GAG on a range of odour related matters.

3.5 Abatement notices

We have not served any abatement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.6 Infringement notices

We have not issued any infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

3.7 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecution or enforcement order proceedings currently underway.

4. Major Resource Consents and Other Matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Hilton Hotel: Wellington Waterfront Investments

We are now some way through the assessment work on the Hilton Hotel applications⁴, and have worked with the applicant to ensure a prompt approach to further information requests in order to keep delays to a minimum. We have engaged an external consultant to coordinate the assessment of district plan related matters (including wind, noise, design, traffic and shading), and in turn have been assisted by various Wellington City Council (WCC) internal experts to assess the relevant material and inform us of information gaps. Both WCC experts and management have been extremely helpful in this process to date. It is envisaged that the district plan matters assessments will form part of the overall officer's report to the hearing.

We have worked with the applicant to set hearing dates, with the hearing programmed to commence on 3 July 2006. A five-member hearing panel has been appointed to deal with the complexity of matters that are expected to be heard. The panel comprises Crs Turver (chairperson) and Laidlaw, Miria Pomare (Iwi Appointee), and two independent commissioners: David McMahan and Stuart Kinnear.

Media interest has waned to some extent during this period of the process, but clearly the applications retain a high overall profile and ongoing level of public interest.

Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust

As indicated in section 2.4 of this report, new applications for the Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust (WMCT) Aquarium of New Zealand have been lodged, and subsequently notified on 6 May. Submissions close on 6 June. We have since begun to receive submissions, many of which have merely referred us back to original submissions

0At this stage, the hearing is proposed to be set down for August 2006.

⁴ Proposed for the Queens Wharf Outer-T.

Eurocell Sawmilling Limited

This application is for a discharge to air consent associated with the installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill at Park Street, Upper Hutt, notified on 25 March.

We received 59 submissions (including 10 late submissions), with 51 in opposition, raising a range of air quality issues, including potential health effects, degrading air quality, model accuracy and localised pollution effects. The majority of submitters are located near the plant.

A pre-hearing meeting was held on 9 May. Nineteen people in addition to GW staff and the applicant's team attended the pre-hearing.

The assessment is significant in that it incorporates our first application processed under the Air Quality National Environmental Standards (NES), presenting many challenges in terms of interpreting the NES's requirements. Assessment work continues and we are currently seeking a peer review of the application modelling work. No hearing dates have been sent.

Western Wastewater Treatment Plant: WCC

These applications, for the renewal of a suite of consents associated with the ongoing operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant (the Plant), were notified on 8 April. The Plant currently discharges secondary treated and disinfected effluent via an outfall to the coastal marine area (CMA) adjacent the mouth of Karori Stream. During more significant wet weather events the Plant also discharges treated and untreated milliscreened effluent to Karori Stream and untreated effluent to the CMA.

We received 14 submissions (three were late), and all except one were opposed to the proposal. Issues covered by submitters included the term of consent, pipeline maintenance replacement, and a range of environmental effects including cultural, ecological, health and amenity effects, in relation to the Karori Stream and the coastal environment at the Plant's outfall.

We are currently working with the applicant to provide further information, and a formal request has been made. No hearing date has been set but the applicant has requested that a hearing be put back to August to accommodate the availability of the applicant's technical experts.

Hutt Valley Waste Water Services

This application for a renewal of Hutt Valley's discharge of treated and disinfected sewage to wastewater to the coastal marine area, reached a negotiated agreement with submitters in relation to recommended consent conditions. As a restricted coastal activity, the deliberations committee set up to make a recommendation to the Minister of Conservation (comprising Cr Glen Evans and Byrdie Ayres, the Minister's Appointee) have since identified some limitations relating to the existing recommended monitoring, maintenance and reporting conditions.

Draft conditions are currently being considered by the applicant prior to final consideration and acceptance by the Committee, prior to recommending to the Minister of Conservation.

Whitby Coastal Estates

These are joint applications to Porirua City Council and GW for various consents relating to the development of a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby. The application has been on hold to enable the applicant to undertake further consultation and prepare a mitigation plan addressing matters raised by submitters.

A Mitigation Plan has now been received and is being assessed. The Plan outlines measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects of the proposal such as enhancing riparian bush cover and wetland areas, protecting large areas of the stream from further development and ensuring fish passage is provided. There are other aspects of the Mitigation Plan that relate to matters to be considered by Porirua City Council.

The hearing is set down for 20 and 21 June 2006, and hearing panel appointments are currently being finalised.

4.2 Liaison with the Wairarapa Office Consents and Compliance Team

Our work with the Wairarapa office continues, providing an effective forum for increasing familiarity with work areas and issues facing both sides of the region. We are also progressing the development of shared documents in response to the higher-level work programme. We have decided to target the development of a consistent standardised officer's report, which we hope to roll out on a trial basis in June. The officer's report forms a critical part of our assessment and decision work on resource consents, and is highly visible to the public as all consent holders receive them. It is likely that other work to follow this will also continue to prioritise more visible and critical parts of our process.

4.3 Staff issues

Miranda Robinson has moved into an acting Account Manager role, leaving us down one Resource Advisor for the medium term. We will use short-term student appointments to cover staffing gaps in the interim.

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
Ridvan Garden Development ⁵	To lay culverts and discharge contaminated stormwater as part of a residential subdivision development in Crofton Downs.	23/12/04	25/02/05	51		27/28 June	Sally Baber Ian Hutchings	19/07/05	Consent order signed-off on 3 May
Wellington Waterfront Ltd and the Wellington Tents Trust ⁶	To construct and maintain a new Wharewaka on the western side of the extended Lambton Harbour Lagoon.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed. GW consents issued.
The Wellington Tents Trust ⁷	To construct and maintain a new building (wharanui) at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed. GW consents issued.
Wellington Waterfront Limited	To develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September 2005	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	24/11/05	Granted – WCC consents appealed. GW consents issued.

⁵ This application was jointly heard with the Wellington City Council

⁶ This application was jointly heard with the Wellington City Council

⁷ This application was jointly heard with the Wellington City Council

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
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	20/07/05	3	6 September 2005	All parties have signed off on draft conditions. New conditions being consider by Deliberations Committee. RCA will then require Minster of Conservation for approval.	Deliberations Committee: Glen Evans Byrdie Eyres (Minister's appointed representative)	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited ⁸	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000+	-	September to November 2005.	Commissioners: Jim Lynch David McMahon	21/12/05	Granted – Under appeal
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 1 ⁹	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point.	13/09/05	02/11/05	1500+	-	20 February 2006 (approx. 2 week hearing)	Chris Turver Sally Baber Richard Hedeergen David Watt	-	No decision. Hearing panel split.
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre 2 ¹⁰	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point.	02/05/06	07/06/05	1500+	-	Proposed for August 2006 (approx. 13 day hearing)		-	

⁸ This application will be jointly heard with Wellington City Council

⁹ This application will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council

¹⁰ This application will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council

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
Whitby Coastal Estates ¹¹	Various land use and discharge permits for an 81 lot subdivision in James Cook Drive, Whitby.	06/09/05	29/11/05	18	-	Further information received. Hearing set down for 20 & 21 June 2006.	Sally Baber Robert Armstrong	-	-
GWRC – Biosecurity	Discharge permit to discharge Endathol across the entire Greater Wellington region for the control of hornwort and aquatic pest plants.	07/10/05	02/12/05	28	7 February 2005	Negotiated following pre-hearing meeting. Report being prepared for approval.	-	-	-
Pacific Wallcoverings Ltd (Limited notification)	Discharge permit associated with the operation of a wallpaper manufacturing plant.	15/08/05	09/12/05	1	-	Draft conditions negotiated out.	-	-	Decision released on 21 February 2006
Waterfront Investments Ltd	'Hilton Hotel' proposal.	23/12/05	27/02/06	1000	-	Set to commence on 3 July 2006. (approx. 15 day hearing)	-	-	-
Eurocell Sawmilling Limited	Installation of a wood fired boiler at an operational sawmill, Upper Hutt.	15/02/05	26/04/05	59	9 May 2006	-	-	-	-

¹¹ This application will be heard jointly with the Porirua City Council

Ted Taylor
Acting Manager, Planning and Resources

Planning and Resources Department Report – May 2006

1. Resource Investigations

1.1 Rainfall and rivers

Details of Wairarapa rainfall and river levels are reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. A summary of statistics follows.

The summer dry spell continued through to around the 20 March when steady rain over a number of days was sufficient to lift the March rainfall total to above the mean.

April rainfall was well above mean values from the eastern hills to the Tararua Ranges. At the Tararua site the April total (862mm) was the second highest since records began in 1975 (highest 901mm April 1991). This was not the result of one or more high intensity events but an accumulation of steady rain over a number of days.

River flows in March were well below monthly mean values even with increased rainfall from the middle of the month. The continuing rain through April is reflected in river flows rising to well above the monthly mean.

1.2 Flood warning

No flood events occurred in March or April. One set of warnings was issued for heavy rain in the Eastern catchments.

1.3 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels are generally recovering from seasonal lows.

1.4 Wairarapa Groundwater Model

The State of the Environment report highlighted an increasing demand for groundwater in the Wairarapa over the last few years. The report also notes that declining groundwater levels have been observed in some areas, which throws doubt on the suitability of the aquifer safe yields listed in the Regional Freshwater Plan.

To assess the existing safe yields, work has been undertaken on developing a regional-scale conceptual model of the Wairarapa groundwater system. The

last time such an exercise was undertaken was in the late 1980s. There is now more data than previously available because of the local-scale investigations undertaken in the last 15 years. This regional model will define the current understanding of groundwater in the Wairarapa Valley.

The intention is to build on this work in 2006/2007 by translating the conceptual model into a numerical, computer model. This step will provide the ability to assess various climatic and pumping scenarios to determine the amount of groundwater that may be taken without causing adverse effects on springs, streams, wetlands or other groundwater users.

A more comprehensive update on the progress of this study will be presented to the Committee.

2. Consents and Compliance

2.1 Consent Statistics

For the year to date we have received 196 consent applications. This compares with 184 in the same period last year.

In this period we have processed 158 consents compared with 171 last year.

The median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for non notified consents is currently at 10 working days.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing follows:

- N & E Reid: An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. The application is on hold pending further information including a report commissioned to evaluate the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to sustainably accept the nutrient load.
- Masterton District Council: An application for consents to manage the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities on the site. The application is on hold pending further information.

Details of non-notified consents approved are reported to the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee.

2.2 Appeals and Objections

2.2.1 Masterton District Council

Masterton District Council have been granted a stay in proceedings in their Environment Court appeal against the decision to decline consent for the proposed stage two of the Castlepoint seawall. This is to allow them to prepare an integrated foreshore management plan. The district council have contracted Opus Consultants to develop the plan and have included us as a party being consulted.

2.2.2 LARO – Scadden's Stopbank

John Barton has appealed this decision. This matter has gone to mediation; no further progress has been made to date.

2.2.3 Martinborough Coastal Developments

We understand this appeal is progressing towards mediation.

2.3 Compliance

2.3.1 General

The annual inspection of dairy farms effluent discharges and water takes has largely been completed. The current focus is on winery and industrial discharges.

2.3.2 Abatement Notices

Abatement notices were served on:

- S J and J E McLachlan requiring that a groundwater abstraction well be properly constructed and details of the associated irrigation system be submitted. This relates to resource consent conditions that have not been met.
- International Timber Processors Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- A J Smith requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- Capital Precut Solutions Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- K and A Sage requiring that improvements be made to their dairy effluent management system.

2.3.3 Infringement notices

No infringement notices were served in the period.

2.3.4 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

The prosecution against Lansdowne Development Ltd and Bruce Buchanan Ltd, in regards to an unauthorised discharge of silt laden water in March 2005, is scheduled to take place in the Environment Court in Wellington on the 18th and 19th of July.

2.4 Pollution Control

Details of incidents that were responded to are reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. None of these incidents were of widespread significance.

3. Policy and Planning

3.1 General

Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa shows no sign of letting up with some large subdivisions in rural areas being proposed.

3.2 District Plans

The combined district plan is now scheduled for notification in mid June. The continuing delays in notification are understood to be related to production of the drawings within the plan.

3.3 Appeals

3.3.1 Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd

The Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd Tora subdivision appeal is understood to be heading for mediation.

3.3.2 Pinehaven Orchard

We have been party to an appeal against a decision by South Wairarapa District Council to decline an application known as the Pinehaven Orchard subdivision. The proposal was to create “town sized” lots in a rural area immediately adjacent to the Greytown urban area. Given the small size of the lots and being upgradient of a town water supply groundwater bore, on-site wastewater disposal was not an option. The alternative, connection to the Greytown sewerage system, was not supported by South Wairarapa contributing to the decision to decline.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – May 2006

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation lights operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution

The oil pollution exercise section of “Exercise Hardrock” that involved GWRC was held on 3 and 4 May, using Council’s Emergency Management room as the Incident Command Centre. The exercise scenario orchestrated by Maritime New Zealand was as follows:

“A small fishing vessel carrying up to forty people onboard had departed a Pacific Island, possibly bound for New Zealand. After an aerial reconnaissance, this information is confirmed.

On Sunday night, the fishing vessel reports a slow flood through her stern gland and is approximately 140 miles off New Plymouth. By Monday lunchtime, the fishing vessel sinks after transmitting a mayday call.

A Silver Fern tanker en route from Marsden Point to New Plymouth is diverted to assist this vessel. Thirty five people are recovered off the vessel, all foreign speaking.

The tanker is directed to proceed to Cook Strait and await further instruction. While manoeuvring in Cook Strait in the early hours of Wednesday, the tanker is struck by another ship exiting the Marlborough Sounds resulting in the immediate loss of hundreds of tonnes of oil from the tanker and a slow leak of bunker oil from the other ship. This ship returns to Queen Charlotte and anchors in Ruakaka Bay. The tanker has stemmed the leak and now requests an anchorage in Wellington Harbour.

The issues were Search & Rescue, place of refuge, refugee/immigration, oil pollution in Marlborough Sounds and Cook Strait, and potential pollution in Wellington Harbour.”

The report by Maritime New Zealand after the exercise said:

“The exercise was conducted last week and occupied four reasonably intense days of Security, Search and Rescue and Marine Oil Spill Response. Hardrock involved over ninety personnel including:

- the Minister for Transport Safety
- regional response teams from Marlborough and Wellington
- the National Response Team
- Maritime NZ staff
- Department of Conservation staff
- Massey University
- Cawthron Institute
- Caltex NZ
- Silver Fern Shipping Line
- Adsteam Limited
- NZ Customs
- National Maritime Coordination Centre.

Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre provided umpires to assess the operational responses in the seven control centres established around the Wellington and Marlborough regions.

In terms of success, the exercise achieved all of the established aims and objectives and, there were many benefits derived from this four day exercise.”S

Greater Wellington Regional Council staff was involved in the intense “tabletop” exercise in Wellington on 3 May. On 4 May oil spill equipment, skimmers and harbour booms were deployed around Miramar Wharf in Evans Bay, using our workboat.

3. Other Activities

- On 5 May, Patrick Atwood, Grant Nalder and Greg Meikle spent a day on Wellington Harbour operating and training with Maritime New Zealand staff with the new oil skimmer barge and oil recovery system.
- The Manager Harbours attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee meeting in Wellington on 28 April.
- The Manager Harbours attended the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Wellington on 9 May.
- Grant Nalder spoke to the Eastern Bays Sea Scouts about the Harbour Safety.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – May 2006

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Since reporting to the last Environment Committee meeting of the 12th April, Jo Guard, Craig Hamilton and I have been involved in the preparation and participation in national and international exercises.

1.1 Training and exercises

Our volunteer staff received further training in preparation for the three exercises that took place in May 2006.

Below is a summary of the three exercises that we have participated in:

Exercise Hard Rock 3 and 4 May 2006 National Oil spill exercise (Tier 3).	Maritime New Zealand was leading this exercise. We activated our Group Emergency Operations Centre (as the 'Incident Command Centre' for oil spill management). Council emergency management and volunteer staff were deployed to assist/manage in the areas of planning and intelligence, logistics, operations, media and communications.
Exercise Guardian 9 and 10 May 2006 National Terrorist Exercise	The exercise scenario was based on four bomb explosions in Wellington (2 at the railway station, defence headquarters, MOJO Café and an attack on the water supply in the South Wairarapa district. This exercise was aimed to build knowledge and skill capacity within the New Zealand Police and other agencies (including CDEM Groups) who would be involved in responding to terrorist emergencies by practicing the crisis management arrangements of the National Counter Terrorism Plan. We have activated our Group Emergency Operations Centre (Group EOC) under the control of the Group Controller. The main tasks

	<p>were to assess damage and needs, co-ordinate resources and to manage information received from TAs, emergency services and other emergency management agencies.</p> <p>A practical terrorist exercise stretching over several days is planned to take place in the first half of 2007.</p>
<p>Exercise Pacific Wave 17 May International Tsunami exercise</p>	<p>Twenty-eight countries participated in this exercise.</p> <p>The exercise scenario was based on a single source distant tsunami.</p> <p>More than thirty different organisations in New Zealand participated in this exercise, including all 16 CDEM Groups. Each CDEM Group received the appropriate warning, activated its Group Emergency Operations Centre, interacted with the National Crisis Management Centre, considered/assessed all information available, decided on activating local warning systems, and considered and decided on local response actions (local emergency operations centres and tsunami response plans activation).</p> <p>This exercise provided us with the opportunity to test our capabilities and capacities under a very severe scenario.</p>

We believe that the management and execution notably improved as we progressed through each exercise. In our opinion Exercise Pacific Wave was a huge success!

2. Environment

2.1 Earthquake Reports

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 20 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. The following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

- Apr 17 2006 **Mag:** 3.3 **Depth:** 30 km *20 km north-west of Wellington*
- Apr 24 2006 **Mag:** 3.8 **Depth:** 40 km *20 km north of Porirua,*
- May 06 2006 **Mag:** 3.6 **Depth:** 30 km *within 5 km of Upper Hutt*
- May 14 2006 **Mag:** 3.8 **Depth:** 40 km *20 km west of Porirua*
- May 15 2006 **Mag:** 5.0 **Depth:** 60 km *40 km north-west of Porirua*
- May 16 2006 **Mag:** 7.6 **Depth:** 150 km *290 km south-west of Raoul Island*

2.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Three weather events occurred in April/May during which we have received eleven Special Weather Bulletins (nine for heavy rain and two for strong wind). The relevant agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.

2.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out and the system is functioning well.

Richard Waddy
Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 30 April 2006

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report, for the first time under the new structure, the Division's operating results for the period ended 30 April 2006. Accordingly, the results that have been presented previously are not directly comparable.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 30 April 2006</u>				
<u>(under the newstructure)</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	8,193	8,193	--	9,832
Other Revenue	2,354	2,187	167 F	2,584
Total Revenue	10,547	10,380	167 F	12,416
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	8,688	9,019	331 F	10,978
Indirect Expenditure	1,372	1,396	24 F	1,680
Total Operating Expenditure	10,060	10,415	355 F	12,658
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	487	(35)	522 F	(242)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are satisfactory and the overall result is more than we anticipated in our budgets. For the period the operating surplus came in at \$487,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$35,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$522,000, comprising increased revenue of \$167,000, and offset by higher than expected expenditure of \$355,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$10,547,000 is some \$167,000 more than our budget target of \$10,380,000.

Most of the increase arises from Meridian's wind farm consent application and the attendant commissioners' costs (recoverable).

We also received funds of \$34,000 from the Ministry for the Environment towards the cost of an Air Quality Monitoring Station. Further, we received \$29,000 from the Department of Conservation towards our biodiversity initiatives for landowner assistance, which has bolstered the revenue line. Both of these items were not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$10,060,000 is some \$355,000 (or 3.5%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were under budget by \$188,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. We assume for budgeting purposes that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- **Consultant costs** were less than budget by \$83,000.

Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets. These are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance. We expect that this variance will be corrected later in the year.

Some of the projects that fall into this category are as follows:

- policy works - freshwater ecosystem work and special marine studies (\$49,000).
- investigatory works - groundwater (\$62,000) and soil analysis (\$12,000).

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$125,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with this type of work there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects.

These shortfalls have been offset, to an extent, by the additional costs that arose from the independent review of the Take Care Programme (\$18,000), Biodiversity work (\$42,000), Waiwhetu stream sediment project (\$38,000), Pollution response work (\$23,000) and Ambient air quality (\$22,000).

- **Internal charges** were less than budget by \$68,000.

Most of the underspend arises from work, presently underway, but yet to be completed by the Catchment Management Division (\$47,000). We expect that these charges will be brought to account before the close of the year.

5. **Capital Expenditure**

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) at \$246,000 is some \$125,000 short of our budget.

The Air Quality station programme, at this stage, is more advanced than anticipated in our budgets while the vehicle replacement and Harbour Safety Management Systems programmes are slightly behind. The sale of a harbour vehicle has been held-over until May. The vehicle has been used by a temporary Harbour ranger over the summer months.

The installation and development of the Harbour Safety Management Systems (budget - \$200,000) has been carried over into the new financial year because the port and harbour risk assessment has only been completed recently. Similarly, the spend on a replacement vehicle (\$30,000) and hydrology equipment (\$20,000) have been deferred until the next year.