



Report **06.392**
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Committee **Environment Committee**
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Pollution Control Report for the period 16 June to 4 August 2006

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

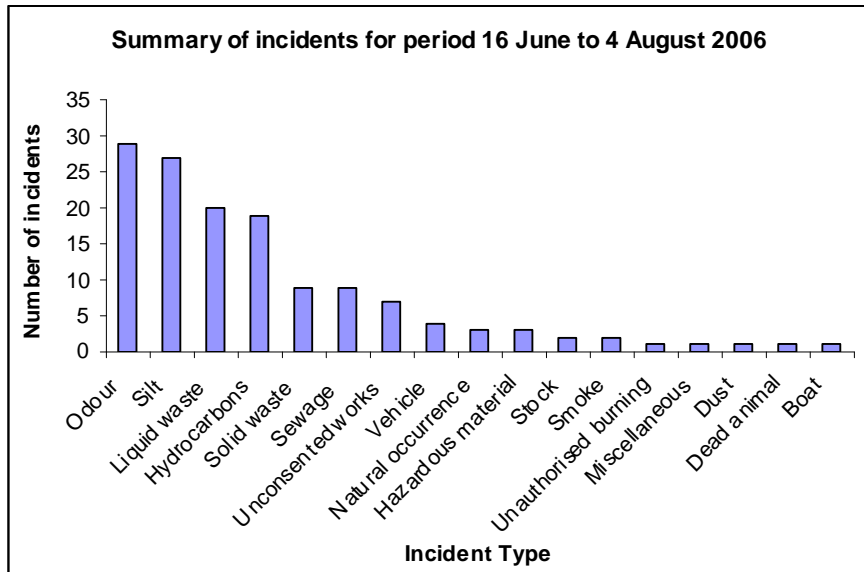
- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 139 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 16 June to 4 August 2006



The cold, wet and windy weather during this reporting period led to a marked reduction in reported odour incidents. Specific incidents worthy of note that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

Inadequate silt control and illegal stream works at Staithe Drive subdivision in Whitby led to significant sediment discharge to a stream, and discoloration in Browns Bay.



Inadequate run-off management at a small urban earthworks project in Mt Victoria caused significant discharge of sediment into the stormwater system.



Sediment loss from multiple major earthworks sites in the Tawa and Churton Park areas have led to frequent discoloration of the Porirua Stream



Visits to Whiteman's Valley identified numerous instances of uncontrolled livestock access to watercourses. This is considered to be a major contributor to poor water quality in the Mangaroa River.



3.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all target response times were met comfortably.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	46 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6.9 hours
Blue (7 days)	1.6 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	4
Infringement Notices	3
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	1 (4)

These are summarised in the manager's report (report 06.376).

5. *Take Charge*

Two new *Take Charge* audits conducted during this reporting period, for a carpet cleaning firm and a motor mechanic workshop. Eight reports were issued for earlier re-visits to Drain 6 sites, and a further audit report was issued to a motor mechanic following a pollution incident at the site.

6. *Special projects*

- A funding application was submitted to the MfE Contaminated Site Fund by Greater Wellington and Hutt City Council, for further investigation into heavy metal contamination in the Te Mome Stream.
- An automated warning system has been established for the Hutt, Wainuiomata, Waikanae and Otaki rivers. An alarm will be sent when flow conditions in these rivers approach those that gave rise to toxic algal growths in November 2005.
- We are currently meeting with several managers from Wellington City Council, to harmonise our response to environmental incidents involving hazardous substance spills onto roads, and after-hours problems at subdivision sites consented by Wellington City Council. The aim is to align and clarify the instructions given to our respective call centres regarding responsibilities for response.
- 9,500 copies of our new Small Site Guideline have been distributed to Territorial Authorities in the region, representing the major deliverable of the Muddy Waters programme.
- Several initiatives have been taken to raise the profile of our pollution response service, using a combination of elements and programmed media releases.

7. *Communication*

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***Receive the report; and***
2. ***Note the contents.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary