

Report 07.38
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Committee Environment
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Pollution Control Report for the period 27 October 2006 to 19 January 2007

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

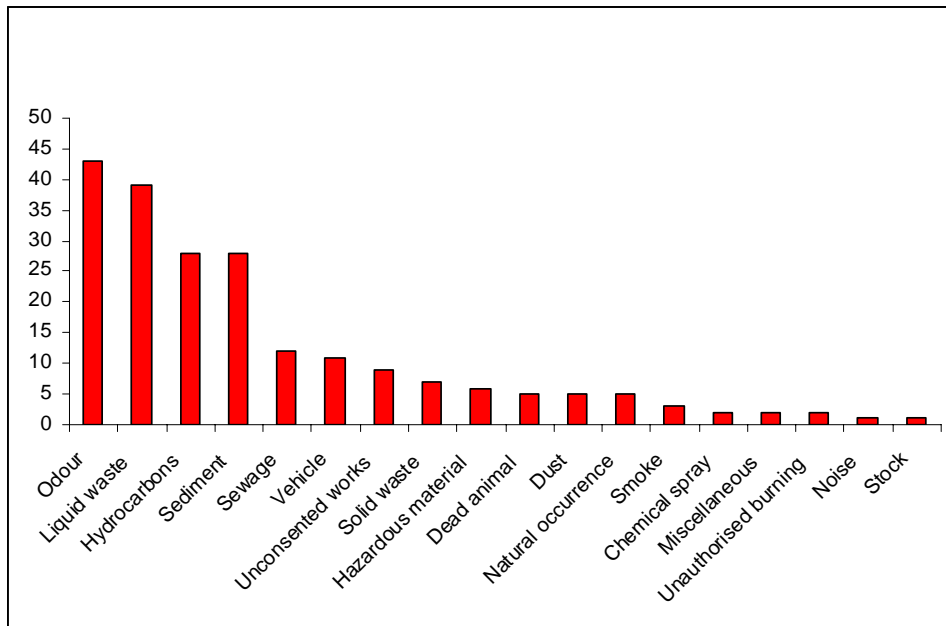


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 27 October 2006 to 19 January 2007

Pollution Control Officers investigated a discharge of sediment laden water from earthworks at the Silverwood Block in Whitby. The discharge caused significant discolouration of a neighbouring wetland and Pauatahanui Inlet. Pollution Control and Consents and Compliance teams are investigating the cause of this incident.



Approximately 5000L of diesel was discharged into the Akatarawa River on New Years Eve following vandalism of a bulk storage tank at Akatarawa Saw Mills. The discharge caused a significant plume in the Akatarawa River for the following 24 hours. Pollution Control are working with the saw mill to improve security of the tank to prevent reoccurrence.



Inspection of a dairy farm in the Wairarapa discovered dairy shed effluent overflowing from the effluent sump to a stream contaminating the drinking water supply for cattle on neighbouring properties.



Sediment was discharged to Browns Bay during rainfall from the Staithes Drive subdivision in Whitby. The ongoing discharge of sediment to Browns Bay from this subdivision is likely to cause a large amount of deposition of sediment in the Bay smothering marine species.



3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, duration and extent of environment effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have minor adverse affects. The incidents categorised as “not assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, duration and extent of environmental effects.

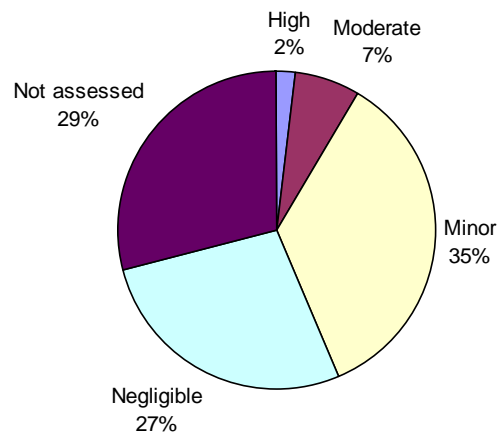


Figure 2: Incident Significance for period 27 October 2006 to 19 January 2007

3.3 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)	34 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	5.6 hours
Blue (7 days)	2 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	5
Infringement Notices	7
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

These are summarised in the manager's report (07.40).

5. Take Charge

Audits undertaken in the reporting period:

Site audits were conducted at several sites engaged in the *EnviroSMART* programme, with the emphasis upon printing firms. Inspections identified low levels of non-compliance, such as emissions through non-complying stacks and poor storage of hazardous substances.

- BRANZ Limited
- Thames Publications Limited
- Macaulay Metals
- French Maid Foods

- Label and Litho Limited
- Litho Print Limited
- Astro Print Limited

Three further audits were undertaken following pollution incidents:

- Arlington Motors
- Wellington Weed Sprayers
- Collins Auto Parts and Accessories

Taking Charge of Grenada North

Following a number of incidents over the last couple of years Pollution Control have begun scoping a project aimed at targeting the Grenada North industrial park through the *Take Charge* programme. An assessment of the impact of businesses in this area upon the Takapu Stream, which receives all stormwater from this catchment, has begun. This will be followed by a risk assessment of businesses and then by *Take Charge* assessments of sites determined to pose the greatest risk.

6. Special projects

Muddy Waters – Following the success of the Muddy Waters programme in 2005 work has begun to develop further workshops for earthworks contractors and consultants. One day workshops will be held on 10 and 11 May 2007 in Wellington.

Used Tyres – Following the discovery of a large volume of used tyres being disposed of at Castle Point in the Wairarapa, Pollution Control are investigating all the companies registered with *TyreTrack* to receive used tyres in the Wellington region.

Quartz Hill – Pollution Control, in conjunction with the Consents and Compliance team, have been involved in site walkovers to identify areas that will need to be protected from works undertaken as part of project West Wind, should the Environment Court uphold the decisions to grant consent for this development .

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