

Nicola Shorten  
Manager, Environmental Policy

## **Environmental Policy Department Report – October 2008**

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### **1. Draft Regional Policy Statement - update**

The Council will consider submissions to the draft Regional Policy Statement, as well as recommended responses and changes in workshops in October.

The main area of concern from submitters is Appendix One of the draft document (Sites of Significance in the Coastal Environment). The sites identified in Appendix One, which were originally identified by Boffa Miskell consultants, are currently being peer reviewed. We are also contacting all submitters on Appendix One and offering to meet with them on site to review information contained in Appendix One and hear their ideas and concerns.

A meeting of affected landowners was held in Eastbourne on the 23 September to discuss their concerns.

### **2. Operative Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan**

The Council approved Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan on 29 September 2008. The plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. It was publicly notified on 26 May 2007, four submissions were received and there were no further submissions. Following the release of staff reports making recommendations on submissions in March 2008, no submitters wished to be heard. The hearing committee notified its decisions on 17 May and a thirty day appeal period followed. No appeals were received by the Environment Court and the Council approved the plan change at its last meeting.

### **3. National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards - update**

#### **3.1 Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation**

Central Government has publicly notified a proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation. A copy of the proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) has been sent to all councillors.

The purpose of the NPS is to set out objectives and policies to enable the sustainable management of renewable electricity generation under the

Resource Management Act 1991. Greater Wellington's Regional Policy Statement and plans will need to give effect to the final NPS.

A Board of Inquiry has been appointed to inquire into and report on the NPS. Members of the Board are Dr Royden Somerville, QC (Chair), Geraldine Baumann (Member), Dr Ralph Chapman (Member) and Wira Gardiner (Member).

Staff are currently reviewing the proposed NPS, and a copy of the draft submission will be included in the Bulletin on 24 October for feedback.

### **3.2 Development of National Policy Statement for Urban Design**

The Ministry for the Environment has been seeking views on how a national policy statement on urban design might be framed. Once these views have been received, the Ministry will collate and analyse them, and the scope of a possible National Policy Statement on Urban Design will be reported back to the Government for consideration. If this is approved, a proposed national policy statement will be drafted and publicly notified.

Greater Wellington has responded in support of the Government's conclusion that national guidance on urban design could assist with improving the quality of urban design. Quality urban design should be considered a matter of national significance, and urban design should be considered a legitimate pursuit under the Resource Management Act 1991.

We believe that some of the key barriers to quality urban design outcomes are a lack of education about what urban design entails and its value, and a lack of skilled council staff and developers who understand how to apply urban design principles in practice. In addition, regional councils would benefit from guidance and confirmation of the process for identifying appropriate objectives, policies and methods for the integration of infrastructure and land use, including the application of urban design principles at a regional level.

The cost of implementing a national policy statement can be significant, and we have requested that the Ministry for the Environment ensure that a national policy statement is the most appropriate means of achieving good urban design outcomes. This includes ensuring that the benefits gained from implementing any proposed policy statement clearly outweigh the costs of developing and implementing it. The Ministry should also determine, prior to gazetting any national policy statement, how they will assist councils to effectively implement it.

### **3.3 Proposed National Environmental Standard for On-site Wastewater - discussion document**

The Government is considering developing a national environmental standard for the inspection of on-site wastewater systems (such as septic tanks).

The discussion document states that the aim of the proposed standard is to improve the management and environmental performance of domestic on-site wastewater systems. The standard would authorise regional councils to require

property owners with an on-site wastewater system to hold a current warrant of fitness for their system. To obtain a warrant of fitness, a system would be required to pass an inspection every three years. Regional councils would identify the areas where the standard would apply.

Greater Wellington generally supports the proposal in the discussion document. Some modification was suggested in relation to the failure of the proposed standard to address design and installation problems, the size of waste water systems that the standard will cover and administration of the proposed standard.

### **3.4 Proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management**

The proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management was notified on 20 September 2008. Submissions close on 23 January 2009. Information about this policy statement was reported to the last meeting of the Regulatory Committee (Report 08.599).

Approval of a draft submission on the proposed National Policy Statement will be sought from the Council prior to the end of the year.

Ted Taylor  
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

## **Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – October 2008**

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### **1. Hydrological monitoring**

A summary of our rainfall, river and groundwater monitoring for the months of August and September is set out in sections 2 to 5 below. This is based on the reports produced at the end of each month for inclusion on the Greater Wellington web site and for distribution with a media release. The full reports can be found at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/section2534.cfm>.

### **2. Rainfall and River Flows**

#### **2.1 Rainfall**

August 2008 was a wet month throughout the Wellington region with rainfall totals for the month about 180-200% of the long-term average for northern Kapiti and northern Wairarapa (around Masterton) and well above average in Wellington City, the northern Hutt Valley, and south east Wairarapa.

August was characterised by frequent storms. At the start of the month, rainfall continued from a stormy period that began on 30 July, with the most significant rainfall in the Tararua Range. On 3 August, thunderstorms brought heavy rainfall to Wellington City and Porirua. Overnight on 14/15 August, a north-westerly storm brought rainfall to the Tararua Range, mainly affecting the Waikanae and Hutt catchments. Another stormy period occurred toward the end of August, with steady rainfall occurring on 24/25 August (mainly affecting the Ruamahanga catchment) when a depression crossed the North Island and stalled in the Cook Strait area. On 26 August, further southeasterly rainfall fell over most of the region, but once again mainly affected the Wairarapa. Masterton received 80 mm of rainfall in two days – the most rainfall in a two day period since the storms of July 2006.

September was comparatively dry with rainfall generally below average, and with the Eastern Wairarapa particularly dry (30% of average).

#### **2.2 Rivers**

River flows during August were well above average for the time of year. For the larger rivers we monitor, with the exception of the Waingawa River, the mean flows for August were the highest on record, going back to the late 1970s early '80s.

Thunderstorms on 3 August resulted in the flood warning alarm for the Porirua Stream being triggered, and rainfall in the western Tararua Range overnight on

14/15 August led to flood warning alerts for the Waikanae and Hutt rivers. However, the flood peaks experienced were not significantly high.

A period of high river flows occurred following the stormy period over 24-26 August. The two storm events in quick succession led to particularly high flows in the Ruamahanga River. Although the flow at Waihenga Bridge was less than a 'mean annual flood', it was high enough to activate the Lower Wairarapa Valley Scheme floodways for the second time in a month, causing SH53 at Waihenga Bridge to be closed for nearly a day. This peak flow at Waihenga (970 m<sup>3</sup>/s) was almost identical in magnitude to that at the end of July.

River flows in September were below average.

### **3. Groundwater levels**

The wet months proceeding September 2008 resulted in significant recharge to both rainfall and river recharge aquifers in the region. This was reflected in winter 'high' groundwater levels in many aquifers during either late August or September. Due to the wet winter period many aquifers reached groundwater levels above historical highs for this time of year.

Deeper aquifers, which react more slowly to specific recharge events, are in some cases still tracking at or below minimum levels.

#### **3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone**

Groundwater levels in the artesian Waiwhetu aquifer have been above average since May.

#### **3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones**

Groundwater levels recorded in the deep Waikanae aquifer remained around average throughout most of September. Shallow monitoring wells on the Kapiti Coast are recovering in response to the wet winter.

#### **3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones**

Shallow rainfall and river-fed aquifers in the Wairarapa have recovered in response to the wet August. Groundwater levels in the monitoring bore in Te Ore Ore, which have been below average for over a year, peaked at the highest maximum since recording began at this site in the early 1980s. Levels have also recovered in the rainfall recharge Martinborough Terraces aquifer.

Groundwater levels in deeper confined aquifers are still to show a marked recovery.

### **4. Soil moisture**

During August, soil moisture levels remained high due to the regular rainfall with levels higher than at the same time last year. Soil moisture levels remained relatively high in September but did decline with the low rainfall until rain later in the month.

## **5. Climate outlook**

NIWA's climate outlook indicates that there is presently no La Niña or El Niño in the Tropical Pacific, and no indication of either La Niña or El Niño developing for the rest of the year. Their forecast for September to November 2008 favours normal rainfall with near normal soil moisture in the Wairarapa and near normal rainfall and soil moisture levels in the western Wellington region.

## **6. Floodwarning**

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

In August two events triggered river alarms in the Western part of the region, one alarm was triggered on 3 August and three on 15 August.

Two events triggered river alarms in the Wairarapa; two alarms on 3 August and eleven on 25/26 August.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was open during all of August and September.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were high in August as a result of the high river flows and floodway operation but declined in September to be just above the target level at the end of the month.

## **7. Air quality monitoring**

### **7.1 National environmental standard for air quality**

The ambient air quality monitoring station at Wairarapa College in Masterton recorded a third exceedance of the NES-AQ for PM<sub>10</sub> on 6 August. In accordance with the regulations, a public notice was placed in the Wairarapa Times Age on 30 August 2008 that the NES-AQ had been breached

## **8. Project summary**

Brief notes on some of the projects the Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department are working on:

- A report on targeted groundwater quality investigations in the Wairarapa has been published. This is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.
- A report on riparian rehabilitation has been published. This is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

Al Cross  
Manager, Environmental Regulation

## **Environmental Regulation Department Report – October 2008**

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### **1. Consent statistics**

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 August to 26 September 2008 we have received 100 consent applications. This compares with 160 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 85 consents. This compares with 105 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 16 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July remains at 16 working days.

We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent application suites. Compliance activity has been up across the region as the teams looked to complete their annual compliance reporting programmes, taking some time away from consent processing.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 4, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties is also attached for information.

### **2. Appeals and objections**

#### **2.1 Appeals**

##### **WCC (Wellington City Council)/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant**

As I reported verbally at the August Committee meeting, the Environment Court struck out evidence of Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers Association (WRMFA) – determined by the Court to be beyond the scope of the appeal.

A hearing has now been set down for 1 October to clarify the position of all parties at the last mediation and confirm the level of detail needed to make a recommendation to the Minister of Conservation.

This is an appeal by WCC regarding the decision on replacement applications for WCC/Capacity's ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment

Plant; including fully treated effluent discharge to Cook Strait; a mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened effluent discharge; and discharges of odour to air. Wellington Marine Fishers' Association, the Moa Point Community Liaison Group, Betty Weeber, Department of Conservation and the Breaker Bay and Moa Point Progressive Association also joined the process as a section 274 party (a party to the appeal proceedings). The appeal covers a wide range of matters including consent duration, monitoring and reporting requirements, UV irradiation treatment requirements and pilot study reporting.

### **Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)**

Following the first mediation on 29 August, the scope of the appeal has been narrowed, with the focus remaining on urban design, traffic, heritage and planning. Evidence will be exchanged between November and January, prior to 'evidence caucusing' in February and March. Caucusing is designed to enable the parties to limit the evidence being tabled in Court to focus on the more weighty issues, and putting aside evidence covering matters determined to be less critical. A Court hearing is likely in March 2009.

This is an appeal by Waterfront Watch against the hearing panel's decision to grant consents to redevelop the Overseas Passenger Terminal site at Clyde Quay Wharf. A number of section 274 parties have also joined the appeal, including Chaffers Marina Limited, Chaffers Marina Holdings Limited, John Spry, Grant Hodgson, Malcolm Small, Helene Ritchie, Tomas Huppert, Dennis Foot and John Moore.

The applications incorporated a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking, wharf structural strengthening, public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end. The applications incorporated modifications put forward at the hearing, including retaining more heritage elements, improved mitigation of construction effects on marina uses and additional provision for mariner services in the longer term.

### **Winstone Aggregates Limited – Belmont Quarry**

Six appeals have been lodged with the Environment Court to date in respect of the joint decision by Hutt City Council and Wellington Regional Council granting consents for the proposed Overburden Disposal Area (OBDA).

Western Hills Environment Foundation Incorporated (a group comprised of submitters and members of the community), Martha Swanepoel, Rachael Ford, Chris and Sera Solomon, and Stephen Arthur have appealed the decisions made by both councils in their entirety and seek that the decisions be overturned.

The applicant has appealed one condition of the discharge to air permit (controlling the discharge of dust to air from the proposed OBDA).



## **Other ongoing appeals**

- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (Stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (Stage 2) at Castlepoint. MDC have now finalised the Stage 2 Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) options, which includes provision for a new low-level sea wall. They have sought input from the community on options and will confirm the ‘process’ for deciding on the preferred option.
- ***M B & H F Herrick (Herricks) – Taking groundwater adjacent Taumata Lagoon:*** Replacement (renewal) application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a regionally significant Wairarapa wetland. The matter has been adjourned until 21 November to enable the appellant to continue to investigate other surface water sources at the property.
- ***Wellington City Council/Capacity - Western Wastewater Treatment Plant:*** As verbally reported at the September Committee meeting, the WCC Strategy and Policy Committee ‘approved’ pipeline replacement in its long term work programme within the next 15 years. This is very good news, and it is anticipated that outstanding matters can be resolved in a final mediation (joint memorandum of counsel), consent order issued, and a report to the Minister of Conservation. These are appeals against a decision (and recommendation to the Minister in regard to Restricted Coastal Activities) to grant consents to discharge treated effluent to the South Coast, and milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast (including discharges of odour).

## **2.2 Objections**

Currently there are no objections before us.

## **3. Compliance and enforcement**

### **3.1 General**

Compliance work has shifted to completing annual compliance reports over August and September.

### **3.2 Specific compliance**

**Planning Dairyshed Inspections:** We are continuing to plan for our dairyshed inspections. We will be inspecting every consented dairyshed discharge, paying particular attention to those consent holders who were rated as non-complying in the 2007-08 financial year. A letter outlining our inspection programme for the coming season was sent to all consent holders in early September. I will keep the Committee informed as we progress through inspections over the next eight months.

### **3.3 Abatement notices**

We issued eight abatements in the last period (down from 10 for the previous period), for unauthorised taking of water, the discharge of dairy shed effluent to land in a manner in which it entered water, unauthorised tracking, and illegal stream works.

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.696).

### **3.4 Infringement notices**

We have issued 12 infringement notices in the last period (up from three for the previous period), for:

- Eight infringement notices in total were issued to each of the company directors of Kaiwairai Dairies Ltd for discharges of dairy effluent to surface water near Featherston in June 2008. The discharges caused marked contamination of surface water when the effluent was applied to pasture and already saturated soils that could no longer take the loading.
- Other offences for which infringement notices were served include; breach of resource consent for taking water from the Ruamahanga River, unauthorised stream works in the Manuka Stream, Masterton, and construction of an unauthorised track, Spenmoor Street, Newlands, Wellington.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.696).

### **3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders**

Three prosecutions are currently before the Court, up from the last period, with monitoring of performance occurring on a further two sets of enforcement orders.

#### **Lloyd Rainer: illegal stream works and diverting wetland water**

On 12 September we laid charges against Lloyd Rainer for directing works which resulted in 200 metres of watercourse adjacent to Lake Wairarapa (Featherston end) being excavated, water being diverted from the Simmonds Lagoon, and the cull of hundreds of eels. The context for the significance of the incident is that Simmonds Lagoon, a Department of Conservation wetland, is also linked to Lake Wairarapa, a nationally significant water body.

The late-March incident was reported in the media at the time, and has received a good deal of media interest since charges were laid.

The first call-over is set down for 3 November.

### **Lance James: failure to meet enforcement orders at Brooklyn Rise**

Lance James has pleaded guilty to the charges of breach of enforcement order. A sentencing hearing is set down for 22 October. Mr James is required to provide a statement of his financial position prior to sentencing.

This prosecution regards the complete failure to meet basic requirements (provision of certain sediment control and re-vegetation plans, failure to meet general timelines also including stream reinstatement works) of enforcement orders affecting unconsented works at two separate subdivisions in Ohiro Rd, Brooklyn.

### **Masterton District Council and Master Roads Services: taking water**

25 September saw the first 'call-over' at the Masterton District Court. The parties have requested that the matter be transferred to be heard in the Wellington District Court. A new call-over date has been set down for 28 October in Wellington. Pleas are yet to be entered.

This is a prosecution against Masterton District Council (MDC) and Master Road Services in relation to taking water from Ruamahanga River to Henley Lake in February 2008 during a period of water restrictions and one-in-seven year low flow in Ruamahanga River. A substantial volume of water was taken over two days following remedial works, and heated and algae laden water from Henley Lake was discharged back to Ruamahanga after lake levels became excessively high.

## **3.6 Take Charge**

We have completed our two-year *Take Charge* programme for Grenada industrial park area adjacent to the Takapu Stream. This marks the completion of our second area assessment. Follow up visits are still to be undertaken by officers to ensure that the recommendations made are implemented by the businesses. Take Charge Certificates were issued to the 11 Envirosmart participants from previous visits who have completed implementing our recommendations.

Our Take Charge Co-ordinator, Katie Mossman has recently left on maternity leave. Christina Parnell-Harris (who is currently the Secretary/Administration Assistant for Environmental Policy) has been appointed to this role on a fixed-term until Katie returns from leave.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.696).

## **3.7 Significant incidents**

Significant incidents of note centre on discharges of sediment, sewage, hydrocarbons and other contaminants. These incidents are covered in more detail in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.696).

- ***Sediment discharges - Whitby:*** We are currently investigating discharges from Silverwood subdivision (to a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream) and Aotea Block (discharging to the stormwater network then to Okowai Lagoon). In the case of Aotea Block, Environmental Protection staff conducted the site visit with Porirua City Council (PCC) officers. Naturally we will continue to work with PCC where appropriate to work through investigations, particularly given the integrated nature of subdivision works.
- ***'Ambergris':*** There has been a lot of public interest and media attention in this issue – which of course turned out to be tallow/lard. These barrel-shaped lumps have been found at Breaker Bay and Waikanae Beach.

## **4. Major resource consents and other matters**

### **4.1 Key notified consents update**

#### Fully Notified

Assessment work remains reasonable heavy with a large load of applications in the early stages of process. Hearing activity has also increased with the commencement of the Mill Creek six week hearing.

#### **Meridian – Project Mill Creek**

The five-week hearing of Meridian Energy Ltd's applications to establish a 31 turbine windfarm at Mill Creek (north of the lower Makara valley and estuary area) ended on 19 September. The applications are being jointly determined together with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council, and heard by a fully independent panel.

The Greater Wellington (GW) officer's final recommendation was to grant the consents, but with requirements to mitigate adverse effects on stream habitats by enhancing around 1000 m of stream within the core site. This related to:

- The treatment of sediment discharges to meet water quality standards both within the site and at Makara Stream and Estuary
- Piping and reclaiming streams, which affect stream habitat (including the removal of stream reaches).

Both GW and WCC recommendations changed from the earlier officer's report recommendations. Wellington City Council also recommended consents be granted, providing 10 turbines be removed (taking the total number down to 21).

Earlier the GW officer's report recommended that a number of the consents to culvert and divert watercourses be granted, but reserved our recommendation on earthworks, discharges and stream piping and reclamation matters – subject to Meridian providing information on appropriately managing and 'offsetting' potentially significant effects. Meridian opted not to provide mitigation options to deal with the adverse effects from stream piping works.

The proposal involves applications to GW (nine separate applications) covering the culverting, piping and reclamation of streams, earthworks and discharges of sediment laden water (from over 800,000 cubic metres of earthworks to construct roads, fill sites and turbine platforms) to a number of water courses and eventually the Makara Stream and Estuary. The applications are being jointly determined together with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council, and heard by a fully independent panel.

### **Palliser Bay Station – wastewater treatment**

This is a joint application for discharges from a community wastewater scheme associated with a proposed clustered 22-lot subdivision on Cape Palliser Road, South Wairarapa.

The process was split in mid 2007 after submissions received did not raise issues relating to the wastewater discharges, therefore there was no requirement for GW to participate in a joint hearing. The subdivision application was subsequently heard and approved by South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC), and recently the applicant provided final on-site wastewater design detail to GW so that the discharge permit could be processed.

The application was granted on 21 August 2008.

### **Winstone Aggregates Limited – Belmont Quarry**

A decision on these applications granting consents to Winstone Aggregates was released on 2 September 2008 and appeals closed on 23 September 2008. Six appeals have been lodged with the Environment Court, as described in section 2.1 of this report.

The proposal to develop an overburden disposal area (OBDA) involved applications to reclaim and pipe over 500 metres of ephemeral and intermittent stream channel, and control sediment discharges from the working sites, and discharges of dust to air.

### **MDC – Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant**

There are replacement applications to discharge treated effluent to the Ruamahanga River at Homebush, including a new proposal to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. There were deferred so that amended applications could be made to incorporate new ponds and additional land for land-based discharges/treatment. Revised applications were received in August, and were notified on 17 September. Submissions close on 15 October.

**Other notified applications** active during the last period include:

- ***Kelson Heights limited:*** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. Due to the extent of changes to the application to address further information requests the application is to be essentially resubmitted. The revised application is expected in October, at which point it would be notified.

- ***Westchester Drive Extension:*** Earthworks associated with a roading project connecting Mark Avenue, Newlands. On hold for further information and additional consents to be lodged.
- ***T & T Landfill:*** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. Notification expected soon once the applicant provides an application fee and further information.
- ***Stronvar Properties Ltd:*** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater, and the integrity of the proposed water supply and amenity dam – working through these with the applicant.
- ***Masterton District Council:*** Masterton Landfill closure. Awaiting further information prior to notification.
- ***Transpacific Technical Services:*** Discharges to air from an industrial and hazardous waste processing facility in Seaview. Applications were notified on 12 July, and seven submissions were received. On the request of Regional Public Health, a public health risk assessment is being prepared by the applicant to determine possible impacts of associated discharges on public health.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and waiting for further information. A final decision on treatment options is expected in January 2009, prior to a revised AEE in March.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited:*** Replacement applications for discharges contaminants from the woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, and various kilns at their Waingawa, Masterton plant. Lodged in January 2008 with updated AEE provided in May. Further information has now been received and is being reviewed for adequacy prior to notifying the applications.
- ***Best Farms Ltd:*** A subdivision and associated activities including 300,000 cubic metres of earthworks over nearly 15 hectares, and stream reclamation, at Best Farms, Churton Park. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** Earthworks to construct a car haulways area at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** A 100 lot subdivision and associated activities at Lincolnshire Farm, Newlands.
- ***Wairarapa Aggregates Limited:*** A proposed aggregate quarry and cleanfill operation, at Waingawa south of Masterton involving discharges of sediment and taking groundwater.
- ***JR's Orchards Ltd:*** Taking and damming water (Papawai Stream and local groundwater) associated with orchard irrigation, at Papawai, east of Greytown.
- ***C n D Landfill:*** Extension of the existing CnD demolition fill at Happy Valley, Wellington.

Limited Notified

### **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept – Waitohu Stream Flood Protection Works**

These are replacement consents for global flood protection operations in Waitohu Stream, Otaki, from upstream of State Highway One to the coast. Notice was served on 56 parties, with two submissions received. Sign off was gained after a lengthy period of discussions between the applicant and the lone opposed submitter (which followed the pre-hearing meeting) – therefore avoiding the need for a formal hearing.

The application was finally granted on 5 September.

### **NZSF Timber Investments Ltd – Logging operations near Pauatahanui**

Applications for forestry logging operations in Pauatahanui Stream catchment (including, soil disturbance, erosion and sediment control, and culverts) were granted on 22 September.

Earlier, these applications were jointly limited notified with Porirua City Council. Three submissions were received within timeframes, opposing aspects of the applications related to the PCC-associated activities only (avoiding the need for a formal hearing for the applications to GW). A pre-hearing was held on 31 July to deal with the PCC matters only. Porirua City Council consents were granted on 19 September.

Limited notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:*** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihangā and Te Moana Road in Waikanae. The application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition. Key issues raised impacts on wahi tapu, water quality and flood conveyance and wetland effects. Peer review of wetland effects has identified gaps in KCDC's assessment, currently being addressed.
- ***Hutt City Council:*** Wainuiomata River gravel extraction and river realignment. On hold pending further information.

## **4.2 Upcoming consent applications**

**South Waitohu Stopbank:** A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki, by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection.

**Hutt River stopbank, Boulcott:** Applications by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection to construct a new stopbank in the vicinity of Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses. Lodgement expected later in 2009.

**Waiwhetu Stream Remediation:** Full applications for remediation of Waiwhetu Stream, following on from the March 2008 trial-excavation consents. Lodgement expected mid October 2008.

**Kaitoke abstraction - GW Water Group:** Applications to increase water abstraction from the Hutt River at Kaitoke (to lower the minimum flow from 600L/sec to 400L/sec).

**Wellington Waterfront Limited:** Consents to authorise the existing use of structures within the CMA in the vicinity of Queens Wharf, and allow vehicle use around Shed 6.

**Aotea Block Stages 10 and 11:** Earthworks associated with subdivision at Aotea, Porirua.

**Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd:** Quarrying of old river gravels at Waingawa Industrial Estate, adjacent a wetland.

#### **4.3 Other applications**

Other non-notified applications of note are discussed in report 08.699.

#### **4.4 Department projects**

##### **Hutt City Council Enforcement Delegations**

We are rolling over for a further 12 months the GW- Hutt City Council (HCC) trial of delegated enforcement powers, enabling HCC to enforce illegal discharges to their stormwater network (otherwise a jurisdiction of GW). HCC officers are able to monitor, investigate and recommend minor actions (up to abatement and infringement notice level) to GW.

Following a delayed set-up period, the additional 12 months will enable both Councils to fully test the effectiveness of the delegation arrangement. Already the Environmental Protection team has had to respond with fewer incidents, with these being dealt with by HCC.

The delegations (one of two or three operating nationally) allow HCC to take a greater level of ownership over activities which directly affect their stormwater infrastructure.



### Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

| Applicant   | Proposal   | Date Consent Lodged | Date Submissions Closed  | Number of Submissions Received | Pre-hearing Held | Hearing Held / Process Delay  | Hearing Committee Members | Date Decision Released | Granted or Declined |
|---|--|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| South Wairarapa District Council<br>WAR970080               | To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston.   | 13/05/97            |  | 9                              | 12/12/03         | Hearing delayed as applications on hold. Updated AEE due in August 08. Currently chasing applicant for AEE. |                           |                        |                     |
| Davis Sawmilling Co Ltd<br>WAR 040165<br>(Limited Notified) | To discharge contaminants to land (which may enter water) associated with stormwater runoff from timber yard in Featherston. | 29/11/04            | Likely to serve notice on affected parties in Oct 08. Awaiting Limited Notified application fee. |                                |                  |   |                           |                        |                     |
| Masterton District Council<br>WAR 060047                    | To discharge contaminants to land and air associated with the operation of Masterton landfill, Homebush, Masterton.          | 30/03/06            | On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.   |                                |                  |   |                           |                        |                     |

| Applicant  | Proposal   | Date Consent Lodged | Date Submissions Closed | Number of Submissions Received | Pre-hearing Held                              | Hearing Held / Process Delay   | Hearing Committee Members | Date Decision Released | Granted or Declined  |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Stronvar Properties Ltd<br>WAR 060160                | Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton. | 24/07/06            | 15/12/06                | 24                             | -   | Further information supplied late February 2008. Information externally reviewed and further response provided by applicant. Likely to be heard in Dec 08 or early 2009. |                           |                        |                      |
| Hutt City Council<br>(Limited Notified)<br>WGN070019 | To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.  | 07/08/06            | 20/10/06                | 1                              | 20/12/06<br>15/02/07                          | HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works). Amended proposal to be submitted.  | -                         | -                      | -                    |
| Palliser Bay Station<br>WAR 060200                   | To discharge treated wastewater to land from a communal wastewater treatment and disposal system.  | 28/11/06            | 22/02/07                | 1                              | -   | Negotiated outcome with written approval of one submitter and applicant.   | N/A                       | 25/8/08                | Granted – no appeals |
| Wellington City Council<br>WGN070230                 | To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.  | 27/04/07            | 13/07/07                | 95                             | 16/10/07<br>Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08 | On hold at applicant's request to carry out trials of discharging sludge to land.  | -                         |                        |                      |

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|---|--|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Winstone Aggregates Ltd<br>WGN080237                                      | To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.   | 07/05/07            | 10/07/07                | 24                             | 30/08/07         | Hearing commenced on 12/05/08, reconvened on 12/06/08.   | Cr Baber, Cr Bruce, Christine Foster | 02/09/08               | Granted             |
| Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept (Limited Notified)<br>WGN 070242 | To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance.                                     | 10/05/07            | 22/06/07                | 2                              |                  | Negotiated outcome. Written approval from affected party received 05/08/08.                                |                                      | 05/09/08               | Granted             |
| Masterton District Council<br>WAR 070077                                  | To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton. | 16/05/07            | 01/08/07                | 69                             | 12/11/07         | New applications lodged 20/08/08. These applications likely to be withdrawn following new consent process. |                                      |                        |                     |

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|--|---|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Kapiti Coast District Council<br>(Limited Notified)<br>WGN080150 | To undertake various activities associated with the construction of Section 5 (Otaihanga Rd to Te Moana Road) of Western Link Road.                                   | 09/10/07            | 07/12/07   | 5                              |                  | Peer review of wetland effects identified major gaps in applicant's assessment, which are currently being addressed. Resolution of issues raised by some submitters still outstanding. |                           |                        |                     |
| Kelson Heights Ltd.<br>WGN080187                                 | 143 lot subdivision   | 13/11/07            | On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.   |                                |                  |  |                           |                        |                     |
| South Wairarapa District Council<br>WAR 080254                   | To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Greytown wastewater treatment plant at Papawai, east of Greytown. | 28/12/07            | On hold for further information. Agreed to timeline for updated AEE to be submitted by 31/03/09. |                                |                  |  |                           |                        |                     |

| Applicant   | Proposal   | Date Consent Lodged | Date Submissions Closed   | Number of Submissions Received | Pre-hearing Held  | Hearing Held / Process Delay       | Hearing Committee Members                | Date Decision Released | Granted or Declined |
|---|--|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| Juken Nissho Ltd<br>WAR 080250  | To discharge contaminants to air from woodwaste boiler, veneer driers & presses, kilns at Waingawa, Masterton.   | 29/12/07            | Final AEE submitted 12/09/08. Currently been assessed for notification. |                                |   |                                    |  |                        |                     |
| NZSF Timber Investments (No. 3) Ltd.<br>(Limited Notified)<br>Joint with PCC<br>WGN080361 | To undertake various activities associated with forestry logging, Flighty's Road, Pauatahanui.   | 07/03/08            | 20/05/08  | 3                              | Pre-hearing meeting held 31 July to address issues within PCC jurisdiction. No issues raised in submissions within GW jurisdiction. |                                    |  | 22/09/08               | Granted             |
| Mill Creek (Meridian)<br>WGN080368  | To undertake stream works, land disturbance, discharge contaminated storm water to land/water and contaminants to air in association with constructing roads, fill sites and platforms for the establishment of a wind farm. | 12/03/08            | 16/06/08  |                                |   | Commencing week beginning 11/08/08 | David Hill, David McMahon, Pamela Peters |                        |                     |

| Applicant                              | Proposal  | Date Consent Lodged                                    | Date Submissions Closed   | Number of Submissions Received | Pre-hearing Held   | Hearing Held / Process Delay | Hearing Committee Members | Date Decision Released | Granted or Declined |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Transpacific<br>WGN080440              | To discharge contaminants to air from the operation of a liquid and hazardous waste processing plant.       | 23/04/08   | 08/08/08  | 7                              | On hold awaiting public health assessment. Pre-hearing meeting possibly in the new year. |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| Best Farms Ltd<br>WGN080494            | Earthworks and reclamation of streams associated with sub-division activities, at Best Farms, Churton Park. | 29/05/08<br>Application rejected (lack of information) |   |                                |  |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd<br>WAR 080518 | To discharge stormwater from a gravel extraction and associated cleanfill operation to water.               | 04/06/08   | On hold for further information and consents. Yet to be notified.       |                                |  |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| T & T Landfill<br>WGN070260            | Discharges associated with the operation of a demolition fill.  | 14/06/08   | Further information received, to be notified 16/10/08 jointly with WCC. |                                |  |                              |                           |                        |                     |

| Applicant                       | Proposal  | Date Consent Lodged | Date Submissions Closed                                      | Number of Submissions Received | Pre-hearing Held | Hearing Held / Process Delay | Hearing Committee Members | Date Decision Released | Granted or Declined |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Hunter Hills Ltd<br>WGN080520   | Earthworks associated with new car haulaway area, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.  | 17/06/08            | On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.         |                                |                  |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| Hunter Hills Ltd<br>WGN090003   | Earthworks associated with a 100 lot subdivision, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.  | 03/07/08            | On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.         |                                |                  |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| JR's Orchards Ltd<br>WAR 080557 | To take and dam water from the Papawai Stream and to take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes at Papawai, east of Greytown. | 30/06/08            | On hold for further information. Agree Yet to be notified.   |                                |                  |                              |                           |                        |                     |
| CnD Landfill<br>WGN080462       | Extension of construction and demolition fill.  | 04/08/08            | On hold for further information and affected party approval. |                                |                  |                              |                           |                        |                     |

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|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Masterton District Council<br>WAR 090066 | To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton. | 20/08/08            | 15/10/08                |                                |                  |                              |                           |                        |                     |



Mike Pryce  
Manager, Harbours

## Harbours Department Report – October 2008

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### 1. Harbour navigation aids

Barrett Reef buoy was redeployed back into position south of Barrett Reef on 4 September after repairs and refurbishment.

### 2. Oil Pollution

Three oil pollution reports were received during this period, but none required any clean-up action.

### 3. Harbour events of interest

On 13 September a major Search & Rescue exercise was held on Wellington Harbour, utilising the Strait Shipping ferry *Santa Regina* as the centrepiece of the rescue exercise. Harbours Department staff participated, including use of Greater Wellington's workboat *Seacare* who assisted with rescues.

The Bay Artificial Reef Charitable Trust has acquired the hulk of *Seafire* from the Council to scuttle this vessel as a dive site off Whale Island in the Bay of Plenty. It is anticipated that the hulk will leave Wellington before mid-December.

The long laid-up fishing vessel *Balder* sailed from Wellington on 2 September for Whangarei.

The ferry *Arahura* returned to Wellington on 13 September after a lengthy refit in Singapore.

### 4. Meetings

On 3 September Manager Harbours gave a presentation to the Ministry of Transport about "The Role of the Harbourmaster".

On 26 September a meeting was held of the Regional Oil Spill Support Group. This is a group of people and organisations who would be assisting GWRC-Harbours with a Tier 2 Marine Oil Spill Response by providing staff and specialist equipment.