

PURPOSE OF THE UPDATE

The main purpose of this Update is to:

- Update you on progress with the Waiwhetu Project;
- Inform you about the outcomes of the Waiwhetu Advisory Committee Meeting, held 14th November 2006; and
- Invite you to the final residents and industry consultation group meeting for 2006.

Progress with Phase 2 Investigations

As part of Phase 2 of the Project, the source control (retain water where it falls) and upper catchment protection and debris control investigations are well underway.

Progress with the source control investigations (Part 1) has been the amendment and running of the flood model for this investigation.

Progress to date with the upper catchment protection and debris control investigation has primarily been the collation of relevant data and the development of a methodology to undertake this investigation.

An update on the progress of the Phase 2 activities will be given in more detail at the upcoming consultation group meeting, which both remain on target to be completed February 2007.

MfE Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) Application

An application was lodged with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) on 14th November 2006 requesting \$6 million of funding from their Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund to clean up the lower reaches of the Waiwhetu.

We now await the results of the application.

A short summary is attached to this update.

Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee (WSAC) Meeting

A WSAC committee meeting was held on 14th November 2006. The main outcomes from this meeting were:

- The Committee noted that an application had been submitted to the MfE's CSRF.

The advisory committee agreed in principle to a 10 year timeframe for scheduling of the flood protection and cleanup works, although with flexibility in the programme to allow for the uncertainties associated with achieving resource consents, final design and resolving property easement issues to secure the floodway corridors etc.

Upcoming Residential and Industry Consultation Group Meeting

The next residential and industry consultation group meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th December at 6pm, at the Pavillion 1st floor, Laing's Road, opposite the council chambers. We were unable to hold the meeting at the council chambers due to refurbishments being carried out at this time.

The focus of the meeting will be to discuss progress and any initial results from the Phase 2 'Source Control and 'Upper Catchment and Debris Control' Investigations. The meeting will also be an opportunity for the group to meet before the Christmas break.

Waiwhetu Stream Working Group (WSWG) Meeting

A WSWG meeting was held on 30th November. Items for discussion on the agenda included the MfE Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund application, consented sewage discharges, issues/priorities for the WSWG for 2007 and a summary of progress with the Phase 2 investigations.

Greeting from New Consultation Manager

Karen Muldowney (URS) has now taking over the role of Consultation Manager for the Waiwhetu Project, and has been working on the project for the last few months.

Karen, originally from Ireland, is extremely excited about having the opportunity to be involved in such an interesting and exciting project, and is really looking forward to meeting all the members' of the residential and industry consultation group at the forthcoming meeting.

Contact Details Waiwhetu Project Team:

Karen Muldowney
Waiwhetu Project Consultation Manager

Ph: 4 496 3750
Fax: 4 496 3755
Email: Karen_Muldowney@urscorp.com

John Eyles, GWRC
Waiwhetu Project Manager

DDI: 4 801 1043
Ph: 4 384 5708
Email: John.Eyles@gw.govt.nz

Our website:
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/waiwhetuproject>

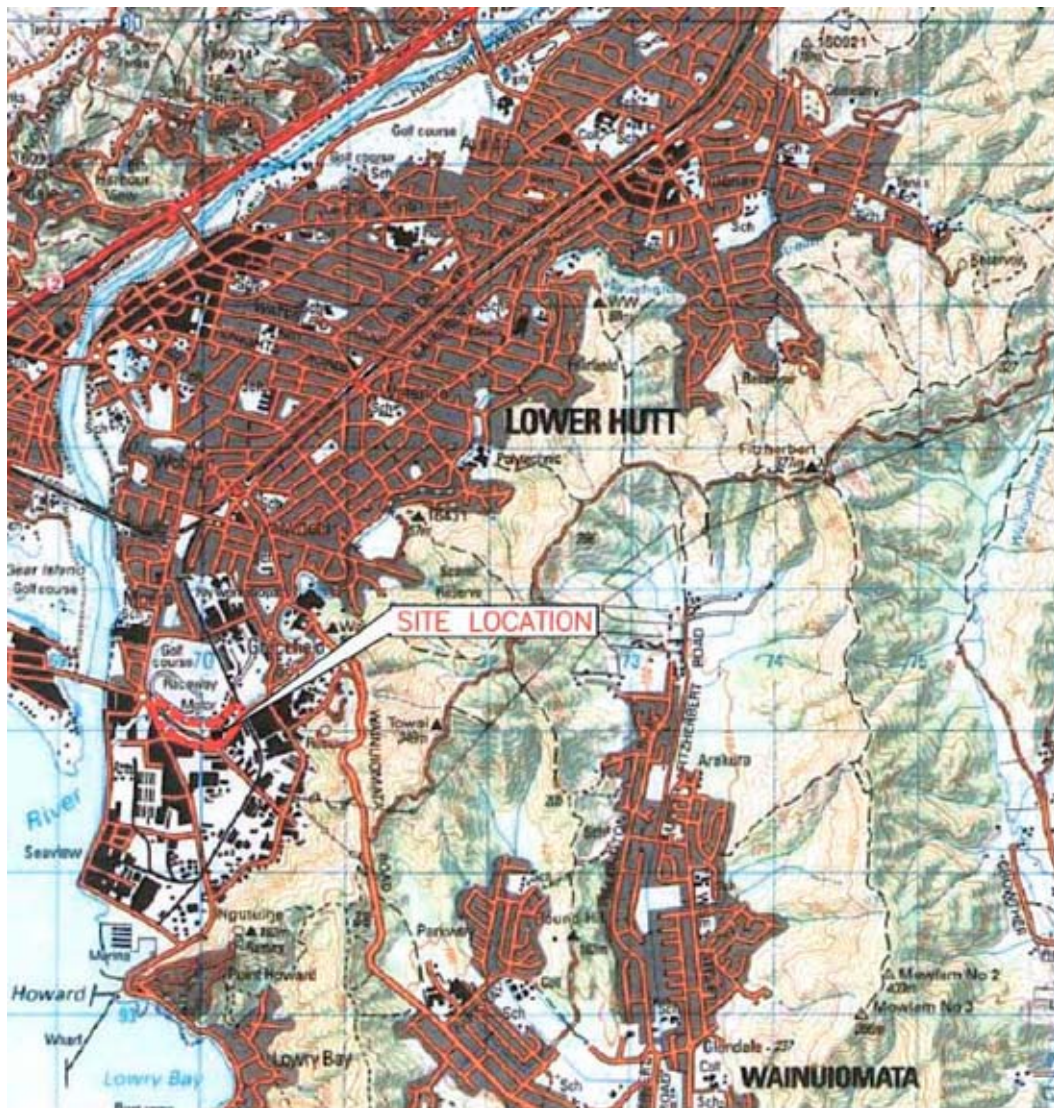
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Hutt City Council

Waiwhetu Stream Contaminated Site Cleanup
Project

Project Summary

MATERIAL IN THIS SUMMARY IS BASED ON THE REPORT *WAIWHETU CLEAN UP PROJECT: MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CSRF APPLICATION* PREPARED BY URS FOR GREATER WELLINGTON AND HUTT CITY, NOVEMBER 2006



© New Zealand
Reserve Bank



WAIWHETU STREAM

How severe is the contamination?

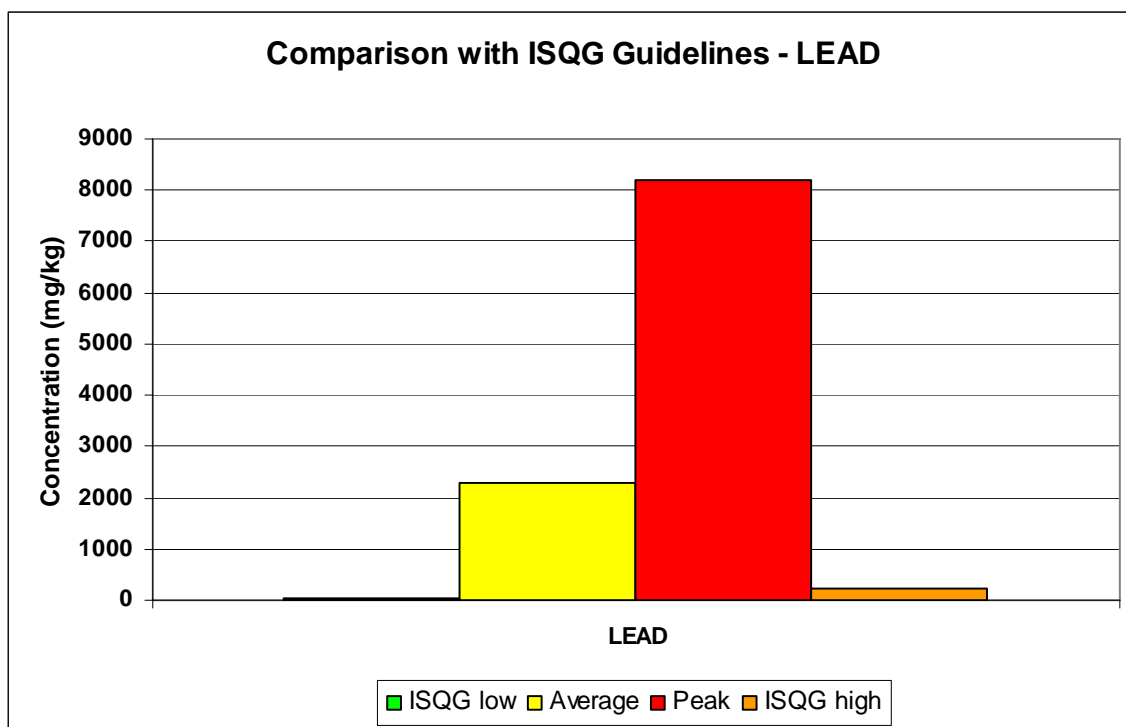
The lower section of the Waiwhetu Stream is considered to be one of the, if not the, most contaminated waterways in New Zealand. The main contaminants are heavy metals (copper, lead, zinc and cadmium) and DDT.

The most appropriate “yardstick” to measure the contamination against is the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines (ISQG). The ISQG-High value is the level which is known to have adverse effects on some animals.

An appreciation of the severity of the contamination levels in the lower Waiwhetu Stream can be gained by the following graphs:

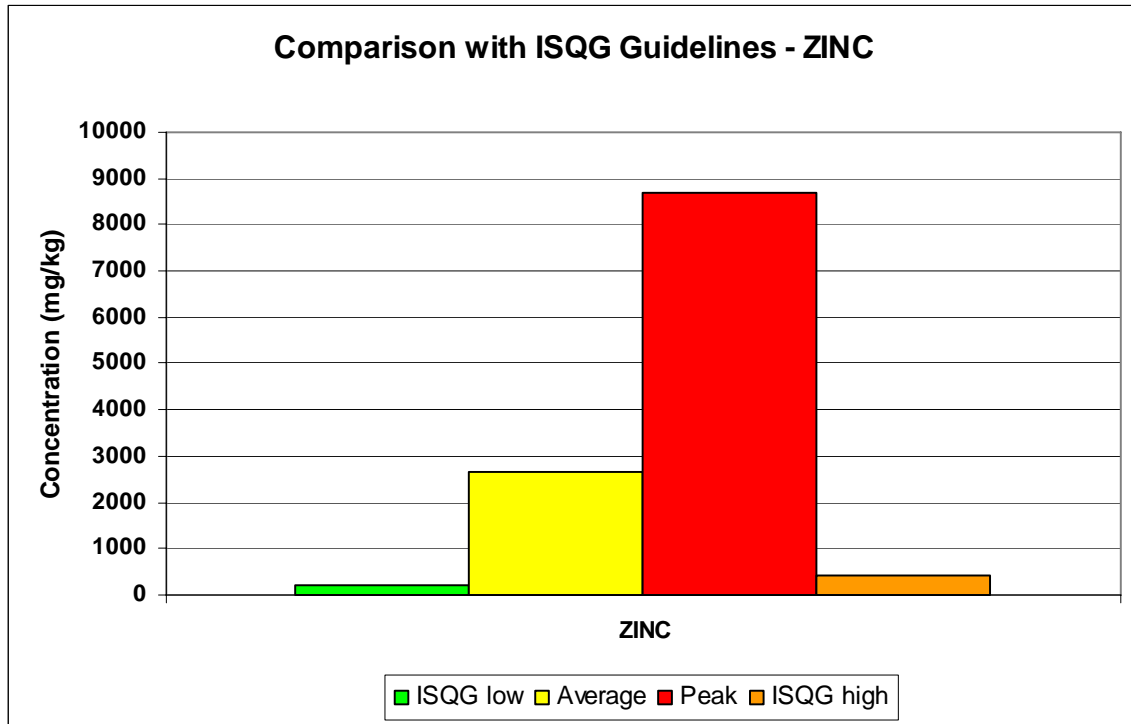
- **LEAD**

Average readings are ten times the ISQG-High values with a peak ninety times the ISQG levels



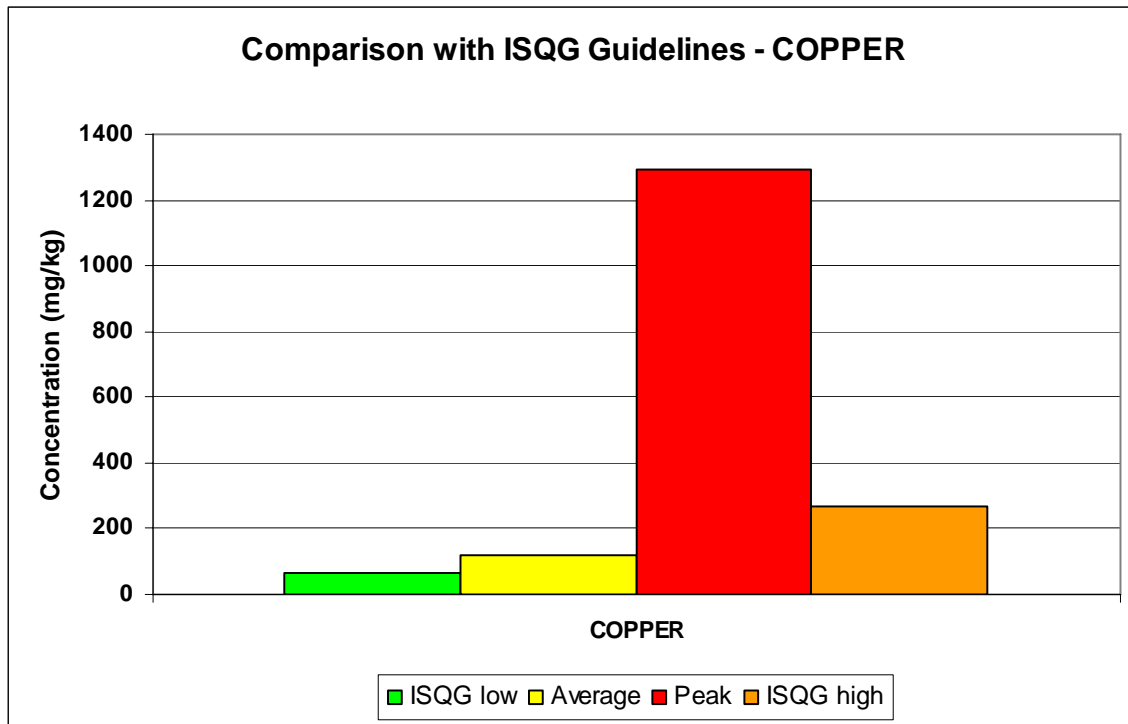
- ZINC

Average readings are 6.5 times the ISQG-High values with a peak thirty-two times the ISQG levels



- COPPER

Average readings are between the ISQG-Low and ISQG-High values but there is a peak five times the ISQG-High levels



How much is there?

It is estimated that there are approximately 15,000 cubic metres of contaminated sediments.

Where has the contamination come from?

The contamination has resulted from contaminated industrial discharges over the period 1928 to 1978 from the Gracefield industrial area. A legacy of heavy metals and other contaminants are contained within the sediments of the streambed over about a six hundred metre section. With the introduction of a trade waste sewer in 1978 highly contaminated discharges into the stream ceased.

What risk does this contamination pose?

While the contaminants are relatively well bound in the sediments, there is evidence that some contaminants are releasing into the stream and subsequently entering the food chain (eels and mussels). This poses a direct threat to human health.

The contaminated sediments pose a considerable risk to Wellington Harbour. Should the sediments be mobilised by a severe flood or by earthquake their effect on the harbour and the fishery it supports would be severe.

What is proposed to clean up the contamination?

After a review of international practice, the most suitable method of cleaning up the stream bed has been identified as controlled excavation of the sediments for disposal at a secure landfill. The methodology is based on processes used for the remediation of heavily contaminated waterways in the USA, approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

What will be the benefits of the clean up?

Apart from the obvious environmental benefits of removing highly contaminated elements from a sensitive environment, there are a number of other tangible benefits that will accrue from this project:

- The long-standing concerns of the local Iwi and wider local community about the health hazard posed by the contaminants will be addressed.
- The immediate environs of the Hutt Park Holiday Park, a destination for national and international visitors to Wellington, will be dramatically improved. The current condition of the stream reflects poorly on New Zealand's "clean and green" image.
- The project will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of cleaning up contaminated waterways and allow for the transfer of knowledge and techniques to decision makers and contractors.

What will the clean up cost?

The clean up is estimated to cost \$5,859,000 (exclusive of GST). An application for this amount has been lodged with the Ministry for the Environment's Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund.