



Report 10.156
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Committee Regulatory
Authors Geoff Ewington, Environmental Protection Officer

Environmental Protection Report

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Environmental Protection team in the Wellington region during the reporting period.

2. Communication

A full list of incidents for the last period can be found at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/incident-report-summaries/>

No further communication is necessary for this report.

3. Background

The Environment Management Group manages environmental incidents via the following:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing notifications of environmental incidents, environmental effects and alleged non-compliance with resource consents and regional plans
- Investigations into confirmed breaches and when necessary enforcement actions for those involved to provide consequences and an environmental outcome
- 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

4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary for the period 19 February to 18 May 2010

A total of 215 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1.

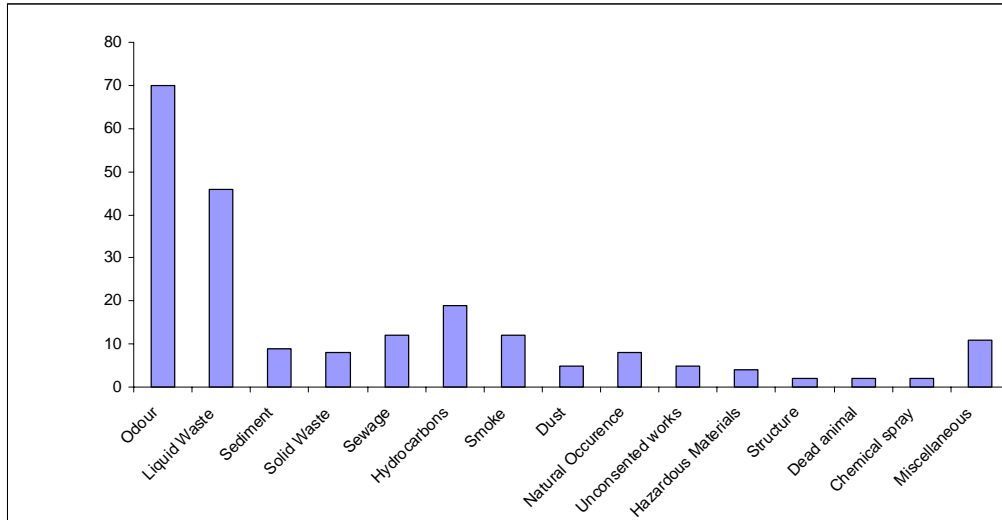


Figure 1: Summary of incidents for period 19 February to 18 May 2010

During this period there have been a significant number of odour and liquid waste incidents. For 18% of the liquid waste incidents the source of the liquid waste was unable to be identified, mainly due to the difficulty of tracing discharges to the stormwater network. The number of liquid waste discharges from residential properties increased in the period due to DIY painting, cleaning and home maintenance over the summer holidays.

Odour incidents represent 32% of the total incidents during this reporting period. This is most likely a result of calmer, warmer weather and an increase in possible exposure to odours with people spending more time at home and outdoors over the holiday period.

4.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, extent and duration of environmental effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible effects and only two of the 352 incidents were considered to be significant. The incidents categorised as “Not Assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, extent or duration of environmental effects.

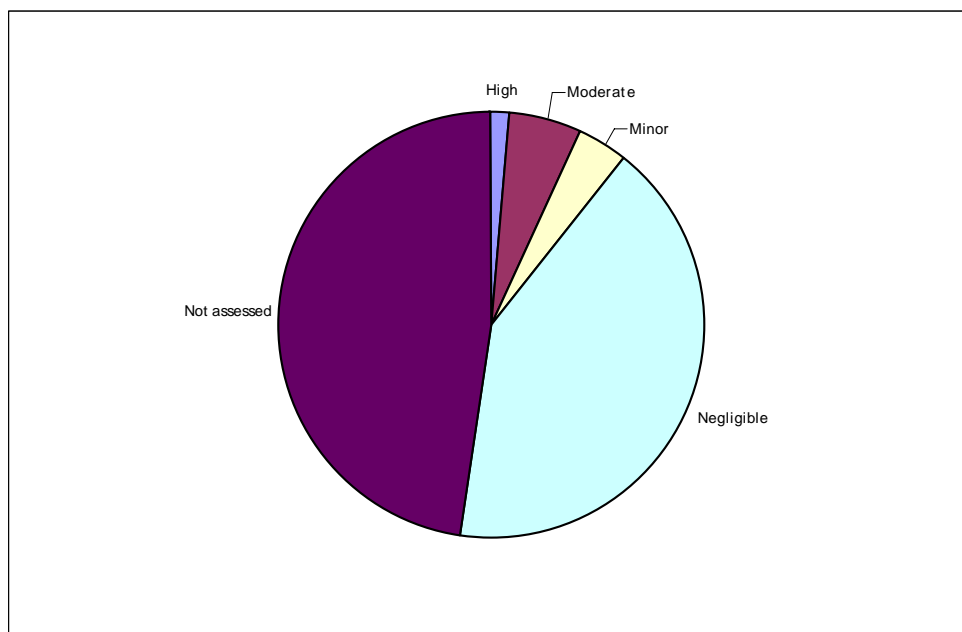


Figure 2: Incident significance for the period 19 February to 18 May 2010

4.3 Significant incidents

Two incidents were ranked of high significance during this period.

The first incident, notified to Greater Wellington on 4 March 2010, involved a cleanfill site containing construction and demolition waste which has been partly deposited on the banks of the Mangaroa River, and material is now being pushed into the bed of the Mangaroa River. River flow has been obstructed. A local resident has noticed trucks dumping there most weekends and some nights. They have also burnt tyres there in the past. An Abatement Notice has been issued to cease.

The second incident, notified to Greater Wellington on 30 November 2009, involved forestry machinery crossing the Mangaone Stream and driving up and down the stream for a distance of approximately 15m, causing disturbance of the bed of the stream. The forestry operation had no erosion and sediment controls in place, resulting in sediment discharges to the Mangaone Stream. Abatement notices were issued to the landowners of the forestry block to cease the sediment discharges to the stream and to cease disturbance of the stream bed. As a result of the investigation, applications will be made for four resource consents. A decision on any enforcement action is yet to be made.

4.4 Incident distribution

Figure 3 shows the regional distribution of incidents. The majority of the incidents are reported in the urban areas of Wellington and Hutt City. Most of the odour incidents reported came from the Hutt City Council area and the majority of the liquid wastes incidents reported came from the Wellington City Council area.

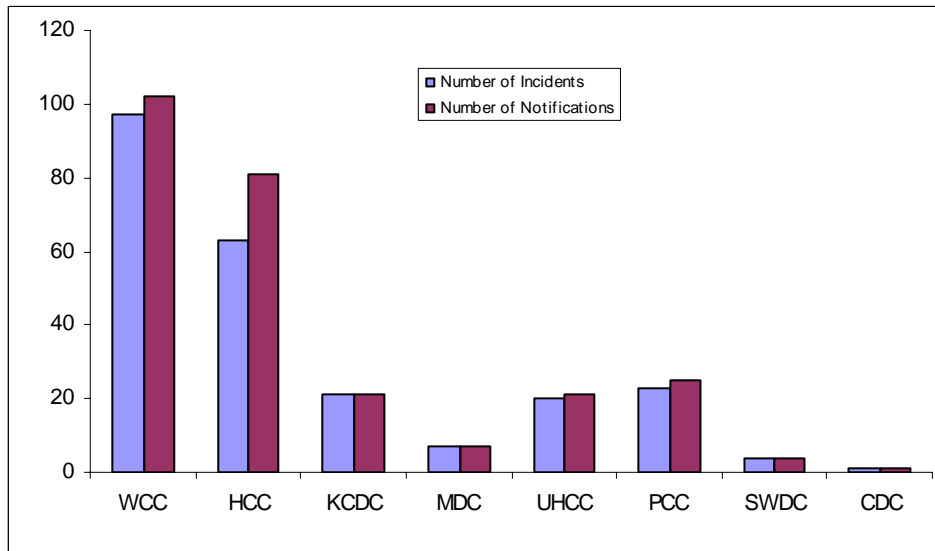


Figure 3: Incident distribution by local authority for the period 19 February to 18 May 2010

5. Investigations

5.1 Investigation summary for the period 19 February to 18 May 2010

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 there are strict timeframes to complete an investigation, these set statutory limits for the time following an incident when consequences can occur. A limit of four months is set for infringement notices and a limit of six months for all prosecutions.

When an incident identifies a breach of a resource consent or a regional rule an investigation takes place to determine those responsible and to determine an environmental outcome. The Environmental Protection team after indentifying non compliance manage incidents to meet these timeframes

In this current reporting period there are 15 investigations outside the statutory limits, dating back to 1 September 2009. A further eight investigations are on the six month limit. A total of 84 investigations are currently underway during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 4.

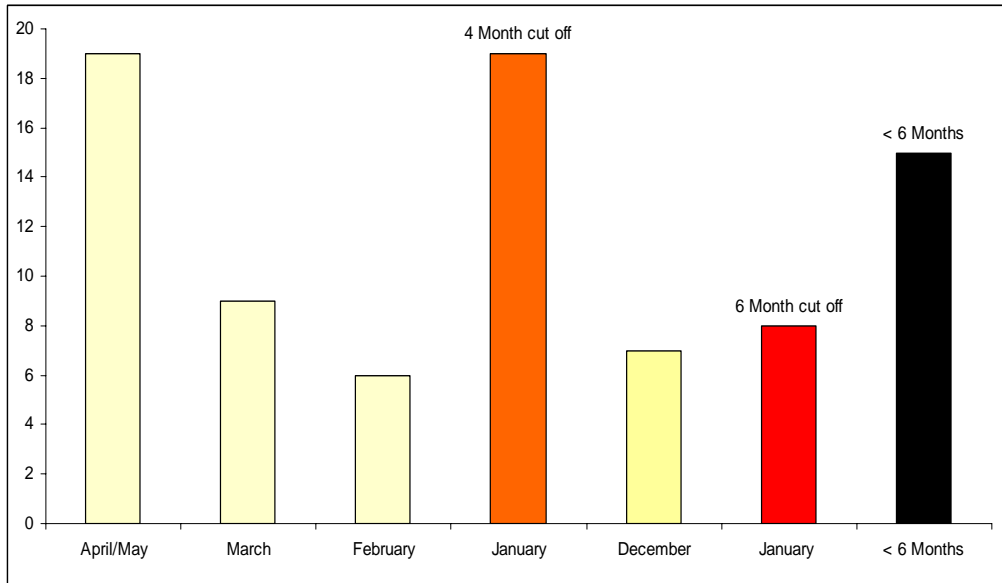


Figure 4: Investigation timeframes for active investigations of non compliance for the period 19 February to 18 May 2010

6. Enforcement action

Table 1 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 1: Summary of enforcement action

| Regulatory tool | Number issued |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Advisory Notices | 28 |
| Infringement Notices | 9 |
| Abatement Notices | 12 |
| Enforcement Orders | 0 |
| Prosecutions (& informations laid) | 0 |
| Cost Recovery | \$1771.89 |

6.1 Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|-------------|---|--|
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy effluent to land | Stop and move the irrigator to another paddock and check good operation; Apply for a change of |

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | consent conditions to Greater Wellington |
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy shed effluent to land | Implement a permanent fix to sump overflow |
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy shed effluent to land | Stop effluent discharge from sump; Stop any ponding from occurring |
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy shed effluent to land | Check operation of travelling irrigator and make any repairs necessary; Fit anti-siphoning device |
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy effluent to land | Fix nozzles to not come off. New [sump] system to be implemented to include storage pond |
| Individual | Featherston | Surface water take, Tauherenikau Seepage Drain | Install water meter prior to next irrigation season |
| Individual | Featherston | Surface water take from Murphy's Line Drain | Install water meter to ensure compliance with condition 7 of WAR080529 prior to the next irrigation season |

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|---------------|---|---|
| Individual | Featherston | Surface water take from the Abbots Creek | Repair or replace intake screen on irrigation system prior to next operation of system to comply with condition 3; Install water meter prior to next irrigation season to comply with condition 7 |
| Individual | Featherston | Discharge of dairy effluent to land | Come back to GWRC with your plan on how to fix sump overflow; Change of consent conditions required for effluent application |
| Individual | Martinborough | Surface water take from Lake Wairarapa | Repair or replace water meter prior to next irrigation season |
| Company | Featherston | Operating water take in breach of condition 6 of WAR 010130 | Repair or replace water meter prior to next irrigation season |
| Individual | Featherston | Operating consent WAR020172 in breach of condition 7, with no water meter | Install water meter for WAR020172 prior to next irrigation season |

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|-------------|---|--|
| Individual | Featherston | WAR020114 - Operating irrigation system with no water meter, in breach of irrigation system; WAR020148 - same as above | Install water meter for WAR020114 prior to next irrigation season; Install water meter for WAR020148 prior to next irrigation season |
| Individual | Carterton | Ponding of effluent occurring in paddock due to irrigator stalling in long grass | Ensure irrigator does not stall. Fit missing end piece/nozzle |
| Individual | Masterton | Operating WAR080204 in breach of condition 7 as no water meter has been installed at top abstraction point | Install a water meter before next irrigation season |
| Individual | Ngaio | Sediment discharges to Korimako Stream | Prevent further discharges to surface water, cease unauthorised discharges to surface water |
| Individual | Te Horo | Unauthorised discharge of contaminants namely greywater to surface water | Cease unauthorised discharges |
| Individual | Otaki | Unauthorised burning and offensive and objectionable odours beyond boundary (not confirmed at this stage) | Avoid unauthorised burning, avoid burning of unauthorised material such as plastics |

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|------------------|---|--|
| Individual | Martinborough | Operating WAR020154 in breach of condition 8 as no data logger has been installed | Install a data logger before next irrigation season |
| Individual | Thorndon | Discharge of Contaminants to Stormwater | Cease Discharge and use alternative method for disposal of waste |
| Individual | Lower Hutt | Discharge of contaminants to stormwater | Cease Discharge |
| Individual | Whitemans Valley | Discharge of contaminants to land (asphalt) | Cease unauthorised discharges |
| Individual | Carterton | Operating WAR040076 in breach of condition 7 as no water meter has been installed | Install water meter before next season |
| Individual | Martinborough | Operating WAR020098 in breach of condition 9 as no water meter has been installed | Install a water meter before next irrigation season |
| Individual | Featherston | Water meter on groundwater take does not work | Repair or replace meter |
| Individual | Featherston | Water meter on groundwater take does not work. Same reading for last four years | Repair or replace meter |
| Individual | Greytown | Operating WAR040115 in breach of condition 13 as fencing of Tilson's Creek has not been completed | Complete fencing |

| Offender | Location | Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice | Advisory Request |
|------------|--------------|--|---|
| Individual | Queens Wharf | Discharge of paint chips to storm water at Coastal Marine Area | Cease discharge to stormwater, clean area around drains |

Infringement Notices

| Name/Company name | Location of incident - street address | Reason for the Notice | Infringement Fee (Incl GST) \$ |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Company | Lower Hutt | Breach of Abatement Notice A284 | 750 |
| TA | Silverstream | Breach of Abatement Notice A454 | 750 |
| Individual | Masterton | Diversion of water from unauthorised works in the bed of a stream and wetland | 500 |
| Individual | Masterton | Excavation of the bed of a tributary of the Ruamahanga River | 500 |
| Individual | Masterton | Excavation of the bed of a tributary of the Ruamahanga River | 500 |
| Individual | Masterton | Diversion of water from unauthorised works in the bed of a stream and wetland | 500 |
| Individual | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised works in the bed of a watercourse | 500 |
| Individual | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised works in the bed of a watercourse | 500 |

| Name/Company name | Location of incident - street address | Reason for the Notice | Infringement Fee (Incl GST) \$ |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Company | Wellington | Unauthorised discharge of offensive and objectionable odour beyond the boundary | 1,000 |

Abatement Notices

| Name | Location | Reason for notice | Instruction |
|------------|-------------|---|--|
| Individual | Featherston | Unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land | Cease the unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land |
| Company | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised discharges of contaminants to the stormwater network | Cease the unauthorised discharges to contaminants to the stormwater network |
| Company | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised discharges of contaminants to the stormwater network | Cease the unauthorised discharges to contaminants to the stormwater network |
| Individual | Masterton | Unauthorised abstraction of water from Hyslops Stream | Cease the abstraction of water from Hyslops Stream |
| Individual | Masterton | Unauthorised water galley pond built in the bed of Hyslops Stream | Remove or authorise the water galley pond built in the bed of Hyslops Stream |
| Individual | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River | Cease the unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River |
| Individual | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River | Cease the unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River |

| Name | Location | Reason for notice | Instruction |
|------------|------------|---|---|
| Company | Upper Hutt | Unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River | Cease the unauthorised activities in the Mangaroa River |
| Individual | Wellington | Unauthorised activities in the Makara Stream | Remove unauthorised activities in the Makara Stream |
| Individual | Wellington | Unauthorised activities in the Makara Stream | Remove unauthorised activities in the Makara Stream |

Cost Recovery

| Name & Address of Recipient | Address | Reason for the Notice | Amount due |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|------------|
| Company | Porirua | Discharge of contaminants to land | \$354.38 |
| Company | Wellington | Discharge of odour to air | \$236.25 |
| Individual | Paraparaumu | Discharges of sediment to the Mangaone Stream and disturbance of the bed | \$354.38 |
| Individual | Paraparaumu | Discharges of sediment to the Mangaone Stream and disturbance of the bed | \$354.38 |
| Individual | Masterton | Works in the tributary of the Ruamahanga River | \$236.25 |
| Company | Wellington | Discharges of contaminants to stormwater | \$236.25 |

7. Take Charge

Take Charge is Greater Wellington's Pollution Prevention Programme to improve site environmental management.

There is a considerable backlog of work with 39 sites requiring follow up visits since the coordinator left in October 2009; of these sites nine are awaiting the issue of the Take Charge achievement certificate.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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