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Committee Regulatory  
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## 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 18 May to 9 July 2010

A total of 141 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1.

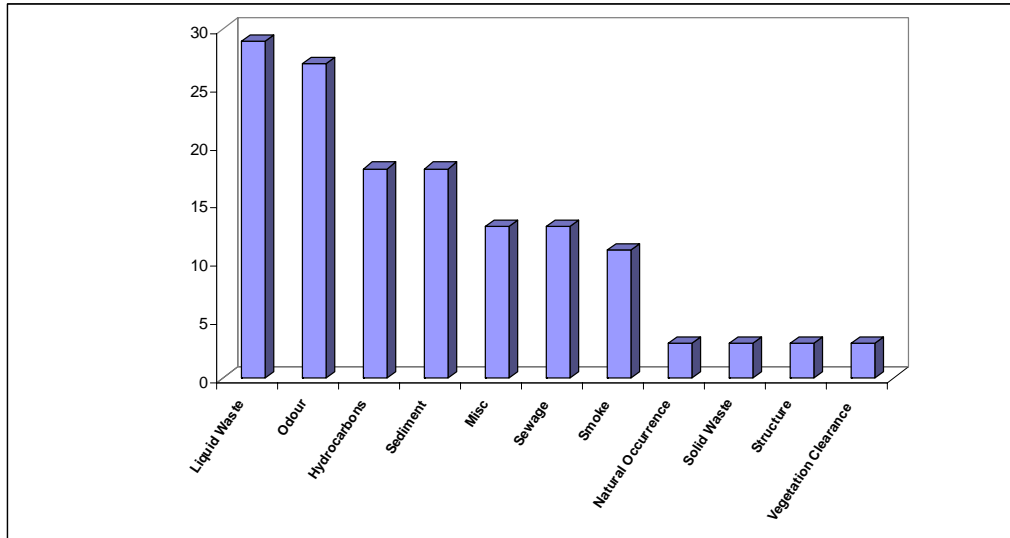


Figure 1: Summary of incidents for period 18 May to 9 July 2010

During this period there have been a significant number of odour and liquid waste incidents. For 58% of the liquid waste incidents the liquid waste was a discharge affecting land with a majority of sources unable to be identified, mainly due to the difficulty of tracing discharges through the stormwater network.

Odour incidents represent 19% of the total incidents during this reporting period, down from 32% of the total in the last reporting period; this is most likely a result of wetter, cooler weather and a decrease in possible exposure to odour sources with people generally having less holiday time over this reporting period.

Sediment related incidents are up to 12% of total incidents from 4% in the last reporting period; this is also likely to be a result of the wetter weather.

### 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 3 of the 141 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.

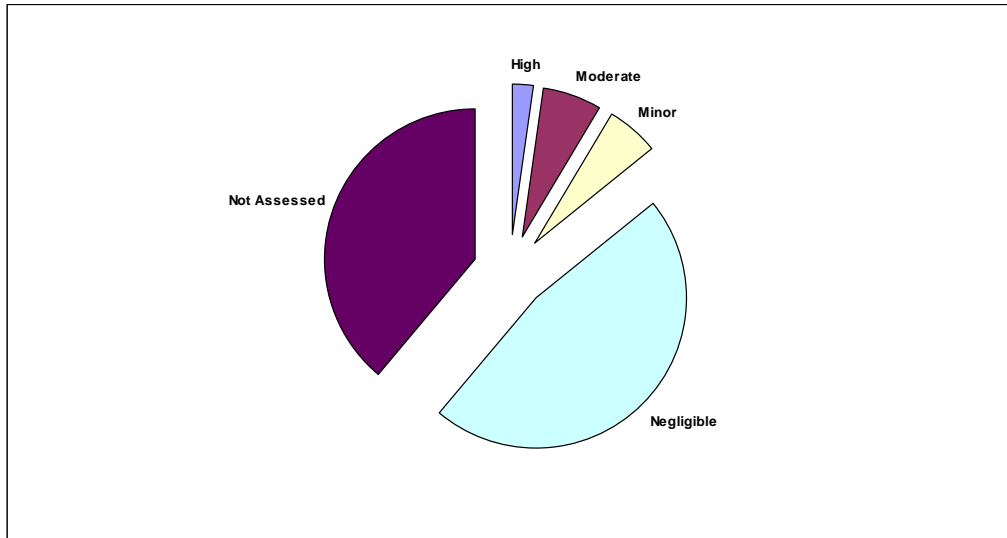


Figure 2: Incident significance for the period 18 May to 9 July 2010

#### 4.3 Significant incidents

Three incidents were ranked of high significance during this period. All three were sediment related.

The first two incidents are still currently under investigation.

The third incident, notified to Greater Wellington on 6 June 2010, involved a high rainfall event and sediment discharge. A tributary of Duck Creek in Whitby was found to have a high sediment load. The attending investigating officer found many different sediment inputs from the high number of small site earthworks in the area, due to the residential subdivision development occurring in the catchment. No single source was attributable, meaning the officer was unable to take action.

#### 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 waste incidents reported came from the Wellington City Council area.

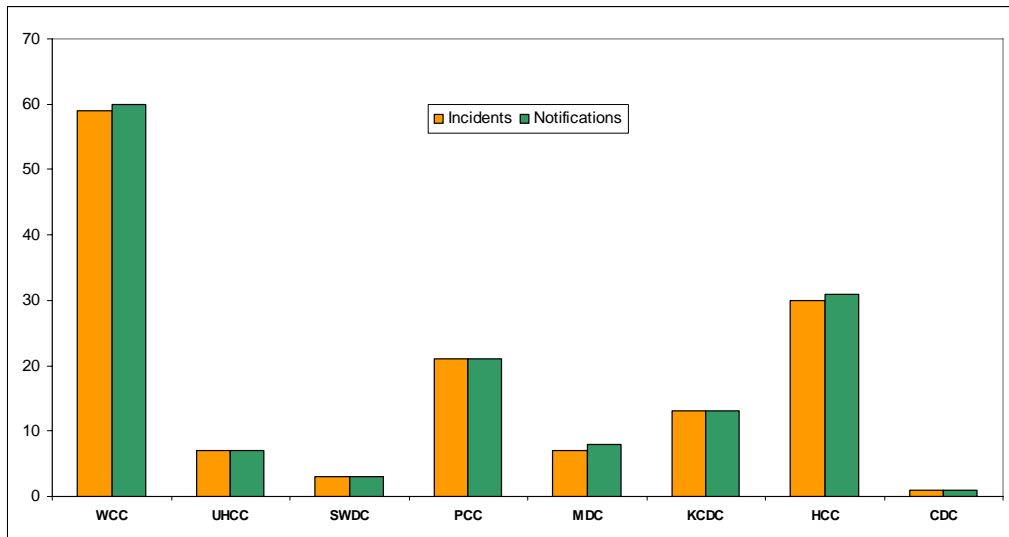


Figure 3: Incident distribution by local authority for the period 18 May to 9 July 2010 Investigations

## 5. Enforcement action

Table 1 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 1: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	9
Abatement Notices	21
Infringement Notices	6
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& informations laid)	1
Cost Recovery	6

### 5.1 Summary of enforcement action

Table 2: Advisory Notices

Offender	Location	Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice	Advisory Request
Company	Wellington	Discharge of sediment to the road where it can enter the stormwater network	Cease and clean-up the unauthorised discharge of sediment to the road where it can enter the stormwater network

Offender	Location	Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice	Advisory Request
Company	Porirua	Discharge of sediment to stormwater	Cease unauthorised discharge of sediment laden water to the stormwater network
Individual	Waikanae	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants (sewage from septic tank) to land	Cease unauthorised discharge and have system maintained to prevent further unauthorised discharges
Individual	Thorndon	Burning of untreated waste oil	Cease the unauthorised burning of waste oil resulting in a discharge of contaminants to air
Individual	Johnsonville	Paint entering stormwater network	1.Cease discharge of contaminants to stormwater. 2.Clean up paint in roadside channel and drain to prevent rain washing it away
Company	Thorndon	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants to stormwater	Cease discharge of contaminants to stormwater
Individual	Glenside	Collapsed stream bank protection	Remove debris and/or reinstate wall

Offender	Location	Activity giving rise to Advisory Notice	Advisory Request
Company	Porirua	Discharge of contaminants to land from graphite -cutting	Cease unauthorised discharge of contaminants

**Table 3: Abatement Notices**

Name	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Individual	Porirua	Unauthorised discharge of sediment at Broken Hill Cleanfill	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to land entering water
Individual	Porirua	Sediment discharges at Broken Hill Cleanfill	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to land entering water
Company	Porirua	Sediment discharges at Broken Hill Cleanfill	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to land entering water
Company	Porirua	Sediment discharges at Broken Hill Cleanfill	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to land entering water
Company	Papakowhai	Unauthorised discharge of sediment to water	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to the stormwater network

Name	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Company	Papakowhai	Unauthorised discharge of sediment to water	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants, namely sediment, to the stormwater network
Company	Wellington	Unauthorised discharge to air, namely the products of combustion associated with the burning of untreated waste oil	Cease the discharge to air of contaminants
Individual	Otaki	Unauthorised discharge of dairy effluent to land	Cease the unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land
Individual	Otaki	Unauthorised discharge of dairy effluent to land	Cease the unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land
Individual	Upper Hutt	Unauthorised discharge of contaminants onto the bed of the Mangaroa River	Cease the unauthorised discharges of contaminants to land
Company	Wellington	Unauthorised discharge of FOREXPAN S foam to stormwater	Cease the unauthorised discharge of contaminants to stormwater
Individual	Featherston	Unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land	Cease the unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent to land
Company	Wellington	Deposition of non-cleanfill material to land	To cease discharges of contaminants to land

Name	Location	Reason for notice	Instruction
Individual	Wellington	Deposition of non-cleanfill material to land	To cease discharges of contaminants to land
Individual	Masterton	Unauthorised diversion of stormwater onto neighbouring property	Cease the unauthorised diversion of water
Individual	Masterton	Unauthorised diversion of stormwater onto neighbouring property	Cease the unauthorised diversion of water
Company	Porirua City	Unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream	Cease the unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream
Individual	Porirua City	Unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream	Cease the unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream
Company	Porirua City	Unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream	Cease the unauthorised activities in Porirua Stream
Individual	Masterton	Unauthorised discharge to air	Cease the unauthorised discharge to air
Individual	Masterton	Unauthorised discharge to air	Cease the unauthorised discharge to air

**Table 4: Infringement Notices**

Name/Company name	Location	Reason for the Notice	Infringement Fee (Incl GST) \$
AJC Bidwell	Featherston	Discharge of Dairy Effluent	300
Murray Hart	Featherston	Discharge of Dairy Effluent	300
SF Donald	Featherston	Discharge of Dairy	300



Name/Company name	Location	Reason for the Notice	Infringement Fee (Incl GST) \$
		Effluent	
SF Donald	Featherston	Discharge of Dairy Effluent	300
John Fijn	Paekakariki	Breach of resource consent WGN090009	300
JF Spiers	Otaki	Unauthorised discharge of dairy effluent to land	300

Table 5: Cost Recovery

Name and Address of Recipient	Address	Reason for the Notice	Amount due
Individual	Upper Hutt	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Individual	Te Horo	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Wellington	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Johnsonville	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Thorndon	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with regional plan	\$236.25
Company	Seaview	Cost recovery for confirmed non-compliance with resource consent WGN950162/01 [1492]	\$236.25

**NB:** In accordance with Greater Wellington’s Resource Management Charging Policy (2009), a minimum standard charge of \$236.35 will apply to all environmental incidents inspected. Additional charges may apply in circumstances where the incident investigation costs exceed the minimum standard charge.

## 6. Take Charge

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

A new Take Charge Coordinator, Shelley Martin, started part-time (20hrs per week) on 31 May. The previous Coordinator left in October 2009 so there is a considerable backlog of work.

Twenty-one businesses are due for certification, having undertaken a Take Charge audit and meeting all recommendations coming from this. Of these 21 businesses, 14 received a Take Charge audit as part of the GW’s Emission programme. Each business had the opportunity to complete a Client Feedback Form on the Take Charge programme and to develop their own personal pledge for their certificate. We have now received the pledges from 16 of the businesses and feedback from 13. The following figures summarise the data collected from the client feedback forms.

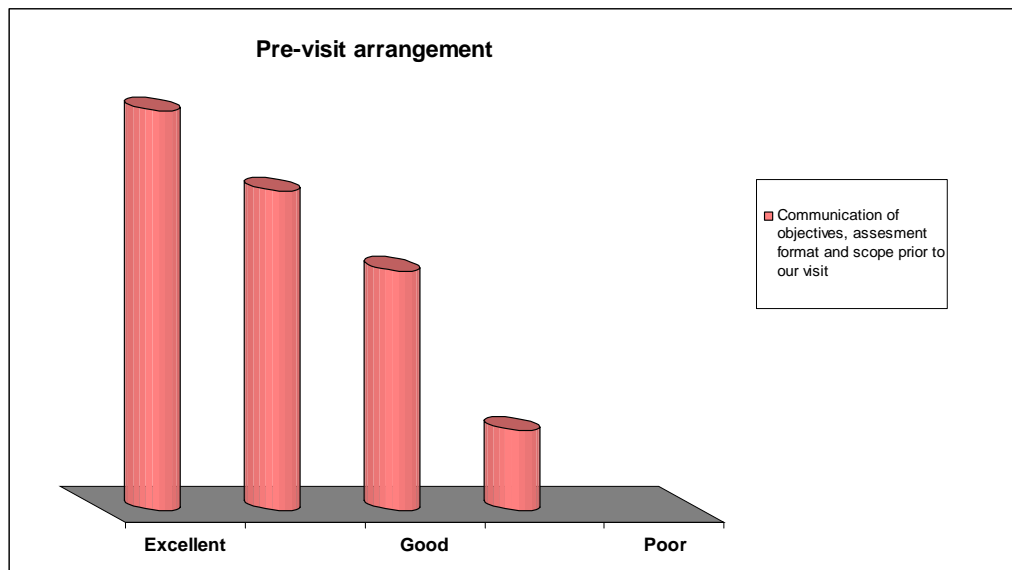


Figure 4: Client feedback on the Take Charge programme’s pre-visit arrangement.

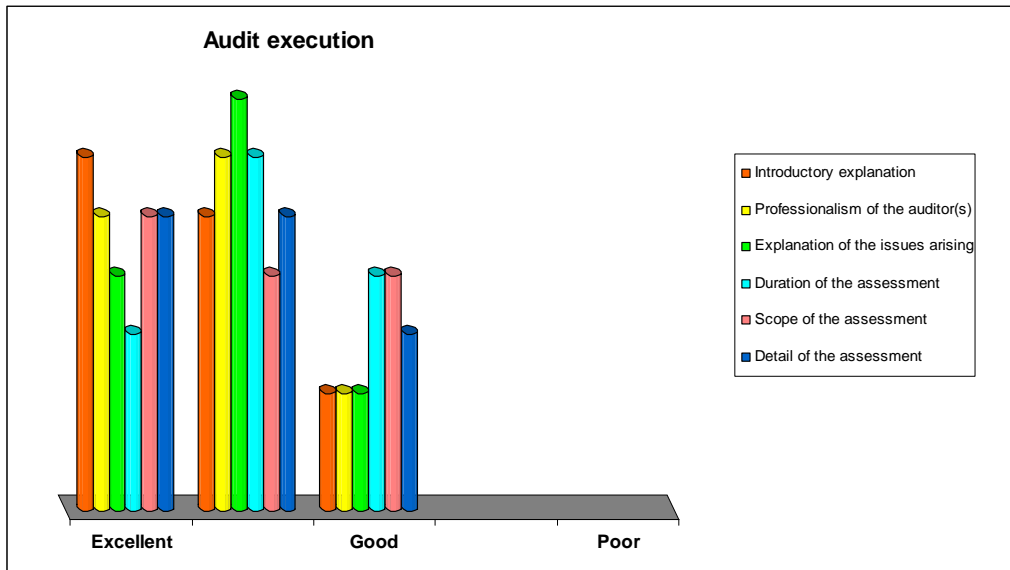


Figure 5: Client feedback on Take Charge programme's audit execution.

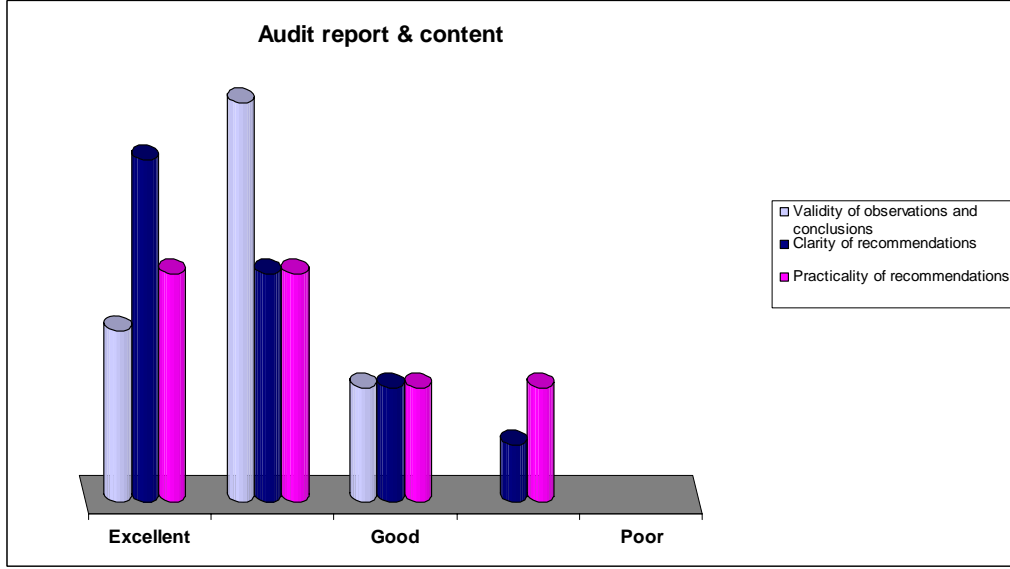
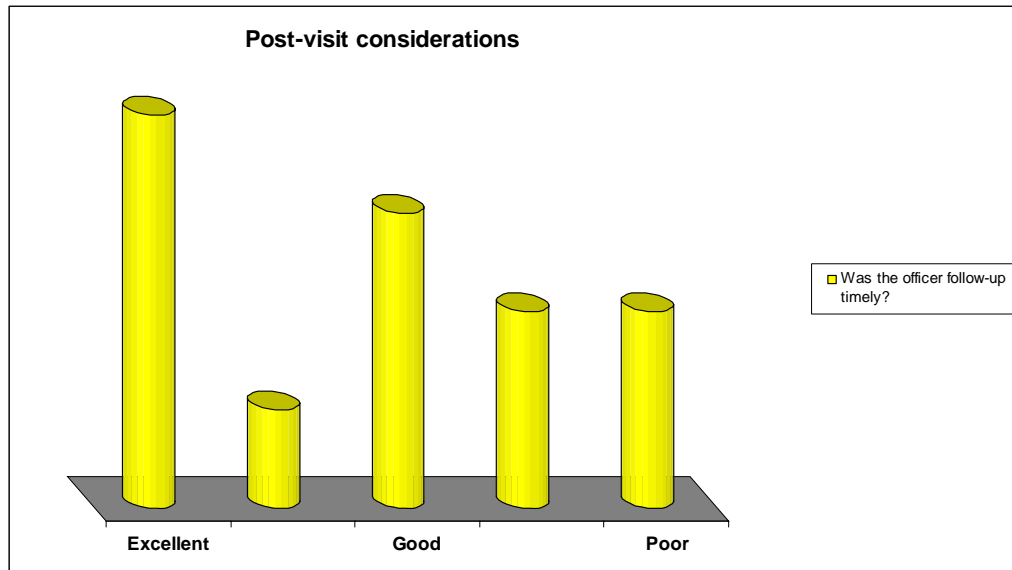


Figure 6: Client feedback on Take Charge programme's audit report and content.



**Figure 7: Client feedback on Take Charge programme's post-visit considerations**

The graphs showing how the participants felt about various aspects of the audit execution (Figure 5), and the audit report and content (Figure 6), show an overwhelmingly positive response. This is excellent feedback for the previous Take Charge coordinator as well as the environmental protection officers who undertook some of these audits.

The other two graphs show pre and post-visit considerations. Although the pre-visit communication and arrangements met with an overall positive response, it is not surprising that the post-visit consideration generated mixed feelings. GW had no one in the role of Take Charge coordinator between October 2009 and the end of May 2010 and for this reason many of these businesses had to wait a considerable length of time without contact from GW and without receiving their certificates.

It is pleasing to note that the majority of businesses who chose to comment on the question 'What was the value of the assessment process to your organisation?' gave encouraging responses. Many said the Take Charge audit helped them to see areas of pollution/processes that they had overlooked and had been very valuable.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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