

1. Te Upoko Taiao Natural Resource Management Committee

1.1 Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

1.1.1 Overview

- Ongoing development of science options to inform the Plan review process
- Finalising the SOE summary reports and six technical reports
- Development of the Mangatarere Project – joint Environment Group and Catchment Management Group project
- Biodiversity monitoring team integrated into EMI department

1.1.2 Key results for the year

- Year long water quality programme completed in the Pahaoa River catchment
- Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) now available on GIS viewer on the GW website
- Sediment quality survey undertaken in Wellington harbour – joint process as finalised by a MOU with the Wellington City Council
- Ongoing monitoring and investigations in the Porirua Harbour catchment, in part to support the actions identified in the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan launched in April
- Completion of a series of State of the Environment (SoE) technical reports on air, land and fresh and coastal water resources

1.1.3 Looking ahead

- ‘Release of Freshwater and Coastal SOE reports and media communication around them
- Continued development, and release of reports around minimum flow investigations in a variety of rivers across the region, and including lake Wairarapa
- Wairarapa Moana ‘cleanup’ program on science information needs and ongoing performance monitoring

1.1.4 Departmental activity General

The more significant areas of work for the department during the quarter were:

- Completion of a series of technical reports documenting current state and trends in the region's air, land and fresh and coastal water resources. These detailed reports are only compiled every five – six years and involved a considerable amount of staff time. The reports, summarised for the general public in a folder of leaflets that presented the key findings on a sub-region basis, were publicly released on Friday 15 June and were the front page feature of the Dominion Post. The posting of the leaflets and reports on Greater Wellington's website coincided with the release of a 'landing page' for EMI department's core monitoring and investigations, as well as completion of minor upgrades to existing environmental reporting pages.
- Completion of a final report documenting revised Suitability for Recreation Grades for the region's fresh and coastal recreational waters
- Continuation of extension work – including the development of a new groundwater model – to re-define groundwater zone boundaries on the Kapiti Coast, taking into account areas of surface and groundwater interaction
- Provision of a range of technical support to Environmental Regulation, Environmental Policy, Land Management and Flood Protection departments

A summary of work carried out in all subject areas follows.

Air quality and meteorology

The annual air quality monitoring report for 2011 was drafted. This report includes analysis of PM_{2.5} measurements now being collected at the Masterton monitoring site which shows that in winter 2011, PM_{2.5} levels frequently failed to meet World Health Organisation guidelines. At present there are no New Zealand guidelines for PM_{2.5}.

During the winter to date there have been three exceedences of the National Environmental Standard (NES) for PM₁₀



Air quality monitoring station

recorded at the Masterton air quality monitoring site. This breach (which occurs whenever there are two or more exceedences in a year) of the NES was notified in the Wairarapa Times on 30 June 2012 as required by the NES. The breach triggers a ban on the installation of new open solid fuel fires in the Wairarapa airshed from 1 June 2014 (this ban needs to be publicly notified by 1 December 2013).

A second temporary monitoring station for Masterton was commissioned and is sited about 1.2km southwest of the current long-term monitoring site at Wairarapa College. To date the new site has recorded 15 days where PM₁₀ concentrations were above the NES threshold of 50 µg/m³; this compares with three days at the long-term monitoring site. So far the maximum daily concentration measured at the temporary site is 87 µg/m³ compared to 56µg/m³ measured at the existing site. The higher results at the new site are partly due to new technology incorporated in monitoring instrumentation which can now more accurately measure semi-volatile components of PM₁₀ found in wood smoke. However, even taking account differences in instrumentation at the two sites, it appears that air quality measured at the temporary site is substantially poorer than that measured at the existing site. This preliminary finding has implications for compliance reporting against the NES for air quality and for achieving improvements in Masterton's air quality (which the NES requires by 2016).

Contaminated land

Staff have begun revising the standard letters generated from Greater Wellington's Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) – a register of information on sites that have had or do have an activity that has the potential to contaminate soil. Procedures for entering information onto SLUR are also being revised and discussions have been held with ICT staff to improve the retrieval of information from SLUR.

Several issues have arisen in response to responding to public queries about sites in SLUR, including difficulties with multiple records per site (SLUR has 162 sites with multiple records).

Soil quality

The annual soil quality SoE monitoring field work was completed in April. This year 16 native forest/scrub land use sites were sampled for a range of indicators of soil health, including nutrient and organic content.

Feedback was provided to the Cadmium Management Group on a draft report by Landcare Research on cadmium levels and risk in New Zealand soils.

Water quality and ecology

(i) Rivers and streams

Work this quarter has focussed on completing the five-yearly technical report that documents the state and trends in river water health across the region. We also completed our annual assessments of ecological condition (macroinvertebrates and periphyton) at our 55 Rivers State of the Environment (RSoE) monitoring sites.

A year-long water quality monitoring programme in the Pahaoa River catchment in the eastern Wairarapa ended in June; water samples were collected from six sites at two-monthly intervals over the past year and tested for a range of variables, including nutrients, sediment and faecal indicator bacteria. One-off samples of macroinvertebrates and periphyton were also collected at all six sites in February.



Shyam Morar (obscured), Alton Perrie and Brett Cockeram electric fishing the Enaki Stream, a tributary of the Mangatarere Stream (Carterton)

Fish surveys continued at a number of sites across the region. The purpose of these surveys has been varied and includes the fishing of sites where there are no or few existing records, re-fishing sites where there are historical records for threatened fish species and the establishment of sites to enable the potential monitoring of fish communities overtime.

(ii) Lakes

There is nothing of significance to report this quarter.

(iii) Estuarine and marine waters

Draft reports were received from Wriggle Coastal Management Ltd documenting ecological assessments of intertidal estuary health undertaken in the Waikanae, Hutt and Whareama estuaries, as well as Porirua Harbour, in February 2012. The draft reports are currently being reviewed, along with a report on the Waiwhetu Stream (for an ecological survey undertaken in February 2012 for the Flood Protection department).

NIWA has almost completed analyses of sediment chemistry from the Wellington Harbour subtidal sediment survey, completed last November. There have been substantial delays due to weather at the time of the survey and subsequent equipment problems during analyses. A draft sediment chemistry report is due in mid-July. Identification of the benthic invertebrates collected during the survey is also due to be completed in July.

EMI science staff, together with GW Biodiversity staff, continue to work with the Porirua City Council (PCC) and the other agencies involved in developing and implementing the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan. During the quarter this included attending the public launch of the Strategy and Action Plan in April, review of a draft report from NIWA on the feasibility of seagrass restoration in the harbour (a priority action identified in the Strategy and Action Plan), and collation of land use practice information (specifically resource consents for earthworks) needed to refine NIWA's 'source to sink' sediment transport model for the harbour.

In April, our coastal scientist, along with GW Environmental Policy and Biodiversity staff, attended a workshop at NIWA Greta Point on sites of significance for indigenous biodiversity in the Wellington region. NIWA was engaged in November 2011 to identify these sites as part of the Regional Plan review. A final report is expected in mid-July.

(iv) **Recreational waters**

The 2011/12 summer recreational water quality monitoring programme ended on 31 March; the results of the summer's monitoring were reviewed during the quarter and are currently being summarised in the annual *On the Beaches* report. Completion of this report, expected in June, was delayed due to finalisation of two comprehensive reports documenting state and trends in recreational water quality across the region and updated Suitability for Recreation Grades for recreational water quality monitoring sites. The annual report will now be completed in the next quarter.

(v) **Groundwater**

There is nothing of significance to report this quarter.

Biodiversity

Landcare Research NZ Ltd has been contracted to complete an estimate of the sampling effort required for Biodiversity State of the Environment reporting purposes. A field trip with the Landcare Research scientists is planned for mid-July.

The data collected and methods used on national vegetation survey plots that were re-measured in the Hutt Water Collection Area this year have been audited by a Landcare Research scientist. He has reported that "with a few exceptions, the data collection has continued the high standards set by Greater Wellington staff in recent years". The plot data contributes to a national database.

Hydrology

Autumn rainfall was around average in most western and central parts of the region (Tararua Range, Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley) but well above average in the Wairarapa – probably the result of a predominantly easterly airflow associated with the tail end of a strong La Nina climatic state. Northern and eastern parts of the Wairarapa were particularly wet with



Huangarua River at Hautotara in flood

autumn rainfall totals at several sites 140–160% of the normal amount for this time of year. Heavy rainfall in early March produced fairly significant peak flows in many rivers (with estimated return periods of 4–6 years) but no severe flooding. Overall, late summer/autumn was favourable with respect to water resources with less need than normal for significant irrigation.

Repair and upgrade work is now complete on the rebuild of the Waikanae flow station which was damaged by fire last January

A key science focus was finalisation of a technical report documenting the current state of and trends in surface and groundwater allocation and availability across the region. The annual hydrology monitoring report for 2010/11 was also drafted.

(i) Water allocation investigations

Work continues to review the hydrogeology of the Kapiti Coast and conceptualise an integrated surface water-groundwater allocation framework that is similar in principle to the proposed conjunctive management framework for water resources in the Wairarapa Valley. This has involved the development of a dynamic 3-D transient state numerical groundwater model. Model development and calibrations have been done in-house with the assistance of two consultants in model conceptualisation and derivation of input parameters for model construction and calibrations. The next stage of work is to analyse different groundwater allocation scenarios.

(ii) Hydrology investigations

Work continued through autumn to set up instrumentation for investigating the water balance of Lake Wairarapa. This is needed to inform the review of water allocation policies, among other management actions. In addition

to the two lake shore meteorological stations installed over summer, a central lake station has been designed and resource consent for installation has been sought. Construction was completed on a housing unit for a sideways-looking acoustic doppler unit being installed at the lake outlet channel to provide a continuous measure of flow. It is intended that all instrumentation is installed and calibrated prior to the 2012/13 summer when an integrated programme of tributary flow gauging and water quality sampling is planned.

A flow gauging programme established in the Booths Creek catchment in October continued through autumn. The aim of the programme is to better understand the flow interactions between the natural creek and the Taratahi Water Race and refine the flow statistics so that sustainable abstraction policies can be developed.

In late May we received the final report from a consultant documenting assessments made during 2010 of the condition of 10 wetlands in the region thought to be vulnerable to water abstraction. The assessments looked at wetland hydrology, vegetation condition and water quality, with the report noting both threats to these and recommendations for management and monitoring. This information will be useful for developing a planning framework for wetlands.

Cultural values of Wairarapa waterways

Work began in June on a brief paper summarising the general approaches taken to assessing environmental management flows by Greater Wellington (via our instream flows work programme) and consultant Caleb Royal (in his recently completed report on “Cultural Values for Wairarapa Waterways”). The intent of the jointly authored (EMI, Environment Policy and Caleb Royal) paper is to provide additional context to the work undertaken to help with interpretation of the respective technical recommendations during ongoing regional plan review consultations.

Technical support for other departments

A lot of technical support was provided to other Greater Wellington departments/groups during the quarter:

- Environmental Regulation – technical advice was given on a range of resource consent applications, including several water takes and discharges to air, and the Hutt City Council’s application to discharge treated wastewater to the Waiwhetu Stream and Wellington Harbour. Input was also provided on several consent monitoring plans and reports, including a construction monitoring plan for the Mill Creek wind farm, and our coastal scientist attended the second meeting of the Wellington City Council’s Stormwater Consultative Committee (SCC) in May (established as a requirement of the city council’s

global consent to discharge stormwater into Wellington Harbour and south coast).

- Environmental Policy – assistance continued in relation to work for the next Regional Plan, with the emphasis around limit setting for fresh waters (quantity and quality). A series of regular internal meetings between EMI, Policy and Environmental Regulation staff have been used to develop draft policies and rules for water takes. A key part of this process has been drawing on the recommendations from various science investigations conducted during recent years under the instream flows programme. Assistance was also provided in preparing for a biodiversity-related workshop with the Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee in May.

Biodiversity – Wairarapa Moana

It has not been possible to monitor the lakeshore birds in June as programmed as the lake levels are too high, due to the blockage of the spit. When the levels are so high that the mudflats are covered, many birds leave or retreat into the wetlands further away from the lake. It is planned to complete a winter count as soon as lake levels allow.

A kakahi (freshwater mussel) survey of the lake and some of the surrounding wetlands has been completed by contractor.

A restoration report for Jury Island has been completed by Wildland Consultants.

A report detailing the ecological values of five edge wetlands has been completed.

Project Kaka

Bird monitoring results have been released by the Department of Conservation. Rifleman numbers significantly increased in the Project Kaka area, as did whitehead and kakariki, but there was no change in tomtit abundance. In the Hutt water collection area, rifleman and kakariki numbers fell, but whitehead and tomtit numbers continue to trend upwards. While there is some variability in these results, they are reflecting the findings that have been previously reported from bird monitoring associated with 1080 operations in the Council's forests. These reports have shown that bird numbers typically increase the second year following a 1080 operation (as is the case with Project Kaka) and fall over time as rat numbers increase (it is three years since the last Hutt water collection area possum control operation).

Parks and forests monitoring and investigations

The robin release planning for the transfer of robins from Kapiti Island to Wainuiomata Mainland Island has involved organising catchers and equipment as well as insuring that the health of the birds is considered a

priority when preparing for the event. A decision was made to go ahead with the transfer of the 60 robins at this time, even though the 1080 operation has not been completed. The opportunity for the birds to thrive in the pest-free conditions following the 1080 operation was considered to be too good to miss. National bird experts have given backing to this decision, as the risk to robins from the 1080 bait is low in comparison to the benefits of completing the transfer at this time. The transfer is planned to take place on 22 July.

- Land Management – our land scientist attended discussions with senior staff from Ballance Agri-Nutrients in relation to developing Land Environment Plans for selected farms in the Mangaterere catchment. Several staff were also involved in discussions about the direction we will take in the ‘clean up’ of Wairarapa Moana, and delivered presentations at a two-day workshop in April that brought together a broad range of parties to review and discuss the current understanding of the lake edge wetlands, the science requirements, restoration needs and their management.
- Flood Protection – we continued to provide input and advice in relation to the potential effects on aquatic ecosystems from a variety of routine flood protection and land management activities. While this work is on-going across a range of activities, the particular focus in the last couple of months was participating in discussions around work required to be undertaken prior to Flood Protection’s lodging of applications for 'global' consents for works in rivers in the western half of the region. In June we also assisted with reviewing a draft report documenting an ecological assessment carried out on the lower Waiwhetu Stream by Wriggle Coastal Management Ltd; the report identified sediment contaminant concentrations remain elevated in some parts of the stream that underwent remediation a few years ago.

1.1.5 Financial reports

Monitoring Income Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	YTD			Last Year FY Actual \$000
	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Variance \$000	
Rates & Levies	4,261	4,261	-	3,955
Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
External Revenue	128	10	118	165
Investment Revenue	4	-	4	4
Internal Revenue	110	120	(10)	130
TOTAL INCOME	4,503	4,391	112	4,254
less:				
Personnel Costs	1,915	1,884	(31)	1,692
Materials,Supplies & Services	419	262	(157)	334
Travel & Transport Costs	132	90	(42)	106
Contractor & Consultants	686	818	132	850
Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Internal Charges	421	369	(52)	419
Total Direct Expenditure	3,573	3,423	(150)	3,401
Financial Costs	34	37	3	45
Bad Debts	4	-	(4)	-
Corporate & Department Overheads	615	615	-	553
Depreciation	259	264	5	183
Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(28)	(8)	20	(4)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,457	4,331	(126)	4,178
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	46	60	(14)	76
Add Back Depreciation	259	264	(5)	183
Other Non Cash	(28)	(8)	(20)	(4)
Net Asset Acquisitions	(270)	(266)	(4)	3
Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT & RESERVE MOVEMENTS	7	50	(43)	258
Debt Additions / (decrease)	-	-	-	(66)
Debt Repaid	(169)	(180)	11	(167)
Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	75	130	(55)	101
NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(87)	-	(87)	126

Monitoring Capital Expenditure Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	YTD			Last Year FY Actual \$000
	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Variance \$000	
Total Asset Acquisitions	301	309	8	61
Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	(62)
Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(31)	(43)	(12)	(9)
Net Capital Expenditure	270	266	(4)	(10)
Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	270	266	(4)	(10)

1.1.6 Financial variance analysis

- Environmental Monitoring department has a net surplus of \$46k which is in line with budget
- Personnel costs are \$31k over budget, savings from vacancies during the year are offset by unbudgeted redundancy costs

- Materials spend is \$157k more than budget and includes the purchase of water meter software and other maintenance costs which were budgeted under consultants but spent under materials. This over spend is offset by Consultants spend which is \$132k underspent
- EMI also had \$127k of external income of which \$103k was from WCC being a contribution towards Ambient coastal monitoring & investigation

1.1.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: State of the environment monitoring	
<i>Greater Wellington's managers with responsibility for water supply and consents will be notified within one working day of low groundwater levels in the Waiwhetu aquifer</i>	No notifications were required because the Waiwhetu aquifer was well above the low level warning in the period.
<i>Water samples will be taken weekly throughout the bathing season (1 November – 31 March) and tested for the presence of bacteria. A traffic light warning framework (see below) will be used at the sites and on Greater Wellington's website to inform the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green – low or no public health risk • Amber – alert mode requiring follow-up monitoring • Red – action required and beach closed 	The 2011/12 bathing season finished in March; monitoring data collected over the summer were published on the Greater Wellington website as the results of testing became available.
<i>Real-time environmental data will be available on Greater Wellington's website throughout the year</i>	Real time data relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Meteorology • River flows • Rainfall • Groundwater levels • Lake level • Soil moisture • Tide level is available on the Greater Wellington website.
<i>Monitoring the state of the region's environment (air, water, soil) will be undertaken and annual report cards containing summary information of this work will be prepared to the Council's satisfaction</i>	A set of leaflets summarising state and trends in air, land and water resources were published in June. Annual monitoring reports for 2010/11 are being finalised and a single summary 'report card' will follow next quarter.
<i>Targeted investigations will be completed in a timely manner and to the Council's satisfaction</i>	No reports of investigations were completed in the fourth quarter.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
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Activity: Floodwarning service

All flood warnings will be issued within 30 minutes of alarms being triggered in accordance with established flood procedures

Flood warnings were issued in a timely manner. There were no significant events.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
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Long Term Targets by June 2019

There will be no recorded instances where air quality breaches the national environmental standards.

The National Environmental Standard for air quality (PM₁₀) was breached in the Wairarapa airshed in May.

- All bathing sites (coastal and freshwater) will comply with the national recreational water-quality guidelines
- Nitrate-nitrogen concentration in groundwater will not exceed 50% of the New Zealand Drinking-Water Standards
- Water quality in key streams, rivers and lakes will be maintained or enhanced

These targets will be assessed when final statistics are available for the 2011/12 year.

River flows and groundwater levels will be maintained above the minimum levels.

Minimum levels were maintained.

No decline in soil quality.

This target will be assessed following receipt of the results of annual soil sampling undertaken in April.

1.1.8 Risk analysis

We have reviewed our risks and no changes are required to the risk register.

1.2 Environmental Policy

1.2.1 Overview

- Continuation of the development of the second generation regional plan
- Environment Court mediation on proposed Regional Policy Statement appeals

1.2.2 Key results for the year

- The resolution to appeals to the proposed RPS continues with consent orders signed by the Environment Court for Soils, Air Quality, Coastal Environment, Contaminated Land, Regional form (Kiwi Properties) and Minerals
- Draft consent orders with the Court for final sign off covering: Freshwater, Regional form (Horticulture NZ), and Tangata Whenua
- Outstanding matters: Indigenous ecosystems, Energy and Infrastructure, Landscape and Natural Hazards
- Two meetings/workshops of Te Upoko Taiao held – provisions for the management of air quality and biodiversity were discussed, and the presentation of our State of the Environment leaflets

1.2.3 Looking ahead

- Policy development options prepared in relation to water allocation and the implementation of a catchment approach to land and water management for Te Upoko Taiao in August and rural land use management in September
- Finalisation of RPS appeals, with appeals to the Landscape and Natural Hazards most likely to be resolved in the coming month
- Starting work to make the proposed Regional Policy Statement operative, excluding any remaining matters under appeal

1.2.4 Departmental activity

Proposed Regional Policy Statement

Discussions have continued since the second round of Environment Court mediation held between 8 March 2012 and 12 March 2012. Final consent orders have been signed off by the Environment Court for air quality, coastal environment, soils, contaminated land, regionally significant centres and minerals. Draft consent orders are with the Environment Court for final sign off for fresh water, regional form and tangata whenua. The remaining appeal points are on energy and infrastructure, landscape, indigenous ecosystems and natural hazards. Officers are currently working on the resolution of these matters.

Officers are also now working on a project plan to make the proposed Regional Policy Statement operative. This process will involve a final edit, checking the match between consent orders and the RPS text, printing and design options.

Regional Plan review

General

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee met on 24 April and 5 June 2012. The meetings/workshops were held in the Council Chamber, Regional Council Centre, Wellington.

In a workshop held on 24 April the committee discussed provisions for the management of air quality in the region. A substantive part of the discussion focused on discharges from domestic fires, particularly in the ‘polluted’ airshed of Masterton, and other areas of concern such as Wainuiomata. Te Upoko Taiao has asked that officers explore a combined regulatory/non-regulatory approach to addressing issues relating to discharges from domestic fires, with initial discussions on solutions to be had with key stakeholders, including Territorial Authorities, and Regional Public Health. Other discharges to air arising from industrial and trade premises are effectively being updated with new, industry standards.

Te Upoko Taiao met on 5 June and was presented with the Quarterly Report from the Environmental Management Group for the period ending 31 March 2012. A workshop followed the meeting where the committee discussed provisions for biodiversity in the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers, and wetlands. The proposed RPS gives strong direction for the identification and protection of habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, upon which the approach discussed, is based. Te Upoko Taiao asked officers to further develop policies based on this approach, while recognising the needs of regionally significant infrastructure.

The committee was also presented with State of the Environment leaflets. These were publicly released in June. The leaflets distill the findings from eight technical documents into key findings on a sub-regional (zone) basis aligning with the approach used for the Regional Plan community engagement workshops: Kapiti Coast, Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (including the Hutt Valley), Wairarapa Valley and Eastern Wairarapa hills.

The sites of significance to tangata whenua technical advisory group met 31 May to give officers advice about scheduling sites of significance in the new regional plan and the tangata whenua values associated with those places. We are meeting with each iwi individually to discuss contracts for the identification work.

Landowner consultation will be underway soon for historic heritage sites that are being considered for scheduling in the new regional plan.

A 3-stage project to identify and accurately map regionally significant wetlands is underway. A desktop review of wetland boundaries and a review of available information on the condition and significance of these wetlands has been completed. Field work has been carried out for wetlands bordering Wairarapa Moana, and the final report is to be distributed to landowners before being made more widely available. A further 70 wetlands across the Region have been identified as priorities for field visits, and a consultant has been engaged to carry out this work. Councillors have been advised of the communication strategy and will be advised when land owner contact and fieldwork is underway. The final product of these three projects will be a list of nationally and regionally significant wetlands that are candidates for scheduling in the new regional plan.

Consultation and Engagement Plan

The engagement strategy for 2012 has involved two different sets of activities – stakeholder conferencing and public seminars. The stakeholder conferencing has enabled topic leaders to meet with invited people from selected organisations, to discuss and develop the approaches that they would be taking with their regional plan methods and policies.



Conferencing was held through June and July to address the following topic areas:

Hazards and hazard management areas

- Coastal marine areas
- Stormwater systems
- Rural landuse and water quality
- Waterway flow rates

The public seminars in November are intended to inform the public about the approaches and provisions being developed in the regional plan. People attending the seminars will be encouraged to provide feed-back via the website.

Regional Council input into Statutory Planning

District Plan Changes

Hutt City Council

- Plan Change 25: Introduction of a tertiary education precinct, WelTec, Petone

Greater Wellington made a supportive submission on amendments to carparking standards for the precinct. This approach would enable carparking provision to be more flexible, avoiding excessive on-site carparking areas, with consideration given to how existing on-street and on-site carparking is utilised and how it could be more efficient, based on actual parking demands. This approach is consistent with the Regional Travel Demand Management Plan which was developed under the Regional Land Transport Strategy that encourages all local councils to review their District Plan carparking standards to ensure they support good urban design and sustainability objectives.

- Plan Changes 26, 27 and 28: Rezoning land at three sites in Stokes Valley and Gracefield

Greater Wellington made a submission opposing plan changes 26 and 27 with no comments to make on plan change 28. The reason for opposing plan changes 26 and 27 were the impacts on indigenous biodiversity in the areas affected by the plan changes. Both the sites to be rezoned were identified as having significant ecological value and important ecological connectivity values. Ecological assessments identified that there would be a loss of remnant primary forest and that residential development would result in a reduction of ecological connectivity values within Significant Natural Resource Area 50, identified in the Hutt City Council District Plan.

- Plan Change 29: Petone West – Mixed Use

Greater Wellington is currently determining the need to make a submission on this recently notified plan change. This plan change involves rezoning land in an area of West Petone from General Business Activity Area to Petone Commercial Activity Area – Area 2.

- Plan Change 30 – Rezoning of 8 Harold Grove, Stokes Valley

Greater Wellington is currently determining the need to make a submission on this recently notified plan change. This plan change involves rezoning land from Recreation Activity Area to Residential Activity Area.

Upper Hutt City Council

- Plan Change 24: Notable Tree Review

Greater Wellington made a neutral submission on proposed plan change 24. In the submission we highlighted the importance of recognising the regional importance of significant indigenous biodiversity by placing additional value on trees that are indigenous to the area. As set out, the plan change gave no further weighting to indigenous trees than exotic trees.

Notified Resource Consents

Upper Hutt City Council

- Notified subdivision and land use resource consent: 10-lot residential subdivision at 299 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt – Royal Wellington Golf Club

Greater Wellington opposed in part a 10-lot subdivision on the basis of its impacts on biodiversity and Greater Wellington's Flood Protection department's activities on the site. Over 30 indigenous trees were proposed to be removed from the site, most of which were remnant trees now rare on the Hutt Valley floodplain. The subdivision scheme plan did not include an existing easement for access by Greater Wellington's Flood Protection department to allow access to structures and areas some of which are within the properties in the subdivision proposal.

After pre-hearing mediation with the applicant, they agreed to place a protective covenant on some indigenous bush adjacent to the application site. They also agreed to adjust the scheme plan to include the easement for the Flood Protection department.

Porirua City Council

- Notified land use resource consent: Construction and operation of a New World supermarket, adjacent to Adventure Park, Whitby.

Greater Wellington made a neutral submission on this application and suggested to the applicant to make some improvements in relation to pedestrian safety initiatives and more effective eco-sourced native plants. The applicant amended the application to address our concerns.

Other documents

Hutt City Council

- Draft Stormwater Plan

Greater Wellington made a submission on the draft Stormwater Plan. The submission supported the development of the plan but suggested amendments regarding the overall philosophy of the Plan as well as

amendments to specific details within the plan. Greater Wellington suggested that the Plan should be amended to reflect a more balanced approach for stormwater management, including both stormwater quantity and quality. That is the draft Stormwater Plan should take a more holistic approach which considers the land uses which create stormwater and generates stormwater contaminants as well as how to manage the effects associated with the stormwater.

Porirua City Council

- Discussion document on Potential Plan Change for Network Utilities

Porirua City Council has produced a discussion document to provide options for coordinating activities which relate to network utilities. Greater Wellington has both regulatory under the RMA and operational functions in Porirua as GW owns and manages a number of regional parks with Porirua City Council's jurisdiction. The submission reflects both of these areas of interest.

Greater Wellington supported one of the options given which aims to review the existing objectives and policies to give effect to the relevant policies of the National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission and RPS and which will result in a plan change. Greater Wellington Parks department would like to be a party to any relevant discussions on setback, corridor management and co-location issues.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust

- Proposed registration of Wellington Harbour Board Historic Area

Greater Wellington will be making a submission on this proposed registration, which covers a large area of the waterfront, from Pipitea Wharf in the north (fully enclosed by reclamation) to Clyde Quay wharf in the south and the area in between. We have technical concerns with the registration report, as well as the recommendation that the entire proposed historic area (in the CMA) be scheduled as a historic area in our coastal plan. The Historic Places Trust did not consult with us prior to proposing the registration, despite being aware of our coastal plan review work. It appears they did not consult with other stakeholders either, and there is some anger about that.

Natural hazards

Research Projects

Regional storm tide modelling and sea level rise projects

In July we released the findings of a large study into coastal hazards and vulnerability of the region. The work is the culmination of 2½ years of research, involving three workstreams that analysed local sea level

variability, looked at past and future sea level trends and modelled storm-tide events and coastal inundation based on historic storm events.

The work was commissioned and largely funded by Greater Wellington (75% – \$170,000) with support from the Wellington City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council (25% – \$50,000).

Some of the main findings show that Wellington has the highest rate of sea level rise of all the main centres in the country at over 2.0 mm/yr and that this has been exacerbated by recent tectonic subsidence over the last 15 years. At the current rate we are tracking towards a sea level rise of 1.0 m over the next 100 years. The study highlighted areas around the coast that will be affected by this rise and modelled where storm-tide events may cause flooding.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Wellington region civil defence and emergency management group plan

The department continues to work with civil defence emergency management. CDEM has recently been amalgamated into a regional group and is in the process of developing a regional CDEM plan. Environmental policy will be working with the regional CDEM group during the preparation of this plan and providing regional hazards and planning advice.

Presentations/Publications/Media

Environment Policy Senior Policy Advisor (hazards) continues to be approached to speak to community and council groups on natural hazards. Education is a big part of the role and a recent talk was given to Victoria University, Architecture and Design School on coastal hazards and hazards management and to civil defence and emergency management on tsunami science.

A meeting was held in July to release the results and brief the media of the regional storm tide modelling and sea level rise projects. There was a strong turnout at the meeting (over 60 people) with representatives from all the Territorial Authorities in the region, scientists, planners, policy analysts and reporters. Strong media interest in the findings resulted in the story being picked up by all the local papers in the region and by broadcast media.

Training courses, seminars and conferences

Staff have attended the following;

- Conference NZARM – Tools to Farm within Limits
- Being a greater manager – The art of deliberate success

Health and safety

Paul Denton is the Health and Safety representative. There have been no near-misses, or accidents reported to Paul Denton over the reporting period.

1.2.5 Financial reports

Policy	YTD			Last Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	FY Actual
Income Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Rates & Levies	2,146	2,146	-	2,351
Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
External Revenue	8	-	8	95
Investment Revenue	6	-	6	5
Internal Revenue	33	25	8	30
TOTAL INCOME	2,193	2,171	22	2,481
less:				
Personnel Costs	1,222	1,233	11	1,267
Materials,Supplies & Services	52	46	(6)	107
Travel & Transport Costs	24	7	(17)	29
Contractor & Consultants	397	287	(110)	446
Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Internal Charges	199	200	1	223
Total Direct Expenditure	1,894	1,773	(121)	2,072
Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
Bad Debts	3	-	(3)	(13)
Corporate & Department Overheads	399	399	-	359
Depreciation	6	6	-	3
Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	-	-	-	(5)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,302	2,178	(124)	2,416
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(109)	(7)	(102)	65
Add Back Depreciation	6	6	-	3
Other Non Cash	-	-	-	(5)
Net Asset Acquisitions	-	-	-	(19)
Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT AND RESERVE MOVEMENTS	(103)	(1)	(108)	44
Debt Additions / (decrease)	-	-	-	-
Debt Repaid	-	-	-	-
Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	(6)	-	(6)	95
NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(109)	(1)	(108)	139

Policy	YTD			Last Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	FY Actual
Capital Expenditure Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Total Asset Acquisitions	-	-	-	24
Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	-	-	-	(5)
Net Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	19
Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	-	-	-	19

1.2.6 Financial variance analysis

- The Policy department has a net deficit of \$109k which is \$102k worse than budget and in line with forecast mainly due to additional consultants spend for the Plan Review work
- Other costs are in line with budget

1.2.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: Resource management planning <i>The Regional Policy Statement will be approved by the Council and become operative</i>	<p>The Regional Policy Statement was approved by the Council in May 2010 and mediation to resolve the nine appeals and more than 200 points of appeal has taken place in through the year.</p> <p>Mediation meetings with the main appellants led to the successful resolution of appeal points in four subject areas of the proposed Regional Policy Statement by November.</p> <p>Court-assisted mediation and further mediation meetings with the appellants and the s274 party to the appeals has continued from November with draft consent orders for 10 policy areas now presented to the Environment Court for ratification. Four areas of appeal remain outstanding but with draft consent orders being discussed and resolution expected by the parties.</p>

1.2.8 Risk analysis

None identified in this department.

1.3 Environmental Regulation

1.3.1 Overview

- Ongoing high core statutory workload. Dominated by a number of large projects such as Transmission Gully consenting, wind farm hearings, municipal waste water treatment renewals, and run of prosecutions and other enforcement proceedings
- Non notified consent workload down slightly, but still comparable with 2010/11 financial year
- Compliance inspection load comparable to the 2010/11 year

1.3.2 Key results for the year

- Roads of National Significance – Transmission Gully processed through to a decision. Significant workload in Transmission Gully and MacKays to Peka Peka national consenting processes, as well planning work for other RoNS projects to follow
- Processed largest ever consent (outside the national consenting process), in Castle Hill Wind Farm
- Municipal waste water – replacement consenting across the region, for main plant and infrastructure overflows for Carterton, South Wairarapa and Hutt Councils
- Successful defence of our largest ever sequence of prosecutions
- Earthworks site scoring system has been successfully rolled out and adopted by consent holders and industry
- Roll-out of dairy effluent pond storage calculator and workshops on water metering for industry

1.3.3 Looking ahead

- Ongoing management of core statutory work with particularly heavy loads in water permit compliance, earthworks compliance, and Board of Inquiry work
- Development and roll out of a pilot programme to contract out earthworks resource consent compliance (discussed in this report)
- Review of existing compliance strategies, linked together by an overarching strategic compliance framework
- Charging policy review incorporating possible improved science charging, water permit compliance charging and contracting out of compliance services
- Investigation of ICT capability including the incidents database, and mobility devices (as part of an organisation-wide project)
- Stakeholder engagement including the Earthworks industry (contractors and consultants), and further work with rural sector agencies
- Regional Plan review input, incorporating significant input into plan provisions

1.3.4 Departmental activity
Resource consents

Non-notified consents

Non-notified consent processing work has remained stable in the June quarter, and dominated by the ongoing processing of replacement consent applications for water takes, dairy sheds, swing moorings and the remaining boatsheds from 2011; as well as a number of bore permits.

Overall, we are slightly down on consents processed in the 2011-12 year compared to the previous year, and well down on consent applications received. However, these statistics take no account of applications to the Board of Inquiry – which would otherwise increase our receive application numbers by 55-60, and processed consents by around 25.

Consents summary

Item	June Quarter 2012	March Quarter 2012	June Quarter 2011
Consents received	104	100	223
Consents issued	107	114	143

Item	2011-12 year	2010-11 year
Consents received	506	699
Consents issued	575	598

Item	June Quarter 2012	March Quarter 2012
Median processing time frame	17	15

Item	2011-12 year	2010-11 year
Median processing time frame	19	16

Notified and limited notified consents

Considerable work in assessments, and pre-hearings or hearings has been completed and/or decisions released on:

- **NZTA – Transmission Gully Project RoNS:** The Board issued its final decision and report on 12 June granting consents to NZTA. This followed the earlier release of the draft report and decision (4 May) for stakeholder comment. Comments were limited to errors and the

wording of consent conditions (enforceability, logic). We provided substantive comments on consent conditions, with most accepted by the Board. We have also found minor errors in the final set of conditions post decision. We have advised the Board via the EPA, hopeful that they will be able to make the changes. The decision effectively takes on all GW's main concerns including



sediment control, stream reclamation mitigation, and provision for GW forestry access and bulk water supply. The appeal period 'technically' ended on Monday 16 July – no appeals have been lodged yet.

- **NZTA – MacKays to Peka Peka RoNS:** Applications for the next RoNS project for this region were lodged with the EPA on 20 April, and notified on 14 July following the Minister's direction to appoint a Board. The Board comprises retired High Court Judge Sir John Hansen, Environment Commissioner David Bunting, Mark Appledoorn (Traffic Design Expert) and Glenice Paine (iwi expertise and from the TGP Board). We have provided a 'post lodgement completeness check' and 'key issues report' to the Board as part of the statutory process. We are now considering forming a GW cross-organisation submission, similar in format and approach as our submission for TGP.
- **Genesis Energy – Castle Hill Wind Farm (CHWF):** The decision granting consent on our largest ever consent application (outside national consenting) was issued on 11 June. In issuing their final decision the Hearing Panel confirmed their preliminary view that the proposed CHWF would, with some adjustment, be a sustainable development. The major contentious issues related to District Council matters. The Panel concluded that the combination of the scale, number and proximity of the larger turbines (155 high and 110m rotor diameter) would have significant adverse effects on landscape values and amenity values at a local level, and that these effects needed to be better mitigated. The final consent decision requires Genesis to reduce most of the proposed turbines to the "medium" scale turbines (135/90m); three of 24 turbine groups be reduced further (to 115/70m); and 19 turbines proposed very close to the boundary of other properties be deleted unless otherwise subsequently 'approved'

by adjoining landowners. Key regional consenting issues include requirements on Genesis to provide mitigation for stream reclamation, a comprehensive sediment and erosion control plan covering earthworks staging, stabilisation and fill placement.

The decision has subsequently been appealed by the applicant and some of the submitters and we are currently reviewing the content of those appeals.

- **Hutt City Council – waste water treatment plant pipeline maintenance:** This is an application for infrequent temporary discharges of treated wastewater to Wellington Harbour and the Waiwhetu Stream, from maintenance and repair works to the treatment plant's main outfall pipeline (MOP). Submissions closed in mid February (3 supporting and 6 opposed), and two productive pre-hearing meetings have been held in March and May. The applicant has since amended their proposal to shorten the duration of the Waiwhetu discharges consent from 20 to 5 years. This 5-year consent will be focused on the condition assessment of the MOP and the consideration of future options for the discharges. An external peer review of the ecological effects has been sought by GW and is due shortly. Once the applicant has reviewed the peer review they will make a decision as to whether they want to hold a third pre-hearing meeting or proceed to a hearing.
- **CDC – Carterton Wastewater Treatment Plant reconsenting:** Information provided to the Hearing Panel by Carterton District Council (following the December 2011 hearing) has been reviewed by GW and the submitters, and additional comment has been provided back to the panel. The Hearing Panel has now sought a closing statement from the applicant in writing (rather than reconvening the hearing) prior to final deliberations and a decision release.
- **SWDC – Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant reconsenting:** A replacement consent to discharge treated wastewater to the Ruamahanga River from the Martinborough Waste Water Treatment Plant was lodged on the 10 April (and subsequently returned as incomplete under s88 of the RMA). The applicant expects to re-submit a complete application by late July 2012. The proposal is likely to seek a 5-year term to investigate and plan for partial or full land based discharge of treated wastewater. In the meantime a series of staged improvements would be undertaken to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the current system.
- **SWDC – Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant reconsenting:** A replacement consent to discharge treated sewage to Donalds Creek from Featherston WWTP was received on 25 May 2012. The application is currently on hold seeking further information in

particular around the effects of the proposal on the receiving environment and how the proposed effects may be better mitigated. The further information is expected toward the end of July. Once adequate information has been provided the application is likely to be publicly notified.

- **Wairarapa Funeral Services – crematorium discharge to air reconsenting:** Consent was granted in late May following a 15 May hearing. Key conditions included limits on smoke emissions, an Operations and Maintenance Manual be completed, a Community Liaison Group be set up, a webcam to be operated during cremations and the stack height to be increased within six months. No appeals were received.
- **JNL, Masterton – discharge of particulates from wood processing:** This application was notified back in November 2008 and has been on hold ever since while the applicant investigated options to reduce the emission to air of particulate (PM¹⁰). The applicant has now come up with some options for this which we are currently reviewing. Following this review it is likely that a pre-hearing meeting will be held.
- **Lychgate Funeral Homes – crematorium discharge to air reconsenting:** Only five submissions were received on this application, and a pre-hearing meeting was held at the end of February. Agreement was reached between the applicant and the submitter on the proposed conditions thus avoiding a formal hearing. Decision to grant the consent was made on 11 May 2012.
- **Burrell Demolition Limited reconsenting and extension:** Application for resource consent to replace the existing consent, and extend the footprint of the construction and demolition fill, which includes stream piping and reclamation. An external peer review of several aspects of the application has been completed and we are waiting for further information from the applicant including a stream ecological values assessment and mitigation proposal. This is required before the application can be jointly notified with WCC.
- **Pauatahanui Forestry harvesting:** All issues around the disturbance of streams and discharges of sediment have been resolved through agreed consent conditions and a monitoring methodology. The consent was granted, without the need for a hearing, on 19 June.

Significant Non-notified applications

- **Exide Technologies Limited decommissioning:**

Exide gained a consent in late April to decommission the battery recycling facility, following the Plant closure on 31 March. The decommissioning of the plant involves the cleaning and removal of machinery, the removal of the stacks and air treatment systems and the cleaning of the interior and exterior of the building.

The decommissioning does not involve the deconstruction of the buildings or the digging

up of foundations. The consent conditions carry over the same Environment Court endorsed consent limits and ensures there are effective processes and controls (through a decommissioning plan) in place to limit any discharges to air to a safe level for the surrounding community. We are monitoring compliance with this consent on a regular basis. Exide has been assessed as fully complying with their consent to date.



Exide Technologies stack at their Waione Street plant. The stack will soon be taken down as part of Exide's plant decommissioning work.

Major pre-application discussions continue for:

- **WCC – Southern Landfill Stage 4:** WCC has provided a draft application for the Stage 4 landfill extension for comment. The application will be notified as the proposal will involve hundreds of metres of stream reclamation, disposal of refuse and other contaminants to land, and the discharge of odour and landfill gas to atmosphere. We have identified further information that is required around the stream ecological values assessment and mitigation proposal. An external expert peer review of this further information will be undertaken prior to WCC formally lodging the application.
- **KCDC public water supply project:** Following an investigation phase which identified up to 50 options for public water supply, KCDC has chosen as first preferred option to take more water from the Waikanae River for public supply and then 'recharge' the river with abstracted bore water from the Waikanae Bore Field. Pre-application meetings and advice has been ongoing for this project. KCDC was granted resource consents in January 2011 to undertake ecological testing in the Waikanae River and borehole investigations to gain information of the potential environmental effects to support their application. Investigation drilling and pumping tests have been

ongoing throughout 2011 and 2012. In late 2011 we were presented with the results from an in-stream testing of the effects of the bore water on the rivers chemistry and ecology, completed by NIWA. We have since worked through with KCDC our concerns regarding the level of uncertainty of the effects on the river's ecology – which has since been addressed by KCDC through further testing. Final pre-application work continues with KCDC, and we are expecting applications to be lodged by the end of August 2012.

Resource consent appeals and objections

Once again appeals work has been light in the last quarter, with one recent new appeal.

- **Horokiwi Quarries – Fitzroy Bay sand and gravel extraction (jointly processed with applications to Hutt City Council):** The appeal relating to land-contouring requirements affecting the HCC land use suite of consents was successfully mediated out in April 2012. We have now recommended the Court mediated outcome to the Minister of Conservation (regarding the Restricted Coastal Activity for deposition in the Coastal Marine Area) for final approval.
- **Wairarapa Aggregates – gravel aggregate quarry:** Formal agreement by way of a consent notice has now been signed by all the parties, therefore avoiding the need for a formal Court hearing. The appeal is now closed.
- **Genesis Energy – Castle Hill Wind Farm:** As stated above, this consent has been appealed by both the applicant and some of the submitters opposed to the application. We are currently analysing the appeal documents and it appears that the main issues are district council related matters (visual amenity, noise and traffic), along with some minor regional issues (wording of conditions). We are currently in discussions with the other councils to investigate the possibility of sharing resources for our joint defence of the decision.

Consented compliance monitoring

- **Earthworks site scoring system:** We have finished our first season roll-out of the compliance points scoring system for earthworks sites. The system is now being used on all large earthworks sites in the region – mainly within the Porirua Harbour catchment, but also around the region from Waikanae in the north to the construction of the Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Wairarapa. Our officers are finding it a useful tool for engaging with consent holders, consultants and contractors



A sediment retention pond at the Westchester Drive extension, Churton Park

about compliance performance. Informal feedback from these stakeholders suggests they appreciate the instant feedback and the simplicity of the system. We will be reviewing how the system is working, prior to next earthworks season (which traditionally kicks off later in spring). We will also be looking into setting up training for contractors this year in order to improve capability within the earthworks industry across the region.

Environmental incidents

222 incidents were notified and responded to in the quarter, down from 237 in the previous quarter. A summary breakdown of incidents is reported 6-weekly through the Councillor's Bulletin.



A sewage overflow event at Porirua City's sewer outfall south of Titahi Bay

Enforcement

Abatement and infringement notices

Item	June Quarter 2012	Mar Quarter 2012	June Quarter 2011
Abatement notices	27	4	12
Infringement notices	16	2	4

Item	2011-12 year	2010-11 year
Abatement notices	58	74
Infringement notices	52	46

Prosecutions, enforcement orders and abatement notice appeals

Significant prosecutions work in the last quarter includes:

- **Alan Jefferies:** The prosecution of Mr Jefferies and related abatement notice appeals regarding the diversion of Mangaroa River, associated river works and deposition of fill material continues. As noted in the March quarter report, the Environment Court decision conforming the abatement notices was appealed to the High Court by Mr Jefferies. The matter will be heard in the High Court on 3 October 2012. The concurrent prosecution of Mr Jefferies on five related charges will be progressed (via trial by jury) once the appeal is resolved.

- **Davis Sawmilling Company Ltd:**

This is a prosecution of a Featherston timber treatment plant and sawmill company (nine charges) for the discharges of timber treatment contaminants to stormwater and Donalds Creek, beyond the site. The case was heard in the Wellington District Court on 7 May – with the company pleading guilty to seven charges, and was fined



Discharge to Donalds Creek

\$21,000. Remedial action has been undertaken by the company and measures put in place to stop the discharges. They have also applied for resource consent to address any further discharges that may occur from the site.

- **Alex Burrell and Burrell Demolition Ltd:** The long and extensive process of this case continues. The District Court decision and Enforcement Order were appealed and heard in the High Court on 8 and 9 December 2011. A stay of the enforcement order was given by the High Court pending the outcome of the appeal. The appeal was dismissed by the High Court on 22 June 2012. The conviction and sentence given by the District Court in October 2010 and November 2011 respectively stand, while Mr Burrell seeks leave of the High Court to appeal to the Court of Appeal (and seek a stay of the enforcement order). An initial call-over took place on 16 July, with a full hearing before Judge Williams set down for 17 August. Earlier, the prosecution related to a breach of resource consent in 2008 at C&D Landfill in Happy Valley Road.
- **Burrell Demolition Ltd, Alex Burrell and John Morgan:** Earlier, charges were laid on 28 June 2011 for allegedly discharging non-cleanfill material into C&D Landfill (a construction and demolition fill) in breach of their resource consent. A Sentence Indication Hearing was held on 7 May 2012. Guilty pleas were entered at the end of this hearing and the Company was convicted and fined \$15 000. Mr Morgan and Mr Burrell were convicted and discharged without penalty.
- **Lifestyle Capital Limited:** This case relates to an abatement notice served to deal with stream bed erosion in Kelly's Creek (south of Martinborough) partly attributable to consented diversion works. GW has previously proposed a 'whole-of-catchment' solution to the current erosion problems which was rejected by the landowners concerned. An agreement was reached on 31 May 2012, following earlier court mediation, and a mediation agreement signed. The abatement notice has been cancelled and the appeal withdrawn in accordance with the mediation agreement.

Take Charge programme

The Take Charge programme is continuing work with IAG Panel and Paint Industry members. All premises which have completed self assessments have been audited for Regional Plan compliance. Reports have been sent to each indicating what they need to do to reach the standards required for Take Charge certification, as well as recommendations of best practice. Five of the 10 new businesses audited this year have completed their 'requirements', met our Regional Plan standards and received certification. Of the remaining five businesses, two are actively working towards achieving their requirements and three have not engaged since the initial audit despite follow up emails and phone calls to offer further assistance. Our Take Charge programme focus will now shift to a new areas/activity. I will report on the scoping and confirmation of the new programme in my September report.

Projects

Roll out of (dairy effluent) pond storage calculator for Wellington Region

Last quarter I reported that GW received the *first* version of the dairy effluent pond storage calculator for Wellington region – which will enable farmers to build correctly size effluent ponds. Last Quarter we met with key partners (Fonterra, Dairy NZ, and Federated Farmers) to determine how we collectively roll out this tool. Actions from here include building up some scenarios, around how the calculator translates into differing sized ponds based on differing on-farm conditions. We will do this in preparation for our next session with the industry, and ahead of developing (together with the industry) a programme for a staged roll-out of the calculator across the region.

Contracting out compliance services

We have embarked on the development of a pilot programme for contracting out part of our earthworks compliance programme to an external provider. Our intention is to develop a programme based on the following principles: more efficient overall programme delivery, increased on-site compliance presence, greater consistency in compliance approach, improved staff capability, improved industry capability, improved relationships with the industry, and cost neutrality for GW.

We are currently in the process of interviewing two possible providers, which will also include referee interviews as we determine a preferred provider (subject to an approved proposal), then develop resources and roles to support our pilot programme prior to its roll-out.

I will provide a further update in the September Quarterly report.

Customer satisfaction survey

Our four-yearly survey of our consent applicants and holders and submitters, carried out on-line, was completed in June 2012. This is our first on-line approach to the survey, moving away from the more traditional phone-survey. The other difference was that we have dropped the environmental incident notifiers section from the survey, based on the fact that past surveys delivered limited useful information from this group. Preliminary results show that over half of all applicants and existing consent holders rate the overall service they receive as either 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent; although overall satisfaction with our service has declined slightly from 2008. Results also reveal that our consent applicants and holders were taking advantage of our pre-application advice and feel they are getting sound advice from our officers if applications were rejected due to insufficient information. Submitters generally felt heard during the notified/hearing process.

Early indications are that areas for improvement will need to be focused around communication and keeping our stakeholders more consistently informed throughout the consent process. A workshop for the Environmental Regulation Department staff will be held this quarter – focussing on the delivery of results and actions for improvement.

A learning from the process is that a four-yearly frequency is simply too long an interval between surveys. Looking ahead, we will be looking at some options around conducting more frequent smaller surveys closer to the time our customers have interacted with GW.

1.3.5 Financial reports

Regulation Income Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	YTD			Last Year FY Actual \$000
	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Variance \$000	
Rates & Levies	2,400	2,400	-	2,243
Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
External Revenue	2,232	1,400	832	1,429
Investment Revenue	-	-	-	-
Internal Revenue	203	126	77	166
TOTAL INCOME	4,835	3,926	909	3,838
less:				
Personnel Costs	2,318	2,182	(136)	2,130
Materials,Supplies & Services	84	154	70	99
Travel & Transport Costs	34	32	(2)	51
Contractor & Consultants	1,153	246	(907)	401
Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Internal Charges	533	540	7	620
Total Direct Expenditure	4,122	3,154	(968)	3,301
Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
Bad Debts	(54)	-	54	48
Corporate & Department Overheads	771	771	-	692
Depreciation	35	31	(4)	31
Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,874	3,956	(918)	4,072
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(39)	(30)	(9)	(234)
Add Back Depreciation	35	31	4	31
Other Non Cash	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Acquisitions	-	-	-	(47)
Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT & RESERVE MOVEMENTS	(4)	1	(5)	(250)
Debt Additions / (decrease)	-	-	-	-
Debt Repaid	-	-	-	-
Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	-	-	-	-
NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(4)	1	(5)	(250)

Regulation Capital Expenditure Statement 12 months ending 30 June 2012	YTD			Last Year FY Actual \$000
	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Variance \$000	
Total Asset Acquisitions	-	-	-	46
Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	-	-	-	-
Net Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	46
Investments Additions	-	-	-	-
Net Capital and Investment Expenditure	-	-	-	46

1.3.6 Financial variance analysis

- Environmental Regulation has a net deficit of \$39k which is in line with budget and a great result in terms of managing around \$900k extra costs and invoicing for some very large consents which were processed this year

- Both external income and consultants' costs are around \$900k more than budget. Processing of some large notified consents (e.g. Transmission Gully, Genesis Windfarm) have required additional spend on legal costs and other consultants but these costs have been on charged to the consent applicants and paid. In fact debtors over 90 days are the lowest they have been for several years due to improved account management & debt collecting

1.3.7 Business plan performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: Resource consent service	
<i>100% of resource consents will be processed within statutory timeframes and in compliance with the Resource Management Act</i>	574 (99.8%) out of 575 consents were processed within statutory timeframes. Only one late consent occurred, which was caused by a water permit application from our 'historical backlog' which had been on process hold for some time.
<i>100% of consent decisions appealed to the Environment Court will be successfully defended</i>	We successfully defended five appeals in 2011/12 all resolved by mediation. One new appeal was received during 2011/12.
<i>Two workshops on specific issues will be held for consent customers</i>	Workshops were held in September for Earthworks contractors and consultants to introduce the compliance 'points scoring system'; and in December for water meter installers and verifiers as part of our implementation of the national Regulations for water metering and reporting.
Activity: Compliance and enforcement	
<i>100% of compliance inspections for all major consents with an individual monitoring programme will be completed</i>	2,217 (96.9%) of 2,289 scheduled inspections were completed, compared with 2,170 inspections in 2010/11. the 72 inspections not completed were all self inspections by swing mooring consent holders.
<i>6.7% (1 in 15) of all consents not subject to an individual monitoring programme will be subject to a monitoring inspection</i>	4 out of 37 of all consents not subject to a monitoring programme were inspected.
<i>100% enforcement actions taken will be successful</i>	19 prosecution charges were laid on three new prosecutions. We successfully defended all eight prosecutions and appeal cases heard by the Environment Court/District Court. 57 abatement notices and 54 infringement notices were issued.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Activity: Pollution prevention and control	
<i>100% of environmental pollution incidents will be responded to according to the following timeframes:</i>	The average response times were met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red – 7.5 minutes (target 60 minutes) • Yellow – 11.5 hours (target 24 hours) • Blue – 2.5 days (target 7 days)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Log only: no action required</i> • <i>Red (serious adverse environmental effect requiring immediate attention): 60 minutes</i> • <i>Yellow (serious environmental effect where no benefit will be gained by an immediate response): 24 hours</i> • <i>Blue (minor environmental effect not requiring immediate response): 7 days</i> 	Regarding actual response times, the number of incidents that exceeded the target were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red – 63 incidents (11%) • Yellow – 1 incidents (<1%) • Blue – 2 incidents (4%)
<i>20 businesses will be audited for compliance with the Resource Management Act and regional plans</i>	10 new audits were completed. While this is less than the target of 20, the Take Charge position has dropped from 1FTE to 0.5FTE since the target was set.

Performance Indicator	Achieved
Long Term Targets by June 2019	
<i>Customer satisfaction surveys will show that 60% of recent applicants and existing consent holders rate their level of satisfaction with our resource consents as excellent or very good.</i>	39% of applicants and consent holders rate their overall level of satisfaction as excellent or very good, while 66% rate it between good and excellent.
<i>The number of reported pollution incidents will decrease on an annual basis.</i>	The number of reported pollution incidents in 2011/12 was 1,055, compared with 1,174 in 2010/11 and 1,157 in 2009/10.

1.3.8 Risk analysis

None identified in this department.