

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – August 2004

1. Take Action (Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan; Cate Pates)

The schools doing *Take Action* in Term 3 are Houghton Valley School, Fraser Crescent School, and Discovery School. At this stage, the schools are undertaking their trails. In addition, Brooklyn School is doing the programme self-guided. Officers have presented the introductory multi-media presentation to all of these schools. Brooklyn School has also decided to become an “Enviroschool” under this programme.

As mentioned in previous reports to the Committee, we have been working on resource booklets for teachers to help students do more practical and effective action projects. The booklets enable teachers to tailor *Take Action* to their schools’ environmental interests and circumstances. The 12 page booklets are colourful and attractive, and are branded in the same way as the teacher’s guide to *Take Action*, that was updated and re-published earlier this year. The booklets cover:

- Recycling;
- Composting and worm farms;
- Coastal projects;
- Biodiversity; and
- Using performance and art to spread environmental messages.

All five have been completed and printed and are available for Councillors should they wish to have a set.

2. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

On 27 July scientists from Landcare Research and the Forest Research Institute reported the findings of a study into the ecological health of the Waiwhetu Stream. The study was partly funded by Greater Wellington from the Science Research Fund and the Ministry for the Environment’s Sustainable Management Fund. Not surprisingly, the study concluded that the stream was in a degraded state as evidenced by the complete absence of the common bully and low populations of benthic invertebrates. A significant temperature gradient was also noted between the headwaters and lower reaches (5 degrees) and it was suggested that some of this warming of the waters could be the result of the stream passing through the concrete channelled section at Naenae

Park. Significant pollution entering the stream via the stormwater system was observed on two occasions in the five days of the study.

However on the positive side, the study noted that there was a range of native fish present in the stream (Eel, koaro, inanga, giant kokopu, banded kokopu) and in areas where there was riparian vegetation these fish were numerous. The recommendations included increasing the extent of riparian vegetation along the stream, possible removal of the concrete channelled portion of the stream and control of on-going pollution inputs.

This is very useful information and adds to our understanding of the stream. The observation that riparian vegetation contributes significantly to an increase in stream life supports the findings of our riparian management trials. Planting even short lengths of stream bank makes a difference.

Another achievement this month has been the completion of a brochure for residents living alongside the stream, showing how to look after the stream and naming the plants that can be used to provide shade and limit bank erosion.

3. Take Care Health and Safety (Nigel Clarke; Richard Morgan)

The health and safety of care group members and staff is of prime importance in our delivery of this programme. We have prepared a Guide to Health and Safety for care groups and have distributed it to the groups. The document contains helpful information and work sheets so that it can be used on a daily basis. Officers have been talking with their groups to help them put it into practice. Most care groups sites have also now been assessed for their hazard potential and hazard minimisation procedures identified.

4. Pauatahanui Inlet Sediment Study and the Western Corridor Study (Tim Porteous)

Tim Porteous and I have met with Tony Brennan of the Transport Division to explore the potential for the Pauatahanui Inlet Sediment Study to contribute to the Western Corridor Study. The results of the sediment investigation and the related land use study should be available in time (early 2005) to usefully inform some of the environmental aspects of the transport study. We will continue to work together on this so that any future investigations or studies are of benefit to both projects.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – August 2004

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plan Changes

A consent order on one of Transit New Zealand's references to the Environment Court has now been signed off. The reference related to whether or not Transit can carry out maintenance activities on roads that cross floodways.

We have agreed to a session of Court assisted mediation on Transits' second reference. Transit would like washdown water to be included in the definition of stormwater.

The Barton reference was heard at the Environment Court on 8 July. We are now waiting for the decision. The reference was lodged by Mr Barton on a new stopbank rule in the Regional Freshwater Plan. The rule replaces a rule in the Transitional Regional Plan, which is being withdrawn. Mr Barton wants driving heavy vehicles on stopbanks to be a permitted activity. Our new rule makes it discretionary.

Further submissions on the plan change to include the Mangaterere Catchment in the Regional Freshwater Plan (water allocation) closed on 9 July 2004. A staff report on this plan change is now being prepared.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

A summary of some of the work being done to implement our regional plans is the subject of a separate report to the Committee. This includes the:

- Wetland Action Plan;
- Riparian Management Strategy;
- Freshwater Ecosystems Programme;
- Marine Biodiversity Programme; and
- Carbon Footprint Programme.

2.1 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. Iwi matters

Ara Tahi last met on 14 July. The main items on the agenda were the Wellington Regional Strategy and the development of a policy for external organisations wishing to use Ara Tahi for their own consultation purposes.

There will be an iwi technical workshop on 4 August for iwi to consider their involvement in the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy. Ara Tahi members said that the process proposed by officers provided them with a great opportunity, but they found the possibility of having only one person representing the diversity of views within Ara Tahi difficult to tackle.

4. Hazards

Greater Wellington's internet portal 'Hazards Online' is now up and running. The need for a single 'clearing house' for hazard information was identified during our stakeholder needs analysis project in 2002. Information from all hazard information providers in the Region has been collated and is detailed on the site. More hazard information will be added to this site over time, including the hazard pages from our existing website.

The General Hazards factsheet has now been printed and distributed, and a draft of the Kapiti Flooding factsheet has been completed. These are the last of the series of hazard fact sheets have been developed over the last two years. The hazard fact sheets translate our technical information about natural and human-made hazards into information that people understand. They also give advice about what people can do to be prepared.

5. Other

I'm sorry to report that Rylee Pettersson, our Hazards Analyst, has resigned and will be leaving in mid-August. Rylee has accepted a job as a Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Rylee will be greatly missed by the Department and we wish her well in her new job.

Local Government New Zealand have prepared a report titled *Enhancing New Zealand's Resource Management Performance*. The purpose of the report is to help local government in its participation in and response to the RMA Review process currently being run by the Government. A copy of the report can be found in the Councillors' lounge.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – August 2004

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

4 June 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Warwicks; Oriwa <i>River level:</i> Otaki
15 June 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Warwicks; Transmission Lines
18 June 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Warwicks; Kapakapanui, Taungata, Transmission Lines, Waikanae <i>River level:</i> Waitohu, Waikanae, Porirua, Birchville
20 June 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Transmission Lines <i>River level:</i> Otaki
27 June 2004	<i>Rainfall:</i> Kapakapanui
8 July 2004	<i>River level:</i> Wainuiomata at Leonard Wood Park

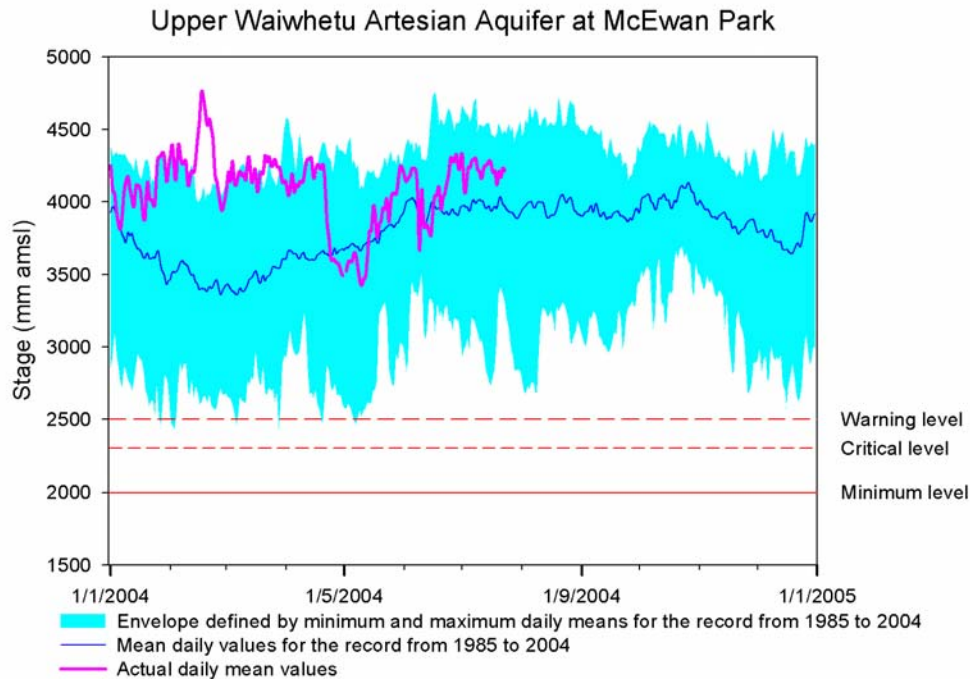
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is currently above the long-term average and well above the first seawater intrusion alarm level.



Kapiti Coast

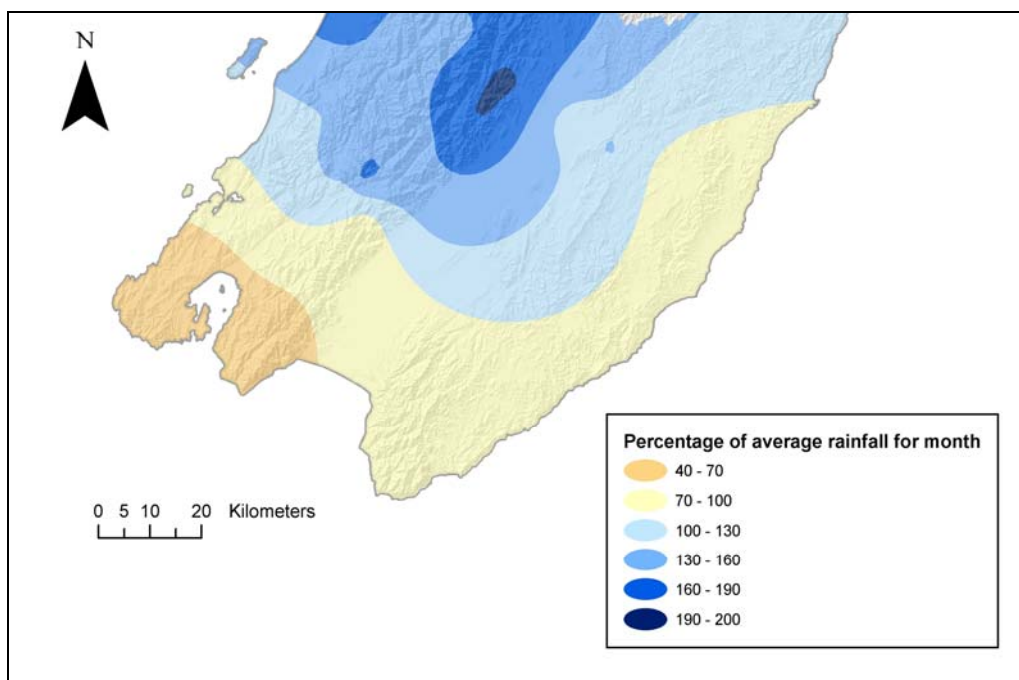
River recharged aquifers are at 'average' to 'above average' levels for this time of year. Shallow rainfall recharged aquifers are also at relatively high levels compared with other years. Deeper rainfall recharged aquifers have recovered from low levels during 2003 and are at 'above average' levels for this time of year.

2.2 Rainfall and river flows

Rainfall

The climate pattern for June was affected by frequent lows in the south Tasman Sea and anticyclones east of the North Island, producing prevalent north-westerlies over the Wellington region. The north-westerly weather resulted in higher than average rainfall for June in the Tararua ranges and on the Kapiti Coast, where rainfall was normal to about 150% of normal. Spill over rainfall into the Wairarapa meant that rainfall in the western Wairarapa foothills was up to twice the average rainfall for June, and the Wairarapa plains and north eastern Wairarapa hill country received about normal rainfall for the month. The north-westerly weather also caused below average rainfall in south eastern Wairarapa hill country, the Rimutaka ranges, Porirua and Upper Hutt. Rainfall was well below average (only 40 to 70% of average) in Wellington and Wainuiomata.

Figure 1: Rainfall received during June 2004 as a percentage of average for the month



River flows

River flows during June and July 2004 were on average lower than usual for the time of the year with the exception of the Kapiti Coast rivers. This was due to the lack of significant rainfall events, meaning there were few high flow events. Generally flows in the Hutt River and its major tributaries had well below average flows especially in July.

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). The effects of transport emissions are monitored at the corner of Vivian and Victoria Streets. We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

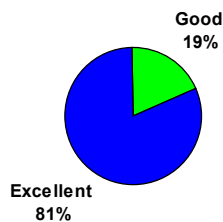
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

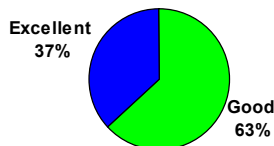
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past six weeks at Upper Hutt

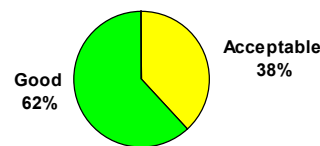
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO2 at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average PM10 at Upper Hutt

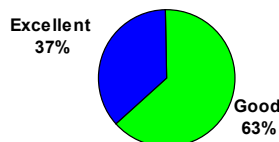


Results for the past six weeks at Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO2 at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average PM10 at Lower Hutt

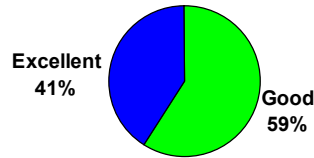


Results for the past six weeks at Masterton

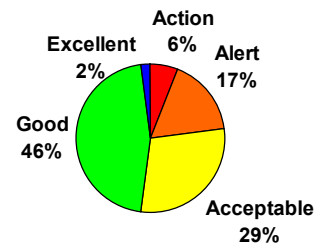
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton

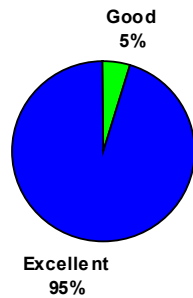


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



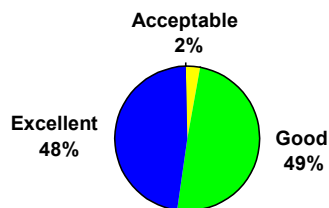
Results for the past six weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro

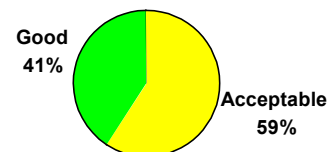


Results for the past two months at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

8-Hour Average CO at Corner Vic



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Corner Vic



2.4 Stormwater

Following the workshop with territorial authorities held on 11 June 2004 we have been working on consolidating the huge range of issues and outcomes identified. We intend to hold a second workshop with territorial authorities in August/September to reach agreement on the consolidated issues and outcomes and to identify action needing to be done to achieve these outcomes.

3. Pollution Control

3.1 Pollution and non-compliance complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Enforcement

We have started proceedings to prosecute two companies for unauthorised discharges of contaminants into the environment. These relate to incidents at New Zealand Oil Services Ltd Seaview site which resulted in diesel being discharged into the Hutt River Mouth and Allied Concrete's Landfill Road site which resulted in concrete batching wastewater entering Owhiro Stream. Both companies have been prosecuted for similar incidents in the past.

4. Staff

I have implemented a minor restructuring within the Resource Investigations Department. Bruce Croucher has moved from the Pollution Control Section to the Resource Analyses Section. Bruce's existing role in contaminated sites management will be augmented by responsibilities for co-ordinating our soil quality monitoring programme and undertaking stormwater contamination investigations.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – August 2004

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 30 June 2004 we received 581 consents. This compares with 439 consents received for the 2002/2003 year. From 1 July 2004 to date (26 July) we have received 18 consents. This compares with 21 for the previous year.

All consents processed in the 2003/2004 year have been completed within statutory time frames. The median processing time for non-notified consents for the year was 10 working days. This is an excellent achievement considering the increase in workload over the year.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals and Objections

2.1 Appeals

The CentrePort appeals are progressing. We granted CentrePort consents to construct a bund and a cap at the inner harbour dump site on 21 July 2004. We will be meeting with CentrePort shortly to discuss the outstanding appeals and how these can be resolved.

Mediation was held for the Mangaroa Metals consents on 11 June 2004. It was thought at the time that resolution could be achieved between all parties. However, this has turned out to not be the case. Parties have requested further mediation and we are waiting for the Courts to set a date.

Consent orders have been received for the State Highway 58 consents and the consents will be issued shortly.

The Courts have assigned a date of 4 August 2004 for the Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge consent.

The consent to discharge contaminants to air from Onyx, Seaview has been appealed. We are still waiting for the Courts to set a mediation date.

2.2 Objections

There has been little development with the Whitby Coastal Estates (WCE) objection to charges relating to their notified application for sediment discharge to Duck Creek. WCE's lawyer has been in contact and we are scheduled to meet with him the first week in August.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Annual compliance visits have been completed. All compliance visits were completed by 30 June 2004. This is a real achievement by the Resource Advisors given the dramatic increase in consent applications this year, coupled with the fact we have been short staffed for a significant proportion of the year.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have issued one abatement notice since the last Committee meeting. This was to the Salvation Army Camp, Akatarawa Road for a breach of their consent to discharge from an on-site sewage treatment system.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued one infringement notice since the last Committee meeting. This was to Tse Group Ltd for a discharge of sediment to water from the St Ives subdivision.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecutions or enforcement orders on-going at present.

4. Other

Richenda Garland has resigned and will be leaving the department on 3 September 2004. Richenda is returning to Ireland.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station.	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements.			
CentrePort	To dredge inner harbour berths and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	9		11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Granted with conditions – under appeal.
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	20/05/03	13		25/06/03-27/06/03 and 18/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	04/07/03	Granted with Conditions – currently under appeal.
Moa Point Sewage Treatment Plant	To discharge treated and screened wastewater from the long outfall.	8/12/03	5/02/04	14	-	10 – 11 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart Miria Pomare	31 March 2004	Granted – under appeal. Mediation 6 August 2004
Mangaroa Metal Company ¹	To construct two culverts and to discharge water from a sediment retention structure in association with a quarry operation.	21/11/03	23/01/04	4	-	1 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Aka Arthur Hugh Barr	22 March 2004	Granted – under appeal. Further mediation requested – waiting for a date from the Courts.
Wharfe Quarry ²	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	6/11/03	not yet notified	57 plus 2 late	-	Hearing not yet scheduled. Application on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.			

¹ This consent is being processed using limited notification.

² This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Onyx	To discharge contaminants to air associated with the operation of a waste processing facility.	19/12/03	12/02/04	4	-	22 March 2004	Ian Buchanan Glen Evans Aka Arthur		Granted – under appeal. Waiting for a mediation date.
Hutt City Council	To discharge wastewater to the Waiwhetu Stream in times of extreme wet weather.	18/03/04	14/7/04	100+		Not scheduled yet.			
T&T Landfills ³	To vary conditions of an existing consent with respect to payment of a bond, construction of a drainage system and payment of levies.	19/04/04	14/07/04	1		18 August 2004	Ian Buchanan		

³ This consent is being processed using limited notification.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - July 2004

1. Harbour navigation aids

On 25 July the northern pile-light structure at Porirua that had developed a lean due to seabed scouring had its base jacked-up by divers and straightened back to the vertical. Work is in progress to make this adjustment more permanent.

No further progress was made by the contractors working on the repainting of the steelwork structure of the Front Leading light. With winter weather conditions prevailing, it is unlikely to be completed in the next few months.

2. Oil pollution response

On 24 and 25 June, four SPCA nominated persons attended the Oiled Wildlife Courses given at Massey in Palmerston North.

No oil spill reports were received during this period.

3. Events

- On 22 July the rail ferry *Aratere*, bound from Picton to Wellington with 170 passengers and crew on board, was reported to have mechanical problems in Cook Strait about seven miles south-west of Wellington Harbour entrance at about 1.40p.m. Weather was a strong southerly wind with a moderate swell. CentrePort's tug *Toia*, rigged with heavy towing equipment, sailed from an inner harbour berth at about 2.40p.m. and stood-by at Steeple Rock from about 3.15p.m. ready to provide assistance. By this time *Aratere* was about nine miles south-west of Wellington Harbour entrance doing about four knots. Her mechanical problems were repaired at about 4.10p.m. and by 4.30p.m. she resumed passage towards Wellington Harbour entrance, entering the harbour at 5.25p.m. *Toia* later stood-down and *Aratere* completed berthing at the Rail Ferry terminal at about 6.50p.m., with the assistance of a tug. *Aratere* carried out MSA-supervised engine trials in Wellington's inner harbour that evening before resuming her ferry schedule.

This incident provided a good opportunity to work and communicate with the newly established Rescue Co-ordination Centre of New Zealand (RCCNZ) based at Avalon, Lower Hutt.

- On 27 July the Harbour Masters/Harbour Management Special Interest Group meeting was held at Greater Wellington Regional Council, with Harbour Masters/Harbour Managers from throughout New Zealand attending.

This meeting is held at least once per year, usually in mid-winter, and enables those with harbour management responsibilities to meet together, and with senior MSA staff present, to discuss issues that directly affect harbour management issues.

Agenda items included:

Port & Harbour Safety Review

- MSA's Navigational Safety Review - update
- Port and Harbour Safety Code
- Use of Standard Templates for the Port and Harbour Safety Code
- Co-ordinated Port/Harbour risk assessments and safety plans
- Tanker incidents - improved communications and safety systems

Pilotage & Maritime Qualifications

- Maritime Rule 90 (Pilotage) – completion of process?
- Licensing of pilots and pilotage exemptions for ports currently without compulsory pilotage
- Pilotage exemptions in general
- Harbourmaster qualifications - progress with maritime rules development?
- Deputy harbourmaster issues - liability, conflict of interest, responsibilities, port company or individual

International Ship & Port Security Code

- International Ship & Port Security Code update (ISPS Code)
- Port Maritime Security Act
- Harbourmaster's role in ISPS
- Authority for restricting recreational boats from certain harbour waters re security and enforcement issues.
- Overlapping areas of jurisdiction issues.

Recreational Boating Issues

- Maritime Rule 91 (Recreational Boating) – any more continuing changes that will require more bylaw changes in order to be compliant?
- Diving flags
- Infringement Notices
- Recreational boating: licensing vs education
- Qualification requirements for regional council small boat operators.

Rescue Co-ordination Centre of New Zealand

- Outline of how the new system operates

4. Beacon Hill Signal Station

After 2 August, Beacon Hill Signal Station ceased providing the general after-hours and weekend/holidays call-centre facility for Council, and this service has been transferred to the AMPM call centre. This will relieve Beacon Hill staff of the task that they have carried out to the best of their ability for the past fifteen years. Beacon Hill will now provide a 24-hour call service for Harbours Department and CentrePort Wellington boating and shipping functions only, and enable them to concentrate on these duties without other distractions at busy periods.

5. Replacement workboat

The department's wooden workboat was replaced by a second-hand aluminium workboat acquired for a modest price from Bay of Plenty Regional Council. It arrived in Wellington by ship from Tauranga on 10 July and had some refurbishment work carried out on it prior to entering service. The old workboat has been advertised for sale.

6. Update on the Port & Harbour Safety Review

6.1 Phase 1 documents endorsed by National Advisory Committee

On 14 June 2004 the National Advisory Committee met in Wellington and endorsed the:

- NZ Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code;
- Guidelines for Port & Harbour Risk Assessment and Safety Management Systems in NZ;
- Guidelines of Good Practice for Hydrographic Surveys in NZ Ports & Harbours;
- Guidelines for Providing Aids to Navigation in NZ;

MSA plan to distribute these documents by late August/early September 2004. This will allow Greater Wellington (GW) to have a firm idea of MSA's requirements.

6.2 Environmental assessment task force (eatf) report

Development of this report is running to a different timeline than for the above documents. A progress to date on the EATF Report was presented to the NAC at the June meeting. It included a presentation of the proposed format and intended content of the report.

Conceptually, the NAC agreed to the content of the report. A copy of the draft report is currently with EAFT participants for consideration and comment. Once the Task Force reaches agreement, it will be sent to the NAC for endorsement.

6.3 Phase 1—implementation

The NAC endorsed a timeline for implementation of the NZ Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code. Risk assessment for pilotage areas should be completed by June 2005 and development of safety management systems based on and informed by risk assessments by June 2006. These timeframes are longer than first indicated by MSA. They are certainly more realistic and in keeping with GW's submission to MSA.

MSA is developing its internal capacity to support its functions under the Code, especially the process of commenting on risk assessments and approving safety management systems.

6.4 Phase 2

Phase 1 of the project is coming to an end and MSA is giving thought to phase 2 and also the law review process. Phase 2 includes:

- Completion of the Report on Environmental Factors Affecting Safe Access and Operations in NZ Ports and Harbours;
- Guidelines on the Use of Tugs in Ports and Harbours;
- Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services;
- Standards for Harbourmasters ; and
- Review of Rule Part 90 — Pilotage.

6.5 General

A small team of GW staff has been set up to assist Harbour's staff to carry out the risk assessment. CentrePort Ltd will be working closely with us and all regional councils will be trying to adopt a consistent approach to avoid duplication of effort.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – June 2004

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan Progress

Plan development is progressing well. The operational and administrative parts have been drafted for the 23 August 2004 Co-ordinating Executive Group meeting.

Current work includes developing position descriptions for CDEM Group appointments (Group Controller, Local Controllers, and Recovery Managers), gaining agreement on proposed structures, checking agency roles are correct and preparing the Plan monitoring and review mechanisms. In addition, more detail is being prepared about the costs and resource requirements of the proposed 2005 - 2010 Group work programme, so that the Group budget may be developed.

1.2 CDEM Group Work programme

A sub-group of emergency management officers is currently working through the various plans and strategies of the CDEM Group Work Programme. Once adopted by the CDEM Group, each city and district will have to carry out the respective parts of the Work Programme that would be applicable to them. The detailed plans and strategies are all being summarised into 'one-page' documents to enable easier input into the CDEM Group Plan.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Website

Following the February floods it was decided that the CDEM Group website would hold regional situation updates and information, with a link from the Greater Wellington Regional Council site. Pages on the CDEM Group website have been developed that could be activated during an emergency event.

These are under the heading "Current Emergency" and include pages titled:

- Current situation report
- Lifelines information
- Media releases
- Photo gallery
- Recovery information and advice

The emergency management department will need to train some of the Emergency Operations Centre volunteer staff and media liaison staff to be able to input information onto the appropriate pages of the site. The Information Technology department is looking at the technology required for the site, particularly to enable it to cope with the expected number of hits it is likely to receive.

The calendar of CDEM Group meetings and exercises is now also posted to the CDEM Group website each month. For the month of July we have received over 70 hits.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 58 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Most of these earthquakes occurred in the Kawerau area, Bay of Plenty.

No earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Nineteen (up to 27th July) Special Weather Bulletins (eleven for heavy rain and eight for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. All the relevant agencies were notified and no problems were experienced.

3.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the radio communications network are being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 30 June 2004

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the interim operating results for the year ended 30 June 2004. At this time these numbers are provisional and subject to audit confirmation.

<u>Environment Division</u>			
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>			
<u>For the Period Ended 30 June 2004</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	7,640.2	7,640.2	--
Other Revenue	2,216.7	1,947.7	269.0 F
Total Revenue	9,856.9	9,587.9	269.0 F
Less:			
Direct Expenditure	8,617.4	8,599.7	17.7 U
Indirect Expenditure	1,254.7	1,271.8	17.1 F
Total Operating Expenditure	9,872.1	9,871.5	0.6 U
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(15.2)	(283.6)	268.4 F

2. Surplus

We report that the Division's finances are in a sound position and in general agreement with our forecasts. The Division posted a small operating deficit of \$15,000 for the period. This compares favourably with our budget, which provided for an operating deficit of \$284,000 for the corresponding period.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$268,000, comprising increased revenue of \$269,000, and reduced expenditure of \$1,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$9,857,000 is some \$269,000 above our budget target of \$9,588,000.

The increased revenue arises from the completion of some large notified consents.

The most significant of these were:

- CentrePort's resource consent applications to dredge the harbour's entrance and near the vessel berths in the inner harbour (\$95,000);
- Lyall Bay Reef Charitable Trust (\$23,000);
- Duck Creek Development (\$25,000).

In addition, the Department of Conservation contributed \$62,000 towards our biodiversity strategy during the period. The grant amounts to \$79,000 in total. The Ministry for the Environment also contributed a further \$10,000 towards the remediation of contaminated sites. Both of these contributions were not included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure at \$9,872,00 is \$1,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly over budget by \$33,000. Changes to the Holidays Act, that came into effect in May, has increased personnel costs generally. In addition, the appointment of a communications advisor (unbudgeted) has increased our personnel expenditure line slightly.
- Materials, Supplies and Services were less than budget by some \$30,000.

As reported previously, we have made provision to carry over some of the un-spent funds, for some projects. The largest of these, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Private Land Protection amounted to \$110,000.

The desk screens on level 3 have been replaced. The need arose, because most of these screens are original and installed at the time the offices were first fitted out and they had become very shabby subsequently. These have been replaced at a cost of \$54,000 with funding provided from the current year's operating surplus.

- Travel and Transport costs are slightly under budget by \$6,000.
Overall the spend on motor vehicles is less than we expected, in part because we did not need to hire any vehicle for the temporary harbour ranger. The sale of a vehicle was held over so that the harbour ranger could use it.

- Consultant costs were over budget by \$138,000.

Some of the increased spend is with the changed arrangements for laboratory charges with the freshwater programmes. The consultant cost line has increased and this has been immediately offset by a reduced internal charge. Overall a saving of some \$60,000 has been realised.

The GIS licence arrangements have been expanded to enable concurrent users access to the various systems and the intra-net mapping facility upgraded. The cost of these upgrades amounted to around \$40,000. The user departments contributed directly toward the cost of these upgrades.

As foreshadowed, the Soil Quality Monitoring (SQM) programme is back on track with a further 26 sites sampled and reported on this year at a cost of \$30,000.

In addition, we have incurred some large legal bills (\$42,000) in relation to consent applications (e.g. CentrePort harbour dredging, Mangaroa metal appeal) and the successful prosecution of KCDC for breaching its consent for the Waikanae River.

- Internal charges were under budget by \$116,000.

Some of the underspend arises because of changes in our contractors for laboratory services in connection with our freshwater programmes.

5. Capital Expenditure

At the close of the year our capital expenditure programme has been underspent by some \$23,000.

The underspend is mainly with the vehicle expenditure programme. The Ecobus concept designs have been completed and approved for the *Take Action* Ecobus. Because progress has been slower than expected due to the time taken to develop a suitable concept and the commitments of the consultant doing the work some \$30,000 has been carried over into the new financial year.

The harbour work-boat, *Tiaki Moana* has been replaced with an aluminium twin-hulled vessel, the *Seacare*. The boat purchased at a cost of \$32,000 has offset some of this underspend. The Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council's made the craft available to us because they upgraded to a patrol boat.