

Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
from Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa

## **Divisional Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 18 November 1999.

### **2. Divisional Matters**

#### **2.1 Financial Report**

At the end of December the Division overall was \$501,000 under budget with revenue being \$75,000 above budget and operating expenditure \$426,000 below. Capital expenditure at the six months was \$50,000 above budget. The variations to budget are across all departments and mostly relate to timing differences. A full report is being prepared on the position at six months and the main points will be reported to the Policy & Finance Committee on 17 February.

#### **2.2 Long Term Financial Strategy**

Detailed draft budgets and business plans for the next ten years have been prepared in accordance with the interim decisions made by Council in December. After a full management review, these documents will be provided for detailed consideration by the Committee at its budget meeting on 22 February.

#### **2.3 Irrigation Study**

Preliminary approval has been given by AGMARDT for a \$50,000 Government grant towards the proposed Wairarapa Irrigation Study. This study is being supported by the three Wairarapa district councils, Wellington Regional Council, Masterton Business Enterprise, South Wairarapa Enterprise Board, Federated Farmers and relevant industry groups. A meeting of the steering group, at which Cr Long is this Council's official representative, is to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February with the intention of completing the final application for the Government grant.

## **2.4 Open Day**

A planned open day for the Wairarapa Division is to be held in March at Pirinoa. As yet no firm date has been fixed. The purpose of the day is to give the public in the area an opportunity to be aware of Council activities. Displays will be provided and staff will be available for discussions. If successful, this approach will be repeated in other areas.

## **2.5 Staffing**

Nola Urquhart resigned from the position of Biosecurity Officer for the Kapiti area in December. Nola has taken a Park Ranger's position with the Landcare Division.

Martin Holmberg will take over the Kapiti role. A replacement staff member will be responsible for the Hutt Valley area, commencing in February.

# **3. Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)**

## **3.1 Gladstone Water Supply Scheme**

The feasibility study for the proposed Gladstone Community Water Supply Scheme has been completed. A public meeting was held in December to explain the scheme and to assess the level of community support. There was majority support for the scheme proceeding to the next stage; that is the formation of a Gladstone Water Supply Association, and the marketing of water supply units. A sufficient number of units will have to be sold to ensure adequate community support is guaranteed prior to scheme construction.

It was stressed that Council's direct involvement with the project had ceased with the completion of the feasibility study, although a member of staff would have an ongoing advisory role. Council is prepared to set up and administer the scheme rating district on behalf of the Association with a fee applying for the service.

The management committee of the Association will now have responsibility for co-ordinating the remainder of the project. An early 2001 scheme commissioning date is seen as a realistic target at this stage.

## **3.2 Waiohine Floodplain Advisory Committee**

The most recent meeting of the Waiohine Floodplain Advisory Committee was held in late November. The main information presented for the committee's consideration included:

- preliminary estimates for the Apple Barrel Floodway Development and Closure options
- preliminary estimates for alternative stopbank alignments

- flood hazard plans intended to provide the basis for the revised scheme classification.

It was agreed that for the next meeting staff would prepare a project management model for the remainder of the floodplain investigation. It was considered important that this model should allow for the involvement of Transit NZ and South Wairarapa District Council. Also a preliminary classification on a property by property basis, and estimates for alternative rural stopbanking standards will be presented.

### **3.3 Lower Turanganui River Investigation**

The investigation of options for ongoing management of the lower Turanganui River has been largely completed. The river bed is aggrading resulting in an increased risk of flooding and course change onto adjoining properties. Key landowners and their advisory committee representatives have been consulted. It has been agreed that as an interim measure the lower delta will be further developed as a sediment storage/deposition area.

On filling of the delta, it has been agreed that the Council owned lease block will then be used for sediment storage. This block is located upstream of the delta and on the southern side of the river channel. An investigation of the feasibility of raising stopbanks and managing over-design floods will also be carried out as requested by the adjoining landowners.

### **3.4 Lower Tauherenikau River Investigation**

The investigation of options for future management of the lower Tauherenikau River is progressing well. The river bed is aggrading resulting in an increased risk of flooding and course change onto adjoining properties.

An assessment of flood flow capacity, and a survey of the riverbed, adjoining floodplain, and delta levels have been completed. Prior to the development of options, delta deposition and river sediment transport trends must also be studied. It is anticipated that a preliminary report identifying management options will be available by late-February 2000. Landowner consultation will follow soon after.

### **3.5 Akura Conservation Centre**

New plantings have suffered from the dry period through October and a cooler than average December. Growth is only average with a patchy strike rate. The warmer spell of weather in the last few weeks will provide a much needed boost to all plantings.

As part of a willow fodder trial, trimmings are being transported to Riverside Farm on a daily basis. Normally these trimmings are mulched as part of the mowing operations. The fodder trial will continue until early March.

### **3.6 Rewanui Bush**

A draft report on the signature values of the indigenous bush area on Rewanui has been prepared by staff from the Landcare Division. The report evaluates and

rates the following - values, environmental, recreational and heritage. This is the first stage in the assessment of the property as a potential regional reserve.

The draft report has been forwarded to local Iwi representatives seeking information on traditional and cultural matters. A full report will be presented to the next Committee meeting in March.

### **3.7 Surveys**

The Technical Services surveyors have completed surveys of –

- Coastal - Riversdale and Castlepoint - part of the six monthly programme
- Rivers - Huangarua River, lower Waiohine River in the vicinity of the Druzianic/Bicknell properties, Tauherenikau River delta and Lake Wairarapa lake bed.

## **4. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)**

### **4.1 Submissions**

Staff are preparing submissions on the following documents:

- ◆ National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tb 2001-2011: A Discussion Paper on the Future Technical and Operational Options
- ◆ Options for Managing the Asian Kelp *Undaria*: A Discussion Paper
- ◆ NPMS for Possums – An Investigation of the Merits : A Discussion Paper.

Cr Macaskill is the Local Government representative on the Members Committee of the Animal Health Board. Comments from effected regional authorities will be provided to Cr Macaskill to submit to the AHB. Individual submissions have also been invited to reflect regional views.

The paper investigating the merits of a NPMS for possums arose from questions raised at the 1999 Pest Summit. A recommendation from the Summit was for the Biosecurity Council to investigate the merits of incorporating all possum control activities under the umbrella of one Strategy. The discussion paper essentially opposes the notion.

### **4.2 Wellington City Old Man's Beard Programme**

- (1) The random inspection programme began on 13<sup>th</sup> December. To date, 150 of the proposed two hundred property inspections have been completed. OMB was located on forty properties. Thirty-five Notices of Direction were served as occupiers failed to take action within the required timeframe. On two properties Council staff have organised contractors to undertake the work.

Overall, the results are disappointing. A large percentage of occupiers are failing to maintain clearance despite significant historical efforts by staff

to ensure compliance. Further legal action may be necessary to raise occupier awareness of their responsibilities.

- (2) Initial Inspections, Karori. During the period 1<sup>st</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> December a total of two thousand and thirty four initial inspections were undertaken. Three hundred and eighty seven infestations were recorded.

Old Man's Beard:	One hundred and eighty
Cathedral Bells:	Eleven
Wild Ginger:	One hundred and ninety six

### **4.3 Nodding Thistle**

Most properties with recorded infestations have been inspected. Normal infestations are being recorded at most sites.

Unfortunately five new sites have been located on Lagoon Hills. This property has no previous recordings.

### **4.4 Old Man's Beard Rivers Contracts**

Initial contracts have been approved for the section of the Ruamahanga River from Morisons Bush to the Martinborough bridge, also taking in a section of the Huangarua River from the confluence to the Ponatahi/Martinborough road bridge.

Contracts have also been approved for maintenance work on the Waingawa and Waiohine Rivers. Further contracts are to be tendered for the section of the Ruamahanga River from Te Ore Ore to Gladstone.

A section of the Ruamahanga River at the Cliffs, East Taratahi, will have initial work undertaken in February. The section in question is to the rear of vineyards. This area has had no work in the past. Adjacent occupiers are in agreement that the work should be undertaken.

### **4.5 Publicity**

- (1) Ragwort Flea Beetle

On 15<sup>th</sup> February a field day is being held on the property of Mr Ray Craig, Lincoln Road, Carterton.

Mr Keith Betteridge of AgResearch is currently undertaking a study on this property to determine the effects of herbicide spraying on beetle populations. At the field day Mr Betteridge will outline his study and the history and success of the beetle. Council staff will also be on hand to answer any general questions. The field day is open to the public.

- (2) Library Displays

A Biosecurity display was shown in all Wairarapa libraries, with the exception of Martinborough, during November/December. The display

was left at each venue for a week. A display was also erected at the Eastbourne library. Pamphlets have also been distributed to Councils and libraries throughout Kapiti, Porirua and the Hutt Valley.

#### **4.6 Water Hyacinth (former Class A Noxious Weed)**

An infestation of suspected Hyacinth has been discovered growing in the fish tanks of a Hardware shop in Waikanae. Indications from the owner are that it was gathered from a local fishpond. MAF have been informed of the discovery.

#### **4.7 Bovine Tb Update**

Satisfactory progress is being made with the Bovine Tb operational programme. Summer farming conditions are the best they have been for some years and this has allowed livestock to be readily removed from treatment areas. Almost 40% (107,000ha) has been completed of the programmed area (268,108ha). Of the 35 operational areas, 9 have been completed, 7 are operational and there are 19 to commence.

##### **(1) Aerial Operation**

A small 800ha aerial operation was conducted in a high possum density area of the Te Wharau District during December 1999 and resulted in a post residual trap-catch result of 0.5% (pre-approx. 30%). This is the best aerial result we have ever achieved. The area was pre-fed at 1.2 kg/ha and the 1080 pellets were applied at 2 kg/ha. The aerial treatment of possum habitat on difficult terrain continually proves to be more proficient than treatment by ground-based methods.

##### **(2) Ferret Control**

A large-scale ferret control operation has commenced over 20,500ha in the South Wairarapa surrounding Lake Wairarapa and within the Featherston, Tauherenikau, and Woodside Districts. The Animal Health Board/WRC operation has been divided into four zones and will incorporate trials to assess which culling methods are more proficient. Staff will use FennTraps, KBL Mustelid Traps, Victor Traps and a fish paste bait containing the anti coagulant diphacinone.

Diphacinone is an old anticoagulant produced and primarily used in the United States to control mice, rats, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, voles and other rodents. It has been available for use in New Zealand since the 1950's.

##### **(3) WRC Initiative Programmes**

The Moeraki/Ngakonui (4,400ha) and Lake Ferry (7,200ha) Bovine Tb control programmes have commenced. The Tora operation of 3,000ha is scheduled to commence 14<sup>th</sup> February and has been slightly delayed due to a lack of accommodation for staff in the District.

##### **(4) External Contracts**

Five contracts totalling 51,344ha have been let for tender this financial year. Three contracts have been completed successfully. The large 25,978ha Homewood/Riversdale block resulted in a residual trap-catch (RTC) of 4% and Mataikona Block Two a RTC of 1.17%. The Bideford contract (18,856 ha) has already started. Mataikona Block Three will commence in February this year and will be worked in conjunction with the removal of possums from the Massey University study site at Whakataki.

#### **4.8 Rabbit Proneness Surveys**

Rabbit proneness surveys have recently been completed on and adjacent to the Tauherenikau and Waingawa Riverbeds. These typical rabbit prone areas provide a useful guide to what is happening with rabbit populations throughout the region. The survey disclosed very low rabbit densities with the highest pocket recording 3 on the Modified McLean scale. There were indications that the RHD virus is circulating with rabbit carcasses present.

It is evident that the RHD has been re-cycling throughout the region with reports of dead rabbits from Homewood, Taueru, Tauherenikau and Silverstream. It is likely to be present in other areas but is often not noticed in low rabbit densities. Client requests in the Western Zone have declined considerably.

#### **4.9 Rooks**

A meeting was held at Dannevirke on 30th November 1999 attended by staff from Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Wellington Regional Council and Horizons.mw. The opportunity was taken to illustrate that most of our rookeries are not far south of the WRC/Horizons.mw boundary and that migration from the Tararua District was a problem if we are to achieve and maintain a rook population of less than 1,000 birds (our RPMS objective). There was considerable interest in the helicopter rook nest baiting method as well as the bread croutons used for pre-feeding.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council is only completing a nest count census every three years. Their last count disclosed 143 rookeries and 9,000 birds. They have had good control results during the October 1999 breeding season with an estimated kill of 4,000 to 5,000 rooks. Their RPMS objective is to get the total population down to 5,000 by June 2001. They budget about \$45K annually. All their rook control is being undertaken by former staff under contract.

They have six automatic bait feeders that work on the same principle as auto feeders used for ducks prior to the shooting season. The feeders use a blend of maize and peanuts, run on a battery operated timer and 'flick' baits out at set intervals. The feeders are never used for dispensing toxic bait. The feeders and the bait distribution area need to be fenced from livestock. Arrangements have been made to borrow a feeder from them to assess its possible value to us.

Horizons.mw have been undertaking a rook census every second year. They have 141 rookeries and about 11,500 birds of which 88% (10,000) are in the Tararua

District. They have an annual budget of \$100,000 that has traditionally been under spent. Their RPMS objective is to reduce the population to 7,500 by June 2001. The census estimate at the start of their strategy was approximately 15,000 birds.

Both Wellington and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils utilise the rook bait manufacturing plant at Dannevirke. Each Council supplies its own bait ingredients and sends its own staff to make the bait. Horizons.mw are happy with this arrangement to continue.

#### **4.10 Possum Control Workshop**

A possum control workshop will be held for Biosecurity staff in Masterton on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February. The theme is 'Current Best Practices for Possum Control' and will be conducted by Pest Solutions from Christchurch. The Animal Health Board is funding the workshop.

#### **4.11 Sulphur Crested Cockatoos**

The Rimutaka Forest Park Trust has written to Council expressing their concerns about the presence of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos within the Rimutaka Forest Park and Wainuiomata area generally. The concern is that they are having an adverse impact on native flora and fauna. Staff have little knowledge of the habits and range of cockatoos. They are not a species included in the RPMS and are, therefore, outside our sphere for control. They have a status of 'not protected' under the Wildlife Act.

There are small flocks that visit or inhabit Moores Valley and the Plateau/Mangaroa areas. They may be the same ones from the Catchpool area. Flocks of 10 to 12 cockatoos have also been sighted in the Otaihanga, Ohariu Valley, Pauatahanui/Judgeford/Battle Hill and Normandale areas. There are also a small number in the Clifton Grove/Rocky Hills area of the Wairarapa. A formal census needs to be undertaken.

Cockatoos may be considered during the review of the RPMS. Other Regional Councils have been approached for information and asked if they wish to contribute to a literature search. Sulphur Crested Cockatoos also inhabit areas within the Manawatu-Wanganui, Waikato and Auckland Regions.

#### **4.12 Key Native Ecosystem Management**

The KNE operations of Masterton North, East and West have been completed with possums reduced to very low levels. This area comprised all land outside the Masterton urban area between the Waingawa and Ruamahanga Rivers out to Upper Plain, Loop Line and Rathkeale. The Clareville area is currently being treated.

In the Western Zone, work has commenced on the Te Rama and other Waikanae Reserves, Ngauranga/Kaiwharawhara, Huntleigh Park (Ngaio) and Redwood Bush (Tawa) KNE sites. Planning and preparation is underway for possum



control at the Wi Tako (Silverstream) and Takahana Bay (Plimmerton) KNE sites. A full update report of the KNE programme will be provided at the March Committee meeting.

#### **4.13 Possum Control on Council Lands**

Planning is underway to undertake an aerial possum programme during the autumn on Council lands at the Akatarawa Saddle and part of Kaitoke Regional Park. An area of plantation forestry is to be treated as well. Both Natural Forestry and Biosecurity Departments are involved with the pre-operational planning.

#### **4.14 Review of the Use of Brodifacoum by the Department of Conservation**

The Department of Conservation has changed its operational policy for using Brodifacoum (Talon, Pestoff) and other second-generation anticoagulant pesticides. It intends to reduce and restrict its use of Brodifacoum on the mainland over the next couple of years. The first step is to reduce Brodifacoum use on public conservation land by only using it where exposure to pigs and deer is insignificant. The next step is to restrict Brodifacoum use on public conservation land by using it:

- to target rodents
- in bait stations that exclude other animals
- in bait stations where the bait cannot be removed, and
- where feral pigs cannot be exposed to it.

Brodifacoum is known to be persistent in living animals for at least nine months. It has been found in non-target species such as feral pigs, feral deer, weka, kiwi and moreporks. Although the real risk is difficult to measure, DoC is concerned about the possible impacts on native species and on people who eat feral game such as pigs or deer, and has chosen a precautionary approach.

Brodifacoum is not a controlled pesticide; that is, it can be purchased without a licence. The Pesticides Board has recently conducted an independent review and will be recommending changes to how Brodifacoum is to be used in future.

The Wellington Regional Council uses Brodifacoum pellet baits for possum control. The toxin is always applied in bait stations. As for any poisoning operation, a thorough public and occupier notification process is followed, including the posting of warning notices in and adjacent to operational areas.

## **5. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)**

### **5.1 Environmental Incidents**

<i>Date of Report</i>	<i>Incident</i>	<i>Details</i>

9/11/99	A member of the public complained about the odour from an industrial operation in Masterton	Slight/moderate odour present at the time of inspection. Case currently being investigated for further detail due to a series of complaints
10/11/99	Odour from piggery.	Found to be problems at the piggery. Owner has been written to.
10/11/99	Farmer near Carterton complained about the odour from the effluent spread by adjacent piggery. Also complained about the state of the drains and water in the area from the effluent.	Moderate odour detected about 50 metres from the boundary. Water in drains a dirty brown colour.
14/11/99	Melting plastic odour from nearby printing press	No odour present at time of inspection, complainant to call again when odour is detected.
22/11/99	A member of the public phoned to inform us that the Kuripuni Stream was a murky white colour.	Found to be from construction at petrol station discharging into the stormwater system. Followed up by Stephen Yeats through another complaint made the same day by a staff member of WRC.
22/11/99	Wastewater being pumped from service station into Kuripuni stream.	Company responsible was asked to stop the discharge, which they did. Council has asked for formal explanation.
26/11/99	Dairy effluent discolouring water race, Carterton	Discharge was a consented activity, found to be operating as normal
26/11/99	Complainant contacted Council regarding potential illegal gravel extraction	Under investigation.
26/11/99	Complaint of black smoke from industrial site, Carterton	Consented activity being undertaken within the time period allowed by the consent.
30/11/99	Odour from landfill	Landfill found to be operating satisfactorily. Complaint not considered to be justified.
8/12/99	Dirty water in Ruamahanga river, suspected to be illegal river works.	Investigated at length, and found to be dirty water coming from Whangaehu River. Cause not found, but suspected to be flood.
9/12/99	Suspected spraydrift affecting garden plants in semi-rural property, Masterton	Neighbouring properties investigated. Cause of suspected spraydrift not found.
16/12/99	Odour from landfill	Landfill was being operated during unfavourable conditions. Regional Council asked District Council to delay the work at such times until more favourable weather conditions.
20/12/99	Abandoned car on riverbed, South Wairarapa	Owner of car traced and given one week to remove it. Not complied with. Further action is being considered.
31/12/99	Dozens of dead koura observed in stream flowing through complainant's property.	Source of problem unable to be found. Upstream landowners spoken to. Samples taken. Unable to determine cause.
6/01/2000	Demolition material had been dumped next to the Ruamahanga River just outside of Martinborough.	Still under investigation

10/01/2000	Illegal gravel extraction in the eastern hill country near Tuturumuri.	Minor extraction of 250m <sup>3</sup> was completed. The operation was stopped until the contractor obtained a resource consent for the operation. A strong warning about future enforcement action was also given.
11/01/2000	MDC passed on an odour complaint from a landowner in Lansdowne due to incinerator burning on commercial premises.	No odour was occurring when contact was made with the landowner who was advised to immediately ring our Incident Response service if odour detected again.
12/01/2000	Rubbish at the Te Ore Ore bridge.	Contractors to MDC went to investigate and clean up rubbish in Percy Reserve. A final check by WRC staff showed no rubbish was left in the riverbed.
13/01/2000	Dirty water in the Rangitumau Stream the previous day where diggers were seen entering Northcroft Rd.	Property investigated. Tile drains on paddocks had been replaced. Work did not require a resource consent.
14/01/2000	A tributary of the Makoura Stream in Essex St, Masterton, was running milky white.	The stream was clearing at the time of inspection and the source of discharge could not be located. Suspected to be washdown of white water-based paint.
18/01/2000	Concern about gravel extraction and bed disturbance on the Waiohine River at the SH 2 bridge.	Both gravel extraction and cross blading activities were consented although there was some non-compliance of consent conditions observed. Letter to consent holder is to be written.
19/01/2000	Smoke pollution being caused by industry in Carterton	Found to be consented activity, with temporary compliance problems.
19/01/2000	Dust from timber dressing operation affecting neighbouring properties	Further information requested from complainant.
21/01/2000	Dam created on the Tauanui River to supply water for an unknown purpose to a property near Pirinoa.	Still under investigation.
21/01/2000	Dead cow found in Waipoua River adjacent Mahunga Golf Course.	Dead cow found in advanced decomposed state, no identification present. WRC River staff disposed of carcass.
25/01/2000	Neighbour dumped dead horses on boundary causing a foul odour.	Horse remains were viewed and a foul odour was detected. Still under investigation.
26/01/2000	Dust from industrial site causing nuisance to neighbours.	Still under investigation.
26/01/2000	Concern about gravel extraction at the confluence of the Waingawa and Ruamahanga Rivers and the level of dust nuisance created.	The gravel extraction was covered by a resource consent. An inspection was completed and there was full compliance with consent conditions.

## 5.2 Compliance

Four abatement notices have been issued relating to; spoil disposal in the coastal marine area, correct application of dairy effluent (2), and unsatisfactory culvert installation.

Evidence and exhibits have been prepared for the Mangatarere Stream prosecutions with a hearing set for 14 and 15 February in the Wellington District Court. The prosecution relates to incidents in late 1998 and early 1999.

Council wide procedures are being developed for issuing and processing infringement notices. Staff attended a Phillips Fox presentation on the requirements of this new legislation in December and development of the processes has been based on this. The legislation came into effect on 1 February and will be able to be used as soon as the Council's procedures have been finalised. Delegation to issue notices is proposed at Manager level.

### 5.3 Notified Consents

Greytown Sewage – discharge	Ngati Kahungunu not willing to sign off conditions. Hearing now required.
Craggy Range Vineyard –water take	Application on hold with further information on surface water effects to be provided.
Martinborough Sewage – Discharge	Comment provided to consultants on draft AEE. Consultation to then be followed by a revised application.
Featherston Sewage – Discharge	On hold awaiting full assessment of effects and consultation. Agreed lower priority than Martinborough.
Masterton Sewage – discharge	On hold. Two meetings held with MDC/consultants. Project timetable provided. Consent application scheduled for August 2000.

### 5.4 Appeals

Ruamahanga Gravel Consent	Mediation held in December. Second mediation meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> February to consider suggested Memorandum of Understanding.
DTS Riddiford – Marine Farm	Reply lodged. No action.
DTS Riddiford - Consent Charges Boulder Wall	Callover conference set for 13 March. Court to be advised that Council does not want mediation.
Flat Point (Carterton District Council)	Mediation meeting being pursued with all objectors.
Carterton District Plan - Earthworks	Consent memorandum signed by all parties. With Environment Court. Once approved District Plan will become operative.

### 5.5 Annual Charges

These were posted prior to Christmas with a consents newsletter included. \$205,000 was invoiced with a number of clients incurring more than one charge. Reaction has been limited to the usual changed addresses and consent withdrawals.

### 5.6 Hydrology

Regular rainfall up to Christmas and over 50mm in late January have made this one of the best summers for growth for many years in both the valley and the eastern hills. However the influence of La Nina has shown up in the lower than

normal rainfall in the Tararua's - 346mm recorded against a 589mm average for December at Angle Knob in the Tararuas.

Flows from the western rivers reached low levels requiring a brief restriction to be placed on takes from the Waingawa River and Booths Creek. Over 40 low flow gaugings were achieved during January.

### **5.7 Dairy Discharges Project**

The project is progressing well with 20 clients committing to change to land discharges within the next two to three years. Affected party agreement to the interim temporary consents has been obtained with only some downstream agreements still awaited. Once full agreement is received temporary consents will be issued.

6 clients have, or are in the process of, changing to a land discharge without the need for an interim consent. It appears that two clients wish to continue discharging to water and their consent options are being developed with them.

### **5.8 Communication**

The Department provided two articles for the first 'Elements' Regional newspaper on water allocation plans and Wairarapa landscapes. An Ecofile newspaper article has been published on maintaining home emergency preparedness following Y2K. News stories have been written about river levels and the Riversdale/Motuwaireka sanitary survey.

## **6. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and its contents noted.*

Colin Wright  
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa