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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Author 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 12 November 2002.

2. Divisional Matters

2.1 Wairarapa Irrigation Study

The consultants investigating community irrigation schemes are scheduled to report their preliminary findings at a steering committee meeting in April. A number of alternative storage lake sites and distribution networks are being examined to determine the optimum combinations.

The recent dry summer weather will presumably increase the level of interest in this work.

2.2 Co-operation with Other Authorities

On 7 March I am meeting with the Chief Executives of the three Wairarapa District Councils and the Wairarapa District Health Board to explore ways in which the five organisations can work more closely together for the betterment of the Wairarapa community. Regular meetings have been held with the district councils for some years and this group has now been extended to include the Health Board.

2.3 Whaka Drain Sub-Committee

The last Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee set up a sub-committee with power to resolve Lower Valley Scheme rating issues relating to the Whaka Drain. The December Council meeting also gave the sub-committee delegated authority to resolve resource consent issues relating to the property of Mr John Barton and the Lower Valley Scheme stopbank. The Council also added Cr Long to the sub-committee.

Minutes from the sub-committee are reported back in this order paper.

2.5 Regional Pest Management Strategy Sub-Committee

A sub-committee was set up several months ago to review the Wellington City Pest Plants Programme under the Regional Pest Management Strategy. Changes resulting from the work of this sub-committee are outlined in section 4.5 of this report.

The formal reporting back from this sub-committee went to the December Council meeting so that the changes could be included within the new Regional Pest Management Strategy when this document was printed.

2.6 Long Term Council Community Plan

Appointed members of the Committee are advised that the Council is scheduling to complete its proposed Long Term Plan in early March. Several workshops and meetings are to be held in the next two weeks to determine the final content and budgets.

2.7 Staffing

James Lambie has been promoted to the Senior Biosecurity Officer (Investigations) position. This position was previously filled by Diederik Meenken. James will have responsibility for managing performance and trend monitoring of all Bovine Tb vector control contracts; measuring performance against the Regional Pest Management Strategy objectives, and monitoring key indicators in various Key Native Ecosystems.

Fiona Bancroft, who was employed in the Monitoring and Investigations Section of the Biosecurity Department for three years, has been appointed to the Pest Animals Section to fill the position vacated by Rachel Helson. Fiona will now have a more active role in meeting the Departments obligations and requirements in regard to monitoring, surveillance and investigations under the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Two fixed term contract employees (Jason Hood & Jason Jamieson) have been employed until late June this year to help progress the KNE management programme, which is behind schedule.

Raelene Hurndell, Hydrologist, has commenced with the Resource Investigations Section.

3. Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)

3.1 Silviculture

Steady progress with the silviculture at Stoney Creek has seen the completion of 190 hectares of Pruning and 370 hectares of Thinning. Thinning has been halted due to the fire danger resulting from long dry grass.

3.2 Tauanui Access

The final wording of the Tauanui access agreement has been agreed. Lawyers are checking the final draft prior to signature by the various parties. A roading contractor is due to start preliminary work on 24 February.

3.3 Rural Fire

Dry conditions continue to push up fire danger readings throughout the Wairarapa. Long dry grass (94% cured at Martinborough monitoring site) provides potential for fire to spread rapidly. A spate of rural fires, including 10 hectares of young pines at Tinui, highlights the situation. The limited ability of volunteer crews, equipped with ex-urban fire appliances, to tackle vegetation fires on hilly terrain continues to concern Forest Managers and owners with background experience as professional rural fire fighters.

3.4 Technical Services

Activities completed include:

- GIS and mapping work for the Coastal Strategy project.
- Surveys in the Lower Valley to assist the development of a hydraulic model of the Lower Ruamahanga River to map and position the cross-sections and the planning and set-up of the new Papatahi Stopbank, just upstream of the Barrage Gates.
- Stopbank investigation survey at Fullers Bend on the Waiohine River.
- Gravel bed and beach surveys.
- Aerial photographs flown of the complete Ruamahanga River system, Waingawa and Waipoua Rivers.
- Ongoing management of the gravel licence system.
- First phase of the scanning of plans into the computer system has been completed.

3.5 Farm Environment Awards 2003

After a very successful programme in 2002, the Farm Environment Awards for 2003 were launched on 1st November 2002. Entries for this year are up 50% on last year. Preliminary judging has been completed and finalists will be decided at a meeting on 19 February. Finalist judging will be completed in early March to enable preparation for the Awards evening to be organised.

The Awards will be presented at a function at Copthorne Solway Park on the evening of Thursday 10 April.

A new category has been included in this year's programme. The Harvest Award will recognise environmental excellence in land uses such as viticulture, horticulture and market gardening.

3.6 Akura Conservation Centre

Soil moisture levels began falling steadily in the first week of January 2003. Irrigation of new plantings occurred through the rest of January and was moved to blocks with 6 months regrowth.

The Advisory Committee has recently inspected Akura to consider a review of the management plan. A specific focus of this review will be centred on the management of mature stumps and the replacement of these stumps with improved polar clones. Demand for new clones will possibly result in a decline in reliance on the Veronese poplar that has shown reduced vigour in the nursery after ten years of production.

3.7 River Management – Scheme Works

All schemes are operating within budget. There has been an absence of major floods. Damage incurred from freshes has been repaired out of the annual works budgets.

3.8 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

A university student was employed over the summer vacation to map the condition of the stopbank downstream of the Barrage Gates. The stopbank condition has been graded. This information will be used in the Scheme review.

Work continues on the hydraulic model. The data has been used already to predict better the impact of a blocked lake on the water levels at the Tuhitirata Bridge.

The control building at the Barrage Gates has been re-roofed.

The new Papatahi stopbank (2.5 kilometres long and up to 1.6m high) has been commenced.

A taskforce of staff, including David Bulman, has been created to manage the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. Background information is being prepared for the Scheme meeting in May.

The proposed river edge repair and protection works at Scaddens has been completed with the agreement of the landowner.

3.9 Upper Ruamahanga River Schemes

Agreement 'in principle' has been reached with Rathkeale College for strengthening some areas of their stopbank.

Initial discussion has been held with the landowner adjacent to the narrow section of the Ruamahanga River at Te Ore Ore. The initial response to the proposal to widen the river, (i.e. the landowner will lose land) in this section is positive.

3.10 Waingawa River Scheme

Channel alignment works have been necessary upstream of the rail bridge on the Waingawa River.

3.11 Spraying

Channel spraying by a contractor has occurred on the Waingawa and Waipoua Rivers. The only known location of Spartina on Pooles Bank at Lake Onoke has been sprayed.

4. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)

Pest Animals

4.1 Mount Bruce-Pukaha Predator Control Buffer Programme

Control work within the Greater Wellington part of the buffer commenced on 2 September 2002. This work was undertaken to enhance the intensive predator control programme that the Department of Conservation (DoC) had started within the Reserve. The long-term vision is for Mount Bruce-Pukaha to be restored to a thriving forest ecosystem capable of being home to some of the rarest native bird species. A wide range of predator species is being targeted. The combined DoC and GW trap tallies to the end of January are:

Possums	542
Stoats	41
Weasels	9
Ferrets	27
Feral Cats	43
Rats	876
Hedgehogs	193

On the farmed land, most possums and rats are controlled by the anti-coagulant poison Brodifacoum and bodies are not recovered. Brodifacoum usage is still very high over most of the treatment area but is expected to diminish once DoC complete their initial possum control programme within the Reserve. Staff report that the job is made more enjoyable because of growing landowner confidence and participation.

4.2 Key Native Ecosystem Management

Maintenance works are being conducted in some 39 sites throughout the region. This normally entails a three-monthly replenishment of the bait in strategically placed bait stations, clearing of access routes, and replacing any damaged or defaced warning signs. Nine other sites are in an advanced state of planning.

In the Wairarapa, all sites will now have an integrated management approach (similar to Mount Bruce-Pukaha) where all predators are targeted. Previously only a few selected sites were part of such an intensive regime. This has meant the purchase and placement of extra hardware (bait stations, kill traps, tunnels etc.) throughout the managed areas. It is hoped that the variety of methods being used will create interest and act as a catalyst for landowners to get more practically involved, particularly on those parts of the property that the owners frequent more often.

The baiting regime in the Western Zone in the non-farmed areas has not changed and will remain focussed on possums. There are benefits of by-kill of mustelids through use of anticoagulant poisons. An exception will

be the Waimeha Wetland at Waikanae where an integrated management programme will target all predators including rats. This is a shared programme with Kapiti Coast District Council and has a care group involved.

The Upper Hutt based Pest Animals team is about to commence the long awaited possum eradication programme for the Mirimar Peninsula. Wellington Airport and the sea provide excellent barriers to possums and there is a strong belief from staff that a possum free peninsula is possible. A joint Wellington City Council (WCC) and GW news release appealed for the people on the peninsula to set traps in their own gardens and advise GW officers of any sign of possums. The operation is a joint venture with WCC.

4.3 Whitireia Park Operation

The Whitireia Park operation undertaken for GW's Parks and Forests Department has been a spectacular success. Monitoring over the summer months has not disclosed any possums in the area. It has been proposed that a team of specially trained 'possum' dogs be used to scour the area to determine if possums have been completely eradicated from the area. As with the Mirimar operation, it is unlikely that possums will be able to readily re-invade Whitireia Park. During night surveillance, residual rabbits and hares were also targeted and are now at very low densities.

4.4 Rabbits

The rabbit population has built up in several prone areas throughout the region. Burrows and other rabbit signs are more evident on the lighter soil types of the Kapiti Coast and the east coast beach resorts of Castlepoint and Riversdale. Sales of Pindone carrot bait have increased by 30% over the previous four years. There has been no evidence of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) recycling this summer and it is not expected to have any meaningful effect due to the 60% plus immunity levels disclosed in a past RHD survey. The RHD immunity level is expected to have significantly increased in the interim. Of concern is the current very dry conditions with a forecast for continuing dry or drought conditions into April. Staff are currently conducting inspections on the rabbit prone areas of the Wairarapa riverbeds as part of the annual rabbit prone survey. Riverbed areas are very useful in helping predict rabbit population trends.

Pest Plants

4.5 Wellington City

Changes to pest plant control have now been implemented in Wellington City following a recent review of the former Wellington City Programme. Previously the programme was treated as a separate entity within the Strategy. This has now changed with Wellington City subject to the same

requirements under the Regional Pest Management Strategy as the rest of the Region.

Under the rules for the control of Old Mans Beard however, there is a variation for Wellington City where this species now has a boundary control status, enforceable upon complaint from the neighbouring occupier.

4.6 Hornwort

Following the successful Hornwort control trials at Lake Reserve in March 2001 using the herbicide Endothall, NIWA have endeavoured to have the product registered for general use in NZ. This has been a protracted exercise with funding being the major obstacle.

During September 2002 NIWA approached regional councils, DoC, and various other organisations seeking contributions toward the registration cost, then estimated at \$100,000. This has now been achieved with NIWA recently advising that the registration process is to commence in February with the aim of submitting an application with ERMA in May. NIWA have indicated that a decision should be known by the end of September allowing, if successful, the availability of the product during the 2003/04 summer.

4.7 Banana Passionfruit

A major publicity campaign advising the public of the pest plant status of Banana Passionfruit is currently underway throughout the Region. This commenced with displays at a variety of events and locations late last year. During February the campaign will include radio and newspaper advertisements preceded by the erection of 26 roadside signs at key locations throughout the Region.

4.8 Biological Control

A further consignment of the biological control agent Old Mans Beard Sawfly has been supplied by Landcare Research. This consignment was released in the Wellington suburb of Mirimar.

As a preliminary to collection and redistribution of Ragwort Flea Beetle, staff have commenced checking infestations of Ragwort to determine the density and damage. In some areas it is apparent that Ragwort Flea Beetle is less active this season. Increases in Ragwort infestation in parts of the region have become very noticeable.

Bovine Tb

4.9 Operational Progress

All operational areas have now been let for vector control within the region. The 2002/03 programme to be completed is:

	Hectares
Possum control	336,349
Ferret control	22,525
Feral surveys	<u>15,104</u>
	373,978

This operational area may increase dependant on the outcome of further survey reports submitted to the Animal Health Board.

4.10 Areas Completed to Date

The following operators have completed or are currently waiting for monitoring to be undertaken within areas that they have controlled:

	Hectares Treated
WRC Bovine Unit	67,144
Professional Guiding Service	7,974
Trappersnz	22,041
J McCaslin	20,777
Target Pests	0
Horizons.mw Business Unit	2,311
Other	0
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	120,247 (32.2%)

4.11 Monitoring

Approximately 95,000 hectares of vector control has been completed since the November 2002 report, although some of this area has yet to be monitored. The following monitoring results have been achieved in this period:

Operation	Strata	Hectares	Result	Operator
Bideford	MR 4	10,476	0.4	WRC Bovine Unit
Bideford	MR 7	1,702	0.5	WRC Bovine Unit
Homewood-Riversdale	HR 1	6,302	0.4	JMcCaslin
Homewood-Riversdale	HR 2	6,295	0.2	WRC Bovine Unit
Homewood-Riversdale	HR 3	6,189	0.9	WRC Bovine Unit (fail)
Kahutara-Pirinoa	HR 3	3,309	0.0	WRC Bovine Unit
Mangaroa-Kaitoke	MR 4	2,290	5.6	Trappersnz (fail)
Mangaroa-Kaitoke	MR 5	1,756	9.1	Trappersnz (fail)
Martinborough	HR 1	2,819	0.7	Trappersnz
Martinborough	MR 3	9,035	1.0	Trappersnz
Tinui	HR 2	4,642	0.6	Profession Guiding Serv

4.12 Mangaroa-Kaitoke

The Bovine Unit has completed control in this operation over approximately 15,500 hectares. Draft results of this control will be available shortly. Monitoring to date indicates that the aerial result is

approximately RTC 1.0% and the ground control result ranges between RTC 2.0% and 3.0%.

Trappersnz have been required to retreat the two strata's contracted to them due to RTC failures (see 4.11 above.)

4.13 Surveys

The 2002/03 programme may increase due to two surveys requested by AgriQuality.

A ferret and possum survey has been proposed over 1,560 hectares within problem areas (associated with the Waipoua River) of the Mt Bruce-Waipoua operation.

A proposed ferret and possum survey is currently being prepared for the Whangaehu operation. The proposed survey includes the Ruamahanga River and Kopuranga areas and is expected to be several thousand hectares.

These surveys are proposed in response to ongoing and newly infected herds within these operational areas.

4.14 Current Infected Herd Status

As at 30 June 2002 there was 62 infected cattle herds within the region. At the end of January 2003 the infected number of herds has reduced to 56.

There are 44 infected herds within operational areas and 12 infected herds in non-operational areas.

4.15 Future Vector Manager Contracts

Current vector manager contracts expire at the end of June 2003. The Animal Health Board (AHB) is investigating a move to more long-term (3+ years) contracts. The proposed contracts include the development of a new Regional Tb Operational Plan. The Plan will include sections devoted to –

- Capacity management
- Contract management
- Programme management (design, monitoring, review)
- Local environment management (communications, attitude research, strategic planning)

The principles of the proposed new contracts include –

- Closer alignment with central and local government planning and reporting requirements

- Giving vector managers more scope and flexibility to manage the regional programmes, including the option of more longer-term contracts with control contractors
- Providing opportunities for more strategic, long-term planning.

The proposal includes more regular contact with National Disease Control Managers to maximise opportunities to adjust annual programmes as circumstances change.

The proposed changes are expected to increase vector manager workloads but are a positive and welcomed move. Implementation is scheduled for July 2003.

5. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)

5.1 Environmental Incidents

<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Complaint</i>	<i>Details</i>
26/10/2002	Smoke from burning garden waste near the road restricting visibility for passing motorists, Masterton	At time of inspection, smoke was not obscuring visibility. No further action required.
27/10/2002	Odour from restaurant, Greytown	No odour from premises at time of inspection. Prevailing wind was away from complainant's address, no further action required.
31/10/2002	Odour from composting plant, Masterton	To be addressed during consent renewal
11/11/2002	Sewage affecting groundwater, Waingawa.	Found to be leaking sewer main. Fixed by District Council
13/11/2002	Concern at amount of water being taken from Taueru river for irrigation	Farmer was found to be complying with resource consent
13/11/2002	Dairy effluent overflowing into creek, Carterton	Run-off caused by heavy rain, farmer had shifted irrigator, no further action required.
14/11/2002	Sewage running from bore, Carterton	Found to be caused by blocked sewer line. District Council in the process of fixing the problem.
14/11/2002	Odour from timber treatment operation, Masterton	Not considered offensive or objectionable. Complaint considered to be frivolous.
21/11/2002	Water running grey, Makoura Stream	Reported the day after the incident. Unable to trace cause.
21/11/2002	Water pollution, Masterton	Source unable to be traced
27/11/2002	Remains of three pig carcasses in Waipoua river	Removed by WRC staff
5/12/2002	Dairy effluent being spread too close to neighbouring property, South Wairarapa.	Farmer written to.
6/12/2002	Bad odour from sewage discharging into Mangatarere Stream, Carterton.	The discharge of sewage was considered normal for this time of year. Consent currently being varied.
9/12/2002	Work in watercourse begun without consent, Masterton	Consent subsequently granted
17/12/2002	Aerial spraying in paddocks next to organic vineyard causing concern, South Wairarapa	Handled by complainant, at their request.
18/12/2002	Offal hole dug into groundwater, South Wairarapa	Farmer has been requested to dispose non-cleanfill away from groundwater.
24/12/2002	Waste oil spread on unsealed access-way at Orui Rd, Riversdale, north of the Motuwaireka Bridge, for dust suppression purposes.	Site meeting with person responsible, correspondence to all coastal subdivision lot owners advising waste oil spreading is not a permitted activity, and that in absence of any consent, is an illegal activity.

1/01/2003	Piggery effluent discharging to stream, Carterton.	Piggery owner warned and has been required to shift effluent away from tile drained paddocks.
3/01/2003	No flow in Booths Creek tributary at Marshall Rd junction. Flow required for stock watering.	Council has required an overflow pipe in an upstream dam to ensure residual flow.
7/01/2003	Small stream near Paierau Rd recently dried up	Drying up of the stream probably caused by natural blocking of the spring near its source. The landowner agreed to unblock the stream and will ensure that water is allowed to flow back down the stream bed.
8/01/2003	Dead eels in Kuripuni Stream, Masterton.	Caused by digger mechanically clearing weed. No further action taken.
9/01/2003	Concern at water level in Taueru River, Masterton	Water restriction notice issued to consent holders on the river.
10/01/2003	Concern at water level, Taueru River, Masterton	Water restriction notices issued.
10/01/2003	Dumping of fish carcasses in Kuripuni Stream, Masterton	Reported after the event. Unable to trace offenders
13/01/2003	Sacks of paua shells found in riverbed, Masterton	Removed by WRC
15/01/2003	Rubbish dumped in Ruamahanga riverbed, Masterton	Removed by WRC
15/01/2003	Rubbish dumped in riverbed, Carterton	Removed by WRC
17/01/2003	Suspected damming or diversion of Waipipi Stream	No damming or diversion found but sudden reduction in flow noted
23/01/2003	Sewage on property at Oxford St, Masterton	Found to be sewer leak, referred to EHO at MDC
24/01/2003	Unknown grey water pollution in Makoura Stream	Contaminant noted but source not traced
2/02/2003	Odour from restaurant in Greytown.	Odour detected, not considered offensive or objectionable.
3/02/2003	Water pollution, Carterton	Under investigation
10/02/2003	Illegal water take, Carterton	Abatement notice served
10/02/2003	Discharge of odour from restaurant. Greytown.	Under investigation
12/02/2003	Algal bloom from Masterton sewage ponds affecting Ruamahanga River.	Under investigation
12/02/2003	Deer carcass in Ruamahanga River, Masterton	Carcass removed by Greater Wellington

5.2 Enforcement

Infringement Notices

Notices have been issued for:

- discharging dairy effluent to land through a stationary pipe, contrary to consent conditions

- the unconsented diversion of a natural watercourse within Masterton.

Abatement Notices

These have been issued requiring:

- dairy effluent discharge to land in compliance with consent conditions (three separate notices)
- unconsented irrigation (two separate notices)

5.3 Tinui Hotel

The Wairarapa Times Age published an article on 23 January 2003 in which Bruce Andrews the Tinui publican expressed his concern that he had been required to install a \$25,000 sewage disposal system, when most of the sewage from the Tinui village discharges into a stream.

The situation is that the hotel falls outside the permitted requirements for septic tanks and had no consent. An abatement notice was issued requiring a compliant system to be installed and this was extended. A satisfactory system is now in place.

Masterton District had a consent and applied for renewal. This process identified a number of concerns with the system and a short term, non renewable consent has been issued during which time a fully complying system has to be installed, consented and operative.

Staff attempted to encourage a joint approach to both problems but the District Council did not wish to incorporate the hotel's requirements in their proposals.

5.4 Notified Consents

Carterton - Kaipatangata water take	Submissions closed 23 May 2002. Pre hearing meeting held and verbal agreement reached as to fish passage and a reduced term. Formal agreement required from one submitter and CDC. A decision should then be possible without a hearing.
Featherston Sewage – discharge	Draft AEE completed. Consultation proceeding with initial site meeting held.
Masterton Sewage – discharge	Hearing decision released and not appealed. Consent operative from 20 January 2003.
Opaki and Te Ore Ore Water Races – Masterton District	Submissions closed 12/2/03. A pre hearing meeting will now be held. Objections have been made to the proposed 35 year term.
Carterton sewage discharge. Application for variation.	Submissions closed on 19/12/02. Application on hold at applicants request.
Water Races -Carterton, and South Wairarapa District Councils (4)	Notification that was scheduled for November is being held up through delays by the consultant.
Discharge to air from sewage ponds – Carterton and Greytown.	Submissions close 24/2/03.
Water take – Waingawa River – Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre	Submissions closed on 14/2/03. A pre-hearing meeting is planned for late February.

5.5 Appeals

Appeals have been lodged with the Environment Court by Mr John Barton covering two issues:

- The additional charges of \$1702.87 associated with his withdrawn consent application for stopbank access. Mr Barton's objection was declined by a special Sub Committee appointed by Council to deal with several of his issues.
- The up front requirement of \$21,970 plus GST estimated consent processing charges for his revised application for stopbank access. This second application is to be processed by Wellington based Consents staff.

The Court has been advised that Council does not wish to participate in mediation on these issues.

5.6 Water Shortages

Low rainfall since mid January has created a very busy time for staff, monitoring surface water flows and applying restrictions or cessations as required by the Freshwater Plan, Water Allocation Plans and consent conditions. Many small streams are very low and the Ruamahanga was at a greater than 10 year low at the time of writing.

The response taken varies according to flow levels and may be a restriction, rostering (with or without a volume restriction) or a cessation of take altogether. Individual consent holders are phoned and written to.

There have been a number of complaints of people irrigating without consent or interfering with the flow of streams.

5.7 Coastal Strategy

The public consultation programme has proceeded very well with excellent media support. Strong public interest has required additional print runs of the brochure and theme sheets to meet demand.

The programme has involved:

- Coastal opinion articles in Wairarapa News and an article in Elements
- Aratoi displays and a public launch
- 4000 brochures delivered to all baches, farms, and campers, immediately after Christmas. Also made available at Council and Iwi offices, libraries and coastal stores and pubs.
- Supporting posters
- Radio and newspaper advertisements
- A survey of 340 coastal users on Wellington Anniversary Day.
- 280 requests for theme sheets.

Submissions close at the end of February with 40 received to date.

The project will now go into an analysis phase followed by the major task of drafting the strategy to reflect the submissions and the technical report findings.

5.8 Iwi Projects

Ngati Hamua Sites of Significance

The first stage of this project has been completed and a draft final report provided. An extension to cover the rest of the Wairarapa is proposed and being evaluated. Draft protocols on the use of the database by Council staff are being developed.

Punaruku Lagoon - Ngawihi

A programme of improved protection, enhancement and management has been agreed with the owners and a contract signed. This area features in the legends associated with Kupe.

5.9 Coastal Sewage

Riversdale

After further consideration of options and discussions with residents, the Steering Committee has adopted the principle of a reticulated system and revised scheme boundaries. A public meeting will now be held on Easter Sunday.

Lake Ferry

Site survey and identification and soil testing of potential disposal areas has been completed. An application for Government subsidy has been made.

5.10 Hazards

The WELA report is very close to printing. It will be launched at the WELA Annual Meeting, held over from last year.

IGNS have been contracted to undertake the next study of the active Mokonui Fault north and west of Masterton. This work will commence shortly.

Victoria University seismic studies at the Barrage, Tuhitarata and Waihenga are proceeding well with field work completed.

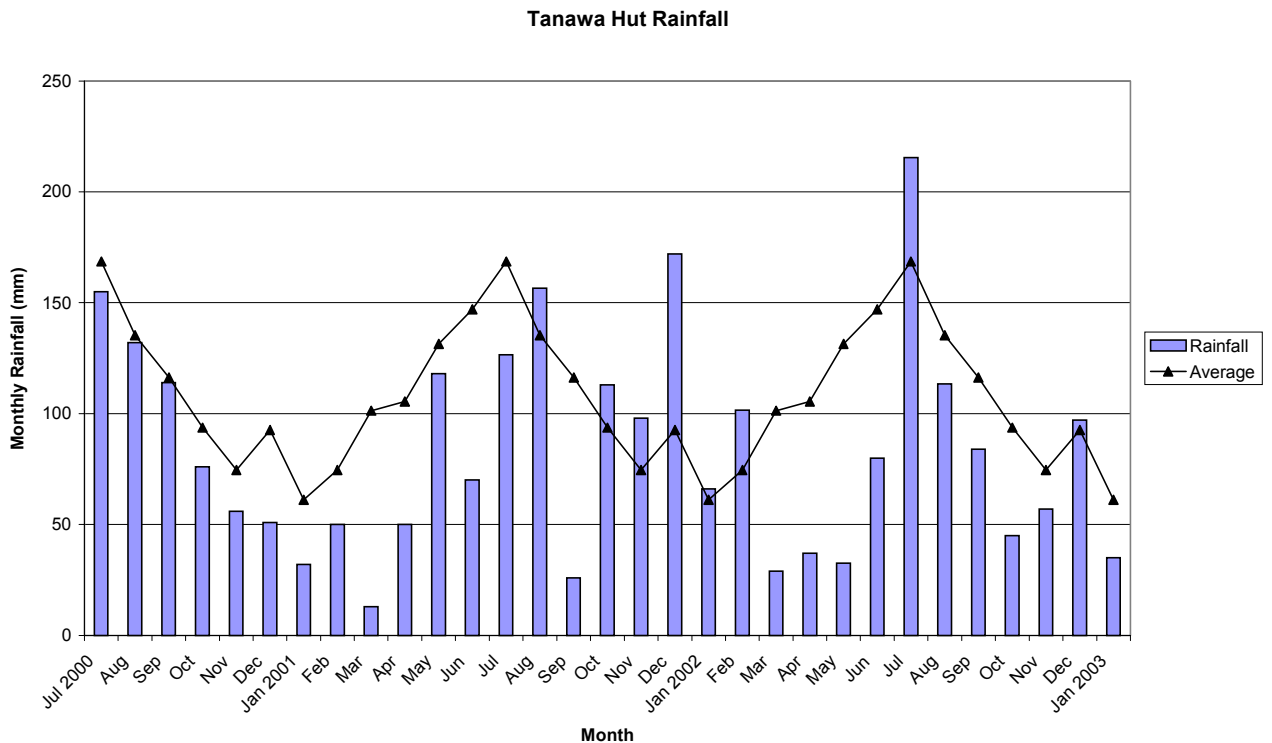
A hazard information sheet is being prepared on Wairarapa flooding as part of a Regional series.

5.11 Hydrology

Rainfall

Rainfall figures across all areas in the Wairarapa were down in January compared to December.

All three representative sites were below their January long term average. Of particular note is that at Angle Knob in the Tararuas and Tanawa in the eastern hills the drop is significant. Angle Knob has gone from 981mm (167% of long term average) in December to only 387mm (85%) in January, whilst Tanawa went from 97mm (105%) to 35mm (56%). Alloa's rainfall went from December's 61mm (76%) down to 46mm (70%). The table below shows the monthly rainfall totals at Tanawa since July 2000 against the long term average for each month. It can be seen that for most of the last year the monthly totals have been below average.



The table below is for 3 representative rainfall sites showing rainfall figures for January and also December's for comparison.

Site	Location	January		December		January % of average	December % of average
		mm					
		Actual	Average	Actual	Average		
Angle Knob	Tararua Ranges	387	457	981	585	85	167
Alloa	Middle Valley	46	65	61	80	70	76
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	35	62	97	93	56	105

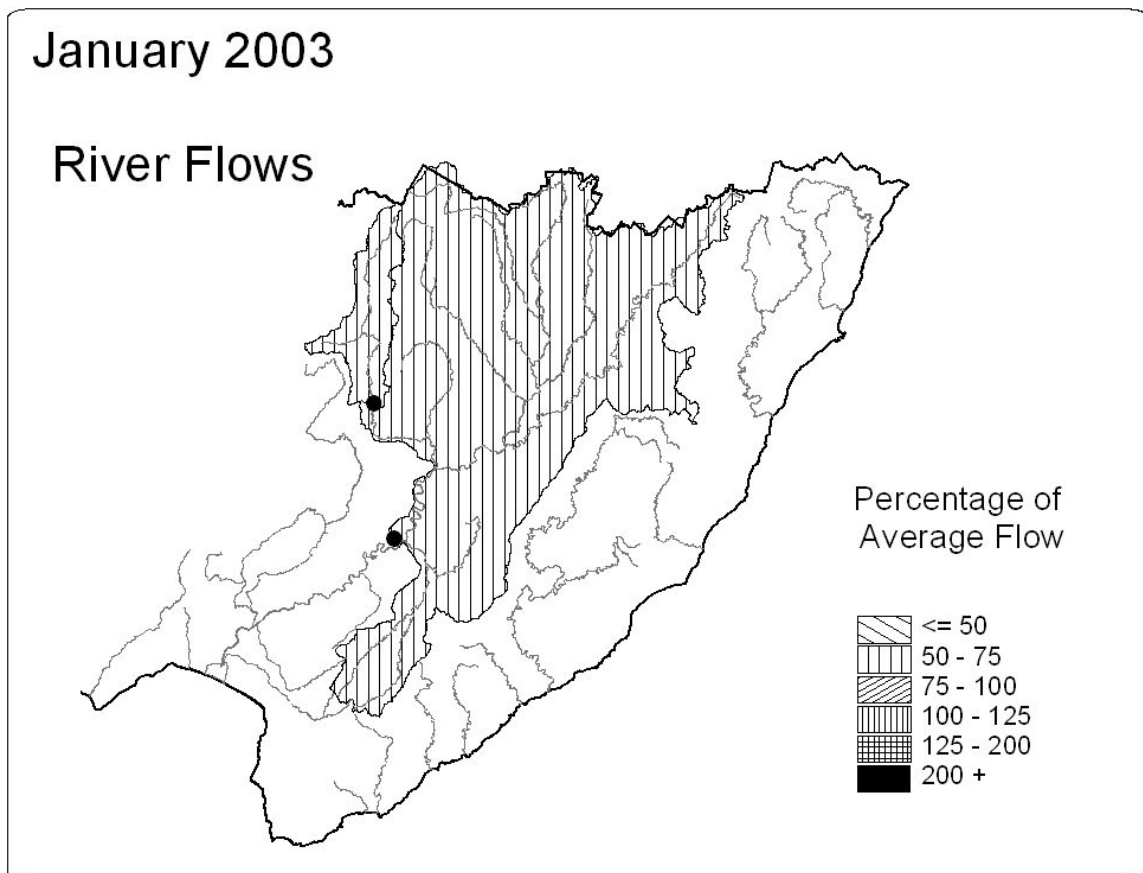
5.12 Rivers

River flows for January for both the Tararua and Lower Valley (Waiohine at the Gorge and the Ruamahanga at Waihenga) dropped significantly from December. The Waiohine River dropped to a mean flow of only $12\text{m}^3/\text{s}$, whereas last month it was $32.5\text{m}^3/\text{s}$. This is a drop from 119% to 70% of the respective monthly long term means. For Waihenga the mean flow has dropped from $88\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ to $28\text{m}^3/\text{s}$, a drop from 129% to 61% of monthly long term means.

The flows for both November and December were above their monthly means, similar to last summer, but unlike last year where January's figure were just above average, this year the figures are now well below.

The table below contains both January and December flows for comparison. The figure is a map of the Wairarapa with the catchments for the two sites shaded to represent their percentage of monthly flows for the month.

Site	January		December		January	December
	River Flow (m^3/s)					
		Average		Average		
Waiohine	12.0	17.3	32.5	27.3	69.4	119
Waihenga	27.9	45.9	87.8	68.1	60.8	129



5.13 Floodwarning

	January	Financial Year to date	Previous Year to Date
No. of events	1	8	4
No of Lists Issued	1	33	16

One very minor event occurred in the wee hours of 23 January triggering the low Waiohine alarm of 2.5m.

5.14 Groundwater

Bore Permits

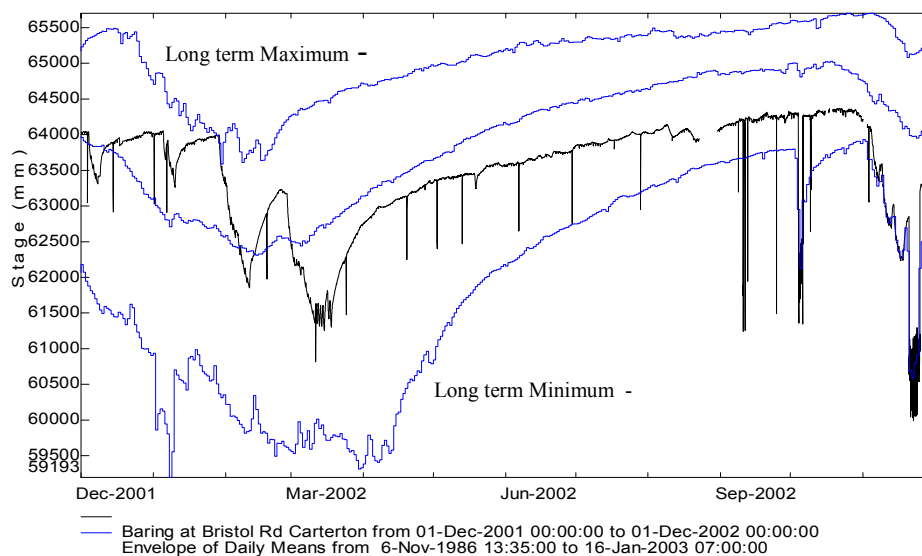
	January	Financial Year to Date	Previous Year to Date
Applications Received	8	37	47
Consents Issued	5	35	56
Consents Withdrawn		1	

Parkvale Aquifer Monitoring

Baring's (east of Carterton – Parkvale #3). The most recent data is raw unedited data and may require editing.

The plot depicts the daily maximum, minimum and means of the mean over the whole of the record versus the actual water level for the period January 2002 – 2003.

The envelope plot shows that the current groundwater level in Parkvale # 3 aquifer is now at the level of the Long Term Minimum.



6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Wright', written in a cursive style.

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa