



Report 06.13
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 4 November 2005 to 27 January 2006

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the western Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

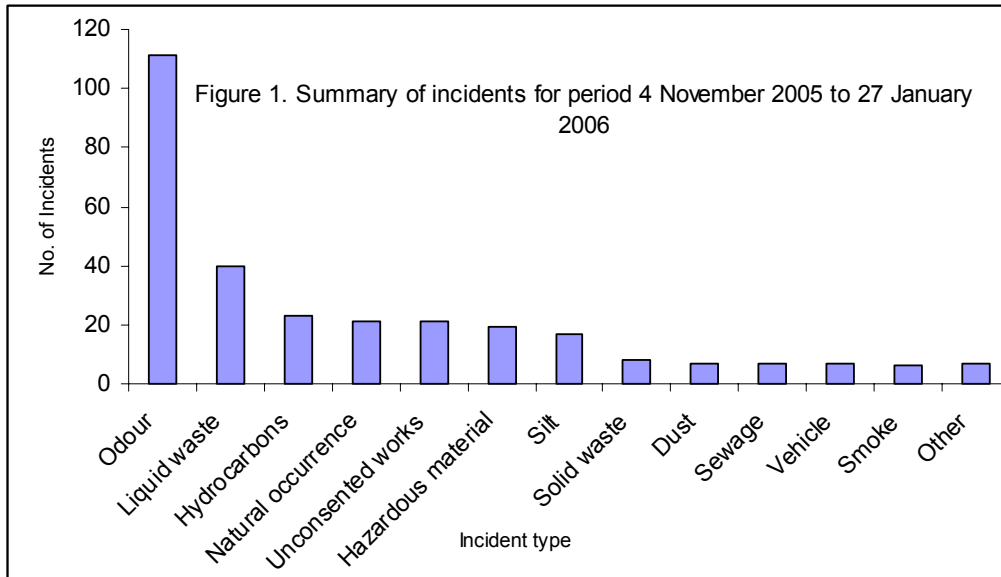
The Resource Investigations Department manages environmental pollution in the Western Wellington Region via the following approaches:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium-sized industry.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

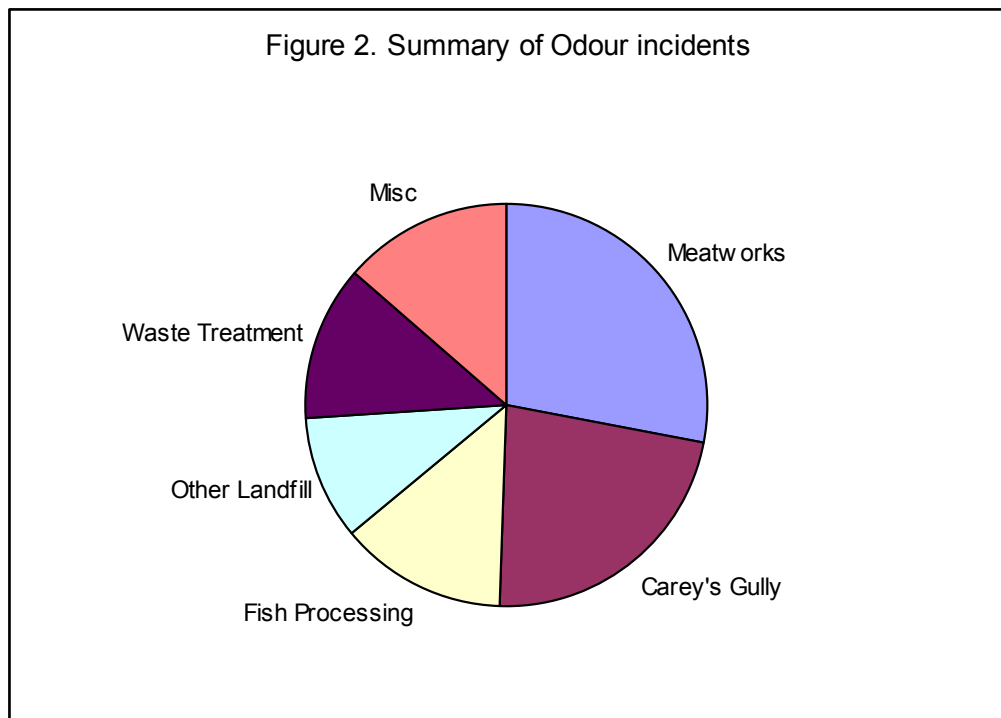
3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 293 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.



Odour was again the predominant incident class, with a total of 111 incidents. A breakdown of odour sources is presented in the following figure. The majority of odour incidents were attributed to Carey's Gully and Taylor Preston. Offensive and objectionable odours were confirmed at Taylor Preston and the Northern landfill, and are being investigated further by the Consents Management Department.



Significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- Disposal of demolition materials sourced from a confirmed contaminated site on land in Upper Fitzherbert Street, Wainuiomata. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- The Wellington City Council Roading Group undertook works in the bed of an unnamed tributary of Ohariu Stream without authorisation or mitigation works. An infringement fine was issued for this offence.
- Liquid waste was discharged to the Ngauranga Stream from the Taylor Preston meatworks site. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- Unconsented earthworks were undertaken in an unnamed tributary of Speedys Stream. These works included reclamation of a small valley and construction of a large pond. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- Pollution Control Officers continued to deal with a large number of enquiries regarding potentially toxic algae in the Region's streams and rivers.

3.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all incident response targets were met comfortably.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	44 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	7.2 hours
Blue (7 days)	3.2 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	16
Infringement Notices	5
Abatement Notices	3
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

- An abatement notice was issued to Graham Alexander to remove materials placed in the bed of an unnamed tributary of the Cooley's stream.
- An abatement notice was issued to John Gibbs, Camp Wainui Trust, Wainuiomata, restricting further works in a lake bed.
- An abatement notice was issued to Norm Cobb requiring the authorisation or reinstatement of illegal diversion works on the Wainuiomata River.

The Pollution Control Team is currently considering regulatory options for other environmental incidents that occurred during this reporting period.

5. Take Charge

Pollution Control Officers have completed assessments of all businesses along the northern side of Ihakara Street in Paraparaumu, as part of the Drain 6 investigation. Draft reports are being prepared for 24 businesses that received a detailed assessment. This project revealed several significant sources of pollution that may affect Drain 6 and the Wharemeuku Stream

A proposal has been submitted to modify delivery of the *Take Charge* programme. These include streamlining of reporting (via a tear-off report delivered at the time of visit) and preparing Pollution Solution fact sheets to provide guidance for identifying and managing pollution.

6. Special projects

6.1 Algal Monitoring

Pollution Control Officers undertook monitoring in the Hutt River and Wainuiomata catchments for the presence of toxic algae. Toxic algal species were confirmed in the Hutt River, Mangaroa River and Wainuiomata River. The Pollution Control Officers are currently working with Territorial Authority officers and Regional Public Health to manage this issue.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. receive the report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary