

Environment Management Division Quarterly Review

March 2006

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1 Divisional Manager's Report – Nigel Corry

As this is my first quarterly report as Divisional Manager, and the first since the new Environment Management divisional structure has been in place, I have retained the format of the last two reports with the full managers' reports attached to the Divisional Manager's summary report. The full managers' reports provide an extra level of information and a detailed overview of the Division's work.

This is also the first quarterly report where information from the Wairarapa office is being provided via a report from Ted Taylor. In addition, financial information has been prepared showing details from both the Wellington and Wairarapa offices. However, this is not a complete "consolidated" set of accounts - some joint costs (overheads) are yet to be re-allocated. The accounting system is expected to reflect the new divisional structures from 1 July.

A summary of work highlights for each department in the last quarter is provided below.

Planning and Resources Department, Wairarapa

There are a number of consent appeals on the go in the Wairarapa, notably in relation to the Castlepoint seawall application from the Masterton District Council, and the Benton groundwater application from the Kahutara aquifer. A steady number of consent applications continue to be received, and the notified application for the Reid piggery has had a reasonable high media profile over the last few weeks. In relation to the policy and planning area, the combined district plan is to be notified at the end of April and this may take a fair degree of staff time in the event that we make a submission, which is likely. Overall, staffing in the policy and planning area has been a problem in recent months although recent fixed term appointments are starting to restore capacity in this area.

Resource Policy

The Resource Policy Department has traversed a lot of issues in the last three months in their policy and plan work, water, biodiversity and hazards. Perhaps the major focus of the last three months has been continuing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) review process which has now included councillor workshops, meetings with staff from each of the territorial authorities in the region, Ara Tahi workshops, and the drafting of the discussion document which will form the basis for a councillor workshop on 19 April. We are also looking to engage at a political level through the Chairman with a letter being sent to Mayors proposing a meeting with their Council to traverse issues around the RPS review. Any such meeting would also be used to highlight the outcomes of the *Measuring Up* exercise.

The Efficiency and Effectiveness review of the Regional Freshwater Plan has now been finalised (and has been reported to the Environment Committee) which includes recommended changes to the plan which would limit the taking of additional water from a number of Wairarapa aquifers and streams. A draft review of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land has also been completed.

Resource Investigations

There have been two meetings of the Stormwater Action Plan steering group in the last quarter, involving staff from Greater Wellington and Territorial Authorities. Issues that need to be covered by the action plan have now been identified as have a range of actions that will be

included in the action plan. The Pollution Control team have completed a major undertaking in completing a *Take Charge* assessment of Drain Six, a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream which bounds an industrial/commercial area in Paraparaumu. This work complemented the work the Kapiti Coast District Council undertook in 2005 on the Wharemauku Stream Freshwater Plan, and forms part of a 'catchment management' approach to pollution control and prevention. This was the first time that *Take Charge* has been applied on the basis of a geographic area rather than on a specific industry area, and by all accounts it has been extremely successful.

Harbours

The Harbours Department reported the findings of the *Marico Wellington Harbour Risk Assessment Report* to the Environment Committee in February, and the reports author, John Riding, gave a presentation about the risk assessment. The need to upgrade the Beacon Hill facility was highlighted as a part of this discussion, and it was indicated that other non-Beacon Hill staff probably also need more resources, including training. The report concluded that greatest risk in the harbour is associated with the passenger and freight roll-on roll-off service. Such vessel movements dominate the harbours activities. The risk of a ferry grounding was the highest ranked in the assessment (6.8 out of 10). There is also a debate around what level of tug capacity is appropriate for the harbour, with some considerable doubt as to whether or not the current tugs have the ability to operate at the harbour entrance in extreme weather conditions. The cost of a new tug with this capacity is likely to be in the vicinity of \$8-10 million. Clearly, there is an associated debate as to who and how this should be paid for if a vessel were to be purchased. The break-up of the Frigate Wellington has also kept the Harbours Department busy, with a dive ban put in place immediately following the Southerly storm in early March, and a significant degree of media attention in relation to the whole issue.

Environment Education

The Environmental Education team continued to deliver its *Take Action* programme to schools around the region, with the total number of schools involved this year now standing at 24. In addition, another half dozen schools are on a waiting list to be involved, or have booked for 2007. Work is also continuing, in conjunction with the Transport Division, on the development of an Air/Transport *Take Action* programme with a first draft now prepared and tested via a teachers' focus group session.

As part of the *Take Charge* and business sustainability programme, we have signed up to the EnviroSmart programme. This is a national cleaner production programme for manufacturing business launched by the Prime Minister on 28 February, and 40 business in the Wellington region have been signed up to participate. Delivered by Landcare Research, the programme is paid for by regional and district councils, with businesses also paying around \$2,500 over the three years of the programme. We are also involved in the *Get Sustainable Business Challenge* which is designed to help businesses become more sustainable assessing against economic, social and environmental criteria. We will be running the *Get Sustainable Challenge* in the Wellington region between May and August of this year and Greater Wellington will be the principle sponsor for this event.

Consents Management

Finally, the Consents Department has had another busy quarter dealing with a large number of high profile notified consents such as the Hilton hotel proposal on the Queens Wharf Outer-T,

the Meridian West Wind appeals, and the Marine Education Centre hearing. The break up of the Frigate Wellington in the storms of the weekend of 4-5 May was also high profile news. We have liaised very closely with the Harbours Department and consent holder over this issue, and while the frigate has broken up, in reality, there is little that can now be done other than to continue to monitor any future movement of the vessel in future storm events. Finally, the Consents Department has made some very good progress over the last quarter working closely with the Wairarapa office to develop a high level work programme designed to “integrate” the consents functions of Wairarapa and Wellington. Some implementation work has already occurred.

The full Department Managers’ reports follow, and these provide further detail in relation to work programmes and budgets in the last quarter.

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager, Environment Management

2 Divisional Financial Reports

2.1 Financial Performance Statement

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Financial Performance Statement 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
7,528	7,374	7,374	Rates & Levies	9,831	9,831	10,037
117	133	71	Government Grants & Subsidies	94	142	165
937	1,245	1,157	External Revenue	1,467	1,601	1,364
12	11	11	Investment Revenue	14	14	16
693	715	760	Internal Revenue	1,009	1,008	974
9,287	9,478	9,373	TOTAL INCOME	12,415	12,596	12,556
			<i>less:</i>			
4,218	4,353	4,490	Personnel Costs	5,986	5,859	5,757
807	983	955	Materials,Supplies & Services	1,311	1,441	1,135
158	150	140	Travel & Transport Costs	186	206	235
887	925	1,026	Contractor & Consultants	1,502	1,379	1,631
4	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	5
1,382	1,399	1,459	Internal Charges	1,993	1,964	1,955
7,456	7,810	8,070	Total Direct Expenditure	10,978	10,849	10,718
-	-	5	Financial Costs	7	-	-
1	9	-	Bad Debts	-	-	(8)
933	972	972	Corporate & Department Overheads	1,296	1,296	1,243
240	259	301	Depreciation	401	374	323
(28)	(1)	(24)	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets	(24)	(9)	(60)
1,146	1,239	1,254	TOTAL INTERNAL CHARGES	1,680	1,661	1,498
8,602	9,049	9,324	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,658	12,510	12,216
685	429	49	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(243)	86	340

2.1.1 Revenue

Year to date revenue variances increases

Total Revenue at \$9,478,000 is some \$105,000 more than our budget target of \$9,373,000.

- Most of the increase arises from Meridian's wind farm consent application and the attendant commissioners' costs (recoverable);
- Additional notified consents processed for a major activity – e.g. Meridian notified consent (\$196,000);
- Biodiversity initiatives - additional grant funds towards our from the DoC (\$51,000);
- Ministry for the Environment contribution towards monitoring air quality (\$34,000); and
- Part-recovery of the wave rider buoy charges (\$16,000).

Year to date revenue variances decreases

- Reduced income from the Wairarapa - investigations and consent processing (\$95,000);

- Reduced call on Harbour's and Resource Investigation's staff time with consent monitoring (\$32,000); and
- A reduced grant from Maritime NZ (\$20,000).

Changes to forecast for year ended 30 June 2006

- Notified consents – the Meridian consent application came in slightly higher than previously estimated because of higher commissioner costs.

2.1.2 Expenditure

Year to date expenditure variances

The Division's total expenditure at \$9,049,000 is some \$275,000 (or 2.9%) less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$137,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. We assume for budgeting purposes that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- Materials, Supplies and Services costs were more than budget by \$28,000.

Meridian's resource consent applications for Project West Wind, a wind farm near Makara, have been completed. Commissioners' costs, associated with the application amounted to some \$132,000, to date, and these have been taken into account.

As previously indicated, some of the ambient air monitoring costs have been reanalysed and treated as capital instead of repairs and maintenance. However, we do not anticipate that the overall spend for that project will exceed the amount provided in our annual budget.

During the period the State of Environment Report (SER) was completed with printing costs slightly less than we budgeted (\$10,000).

- Consultant costs were less than budget by \$101,000.

Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets. These are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance. We expect that this variance will be corrected later in the year.

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Some of the projects that fall into this category are as follows:

- policy works - freshwater ecosystem work and special marine studies (\$63,000).
- investigatory works - groundwater (\$9,000) and soil analysis (\$19,000).

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$107,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with external parties there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects.

These shortfalls have been offset by the additional costs that arose from the independent review of the *Take Care* Programme (\$18,000) to confirm that it meets its anticipated educational and social outcomes.

Changes to forecast for year ended 30 June 2006

- The personnel line has been adjusted taking into account staff movements, and temporary vacancies since the previous forecast. These have been reduced by the extra personnel costs at Beacon Hill (net change a reduction of \$20,000).
- Materials – a slight increase, and this is mainly for Commissioner costs for the Meridian consent application (an additional \$42,000).
- Consultants - the forecast has been reduced taking into account the proposed reserve transfers to cover Marine protection reserve - \$44,000, and QE11 National Trust/Biodiversity work - \$130,000 (estimated).

In addition, funds allocated to Kaiwharawhara (\$20,000) are unlikely to be spent.

These, have been offset, with some an increased spend - Waiwhetu stream -\$37,500, Sustainable Business Network \$20,000 and a proposal to collect further unwanted agrichemicals (\$40,000).

2.2 Funding Impact Statement

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Funding Statement 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
683	428	48	Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(242)	87	338
240	259	301	Add Back Depreciation	401	374	323
(28)	(1)	(24)	Book (Gain)/Loss on Sale of Assets	(24)	(9)	(60)
895	686	325	Funds from Operations	135	452	601
47	5	36	Asset Disposals	36	24	84
-	-	50	New Loans	200	-	-
281	165	165	Transfer from Reserves	165	35	299
1,223	856	576	TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	536	511	984
			<i>less:</i>			
376	68	306	Asset Acquisitions	506	262	431
191	176	-	Capital Projects	-	-	235
-	2	12	Loan/Debenture Repayments	15	-	-
12	11	11	Reserve Interest Received	14	14	16
-	-	-	Transfer to Reserves	-	82	165
579	257	329	TOTAL FUNDS APPLIED	535	358	847
644	599	247	NET FUNDS SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	1	153	137

2.2.1 Capital Expenditure Items and reserve transfers

Changes to forecast for year ended 30 June 2006

Harbours – Capital expenditure of \$200,000 for the safety management systems (loan funded) has been transferred to the new financial year. The loan has not been raised nor have we incurred any attendant interest costs. Because no transactions have occurred, the 2006-07 capital and internal loan budgets will need to be adjusted.

Wairarapa – two capital items (a vehicle - \$30,000 and hydrology equipment - \$20,000) have been deferred until the new financial year. A reserve transfer, net of disposal proceeds, of \$38,000 is proposed.

Resource Policy – under-spends from 2005-06 carried over into the new financial year. These are for the Marine protection (Wairarapa beach survey) - \$44,000, and QE11 National Trust/Biodiversity works - \$130,000 (estimated).

2.3 Capital Expenditure

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Capital Expenditure Statement 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
-	-	-	Building Acquisitions	50	-	-
245	48	106	Vehicle Acquisitions	106	82	247
-	-	-	Furniture & Fittings Acquisitions	-	-	-
132	19	200	Plant Acquisitions	350	179	180
377	67	306	Total Asset Acquisitions	506	261	431
190	177	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	235
(47)	(5)	(36)	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(36)	(24)	(84)
520	239	270	Net Capital Expenditure	470	237	582

Year to date variances

The capital expenditure programme (after asset disposals) at \$239,000 is generally in line with our budget, with the exception of the vehicle replacement programme.

The Air Quality station programme, at this stage, is more advanced than anticipated in our budgets while the vehicle replacement programme is slightly behind. A harbour's vehicle has been held-over until the end of the summer. The vehicle is being used by a temporary Harbour Ranger during this period. Similarly, a vehicle in the Wairarapa due to be replaced this year has been deferred until next year.

Changes to forecast for year ended 30 June 2006

Harbour - Safety Management Systems (\$200,000)

The budget provides \$200,000 for the new Harbour Safety Management Systems by way of a loan. The acquisition and implementation of the Harbour Safety Management Systems is the next step that follows the port and harbour risk assessment. In December 2005, that assessment was completed and some formative plans formulated. However, these plans are not final and unlikely to be implemented before 30 June 2006. Accordingly, the capital expenditure

programme and loan funds have been reduced by \$200,000 with both items transferred into the next financial year (2006/07).

Wairarapa – Managers vehicle (\$18,000)

The Manager's vehicle, planned to be replaced this year, has been deferred. The vehicle has not reached the threshold at which it can be replaced (i.e. 5 years and/or 100,000 kms.).

Wairarapa – hydrology equipment (\$20,000)

The remote/telemetered water quality monitoring instrumentation upgrade has been held over until other options have been tested fully.

2.4 Unbudgeted Expenditure Items: Additional funding requirements

2.4.1 Waiwhetu Stream Project

The 2005/06 financial year has seen the amalgamation of the contaminated sediments remediation project (run by the Environment Management Division) and the floodplain management study (run by the Catchment Management Division) into one project ("The Waiwhetu Project").

As a result of this amalgamation, the sediments project has had to be advanced so that decision points that affect the flood project can be concluded by 30 June 2006. This has resulted in the need for additional funding for consultants to undertake the following work:

- Workshop to narrow down remediation options;
- Detailed assessment of the feasibility of the two "shortlisted" options; and
- Detailed chemical testing of sediments to determine acceptability for landfill disposal and acceptability of liquid waste for disposal via trade waste sewer.

The total cost of the additional work is estimated at \$75,000. The Hutt City Council has agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost. Our contribution amounts to \$37,500.

2.4.2 Sustainable Business Network

We have been working with Sustainable Business Network on a regional "sustainable business challenge", an awards programme for businesses that assist them to become more sustainable.

The Sustainable Business Challenge is a business environmental awards programme. Business receive awards for their implementation of waste reduction, energy efficiency, resource use efficiency, environmental management systems, and so on. The Challenge would be carried out in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network (SBN). In addition to awards, however, all businesses that enter receive an assessment of their environmental performance and consultant's advice from the SBN. This makes the programme different from most awards programmes – it's really designed to foster and increase business sustainability and is thus in line with GW's aims for businesses in the region.

Through funding from GW of \$20,000 we would become the cornerstone sponsor and the awards would be known as the *Greater Wellington Sustainable Business Challenge*. There are

also second and third tier sponsors. The programme has been run successfully by Environment Bay of Plenty; if we proceed with the idea we would engage the consultancy that ran the challenge in that region. We have had discussions with this person and he is available to do the task if we proceed.

The challenge is a high profile media event and includes radio and newspaper promotions. It will provide quite a bit of media coverage for GW. There is a formal dinner/event at which the awards are presented.

The cost of the programme amounts to some \$20,000. The Environment Education Department forecasted savings will be used to fund the project.

2.4.3 Beacon Hill Communications Station

One of the key recommendations of Marico's report is to improve the Beacon Hill facility, and this is intended to cover equipment, staff training and staff numbers. Currently, there are five full time permanent employees, two of who remain on the former Harbour Board terms.

While Beacon Hill has always been able to provide an adequate 24/7 service, this has come at the expense of elevated leave balances and staff working on 12 hour shifts. This is unsustainable.

To resolve this, the full-time staff complement of the station has been increased to six. Staff have since resumed working 9 hour shifts instead of the 12 hour shifts as previously. There are obvious other benefits - any risk of fatigue and human error minimised, and new staff trained to meet the requirements of the safety management systems. The financial cost is estimated at around \$50,000.

2.4.4 Collection of unwanted agrichemicals

There are still people holding unwanted agrichemicals in our Region. The MfE estimates that some 27 tonnes is held, based on the number of rural properties, experiences elsewhere in New Zealand, and what we collected in the period 2000-2002. Since 2002, a register has been kept of properties still holding unwanted chemicals, and there are currently about 50 names on the register. We estimate that the cost of collecting the chemicals from these properties is in the order of \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Accordingly, we propose to fund this from savings within the Division.

2.5 Items included in the forecast that may be re-budgeted in the 2006-07 year

2.5.1 QE11 National Trust

The QE11 National Trust has approved further covenants and we have committed funds for which we are yet to receive reimbursement claims, these amount to some \$120,000. As a consequence it is proposed to carry over the outstanding claims we estimate at \$120,000.

2.5.2 Biodiversity Projects

Greater Wellington has been successful with its proposals to complete a range of biodiversity projects with funds provided from the Department of Conservation. We estimate at year end that

a balance (unspent commitment) of \$10,000 is to be carried over into the new financial year. We have provided \$10,000 to be carried over into the 2006-07 year.

2.5.3 Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Survey

The coastal and marine ecosystem survey for the Wairarapa beaches has been delayed because the previous survey (Wellington harbour, south coast and Kapiti coast) has only just been completed. Also, because the survey needs to be completed over the summer months we plan to carry-over the un-spent budget (\$44,000) into the new financial year.

3 Departmental Financial Summaries

3.1 Total revenue

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Total Revenue 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
378	425	425	Environment Support	567	567	532
6,851	7,136	7,015	Managing Resources	9,274	9,472	9,268
1,099	1,147	1,165	Harbours	1,553	1,539	1,467
958	768	766	Environment Education	1,022	1,022	1,288
9,287	9,477	9,372	Environment 06	12,416	12,600	12,555

3.2 Total expenditure

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Total Expenditure 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
400	405	430	Environment Support	574	540	538
6,229	6,731	6,955	Managing Resources	9,450	9,331	8,877
1,141	1,172	1,172	Harbours	1,577	1,600	1,543
834	741	766	Environment Education	1,058	1,039	1,259
8,604	9,049	9,323	Environment 06	12,658	12,510	12,217

3.3 Operating Surplus/Deficit

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Operating Surplus/(Deficit) 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
(22)	21	(5)	Environment Support	(7)	27	(7)
622	405	60	Managing Resources	(176)	141	392
(42)	(25)	(7)	Harbours	(24)	(61)	(76)
124	27	-	Environment Education	(36)	(17)	29
683	428	48	Environment 06	(242)	90	338

3.4 Funding Impact

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Funding Surplus/(Deficit) 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
(17)	26	-	Environment Support	-	34	-
385	521	173	Managing Resources	-	140	-
14	5	47	Harbours	-	(38)	(33)
263	48	27	Environment Education	-	19	171
645	599	248	Environment 06	-	156	139

3.5 Capital Expenditure

Last Year Actual YTD \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	Environment Net Capital Expenditure 9 Months ended 31 March 2006	FY Budget \$000	FY Forecast \$000	Last Year Actual FY \$000
-	-	-	Environment Support	-	-	-
464	215	225	Managing Resources	225	193	501
(3)	24	45	Harbours	245	45	31
58	-	-	Environment Education	-	-	49
519	239	270	Environment 06	470	238	582

4 Department Managers' Reports

4.1 Environment Education Department – Geoff Skene

4.1.1 *Take Action*

Term 1 Schools

Term one schools are progressing well with both guided and self guided schools completing their outdoor investigations and students working on ways to take action in their local environment. Self-guided schools this term are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Tawhai (Stokes Valley), Tui Glen (Stokes Valley), Koranui (Stokes Valley), and Taita Central. The guided schools are Ngaio, St Patrick's (Wellington) and Mauriceville.

New programme

Work continues on the Air/Transport *Take Action* programme. A workable first draft of the teaching resource has been written and has been tested with a focus group of teachers. This version of *Take Action* provides an excellent opportunity to promote travel planning to schools, as well as cycling and walking options. These parts of the programme are being developed with the travel planning team of the Transport Division.

Number of schools increases

Since my last report Martinborough School has confirmed for term four as a guided school and Taita Central as a self-guided school. This takes the total number for 2006 to 24 schools. We are continuing to field enquiries from interested schools, with half a dozen waiting to be involved, or booking for 2007.

Youth Environment School 2006 and Youth Environment Forum

Greater Wellington is supporting three students from Paraparaumu College's environmental group to attend the Youth Environment School at Lincoln University in April. The school aims to raise the environmental awareness of young people and increase their knowledge of sustainable development. It provides an opportunity to study environmental issues such as water quality in a scientific manner and enables students to discuss the ethical and social dimensions of the use of natural resources. After attending the school, the students we are assisting will work with *Take Action* schools in the Kapiti area to inspire those students to pursue their interest in environmental matters once they reach secondary school.

We are also assisting the Ministry for the Environment to stage the annual Youth Environment Forum in April. This event brings teenagers from across New Zealand to Wellington to discuss environmental issues and meet key decision makers and influencers. We have run a process for selecting three representatives from the Wellington region and will be assisting with the field trip looking at the Waiwhetu Stream and Petone beach.

4.1.2 *Take Charge*, business sustainability etc

Majestic Building Waste Reduction Trial

This project will be reported to the May meeting of the Environment Committee.

SMF Application

We are expecting to hear about our application (made with WCC) to the SMF to run waste reduction exercises in Wellington office buildings in mid April.

EnviroSmart

EnviroSmart, a national cleaner production programme for manufacturing businesses, was launched on February 28 by the Prime Minister. We have signed up to the programme to make it available in the Wellington region. It is expected that 40 businesses will do the programme in this region over the next three years. The programme is delivered by Landcare Research and is paid for by contributions from regional and district councils and sponsors. Businesses participating also pay around \$2,500 over the three years of the programme, depending on where they are located. At the end of the programme, businesses come out with the Enviromark Gold certification of their environmental performance. This programme will be reported to the Environment Committee in May.

Get Sustainable Challenge

The *Get Sustainable Challenge* is a business programme run by the Sustainable Business Network (SBN). The Challenge is designed to help businesses become more sustainable and it includes an awards component which recognises businesses that have made progress along this path. The awards assess sustainable business performance against economic, social and environmental criteria.

In order to raise the profile of business sustainability in the region and increase the pool of companies undertaking business sustainability initiatives, we have joined with the Sustainable Business Network to run the *Get Sustainable Challenge* in this region between May and August this year. The Challenge will be delivered by the SBN with Greater Wellington as the principal sponsor. Additional sponsorship from other local authorities and businesses is currently being determined.

Businesses that take part are assessed using an interview process and their entry is prepared for them by a trained SBN consultant. In this way they are introduced to the criteria in an informative and time effective manner. Sign off for the content and submission of the entry is in the hands of the business.

Businesses receive feedback from the judges in a report that highlights key opportunities to improve their performance over the next 12 months. Recommendations are accompanied by a range of programmes and resources provided by the SBN that can help the business to implement the recommended sustainability improvements.

Website

Michelle has continued working on adding to the information on our website for businesses that want to become more sustainable. Two drafts have been completed and most of the text loaded into KLONE ready to go live.

GW waste reduction

The Bokashi waste recycling system for Greater Wellington's head office has been operating since the start of February. Approximately 100kgs of organic waste has been processed by the Bokashi bins, diverting it from landfill. Thus far this system has been running on the goodwill of a small group of staff who spend 15 minutes each a fortnight processing the waste. I would like to see this system taken over by a more appropriate commercial operation.

4.1.3 Community and restoration

Corporate volunteers

In March, 66 people from ERMA spent a day at the Queen Elizabeth Park weeding. This event was staged jointly with the Parks and Forests Department.

Take Care

Three training events for care group members have been held. On 7 February a workshop on wetland plant identification was attended by 25 people. On 28 February volunteers from all over the region attended two workshops on coastal plant propagation. As part of Volunteer Awareness Week, we supported six care group volunteers to attend a workshop by Volunteer Wellington on ways to increase the size and commitment of their groups. Staff have been planning for Restoration Day, the annual celebration and training event for care groups, which will be held on May 27.

Groups have continued their regular activities clearing weeds, fencing, and maintaining their plant stocks in preparation for the planting season.

The Plant of the Week display by the café seems to be proving quite successful as an awareness raising tool.

I have been undertaking an analysis of care group activity in preparation for the review of community engagement. This will assist to give more accurate assessments of the scope of the programme and the ecosystems in which this work is being carried out.

Waikanae Estuary

This group has made a successful application to the Government's Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds and has been awarded \$24,000 for pest plant and animal control.

4.2 Resource Policy Department – Nicola Shorten

4.2.1 Policy and Plans

Regional Freshwater Plan

The final outstanding appeal on Plan change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan is close to resolution. A new rule requires resource consent to drive heavy vehicles on stopbanks. The Council appealed the decision of the Environment Court to exclude a length of stopbank within the Lower Wairarapa Development Scheme from the rule. The High Court has allowed the council's decision to the extent that conditions should be included in the rule that prevent future changed use that could have unpredictable consequences. The Council is currently working through possible conditions on the rule with the respondent before returning to the High Court for a final judgement.

Progress Plan change 2 – water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment

Three submitters on the plan change attended the hearing on 27 February 2006. The Hearing Committee has prepared an interim decision which has been sent to submitters. Submitters have been asked to comment on the interim decision by Wednesday 19 April 2006. Once their comments have been considered, the Committee will finalise its decision.

Efficiency and effectiveness reporting

The evaluation of provisions in the Regional Freshwater Plan has been completed (as required by s35 of the RMA). A report to the Environment Committee has been prepared and will go to the 12 April meeting. The report recommends a number of actions, the most immediate is for staff to investigate appropriate plan changes for identified fully allocated resources that no more water should be taken from (3 groundwater zones and 7 rivers).

Regional Coastal Plan

The Porirua City Council has started work on a management plan for Titahi Bay beach and reserves. Greater Wellington has been invited to become part of a working group to provide input into the development of the Management Plan. I attended the first meeting of this group with a range of other stakeholders, and many of the issues identified (water quality, erosion control structures etc) are relevant to Greater Wellington as well as the Porirua City Council. Piotr will now take over attendance and input into this working group.

Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Review

The two weekly RPS Review Steering Group meetings continue. The project plan runs to a fairly tight timeline - main areas of work on this project this quarter have been:

- Evaluation reports for each chapter of the current Regional Policy Statement (RPS) have been completed and are being reviewed. Note that the iwi chapter has not yet been completed.

- Two Councillor workshops have taken place – the purpose of the workshops was to bring Councillors up to date with the RMA requirements, the RPS process, and to provide the opportunity to discuss the issues and options for the ‘new’ RPS.
- Meetings have been held with staff from each of the territorial authorities in the region. The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss the RPS process, gather feedback on the current RPS and thoughts about the ‘new’ RPS, and to talk about their involvement in the process.
- Meetings have been held with Greater Wellington staff about the review process (Wairarapa and Wellington offices).
- Work has started on a communications plan for the RPS review, starting with the discussion document.
- A workshop was held with members of Ara Tahi on 15 March to discuss the review process, involvement and contribution from Ara Tahi.
- Meetings have been held with the Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment.
- John is working hard drafting the discussion document. A copy of the draft discussion document will be forwarded to Councillors prior to the next workshop, scheduled for 19 April.
- We are going to have to contract someone to work on the Iwi provisions because Jason is too busy, and there is no sign of a replacement for Graham. We are working on the project brief for this, and I have contacted a couple of people who may be able to do the work.
- A letter has been sent from Cr Buchanan to the Mayors of the TAs suggesting a meeting with their Council (political level) about the RPS review. This would include a presentation and discussion about the process, discussion document and consultation. It would also include relevant information from *Measuring up*.

Other

The draft efficiency and effectiveness report for the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land (required by s.32 RMA) has been completed and is being reviewed internally.

4.2.2 Water

Riparian Strategy

With the exception of two pilot programmes on this side of the region (Kakariki and Karori streams), implementation of this Strategy is the responsibility of the Wairarapa Operations department.

Discussions with Jonathan Smith (Kakariki Stream landowner), we have decided that we will only be maintaining existing plantings (weed control and infill planting) this financial year. This is because he is proceeding with discussions with KCDC about stormwater management

upstream, including a possible detention pond on his property where the next stage of planting was planned. Monitoring of the stream at this site is continuing.

This year's budget for plants at the Karori Stream was spent in July 2005. Mike Joy fished the stream in March and found no koaro where previously they had been abundant. There are three projects going on upstream of the bike park – a boardwalk, gabion rock protection and the major park development. All of these works were consented by Greater Wellington but the compliance has been very poor. Kirsten has raised this with the Consents Management Department, but no action has yet been taken.

Regional Action Plan (Fonterra Accord): Kirsten attended a nutrient budgeting field day at a Masterton farm to speak about our regional plans and rules. There was good attendance from Wairarapa farmers who are being encouraged to get nutrient budgets done for their farms. The day was organised by Fonterra.

Other

We have just received the latest information about the National Water Programme of Action. There is no detail at this stage, but the big hits will be:

- A National Policy Statement on managing increasing demands for water
- A National Environmental Standard for methods and devices for measuring water take and use
- A National Environmental Standard on methods for establishing environmental flows
- The potential value of and options for a National Policy Statement on nutrients and microbial contaminants and sediment will be considered

4.2.3 Biodiversity

Wetland programme

Wetland database

Newly found wetlands are being added to the inventory as they are discovered.

Wetland incentives and advice

Along with staff from the Biosecurity and Land Management departments, Mel organised and ran a 'wetland and stream' afternoon at the 'Short Straw' Café in Whiteman's Valley. The day was very successful, with about 30 people attending. Mel also gave a guided walk at Nga Manu reserve as part of their summer programme and a lecture on wetlands for the Kapiti U3A (University of the Third Age).

Another four people joined the wetland incentives programme this quarter, making a total 81.

Mel has also written a report for the Henley Lakes Trust on management of their wetlands. Her key recommendation was that they replace the current drains with 'treatment wetlands' (also known as reed beds) to clean the water before it reaches their ponds. They may not follow this

advice as they would need to spend some of their funds on an environmental engineer to do the design work.

Mel and Paula Loader (Environment Education) organised and ran an Estuarine Wetland Plant Identification Day at Waikanae Estuary, and Mel ran another Wetland Identification Course for the Consents Management Department in February

Wetland Care Groups

Waimeha Care Group: Most of the group turned up to the plant ID day at Waikanae – and enjoyed it thoroughly. Otherwise they are still making good progress with their fortnightly working bees.

Fensham Care Group: The group has been approached to give a speech at the next restoration day in May. They have completed their yearly monitoring report. (NB: the group no longer receives care group funding)

O Te Pua Care Group: No progress. Mel is in the process of ‘winding up’ this group.

Other

Last year Mel attended a meeting in Hamilton about the FORST funded wetland research project that we are putting a small amount of money and staff time into. Mel has agreed to chair the six member ‘advisory group’ that provides feedback the science team on the ‘usefulness’ of their research proposal.

As part of this project Bev Clarkson (Landcare Research, Hamilton) and Brian Sorrell (NIWA, Christchurch) are going to spend three days in Wellington in May. While they are down here they are going to:

- set up monitoring in about four wetlands (this includes permanent plot sites, crude hydrological monitoring and soil samples)
- go on a ‘one-day tour’ of wetlands in the region, to get a handle on the nature of the wetlands in the region and some of restoration issues.

Freshwater ecosystems

Concept plans have been prepared for fish passes at nine locations on five streams. The sites were chosen on the basis that enhancing fish passage would be relatively straight forward and there is community interest in improving fish passage at the locations. Consent applications are currently being prepared for the construction of fish passes at five of these sites.

Marine biodiversity

The report from the Cawthron Institute on the survey of the intertidal zones of the Kapiti Coast, Plimmerton Beach, Titahi Bay, and Makara estuary has been signed off. A summary of the report is being reported to the Environment Committee at their 12 April meeting. A similar study is now needed for the Wairarapa to complete the region, and this will be done over the coming summer. Because the Cawthron report is so late, we will need to move this year’s budget to next financial year to do this.

The draft coastal and marine biodiversity action plan has been updated with the priority work areas and distributed to the working group for comment. The next step is to get approval from the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee so that the plan can be released for consultation. We won't take this step until we know the future of the biodiversity function generally.

Project Kaiwharawhara

A number of meetings of the various groups that are part of Project Kaiwharawhara have been held. John is working with WCC and the group on the next lot of signs to be put up around the catchment near streams - making the point about the need to care for the streams as they are part of the wider catchment and Project Kaiwharawhara.

We organised and hosted a night-time trip along the stream and saw various endangered fish (Murray and Mike Joy from Massey Uni led this).

The Care Groups are all ticking over. Churton Park (new group) will be doing a site clean-up at their intended planting site on 8th April, followed by three planting days. They are enthusiastic at this stage and are active in developing community interest and participation. John is working closely with WCC on this project as it affects/involves land owned by WCC. It also fits with WCC's Community Programme and therefore gets time and plants from them.

The Glenside Group are preparing for their new site, which is not far downstream from the Churton Park one. The Glenside group have been helping the Churton Park Group with plants, advice and labour over the last year and that's a really positive outcome. The Glenside group have over 3000 plants ready, and will supply some to Churton Park.

The Otari/Trelissick Park Group has been a bit up and down with where it will plant and when, thrown by the withdrawal of a potential sponsor's support for the fish passages, and then revived by WCC's support (through Capacity) for the same work. Murray and Graeme Campbell are working on designs and resource consents for this work so that it can happen in the next two months, allowing the site to be planted this winter.

Pauatahanui project

Tim convened another meeting of the Pauatahanui Interagency Group, and has attended the monthly PICT meetings.

Waiwhetu Project

Tim has attended three meetings of Waiwhetu Working Group this quarter, and a number of public consultation meetings. Tim and I also attend ongoing meetings of the Steering Group (this includes Geoff Dick, John Eyles, and officers from HCC).

In summary, four papers are to be presented to the Committee:

- The project manager's report which outlines the progress made with the project since the last WSAC meeting in November;
- Scoping reports for flood protection defences for both the Awamutu and lower Waiwhetu streams. The Committee is asked to endorse the flood protection options and concepts developed in the scoping reports to be taken to the option design stage.

- An update on the ongoing contamination of the Waiwhetu Stream from historic in-stream sediments, stormwater discharges from the Gracefield area and groundwater.
- An update on the options to remediate contaminated sediments. The Committee is asked to endorse Option D (Instream Remediation) as the preferred option for the preliminary design of the flood protection works on the lower Waiwhetu.

A quick summary of the remediation option assessment: we are really looking at Option A (Diversion through Hutt Park) and Option D (Instream Remediation). Work is nearly complete on determining the costs and feasibility of each option. Option A involves abandoning the existing alignment by diverting the Waiwhetu Stream through Hutt Park, and capping the contaminated sediments in place. Option D involves retaining the existing stream alignment, removing and replacing the contaminated sediments with clean material. The costs of each option are higher than have been estimated in the past. The ball park cost for Option A is \$21.4M and for Option D is \$14.4M.

We have had trouble getting iwi involvement in the project. John Eyes (Project Manager) continues to work on this.

A contract has been prepared for work associated with the MfE part funded project assessing suitability of *Electrokinetic Remediation* to stream contaminants.

Other

Greater Wellington is one of three regional councils contributing to a national research programme looking at developing and testing policy intended to encourage private landowners to voluntarily (and without monetary incentives) improve biodiversity management on their land. The project is funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and is led by social researchers from AgResearch and the University of Waikato. The project recognises that the success of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy depends upon the public recognising the need to change their behaviour and become more active in biodiversity activities.

Greater Wellington has selected the Ohariu Valley as a pilot catchment for its contribution to the project. We are at the very early planning stages of the project and have not yet approached the Valley community. The results of the project will be of value to our biodiversity programmes working with private landowners.

Two meetings of the Biodiversity Co-ordinating Group (BCG) have been held to discuss the structure of our biodiversity function in the future. A paper has been completed for discussion at EMT.

Other work for Tim this quarter has been:

- One meeting each of Wellington and Wairarapa Land Protection Forum held
- Meeting of “Biodiversity Practitioners” group (Greater Wellington staff) held
- Landowner visits to discuss legal protection and biodiversity management issues
- Organised and ran a Landcare Research Ltd/Greater Wellington “partnership” meeting.

4.2.4 Energy

Our involvement with WCC on a project looking at the impacts on infrastructure from climate change (being run by Nigel Jollands from the NZ Centre for Ecology and Economics at Massey) continues. Our main role is data provision and a minimal amount of time on project steering. John was interviewed along with Crs Buchanan and McDavitt recently as a part of the project.

John, Murray Kennedy and I recently met with the consultants doing work for EECA looking at renewable energy potential in the region.

4.2.5 Hazards

It's Our Fault project (Ohariu component)

This project is running behind time. A draft report was due by Friday 7 April 2006 but trenching is now scheduled for May and a draft report will likely not be ready until early July.

Wairarapa work

Martinborough Fault project

GNS was contracted to do this work and it was due to be completed by Friday 19 May. Unfortunately this project is also running behind time - it is likely that a draft report will be completed by late May with a final report ready early to mid June (2-3 weeks late).

Wairarapa fault trace project

It has been agreed with CDC and SWDC that work is needed on the faults in the Wairarapa (similar to the Upper Hutt fault trace project) which can hopefully be included in the combined District Plan (as a plan variation). Most funding will come from Greater Wellington with contributions from CDC and SWDC.

An invitation to tender was placed in the Dominion Post on Saturday 18 March and tenders closed Friday 31 March. We are hoping that the project will be finished by the end of August.

Coastal erosion regional review

Harry Livesey (student) completed a draft report reviewing coastal erosion literature and compiling information on what erosion has occurred, where and when. Helen is now finalising the report.

GIS in emergency management survey

Helen and John attended a workshop in Auckland with a range of GIS and emergency management people to discuss the best way forward in producing best practice guidelines for GIS in emergency management. The meeting outlined what areas would need covering and discussed the best ways of compiling the information. At present we are relying on voluntary contributions but we are also putting together a proposal for CDEM Groups, LGNS and MCDEM in the hope of getting some funding for compilation and printing costs.

Upper Hutt City fault trace project

This project was completed on 8 December, before time and on budget. Helen met with staff at Upper Hutt City Council in March to discuss the next steps in the plan change process. KCDC is currently undertaking a similar plan change (to be notified in May or June) and the Upper Hutt City Council should follow a similar process to what Kapiti have done. This includes sending out a “fact sheet” to affected landowners on the study and plan change and how it might affect them. A draft plan change will then be developed and this will also be sent out to affected landowners for comments before the plan change is notified. This will hopefully reduce the number of submissions after notification.

Helen is now writing up the fact sheet for landowners and Upper Hutt City Council is compiling a list of affected landowners.

Other

Strategy: Helen is working on a Hazard Research Strategy - the SER highlighted the need for more consequence-based research (rather than research based on the natural process side of hazards). This will enable us to better report on our risk (“state” in SER-speak) and is also essential for emergency management (anticipating what the consequences of certain events might be). We may also focus on cost sharing with TAs on local hazard/risk assessments. Helen is currently getting feedback on this from TA planners, emergency management officers and engineering lifelines people.

Hazards Newsletter: The November hazards newsletter became the December hazards newsletter as Helen was waiting for the web version of *Measuring up* to go live before she promoted it.

Hazards Management Group: The second Regional Hazard Management Group meeting was held on 30 November/1 December in Wellington. It was very well attended with most regional councils represented. Helen spoke briefly about our SER and RPS review, and many topics were discussed (mainly centred around a lack of prudent land use planning in New Zealand).

4.2.6 Statutory Resource Management Work – District Plans and notified consent applications

The Environment Committee “Resource Policy Department Report” on 23 February provides a summary of resource applications and plan changes received and submissions made over the last period.

Since the last Committee Report three notified resource consent applications have been received. No submissions have been made. We also received one request for written approval and two requests for comment on non-notified consent applications. These requests have been responded to.

Greater Wellington has also been invited to attend three Environment Court mediation meetings in the last two months. Two of the meetings were in relation to a request for written approval for a cleanfill in a wetland at Te Marua. Greater Wellington was unable to provide written approval due to the impact on a wetland. The written approval had been initiated by the Court to resolve an enforcement order placed on the cleanfill by Upper Hutt District Council. Greater Wellington was therefore invited to join the mediation proceeding. The third meeting was with regard to an

appeal, to which Greater Wellington had become a party, on a decision by Kapiti Coast District Council. The decision was to amend a boundary to an ecological site at Te Hāpua Road, Te Horo. Greater Wellington joined the appeal in support of KCDC's decision. Melanie Dixon has attended all three mediation meetings as the sites were wetlands where she had particular knowledge.

Greater Wellington has also been in discussion with applicants to two notified resource consent applications where Greater Wellington made a submission. The first was as a result of concerns with the accuracy of hazard fault line information provided in an application for a play centre on Pharazyn Street, Melling. Helen Grant and Tami attended a meeting with the applicant to discuss Greater Wellington's concerns. A hearing on the application was subsequently delayed while the applicant responded to concerns, including those raised by Greater Wellington. The second discussion is was around the preparation of a Mitigation Plan prepared to respond to submissions by Greater Wellington and the Department of Conservation. The application was for a subdivision at James Cook Drive, Whitby. The Mitigation Plan has been reviewed and Tami has proposed a number of changes to ensure the Plan would be effective. The Mitigation Plan however, does not address Greater Wellington's fundamental concern about the subdivision design and resulting impacts on significant vegetation and long-term stormwater quality.

4.2.7 Other

I organised and hosted a meeting of the Regional Council Policy and Planning Managers. I have now passed on the convening of this group. I also convene the Coastal Planners group and am in the process of passing on this role.

Work continues on the WRS.

4.3 Consents Management Department – Nigel Corry

4.3.1 Summary

Consents Management has received 137 consent applications this quarter (compared with 153 received in the last quarter) and issued 100 consents (compared with 137 issued in the last quarter). Thirty-six of the applications received were for bore consents (compared with 64 in the last quarter) – all from the Kapiti Coast.

4.3.2 Median processing times (Includes time extensions under S37)

Non-notified consents

The median time for processing non-notified consents was nine working days. This is a very good turnaround time reflecting in part the ‘blackout’ period over the Christmas break, and also the large number of bore applications we traditionally get in this quarter. Overall, the median processing time for the year to date is 10 working days (excluding section 37 time extensions), which meets our KPI in this area.

Notified consents

We worked on a large number of notified consents this quarter which are summarised below:

- Hutt City Council (Seaview wastewater treatment plan renewal consents)
- Meridian Energy (project *West Wind*)
- Wellington Marine Conservation Centre (Aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point)
- Whitby Coastal Estates (81 lot subdivision in James Cook Drive, Whitby)
- GWRC (Biosecurity) (To discharge Endathol across GW region for aquatic pest plant control)
- Hilton Hotel (Hotel development on the Queens Wharf ‘outer T’)
- Eurocell sawmilling limited
- Western Wastewater Treatment Plant renewals

We are well into the Court determined timetable to hear the Meridian **Consent appeals**. A week of Court facilitated mediation concluded on 7 April, and evidence must be exchanged by 19 May. The Environment Court hearing is scheduled to commence in the week of 6 June, and is likely to take up to a month to conclude. This will be an expensive process for both GW and the WCC; however, GW will absorb only 25% of the overall legal costs associated with the appeals, reflecting the balance of GW issues that are subject to appeal.

The **Hilton Hotel** consent application is likely to be heard in June or July of this year. We received nearly 1000 submissions on this consent, the vast majority in opposition to the proposal. Two of the submissions in opposition were also accompanied by large petitions (signed by over 1800 people in total). We have contracted an independent consultant to liaise with the Wellington City Council who are preparing an assessment of effects for those areas which would normally lie within the City Council’s jurisdiction, such as noise, amenity, traffic and wind. When this application does eventually get to hearing, it will be very high profile. We are planning to use at least two independent commissioners with extensive local authority experience to sit on the hearing panel for this consent.

As you are aware, the hearing panel for the **Marine Conservation Centre** were unable to make a formal decision on the application, and a new hearing is required. We are working with Wellington City Council on this as a matter of urgency, and hope that a new hearing will be able to take place in late May. There was a bit of publicity around the 'decision' immediately after it was announced, but not much since. However, I now know that there is likely to be follow up media reports based around the costs and time taken to process these consents to this point. Both GW and Wellington City Council will have to absorb costs of the re-hearing as to pass these on would be both unreasonable and likely subject to challenge.

The **Eurocell Sawmilling** application has received front page publicity in the Hutt News. While we are not too worried about the actual effects of the discharge from the proposed wood fired boiler, this is in some part a test case for our interpretation of the new National Environmental Standard for Air so we are taking a cautious approach to our assessment at the moment. The local community has gotten themselves very organised around this application and it will be important for us to manage community perception as we progress this consent.

We successfully negotiated out the consents for the **Seaview Wastewater Treatment plant** and are now working with the Minster of Conservation representative to get final sign off for the restricted coastal activities which require consent.

Limited notified consents

We have now successfully negotiating out the Pacific Wallcoverings Limited consent application (renewal of an industrial air discharge), and are still hopeful that the Endathol consent will also be negotiated out.

4.3.3 Appeals

Ongoing appeals

The appeal on the joint GW/Wellington City Council decision in relation to the Ridvan Gardens consent has now nearly been resolved via mediation and it is unlikely that we will need to go to court on this matter. We are hoping that a consent order will be issued in the next month or so.

New Appeals

An abatement notice issued in late December last year on New Zealand Forestry Limited, (requiring them to remove bridge abutments that were installed without consent) was appealed by the recipient of the notice. A similar notice serve by the Wellington City Council was also appealed by New Zealand Forestry Limited. At the request of New Zealand Forestry Group, and with the agreement of both Councils, the Court issued a stay of the abatement notices and we are currently in discussions with the New Zealand Forestry group working through bridge design and engineering details to determine the abutment's stability. Depending on the outcome of this process we will either continue to seek the removal of the abutment or to notify an application to construct the bridge.

4.3.4 Compliance issues

General

We have had more odour from **Taylor Preston** in the last quarter, and have recently served an infringement notice for an offensive or objectionable odour in December of last year. We had a fair degree of correspondence recently with the **Gorge Action Group (GAG)** who, after being quite satisfied with the Council's response to odour from the plant, have again lost patience with our efforts. We are meeting senior Taylor Preston management next week to discuss potential plant improvement, and after this will then have another meeting with GAG representatives. It is quite possible that given recent Environment Court outcomes in relation to rendering plant odour that GW has a stronger enforcement position than ever before in relation to ongoing odour from this plant.

We are also currently investigating a discharge from the Silverstream landfill that emptied the entire contents of two sediment retention ponds into Halls Creek and ultimately the Hutt River. Apparently through contractor negligence, this was a serious discharge that occurred unabated for a considerable period of time.

Abatement Notices

We did not serve any abatement notices in the last quarter.

Infringement Notices

We have issued three infringement notices this quarter. Details of the notices served are below:

- Earthworks Marlborough, for a discharge of sediment laden water from earthworks at Karori Park.
- Taylor Preston limited for an offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary of their property.
- Wellington City Council for an offensive or objectionable odour from the Northern Landfill.

4.3.5 Training

Over the last three months staff have attended training in relation to health and safety, and a number of new staff also had their noses 'calibrated'.

4.3.6 Other issues

Staff

We have recently employed Jason Pene as a Resource Advisor. Jason has worked for us before, and has recently returned from overseas. We are pleased to have him back as his prior work experience with us and while overseas has allowed him to hit the ground running.

As you know, I have also appointed Al Cross as Acting Manager while I start the recruitment process to replace myself!

Iwi Non-notified Contracts

Iwi non-notified contracts expired at the beginning of this quarter, and now require review. Discrepancies in the way these contracts are applied between Iwi in the Western and Wairarapa sides of the region have been raised, and we should address these issues when the contracts are renegotiated.

Building Act

The discussion document around standards and criteria for accreditation as a building consent authority has now been released by the Department of Building and Housing for comment. There is still a high degree of disquiet amongst regional councils about the requirements of the building act and a regional authority working group has been established to provide guidance and coordination for all regional councils when submitting on this document. Submissions close on 19 May 2006. The requirements of this piece of legislation are potentially significant, and it may be that some external resources are required to ensure that we are able to manage to implement the final outcomes of the accreditation system.

4.4 Resource Investigations Department – John Sherriff

4.4.1 Health and safety

The initial six month trial of the Solitas system has now been completed. We are currently assessing the effectiveness of this system for ensuring that our staff are monitored while carrying out their duties. Our assessment will be passed to the Council's Health and Safety committee. We will continue to use the Solitas system until a final decision has been made about how we will cover this important health and safety requirement in the future.

4.4.2 Laboratory tender

Our current contracts for freshwater sample collection and laboratory analyses expire on 30 June 2006. We are currently going through the tender process to find contractors to provide these services for a three year period 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2009. There has been good interest shown in the tender and we are confident that continued cost effective services can be attained as a result of this process.

4.4.3 Stormwater

The Stormwater Action Plan steering group, comprising staff from both GW and territorial authorities, has met twice. The group has clarified the issues they feel need to be covered by the action plan, and identified a range of actions for inclusion in the document.

A second round of sediment quality sampling has been completed in Porirua Harbour. The objective of this work is to see if there are any identifiable trends in sediment quality in the inlet over time. The results will be presented when they are available.

In May Juliet Milne is presenting a paper to the national stormwater conference. This paper is a synopsis of the work we have done in and around Porirua Harbour, including Pauatahanui Inlet, over the past few years.

4.4.4 Air quality

Our second mobile traffic emissions monitoring station has been completed. It was used as part of the Be the Difference promotion on air quality at the Westpac Trust Stadium on March 18. It is now being deployed at Melling.

4.4.5 Titahi Bay

PCC have drafted a proposed bylaw to control vehicles use on the part of Titahi Bay Beach which comes under their jurisdiction. This bylaw is consistent with the rules in the Regional Coastal Plan.

4.4.6 *Take Charge*

The Pollution Control team have completed the Drain 6 *Take Charge* exercise. The results of this are being reported to the Environment Committee at the next meeting. This is the first time we have applied *Take Charge* on an areal basis and the outcome has been favourable. We are currently determining which area to address next. We are currently two staff down in the Pollution Control area and this has the effect of reducing the time available to implement *Take*

Charge. Once staff are back to their full compliment and the new staff have received appropriate training we will initiate the next *Take Charge* project.

Staff undertook a site specific *Take Charge* assessment for the Wellington Zoo. This was done in response to an approach by Zoo management.

4.4.7 Construction guidelines

We are currently establishing a working group with territorial authority staff to investigate the development of some construction management plan guidelines. These guidelines would outline the range of issues which site developers need to address in either preparing resource consent applications or undertaking site development works. They include things like managing contaminated soil on site, controlling dust and silt, traffic etc.

The initiative arose from concerns we had about the way contamination issues were not being addressed by developers. Subsequent discussions with territorial authority staff identified that there were lots more issues of a similar nature and that an integrated solution was viable.

4.4.8 Agrichemical chemical collection

The Ministry for the Environment recently announced a three year extension of their programme which funds the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals. In simple terms, MfE will pay for the disposal of unwanted agricultural chemicals collected by regional councils.

We collected 22 tonnes of unwanted chemicals from rural properties in our region in 2000-2002. MfE have estimated that an additional 25 tonnes of chemical may still be on rural properties in the Region.

Since our major collection project we have been keeping a register of people with chemicals they want to dispose of. There are now about 50 names on that list.

Serious consideration needs to be taken into whether we want to do further work in this area and take advantage of MfE's funding to dispose of chemicals.

Options range from collecting material from the people on our register (a rough estimate of cost \$40,000) to repeating a full blown, region wide collection programme.

4.5 Harbours Department – Mike Pryce

4.5.1 Port and Harbour Safety Review

The Marico Wellington Harbour risk assessment report was presented to the Environment Committee on 23 February 2006, and John Riding (of Marico) presented the findings to the Committee.

4.5.2 Navigation aids

All operated satisfactorily.

New storage batteries were installed in Pencarrow lighthouse on 17 March.

A diving inspection of the mooring chains of Barrett Reef buoy was made on 18 March (after the southerly storm on 3 & 4 March). Some stud-damage and wear was noted.

4.5.3 Beacon Hill

Daryl Edwards was appointed to the Beacon Hill staff on 24 January 2006, followed by John Travers on 20 February. With six now on the roster there will no longer be any need to operate 12-hour shifts.

4.5.4 F69 Wellington

The hulk of the frigate *F69 Wellington*, successfully scuttled off Island Bay on 13 November 2005, broke-up into three main sections during a southerly storm on 3 and 4 March 2006. There was much media interest in this. A "no-diving, no-anchoring" prohibition was put in force around the area until 16 March to provide time for the Police National Dive Squad to examine and film in detail the underwater condition of the wreck. This period enabled commercial dive companies to re-map the wreck-site and change their instructions to divers.

4.5.5 Shipping news

Bad Weather

The southerly storm on 3 and 4 March resulted in ferry sailings being cancelled and inbound large commercial ships being diverted or delayed until the conditions at the harbour entrance and Cook Strait abated.

Strait Shipping

On 11 March, the Company's "new" ferry *Monte Stello* arrived in Auckland and went into drydock there on 14 March. The ship should enter service across Cook Strait in early April.

Toll-Interislander

The new RFT3 ferry terminal was used from 20 February 2006. It will not be fully operational until April 2006, when the shore escalator system is completed.

4.6 Planning and Resources Department – Ted Taylor

4.6.1 Consents and compliance

Consent Statistics

For this quarter we have received 69 consent applications and issued 42 consents. This compares with 64 applications received and 45 consents issued in the same period last year.

The median processing time (excluding s37 extensions) for non-notified consents for this period was 12 working days. Overall the median processing time for the year to date is 10 working days which meets our KPI for this function.

The notified consents we are currently processing are;

- A E & S W Benton Partnership: To take groundwater in the Battersea area, specifically from the Kahutara aquifer which is subject to a moratorium. A hearing in front of two commissioners was held on 11 October. This decision has been appealed.
- N & E E Reid: An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. Twenty-nine submissions have been received. This is a large piggery with discharges equivalent to a large town. A pre-hearing meeting was held on 13 March attended by around 50 people. While there was open and free discussion from all sides at this meeting there was no move to reaching any agreement. We are now working towards a hearing later in the year.

Appeals and Objections

Masterton District Council

Masterton District Council has been granted a stay in proceedings in their Environment Court appeal against the decision to decline consent for the proposed stage two of the Castlepoint seawall. This is to allow them to prepare an integrated foreshore management plan. The district council have contracted Opus Consultants to develop the plan and have included us as a party being consulted.

LARO – Scadden's Stopbank

John Barton has appealed this decision. This matter has gone to mediation but this was unsuccessful. The Environment Court has set a date for the exchange of evidence but the appellant is reluctant to do this. The Land and River Operations Department is to file a Memorandum with the Court seeking a judicial conference so that the Court's decisions can be reconsidered.

Martinborough Coastal Developments

The decision granting consents for a community wastewater scheme servicing a proposed coastal subdivision at Tora has been appealed by the applicant and D Riddiford. While no decisions have been made it is assumed the first step in resolving the matters being appealed will be mediation.

Compliance

General

The annual inspection of dairy farms including effluent discharges and water takes is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the season.

Abatement Notices

Two abatement notices have been issued since January, one each to Lifestyle Capital Limited and a director of the company M Bonifant. The notices were in respect to taking groundwater without resource consent.

Infringement notices

Two infringement notices were issued to K Barnes in relation to vegetation clearance in a wetland which had the effect of diverting water and discharging contaminants. The recipient has written a letter of explanation which is being considered.

Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

The prosecution against Lansdowne Development Ltd and Bruce Buchanan Ltd in regards to an unauthorised discharge of silt laden water in March 2005 is scheduled to take place in the Environment Court in Wellington on the 18th and 19th of July. Delays in setting the date, including the non-appearance of the defendants at the first hearing has led to the process becoming longwinded and costly.

Low Flow Restrictions

Water takes from the Otakura Stream, Parkvale Stream, Waipoua River and Waingawa River were restricted at various times in the period.

Pollution Control

Eighteen incidents were responded to in the quarter. None of these incidents were of widespread significance. This compares with 22 incidents in the same period last year.

4.6.2 Policy and Planning

General

Statutory resource management work has involved making 9 comments or submissions (11 same quarter last year) on 27 applications to district councils (15 last year) in the quarter. Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa is continuing apace requiring a large input into this area of planning work. Staff losses from the Policy and Planning Section coupled with the high workload have put pressure on carrying out this area of work but recent appointments will restore functionality.

District Plans

The combined district plan is due to be notified around the end of April. It is most likely that we will make submissions on the plan to ensure that matters that are of significance to the region in a planning context are taken account of.

Appeals

We are party to an appeal by Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd relating to South Wairarapa District Council not granting them approval for a coastal subdivision at Tora. This appeal is potentially a “test case” for the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy and it is therefore important that we take a strong stand in support of this strategy.

4.6.3 Resource Investigations

Rainfall and rivers

Following a dry spring in the Wairarapa, rainfall in January was above average in the eastern hills and the Tararua ranges but below average in the valley. February was drier with rainfall at all sites well below average. Rainfall was higher than normal in March.

River flows were above average in January but well below average in February. March river flows were below average.

Flood warning

Flood warnings were issued for two minor floods in early January.

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels were generally low as is typical for this time of the year but not at minimum recorded levels. We had reports of a number of shallow bores drying up.

4.6.4 Staff

Rachel Hornsby who was the Acting Section Leader, Policy and Planning resigned and left at the end of January when her contract for this acting role ended. No replacement for the section leader position has been sought pending a review of the structure of the new Environmental Management Division.

Lucy Harper commenced work on the 27 March as the replacement for Rachel’s vacant resource advisor position.

A fixed term position in the policy and planning section has been advertised to cover for Faith Barber’s secondment to the Catchment Management Division.

A fixed term position has been advertised in the consents and compliance section to cover for Susannah Guscott who begins parental leave at the end of April.

Sam McColl, our summer student assistant, left in February and was replaced by Sam Leigh who completed the contract on 31 March.

4.7 Performance Indicators

Environment Education Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06 Review for the Period Ended 31 March 2006

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 1: Environment Education Core Services			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	230	314	On track.
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit will take place at year end. The recommendations of the June 2005 external audit were largely implemented by the end of December.
Major Activity 2: Provide Environmental Education Services			
A report will be completed describing the activities of the Department in promoting change in environmental behaviour, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.	39	44	In association with the Parks and Forests Department, a corporate volunteer's event was held in Queen Elizabeth Park. Sixty-six volunteers from ERMA spent a day weeding. The Bokashi waste recycling system for Greater Wellington's head office was implemented. Since the start of February approximately 100kgs of organic waste has been processed by the Bokashi bins, diverting it from landfill.
<i>Through the Take Care programme and together with the Resource Policy Department, existing Care Groups will be maintained and five new Care Groups will be established and assisted in providing local environmental care, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i>	126	207	<i>Three training events for care group members have been held. On 7 February a workshop on wetland plant identification was attended by 25 people. On 28 February volunteers from all over the region attended two workshops on coastal plant propagation. As part of Volunteer Awareness Week, we supported six care group volunteers to attend a workshop by Volunteer Wellington on ways to increase the size and commitment of their groups. Staff have been planning for Restoration Day, the annual</i>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>celebration and training event for care groups, which will be held on May 27.</i></p> <p><i>Groups have continued their regular activities clearing weeds, fencing, and maintaining their plant stocks in preparation for the planting season.</i></p>
<p><i>The Take Action environmental education programme for school children will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	162	243	<p><i>Term one schools are progressing well with both guided and self guided schools completing their outdoor investigations and students working on ways to take action in their local environment. Self-guided schools this term are Wainuiomata Intermediate, Tawhai (Stokes Valley), Tui Glen (Stokes Valley), Koranui (Stokes Valley), and Taita Central. The guided schools are Ngaio, St Patrick's (Wellington) and Mauriceville.</i></p> <p><i>The number of schools doing Take Action this calendar year has now increased to 24.</i></p> <p><i>Work continues on the development of the Air component of Take Action. A workable first draft of the teaching resource has been completed and tested with a focus group of teachers. The resource will be finalised and printed in the next quarter.</i></p>
<p><i>Together with the Resource Investigations Department, the Take Charge environmental education programme for businesses will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	57	69	<p><i>Three Take Charge follow-up visits were completed during the quarter. These were in the industrial area surrounding Drain 6, a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream at Paraparaumu. A report on Take Charge at Drain 6 was completed for the Environment Committee.</i></p> <p><i>EnviroSMART, a national cleaner production programme for manufacturing businesses was launched in February. We have signed up to the programme to make it available in the Wellington region. It is expected that 40 businesses will do the programme in this region over the next three years.</i></p> <p><i>We have joined with the Sustainable Business Network to run the Get Sustainable Challenge in the Wellington region</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>between May and August this year. The Challenge's principal focus is to help businesses become more sustainable and it includes an awards component which recognises businesses that have made progress along this path. The Challenge will be delivered by the SBN with Greater Wellington as the principal sponsor.</i></p>

**Resource Policy
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06
Review for the Period Ended 31 March 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 1: Resource Policy Support			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	383	470	On track
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit will take place at year end. The recommendations of the June 2005 external audit are being worked through.
Major Activity 2: Developing Regional Policy and Plans			
The statutory process will be followed to implement any changes to the Regional Policy Statement or regional plans that are directed by the Council, within budget.	42	165	<p>An outstanding appeal on Plan change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan, relating to the driving of vehicles on stopbanks, has been largely resolved. The Environment Court decision was not in our favour and was appealed to the High Court. The High Court has allowed the Council's appeal – conditions should be included in the rule that prevent future changes in use that could have consequences on the stability of the stopbank.</p> <p>The Council is currently working through possible conditions on the rule with the respondent before returning to the High Court for a final judgement.</p> <p>Plan change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan establishes minimum flows and water allocation in the Mangatarere catchment. Following two pre-hearing meetings, a hearing was held on 27 February 2006. The Hearing Committee has prepared an interim decision which has been sent to submitters. Submitters have been asked to comment on the interim decision by Wednesday 19 April 2006. Once their comments have been considered the Committee will finalise its decision</p>
The Regional Plan User Guide will be maintained to the satisfaction of the Divisional Manager,	Nil	3	The User Guide is up to date.

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Environment, within budget.			

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<p><i>A review of the Regional Policy Statement will be completed to the satisfaction of Council, within budget.</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>75</p>	<p><i>A workshop for Councillors took place in November 2005 to discuss the State of the Environment Report (the first stage in the review of the Regional Policy Statement). The draft project plan for the Regional Policy Statement review was also discussed at the Councillor workshop.</i></p> <p><i>During the last three months:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Evaluation reports for each chapter of the current Regional Policy Statement (RPS) have been completed and are being reviewed. Note that the Iwi chapter has not yet been completed.</i> <i>• Two Councillor workshops have taken place – the purpose of the workshops was to bring Councillors up to date with the RMA requirements, the RPS process, and to provide the opportunity to discuss the issues and options for the ‘new’ RPS.</i> <i>• Meetings have been held with staff from each of the territorial authorities in the region. The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss the RPS process, gather feedback on the current RPS and thoughts about the ‘new’ RPS, and to talk about their involvement in the process.</i> <i>• Work has started on a communications plan for the RPS review, starting with the discussion document</i> <i>• A workshop was held with members of Ara Tahi on 15 March to discuss the review process, involvement and contribution from Ara Tahi.</i> <i>• Meetings have been held with the Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment.</i> <p><i>Work has started on drafting of the discussion document.</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<i>A copy of the draft discussion document will be forwarded to Councillors prior to the next workshop, scheduled for 19 April.</i>
Major Activity 3: Implementing Resource Management Policies and Plans			
<p><i>The implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans will have continued by progressing the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wetland Action Plan;</i> • <i>Kaiwharawhara Stream Plan;</i> • <i>Riparian Management Strategy;</i> • <i>The Council's Carbon Footprint Programme;</i> • <i>Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Programme;</i> • <i>Freshwater Ecosystems Programme;</i> • <i>QEII Trust private land protection programme;</i> • <i>Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan;</i> • <i>Waitohu Stream improvement project;</i> • <i>Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan;</i> <p><i>within budget and to the satisfaction of Council.</i></p>	356	737	<p>Wetland Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This year 20 landowners have joined the wetland incentives programme.</i> • <i>In September we sent out our first 'Wild about waters and wetlands' newsletter to over 100 landowners who have been involved in the Streams Alive or wetland programmes.</i> • <i>'So you're thinking about building a pond' – a guide to the design, management and consent requirements for landowners was produced and distributed.</i> • <i>An Estuarine Wetland Plant Identification Day was organised and held at Waikanae Estuary.</i> <p>Kaiwharawhara Stream Plan</p> <p><i>Three signs were erected in early December at Kaiwharawhara Road (highlighting the work carried out in School Road), Trelissick Park (near the Magazine site, providing a focus on the heritage and natural values of the area) and near Otari (alongside the Kaiwharawhara Stream in the area planted by the Care Group). The signs contain generic information about the Kaiwharawhara catchment and Project Kaiwharawhara, together with site-specific information about work that has been completed in each of the locations. Further signs are now being worked on. Councillors and officers from WCC and GW, along with representatives from the various groups involved in the work, were taken on a tour of the area and shown the signs on 9 December 2005.</i></p> <p><i>A night-time trip along the stream was organised and held</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p><i>for members of the Group. Various endangered fish were spotted.</i></p> <p>Riparian Management Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The riparian strategy was completed in July 2002. There are three pilot programmes – two of which (the Karori Stream and the Kakariki Stream) are being managed by the Resource Policy department. Streamside planting is continuing on the streams.</i> <p>Carbon Footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Council’s carbon footprint for the 2004-5 financial year has been calculated, and shows a slight decline from the previous year’s figure. This “improvement” is from a lower amount of electricity used for water supply (18.5 million Kwh compared to over 20 million the previous year). Other areas of energy use showed an increase. The carbon footprint for the 2005-6 year will be calculated after the end of the financial year when the figures for energy use are available.</i> <p>Marine Biodiversity Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Cawthron Institute has completed the survey of the intertidal zones of the Kapiti Coast, Plimmerton Beach, Titahi Bay and Makara estuary. This work continues the work done in the Wellington Harbour and South Coast last year. The results have been received and are being presented to the Environment Committee at their 12 April meeting.</i> <p>Freshwater Ecosystems Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A field survey of potential sites for constructing fish passes this year has been carried out. Nine locations on five streams have been identified and a report containing concept designs for fish passes at these sites has been completed. Consents applications are now being prepared for five of these sites.</i>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
			<p>QEII National Trust private land protection programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments totalling \$43,992 have been made to covenant projects which, when finalised, will protect 176 hectares of predominantly lowland forest. <p>Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two projects refining our understanding of the character and extent of the sediments and the suitability of land adjacent to the stream to carry a new stream channel were completed in the quarter. A third project sampling the stormwater from the Gracefield area is due for completion by 31 January. A fourth project examining the levels of contamination in groundwater is due for completion by 31 March 2006. • Efforts continue to ensure that the flood protection study is integrated with the broader stream rehabilitation programme. <p>Waitohu Stream improvement project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on this project has been reported to the Landcare Committee, and will be presented to the Environment Committee at their 12 April meeting. The report summarises the findings of a range of technical investigations (and consultation). Following the Environment Committee meeting, the report will be distributed for public comment. <p>Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway on the “Vegetation Frameworks” project. The project, due for completion by 30 June 2006, is jointly funded by MfE’s Sustainable Management Fund, Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington and involves the development of a broad scale restoration plan for the rural parts of the Pauatahanui catchment.

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<i>Through the Take Care programme together with the Environment Education Department, existing Care Groups will be maintained and five new Care Groups will be established and assisted in providing local environmental care, to the satisfaction of Council and within budget.</i>	13	73	<i>Refer to the performance indicator measures for the Environmental Education Department.</i>
Written requests for advice on regional plans will be replied to within five working days.	56	49	All requests have been actioned appropriately.
All submissions will be subject to the Department's quality control process and meet the required deadlines.	24	64	A number of submissions have been made on resource consents and changes to district plans. A summary of submissions is reported to each meeting of the Environment Committee.
Natural hazard investigations will be undertaken, reports prepared and information made available to the community to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.	63	61	A joint contract with Upper Hutt City Council has been let to provide information on fault lines in Upper Hutt. The consultants' report was completed in early December and the findings will be used to improve the information in the District Plan. The findings of this work are being presented to the Environment Committee at their meeting of 12 April.

Major Activity 4: Reporting on the State of the Region's Environment

<i>An annual report card containing summary information for the following resources will be published to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget:</i>	190	169	<i>The report cards were printed and distributed in December 2005.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hydrology</i> • <i>Groundwater</i> • <i>Freshwater quality</i> • <i>Coastal water quality</i> • <i>Recreational water quality</i> • <i>Air quality</i> • <i>Soil quality</i> 			

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<p><i>A comprehensive State of the Environment Report will be published to the satisfaction of Council and within budget.</i></p>	71	90	<p><i>A series of technical reports were completed for the State of the Environment Report (SER). The technical reports include information and data about the state of the resource, the adverse effects of activities on that resource, and how we are responding.</i></p> <p><i>The findings of the technical reports were reported to the Environment Committee between July and September 2005, and the key findings for all chapters were presented to a councillor workshop in November.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring up, the state of the environment report for the Wellington region was approved by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in December 2005. It was then distributed, and made available on Greater Wellington's web site.</i></p>
<p>Major Activity 5: Maintaining Geographic Information Systems</p>			
Databases will be maintained within budget.	46	64	Database maintained within budget.
Ninety percent of all help desk enquiries are resolved within one hour.	21	29	155 help desk calls were received, and all of these were resolved satisfactorily.

**Consents Management
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06
Review for the Period Ended 31 March 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 1: Consents Management Support			
Customer contact programmes will be completed within budget and to the satisfaction of the Divisional Manager, Environment.	109	53	The Account Managers use a customer matrix that allows us to analyse customer contacts. Customer contacts are up to date.
The Department will conduct at least two workshops for customers on how they can obtain best value from the resource consent process.	6	32	We held the Wellington Regional Erosion and Sediment Control Forum in late October (in conjunction with the pollution control team). Invitations have also been sent out for a submitter's workshop which will be held in May-June. We last held workshops for submitters in 2002 and these were well attended.
Consent applicants will be charged for the costs of processing their consents in accordance with Greater Wellington's Resource Management Charging Policy. Consent holders will be charged for compliance monitoring in accordance with Greater Wellington's Resource Management Charging Policy.	1	33	All annual charge invoices were sent out in the first week of November. This is a little later than anticipated, but reflects the fact that new staff were managing the annual charge process for the first time.
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			We are continuing to work through the recommendations of the June 2005 external health and safety audit. An internal audit will be carried out in the coming quarter.
Major Activity 2: Managing Consent Applications			
<i>All consents will be processed according to the procedures set down in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Consents Processing Procedures Manual, within budget.</i>	<u>WGN</u> 353 <u>WAR</u> 189	<u>WGN</u> 359 <u>WAR</u> 292	<i>All consents were processed according to the Resource Management Act 1991 and CMD procedure manuals.</i>
Consents will be processed in accordance with any agreements between Greater Wellington and individual iwi.			Our processes require that all consent applications are sent to the relevant iwi for comment. Generally, this system continues to work. New contracts up to the end of 2005 were issued this

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<p>More than 50% of non-notified consent applications will be processed in 10 working days or less (following the receipt of full information).</p>			<p>quarter. These now need to be reviewed – this should be done in coordination with the Secretariat as it is time that we revised the principles on which we base these contracts.</p> <p>The median processing time for non-notified consents this quarter was nine working days. For the year-to-date, the median processing time is 10 working days. This is a good result, but does reflect the fact we received over 60 bore applications this quarter (and over 120 in total this year) which are the 'bread and butter' consents we need to be able to meet the 10 day KPI. I have always been doubtful of our ability to meet this KPI should the supply of bore consents 'dry-up'.</p>

Major Activity 3: Monitoring Compliance

<p><i>All consents will be monitored according to the procedures set down in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Compliance Monitoring Procedures Manual, within budget.</i></p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 136 <u>WAR</u> 62</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 226 <u>WAR</u> 68</p>	<p><i>Consents monitoring is on-going throughout the year. All consents are being monitored according to procedures and within budget.</i></p>
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**Resource Investigations
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06
Review for the quarter ended 31 March 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 1: Administration			
The Department will meet its short term performance indicators within budget.	507	679	On target.
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			An internal audit will take place at year end. The recommendations of the June 2005 external audit are being worked through.
Major Activity 2: Resource Information			
All flood and low flow artesian pressure alarms will be actioned in accordance with documented procedures.	24	49	<p>Twenty-four rainfall alarms and three water level alarms were received during the quarter. These were all responded to in accordance with our documented procedures.</p> <p>In the year to date a total of 42 rainfall alarms and 5 water level alarms have been received.</p>
Major Activity 3: Resource Analysis			
<p><i>An annual report card containing summary information for the following resources will be published to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hydrology</i> • <i>Groundwater</i> • <i>Freshwater quality</i> • <i>Coastal water quality</i> • <i>Recreational water quality</i> • <i>Air quality</i> • <i>Soil quality</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WGN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">194</p> <p style="text-align: center;">105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">85</p> <p style="text-align: center;">47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">74</p> <p style="text-align: center;">225</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">491</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WGN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">326</p> <p style="text-align: center;">87</p> <p style="text-align: center;">97</p> <p style="text-align: center;">64</p> <p style="text-align: center;">82</p> <p style="text-align: center;">243</p> <p style="text-align: center;">52</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">730</p>	<p><i>Monitoring programmes are on-going.</i></p> <p><i>On 15 December 2005, report cards were presented to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.</i></p>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 4: Pollution Control			
<p><i>All complaints and notified pollution incidents will be responded to, recorded and, where appropriate, followed up to the satisfaction of the Environment Committee and within budget.</i></p> <p><i>An annual pollution report card will be produced to the satisfaction of the Council.</i></p> <p><i>The number of reported pollution incidents will reduce to 1270 in 2005/06. (This target is 85% of the total number of complaints received in 2002/03).</i></p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 206</p> <p><u>WAR</u> 53</p>	<p><u>WGN</u> 154</p> <p><u>WAR</u> 78</p>	<p><i>Three-hundred incidents were notified and responded to in the quarter.</i></p> <p><i>An annual report card is being prepared following the completion of the Annual Incident Report.</i></p> <p><i>Our target for three quarters of the year was 953 incidents. To the end of March 975 incidents were notified, this represents 102.3% of the target.</i></p>
<p><i>Together with the Environment Education Department, the Take Charge programme for business will be implemented, to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.</i></p>	27	100	<p><i>Three Take Charge re-visits were completed during the quarter. These were all in the industrial area surrounding Drain 6, a tributary of the Wharemauku Stream at Paraparaumu.</i></p>
<p>The Selected Land Use Register (SLUR) will be maintained and public enquires will be responded to as received.</p>	48	72	<p>At the end of the quarter 1,703 sites were included on SLUR.</p> <p>We received and responded to 66 enquiries about the status of sites during the quarter.</p> <p>In the year to date a total of 221 enquiries have been received and responded to.</p>
Major Activity 5: Services			
<p>Information, advice and services will be provided in accordance with agreed specifications.</p>	9	16	On target.

**Harbours
Performance Indicator Measurement 2005/06
Review for the Year Ended 31 March 2006**

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
Major Activity 1: Harbours Department Support			
The Department will meet its short-term performance indicators within budget.	372	498	Ongoing
A health and safety audit of the Department's activities and facilities will be carried out and reported to the Divisional Manager, Environment.			The recommendations of the June 2005 external audit were implemented. Ongoing H&S reports are carried out as required by the Council.
<i>The Port and Harbour Safety Management System will be commenced and implementation started.</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>On 23 February, Marico NZ presented the Wellington Harbour risk assessment report to the Environment Committee. The risk assessment provides a basis on which to develop and implement the Safety Management System.</i>
Major Activity 2: Communications Service			
<i>The Beacon Hill Harbour Communications Station will provide a 24 hour, 365 day service which is in accordance with Council agreed operating standards and within budget.</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>319</i>	Since 2 September, an Automatic Identification System (AIS) for tracking sea vessels has been tested at Beacon Hill. This system, once proved, will form part of our Safety Management System. An additional staff member has been engaged.
Major Activity 3: Navigation Aids			
All other routine repairs and maintenance will be carried out in accordance with a maintenance plan to be approved by the Divisional Manager, Environment.	51	142	During the period navigation aids have operated satisfactorily. On 17 March, the storage batteries at Pencarrow Light were replaced. After the southerly storm of 3 and 4 March divers checked the Barrett Reef buoy's mooring chains.
Major Activity 4: Pollution/Emergency Response Services			
<i>Reports of oil spills in harbour waters will be</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Twenty-five reports were received and all of these were</i>

Performance Indicator	YTD Actual	FY Budget	Progress
<p><i>checked within 30 minutes and clean-up action for actual oil spills commenced within one hour of being reported in harbour waters and within three hours of being reported in regional coastal waters, all within budget.</i></p> <p><i>A formal log will be kept and incidents followed up, where possible.</i></p>			<p><i>checked within 30 minutes. Most of these were “false alarms”. Only one required some clean-up work.</i></p> <p><i>On 3 and 4 March 2006, a southerly storm broke-up the hulk, F69-Wellington into three sections. The wreck, a dive attraction, had a temporary prohibition order placed with access to the area around the wreck restricted. The Police National Dive Squad have since assessed the condition of the frigate. Subsequently, the wreck has been re-mapped and information provided to the commercial dive companies, which use it.</i></p>
<p>All staff will be certified according to Maritime Safety Authority oil spill response training requirements.</p>	13	26	<p>Deputy H/M attended a revalidating Management Course 11 GW staff members attended a Fundamentals Course. Two GW staff members attended a Field Operations Course. One Harbour Ranger attended a Maritime New Zealand workshop in Christchurch. On 16 November 2005, a tabletop exercise was conducted with 14 GW staff participating. On 3 and 4 May, Maritime New Zealand has planned a major exercise, “Operation Hard Rock”. Harbour’s staff will provide assistance.</p>
<p>Maintenance check sheets will be completed every three months to the satisfaction of the Manager, Harbours.</p>	30	59	<p>Routine checks and servicing of oil spill equipment were completed on 27 September, 10 January and 29 March.</p>
<p>Major Activity 5: Enforcing Maritime Safety Regulations</p>			
<p>All operators and operations will have valid licences and permits as required under harbour regulations and bylaws. A record will be kept.</p>	3	3	<p>Under the current regulations only a few licences for very small craft are required.</p>

5 Staffing Report

Information as at 31 March 2006.

Staffing

Department	Permanent Current	Vacancies	Total	Budget (2005/06)
Environment Education	8.5		8.5	9.0
Resource Policy	13.0		13.0	12.0
Consents Management	13.5	2.0	15.5	15.5
Planning and Resources				
Department – Wairarapa	21.0		21.0	21.0
Resource Investigations	15.5	2.0	17.5	17.5
Harbours*	11.3		11.3	10.7
Environment Support	2.8	1.0	3.8	4.0
Total	85.6	5.0	90.6	89.7

* Harbours harbour ranger (0.30) – part-time position over the summer months.

Training - Wellington

Financial Year	Training cost as a % age of personnel cost	Training cost as a % age of personnel cost
	Actual	Budget
2004/05	1.59%	1.94%
2005/06 (year to date)	1.92%	1.86%

6 Business Continuity

In the Council's Business Continuity Plan, most of the Division's services are low priority. Flood warning, harbours communications and navigation aids and civil defence emergency management (CDEM) are, for obvious reasons, rated *essential* services; oil pollution response and CDEM recovery have a *high* rating and environmental monitoring, harbour regulation and GIS are rated *medium*.

Some of these ratings do need revisiting.

Many of the Division's staff, however, are involved as volunteers for the CDEM Group's Emergency Operation Centre. They receive regular training and know what is expected of them in an emergency event.

Our Pandemic Plan - Essential Services and Resources plan has identified some service issues. For example, Harbours staff have a specialised role - maintaining port and harbour safety. There is no immediate back-up or support within the Council. To cover this off we are investigating whether or not CentrePort could assist with staffing in such an event

Similarly, there is an issue with staff who are also emergency management volunteers. Are these staff required to carry out their EM responsibilities if asked? No doubt this is on the basis that their current EM responsibilities do not contain the same degree of personal threat as there might be with pandemic responsibilities.

These issues, and others like them, are being dealt with through the Pandemic Response Planning Group.