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**Committee** Environment Committee  
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Resource Investigations

## **Pollution Control Report for the period 28 April to 16 June 2006**

### **1. Purpose**

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

### **2. Background**

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

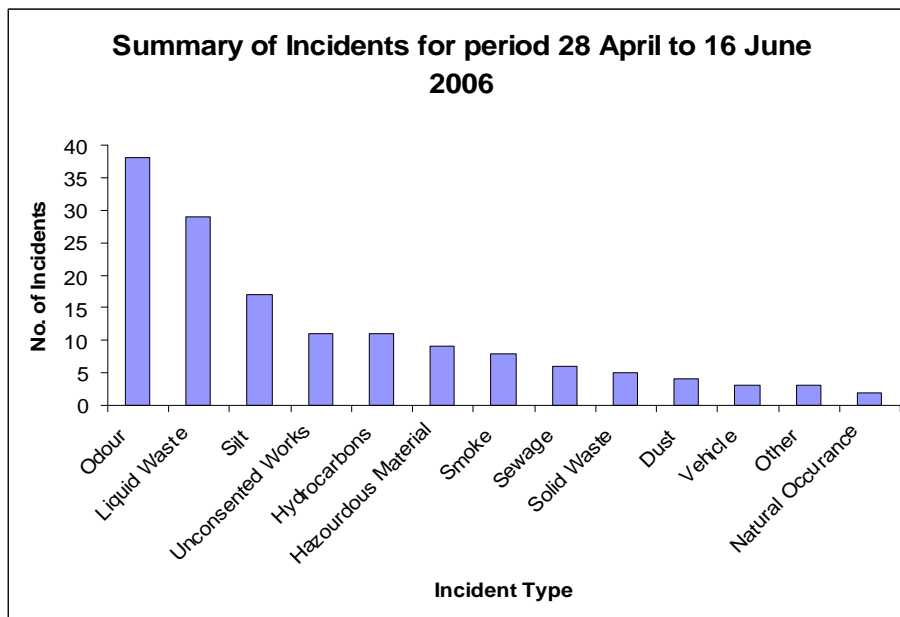
- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- Special Projects,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

### **3. Incidents**

#### **3.1 Incident summary**

A total of 147 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 28 April to 16 June 2006



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

- A fuel spill (approximately 100 litres) from the HMNZS Endeavour entered the Wellington harbour, resulting in oil sheens and hydrocarbon odour between Queens Wharf and the Overseas Terminal, which persisted for several days. The Harbours Department led the response from Greater Wellington, and the Pollution Control Team has applied to recover investigation costs from the New Zealand Navy.
- State Highway 1 was closed following a 2,000 litre spill of paraffin oil from a leaking truck, which extended 25km between Paremata and Waikanae. The vehicle was stopped north of Waikanae, and its load decanted into road tankers. Environmental effects were not serious, and Fulton Hogan made the road safe by applying detergent.
- Repeated silt discharges from the Horokiwi Quarry resulted in discoloration of the Wellington Harbour. Works are currently underway at the site to improve site water management and reduce the amount of mud tracked-off the site. The discharge to water from this site is subject to a Greater Wellington resource consent.
- Recent rain caused problems at subdivision and earthworks sites around the region, with significant downstream silt problems attributed to sites in Korokoro, Paremata, Churton Park and Belmont.
- Washing of vehicles at the Allied Concrete site in Happy Valley led to wash water entering the stormwater network and Owhiro Stream. An infringement notice was issued for this offence. The company is in the process of relocating to a new site in Ngauranga Gorge.

### 3.2 Response summary

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

**Table 1: Response time summary**

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	34 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	7.6 hours
Blue (7 days)	3.5 days

## 4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

**Table 2: Summary of enforcement action**

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	8
Infringement Notices	3
Abatement Notices	3
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	2

Infringement notices were issued to:

- Allied Concrete and AML Limited, for an illegal discharge of wash water from the Company's Landfill Road site.
- Barry Hayes, for breach of an abatement notice which required the control of sediment discharges from earthworks at Sweetacres Drive, Belmont.

Abatement notices were issued to:

- Adam Turner regarding earthworks at the St Ives subdivision, requiring the removal of fill placed in a pre-existing wetland.
- Brian Keith Davis, to cease using a hose to wash large quantities of sediment into the stormwater network from his property at Kerkwall Place in Naenae.

- Allied Concrete Limited to cease further discharges of wash water from its Happy Valley site.

Informations were laid against:

- Lance James and Brooklyn Holdings Limited, following repeated sediment discharges into the Owhiro Stream from a subdivision site in Brooklyn.
- Paddy Hannan, following his failure to comply with an enforcement order in place for his cleanfill in Waiu Street, Wainuiomata.

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

## **5. Take Charge**

Officers have been revisiting sites that were identified as non-compliant during the Drain 6 investigation. The revisits are intended to review their progress in implementing recommendations made during the initial site audits. All revisits will be completed by the end of this financial year.

## **6. Special projects**

Discussions were held with Porirua City Council to investigate possible synergies between a proposed *Take Charge* programme in Onepoto and a PCC initiative to upgrade stormwater infrastructure in the vicinity. Unfortunately, our respective target locations were sufficiently distant to prevent a joint approach.

An application has been prepared for funding from the MfE's Contaminated Site Remediation Fund, for further investigation into heavy metal contamination in the Te Mome Stream. It was hoped that the \$75,000 project would be jointly funded by a consortium comprising Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council, Exide Technologies and Unilever Australasia Limited. However, only Hutt City Council and ourselves have committed to this project.

## **7. Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

## 8. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. ***Receive the report; and***
2. ***Note the contents.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary