

Biosecurity Manager's Report Wayne O'Donnell

For period ending 5 May 2006

Bovine Tb:

1. 2004/05 Programme

- 1.1 The following operations from the 2004/05 programme remain uncompleted as at 12 April 2006:

Operation	Strata	Area	Current Progress	Operator
Featherston	HR 1	412	Rework underway	BioWorks
South East Wairarapa – Stage 2	HR 1	1,114	Rework underway	BioWorks

2. 2005/06 Programme

- 2.1 The Animal Health Board has approved the 2005/06 programme which includes

- 420,860 ha possum control
- 56,144 ha of ferret and possum surveys
- 75,135 ha of pig surveys

Pig surveys will be implemented over a wide area. Samples will be provided by BioWorks, preferred suppliers (hunters) and occupiers.

- 2.2 The following table summarises the areas let to date for the 2005/06 year. This table also includes 41,029 ha with a completion date of 30 August 2006, which has been deferred by AHB request.

	Possum (ha)	Ferret (ha)	Survey (ha)	Total
GWRC BioWorks (tender)	98,088	0	10,319	108,407
GWRC BioWorks (preferred supply)	119,243	0	22,812	142,055
Target Pest Control	59,619	0	0	59,619
Professional Guiding	66,084	0	17,624	83,708
J McCaslin	3,346	0	5,389	8,735
To Determine (Sth East Wai Stage 3)	21,717	0	0	21,717
Carry Forward	9,881	0	0	9,881
Remove Control	42,882	0	0	42,882
Totals	420,860	0	56,144	477,004

- 2.3 The following table details areas of the 2005/06 programme which have been completed. These areas have been assessed by performance monitor or audit of feral

survey. Completed areas are 51% of the contracted programme (finishing date of 30 June), however, contractors consider they have completed 75% of the programme, with many stratas being only partially completed.

	Possum (ha)	Ferret (ha)	Survey (ha)	Total
GWRC BioWorks (tender)	46,477		5,431	51,908
GWRC BioWorks (preferred supply)	47,997		6,725	54,722
Target Pest Control	34,109			34,109
Professional Guiding	39,353			39,353
J McCaslin	2,486		4,529	7,015
Carry Forward	9,881			9,881
Remove Control	42,882			42,882
Totals	223,185		16,685	239,870

3. Issues

3.1 South East Wairarapa – Stage 3 (33,180 ha)

Approximately 11,463 ha of aerial and ground control have been let to BioWorks. Stratum HR 1 (2,759 ha) has been successfully monitored. The aerial control was completed in late April and the remaining ground control of the 11,463 ha contract should be completed in the May/June period.

Approximately 21,717 ha is still to be let including the Aorangi Forest Park. The AHB has requested that this operation be completed by 30 June 2006. This will be extremely difficult due to the amount of administration (especially gaining various approvals) required beforehand, the arranging of 1080 carrot bait supply (approx 200 tonne) and application when weather conditions are likely to be variable.

The landowners in this area have all been contacted and their support for a programme has been obtained. Agreement has been reached with the DoC and NZDA regarding areas to be treated by the following methods in the Aorangi Forest Park:

- aerial 1080 carrot baits with deer repellent
- aerial 1080 carrot baits without deer repellent
- aerial 1080 pellet baits without deer repellent.

A tentative date of 1 June 2006 onwards for the aerial treatment has been agreed upon.

4. Three-Year AHB Plan

The AHB has recently approved the vector control programme for the 2006/07 year, with an approximate value of \$4.4M. The programme includes the following:

- 263,853 ha possum control
- 57,952 ha surveys
- Performance and trend monitoring

Pest Animals:

1. Cat Desexing Campaign

The Biosecurity Department is supporting another cat desexing campaign in the Wairarapa during April and May. The format is similar to last year's successful programme when over 300 domestic cats were either spayed or neutered. There are two separate programmes. One is the spay/neuter programme coordinated by the Wairarapa SPCA with the support of local vets and the other is the 'neuterathon' organised by Vetcare Ltd. GW provides financial support to subsidize the cost to cat owners and also shares responsibility for advertising, promotion and publicity materials. The overall aim for GW's involvement is to encourage families to be responsible cat owners, to enjoy having a pet, to reduce neighbourhood problems and to reduce the number of cats that are abandoned. Abandoned cats are a threat to our native birds and lizards and left uncontrolled impact adversely on GW's biodiversity enhancement programmes. They also spread disease.

Consideration is being given to running a similar campaign with the Wellington SPCA but this is subject to funding considerations.

2. Cat Colony – Chartwell, Wellington City

This is an update report on the cat colony that was being fostered on the outskirts of Chartwell. This was the second population in this general vicinity. A similar colony was disestablished in nearby Crofton Downs in January 2004. This latest colony was established on DOC and WCC land and consisted of low scrub and grassy flats with sheds. This area is immediately adjacent to both Huntleigh Park and Otari Wiltons Bush which are both key native ecosystems and the subject of ongoing predator control. The person who was fostering this colony was served with a trespass notice by DOC and is the same person involved with the Crofton Downs site.

Over forty cats were caught in cage traps and then euthanized. They were mostly young cats (less than 2 years old) generally thin and reported to be very wild and aggressive. Some had injuries and/or eye problems. The operation was conducted in cooperation with WCC, DOC, and Cats Protection League. The SPCA was notified.

3. Rabbit Calicivirus Disease (RCD) Immunity Survey

Wild rabbits were sampled on a region-wide basis to test the calicivirus immunity levels. Blood samples were taken from each rabbit and sent to the Wallaceville Animal Research Centre for analysis.

The surveys disclosed that only 23% of rabbits show immunity in the Western Zone whilst the Wairarapa results disclosed an immunity level of 48%.

A similar survey conducted in January 2000 disclosed immunity levels of 30% for the Western Zone and 58% for the Wairarapa so there has only been a slight drop over the past six years.

The sample size for the Western Zone was 83 rabbits taken from the Peka Peka, Paekakariki and Silverstream areas. The 112 rabbits sampled from the Wairarapa came from seven properties located at Western Lake, Featherston, Martinborough, Castlepoint, Riversdale and Tora Coast.

Wherever possible, the same properties were those sampled in the survey conducted in 2000. The data is yet to be inputted into the same format that was used in the 2000 survey. This will allow a closer comparison to be made of RCD trends on a localised basis.

There is clear evidence that the virus is still cycling throughout the region and maintaining rabbits at low levels. With the exception of two locations, the shooters had to be persistent to get a sufficient sample size. It is doubtful if there will be any advantage in using RCD suspension as a biocide in the Western Zone even though the immunity levels are quite low. More conventional control methods are recommended.

4. Poison Warning Signs

The formatting of warning signs for the use of vertebrate toxic agents (VTA's) under the HASNO and ACVM Regulations is proving difficult. The main problem is that different VTA's require a different emphasis on the message. Given situations where many vertebrate pest control agencies and contractors are often working within the same region (or district) then it is essential that signage should be to a standard format and be compliant with the regulations.

Staff have sought advice from the NZ Food Safety Authority, DOC and a principal bait manufacturer. They have been helpful but there are still anomalies. The matter has been raised with the National Possum Control Agencies who are in the best position to seek a minimum standard of signage to be applied nationally. In the meantime we are modifying our current signage to be correct to the best of our knowledge. The printing of new signage will add a significant cost to vertebrate pest control.

5. Wainuiomata Hill West Reserve

A possum control operation has commenced in this area near Seaview in Hutt City. The works are being carried out by BioWorks as a lump sum contract and were awarded the job as a preferred supplier. This is the first such contract awarded for this type of work that has both a performance requirement and a prescriptive outcome requirement. The contractor has to prepare access routes, install a set number of bait stations and reduce possums to less than a 4% residual trap-catch by 30 June 2006. Part of the funding for this operation was donated by the philanthropist Sir Roy McKenzie.

6. New Possum Bait

Animal Control Products (ACP) announced recently that they are close to marketing a new ready-to-use pellet bait containing cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3) as the active ingredient. It will be marketed as Pestoff Decal Possum Bait. No

approved handlers or controlled substance licence will be required to use Decal, however it must be used in bait stations or bait bags. It is recommended that prefeeding is undertaken to get the best results.

Trials have disclosed high percentage kills with this new product and even better results when it is used in a cyclic pattern with brodifacoum or other anticoagulant bait products. This synergy has been known to Biosecurity staff for some years and was used by them when a previous cholecalciferol product (Campaign) was available. GW staff assisted in the trials for ACP and are currently using the new formulation in the Horokiwi/Granada Reserve operation. Decal is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997. It has a low toxicity to most birds and when used correctly will be a low hazard toxin.

7. New Rat Bait

New rodent bait is being trialled in East Harbour Regional Park as part of the ongoing predator control operations. The bait (Natural NO Rats) is to be marketed by a well known pest control company but has not yet been subject to a product launch. The bait is cellulose based and expected to be more expensive than traditional cereal type baits. However, it is said to have other benefits of use such as being specific to rodents only, has non-target effects (non toxic to sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, cattle, pigs, possums, cats, ferrets and dogs), has a very low risk of bait shyness, and does not contain a toxin so should be able to be used with no or few restrictions in water catchments and high use public areas.

Two representatives from the marketing company have visited the trial site. A rat population trend survey has been established as part of the trial and the initial kill results will be known by 12 May this year. The thoughts of Biosecurity staff at this stage are that this bait will be a useful alternative to the other rodent bait products available and could be used as a 'pulse method'. History has proven that rodents can develop either a firm choice or shyness of bait materials. Nevertheless, it has exciting possibilities.

8. Miramar Peninsula Possum Control Area

The plan for this operation was to have a possum free peninsula and this aim appears to be almost achievable as long as the public are vigilant. The initial operation was completed in January 2004 and since then three possums have been notified to and destroyed by Biosecurity staff. The last one captured in March this year was a juvenile possum which may have been an escaped pet.

Signage has been established at the key entry points onto the peninsula to alert residents and visitors to inform Greater Wellington of any signs of possums. All calls have been followed up but mostly relate to hedgehog droppings. Sentinel traps are maintained in likely incursion areas.

9. Communications

Staff will be in attendance at both the Otaki Lifestyle Farmers Field Day and the Eastbourne Restoration Day to be held on Saturday 27 May.

Pest Plants:**1. Eradication Species****1.1 Blue passionflower**

Seven new sites of blue passionflower have been located during this period. One of these sites is located in Featherston, with the other six around Wellington city.

1.2 Eelgrass

A new infestation was located in Tawa in a private pond.

The three infestations in Kapiti that were covered with weed-matting are now showing advanced signs of decay. A further check will be undertaken in late May to fully determine the success.

During a recent garden trial in Kapiti, staff received information of a further private pond containing eelgrass. An inspection revealed an infestation that was subsequently controlled.

1.3 Madeira vine

Two new infestations were located in Wellington City. During survey inspections it came to light that certain sections of the Chinese community were using this plant as a food source. There has been difficulty with communication and as a result, we have formatted a letter that will be translated into Chinese. Copies will be handed out to occupiers during inspections. The translator is a staff member based in the Regional Council Centre in Wellington.

1.4 Moth plant

Two new sites have been located in Wellington city.

1.5 Sweet pea shrub

Four new sites have been located. The majority are in Paremata.

1.6 African feathergrass

Disappointing results have been achieved on several infestations in South Wairarapa that were worked by contractors. As a consequence further work has been required.

1.7 Bathurst bur

Inspections of known sites were undertaken in March. Many of the sites had a limited number of plants present. Most pleasing was the fact that around 30 plants were cleared from the sites at Wairio, south Wairarapa. At the corresponding time last year approximately 600 plants were removed.

1.8 Climbing spindleberry

A new site has been located in the Hinakura area of South Wairarapa. This is the first infestation to be recorded in South Wairarapa. The site is located near a homestead adjacent to the Pahaoa River. Further survey work is required to determine the full extent. Staff are currently experiencing difficulty with an occupier regarding access. Staff will send a letter outlining Greater Wellington's legal responsibilities and access powers under the Biosecurity Act.

2. Containment Species

2.1 Hornwort / Endothall Resource Consent

Much of the infestation at Forest Lakes has diminished substantially over the summer. The reduction appears to be as a result of an algal bloom which has attached itself to the hornwort.

Infestations of both hornwort and egeria were located in lined ponds at Reikorangi, Kapiti. The ponds have been lowered so control can be undertaken.

All submitters have agreed to the proposed amended Resource consent conditions for the application of the herbicide Endothall. A hearing is now unnecessary. The consent should be approved in the near future. This will allow control work to be organised for next summer.

2.2 Boneseed

Occupiers at Ngawi have complemented the work that the staff have undertaken on boneseed control in the area. It was pleasing to note that occupiers are also removing seedlings. It appears that the new information signage, and letters to all occupiers are now having a positive impact.

The last of the mature infestations in the Wairarapa coastal villages is to be removed. The site at Whatarangi is a hedge about 30 metres long. Owner approval has been given for Greater Wellington to remove it. Work will be carried out over the next couple of months.

3. Suppression – Site led species

Over a dozen letters requesting clearance, 'Notices of Direction' and 'Default' letters have been issued during this period for Suppression plants. All relate to gorse and old man's beard.

4. National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) Plant Outlet Inspections

Follow-up inspections on outlets have been undertaken in conjunction with Pest Animals staff. No banned species were recorded.

An infestation of the NPPA species 'rough horsetail' was found at a property in Chester Road, Carterton. Staff were advised by the owner that it was purchased

from an outlet in Palmerston North. The outlet was inspected by Horizons Regional Council staff but no records or other plants were found. The owners denied all knowledge of having sold the plant.

5. Publicity

Presentations and displays have been provided at the following venues –

- Whitemans Valley restoration field day.
- Ngaio Scouts at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary
- Treecoppers National conference at Solway Park, Masterton

Staff are heavily involved in developing a pest plant education programme to fit into the current curriculum for environmental education. The Ministry of Education have shown considerable interest in our proposal.

5.1 Weedbusters Awards

Two biosecurity staff (Pedro Jensen and Ben Winder) are regional co-ordinators for Weedbuster events. They have been involved in setting up the inaugural Weedbusters awards for the Wellington Region. Seven nominations were received. Cr Greig has volunteered to assist with the judging.

6. Key Native Ecosystems

6.1 Greytown Memorial Park

Staff have been developing a pest plant management plan for the Park.

6.2 Porirua Scenic Reserve

Contracts covering approximately 20 hectares for over twenty environmental species are nearing completion.

6.3 Porirua Park – Raroa Reserve

Comprehensive weed surveys have been undertaken in both reserves in anticipation of work being carried out there in the near future.

6.4 Tauherenikau

Further maintenance work on both the sycamore and wandering jew was requested after the initial control phase by contractors. This work has been completed.

7. Mistletoe *Alepis flavida*

Following a routine client response enquiry for pest plants, Biosecurity Officer Harvey Phillips has made a significant discovery of *Alepis flavida*. The last time this species of mistletoe was recorded in the Wellington Conservancy was in 1947

on the banks of the Kaiwhata River at Ngahape. Since then this plant was thought to be extinct in the Department of Conservation Wellington Conservancy. The discovery at Ngahape on 22 March 2006 has been confirmed by John Sawyer, a botanist from the Department of Conservation. There is little doubt that the intense possum control programmes that have occurred in this area for many years is having significant positive ecological benefits.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W O'Donnell', written in a cursive style.

Wayne O'Donnell
Manager, Biosecurity

Land & River Operations Manager's Report Ian Gunn

For period ending 5 May 2006

1. Land Management

1.1 Akura Nursery and Conservation Centre

The Centre is gearing up for the winter planting season. The official opening will be Tuesday, 6 June. In the meantime stocks are beginning to arrive, and tenders have been let for the cutting of poles. It is envisaged that some 25,000 poles will be sold this year, the vast majority destined for planting as part of the hill country stabilisation programme.

It is also envisaged that there will be further increases in the sales of native trees. While full eco-sourcing of native trees is not due until 2007, the demand for these trees continues. The Streams Alive programme is part of the reason for the increase, with an increased public awareness of species, attributes and biodiversity accounting for the rest.

1.2 Farm Environment Awards

Ata Rangi Vineyard and Winery were selected as the 2006 winners of the Wellington region Farm Environment Awards. The presentations were made at the Awards ceremony held in April. While entry numbers were not very high, the calibre of each entrant was very good. A field day is to be held at Ata Rangi on Wednesday, 17 May beginning at 10am.

This is the fifth year of these Awards and they bring into focus the sustainable use of our land and water resources, as well as continued emphasis on biodiversity protection. After five years it is timely that Greater Wellington's role in these Awards be reviewed. As the years go by it will become more difficult to attract good numbers of entrants. This issue, along with a number of other factors, needs to be addressed.

1.3 Wairarapa Hill Country Farm of the Year

The winner of this competition was Rahui Livestock Ltd, who farm in the Tinui district. It comprises two properties, Rahui and Tirohanga. While the focus of the day is more about production, there is always ample opportunity to include discussion on erosion control and sustainable land management.

The importance of a long term approach to erosion control was never better illustrated. Rahui has been an active Farm Plan for 40 years, Tirohanga has been active on occasions but has not consistently addressed the issues. During recent storms Rahui suffered little damage, whereas Tirohanga received a hammering.

Unsolicited comments from the owners endorsed the current approaches of Greater Wellington and it was clear to all the importance of the programme.

2. River Management

Scheme meetings to approve next year's annual works programme and the rates adjustment are in full swing. The lack of any major floods during this past year to date have allowed staff to catch up on all flood damage works and complete the proposed annual works maintenance programme.

In the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development scheme the upgrade of the stopbank in the lower Huangaroa River situated on Biss's property has been completed. Following the failure of the stopbank on the opposite side of the river in 2004 a significant upgrade has occurred. The stopbank has been realigned giving more room to the river and the berm has been cleared also. Just upstream South Wairarapa District Council has contributed to opening up the river channel upstream and downstream of the Ponatahi Bridge.

In the Pukio area at Vollebregt's the stopbank has been moved to improve the alignment of the river. This should lower the flood levels in this area.

The upgrade of the Scadden's stopbank partially completed following the 2005 flood events has still to be finished. The appeal to the Environment Court is still to be resolved.

Works programmes are winding down prior to the trout spawning season in June. In the middle reaches of the Ruamahanga the second year of a beach lowering programme is under way. This technique is showing promise in assisting the river to achieve our desired river alignment.

3. Technical Services

The Technical Services workload over the last quarter has been:

- Mapping for the 2004 flood event in the Kopuaranga River flood from the Ruamahanga River to Hastwell. The flood extents are now in our GIS database. A draft classification plan was produced for meetings with landowners along the river. Additional cross section surveys were completed at Jacksons Line and Dreyers Rock Road. Information collected from three Troll water level recorders on the Kopuaranga River to gather travel time and height data for a small flood on 9th April.
- Continued work on the Lower Ruamahanga classification including further meetings to finalise the GIS data and rating process. All layers and coverages are complete, and a draft classification has been produced.
- Gravel extraction returns for the third quarter were sent out, an inspection of gravel extraction sites completed, and a number of new licences issued.

- A re-survey of the Croker / Gawith drain at Longbush to check the drain regrade. Plans were produced.

4. Conservation Forestry

4.1 Harvesting

In conjunction with the harvesting of the neighbouring Pirinoa 8B, Bawden Associates have harvested 118 tonnes of Pinus nigra for posts from Tauanui Forest. A shortage of post material provided a market for this timber. Assistance and advice has been provided to the Trustees of Pirinoa 8B as agreed during access negotiations.

4.2 Maringi Fire

The post fire debrief was attended. Although conducted in a relatively formal manner, the debrief highlighted a number of areas that require improvement at a local level. Fire Researchers have inspected the site and are preparing a report as a case study of extreme fire behaviour. The Operation Review was also attended. The outcome of this review will identify operational and procedural deficiencies at this fire.

4.3 Institute of Foresters Conference

The theme of the Conference held at Te Papa considered the values of Forestry other than those that were purely derived from producing timber. Soil and Water Conservation, Biodiversity, Recreation, Bio – energy, Carbon and Nitrate Sequestration as well as a range of other issues were highlighted and debated through panel sessions. The lack of recognition of the Forest Industries contribution, effective nationalisation of property rights and protection of the farming sector resulted in an action plan lead by The Institute of Foresters to raise the profile of Forest benefits and seek appropriate recognition from all Members of Parliament.

4.4 Lincoln Students

A day was spent with 65 Lincoln University students looking at Conservation and Production Forestry in the Eastern Wairarapa hill country. This is part of an annual North Island trip associated with the Agriculture Commerce Course at Lincoln University to which we have contributed for the last nine years.



Ian Gunn

Land & River Operations Manager

Acting Manager, Planning & Resources Report Ted Taylor

For period ending 5 May 2006

1. Resource Investigations

1.1 Rainfall

In terms of rainfall February was dry with the three representative rainfall sites all recording monthly totals well below mean values. This dry spell continued through to around the 20 March when steady rain over a number of days was sufficient to lift the March rainfall total to above the mean.

April rainfall was well above mean values from the eastern hills to the Tararua Ranges. At the Tararua site the April total (862mm) was the second highest since records began in 1975 (highest 901mm April 1991). This was not the result of one or more high intensity events but an accumulation of steady rain over a number of days.

The table below shows rainfall statistics for 3 representative rainfall sites.

Rainfall Totals

	February		March		April	
	mm	% of average	mm	% of average	mm	% of average
Angle Knob (Tararuas)	274	69	474	106	862	176
Alloa (middle valley)	49	73	112	136	104	131
Tanawa Hut (eastern hills)	35	45	127	125	170	163

1.2 Rivers

River flows in February and March were well below monthly mean values even with increased rainfall from the middle of March. The continuing rain through April is reflected in river flows rising to well above the monthly mean.

The table below shows river flow statistics for the two representative sites.

River flows

	February		March		April	
	m ³ /s	% of average	m ³ /s	% of average	m ³ /s	% of average
Waiohine	9.1	59	14.6	83	26.6	140
Waihenga	21.5	55	35.5	74	80.4	136

1.3 Floodwarning

No flood events occurred in the February to April period. One set of warnings was issued for heavy rain in the Eastern catchments.

Lake Onoke closed once in February and twice in March.

1.4 Groundwater

The State of the Environment report highlighted an increasing demand for groundwater in the Wairarapa over the last few years. The report also notes that declining groundwater levels have been observed in some areas, which throws doubt on the suitability of the aquifer safe yields listed in the Regional Freshwater Plan.

To assess the existing safe yields work has been undertaken on developing a regional-scale conceptual model of the Wairarapa groundwater system. The last time such an exercise was undertaken was in the late 1980s. There is now more data than previously available because of the local-scale investigations undertaken in the last 15 years. This regional model will define the current understanding of groundwater in the Wairarapa Valley.

The intention is to build on this work in 2006/2007 by translating the conceptual model into a numerical, computer model. This step will provide the ability to assess various climatic and pumping scenarios to determine the amount of groundwater that may be taken without causing adverse effects on springs, streams, wetlands or other groundwater users.

A more comprehensive update on the progress of this study will be presented to the Committee.

2. Policy and Planning

2.1 District Plans

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee. Subdivision activity in the Wairarapa shows no sign of letting up with some large subdivisions in rural areas being proposed.

The combined district plan is now scheduled for notification in mid June. The continuing delays in notification are understood to be related to production of the drawings within the plan.

2.2 Appeals

Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd

The Martinborough Coastal Developments Ltd Tora subdivision appeal is understood to be heading for mediation.

Pinehaven Orchard

We have been party to an appeal against a decision by South Wairarapa District Council to decline an application known as the Pinehaven Orchard subdivision. The proposal was to create “town sized” lots in a rural area immediately adjacent to the Greytown urban area. Given the small size of the lots and being upgradient of a town water supply groundwater bore, on-site wastewater disposal was not an option. The alternative, connection to the Greytown sewerage system, was not supported by South Wairarapa contributing to the decision to decline.

3. Consents and Compliance

3.1 Consent statistics

Application numbers for the financial year to date (196) are similar to last year (184). 158 consents have been granted this financial year compared with 171 for the last.

A summary of non-notified consents issued since the last Committee meeting is included as a separate report. The median time for processing non-notified consents (excluding s37 requests) is 10 working days.

Applications that have been notified are detailed below:

- N & E Reid: An application to renew consents for the discharge of piggery effluent to land and odours to air. The application is on hold pending further information including a report commissioned to evaluate the capacity of the soils within the proposed effluent irrigation areas to sustainably accept the nutrient load.
- Masterton District Council: An application for consents to manage the closure of the Masterton Landfill and provide for ongoing waste management related activities on the site. The application is on hold pending further information.

3.2 Appeals

Masterton District Council

Masterton District Council have 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 no further progress has been made to date.

Martinborough Coastal Developments

We understand this appeal is progressing towards mediation.

A E & S W Benton Partnership

This application to take groundwater in the Battersea area was declined. This decision has been appealed by the applicant. One of the submitters who opposed the application has joined as a party to the appeal.

3.3 Compliance**Prosecutions**

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.

Infringement Notices

No infringement notices were served in the period.

Abatement Notices

Abatement notices were served on;

- S J and J E McLachlan requiring that a groundwater abstraction well be properly constructed and details of the associated irrigation system be submitted. This relates to resource consent conditions that have not been met.
- International Timber Processors Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- A J Smith requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- Capital Precut Solutions Ltd requiring that the burning of industrial waste in the open ceases.
- K and A Sage requiring that improvements be made to their dairy effluent management system.

Incidents

The following list records incidents reported and dealt with to 30 April.

Date	Complaint	Outcome
1 February	Abandoned and burned out vehicle in Ruamahanga riverbed, rural Carterton	Removed and disposed of by GW
1 February	Dust from neighbouring industrial site, urban Masterton	Not considered excessive by Council staff. No further action taken.
1 February	Complaint of nausea caused by storage of hazardous material, urban Masterton	Passed to public health authority.
1 February	Bore ran dry for the first time in 50 years, rural Carterton	Unable to determine specific cause. Farmer has been advised to deepen bore.
1 March	Bore ran dry, rural Martinborough	Not linked to any specific cause. Considered part of a dry summer.
1 March	Dead fish reported in Waipoua River, Masterton	Investigated. Plenty of healthy fish found, but no dead ones. No further action.
1 March	No flow in watercourse, rural Masterton	Not investigated – it started raining the day of the report, and the watercourse began flowing again.
1 March	Report of mis-management of agricultural effluent, rural Carterton	Investigated and found minor problems, which have subsequently been fixed.
15 March	Concern over works in and beside the Kuripuni stream, rural Masterton.	Found to be dam under construction. Works were stopped until a resource consent had been granted.
21 March	Two dead cows and algal bloom found in stream, rural Featherston	Water tested, and autopsy performed on cows. Autopsy results indicated tutu poisoning. Algal bloom considered natural occurrence.
23 March	Two vehicles abandoned in Turanganui river, South Wairarapa.	Removed and disposed of by GW
30 March	Dam constructed in floodway, rural Carterton.	Person responsible has been asked to obtain resource consent for the works.

4 April	Dam constructed in watercourse, rural Martinborough	Person responsible has been asked to obtain resource consent for the works.
7 April	Two deer carcasses reported in watercourse, rural Greytown	Removed and disposed of by GW
7 April	Large volume of advertising brochures, (including the GW LTCCP) dumped in riverbed, Masterton	Removed and disposed of by GW
27 April	Unconsented works in river, South Wairarapa.	Letter sent seeking explanation.
27 April	Complaint of odour from sewage ponds, Carterton	Staff did not consider it to be a problem at the time of investigation, but there had been an earlier problem which has subsequently been resolved.
29 April	Dead sheep in river, Masterton	Removed and disposed of by GW

Ted Taylor

Acting Manager, Planning & Resources