



greater WELLINGTON  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **Pollution Control Annual Report 2006/07**

Environmental Regulation Department  
Greater Wellington Regional Council



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## 1. Introduction

Greater Wellington operates a 24-hour, 7-day incident response service to deal with environmental incidents that occur in the region and conducts environmental audits of businesses. Our investigating officers assess the compliance status of issues we encounter, determine necessary action, gather evidence and take enforcement action when appropriate.

### 1.1 Incidents and complaints

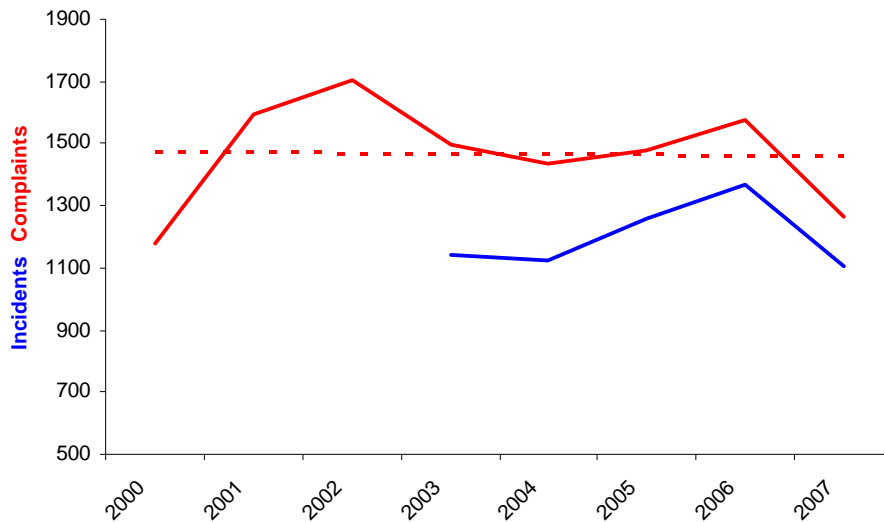


Figure 1: Incidents and complaints

This report summarises the Council's pollution control activities over the financial year 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. A total of 1,106 environmental incidents were processed by Greater Wellington during this reporting period, which gave rise to a total of 1,264 individual complaints. When compared to the previous financial year, there has been a 19% decrease in pollution incident numbers and a 20% decrease in complaints. This represents a downturn in the upward trend evident since 2004 (see Figure 1). The decrease during this reporting period is largely attributed to a decrease in odour incidents. Sections 1.1 to 1.10 of this report provide a more detailed analysis of recent trends for specific pollution classes.

### 1.2 Geographical distribution of incidents

Table 1 summarises the geographical distribution of incidents in the region. There is a marked decrease in environmental incidents in the Hutt City Council (33%), Wellington City Council (26%), and Kapiti Coast District Council (17%) areas compared to the previous year. However, the number of incidents reported in the Wairarapa increased by 61%, as a result of a more proactive focus on enforcement by Greater Wellington in the Wairarapa.

Table 1: Geographic distribution of incidents in 2006/07 (and 2005/06)

Territorial Authority	Number of Incidents	Proportion of Total
Wellington City Council	510 (690)	46%
Hutt City Council	223 (334)	20%
Upper Hutt City Council	77 (76)	7%
Porirua City Council	99 (106)	9%
Kapiti Coast District Council	68 (82)	6%
Wairarapa councils	129 (80)	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1106 (1368)</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 1.3 Pollution categories

Incidents are placed into one of 12 categories according to primary pollution type. Table 2 provides a breakdown of environmental incidents by category. It shows the number of incidents in each area decreased this year compared to 2005/2006 with the exception of sewage-related incidents which increased by 36 percent and hydrocarbon discharges which increased by 11 percent on the previous year.

The most significant decreases include incidents involving hazardous material, which have almost halved since the previous reporting period, and a significant (27%) decline in odour incidents, consistent with the downward trend since 2002 (see 1.1 for more detail).

Table 2: Pollution incident categories 2006/07 (2005/06)

Incident Category	Number of Incidents	Proportion of Total
Odour	297 (406)	28% (30%)
Liquid waste	193 (251)	17% (18%)
Hydrocarbons	122 (110)	11% (8%)
Sediment	105 (127)	9% (9%)
Sewage	45 (33)	4% (2%)
Natural occurrence	42 (55)	4% (4%)
Hazardous material	31 (58)	3% (4%)
Unconsented work	68 (78)	6% (6%)
Solid waste	49 (59)	4% (4%)
Smoke & dust	70 (90)	6% (7%)
Dead animal	14 (19)	1% (1%)
Vehicle	28 (39)	3% (3%)
Other	42 (43)	4% (3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1106 (1368)</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 2 shows the number of incidents in each pollution type as a proportion of the total incidents for 2006/07.

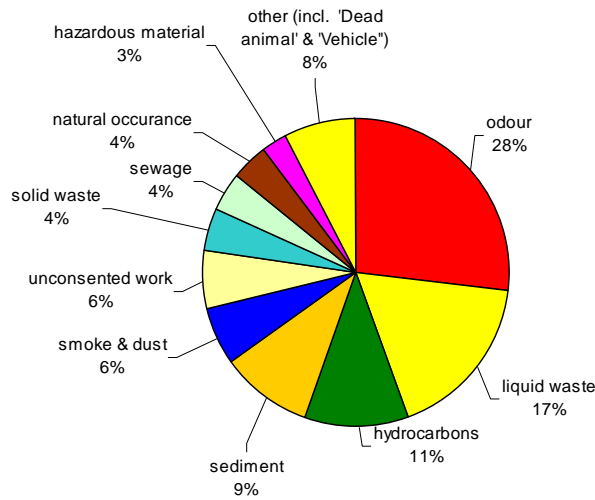


Figure 2: Incidents by pollution type

#### 1.4 Receiving environment

As well as primary pollution type, the main receiving environment, or 'sink' is also recorded. Note: The freshwater category includes wetlands and groundwater.

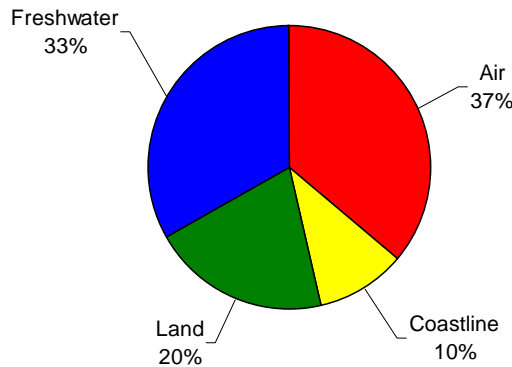


Figure 3: Receiving environment

Figure 3 illustrates that the most commonly affected environments were air (by smoke and odour) and freshwater (by liquid waste and sediment).

#### 1.5 Compliance

After an incident notification is received by Greater Wellington a site visit is made, or if no visit is necessary the incident is logged into the incident database. After the initial site visit an assessment is made of the whether the incident represents a breach of regional rules and the Resource Management Act 1991. This assessment informs what further action is taken by environmental protection and enforcement staff (see Figure 4).

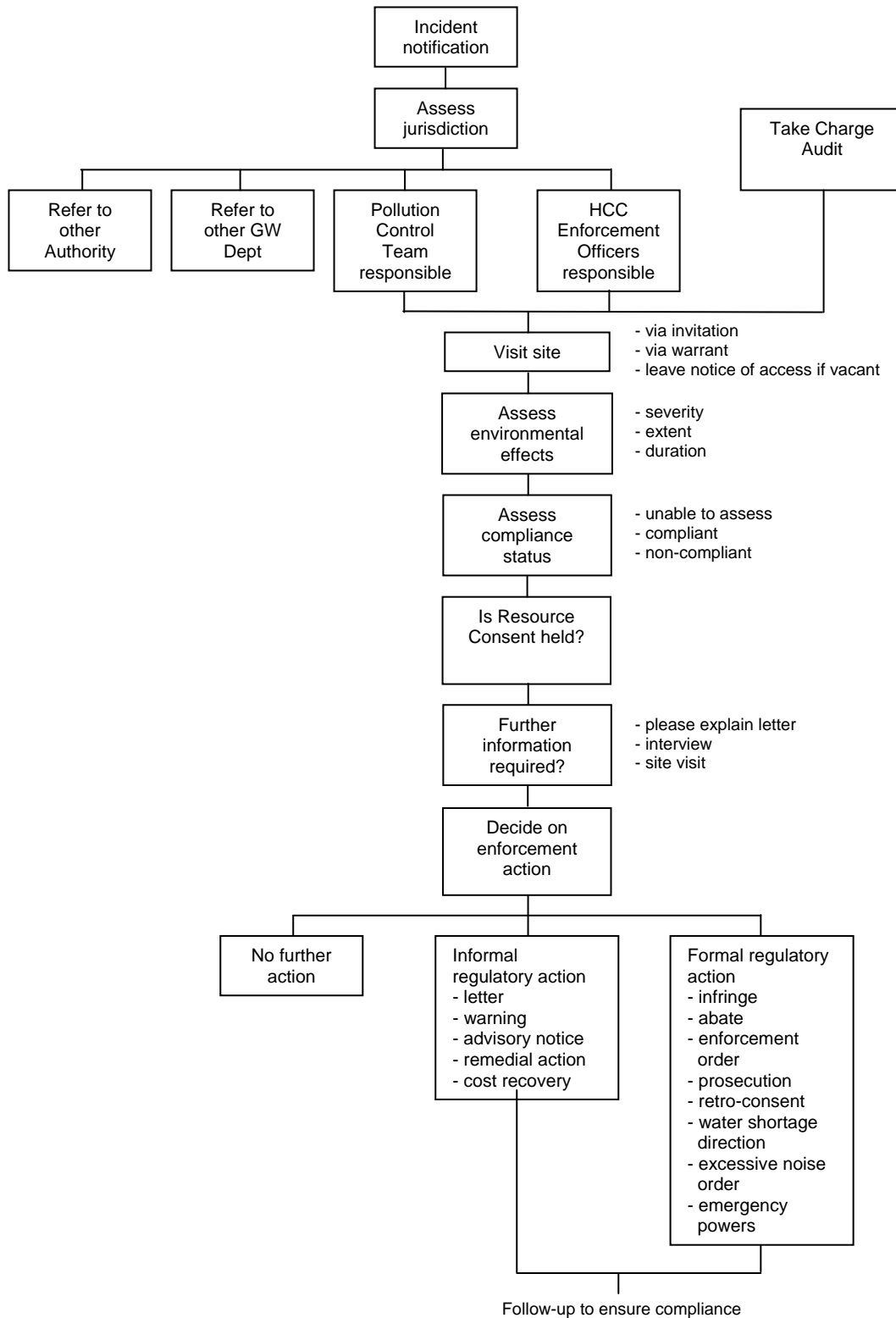


Figure 4: Incident response procedure

In 2006/07, over a third of all reported incidents were deemed to be non-compliant, or in breach of environmental regulations (see Figure 5). For 10 percent of all reported incidents it was not possible to assess compliance, mainly because where site visits were not required (for example if a notification had been received after the incident had passed), or the event could not be detected, no site assessment could be carried out.



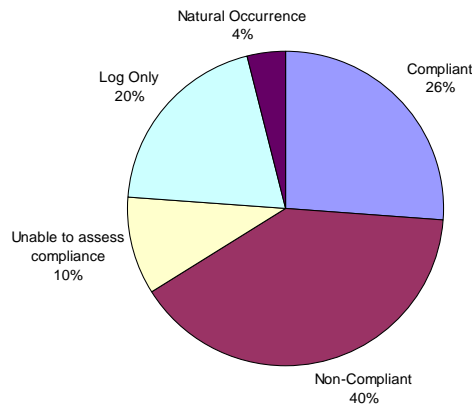


Figure 5: Regulatory compliance

### 1.6 Incident processing

Based on the assessment of regulatory compliance, a decision is made about which is the most appropriate follow-up action for each incident.

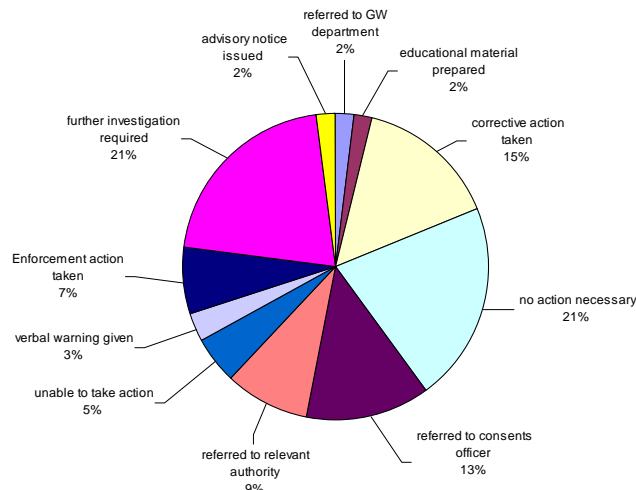


Figure 6: Incident processing

As Figure 6 illustrates, 7 percent of incidents that occurred in 2006/07 led to officers taking formal enforcement action after an investigation, including issuing warning letters, infringement notices and abatement notices. 13 percent of incidents were referred through to Greater Wellington’s consents teams for follow up, as the incidents occurred at consented sites.

A further 9 percent of incidents were found to be outside the jurisdiction of Greater Wellington and were passed to the appropriate territorial authority or other regulatory agency. 21 percent of incidents could not be resolved during the initial investigation and are recorded to provide information for future investigation of similar incidents. Corrective action was taken or directed by officers at the site for 15 percent of incidents corrective action was taken or directed by officers at the site.

## 1.7 Incident significance

All reported incidents are given a significance ranking based upon the severity, extent and duration of environmental effects. Figure 7 illustrates that only 1% of incidents were ranked as having 'high' environmental significance, and a further 4% were ranked as 'moderate'. Nearly half (48%) of all incidents were deemed to be in the negligible, or 'very low' category, because either the effects were only minor, were contained or were short lived. 27 percent of incidents were not assessed because they were referred to another authority or no response was required from Greater Wellington.

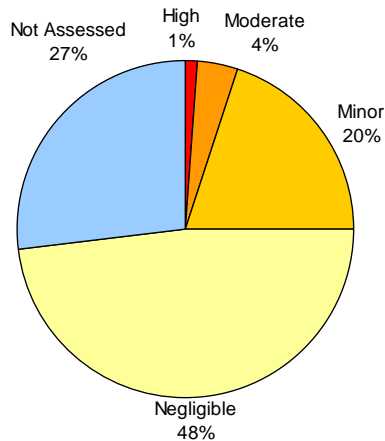


Figure 7: Incident significance

It is important to note that even if an incident does not fulfil all the criteria to give it a high or moderate ranking, it does not necessarily mean that enforcement action will not need to be taken. Likewise, enforcement action is often not applicable for incidents in these categories because for example the incident was a natural occurrence. The sections below which discuss a selection of incidents for each geographical area also include incidents that do not rank among the top according to the three criteria discussed, but have still led to enforcement action, or are noteworthy for other reasons. Table 3 provides an overview of the top 25 ranked incidents in the reporting period.

Table 3: Overview of significant incidents

Rank	Incident description (and responsible party)	Territorial Authority	Score	Class
1	Sediment discharge into a wetland in Whitby (Silverwood Stage II Subdivision)	Porirua City Council	4922	High
2	Hydrocarbon Spill in Akatarawa (Akatarawa Sawmill)	Upper Hutt City Council	4805	High
3	Discharge of dairy shed wash-water to surface water (Osbourne Dairy Farm)	South Wairarapa District Council	4684	High
4=	Hydrocarbon discharge into Waiwhetu Stream (Bostik New Zealand Limited)	Hutt City Council	4567	High
4=	Landslide in Kelson (Natural Occurrence)	Hutt City Council	4567	High
4=	Sediment discharge in Whitby (Staithe Drive Subdivision (Capital Project Management))	Porirua City Council	4567	Moderate
5=	Sediment discharge into tributary of Hutt River (Eurocell Sawmilling Ltd)	Upper Hutt City Council	4454	Moderate
5=	Sediment discharge into Porirua Stream (Best Farms Ltd Subdivision)	Wellington City Council	4454	Moderate
5=	Sediment discharge into Kaiwharawhara Stream (Ridvan Gardens Developments Limited)	Wellington City Council	4454	Moderate
5=	Sewage overflow into Porirua Stream (Private lateral on Sewer Network)	Wellington City Council	4454	Moderate
6=	Discharge of vehicle wash-water to land in Gracefield (Quality Demolition & Contracting Limited)	Hutt City Council	4428	Moderate
6=	Unconsented earthworks and works in the bed of a stream in Waikanae (Davide and Amanda Rutten)	Kapiti Coast District Council	4428	Moderate
7=	Boat wreckage on Wairaka Point (Incognito)	Porirua City Council	4424	Moderate
7=	Unconsented earthworks and works in the bed of a stream, on Colonial Knob, Porirua (Unknown)	Porirua City Council	4424	Moderate
8=	Discharge of odour	Carterton District	4311	Moderate

Rank	Incident description (and responsible party)	Territorial Authority	Score	Class
	(The Reid Piggery, N & E.E. Reid)	Council		
8=	Hydrocarbon discharge from stormwater network into coastal marine area, Seaview (Thurlines Transport Services Limited)	Hutt City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Wetland drainage in Kapiti (Ted Sims)	Kapiti Coast District Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sediment discharge into surface water in Pinehaven (Joe Roberts)	Upper Hutt City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Landslide at Otari Reserve (Natural Occurrence)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sediment discharge from earthworks in Mt Victoria (Angela Foster)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sediment discharge affecting surface water in Crofton Downs (Ridvan Gardens Developments Ltd)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sewage overflow into Donald's Creek (South Wairarapa District Council)	South Wairarapa District Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sewage discharge into Tyers Stream (Wellington City Council)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Sewage discharge into storm water network and coastal marine area (Wellington City Council)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate
8=	Unconsented earthworks and works in the bed of a stream (Rob Catsburg)	Wellington City Council	4311	Moderate

## 2. Main pollution types

### 2.1 Nuisance odour

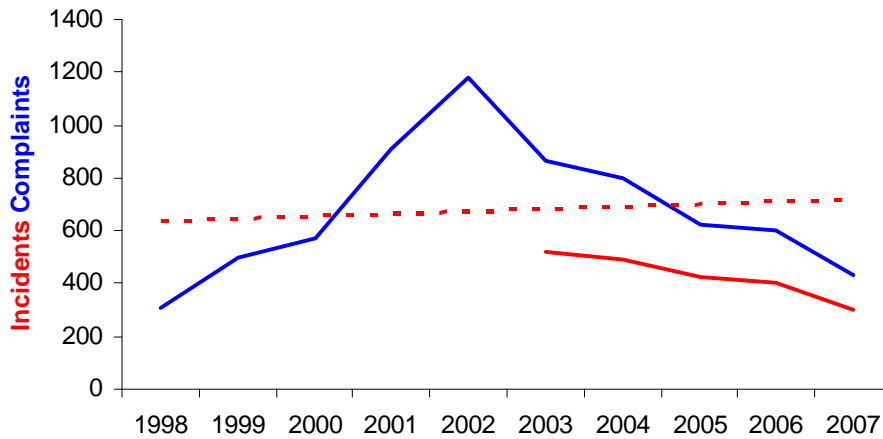


Figure 8: Odour incidents and complaints

GW responds to odour beyond the boundary of industrial and commercial sites. This year odour represented just over one quarter of all incidents reported. The majority of odour complaints (68%) were attributed to four private companies, including Carey’s Gully Complex (based in Wellington) (30%), Taylor Preston (based in Wellington)(18%), New Zealand Fish Products Limited (who have now left the region)(11%) and Supreme Automotive Refinishers (based in the Wairarapa)(9%).The two next biggest sources of odour were the municipal facilities Moa Point (5%) Treatment Plant and Wainuiomata Landfill (2%).

There was a 100% decrease in incidents attributed to the Hutt Valley Water Services wastewater treatment plant at Seaview, which last year accounted for 5% of all odour incidents.

### 2.2 Liquid waste

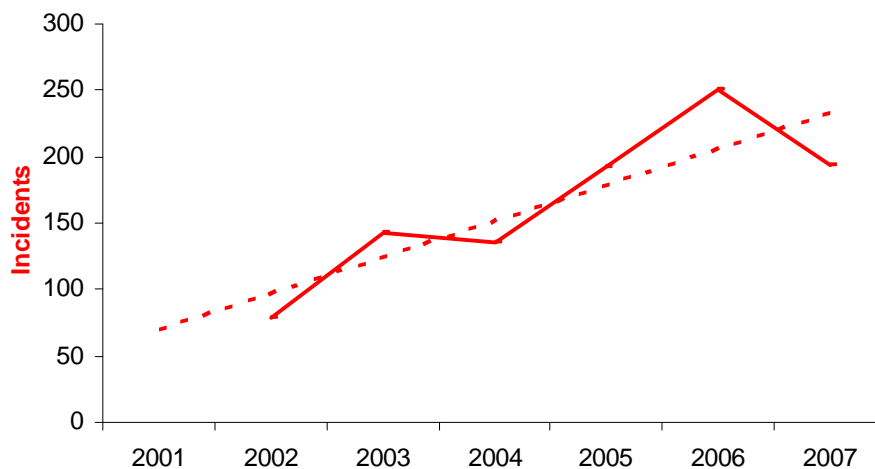


Figure 9: Liquid waste incidents

Pollution incidents involving inappropriate liquid waste disposal returned to 2004/05 levels in this reporting period. Notifications included the inappropriate disposal of paint, detergent or concrete waste, typically into stormwater drains or watercourses. The decrease in incident umbers is attributed to significant initiatives taken by Greater Wellington to combat liquid waste from residential properties via media releases and publications.



Liquid waste enters stormwater from vehicle grooming

### 2.3 Hydrocarbons

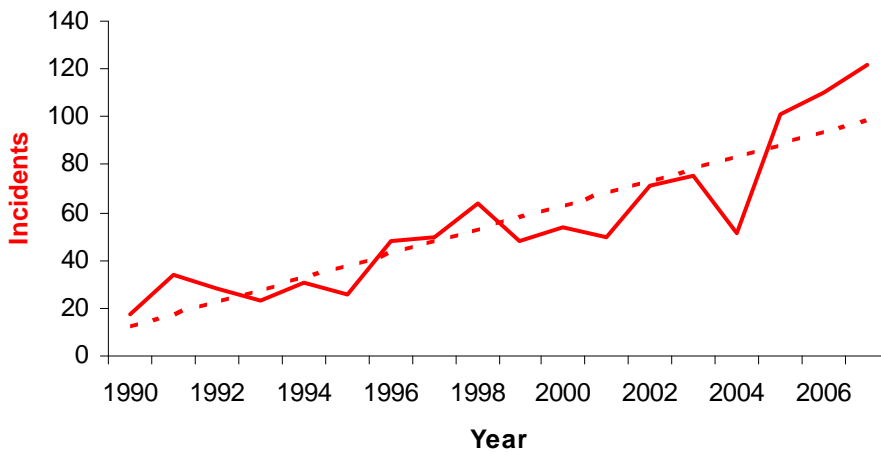


Figure 10: Hydrocarbon incidents

Hydrocarbon incidents include the accidental or intentional disposal of fuel and oil, typically into stormwater drains. Accidental discharges occurred in a range of situations, including from vehicle accidents, fuel leaks in buses and vehicles parked at residential properties, and deliberate acts including trespassers tampering with bungs on fuel tanks.

There has been an upward trend in hydrocarbon incidents since 1990 (see Figure 10), due to a combination of increased vehicle ownership, a decline in the number of garages accepting waste oil, rising landfill fees and growing public awareness, leading to more incidents being reported.

Greater Wellington’s Take Charge programme which started in 2002, continues to target hydrocarbon discharges into the stormwater network, emphasising stormwater protection and the appropriate storage and disposal of fuel, lubricants and waste materials.



A stormwater sump being cleaned out after a hydrocarbon spill at Shell Thorndon

## 2.4 Sediment

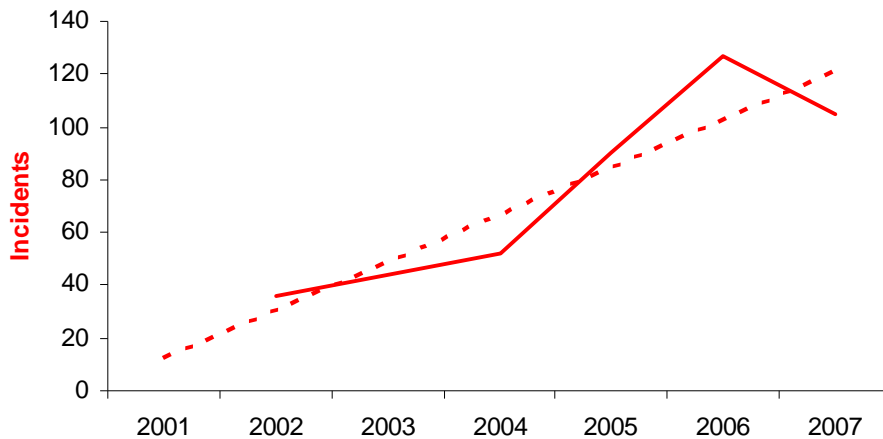


Figure 11: Sediment incidents

There has been substantial growth in vegetation clearance and earthwork activities around the region, as part of the building boom in recent years. Where developers fail to adequately control muddy run-off from their sites, this can result in heavy sediment loading for nearby streams and rivers. In his reporting period however, sediment incidents have decreased 17 percent, constituting the first decrease since charting of sediment trends began in 2002. This decrease is due to the efforts of the Muddy Waters programme and Small Streams workshops.



Sediment runoff into Browns Bay

## 2.5 Unconsented works

This category includes stream works (such as erosion protection, channel diversion or placement of structures), earthworks and vegetation clearance that have been done without the necessary resource consent(s) being obtained. Most unconsented works were associated with the establishment of building platforms, access roads, stream crossings, erosion protection and stream re-alignment. The decrease (17%) in unconsented work incidents since 2006 is attributed to a raised awareness of the potential impacts of unconsented works, also as a result of the Muddy Waters programme and Small Streams workshops.

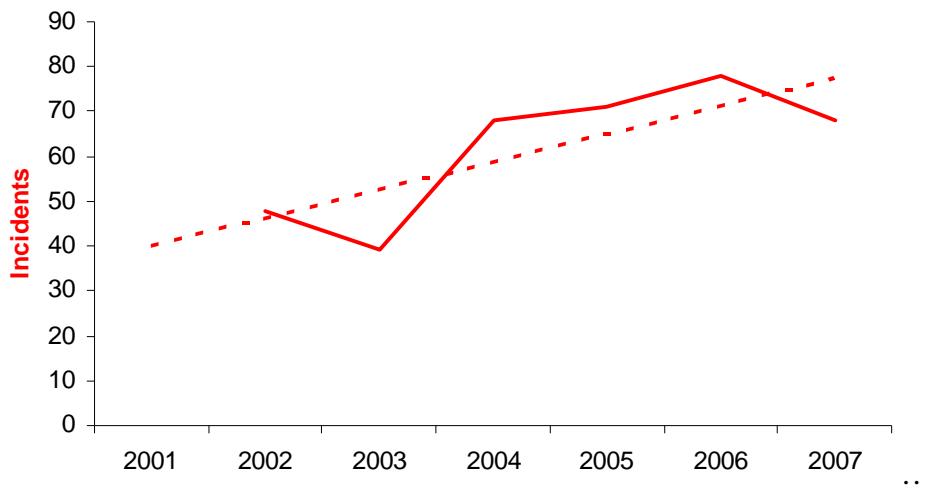


Figure 12: Unconsented works

Greater Wellington may require authorisation from those responsible for unconsented works and may encourage retrospective consent to be sought. However, there is likely to be an additional penalty for intentional avoidance of due process. Where unconsented works do not qualify for retrospective resource consent, the owner is typically required to remove non-complying structures or reinstate affected areas, and may also incur a penalty.





An illegal culvert on Moonshine Hill Road

## 2.6 Smoke, dust and uncontrolled burning

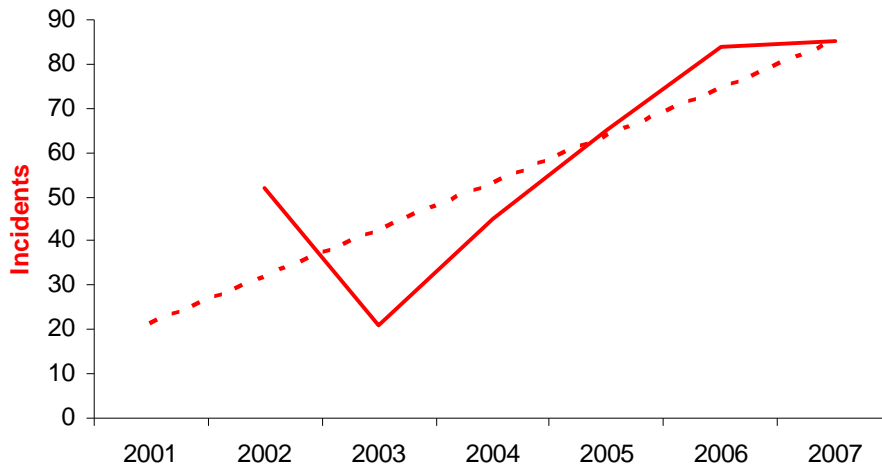


Figure 13: Smoke, dust and uncontrolled burning

Common examples of unauthorised burning include combustion processes that do not meet permitted activity rules due to the likely release of certain contaminants, such as those present in Copper-Chrome-Arsenic (CCA) treated timber, and rubber and coated metal. Incidents involving the latter were among some of the more serious reported in the period.

The number of incidents associated with smoke and dust stabilised in 2006/07, after having increased three fold between 2003 and 2006 (see Figure 13). The majority (73%) of incidents in this category were from smoke and unauthorised burning. The stabilising of the upward trend in incident numbers is principally due to a publicity campaign in the media including several press releases in Wellington and the Wairarapa.

## 2.7 Sewage

Greater Wellington responds to sewage spills onto land or into water, which typically occurs as a consequence of pump failure, pipe blockage or pipe

defects. There a range of sources of sewage discharge, including from private tanks in rural areas, private laterals on sewer mains, and sewer mains themselves. Despite the significant variance in the number of sewage-related incidents over recent years, Figure 14 illustrates that there is a gradual upward trend.

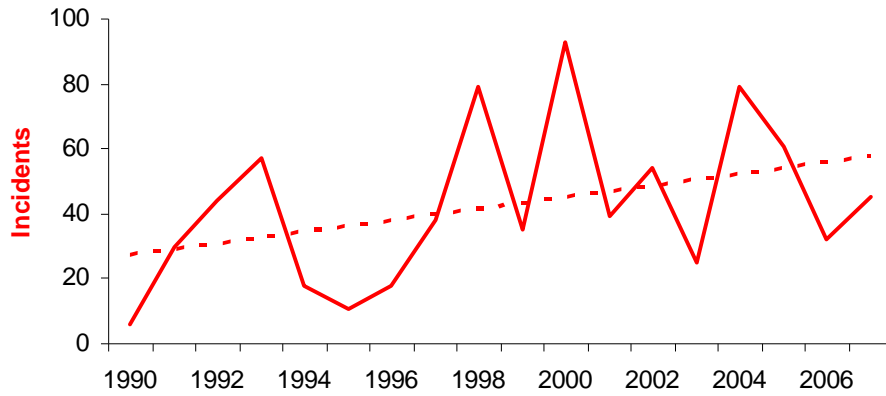


Figure 14: Sewage incidents

A reporting and response protocol is in place for sewage incidents, through which territorial authorities notify Greater Wellington and the Regional Public Health service about accidental sewage discharges. This ensures public health effects and environmental consequences are adequately managed.

## 2.8 Solid waste

Solid waste incidents are those concerning the inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste, typically dumped on stream beds and adjacent to waterways.

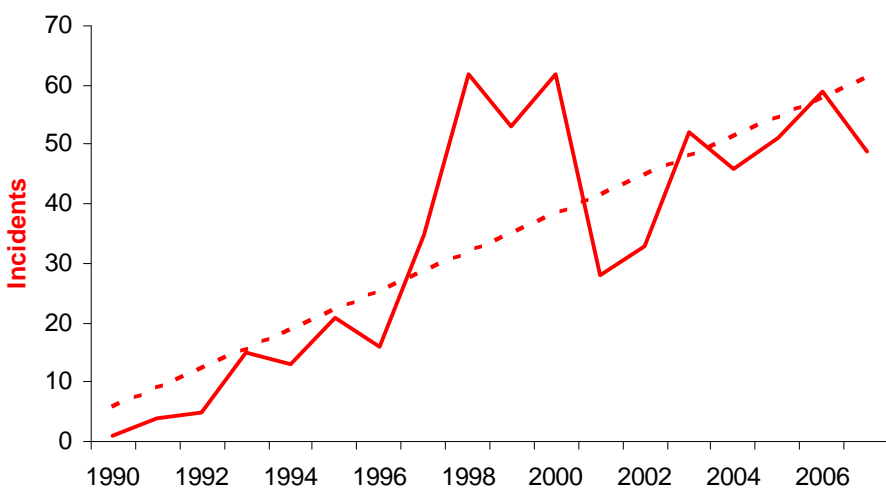


Figure 15: Solid waste incidents

There has been a sustained increase in solid waste incidents over time (see Figure 15), and it is anticipated this will continue as people avoid disposal fees at municipal landfills.



Household waste dumped on land in Gladstone

Greater Wellington requires illegally dumped fill material to be removed, and has fined for several non-compliant activities. Where hazardous materials are involved, a site will be placed on our Selected Land Use Register, which records where contamination has been confirmed.

## 2.9 Natural occurrences

This incident category was added in 2004, and covers incidents ranging from those caused by pollen dust, to jellyfish and their eggs, to landslides caused by extreme weather. Some of the most serious incidents this year were landslides. Toxic algae incidents decreased across the Wellington Region this year, due to more frequent flushing of rivers from rain events.



A landslide in Kelson

## 2.10 Hazardous substances

In 2006/07 hazardous substances were discharged to land, surface water, air, and onto the coastline. The majority of these (68%) were discharges to land, and there were a wide range of substances reported including asbestos waste, chlorine, hydrochloric acid, and chemicals from an explosion caused by a domestic fire. Incidents occurred at a range of locations from construction sites to residential and commercial properties.

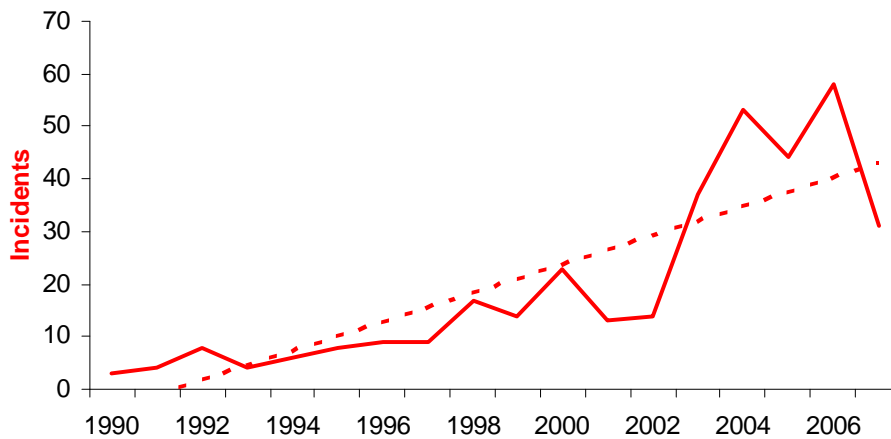


Figure 16: hazardous substance incidents

Over this reporting period there was a significant reduction in the number of hazardous substance incidents, representing a slight downturn in an upward trend observed since 1990. In addition to pollution response work and the audits carried out under the *Take Charge* programme, Greater Wellington takes a proactive approach to preventing environmental pollution from Hazardous substances by running an annual agricultural collection in rural areas, and by loaning its Hazmobile to territorial authorities wishing to organise household hazardous waste collections.

### 3. Regional incident summary

Breaking down the incident trends according to Territorial Authority allows for a comparison of incident numbers being reported in different geographical areas. Table 4 illustrates the distribution of incidents occurring across the region. As in previous years, the majority (in this case nearly half) of the region's incidents occurred in the area administered by Wellington City Council, and Hutt City Council, largely due to the concentration of people and industry in these areas.

Table 4: Regional incident summary 2006/07 (2005/06)

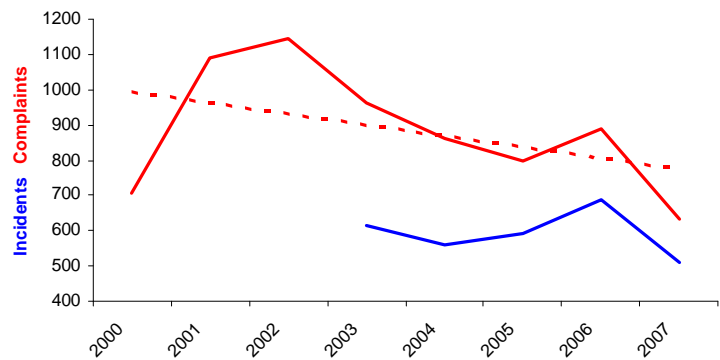
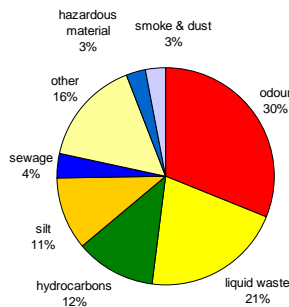
TYPE	Territorial Authority					
	WCC	HCC	UHCC	PCC	KCDC	WAIR*
Odour	168(278)	72(116)	5(2)	8(3)	2(2)	42(5)
Liquid waste	114(148)	37(51)	10(11)	19(21)	8(10)	5(10)
Hydrocarbons	65(52)	30(30)	2(6)	10(8)	5(12)	6(2)
Sediment	58(62)	13(31)	8(9)	16(15)	7(3)	3(7)
Sewage	20(17)	9(5)	3(2)	5(3)	7(5)	1(1)
Natural occurrence	11(12)	9(15)	2(2)	9(11)	5(7)	6(8)
Hazardous material	16(27)	6(13)	3(9)	2(3)	4(5)	0(1)
Unconsented works	8(15)	13(22)	11(12)	10(9)	11(10)	15(10)
Solid waste	14(21)	11(9)	5(9)	2(7)	5(9)	12(4)
Smoke & Dust	16(37)	14(20)	27(7)	4(5)	8(12)	11(9)
Dead animal	2(4)	0(5)	1(2)	3(4)	4(1)	4(3)
Vehicle	4(3)	5(10)	0(2)	4(13)	0(4)	15(7)
Other	14(14)	4(7)	0(3)	7(4)	2(2)	9(13)
Total	510(690)	223(334)	77(76)	99(106)	68(82)	129(80)

\* Wairarapa territorial authorities comprise Carterton DC, Masterton DC & S. Wairarapa DC.

## 4. City and district summaries

The following sections provide a more detailed look at incident trends occurring in each geographic area in the region. They discuss in more detail some of the significant incidents listed in Table 4 above, as well as other incidents that did not rank among the top 25 incidents in terms of environmental effects, but which led to enforcement action to be taken, or were of interest for other reasons.

### 4.1 Wellington City



**Incidents:** 510 (690 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 635 (889 in 2005/2006)

**Significant incidents:**

#### Surface water

A discharge of concrete waste-water into the stormwater network in Happy Valley constituted a breach of an abatement notice and resulted in two infringement notices being issued to Mike Botherway of Allied concrete.



Discharge of contaminated water in Happy Valley



A discharge to the stormwater network from car grooming at the Wash'n'Shop premises in Wakefield St, Wellington City, led to an abatement notice being issued to Michael Wilbourne requiring a drain to be installed and waste water discharged to sewer.



Car grooming water enters the gutter outside Wash'n'shop

- A landslide in Otari Reserve led to a large amount of mud and sediment entering the Kaiwharawhara stream. Reserve management was asked to keep the onsite stormwater system as free of mud as possible to limit contamination of the stream.
- An abatement notice was issued to Brian Bouzaid of Atom Hire Limited in response to inadequate sediment control measures at Kiwi Point Quarry in Ngauranga Gorge.



Poor sediment controls at Kiwi Point Quarry

- Silt laden water was discharged to stormwater in Mt Victoria, resulting in an infringement notice being issued to Angela Foster.

### **Stream works**

- Rob Catsburg was issued an infringement notice for excavation in the bed of a tributary of the Takapu Stream.

### **Earthworks**

- Inadequate sediment control measures at an earthworks site at Downing St, Crofton Downs, led to silt laden water entering a tributary of Korimako Stream. Pollution Control Officers worked with Ridvan Gardens Development Limited to improve sediment control practices.
- Truebridge Callender Beach received two infringement notices for a breach of consent conditions involving the failure to divert stream flow at Woodridge Development, before reclaiming two tributaries of the Porirua Stream.
- Truebridge Callender Beach received an infringement notice for discharging sediment into a tributary of Porirua Stream in Ohariu Valley.

### **Coastal marine area**

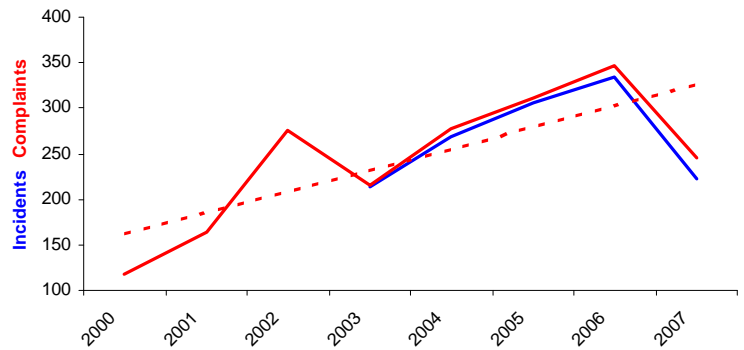
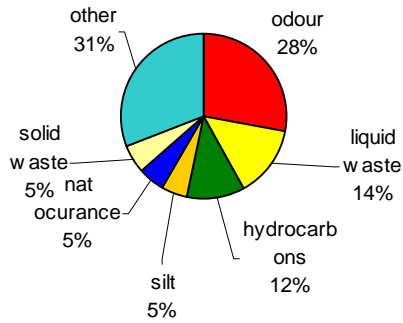
- Raw sewage was discharged from a consented stormwater outlet into Wellington Harbour. Opus International Consultants Limited carried out an independent investigation into the cause of this discharge.



Wellington Harbour where raw sewage was discharged



## 4.2 Hutt City



**Incidents:** 223 (334 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 245 (346 in 2005/2006)

**Significant incidents:**

### Surface water

A spill of acrylic ester from the Bostik New Zealand Limited premises entered the Waiwhetu Stream via the surface water network. Management at the site agreed to a Take Charge audit, as a result of which substantial changes were made to onsite infrastructure.

After illegally discharging car grooming water to stormwater, Quality Demolition & Contracting Limited took proactive action by upgrading their onsite drainage system and installing a wash-pad.

### Stream works

Gordon Diggle received an abatement notice for placing a structure in the bed of a tributary of the Orongorongo Stream.



Structure in a stream in Orongorongo Valley

## Land

Universal Trucks and Equipment Limited and Waione Street Properties Limited both received abatement notices for a discharge of contaminants (waste from a workshop) to land entering water.



Liquid waste from Universal Trucks and Equipment Limited

## Natural occurrence

Several landslides occurred in June/July 2006 causing damage to several homes. The most significant was in Vista Grove in Kelson, where sewage pipes damaged in the slip discharged into the Speedy's Stream for several days following.

## Air

An offensive and objectionable odour was detected beyond the boundary of NZ Fish Products Limited in Gracefield. This breach of resource consent led to infringement notices being issued to the company.

Failure to comply with a consent condition requiring that a filter be enclosed within a building, led to an infringement notice being issued to Exide Technologies battery recycling plant.

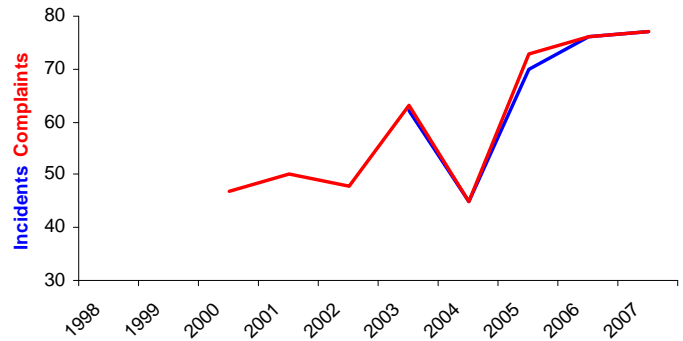
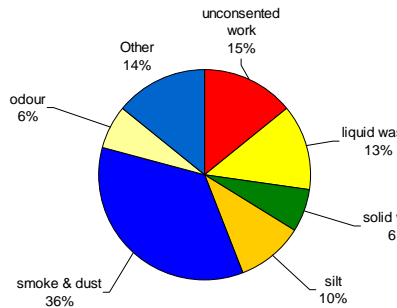
## CMA

Waste oil entered the storm-water system and ended up in the coastal marine area in Seaview as a result of dewatering at Thurlines Transport Services in Petone. Corrective action was taken and Thurlines ended up taking action to improve their on-site practices.



Corrective action is taken to prevent contamination of the CMA from Thurlines' discharge

### 4.3 Upper Hutt City



**Incidents:** 77 (76 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 77 (76 in 2005/2006)

**Significant incidents:**

#### Surface water

There was a diesel spill at the Akatarawa Sawmill, which led to a spill across the ground and into the Akatarawa River. Akatarawa Sawmill undertook remedial action by removing and disposing of contaminated gravel from the site, and took measures to improve the security of the fuel storage tanks.



A spill from this container entered the Akatarawa River

Sediment from sumps on the Eurocell site in Wallaceville entered a stream at the end of Park Street, Upper Hutt. Eurocell received a verbal warning for this discharge, and officers spent time working with management to improve stormwater control.

## **Earthworks**

Joe Roberts received two infringement notices for breaching consent conditions by failing to install adequate sediment control measures on an earthworks site, leading to a direct discharge of sediment into the Witako Stream. Mr Roberts was also issued an abatement notice requiring him to implement the sediment control measures already required in his consent.

## **Stream works**

Excavation of the bed of a tributary of the Hutt River resulted in an infringement notice being issued to Stephen Harding.

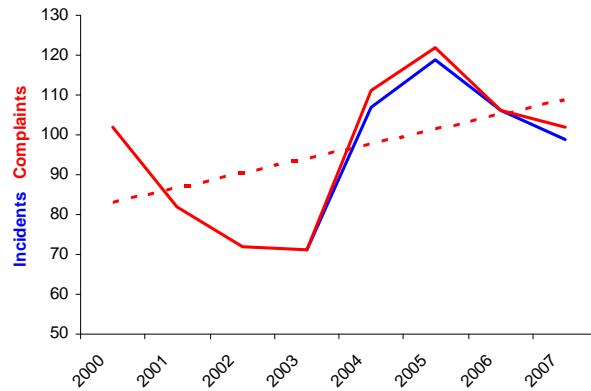
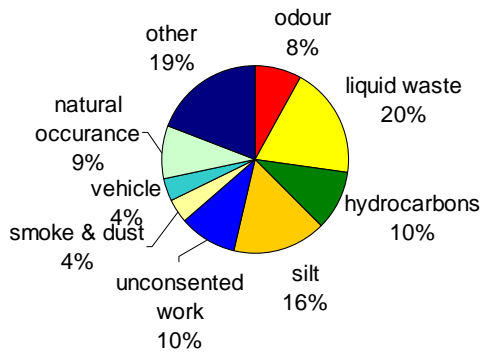
## **Air**

A discharge to air from a tyre burn-off at the Trentham Race Course resulted in an infringement notice being issued to Wellington Racing Club.



Tyres being burned at Trentham Race Course

## 4.4 Porirua City



**Incidents:** 99 (106 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 102 (106 in 2005/2006)

**Significant incidents:**

### Earthworks

Three infringement notices were issued to Christopher Mason of Staithe Drive Development Limited for discharging sediment to land where it entered water, including one for failing to comply with an earlier abatement notice requiring effective erosion and sediment controls.



Sediment run-off at Staithe Drive development

Steve Rod of Whitby Heights Limited received an infringement notice for earthworks which led to sediment being discharged into the Duck Creek catchment in Whitby.



### **Stream works**

An abatement notice was issued to Colonial Knob Farm Holdings, requiring the removal of a culvert and associated structures from the bed of Mitchell Stream in Porirua.



Unauthorised culvert and associated structures in Mitchell Stream, Porirua

### **Air**

An infringement notice was issued to Metal Immersions Limited, after an unauthorised discharge to air from treating metal hooks to remove plastic coatings.

### **Coastal marine area**

The vessel Incognito ran aground at Wairaka Point, leaving wreckage strewn over about 200m of coastline. The boat owner was asked to clean up all the debris and ensure appropriate disposal.



Boat wreckage at Wairaka Point

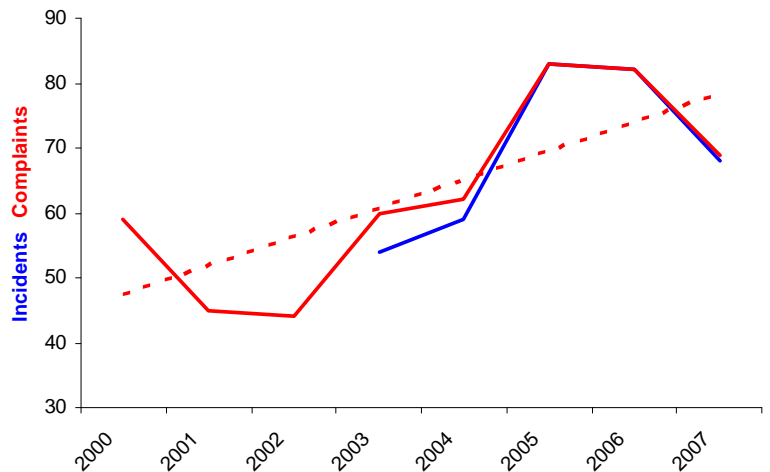
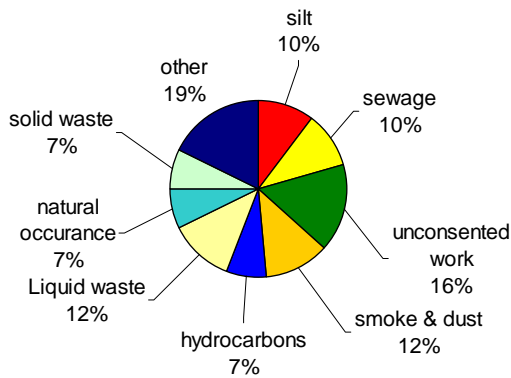
## Wetland

Sediment was discharged at the Silverwood development site into a wetland flowing to a stream in Whitby. Charges were laid against the contractor for this discharge, which involved emptying sediment from an onsite pond and inadequate maintenance of sediment fences.



Sediment being emptied out of a pond at Silverwood

## 4.5 Kapiti Coast District



**Incidents:** 68 (82 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 69 (82 in 2005/2006)

There was a 17 percent decrease in the total number of incidents in the Kapiti District in 2006/07. Over this period hydrocarbon incidents decreased by more than half, and sediment incidents more than doubled.



***Significant incidents:***

**Surface water**

J. F. Spiers received an infringement notice for breaching resource consent by allowing dairy shed effluent to pool on pastureland in Otaki, and creating the risk of contaminating surface water.

**Stream works**

Lowell Manning received an infringement notice for erecting a timber wall in the Wharemauku Stream.



A timber wall in Wharemauku Stream

Davide and Amanda Rutten undertook unconsented works in a stream in Waikanae, including the installation of a series of culverts and the redirection of a stream.



Diversion of stream in Waikanae

## Land

Inadequate storage of oil and metal outside a workshop in Paraparaumu led to soil contamination, and resulted in an abatement notice being issued to Bettany Gears Limited. The company has been working with Greater Wellington on the *Take Charge* programme.

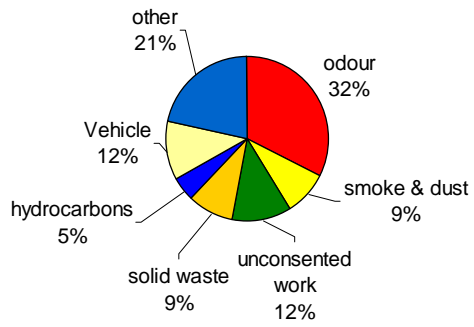


Soil contamination from oil and metals at Bettany Gears' workshop

## Wetland

Ted Sims was ordered to undertake remedial works after cutting a drainage channel to reduce water levels in a wetland near the Waitohu River Mouth, Otaki.

## 4.6 Wairarapa\*



**Incidents:** 128 (80 in 2005/2006)

**Complaints:** 136 (80 in 2005/2006)

**Significant incidents:**

### Surface water

The overflow of a sump after dairymshed wash-down led to contaminated water entering a water race at Osbourne Dairy Farm. The farmer took action to prevent a reoccurrence, including fitting a float switch to the sump's pump to prevent overflow.



Stream works

\* Comprising Masterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council

Graeme Stuart was issued an abatement notice for works in the Kopuaranga Stream in Masterton, including reclamation, disturbance of the stream bed, diversion of the river and for an illegal culvert.



Illegal works in the Kopuaranga Stream

Concrete slabs were placed across the width of the Kurapuni Stream in Masterton resulting in an infringement notice being issued to Robin Borthwick.

Used tyres were disposed of on land near McLaughlin Drive in Castlepoint, contaminating the land, and posing a risk of surface water contamination. Kevin Anderson and John Cook each received an abatement notice requiring the disposal of tyres to cease and requiring existing ones to be removed, or, a for a management plan to be submitted if the tyres were to remain on site. An infringement notice was later issued to each of the above for failure to comply with the management plan.



Tyres dumped in Castlepoint

Selwyn Donald received an infringement notice and an abatement notice for discharging building demolition waste to land in Featherston.

### **Air**

Supreme Automotive Refinishers had the fourth highest number of odour incidents for the region, and were responsible for 9 percent of all reported odours in 2006/07. Wairarapa officers are working with the company to improve odour management practices.

An odour discharge at Reid's Piggery in Carterton resulted in improvements being made in onsite practices at the piggery.



## 5. Regulatory action

Of all incidents attended during the year, 40% were confirmed as non-compliant with Greater Wellington’s regional rules or the Resource Management Act 1991. Officers employed a range of regulatory action to address this non-compliance, depending upon the significance of environmental effects, causal factors, compliance history, and likelihood of recurrence. Table 5 summarises regulatory action taken during the year.

Table 5: Regulatory action summary 2006/07 (2005/06)

	Total
Advisory Notices	48(58)
Infringement Notices	41(21)
Abatement Notices	29(14)
Enforcement Orders	4(0)
Prosecutions	7(0)

Figure 17 illustrates how our level of formal regulatory activity has grown in recent years. The steady increase in the issue of infringement notices and abatement notices since 2003 is attributed to improved officer training and streamlining of our administrative procedures. This figure also shows that the use of advisory notices is a well established means of dealing with minor non-compliance.

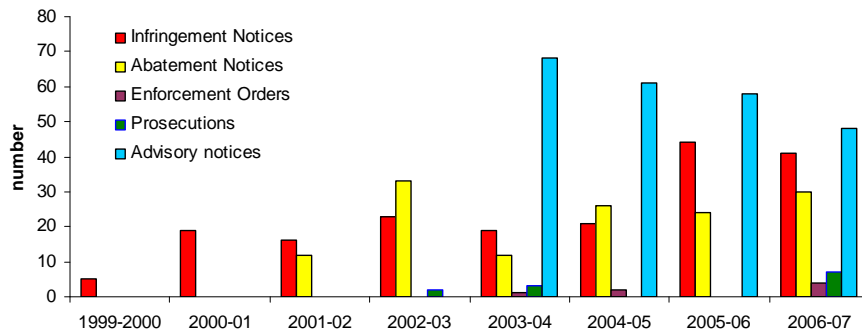


Figure 17: Enforcement action

### 5.1 Informal action

Advisory notices are issued ‘on the spot’ to deal with minor non-compliance. They direct the recipient to take specified action, and have proven to be an effective regulatory tool. Our officers issued 48 advisory notices during the year.

## 5.2 Formal action

### 5.2.1 Retrospective resource consents

Some non-compliant activities can be dealt with by issuing resource consent retrospectively, where there is a need to control future effects or ongoing maintenance. This approach may require the applicant to undertake supplementary work, and does not preclude the use of other regulatory tools such as infringement fines or cost recovery.

### 5.2.2 Infringement Notices

Infringement notices can be issued for specified offences under the Resource Management Act 1991, to punish offenders and deter others. An infringement notice can impose a fine of up to \$1,000. Table 6 summarises the 41 infringement notices served during this reporting period, which resulted in total penalty payments of \$24,600.

Table 6: Infringement notices issued 2006/07

Recipient	Territorial Authority	Offence	Date
Ian Gunn	South Wairarapa District Council	Works and structure in the bed of a stream	21-Jul-06
Ian Gunn	South Wairarapa District Council	Works in a stream	21-Jul-06
Truebridge Callender Beach Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge to water	30-Aug-06
Levin Bobcats Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge to water	30-Aug-06
NZ Fish Products Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	20-Sep-06
NZ Fish Products Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	20-Sep-06
Truebridge Callender Beach Limited	Wellington City Council	Streambed reclamation	09-Oct-06
Truebridge Callender Beach Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge to water	09-Oct-06
Mike Botherway	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	13-Oct-06
Robert Catsburg CANCELLED	Wellington City Council	Works in the bed of a stream	10-Oct 06
Mike Botherway	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	13-Oct-06

Recipient	Territorial Authority	Offence	Date
Wellington City Council CANCELLED	Wellington City Council	Discharge to water	17-Oct-06
Angela Foster	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	27-Oct-06
Exide Technologies Ltd	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	02-Nov-06
Robert Catsburg	Wellington City Council	Works in the bed of a stream	02-Nov-06
Joe Roberts	Upper Hutt City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	18-Jan-07
Patrick Roil	Porirua City Council	Failure to comply with an abatement notice	04-Jan-07
Christopher Mason	Porirua City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	14-Dec-06
Christopher Mason	Porirua City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	14-Dec-06
Christopher Mason	Porirua City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	14-Dec-06
Joe Roberts	Upper Hutt City Council	Discharge of contaminant to water	17-Jan-07
Steve Harding	Upper Hutt City Council	Works in the bed of a stream	20-Dec-06
Steve Rod	Porirua City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land entering water	02-Feb-07
John Cook	Masterton District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	13-Mar-07
Kevin Robert Anderson	Masterton District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	13-Mar-07



Recipient	Territorial Authority	Offence	Date
Metal Immersions Limited	Porirua City Council	Discharge to air	16-Mar-07
Metal Immersions Limited	Porirua City Council	Discharge to air	16-Mar-07
Wellington Racing Club Inc	Upper Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	24-Mar-07
Anthony Thomas Craig	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	20-Mar-07
J F Spears	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	20-Mar-07
Lowell Manning	Kapiti Coast District Council	Structure in a stream	04-Apr 07
NZ Fish Products Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	13-Jun-07
NZ Fish Products Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air	13-Jun-07
Selwyn Donald	South Wairarapa District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	01-May-07
Selwyn Donald	South Wairarapa District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	01-May-07
Whare Anaru	Porirua City Council	Discharge to air	10-May-07
Robin Borthwick	Masterton District Council	Diversion of water	04-May-07
Anthony Fredas	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge to air	24-May-07
Graham Hodder	South Wairarapa District Council	Discharge of contaminant into water	05-Jun-07
Graham Hodder	South Wairarapa District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	05-Jun-07
NZ Fish Products Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge to air (breach of consent)	13-Jun-07

### 5.2.3 Abatement Notices

Abatement notices are a formal instruction issued to resolve an environmental problem and/or comply with regulatory requirements. If an abatement notice is not complied with, the Council issues an infringement notice or prosecutes the responsible party. A total of 29 abatement notices were served during this reporting period, as summarised in Table 7.

**Table 7: Abatement notices issued 2006/07**

Recipient	Location	Reason(s) for notice	Date
John Tasman Cook	Masterton District Council	Construction of a culvert in the bed of a stream	09-Oct-06
John Tasman Cook	Masterton District Council	Discharge of contaminant to water; discharge of contaminant to land	09-Oct-06
Kevin Anderson	Masterton District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	09-Oct-06
Universal Trucks and Equipment Limited	Hutt City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	13-Oct-06
Waione Street Properties Ltd	Hutt City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	13-Oct-06
Patrick Va'a, Pats Panel and Paint	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	19-Oct-06
David Fogarty, Colonial Knobb Farm Holdings Limited	Porirua City Council	Culvert and associated structures in bed of stream	13-Dec-06
Rod Clifton	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge to Air	03-Nov-06
Joe Roberts	Upper Hutt City Council	Discharge of contaminant to water	17-Jan-07
Karl Parker Investments Limited	Wellington City Council	Streamworks in breach of consent conditions	14-Dec-07

Recipient	Location	Reason(s) for notice	Date
Steven Brown	Wellington City Council	Streamworks in breach of consent conditions	14-Dec-07
Michael Willbourne, Wash N Shop Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to CMA	31-Jan-07
Graeme James Stuart	Masterton District Council	Works in the bed of a river; diversion of water	30-Feb-07
Brian Bouzaid, Atom Hire Limited	Kiwi Point Quarry, Ngauranga Gorge	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	23-Mar-07
Maria Archer, Wellington City Council	Kiwi Point Quarry, Ngauranga Gorge	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	23-Mar-07
Bettany Gears Limited	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land	22-Mar-07
Gordon Diggle	Orongorongo Valley	Structure in the bed of a stream	01-Jun-07
Wellington Seafood Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	27-Mar-07
Selwyn Donald, Arran Farm	South Wairarapa District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	01-May-07
Piling and Drilling Services Limited	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	23-Apr-07
Collins Auto Parts and Accessories (HB) Limited	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	10-May-07
Robin Borthwick	Masterton District Council	Structure in the bed of a stream; works in the bed of a stream; diversion of water	08-May-07

Recipient	Location	Reason(s) for notice	Date
Rod Clifton Motors Limited	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	18-May-07
Rodney Robert Clifton	Kapiti Coast District Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water; discharge of contaminant to land	18-May-07
Chris Ellis, Aurora Enterprises	Hutt City Council	Works and structure in the bed of a stream	14-Jun-07
Perry Thomson	Carterton District Council	Works in the bed of a stream	15-Jun-07
Smart Dogs Capital City CANCELLED	Wellington City Council	Discharge of contaminant to land where it may enter water	-

#### 5.2.4 Enforcement orders

Four enforcement orders were sought during this financial year.

#### 5.2.5 Prosecutions

Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd and Tonkin & Taylor Ltd were charged in July 2006 for discharging sediment laden water from a large sediment pond at Silverstream Landfill into Hulls Creek and the Hutt River in January 2006. Charges were withdrawn against Tonkin & Taylor, while Tenga Pickering Contracting Ltd was convicted on two charges after pleading guilty, and the Environment Court agreed to restitution offered by both parties of \$10,000. The restitution amount, to be managed by Greater Wellington, will be used for environmental enhancement works in the Hulls Creek and Hutt River area.

Burrell Demolition Ltd and Alex Burrell were charged in November 2005 for the unauthorised laying of a pipe in a tributary of Owhiro Stream at C&D Landfill, in Wellington in August 2005. Charges were withdrawn against Alex Burrell, while Burrell Demolition Ltd was convicted on four charges and fined \$6,000 after pleading guilty on 12 February 2007; costs of \$3,125 were awarded to Greater Wellington. The Environment Court took into account the deliberateness of the works and considered that a strong deterrent was required to discourage other operators from taking a similar approach.

Brooklyn Holdings Ltd and Lance James were charged in May 2006 for the unauthorised discharge of sediments to the Owhiro Stream in Brooklyn, Wellington in December 2005. The prosecution was resolved in the following financial year.

A complaint in early January 2007 alerted Greater Wellington to chicken waste dumped in a gully on Terawhiti Station in Makara, Wellington. The waste had entered and contaminated the Oteranga Stream. After extensive investigation, eight charges were laid against four parties on 4 May 2007 for the unconsented disposal of the waste to land. The prosecution was resolved in the following financial year.



Waste dumped at Terawhiti Station

### 5.3 Cost recovery

It is our policy to recover costs for minor non-compliance. Figure 18 shows that we have maintained a good level of cost recovery during recent years, with \$6748 recovered during the last financial year.

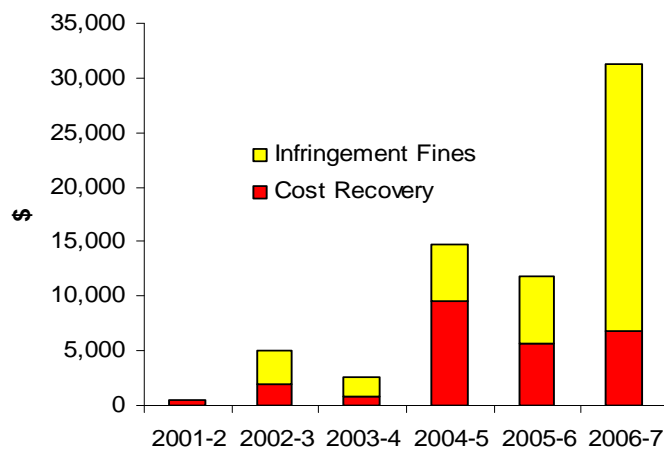


Figure 18: Payments received from infringement fines and cost recovery

## 6. Pollution prevention

### 6.1 Take Charge

The Pollution Control Team has been conducting environmental audits of businesses through the Take Charge programme in the region for four years now. The objective of these audits is to assess environmental compliance on site and identify opportunities for improved environmental performance.

Audits include an assessment of facilities, activities and management procedures, following which participants are provided with a short report outlining opportunities to address non-compliance and improve environmental performance. Key aspects of our Take Charge activities during the past year are summarised below:



- Our *Take Charge* pollution prevention team assessed industrial and commercial sites in Paraparaumu for their compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991, and a new *Take Charge* area assessment commenced in Grenada North around the Takapu Stream.
- The Pollution Control Team also carried out one-off *Take Charge* audits around the Wellington Region including an assessment of the Miramar Golf course.
- Eight audits were carried out for the EnviroSMART Programme, which helps businesses find ways of reducing energy, water use, and waste generation. This was the first year that GW participated in the *EnviroSMART* programme.
- The *Take Charge* programme involved working with owners/proprietors of two sites that had enforcement action taken. One was Universal Trucks and Equipment Limited and Waione Street Properties Limited (who received abatement notices for a discharge of contaminants to land

entering water), and the other was Bettany Gears Limited (for inadequate storage of oil and metal outside a workshop in Paraparaumu).

- *Take Charge* initiatives were well represented at the recent Kapiti Garden Day held at labour weekend. Posters reflecting the *Take Charge* programme and the Drain Six project framework and outcomes were prepared for the Greater Wellington display, receiving favourable feedback.

## 6.2 Special projects

The Pollution Control Team uses its observations of incident trends and environmental pressures to make detailed assessments of risk areas and issues that have local and regional significance. This work allows the Pollution Control Officers to extend the skills they have and undertake beneficial work resulting in constructive environmental outcomes. Key aspects of these projects during the past year are summarised below.

### 6.2.1 Small Streams workshops

Since identifying the problem of sedimentation in 2004 Greater Wellington has been up-skilling regulators, developers and contractors in how to control erosion and sediment loss at construction sites. The 'Muddy Waters' programme was run in 2005/06, and a series of workshops were held at Greater Wellington, aimed at highlighting the importance of Small Streams.

### 6.2.2 Agrichemical collection

Greater Wellington organised the collection of 1.25 tonnes of agrichemicals from the Wairarapa, which were disposed of by the Ministry for the Environment in a joint initiative.

The Pollution Control Team put in an Application to the Sustainable Management Fund at the Ministry for the Environment, requesting funding for a regional HazMobile programme.

### 6.2.3 Wetlands

A project was undertaken to get the Quartz Hill Wetland remediated, replanted, fenced and a management plan developed after project works created an illegal dam in part of the Wetland.

An abatement notice was issued which secured the remediation of the Grays Road Wetland in Plimmerton.

### 6.2.4 Environmental assessments

Pollution Control undertook a study of the Mangaroa catchment to investigate sources of nutrients in the Mangaroa Valley.

The Pollution Control team conducted the Miramar Contaminated land project in order to determine the source and risk from contaminated stormwater discharging into Evans Bay.

#### 6.2.5 Educational initiatives

The Pollution Control Team participated in the Buchanan's Digger School in the Wairarapa, where Pollution Control officers taught a unit standard in a polytechnic course for trainee digger drivers.

A paper was written and delivered to the South Pacific Stormwater Conference, describing the evolution of the Muddy Waters Programme from 2003 to 2007.



## **7. Miscellaneous**

### **7.1 Regional pollution prevention officer's forum**

Greater Wellington initiated and co-ordinates a regional pollution prevention officer's forum, designed to share information and resources between regulatory agencies involved in pollution control. This group has over 50 members from territorial authorities and other agencies in the region.

### **7.2 National Compliance Enforcement Special Interest Group**

Similar to the Regional Pollution Prevention Officer's Form, the Special Interest Group is a nationwide collection of enforcement officers from regional councils. It provides and an opportunity to exchange ideas and information affecting regulatory authorities nationwide e.g. enforcement outcomes, education material and incident trends.

### **7.3 Hutt City Council enforcement memorandum of understanding**

The initial stages of finalising arrangements and implementing a one-year trial of new delegations with Hutt City Council (HCC) relating to illegal discharges to their stormwater network is nearly complete. As this Committee heard in February, these delegation arrangements will enable HCC monitoring officers to investigate and recommend minor level enforcement action (up to abatement and infringement notice level) to Greater Wellington. We look forward to the efficiencies it will create for our Pollution Control team, in responding to fewer discharge incidents in the Lower Hutt area. Equally, HCC now have the level of ownership they desire in dealing with incidents affecting their stormwater infrastructure.

## **8. Direction for 2007/08**

The following are key projects and programmes that the Pollution Control Team is looking to develop and implement within the next financial year:

- Undertake proactive monitoring of industrial odour sites
- Work to develop and improve the administrative process for Pollution Control Officers
- Create a position for a Take Charge Coordinator
- Prepare and develop a Take Charge strategy
- Develop a media strategy and almanac for maximising media coverage for the Environmental Regulation Division
- Work with Compliance Enforcement Special Interest Group (CE SIG) to develop best practice for enforcement for GW
- Develop an Enforcement Decision Group (EDG) to ensure that enforcement recommendations are considered in an equal way for consistent enforcement decisions to be made for the department
- Develop an in-house Compliance and Enforcement training programme