

Annual Incident Report 2001-2002

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Wellington Regional Council provides a 24-hour incident response service, which deals with pollution complaints and non-compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 and Regional Plans. This service is provided by the Council's Pollution Control section in the Western Region, and by the Consents and Compliance Section in the Wairarapa. The Council's Consents Management department also responds to complaints attributed to consented activities that occur during office hours. This Annual Environmental Incident Report provides a summary and analysis of work conducted by the incident response service over the last financial year (1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002).

Complaints

A total of 1702 complaints were received throughout the Wellington Region during 2001/2002, which represents a 7% increase in the number of complaints received over the previous 12 months. The geographical distribution and nature of complaints received are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1 Geographic Distribution of Complaints

	Number of Complaints	% of Total
Wellington City	1145	67
Hutt City	276	16
Wairarapa	117	7
Porirua City	72	4
Upper Hutt City	48	3
Kapiti District	44	3
Total	1702	100

Table 2 Nature of Complaints

	Number of Complaints	% of Total
Odour	1179	69
Liquid Waste	79	5
Hydrocarbons	59	4
Sewage	56	3
Unconsented Works	48	3
Silt	36	2
Particulates	27	2
Smoke	25	1
Solid Waste	25	1
All Other Complaints	168	10
Total	1702	100

Odour remains the most common source of complaint throughout the Region, representing 69% of all complaints received. Approximately 90% of these odour complaints can be attributed to five facilities (see Table 3) that currently hold resource consents for their discharges to air.

Responsiveness to incoming complaints is measured via conformance with target response times. Almost all complaints were responded to within the target response times, with exceptions being due to traffic delays en route to distant sites.

Table 3 Principal Sources of Odour Complaint

	Number of Complaints	% of all Odour Complaints
Asphalt Surfaces NZ Ltd (formerly MKL Asphalt)	468	51
Carey's Gully Complex - AWI Dewatering Plant - WCC Landfill - Living Earth Composting Plant	181	20
Taylor Preston Meat Works	174	19
Total	823	90

The number of complaints received have consistently increased over recent years, due to the following:

- The public is becoming more aware of the Council's pollution hotline;
- New developments bringing industrial and residential land uses into close proximity in urban areas;
- Growing residential land use in rural areas, and;
- Growing intolerance of odours amongst the general public and 'sensitised' individuals.

Given the above, growing complaint numbers do not necessarily indicate a worsening odour problem.

Significant Incidents

Significant incidents are those, which caused, or could have caused, significant adverse environmental impacts. The following significant incidents occurred during the past year:

- Discharge of wastewater from a concrete batching plant into Owhiro Stream, resulting in elevated pH and sediment levels. Formal proceedings are currently being taken against the site.

- Repeated contamination of several watercourses in the Region, including, Waiwhetu Stream, Taupo Stream, Karori Stream, Kaiwharawhara Stream, Owhiro Stream, Koromiko Stream, Pauatahanui Stream and the Hutt River. Incidents included sewage overflows, silt-laden run-off and hydrocarbon spillage.

Enforcement Action

Enforcement action taken over the last twelve month included the following:

Infringement Notices	7
Abatement Notices	9
Prosecutions	2

Significant Resource Management Issues

Significant resource management issues are those which have demonstrated deficiencies in the environmental protection framework provided via implementation of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Regional Plans. The following significant resource management issues became apparent during the past year:

- The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms law reform has restructured the regulatory framework for dangerous goods and hazardous substances, which may result in less frequent inspection of dangerous goods storage facilities, and a corresponding increase in spillage/leakage to land and water.
- The discharge of silt, detergent and hydrocarbons to stormwater drains occurs repeatedly around the Region. Although individual discharges do not have a significant impact, their collective impact upon environmental quality may be significant.

Future Developments

Wellington Regional Council will be taking a more proactive approach to pollution management in the coming year, via implementation of the Take-Charge programme. This programme involves environmental assessments of small to medium sized business operations, to identify actual and potential environmental impacts, and facilitate their management.

1. Introduction

The Wellington Regional Council provides a 24-hour incident response service, which deals with pollution complaints and non-compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 and Regional Plans. This service is provided by the Council's Pollution Control section in the Western Region, and by the Consents and Compliance Section in the Wairarapa. The Council's Consents Management department also responds to complaints attributed to consented activities that occur during office hours. This Annual Environmental Incident Report provides a summary and analysis of work conducted by the incident response service over the last financial year (1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002).

The incident response service is involved in a broad range of environmental incidents including discharges to air, water, land and unauthorised works in streams and the Coastal Marine Area. Pollution incidents associated with industrial and farming activities typically include odour and contaminant discharges to surface water, whilst those arising in residential areas typically include the discharge of paint waste and car wash water to stormwater drains, sediment export from site development, and the dumping of inert waste on land.

The significance of pollution incidents can be established by considering their nature, severity, extent and frequency of the incident, in conjunction with the sensitivity of the receiving environment. It is the role of the Pollution Response Service to evaluate these criteria when responding to incidents, and to determine the optimum action to remedy or mitigate environmental impacts arising, which may include enforcement action where appropriate. Where appropriate, samples and measurements are taken to quantify pollution incidents and obtain evidence, although some incidents (notably odour complaints) cannot be reliably quantified. In such cases, the officer is required to make a subjective assessment, based upon standard assessment protocols, such as the FIDOL assessment of odour complaints (frequency, intensity, duration, offensiveness and location).

The following section provides an overview of complaints and incidents dealt with by the pollution response service over the last year, and actions arising.

2. Complaints & Incidents

2.1 Regional Summary

2.1.1 Complaints

A total of 1,702 complaints were received this year, which represents a 7% increase on the 1,594 complaints received last year. Table 2-1 summarises complaints for the Region, and the percentage change when compared to the same period in the previous year.

Table 2-1 Sources of Complaint

	Number of Complaints	% of Total	% Change
Odour	1179	69	+30
Liquid Waste	79	5	+1
Hydrocarbons	59	3	+34
Sewage	56	3	-16
Unconsented Works	48	3	-23
Silt	36	2	+17
Particulates	27	2	-15
Smoke	25	1	-76
Solid Waste	25	1	+50
Hazardous Substances	23	2	-17
Dead Stock	15	1	+27
Agricultural Effluent	14	1	+14
Noise	10	0.6	+60
Miscellaneous	106	4	-14
Total	1702	100	+7

Complaint numbers are greater than the previous year, principally due to the growing incidence of odour nuisance complaints. Indeed, complaints have been increasing significantly over the past five years (see Figure 2-1), with odour nuisance complaints representing a growing portion of the total.

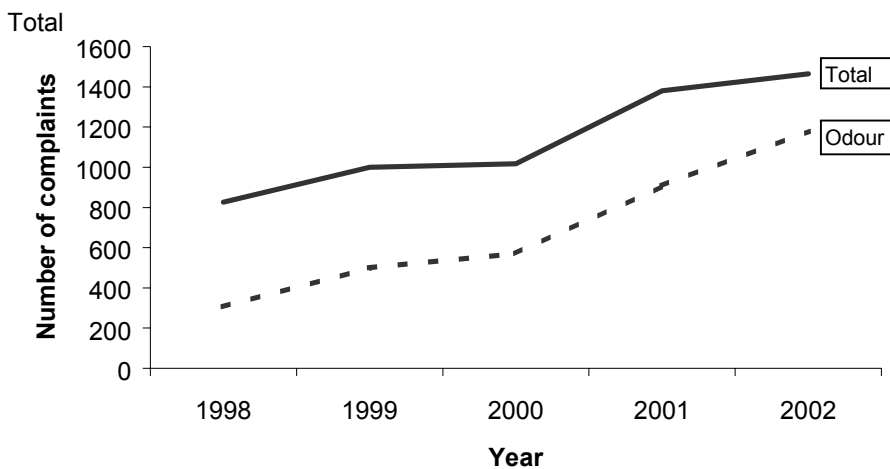


Figure 2-1 Complaints Received (1998-2002)

The distribution of the complaints across the Territorial Authority areas of the Wellington Region is shown in Table 2-2. This shows that the majority of complaints were received from populated urban areas. However, it must be noted that this relationship is significantly distorted by the predominance of odour complaints from a few industrial sites that impact upon adjacent residential areas.

Table 2-2 Geographic Distribution of Complaints

	Number of Complaints	% of Total
Wellington City	1145	67
Hutt City	276	16
Wairarapa	117	7
Porirua City	72	4
Upper Hutt City	48	3
Kapiti Coast District	44	3
Total	1702	100

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and reaching the source of the complaint (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 2-3 shows that officers achieved a high level of conformance, with all non-conformances being attributed to traffic congestion and travel time to distant sites.

Table 2-3 Response Time Performance Summary

Response Level (Response Time)	Average Response Time	Conformance Level
Red (60 minutes)	27 minutes	98%
Yellow (24 hours)	7 hours	95%
Blue (30 days)	2.5 days	100%

2.1.2 Incidents

Significant incidents are those, which caused, or could have caused, significant adverse environmental impacts. The following significant incidents occurred during the past year:

Discharge of wastewater from a concrete batching plant into Carey's Gully Stream on 19 February 2002, resulting in elevated pH and sediment levels. Information has been laid against Allied Concrete with a view to prosecution for this incident.

Repeated contamination of several watercourses in the Region, including, Waiwhetu Stream, Taupo Stream, Karori Stream, Kaiwharawhara Stream, Owhiro Stream, Koromiko Stream, Pauatahanui Stream and the Hutt River. Incidents included sewage overflows, silt-laden run-off and oil spillage.

2.2 Wellington City

2.2.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	1,145
Complaints (last year):	1,089
Variance:	+5%
Principal Complaint Sources:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asphalt Surfaces NZ Limited (468 odour complaints). 2. Taylor Preston (174 odour complaints). 3. Southern Landfill (181 odour complaints).

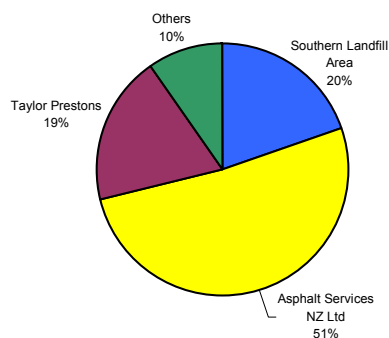
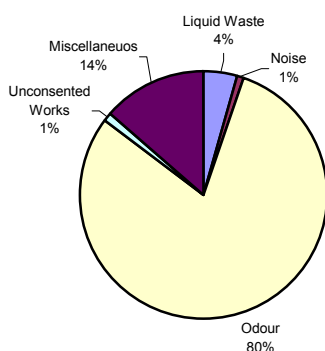


Figure 2-2 Complaint Types

Figure 2-3 Odour Complaints

The principal complaint sources are discussed in further detail in the Odour Cbelow.

Asphalt Surfaces New Zealand Limited (Odour Complaints)

This asphalt manufacturing plant (formerly MKL Asphalt Surfaces Limited) is located in Kinleith Grove, an industrial zone on the boundary of Porirua. Although subject to a resource consent for discharges to atmosphere, this plant has been a historical source of odour nuisance to residents in northwestern Tawa. Odour complaints tend to occur during a northerly wind, particularly at times of elevated asphalt production in response to demand from road laying activities.

Wellington Regional Council has issued infringement notices for 3 confirmed incidents. The Council has previously commissioned an independent investigation into sources of odour from the plant, and in November 2001, obtained an Enforcement Order requiring the installation of a carbon filter on the main stack. The carbon filter has led to a significant decrease in odour emissions from the site via the main stack, and although fugitive emissions are still occurring, there has been a significant reduction in odour emissions and the number of complaints received. Wellington Regional Council has issued residents in the area with odour diaries, and has also programmed pro-active monitoring commencing 30 September 2002.

Carey's Gully Complex (Odour Complaints)

The Carey's Gully Complex is located at the end of Landfill Road, Happy Valley, and comprises several potential sources of odour nuisance, all of which are subject to resource consents for their discharges to air. These are:

- Wellington City Council's Southern Landfill (landfill face, refuse transportation)
- Anglian Water International Ltd sewage dewatering plant (biofilters, centrate)
- Living Earth Ltd biosolid and green waste composting plant (biofilters, compost piles)
- Novagas methane flare facility (extinguished gas flares).

Odour complaints attributed to the Carey's Gully Complex have been received from a wide area, including Happy Valley, Island Bay, Owhiro Bay, Kingston, Mornington, Vogelstown, Kowhai Park and Brooklyn under either a southerly, northerly or calm conditions. Odour complaints are particularly likely when there is a temperature inversion, which reduces odour dissipation. However, the principal difficulty with this site has been identifying the alleged source of nuisance, given the proximity of several potential sources and the travel time between the complainant's location and the alleged source.

The following summarises several initiatives at the Carey's Gully Complex to reduce odour nuisance.

Anglian Water International Dewatering Plant

Anglian Water International (AWI) operates a dewatering plant and centrate treatment facility. Recently AWI has replaced the centrate line from the dewatering plant to the black boxes, eliminating the need for manholes which were a potential odour source. AWI has also replaced the black box lids and reconfigured the outlet siphons on the centrate line to the black box, to reduce aeration. AWI also commissioned an independent site audit that identified housekeeping measures to minimise odour release from the dewatering plant.

WCC Southern Landfill

Wellington Regional Council reviewed the consent to try and reduce the odour nuisance from the landfill face. The review resulted in Wellington City Council upgrading and improving their operations and maintenance procedures, and instituting the following changes:

- Reduced operating face area and covering the operating face each night;
- Immediate cover for malodorous waste (e.g. waste from Taylor Preston);
- Increased mixing of refuse and cover material during the day;
- Installation of deoderisers around the site perimeter, and;
- Installation of deoderisers on the compacter.

These improvements have led to a significant reduction in complaints from Carey's Gully Complex that can be attributed to landfill operations.

Living Earth Limited

Living Earth Limited (LEL) operates a composting plant that utilises sewage sludge from the AWI dewatering plant, certain waste from Taylor Preston and green waste. Consents for the project were issued in 1997. The biofilter that treats the air from the main plant continues to operate effectively. Recently LEL replaced roller doors on the main plant building as they were starting to corrode, allowing fugitive emissions. Problems had also been experienced with spillage and odour when receiving waste from Taylor Preston, although LEL now ensures all waste deliveries are fully covered and enclosed.

All four operators met with Wellington Regional Council officers in October 2001 to discuss odour management issues. Wellington City Council, LEL and AWI jointly commissioned an odour survey, the results of which are due to be published. Despite the above initiatives, the number of complaints represents a 49% increase over the previous year. As activities at the complex have not changed significantly in this time, the increase may be attributed to a less tolerant attitude amongst complainants. Wellington Regional Council is currently planning pro-active monitoring of odour around the Carey's Gully Complex, and is working with Living Earth Limited with respect to its consent for compost piles.

Taylor Preston Ltd (Odour Complaints)

Taylor Preston is a meat processing plant located in Ngauranga Gorge. A total of 166 odour complaints were attributed to this site over the 2001 to 2002 period, representing 19% of all odour complaints received within the Wellington area, and an increase of 47 % compared to the previous period. Complaints mainly occur during warm, still conditions, as air rises up the valley toward the suburbs above Taylor Preston, namely Rangoon Heights, Broadmeadows, Khandallah and Johnsonville.

Investigations confirmed offensive odours beyond the boundary on three separate occasions. An infringement notice was served September 2001, for one of these breaches. Wellington Regional Council, in consultation with Taylor Preston, commissioned an independent review of odour sources and controls at the site. The review identified a number of potential options that would result in improvements to the plant. Taylor Preston have selected and commissioned one of these recommendations.

2.2.2 Significant Incidents

Allied Concrete (Discharge to Land)

Allied Concrete is a concrete manufacturing company located at Landfill Road, Happy Valley Wellington. This company has received numerous warnings from Wellington Regional Council not to allow highly alkaline (pH 12) wash water from the site to enter the adjacent Carey's Gully Stream. There was an overflow from an on site storage pond on 19 February 2002. Allied Concrete is currently being

prosecuted by Wellington Regional Council, under Rule 1 of the Regional Plan for Discharges To Land.

Stream Contamination

Several streams were subject to multiple, minor contamination incidents:

- Karori Stream had five contamination incidents associated with this stream, attributed to liquid waste discharges, solid waste dumping and unconsented works.
- Kaiwharawhara Stream had seven contamination incidents, arising from dye testing, foaming agent release, and liquid waste discharges and hydrocarbon spillage.
- Owhiro Stream had seven incidents, attributed to silt discharges and seaweed accumulations.
- Carey's Gully Stream had two instances of industrial site discharges entering the stream (see Allied Concrete above).
- Koromiko Stream had two contamination incidents, arising from oil spillage and dye testing.

Miscellaneous

Other miscellaneous incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	39
Sewage discharges:	20
Hazardous substance incidents:	11
Silt Discharges:	19
Other:	156

2.3 Hutt City

2.3.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	276
Complaints (last year):	164
Variance:	+68%
Principal Complaint Sources:	1. Nuplex Environmental Ltd (25 odour complaints) 2. Nuplex Medismart Ltd (44 odour complaints) 3. Hutt Valley Wastewater Service (61 odour complaints) 4. New Zealand Fish Products (38 odour complaints)

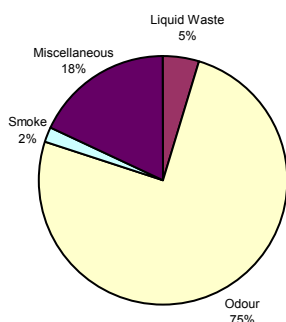


Figure 2-4 Complaint Types

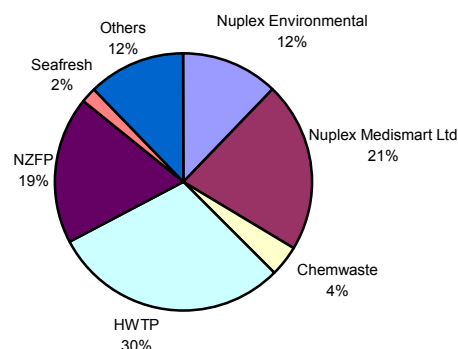


Figure 2-5 Odour Complaints

The principal complaint sources are discussed in further detail below.

Nuplex Environmental Ltd (Odour Complaints)

Nuplex Environmental is a liquid and hazardous waste treatment plant located in Port Road, an industrial area of Seaview, and holds a discharge to air permit. Past odour problems from the Nuplex site have been attributed to outdoor storage, mixing and transportation of organic waste materials during its remediation. All storage of odorous material is now conducted indoors, which is hoped will significantly reduce odour emissions from the site. The company is currently working to address fugitive emissions.

Nuplex Medismart Ltd (Odour Complaints)

Nuplex Medismart Ltd (formerly Medical Waste Wellington Ltd) is a medical waste treatment company located in Port Road, an industrial area of Seaview. The company uses an autoclave process to treat waste, which does not require resource consent for discharges to air. This is a significant improvement on the company’s previous operations at Shelley Bay, where wastes were incinerated. Initial operations at the Seaview site gave rise to odour complaints from a neighbouring property. Investigation revealed that odours were arising due to insufficient efflux velocity from the autoclave stack and fugitive emissions. The company has undertaken works to address these issues, including commissioning a consultant, controlling fugitive emissions, and operating overnight to avoid complaints until stack modifications could be completed.

Hutt Wastewater Treatment Project (Odour Complaints)

The Hutt Valley Wastewater Service (HWTP) is the sewage treatment facility for the Wanuiomata and Hutt Region, located at Waterman Street, Seaview. It holds resource consent for discharges to air and water, although since it’s commencing in September 2001 it has been the source of odour complaints from the Seaview and Gracefield area. A site audit was carried out to identify odour sources onsite and methods to mitigate them. Small changes in plant operation and the biofilter have been made. There has been no odour complaints received since May 2002.

New Zealand Fish Products (Odour Complaints)

New Zealand Fish Products is a fish processing plant, located in an industrial area on Gracefield Road, Seaview. The site has a resource consent for discharges to air, although its operations have given rise to frequent odour complaints attributed to fugitive emissions during loading operations, wastewater transfers to a tanker and fish waste storage outdoors. Wellington Regional Council has obtained a formal commitment from the company to improve management practices, which has led to improved odour control measures and a significant reduction in the number of odour complaints from this site.

2.3.2 Incidents

Surface Water Contamination

There have been 24 instances of reported contamination in the Waiwhetu Stream, including sewage discharges (8), unconsented works (5), silt discharges from consented works (5), discoloration (3) and hydrocarbon sheens (4). The sources of contamination have been difficult to address due to the number of industrial sites draining to the stream, and the culverting of the stream in its upper reaches.

There were two incidents involving the Hutt River in Lower Hutt, namely an acid spill, and dumping of a gas bottle.

Miscellaneous

Other miscellaneous incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	9
Sewage discharges:	17
Hazardous substance incidents:	2
Silt Discharges:	5
Others	50

2.4 Upper Hutt City

2.4.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	48
Complaints (last year):	50
Variance:	-4%
Principal Complaint Sources:	1. Scherring Plough Animal Health Ltd (4 odour complaints) 2. South Pacific Tyres (4 odour complaints)

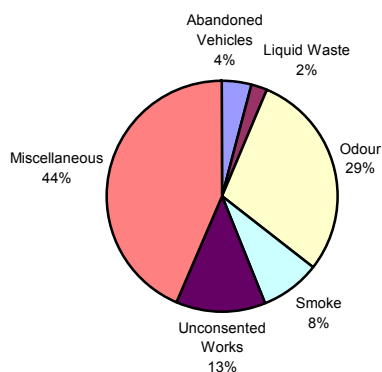


Figure 2-5 Complaint Types

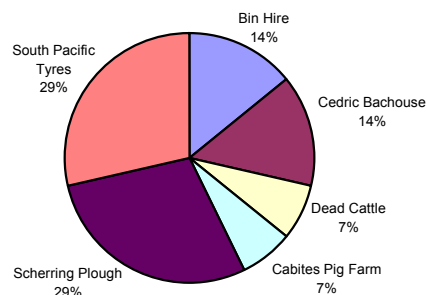


Figure 2-6 Odour Complaints

There were no significant sources of complaint during this reporting period. Recurring complaints regarding Scherring Plough Animal Health Ltd and South Pacific Tyres Ltd were received from individual complainants, although investigations failed to confirm offensive or objectionable odours in either case.

2.4.2 Incidents

Graham Alexander (Illegal Dumping)

Illegal dumping of non-cleanfill material has occurred between 1994 and 2001 at Graham Alexander's property on Mangaroa Valley Road, Upper Hutt. Wellington Regional Council initially encouraged remedial work, although an Enforcement Order was subsequently issued in August 1998 requiring removal of illegally dumped material. A site inspection in November 2001 revealed that the Enforcement Order had not been fully complied with, and a letter was written to Mr. Alexander outlining the necessary work. Mr Alexander has subsequently complied with all the conditions of the Enforcement Order, with the exception of erecting a sign prohibiting further dumping.

Surface Water Contamination

There were three sewage discharges that resulted in contamination of the Hutt River in Upper Hutt.

Miscellaneous

Other miscellaneous incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	5
Sewage discharges:	3
Hazardous substance incidents:	0
Silt Discharges:	1
Others	12

2.5 Porirua City

2.5.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	72
Complaints (last year):	82
Variance:	-13%
Principal Complaint Sources:	1. Spicer Landfill (5 odour complaints) 2. Browns Bay (5 odour complaints)

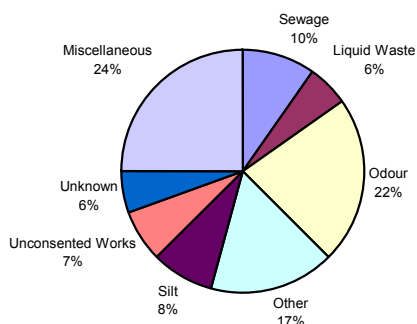


Figure 2-7 Complaint Types

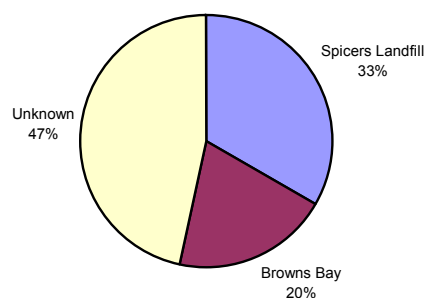


Figure 2-8 Odour Complaints

There were no significant sources of complaint during this reporting period. Recurring complaints regarding odour from Spicer Landfill on Broken Hill Road were received from one individual, but no offensive or objectionable odour was detected at the site boundary. Several complaints were also received concerning odour from possible sewage discharges into Browns Bay at Pauatahanui Inlet, although investigations attributed the odour to rotting seaweed.

2.5.2 Incidents

Capital and Coast District Health Board (Sewage Discharge to Land)

A blocked sewer main resulted in a significant discharge of sewage from a manhole at Porirua Hospital, which contaminated a playing field on the hospital grounds and an adjacent stream. Capital Coast District Health Board commissioned Sinclair Knight Merz Ltd to advise on the clean up. This led to the area being cordoned-off until it was deemed safe for public access.

Stream Contamination

Two streams were subject to repeated minor contamination. Problems in Pauatahanui Stream arose due to sewage discharges, silt discharges and an abandoned vehicle. Taupo Stream/Swamp was subject to discoloration on several occasions. Although natural coloration and surface sheens are a feature of streams draining from wetlands, on two occasions the colour was attributed to other sources, although the source could not be identified. Weed removal activities also caused some discoloration.

Miscellaneous

Other miscellaneous incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	2
Sewage discharges:	2
Hazardous substance incidents:	2
Silt Discharges:	6

2.6 Kapiti Coast District Council

2.6.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	44
Complaints (last year):	45
Variance:	-2%
Principal Complaint Sources:	Not applicable

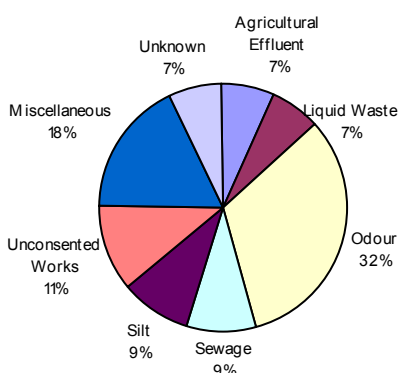


Figure 2-8 Complaint Types

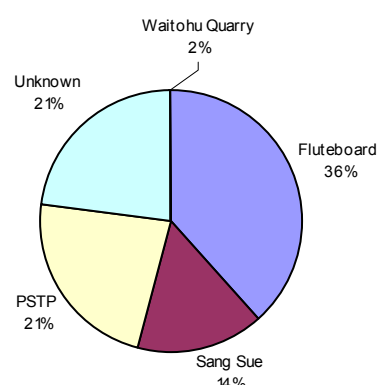


Figure 2-9 Odour Complaints

The principal complaint sources are discussed in further detail below.

Fluteboard (Odour Complaints)

Fluteboard is a printing and packaging company located in an industrial area on Omaha Street, Waikanae. Frequent odour complaints have been received from a neighbour in the adjacent residential area, representing 36% of all odour complaints received from Kapiti. Investigations in February 2002 confirmed a solvent odour at the boundary, arising from an extract vent on the roof. Although the odour was not considered acutely offensive or objectionable, it persisted for approximately one hour, and so was deemed to have the *potential* to be offensive. Subsequent discussions with the management of Fluteboard led to an upgrade of the extract vent stack, to improve dispersion. Complaints are still being received from the original complainant. Wellington Regional Council is currently arranging for a process

evaluation of the Fluteboard facility, to ascertain that all reasonable steps are being taken to avoid fugitive odour emissions from the site.

Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant (Odour Complaints)

Paraparaumu Sewage Treatment Plant is an activated biomass facility, located off Fytfield Place, Paraparaumu. Complaints are received from nearby resident, particularly on summer mornings during a southerly wind. Despite several visits to the site, none of the alleged complaints have been confirmed as offensive or objectionable beyond the site boundary by investigating officers.

2.6.2 Incidents

No significant incidents occurred during this reporting period. Miscellaneous incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	0
Sewage discharges:	4
Hazardous substance incidents:	1
Silt Discharges:	4

2.7 Wairarapa

2.7.1 Complaints

Complaints (this year):	118
Complaints (last year):	164
Variance:	-28%
Principal Complaint Sources:	

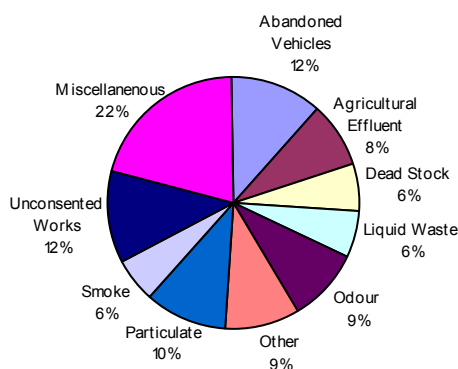


Figure 3-0 Complaint Types

Whilst odour complaints predominate in the rest of the Region, the majority of complaints received from the Wairarapa relate to abandoned vehicles and alleged unconsented works. Abandoned vehicle complaints occur mainly in Masterton District, although enforcement action is rare due to difficulties identifying the vehicle owners.

2.7.2 Incidents

No significant incidents occurred during this reporting period. Miscellaneous minor incidents occurring over the last year include the following:

Hydrocarbon spills:	4
Sewage discharges:	3
Hazardous substance incidents:	7
Silt Discharges:	2

3. Enforcement Action

The types of enforcement action available to the incident response service of the Wellington Regional Council are to serve Infringement Notices or Abatement Notices, or to prosecute for non-compliance with the Resource Management Act or Regional Council rules. The following provides an overview of enforcement action taken during this year.

3.1 Abatement Notices

An abatement notice can be issued when the Council wants to cease or prohibit a person from commencing anything that:

Contravenes or is likely to contravene the Act, any regulation made under the Act, a rule in the plan, or

Is likely to be noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable to such an extent that it has or is likely to have an adverse effect on the environment.

An abatement notice can also be issued to require a person to do something that is necessary to ensure compliance with the Act, any regulations under the Act and rule in a plan and to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment.

Table 3-2 Abatement Notices Issued

Name of Recipient	Reason for The Notice	Issued By	Date Served
Carterton dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	9 Oct 2001
Masterton resident	Illegal deposition on river bed	Wairarapa	8 Oct 2001
Carterton dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	15 Nov 2001
S. Wairarapa dairy farmer	Illegal Discharge of effluent to land	Wairarapa	12 Mar 2002
Carterton timber industry	Unconsented discharge to air	Wairarapa	25 Mar 2002
Carterton dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	8 May 2002
Carterton dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	8 May 2002
S. Wairarapa dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	17 May 2002

Name of Recipient	Reason for The Notice	Issued By	Date Served
S. Wairarapa dairy farmer	Discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	24 Aug 2001
S. Wairarapa dairy farmer	Unconsented irrigation of water	Wairarapa	30 Aug 2001

3.2 Infringement Notices

Infringement Notices are issued for relatively minor offences, instead of seeking a prosecution. They can be used to impose fines for infringement of rules or resource consent conditions, or non-compliance with Abatement Notices. Fines range from \$300 to \$1,000 for an alleged offence.

Table 3-1 Infringement Notices Issued

Name of Recipient	Reason for the Notice	Issued by	Infringement Fee (Incl. GST)	Date Served
Masterton resident	Illegal dumping in riverbed	Wairarapa	\$500	6 Jul 2001
Carterton Timber plant	Illegal dumping of chemicals	Wairarapa	\$750	12 Sep 2001
Carterton dairy farmer	Illegal discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	\$750	9 Oct 2001
Masterton resident	Illegal dumping in riverbed	Wairarapa	\$500	8 Oct 2001
Carterton dairy farmer	Illegal discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	\$750	18 Dec 2001
Carterton dairy farmer	Illegal discharge of effluent to water	Wairarapa	\$750	18 Dec 2001
Nuplex Environmental	Offensive odour beyond the boundary	Resource Quality	\$1,000	24 May 2002

3.3 Enforcement Orders

An Enforcement Order can be obtained via application to the Environment Court. It is issued by the Environment Court, and can require a person to take action to avoid, remedy or mitigate any actual or potential adverse effects on the environment.

No Enforcement Orders were issued during this year.

3.4 Prosecutions

Individuals or organisations are prosecuted where there has been a serious breach of the Resource Management Act 1991. The maximum penalties for prosecution are 2 years imprisonment or a \$200,000 fine, with a further fine of \$10,000 per day for a continuing offence.

Prosecutions initiated during this year included the following:

- Information laid against Allied Concrete.
- Two dairy farmers - both for unauthorised discharges of dairy effluent.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Complaints

The number of complaints received have consistently increased over recent years, due to the following:

- The public is becoming more aware of the Council's pollution hotline;
- New developments bringing industrial and residential land uses into close proximity in urban areas;
- Growing residential land use in rural areas, and;
- Growing intolerance of odours amongst the general public and 'sensitised' individuals.

Given the above, it is believed that growing complaint numbers do not necessarily indicate a growing odour emission problem. Furthermore, complaints typically relate to *local* pollution issues, such as odour, smoke and illegal dumping. As such, the sources of complaints are rarely considered significant in terms of *regional* environmental quality.

4.2 Incidents

Significant incidents are those, which caused, or could have caused, significant adverse environmental impacts. The following significant incidents occurred during the past year:

- Discharge of wastewater from a concrete batching plant into Carey's Gully Stream, resulting in elevated pH and sediment levels. A prosecution is currently being sought against the company.
- Sewage overflow onto a playing field and nearby stream at Porirua hospital, which resulted in restricted public access until the public health hazard had subsided.
- Repeated contamination of several watercourses in the Region, including, Waiwhetu Stream, Taupo Stream, Karori Stream, Kaiwharawhara Stream, Owhiro Stream, Koromiko Stream, Pauatahanui Stream and the Hutt River. Incidents included sewage overflows, silt-laden run-off and oil spillage.

4.3 Resource Management Issues

Significant resource management issues are those which have demonstrated deficiencies in the environmental protection framework provided via implementation of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Regional Plans. The following significant resource management issues became apparent during the past year:

- The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms law reform has restructured the regulatory framework for dangerous goods and hazardous substances, transferring responsibilities from Dangerous Goods Inspectors to officers of the Occupational Safety and Health Service (OSH) of the Department of Labour. This may result in less frequent inspection of dangerous goods storage facilities and a corresponding increase in spillage/leakage to land and water where poor management practices are allowed to persist.
- There are a number of minor incidents, which occur repeatedly around the Region, which collectively may have a significant impact upon environmental quality. These include the following activities (with their respective contaminants presented in parentheses):
 - Wastewater discharge from concrete cutting to stormwater drains (particulate)
 - Silt-laden wastewater from excavations discharged to stormwater drains (particulate)
 - Silt-laden run-off from earthworks entering stormwater and surface water (particulate)
 - Waste oil dumping into stormwater drains (hydrocarbons)
 - Paint/thinner dumping into stormwater drains (hydrocarbons)
 - Burning of waste materials (offensive & objectionable odour)
 - Unconsented overflows from sanitary sewers into streams (sewage)
 - Vehicle washwater discharged to stormwater drains (detergent).

Although the above activities are prohibited by Regional Council rules, businesses and the general public generally have little appreciation about the consequences or legality of their actions.

5. Direction for 2002/2003

1. It is expected that the number of complaints received by the Pollution Response Service will again increase over the 2002/2003 period, with the majority of those received being attributed to industrial odour sources.
2. The Take Charge pollution prevention programme is one of the Short Term Outputs identified in the Environment Division's Strategic Plan (2002-2010), and is currently programmed for launch in February 2003. Through Take Charge, council officers from the Pollution Control section will provide a free environmental assessments for small to medium sized businesses.

The principal objective of Take Charge is to assist businesses to identify and address their environmental problems, and provide the foundations for them to go beyond compliance if they choose, via recycling, cleaner production, management systems and other environmental initiatives. However, where the Take Charge audits identify actual or potential environmental pollution of a significant nature, formal steps may be taken to effect an improvement. Take Charge therefore uses a 'carrot and stick' approach, as opposed to the 'educate and encourage' approach of the Take Care and Take Action programmes. This is consistent with the objectives of the Environment Division's Strategic Plan 2002-2010, in which divisional priorities for the Resource Investigations Department include:

- A hard line on compliance, using a fair and reasonable (but no nonsense) approach and;
 - Increased emphasis on pollution prevention.
3. Available resources will be put under pressure due to the combined effect of increasing complaint numbers, the introduction of the Take Charge programme and loss of existing staff moving to alternative employment. This increasing pressure will be addressed by improving operational efficiency, replacement of staff who leave, and obtaining additional staff resources where possible.