

R E P O R T	TO	MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS
	FROM	MANAGER: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
	FILE REF	REF: 387248
	DATE	20 FEBRUARY 2008
	SUBJECT	MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT – JANUARY 2008

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

INTRODUCTION

DISTRICT PLAN

Proposed Plan Change No 14 – Waihi – Newmont Waihi Gold

While Newmont Waihi Gold has not yet finally confirmed that it is proceeding with a Plan Change for the proposed Pit Layback in the western wall of the current pit and a Resource Consent for the Pit Layback in the east, the company is preparing a number of technical reports which we expect in the near future.

At this time of writing this report two ‘Draft Reports’ (not the final ones to be submitted) have been received relating to economic impact and the project description. These are currently being reviewed.

A Council project team has been established to implement the RMA processes around Plan Changes and resource consents. The structure of the team sees myself and Project Leader, Dave Burton of Maunsell as Lead Consultant with planning assistance from Alan Matheson and Gillian Cockerell of C&M Planning and Grant Eccles from Maunsell. Andrew Green of Brookfield’s will be the Project Team Solicitor.

Other technical and engineering consultants will be employed to cover the various technical and geotechnical aspects of the proposals as required.

A two page feature has been drafted and is to be published in the Waihi Leader on the 26th February. This feature aims to answer a series of expected questions about the upcoming proposal plan change. A public meeting is to be held at 7pm at the Waihi Memorial Hall on the 4th March 2008 to answer further questions the community may have about the consultative process.

A further update can be given at the meeting.

District Plan Review

The first meeting of the District Plan Committee for 2008 will have occurred on Monday the 25th of February.

The agenda at this stage looks at some key issues including the structure of the Section 32 Report, a Draft District Plan Provisions for Reserves Zones Report and:

- Update on District Plan Programme
- Update on Planning Map preparation
- Update on Consultation.

Waikato Proposed Regional Plan - Proposed Variation No 6 – Water Allocation

At the previous Council Meeting a number of Councillors asked for copies of the submissions made by the Hauraki District Council to the Environment Waikato Hearings Committee in relation to the Proposed Variation.

The Mayor gave a briefing on how the submission was received.

I undertook to put a copy of the submission by the Mayor and Councils Consultant, Mr Dave Burton of Maunsell onto the next agenda for the information of Councillors.

The submissions are attached to my report.

Local Government NZ – Submission on “Climate Change (emissions trading and renewable) Bill”

Attached for the information of Council is a copy of the submission from Local Government New Zealand to the above Select Committee.

This is placed on the agenda for information given that Council will shortly be considering a draft Council approach to identifying Climate Change issues for the District.

NEWMONT WAIHI GOLD

Martha Mine South Wall Stability Cutback

While operations in the Martha Mine were ceased for the Christmas / New Year period work recommenced on the South Wall Stability Cutback in early January, 2008. During January the first stage of the cutback was completed when the South Haul Road was reached and the work then proceeded back to the top of the pit to begin stage 2 of the cutback work.

As reported to Council a weaker zone of land has been identified near the top of the South Wall Cutback at the western end.

In the interim the cutback work is restricted to the eastern end while the weakened zone of material is investigated by Newmont Waihi Gold.

Council's pit peer reviewer has been involved in the discussions with the company relating to the zone. The pit peer reviewer and myself had a full site visit with Newmont Waihi Gold's geo-technical engineer to review the current cutback and the extent of the weakened zone. The pit peer reviewer is comfortable that the work can continue on the eastern portion of the cutback.

A report on the weakened area to the west area is being prepared by Newmont Waihi Gold's pit designers, PMS Limited. This report is expected to be received towards the end of

February. No cutback work will take place on the western portion until signoff has been received from both Newmont Waihi Gold and Council's pit peer reviewer.

Quarterly Noise Monitoring Report – 1 October to 31 December 2007

The above report has been received and there are no ongoing matters of concern. The pit stability cutback work has created some noise issues but the company has been mindful of the public comment in relation to these works and the noise created and it has been implementing of the Martha Mine Noise Mitigation Plan as required.

The summary for the quarter is:-

- There were 30 noise measurements carried out on the southern stability cutback project. A number of these were taken in adverse meteorological conditions. 8 measurements were in the marginal compliance range
- During the fourth quarter of 2007, 31 yellow status assessments were made under the mitigation plan. Under those procedures no instances arose that required the implementation of consequential Noise Mitigation actions
- 57 measurements of Favona operations were taken during the fourth quarter of 2007. All measurements were in compliance with the consent conditions.
- 9 measurements of activity at the mill were recorded during the quarter. All measurements were night time measurements and all were in compliance with consent limits.

Quarterly Vibration Monitoring Report – 1 October to 31 December, 2007

During the period 24 complaints were received by the Company in relation to the southern Stability Cutback (from 11 complainants) and two Favona complaints from 1 resident were received.

Council also received a number of vibration complaints and referred these to the company for action and contact with the complainant.

There were six (6) exceedances of consent limits during the quarter.

A summary of the quarter's compliance is as follows:-

- 96.0% compliance was achieved at Martha during the fourth quarter of 2007 and the 12 month rolling average was 95.5% compliant as at 31 December 2007.
- 98.1% compliance was achieved at Favona during the fourth quarter of 2007 and the 12 month rolling average was 98.1% as at 31 December 2007.
- Vibration complaints relating to Martha operations increased during the fourth quarter of 2007.
- 9 Investigations into exceedances occurred at Martha and Favona which included review of blast design and determination of the cause of the exceedance.
- The fourth quarter of 2007 saw a decrease in the total number of blasts and the amount of explosives used.

DEVELOPMENT

Development Table – to 31 January 2008

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
Building Consents	341	393	293	80%
Subdivisions	90	90	82	
Land Use	31	40	20	
Designations	1	3	2	
Variations	22	27	24	
	144	160	128	84%
LIM's	254	245	182	73%

January has seen an increase in building and planning consents over the last six months with the number of LIM's also increasing slightly.

This has meant development is still sitting at about 80 – 85% of the last 2 years.

For reasons that are not quite clear to us there are definitely upsurge in building consents received for processing in February.

PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Staffing

Naomi Simmonds is now working 2 days per week rather than 5 as she pursues her last year of her Masters Study at Waikato University.

In early February interviews were held for a planner/graduate planner and an offer has been made to a graduate planner.

Recruitment for a Senior Planner has been unsuccessful to date although we are in discussion with one possible applicant. The recruitment of a Senior Consents Planner would allow a significant amount of Marina's time to be released for the District Plan Review process.

Brookfield's – Retirement of Senior Partner John Sheppard

We have recently been notified that John Sheppard of Brookfield's will be retiring from the partnership as from 30 April 2008.

John has for many years assisted local authorities with legal advice including Hauraki District Council. While he will not be known to more recent councillors his advice has been sought and appreciated over many years.

I have personally worked with John over a large number of years and will be acknowledging his contribution to Local Government.

BUILDING ACT, 2004

Accreditation

All but two of the corrective actions required have been completed and sent to IANZ for approval. The last two corrective actions will be sent to IANZ by the end of this week.

There is a backlog of consideration of applications and corrective actions for accreditation and I expect it to be several weeks before we finally know if we have been accepted for accreditation or have further corrective actions to undertake.

Processing

Processing times continue to produce excellent results and the new Code Compliance Certificate procedures have now been fully implemented. Since 1 December, 2007 no CCC has exceeded the 20 working day time frame and the average processing time is < 8 days.

GENERAL

Dog Control

Negotiations for the dog control registration, animal control and noise control contracts will be commenced over the next two months. A complete review of the contract documents has taken place.

It will also be complemented with a review of the dog control provisions at Whiritoa as promised to the Community following the setting of the new policies for that village. The timing of this review is fortuitous as any provisions that are altered can be incorporated into the new contracts.

Staff will also be completing a draft report for Council consideration on the "Improving Public Safety under the Dog Control Act, 1996: Policy Options" document at its mid March meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Current Projects

Staffing

An offer has been made to a Strategic Planner. I will advise at the meeting as to if this has been accepted or not.

Climate Change

Final touches are being made to the discussion paper in preparation for inclusion in the Council agenda for early April. It is anticipated that a round table discussion of officers will happen to peer review the document, and ensure all relevant aspects are covered before this date.

Youth Forum

With the appointment of two co-chairs for the Hauraki Youth forum back in December, there is now no further need for the help of a facilitator. Garry Towler has now stepped away from the role, and the co-ordination of the forum has now successfully moved from Strategic Planning (Katy Carpenter) to Community Services (John McIver).

The full Youth Forum met on Monday 18th February at the Council Chambers. They were joined by 5 new members, as part of a recruitment drive over Christmas, and now consist of 19 members (with an additional 2 interested in keeping in touch but no longer living in the District). The group is currently heavily weighted with Paeroa members, although Ngarie Harris is working with them to recommend 2 more from Ngatea, and there is a potential member to be contacted for Waihi.

During the meeting they confirmed the Youth retreat, and reduced it from a two night stay to a one night stay. They will now be going to Dickies Flat on the 8th and 9th March to camp, with the following activities forming part of the itinerary:

- Team Building
- Presentations by invited guests on leadership and decision making
- Possible Motivational speakers
- Possible, kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, adventure course
- Brainstorming, and decision making for the organization of the Hauraki Youth Expo

John Mclver and Katy Carpenter are currently signed up to escort the group, and additional volunteers will be sought if necessary. There is some question at the moment into the legalities of youth camping away; at what age they are considered able to do so without parental volunteers; and how many additional volunteers are needed. These questions will be resolved in due course.

In addition to the Youth Retreat, the groups have been invited to a Ministerial Forum (with Nanaia Mahuta) to be held by the Ministry of Youth Development in Rotorua on Friday 29th February. Four members of the Forum are definitely going, with 6 more showing and interest and waiting to find out if they are needed for sports day first! Again John Mclver and Katy Carpenter will be attending with the group.

John Mclver will now be responsible for updating Council about the Youth Forums achievements, and Katy's role will become that of a strategic policy advisor, and community outcome monitor. It is anticipated that a report will be written for Council to give a broader over view of the Youth Forum and its history to date in due course.

Community Feedback Network (CFN)

It is evident that membership of the CFN is low, and that although good feedback is attained, there is a potential for the CFN to work better with greater numbers. A report will be put up to Council within the next month requesting help in this matter.

Development Contributions Policy

Further to the Council workshop on the 14th February, liaison is continuing with Audit through the Long Term Council Community Plan Amendment process, and further work is being carried out by Rob Bates and Dave Burton to progress the policy. The policy is attached as a separate item on the agenda for further discussion.

Annual Plan 2008/09

Further to the Council meetings on the 13th and 14th February 2008, work is progressing on the drafting of the Draft Annual Plan 2008/09 including the Amendment to the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-16 with the proposed Development Contributions Policy. As at the date of this Council meeting, it is expected Audit New Zealand will be in the process of auditing the Draft Annual Plan. The Draft Annual Plan will then be presented to Council for consideration at the 12th March 2008 Council meeting.

Bylaw Review

Following the completion of the bylaw review, all previous bylaws have been removed from Councils website and offices and now Council is dealing with just the one consolidated bylaw.

Rural Health Scholarships

An article was placed in the Hauraki Herald on Tuesday 12th February in order to advocate this scholarship.

Consultation

Current Consultation

There is no documentation currently under consultation.

Upcoming consultation

Draft Annual Plan 2008/09 including the proposed Amendment to the Hauraki Community Plan 2006-16.

CUSTOMER SERVICES TEAM

The Customer Services Team was offered 3842 calls via the Contact Centre, of which 3,567 we successfully managed. The Service Level achieved was 75.87% and the abandonment rate was 7.16%

The call volume was relatively light for the first three weeks of the month and it then picked up dramatically on Tuesday 29th of January and remained high for the rest of the week. Our ability to manage the call volume was heavily impacted by 1/3 of the team still being in training, staff leave and technical issues which have taken some time to resolve.

The majority of the team have enjoyed a time of rest and relaxation over the holiday period, while the new staff were in training throughout the month. It is great to now have them on board.

We have been focusing on smarter delivery of information to our customers, utilizing the electronic data management system to locate the required information and offering fax/email as a means of information delivery. The staff are being encouraged to ask quality questions, to ensure they have a full understanding of the customers issues.

Evaluative feedback has been received from the new trainees, 75% of them rating the Induction training they received at "Very good" or "excellent". We will be working through the feedback from the trainees to ensure that we develop our training processes in order to maximize the benefit for staff, customers and Council.

Documents

- New Zealand Fire Services – Annual Report
- Families Commission – Annual Report
- Citizens Advice Bureaux – Annual Report
- Sport Waikato – Annual Report
- Foundation for the Blind – Annual Report
- Maori Language Commission – Annual Report

- Ministry of Transport – Annual Report
- Environment New Zealand Ministry for the Environment - *National State of the Environment Report as at 2007*

We have received the following large document from the Ministry for the Environment which is an update on the 1997 National State of the Environment Report. Along with this document we received a summary document which I have requested a further 20 copies of in order that we may make these available to Councillors and other interested parties.

While the summary document is 72 pages long, it is somewhat easier to deal with than the State of the Environment Report which is 456 pages long.

The key chapters of the report are titled;-

- Environmental Reporting
- Our Environment and People
- Household consumption
- Transport
- Energy
- Waste
- Air
- Atmosphere
- Land
- Fresh Water
- Oceans
- Bio Diversity.

The report has recently hit the headlines with an allegation that one particular chapter was omitted from the report that related to the negative effect that primary industry has on the environment.

- Te Aka Kumara O Aotearoa (TeKoa) – Directory of Maori Organisations

Mark Buttimore
Manager: Planning and Environmental Services.

MONITORING REPORT

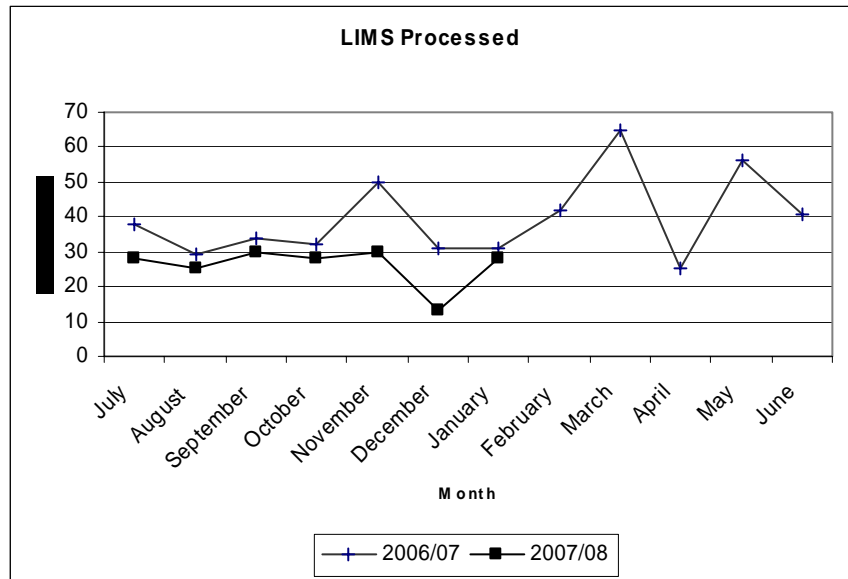
<p>Publication of the Annual Report <i>That the Annual Report is completed, audited and adopted by Council by 31st October, each year.</i></p>	<p>The Annual Report for 2006/07 was adopted by Council on 31 October, 2007.</p>																																																								
<p>Publication of the 2008/09 Annual Plan</p>	<p>Work has commenced on the 2008/09 Annual Plan with the Management Team considering proposed budgets by staff during January and early February. These will be presented to Elected Members during February with the full draft plan being presented in March for consultation during April/May.</p>																																																								
<p>Special Consultative Procedure <i>That all issues subject to a special consultative procedure meet the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2002.</i></p>	<p>To date the Gambling Policy, the Sale of Liquor Policy and Phase 1, 2 and 3 of the Consolidated bylaw have all complied with the appropriate requirements of the LGA</p>																																																								
	<p>Resource Consents & LIM's</p>																																																								
<p>Target</p>	<p>Progress towards success</p>																																																								
<p>All notified resource consents applications are decided and issued within statutory timeframes. <i>99% of all notified resource consent applications are decided and issued within 70 working days.</i></p>	<p>1 July 2007 to 31 January 2008</p> <p>Notified Consents to the end of January 2008.</p> <p>In time 1 Out of time -</p>																																																								
<p>All non-notified resource consent applications are decided and issued within statutory timeframes. <i>All non-notified consent decisions, not requiring a hearing, are issued within 20 working days.</i></p>	<p>1 Jul 2007 to 31 January 2008.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Total</td> <td style="width: 10%;">101</td> <td style="width: 10%;">In Time</td> <td style="width: 10%;">81</td> <td style="width: 10%;">80%</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Out of time</td> <td style="width: 10%;">20</td> <td style="width: 10%;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land Use</td> <td>20</td> <td>In Time</td> <td>18</td> <td>90%</td> <td>Out of time</td> <td>2</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subdivision</td> <td>81</td> <td>In Time</td> <td>63</td> <td>77%</td> <td>Out of time</td> <td>18</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misc/Desig's</td> <td>2</td> <td>In Time</td> <td>1</td> <td>50%</td> <td>Out of time</td> <td>1</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="8">Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Variations</td> <td>23</td> <td>In Time</td> <td>18</td> <td>72%</td> <td>Out of time</td> <td>5</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Objections</td> <td>5</td> <td>In Time</td> <td>3</td> <td>60%</td> <td>Out of time</td> <td>2</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> </table>	Total	101	In Time	81	80%	Out of time	20	20%	Land Use	20	In Time	18	90%	Out of time	2	10%	Subdivision	81	In Time	63	77%	Out of time	18	23%	Misc/Desig's	2	In Time	1	50%	Out of time	1	50%	Other								Variations	23	In Time	18	72%	Out of time	5	18%	Objections	5	In Time	3	60%	Out of time	2	40%
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All LIM's are issued within statutory timeframes

All LIM's are issued within 10 working days.

	Jan-07	YTD 2006/07	Jan-08	YTD 2007/08
No. of LIMs	31	254	28	182
% in time	100%		96.00%	
LIMs by Ward				
Paeroa		96		43
Waihi		93		81
Plains		65		58
TOTAL		254		182

	# LIMs 2006/07	%in time 2006/07	Avg Processing	# LIMs 2007/08	%in time 2007/08	% Overtime	Avg Processing
July	38	100%	4.18	28	100%	0%	3.36
August	29	100%	4.38	25	100%	0%	3.88
September	34	100%	5.65	30	100%	0%	3.97
October	32	100%	5.25	28	93%	-7%	6.07
November	50	98%	4.86	30	100%	0%	5.17
December	31	100%	3.65	13	92%	-8%	3.85
January	31	100%	2.52	28	96%	-6%	3.43
February	42	100%	4.05				
March	65	100%	2.33				
April	25	100%	3.52				
May	56	98%	5.46				
June	41	100%	3.29				
TOTAL	474	99.58	4.10	182	97%	3%	3.72

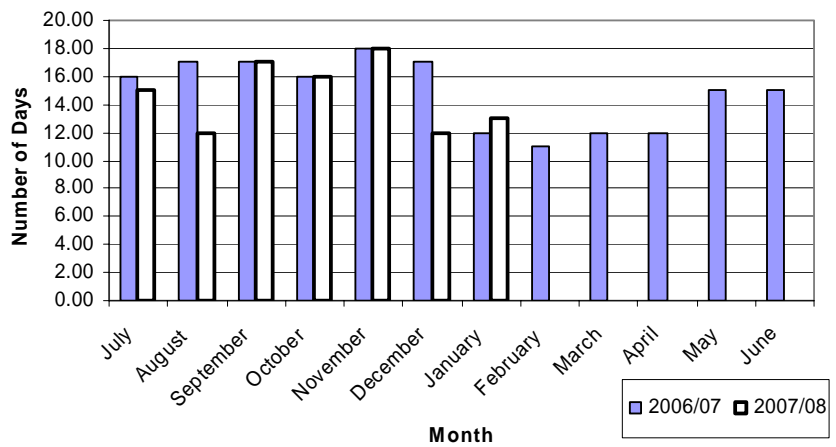


Issue building consents within statutory timeframes.

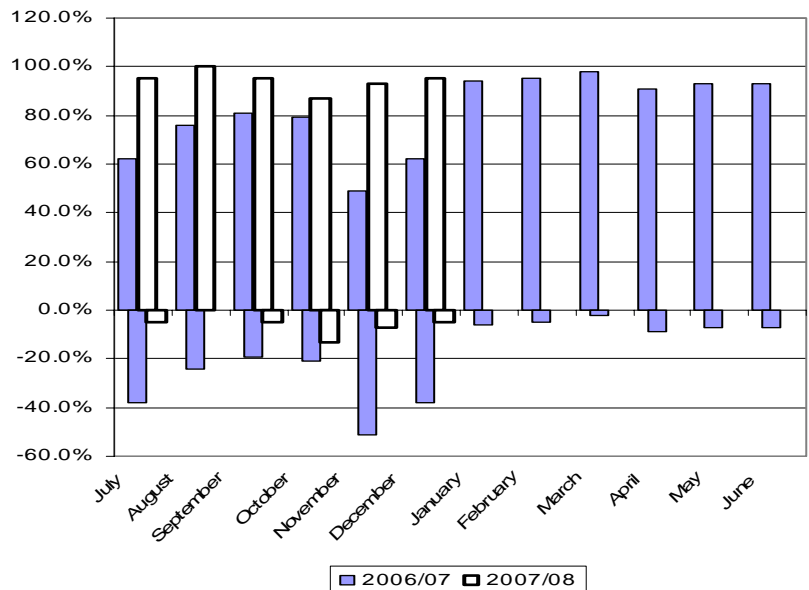
- 100% of all building consents are issued within statutory timeframes
- 20 working days

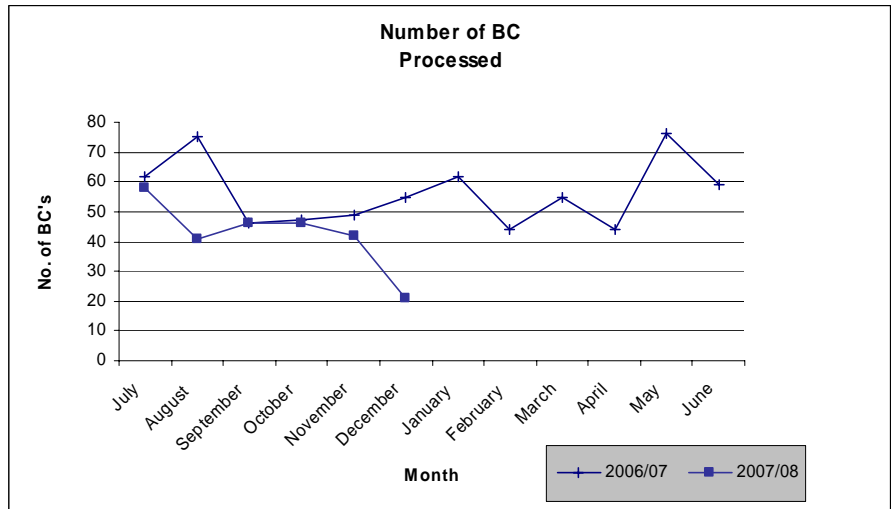
	Jan-07	YTD 2006/07	Jan-08	YTD 2007/08
No. of Consents	62	396	39	293
% in time	94%		92%	
New Houses				
Paeroa		22		23
Waihi		45		40
Plains		49		19
TOTAL		116		82

2007/08 Average Processing Time of BC's



Percentage of Building Consents Processed in time and over time



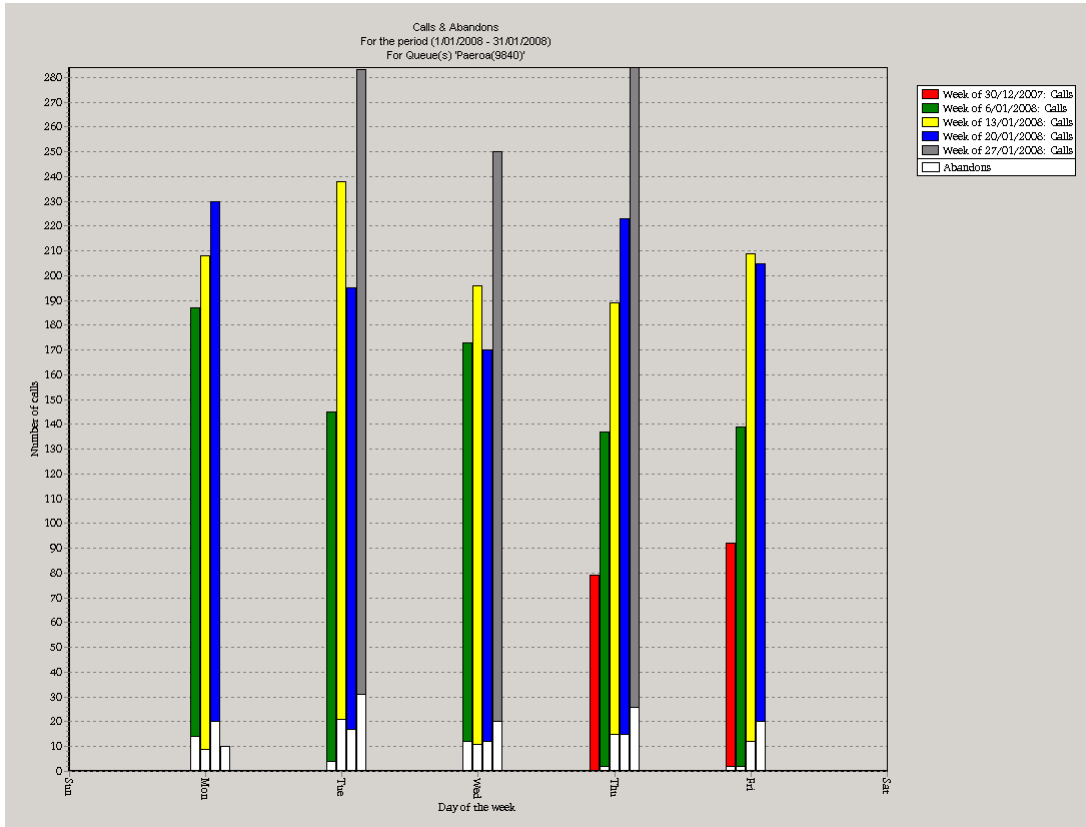


Dog Statistics - 2007

Re Registered:	3341
New Registered:	412
Registered:	3753
Destroyed:	10
Died:	154
Lost:	1
Transferred	138
Not Registered:	52

Customer Services

Summary of Calls 1/07/07 – 31/01/08



Service Levels 01/07/07 – 31/01/08

