

Massey University

A "Downunder" Approach to Oiled Wildlife Preparedness

Kerri Morgan¹, Helen McConnell¹, Brett Gartrell¹, Nick Quinn²

¹ New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University
² Marine Pollution Response Service, Maritime New Zealand




New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre

Te Kōwhiri
Ki Pāwhiri

Massey University

Oiled Wildlife Response in NZ

- The NZ Wildlife Health Centre (NZWHC), Massey University, has a contractual obligation with Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) to:
 - "establish and maintain capacity within New Zealand for the rescue, care and rehabilitation of New Zealand wildlife affected by oil spills into the marine environment"*
- Tier 2 and 3
- Relationship spanning over 10 years
- 24/7 on call availability
- Response within 2 hours of notification



Massey University



NZ Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University


- Teaching
- Research
- Wildlife Clinic
- Wildlife Diagnostic Pathology
- Oiled Wildlife Response

"Promote and implement collaborative investigation and management of wildlife in support of the welfare and conservation of New Zealand native fauna"




Te Kōwhiri
Ki Pāwhiri

Massey University



Oil Spills in New Zealand


- 15,000km coastline
- Infrequent response scenarios
- Globally low risk
 - Spill of significant magnitude (>3500 tonnes) predicted every 100 years
- Potentially high wildlife consequences
 - Many species of high conservation value



Massey University

OWR System 1998-2008

- NZWHC responsible for Tier 3 capability
 - National Oiled Wildlife Response Plan
- Tier 2 responsibility lay largely with regional councils
 - Plan maintenance
 - Personnel retention
 - Equipment maintenance
- With some help from MNZ/NZWHC
 - Response personnel training
 - Equipment provision




Te Kōwhiri
Ki Pāwhiri

Massey University

OWR Personnel 1998-2008

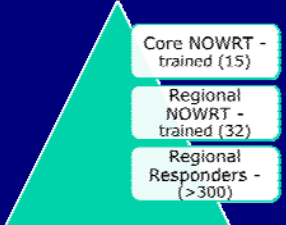
- >400 responders trained
 - Annual 2 day training course
 - Focus on training regional responders in general aspects of OWR
- High responder attrition
 - Difficulty maintaining enthusiasm
 - Infrequent responses in NZ
 - Attendance every 4-6 years
 - Difficulty maintaining contact database



Te Kōwhiri
Ki Pāwhiri

Changes since 2008

- Extension of NZWHC's capability to include Tier 2
 - NZWHC works with Regional Councils
 - Planning: facilities, species, logistics
- Formation of National Oiled Wildlife Response Team (NOWRT)
 - A smaller but more highly skilled team



Core NOWRT

- Strong central core of oiled wildlife responders with expertise in various disciplines of OWR


Role	Affiliation	No.
Programme administrator	NZWHC	1
Permanent wildlife vet	NZWHC	2
Resident wildlife vet	NZWHC	4
Wildlife technician	NZWHC	2
Wildlife pathologist	NZWHC	1
Technical advisor: Facilities	Subcontractor	1
Technical advisor: Operations	Subcontractor	2
Technical advisor: Operations	MNZ/subcontractor	2

Regional NOWRT

- Key to providing immediate response to local spills (Tier 2) and additional response for national spills (Tier 3)
- Each Regional Council has:
 - ONE Regional Council Representative
 - Key liason person for planning and response
 - Plan maintenance
 - ONE Regional Wildlife Advisor
 - Advice on local wildlife populations at risk of oil contamination – preparedness and response
 - Requires excellent local wildlife knowledge


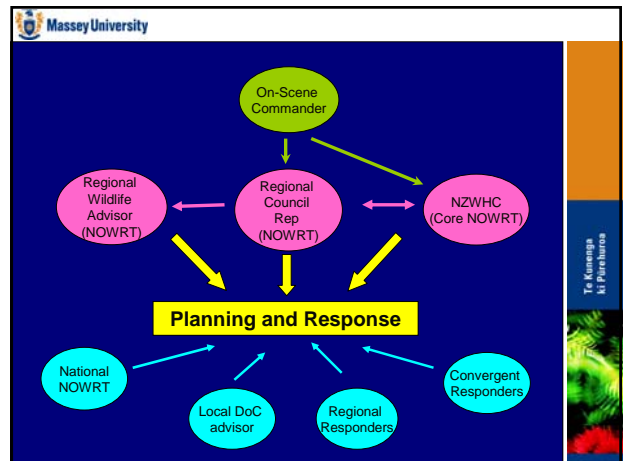
Regional NOWRT

- 'Hand-picked' team
- To maximise response availability:
 - Regional Council Representative:
 - Reciprocal arrangements between Regional Councils
 - Regional Wildlife Advisor:
 - Primarily independent contractors
 - MOU's from managers if not



Additional Responders


- In-spill training by NOWRT vital to this system
 - Regional Responders (>300 people)
 - Pre-identified list of local rehabilitators, veterinarians, conservation groups etc.
 - Participate in regional exercises
 - Convergent responders ("volunteers")
- Department of Conservation (DoC) liaison

Massey University

NOWRT Training

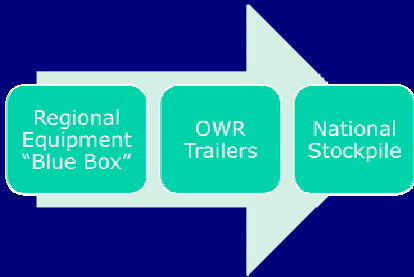
- 2-day training every two years
- Designed to build then reinforce knowledge base
 - Basic course
 - Advanced workshops vary every two years
 - Facilities evaluation
 - Media workshop
 - Health and safety
 - Volunteer training
 - Ecological impacts
 - Communications
 - Desktop scenarios



Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

Oiled Wildlife Response Equipment




Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

Regional Equipment

- Initial 24-48 hours
 - Capture gear
 - Transport boxes
 - PPE
 - Initial stabilisation equipment
- 50 birds, 20 responders
- No perishables - shopping list
- Stored adjacent to oil spill response equipment
- MNZ audits annually

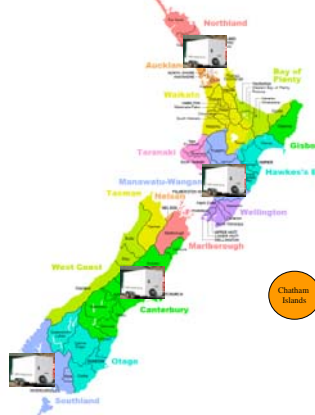


Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

Response Trailers

- Within <8 hours drive from any coastline
- Capture and stabilisation equipment for an additional 50 birds
- Additional PPE
- Veterinary equipment
- Basic wash equipment for low numbers of birds



Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

National Stockpile

- Based at NZWHC
 - Palmerston North – lower North Island
- Mobile Response Facilities
 - ISO relocateable wash container
- Additional response equipment
 - Wash equipment
 - Pools etc




Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

Permanent Response Facilities

- NZWHC Wildlife Clinic
 - In permanent operation
 - Treats 300-400 injured native avian species annually
 - Ability to deal with small numbers of oiled birds





Te Kōwhiri
ki Pāwhiriā

Massey University

Permanent Response Facilities

- NZWHC Annexe
 - Scalable facility
 - 100 to 500 birds
 - Wash and rinse areas
 - Capacity for pools



Massey University

<http://wildlife.massey.ac.nz>



New Zealand
Wildlife Health Centre

Te Kōwhiri
Ki Pākehara

