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A "Downunder" Approach to Oiled Wildlife Preparedness

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New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre

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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

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Teaching

NZ Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University

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"



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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

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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



Regional Council Structure


Chatham Islands

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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



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Changes since 2008

- Extension of NZWHC's capability to include Tier 2
 - NZWHC works with Regional Councils
 - Planning: facilities, species, logistics

Core NOWRT - trained (15)

Regional NOWRT - trained (32)

Regional Responders - (>300)

- Formation of National Oiled Wildlife Response Team (NOWRT)
 - A smaller but more highly skilled team

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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

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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

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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



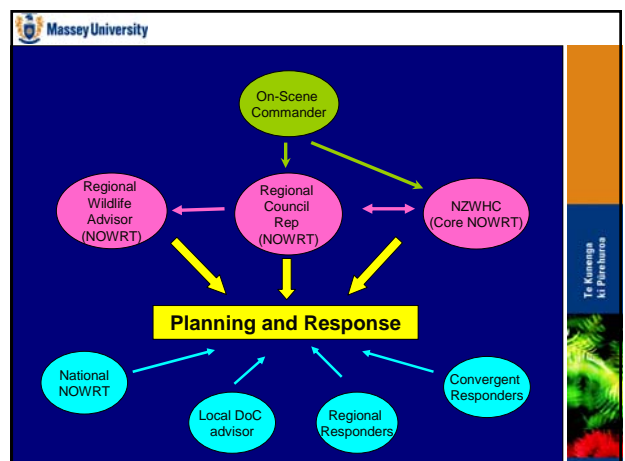
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Additional Responders

- 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
 

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NOWRT Training

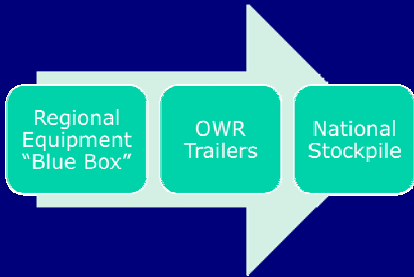
- 2-day training every two years
- Designed to build then reinforce knowledge base
 - Basic course
 - Advanced workshops vary every two years
 - Facilities evaluation
 - Media workshop
 - Health and safety
 - Volunteer training
 - Ecological impacts
 - Communications
 - Desktop scenarios



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Oiled Wildlife Response Equipment




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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

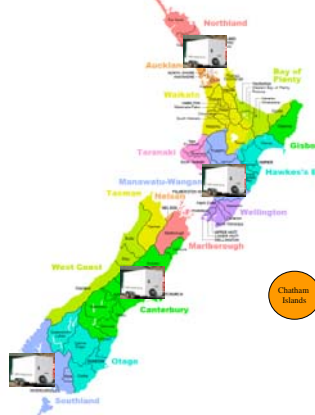


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Response Trailers

- 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



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National Stockpile

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





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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



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Permanent Response Facilities

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



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



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