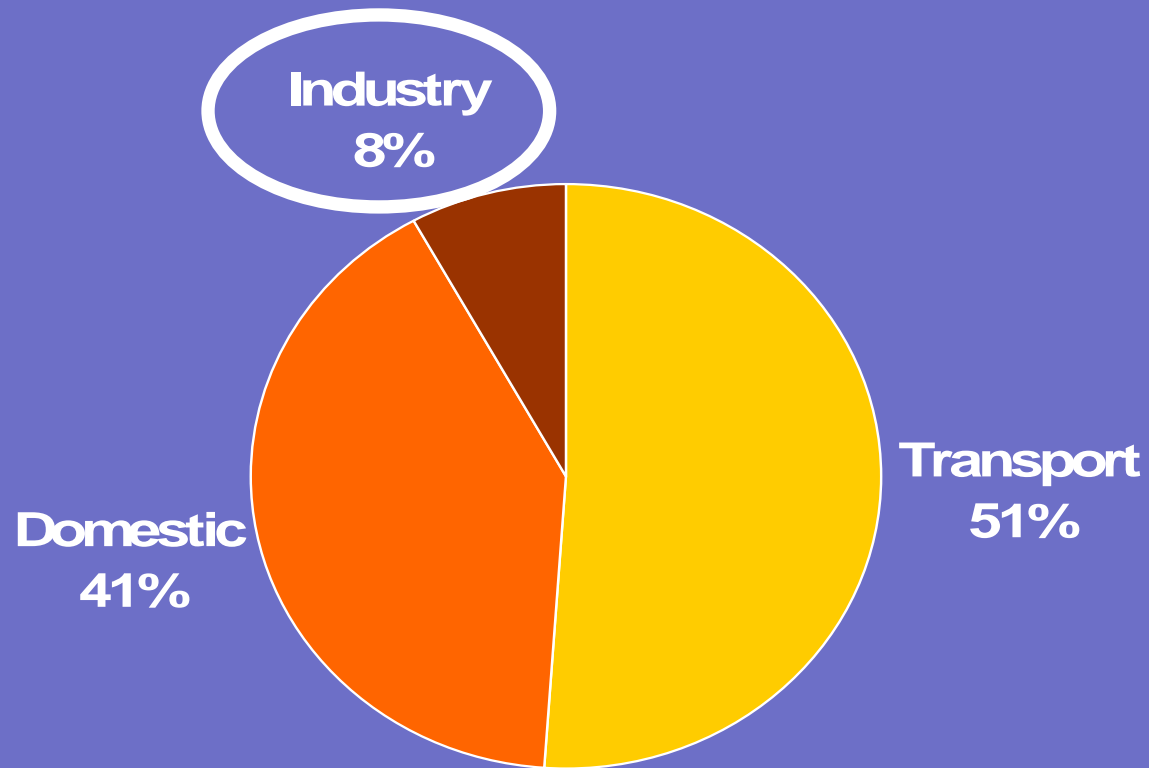


# Sustainable Air Quality: Industry

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# Context:



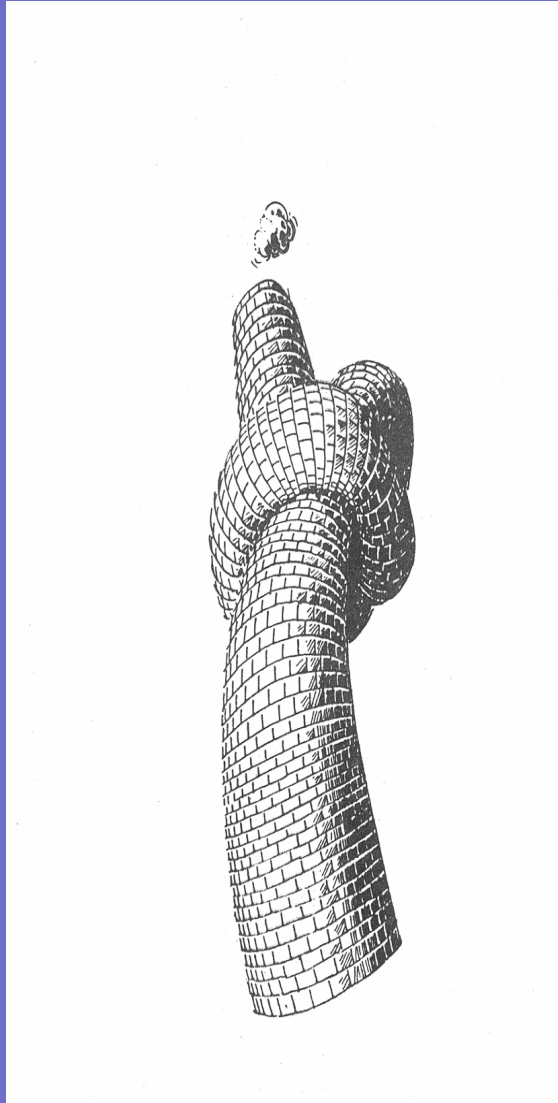
Source: Auckland urban area PM<sub>10</sub> inventory for 2004

# Introduction:

I have the easiest job, because:

- industry makes the smallest contribution;
- the legislation has been well suited to industrial emissions; and
- we have been doing things for a long time (more than 50 years).

Unfortunately, this is not an option.



# Where and when did things start?

- Less than two kilometres south of here, in the early 1950s.
- Odour nuisance in the tidal areas of Mangere inlet as a result of discharges to water of sulphide wastes from meat works.
- Blackening of white house paint occurred as far away as Onehunga.

# The first 15 years or so (1):

- Commission of inquiry into Auckland odour problems (published in 1955).
- Part V: Air Pollution, of the Health Act 1956 (set up positions of Chemical Inspectors).
- Board of Health report, Air Pollution (published in 1970).

# The first 15 years or so (2):

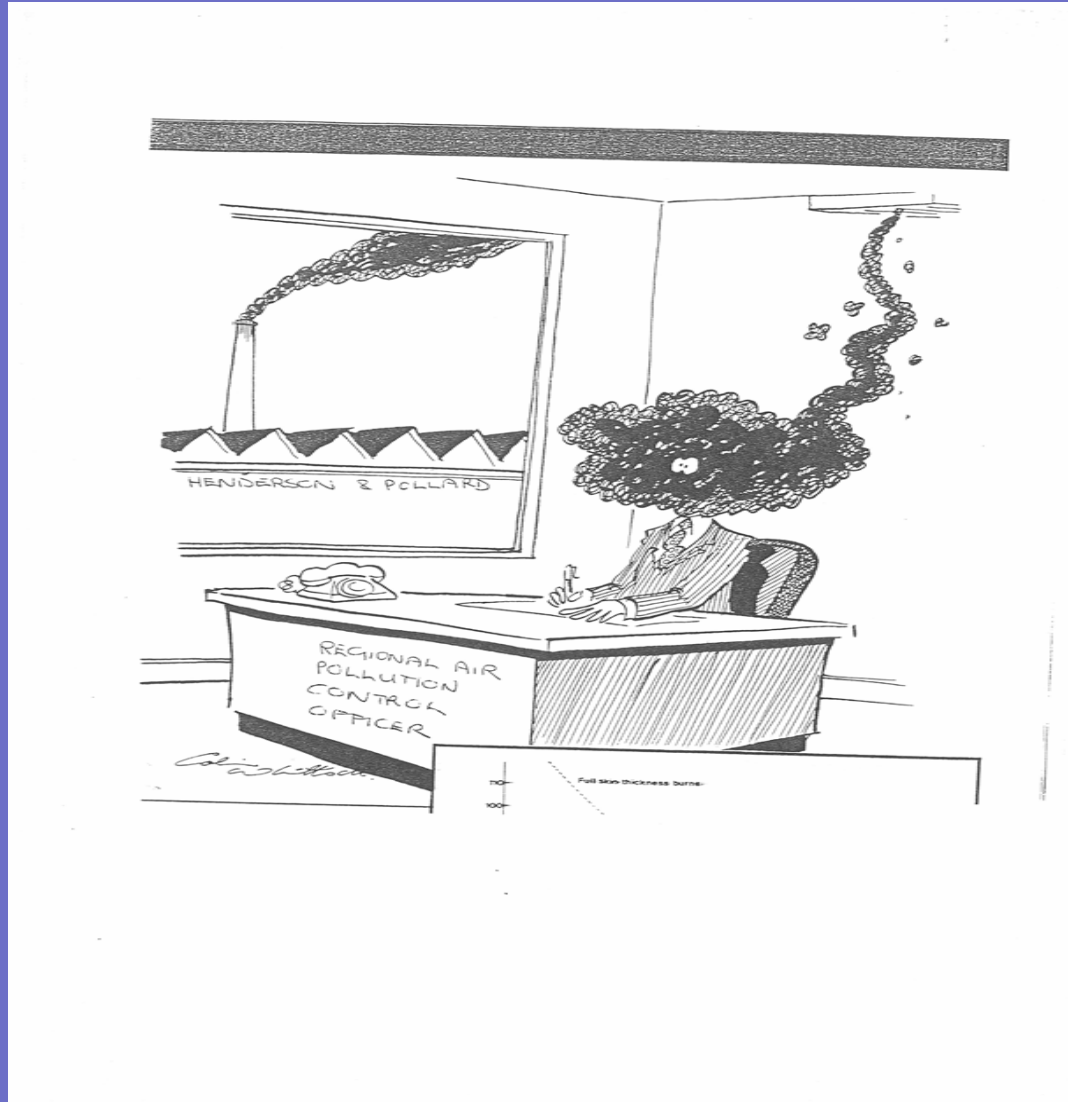
- Air pollution was seen as a Public Health issue.
- Chemical Inspectors operated through a regional structure (large regions) within the Public Health Division of the Department of Health.
- Support was provided by District Offices of the Department of Health, and Health Inspectors of local government (76 in northern region).

# The next 20 years:

- Board of Health report recommended a separate Clean Air Act.
- The Clean Air Act 1972 (set up positions of Air Pollution Control Officers, to replace Chemical Inspectors).
- No major changes to the administrative arrangements (except greater regional autonomy, through increased delegation).



It wasn't all fun.



# The last 18 years (1):

- Environmental reforms of the mid-1980s (from Health to Environment).
- Resource Management Act 1991.
- Operational devolution to regional councils (with a policy Ministry).

# The last 18 years (2):

- But, how much integration of environmental impacts has actually occurred?
- How good are the present arrangements for dealing with Domestic Fires and Motor Vehicles?
- So, how different are things now, really?

# Where have we come from (1)?

Some common features:

- prior approval requirements for new or expanded processes;
- technical assessments of predicted and actual impacts; and
- operation of processes subject to time-limited consents/licences with conditions.

# Where have we come from (2)?

- As at 30 September 1991, 82 Clean Air Act licences were issued by the Department of Health in the Auckland Region (three health districts) to major industrial processes.
- The Auckland Regional Council have 300 discharges to air consents (but much of that increase is probably the taking over of consenting from now recalcitrant local authorities).

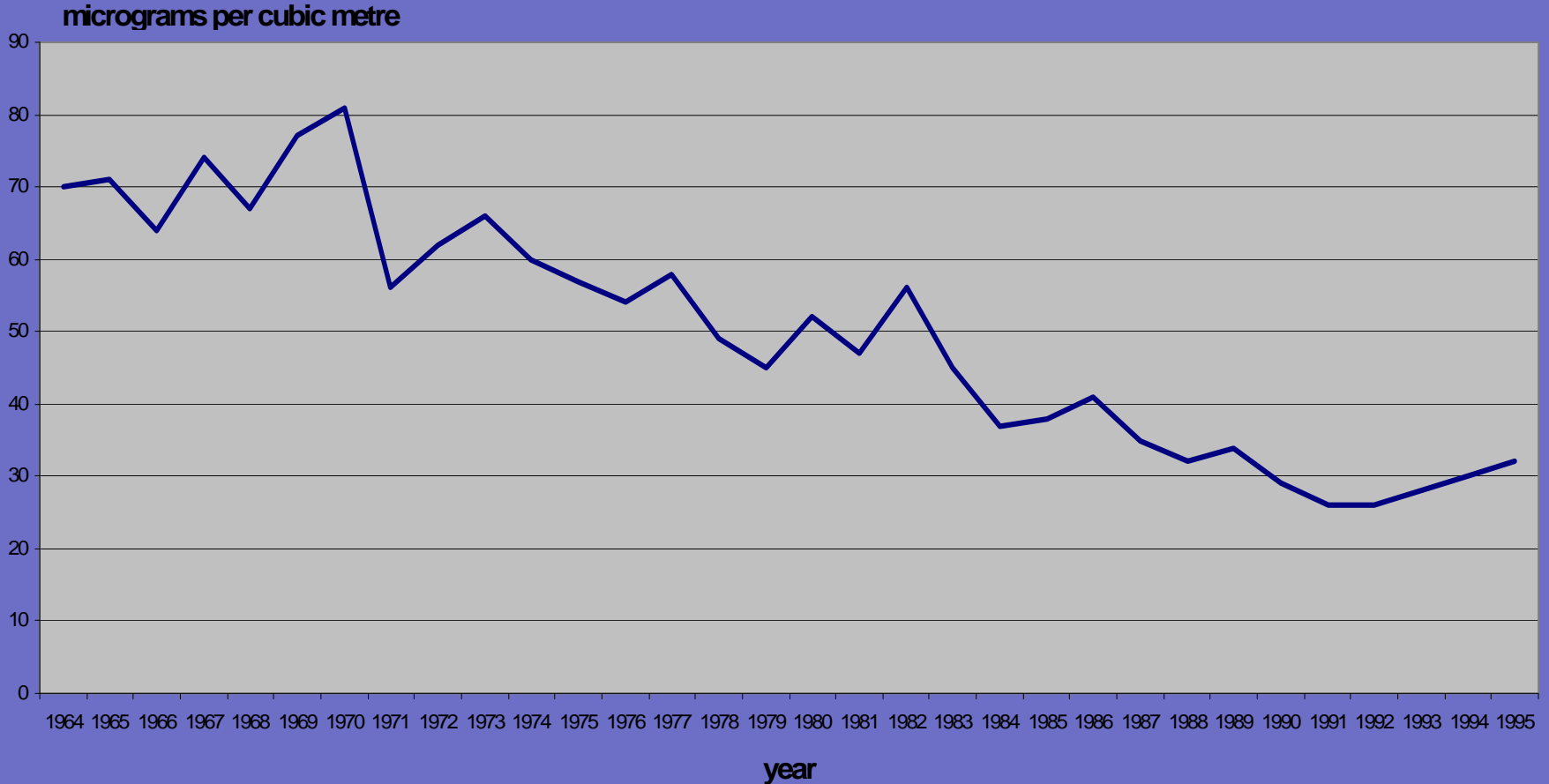
Source of ARC information: airfacts1, November 2006.

# But, hey, what about public participation?

- Yes, it is correct that the Clean Air Act did not adequately provide for public participation.
- But, in response, all 76 local authorities in the northern region had in their district plan a policy statement to involve the Regional Air Pollution Control Officer in a planning hearing for an application requiring Clean Air Act approval by the Department of Health.
- Also, Environmental Committees were set up as required (e.g., AHI Metal Containers, New Zealand Steel, etc).

# 32 years of monitoring data:

## Penrose TSP (annual averages)



Source: ARC monitoring report

# What helped improve the air quality?

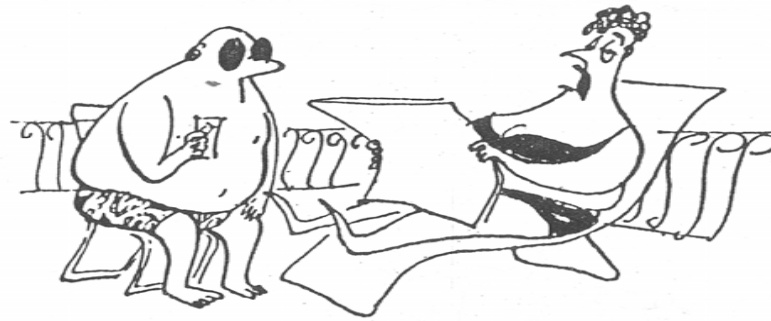
- Natural gas came to Auckland.
- ‘Think Big’ - allowing clean up of existing processes.
- Public support/pressures.



# Teamwork helps.



# But, public attitudes can be fickle.



'I mean it seems so silly to spend a lot of money on pollution when no one wants it anyway.'

# Some more recent developments.

- Ambient Air Quality Guidelines (1994 & 2002).
- Good Practice Guides (about 10 since 2001; some revised).
- ARC: “*Assessing Discharges of Contaminants into Air (Draft)*”, Technical Publication 152, 2002.
- National Air Quality Standards (2004; PM<sub>10</sub> standard currently under review).

# What NES target needs to be achieved?

- The Auckland Regional Council estimate a 53% reduction in emissions from 2005 levels is required by 2013 to achieve the PM<sub>10</sub> National Environmental Standard (NES).
- As Gerda and Kevin have indicated, the policy is a 58% reduction each from the transport and domestic sectors.
- The policy is a zero “net” reduction from industry – a pragmatic approach; includes hearings for ‘top 20’ PM<sub>10</sub> emitters (e.g., O-I New Glass Limited hearing in 2007).

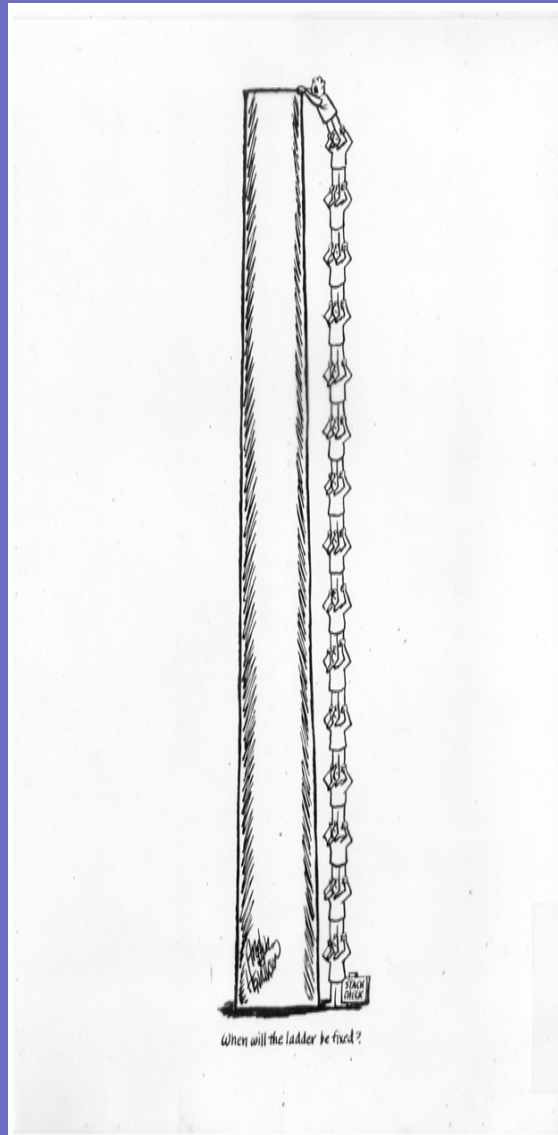
# Where should the future lead us?

- Given all that I have indicated, the management of Air Quality: Industry should be positive.
- That is, it should be sustainable.
- But, I have concerns about the general standard of technical competence.

# What about the EPA?

- The proposed creation of an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is an opportunity, not a threat.
- There are operational matters of national significance, even matters of international significance.
- The EPA should be the lead agency for such matters, and provide technical support for local government.
- The EPA should be a strongly science-based organisation.

Testing should be more scientific than this.



# Some other concerns.

- The present/interim arrangement for the EPA (i.e., a division within the Ministry for the Environment) is a 'Clayton's Authority' – no real decision-making powers.
- I await the next round of RMA reforms - on the purpose, institutional arrangement, and functions of the EPA.
- Boards of Inquiry are not the 'gold standard' for RMA consent hearings for projects of national significance.



Thank you.

Any questions?