

Completing the application form to discharge contaminants?

Please supply more detail on your proposed discharge to the coastal marine area (CMA).

Please provide an appropriate level of information relative to the scale of your activity. If your proposed discharge is small and will not exceed water quality guidelines, your description might fit in the space on Form B - you can probably do it yourself.

However, if you seek consent to discharge a large volume of contaminants into the CMA and your discharge could impact water quality limits and guidelines, you will likely need to engage a technical consultant to model the effects of your proposed activity. Writing 'Not applicable' isn't enough. You need to add some comment, such as: 'My proposed discharge to the CMA complies with Policy 16-1 because I will take the following actions to avoid adverse effects of my discharge to the CMA on...'

Only particularly relevant parts of policies and objectives are shown here. Full text, relevant objectives and policies are available at: <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/policies-plans-strategies/rcep/>

1. Sustainable management (RMA, Part 2)

The purpose of the Resource Management Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Your proposed activity must use natural and physical resources in a way or at a rate, to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety. Your proposed activity must also:

- sustain the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the needs of future generations; and
- safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Please explain why you think that your proposed discharge to the CMA is sustainable

2. Relevant legislation (Section 104(1)(b))

Regional Policy Statement (RPS)

Objective 6: the management of coastal water quality must achieve appropriate standards, taking into account spatial variations in existing water quality, actual and potential public uses, and the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

Objective 7: coastal characteristics of special significance to iwi should be protected, including waahi tapu (sacred places), tauranga waka (landings for waka), taonga raranga (plants used for weaving and resources used for traditional crafts), mahinga kai (food cultivation areas) and mahinga mātaihai (seafood gathering places).

Objective 32: the operation, maintenance and development of physical infrastructure should be ongoing, to support the economic, social and/or cultural wellbeing of the region's people and communities and provide for their health and safety.

Objective 33: some regionally significant infrastructure has specific locational requirements.

Regional Coastal Environment Plan (RCEP)

Objectives 16.1 to 16.4 relate to discharges of contaminants to the coastal marine environment. Proposed activities must:

- maintain or enhance water quality so that it's suitable to sustain or improve aquatic ecosystems, and for contact recreation (where appropriate); and
- avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of activities on mauri; and
- avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment associated with discharge and dumping of contaminants; and
- safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water in the CMA.

Policy 16.1: sets out environmental guidelines that discharges of contaminants in the CMA should be managed while following these guidelines:

Issue	Guideline
Control of discharges	(a) Discharges of contaminants and the effects of discharges on water in the coastal marine area shall be managed for aquatic ecosystem purposes (Class AE(HB) Water) and contact recreation purposes (Class CR(HB) Water) where appropriate. (b) Discharges of contaminants from boat maintenance operations shall be restricted, and the installation of bunding around boat maintenance facilities shall be required.
Reasonable mixing	Discharges of contaminants into classified waters should comply with receiving water quality standards in Schedule E (available on the HBRC website) after reasonable mixing.
Sewage discharges	(a) The discharge of sewage from land which does not pass through soil or wetland, directly into water in the coastal marine area is inappropriate, unless: (i) the disposal of sewage directly into the CMA is the best practicable option and (ii) significant adverse effects on ecosystems, natural character of the coastal environment and on water quality classified for contact recreation purposes are avoided, or remedied or mitigated where avoidance is not practicable. (iii) there has been consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tāngata whenua in accordance with tikanga Māori and due weight has been given to s6, s7 and s8 of the RMA, and • the affected community in determining the suitability of the treatment and disposal system. (b) The location and extent of any mixing zone for discharge of sewage shall ensure that there are no significant adverse effects on: (i) any Significant Conservation Area or (ii) the use of receiving waters for recreation or (iii) the use of receiving waters for collection of seafood for human consumption. (c) the adverse effects of sewage discharges on the present and reasonably foreseeable use of the receiving waters have been avoided where practicable, remedied or mitigated, particularly in: (i) areas where there is high recreational use or (ii) areas of maintenance dredging or (iii) areas adjacent to commercial or residential development.
Stormwater	(a) Adverse effects on water quality from the discharge of stormwater shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated. (b) Adoption of stormwater management systems, structures or facilities shall be promoted for the purposes of: (i) separating drainage of areas which are at little risk of being contaminated from those which may be contaminated (ii) preventing contaminants from reaching stormwater, and (iii) treating contaminated stormwater at source or before it enters the CMA or surface water body.

Water quality	<p>(a) Subject to (b), applications to discharge any contaminant that either on its own or in combination with other lawful discharges will result in the water quality standards set out in Schedule E not being maintained, shall be declined.</p> <p>(b) Discharges of any contaminant that either on its own or in combination with other lawful discharges will result in the water quality standards set out in Schedule E not being maintained, may be provided for where:</p> <p>(i) exceptional circumstances justify the granting of a permit or</p> <p>(ii) the discharge is of a temporary nature or</p> <p>(iii) the discharge is associated with necessary maintenance work.</p> <p>(c) The use of antifouling paints that are less harmful to the environment than those antifouling paints that contain organotin compounds will be supported and encouraged.</p>
Shellfish gathering	<p>Commonly used areas will be identified during the life of this Plan where coastal waters should be managed for shellfish gathering purposes. The criteria to be used in assessing the appropriateness of coastal waters being managed for shellfish gathering purposes are:</p> <p>(i) the extent and location of existing shellfish gathering areas and their utilisation as a food resource for human consumption</p> <p>(ii) the extent to which known shellfish are able to be safely eaten</p> <p>(iii) the existing water quality</p> <p>(iv) existing lawful discharges and financial implications for dischargers</p> <p>(v) current state of technical knowledge and treatment and disposal options for dischargers</p> <p>(vi) the nature and extent of tāngata whenua relationships with customary shellfish gathering areas.</p>
Dredging activities	<p>Areas will be identified where the disposal of dredge material from specified sources is appropriate. Identification of these areas generally facilitates activities disturbing the foreshore and seabed and does not imply the discharge of contaminants is allowed.</p>

3. Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

Please try and add a sentence or two about each of these points

- The actual or potential effects of your proposed discharge to the CMA on the environment? You can comment on positive effects, as well as possible adverse/negative effects.

Have a think about:

- What contaminants are in the discharge?
- Is your discharge likely to degrade coastal water quality? How will that affect other users of the CMA?
- What aquatic animals and plants are living in CMA where you will discharge? How will the discharge impact them?
- What is the CMA used for in the vicinity of the discharge, i.e. recreation, food cultivation?
- Will the discharge impact amenity, social, recreational and cultural values associated with the CMA?
- Are there people living near the proposed discharge site? Will the discharge impact human health?
- Are there any waahi tapu or other significant cultural sites at/ near your proposed discharge point? Will your proposed discharge impact the values associated with those sites?
- Will your discharge result in exceedances of any guidelines, set limits and targets for water quality, i.e. nitrogen, phosphorus, faecal coliforms, temperature and oxygen?

- Information about anything you intend to do to try and reduce the effect your discharge may have on the environment.
- Details of any alternative methods of discharge and treatment or alternative sites you have thought about for your proposed discharge. Why do you consider the proposed method of treatment and disposal is the best option?
- Details of anyone you have talked to about your proposed discharge because you think the activity might affect them, including if you have notified a Customary Marine Title applicant group about the application.

If you have questions about what to provide, or want to arrange a meeting to discuss your application before you formally lodge it with HBRC
- contact the Consents Advisor on 06 833 8090.