



## Recommendation

### DISCHARGE PERMIT

In accordance with Rule 11.4.1 of the Regional Coastal Plan (June 1999), and the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, and subject to the attached conditions, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (the Council) grants a resource consent to:

**Wairoa District Council**  
P.O. Box 54  
WAIROA

to discharge treated sewage effluent from the Wairoa sewage treatment plant into the Wairoa River estuary.

### LOCATION

**Address of Site:** Pilot Hill, Kopu Road, Wairoa  
**Legal Description:** Pt Lot 1 DP 3350 SO 7253, Wairoa District  
**Map Reference:** Treatment Plant: At or about NZMS 260 X19: 920-291  
Point of Discharge: At or about NZMS 260 X19: 925-290

### DETAILS OF RESOURCE CONSENT

**Effluent to be discharged:** Treated sewage effluent.  
**Consent duration:** Granted for a period expiring on 31 May 2019.

Helen Codlin  
**MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**  
23 August 1999

## CONDITIONS

### General

1. The Consent Holder shall provide for the discharge as authorised by this Resource Consent generally in accordance with the drawings, specifications, statements of work techniques and other information supplied with the application. Where a conflict exists between the application and the conditions of this Resource Consent, the conditions shall prevail. This specifically includes:

The report *Application for Resource Consent to Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Waste Water Discharge from Wairoa Sewage Treatment Plant* (and its appendices) dated 27 July 1998.

2. The total discharge of sewage effluent as authorised by this Resource Consent shall not exceed 5400 cubic metres per day.
3. The discharge of sewage effluent as authorised by this Resource Consent shall;
  - (i) Only occur during periods of ebb tide 30 minutes after high tide to 6 hours after high tide;
  - (ii) Only occur after 6:00 pm; and
  - (iii) Shall cease by 6:00 am at all times.
4. During times of river mouth closure, the Consent Holder shall cease the discharge of sewage effluent into the Wairoa River, unless:
  - (i) The ability to store excess effluent has been exceeded; or
  - (ii) Prior to full capacity, it is recognised that the maximum storage capacity is likely to be exceeded during a time when no discharge is allowed.

Where discharge is required for reasons 4(i) and 4(ii) above, the discharge shall only be in accordance with condition 3. The Consent Holder shall give notice to the Environmental Regulation Section of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council of the date discharge was stopped due to river mouth closure, and the date discharge re-commenced.

5. The Consent Holder shall warn the public of a potential health risk during times of river mouth closure by the use of public warning signs adjacent to the Wairoa River estuary, and by the use of public notices in the local newspaper and radio media.
6. Discharge of sewage effluent as authorised by this Resource Consent shall be by way of the existing structure, as displayed in figure 1 of the application document.

7. A sampling station shall be maintained at or near the outlet of the treatment ponds at a point accessible to Council Officers at all times.
8. The discharge of sewage effluent as authorised by this Resource Consent shall not after reasonable mixing, cause:
  - (i) The production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials; or
  - (ii) Any emission of objectionable odours; or
  - (iii) The rendering of the water quality within the Wairoa River Coastal Marine Area unable to meet the aquatic ecosystems Class AE (HB) water quality standards pursuant to Rule 11.4.1 of the Regional Coastal Plan (June 1999).
9. The Consent Holder shall accurately measure and maintain records of the discharge of sewage effluent on a daily basis. Such records shall identify:
  - (i) The period over which the effluent was discharged and the relevant high tide time;
  - (ii) The volume of effluent discharged during that period; and
  - (iii) The status of the river mouth (either opened or closed).

Records shall be supplied at monthly intervals to Council in an electronic form compatible with Council software.
10. The Consent Holder shall make available upon request all records kept in relation to the operation of the sewage treatment plant, sampling, testing, and analysis.

#### **Effluent Discharge Standards**

11. Sewage effluent discharged from the treatment plant shall meet the following standards:

COD	not greater than 220 mg/l
Total Ammonia	not greater than 36 mg/l
Suspended Solids	not greater than 87 mg/l

#### **Effluent Analysis**

12. All effluent sampling and analysis shall be in accordance with the 19th Edition of *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, published jointly by the American Public Health Association, American Waste Water Association, and Water Environmental Federation, or other appropriate standards approved in writing by the General Manager of Council. All effluent

quality analysis shall be undertaken by an independent laboratory accredited to IANZ.

13. At monthly intervals the Consent Holder shall take a representative composite sample, collected at half hourly frequency over the duration of the nightly discharge cycle, of the effluent being discharged from the sewage treatment plant. Samples shall be analysed for the following analytes:

pH  
COD  
Total Ammonia  
Suspended Solids  
Conductivity  
Enterococci  
*e. coli*

14. Results of all sample analyses shall be forwarded to Council (Environmental Regulation Section) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month, or at any other interval requested by Council, in an electronic form compatible with Council software.

#### **Discharge to Air**

15. The discharge of odour shall not be offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the sewage treatment plant.

#### **Note:**

When assessing whether the odour is offensive or objectionable the Council shall generally follow the procedure outlined on pages 29 and 30 of the Regional Air Plan (January 1998)

16. The Consent Holder shall log all complaints received. Wherever possible, the log shall include:

- the date and time of the complaint;
- the nature of the complaint;
- the name, telephone number, and address of the complainant;
- weather information (an estimate of wind speed and direction);
- details of key operating parameters at the time of the complaint; and
- the remedial action taken to prevent further incidents.

Complaints shall be reported to the Council within 24 hours of receipt, and the log of complaints shall be made available to Council Officers on request.

#### **Non-Compliance**

17. The following steps shall be undertaken in the event of the Consent Holder receiving information indicating an exceedance of the effluent discharge standards of condition 11:

- (i) Notification shall be given to Council within 24 hours of the Consent Holder receiving information of the exceedance;
- (ii) Immediate re-sampling (taken as being within 24 hours of the determination of the exceedance) will be required in the following circumstances:
  - (a) Where sample analysis values are within the following ranges on two consecutive occasions:

COD	greater than 220 but less than 224 mg/l
Total Ammonia	greater than 36 but less than 40 mg/l
Suspended Solids	greater than 87 but less than 98 mg/l
  - (b) Where any single sample analysis value exceeds the following values:

COD	greater than or equal to 224 mg/l
Total Ammonia	greater than or equal to 40 mg/l
Suspended Solids	greater than or equal to 98 mg/l
- (iii) Any re-sampling required in accordance with (ii) above shall involve taking one sample of effluent for analysis of the non-complying analyte (including recording the volume of discharge for that period of sampling) every two days until the standard complies with condition 11.
- (iv) The Consent Holder shall forward the results of any re-sampling to the Council within six hours of receipt; and
- (v) A report detailing the cause, mitigation and remediation measures shall be forwarded to Council within two weeks of reinstating compliance to condition 11.

### **MONITORING BY THE COUNCIL**

Routine inspections of the site of this consent will be undertaken by Council officers at a frequency appropriate to the discharge period. The costs of these routine inspections and any formal monitoring programme that may be established in consultation with the consent holder will be charged to the consent holder.

“Non routine” inspections will be made on other occasions if there is reason to believe (e.g. following a complaint from the public, or monitoring) that the consent holder is in breach of the conditions of this consent. The cost of non-routine inspections will be charged to the consent holder in the event that non-compliance with conditions is determined, or if the Consent holder is deemed not to be fulfilling the obligations specified in section 17(1) of the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 shown below.

Section 17(1) of the RMA 1991 states;

*Every person has a duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment arising from an activity carried on, by or on behalf of that person, whether or not the activity is in accordance with a rule in a plan, a resource consent, section 10, section 10A, or section 20.*

### **REVIEW OF CONSENT CONDITIONS BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council may review conditions of this consent by serving notice of its intention to do so pursuant to section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Times of service of notice of any review:                      During the month of June 2004, 2009, and 2014.

- Purposes of review:
1. To ensure the Resource Consent conditions are consistent with any policies and rules in operative regional plans that may be established after the commencement of this Resource Consent.
  2. To deal with any adverse effects that may become apparent as a result of the exercise of this resource consent.
  3. To require the Consent Holder to adopt the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment relating to the air discharges, which is beyond the scope of the effects authorised by this Resource Consent.
  4. To modify the monitoring programme if the record of monitoring to date indicates that it is appropriate to do so.

## **CHANGE OF RESOURCE CONSENT CONDITIONS**

In accordance with s.127 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Consent Holder may apply to the Council for the change or cancellation of conditions, at any time during the month of October in any year. This also applies to any application for change of the nature or frequency of the monitoring.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

1. The current system of sewage treatment and disposal has not been shown to be creating any actual significant adverse effects to the receiving environment of the Wairoa River estuary.
2. The recommended resource consent conditions of the attached schedule will ensure that any potential adverse effects to the receiving environment of the Wairoa River estuary are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
3. The required AE(HB) water quality standard for the lower Wairoa River will be maintained by the imposition of discharge standards as per the recommended conditions of the attached schedule. This will ensure the sensitivity of the receiving environment (SA-15 Regional Coastal Plan) is protected.
4. The requirement for the consent holder to communicate warnings to the community of Wairoa during times of restricted river mouth conditions will avoid a potential public health risk.
5. The continued discharge to the Wairoa River estuary better meets the purposes of the Resource Management Act than discharge onto land because the establishment of a land discharge option will create significant adverse effects the Wairoa community's economic and social wellbeing, while not necessarily being able to provide for their health and safety better than the current system.
6. There are low cost, low technology upgrades that would accommodate cultural concerns as well as providing a better level of treatment prior to discharge to the estuary. A consent duration of 20 years provides sufficient time for these options to be investigated for a future upgrade, while not burdening the community of Wairoa with short term repeat costs associated to consent renewal.
7. The recommended five yearly review of consent conditions allows opportunity to amend or alter such conditions if the record of monitoring indicates that it is appropriate to do so.
8. The renewal of the discharge permit is consistent with the relevant policies and rules of the Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Plan, and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

9. The renewal of the discharge permit is consistent with the purposes and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991.