

RKM Farms Limited (Piggery)  
Monitoring Programme  
Annual Report  
2014-2015

Technical Report 2015-20

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## Executive summary

RKM Farms Limited (the Company) operates a piggery located on 599A South Road at Hawera, in the Tangahoe catchment. The piggery is a breeder, grower and finishing operation with up to 5000 pigs and piglets at any one time, employing between five and six full time staff.

This report for the period July 2014 to June 2015 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess the Company's environmental performance during the period under review, and the results and environmental effects of the Company's activities.

**During the monitoring period, the Company demonstrated an overall high level of environmental performance.**

The Company holds two resource consents, which include a total of 13 conditions setting out the requirements that the Company must satisfy. Resource consent 5108-2 allows the discharge of treated effluent into the Tawhiti Stream, and consent 5266-1 relates to the discharge of emissions into the air at this site.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included three inspections including two wastewater and receiving water samples collected for physicochemical analysis. It is recommended to continue with three inspections per monitoring period

The monitoring showed that wastewater and receiving water samples were well within the consented limits and no odour incidents were received by the Council.

During the year, the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental and administrative performance with the resource consents

For reference, in the 2014-2015 year, 75% of consent holders in Taranaki monitored through tailored compliance monitoring programmes achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 22% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

This report includes recommendations for the compliance monitoring programme for the 2015-2016 year.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

### 1.1.1 Introduction

This report is for the period July 2014 to June 2015 by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by RKM Farms Limited (the Company). The Company operates a piggery situated on 599A South Road at Hawera, in the Tangahoe catchment (figure 1).



Figure 1 Location of RKM Farms Limited Piggery

The report includes the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consents held by the Company. These consents relate to the discharges of water within the Tangahoe catchment, and cover emissions to air from the site.

One of the intents of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) is that environmental management should be integrated across all media, so that a consent holder's use of water, air, and land should be considered from a single comprehensive environmental perspective. Accordingly, the Council generally implements integrated environmental monitoring programmes and reports the results of the programmes jointly. This report discusses the environmental effects of the Company's use of water, land and air, and is the fifth combined annual report by the Council for the Company.

### 1.1.2 Structure of this report

Section 1 of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about compliance monitoring under the RMA and the Council's obligations and general approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes, the resource consents held by the Company in the Tangahoe catchment, the nature of the monitoring programme

in place for the period under review, and a description of the activities and operations conducted by the Company.

Section 2 presents the results of monitoring during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

Section 3 discusses the results, their interpretations, and their significance for the environment.

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2015-2016 monitoring year.

A glossary of common abbreviations and scientific terms, and a bibliography, are presented at the end of the report.

### **1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring**

The RMA primarily addresses environmental 'effects' which are defined as positive or adverse, temporary or permanent, past, present or future, or cumulative. Effects may arise in relation to:

- (a) the neighbourhood or the wider community around an activity, and may include cultural and social-economic effects;
- (b) physical effects on the locality, including landscape, amenity and visual effects;
- (c) ecosystems, including effects on plants, animals, or habitats, whether aquatic or terrestrial;
- (d) natural and physical resources having special significance (for example recreational, cultural, or aesthetic);
- (e) risks to the neighbourhood or environment.

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each activity. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the obligations of the RMA to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with section 35 of the RMA, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans, and maintains an overview of the performance of resource users and consent holders. Compliance monitoring, including both activity and impact monitoring, enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods and considered responsible resource utilisation, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

### **1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental and administrative performance**

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the Company in the Tangahoe catchment during the period under review, this report also assigns a rating as to the Company's environmental and administrative performance.



**Environmental performance** is concerned with actual or likely effects on the receiving environment from the activities during the monitoring year. **Administrative performance** is concerned with the Company's approach to demonstrating consent compliance in site operations and management including the timely provision of information to Council (such as contingency plans and water take data) in accordance with consent conditions.

Events that were beyond the control of the consent holder and unforeseeable (that is a defence under the provisions of the *RMA* can be established) may be excluded with regard to the performance rating applied. For example loss of data due to a flood destroying deployed field equipment.

The categories used by the Council for this monitoring period, and their interpretation, are as follows:

### **Environmental Performance**

- **High:** No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving significant environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.
- **Good:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports, but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects; however abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur.

For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
- Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.
- **Improvement required:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.
- **Poor:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self

reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

### Administrative performance

- **High:** The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.
- **Good:** Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.
- **Improvement required:** Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.
- **Poor:** Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.

## 1.2 Process description

The piggery is a breeder, grower and finishing operation holding up to 5000 pigs and piglets (3636 pig equivalents) onsite at any one time. The discharge is made up of effluent and washwater from the piggery operation

**Table 1 Piggery inventory as at 30 June 2015**

Type of pigs	No of pigs	Average weight
Sows	400	300
Store pigs ( 160 days)	1,600	50
Weaners ( 86 days)	1,490	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,490</b>	

Approximately 71 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater is discharged on a daily basis. The wastewater from around the piggery is gravity fed to a series of sumps and is then agitated and pumped from the sumps to the oxidation pond treatment system.

The treatment system comprises of three ponds. The first pond, which is anaerobic in nature, is designed to capture the solid component of the discharge, and has an approximate holding capacity of 34,587 m<sup>3</sup>. The second and third ponds are aerobic and have a total of 10,350 m<sup>3</sup> and 10,800 m<sup>3</sup> capacities respectively. The pond treatment system has a combined capacity of approximately 55,737 m<sup>3</sup>.

Discharge from the pond treatment system flows through a tertiary treatment system, comprised of a wetland which is approximately 1,600 m<sup>3</sup> in area. Raupo is planted within the wetlands to further treat the discharge.

From the wetland the treated discharge flows through an open drain and directly into the Tawhiti Stream.

The treatment system rarely discharges during the warmer months (January to March) because of evaporation within the two aerobic ponds.

In addition to discharging to the Tawhiti Stream, effluent including accumulated solids is pumped out of the anaerobic pond and onto land on an annual basis.

## **1.3 Resource consents**

### **1.3.1 Water discharge permit**

Section 15(1)(a) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant into water, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent or a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

The company holds water permit **5108-2** to discharge treated piggery effluent from an aerobic and twin anaerobic pond treatment system, followed by a tertiary treatment (wetland) system, into the Tawhiti Stream in the Tangahoe catchment. This permit was issued by the Council on 9 August 2010 under Section 87(d) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2028.

The discharge of treated wastewater of this nature may affect the water quality of a stream, particularly if there is insufficient dilution. Some effects may be obvious (for example appearance, turbidity) while biological effects may be more subtle.

Five special conditions are attached to this consent.

Special Condition 1 requires the consent holder to submit a 'Site Layout Plan' which clearly shows the entire wastewater network system including the locations of ancillary equipment i.e. sump and pumps.

Special Condition 2 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any adverse environmental effects.

Special Condition 3 require the number of pigs (equivalent to 50kg per pig) on the property at any one time shall not exceed 3636 pig equivalents.

Special Condition 4 defines the mixing zone and prohibits a number of effects.

Special Condition 5 allows for a review of the consent. The next review date is June 2016.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

### **1.3.2 Air discharge permit**

Section 15(1)(c) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant from any industrial or trade premises into air, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

The Company holds air discharge permit **5266-1** to discharge emissions into the air from a pig farming operation and associated activities, including effluent treatment and other waste activities. This permit was issued by the Council on 17 April 1998 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2016. Eight special conditions are attached to this consent.

Special Condition 1 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option.

Special Condition 2 requires consultation should any alterations occur to any operations, equipment or layout.

Special Condition 3 requires the consent holder to minimise the emissions discharged into the air from the site.

Special Condition 4 requires the consent holder to operate the piggery in accordance with the information provided with the consent application.

Special Conditions 5 and 6 require the consent holder to minimise the emissions and impacts of air contaminants from the site.

Special Condition 7 requires the consent holder to prevent any adverse ecological effect on the ecosystems associated with authorised discharges.

Special Condition 8 allowed for a review of the consent. No further reviews are provided for prior to expiry.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

### **1.3.3 Discharges of wastes to land**

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

The Company engages an authorised contractor to undertake the spreading of effluent including solids from the anaerobic pond to land on an annual basis. Agricultural contractor, Lloyd Gernhoefer, holds resource consent **5352-2** to irrigate effluent to land and thus is responsible for managing any potential effects on the environment from the activity.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

## **1.4 Monitoring programme**

### **1.4.1 Introduction**

Section 35 of the RMA sets out obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor, and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents, and the effects arising, within the Taranaki region and report upon these.

The Council may therefore make and record measurements of physical and chemical parameters, take samples for analysis, carry out surveys and inspections, conduct investigations, and seek information from consent holders.

The monitoring programme for the Company consisted of three primary components.

### **1.4.2 Programme liaison and management**

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Council in:

- ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application;
- in discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any reviews;
- renewals;
- new consents;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans and;
- consultation on associated matters.

### **1.4.3 Site inspections**

The Company was visited three times during the monitoring period. With regard to consents for discharge to water, the main points of interest were plant processes with potential or actual discharges to receiving watercourses, including contaminated stormwater and process wastewaters. The piggery was also visited on two separate occasions to monitor and collect wastewater discharge samples from the site and water quality samples upstream and downstream of the discharge point and mixing zone.

As far as practical, inspections related to air emissions were integrated with inspections undertaken for other purposes for example inspection of the oxidation ponds. The air monitoring component focuses on processes with associated actual and potential emission sources and characteristics, including potential odour.

### **1.4.4 Chemical sampling**

The Council undertook sampling of both the discharges from the site and the water quality upstream and downstream of the discharge point and mixing zone.

The treated effluent discharge was sampled on two occasions, and the sample analysed for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chloride, conductivity, dissolved reactive phosphate (DRP), unionised ammonia, pH, suspended solids and temperature.

The Tawhiti Stream and downstream of the discharge was sampled on two occasions, and the sample analysed for carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), chloride, conductivity, dissolved reactive phosphate (DRP), unionised ammonia, pH, suspended solids and temperature.

The monitoring programme allows for the discharge and receiving water to be sampled on two occasions

## **2. Results**

### **2.1 Water**

#### **2.1.1 Inspections**

##### **3 July 2014**

An on site meeting was held at the piggery to discuss operational matters relating to consent conditions and performance during the past 12 month period. Also discussed was the possibility of reducing the number of piggery inspections from four inspections to three inspections for the 2014-2015 monitoring period as water quality samples are collected on two separate occasions which contribute towards an inspection.

##### **26 August 2014**

This inspection was carried out during fine weather conditions with a slight southerly breeze blowing. Normal piggery odours were detected downwind at various sites around the piggery and pond systems. There was a slight blockage in a pipe that goes to one of the back sumps that was being cleared at the time of inspection. All wastewater was contained in the collection area and all sumps working. The first anaerobic pond displayed good microbial activity with the second and final pond were working well. Overall the piggery was found to be well managed and maintained.

##### **27 November 2014**

This inspection was carried out during fine weather conditions with a light northwesterly breeze blowing. Normal piggery odours were detected downwind at various sites around the piggery and pond systems. The sump below the load out yard was low with no evidence of any recent overflows. The first anaerobic pond displayed good microbial activity with the second and final pond were working well. Overall the piggery was found to be well managed and maintained.

##### **6 March 2015**

This inspection was carried out during fine weather conditions - a north westerly wind was blowing at the time of inspection. There was no noticeable odour at various downwind sites of the piggery. There was no evidence that any of the sumps had recently overflowed and all piggery effluent was flowing to the main anaerobic pond. The ponds system appeared to be working satisfactory with good microbial display in the anaerobic pond. The final discharge into the Tawhiti Stream had good dilution showing no visual environmental impact on the receiving waters. Overall the piggery was found to be well managed and maintained.

##### **26 March 2015**

Water quality samples were collected during overcast weather conditions with a light northerly breeze blowing. The treated piggery effluent discharge flow rate was estimated at 0.5 L/s and light brown in colour resulting in no visual environmental impact on the Tawhiti Stream. The Tawhiti Stream was running at a moderate steady flow and was clear and uncolored. Only light piggery odour was emanating from around the pond system.

**May 2015**

Agricultural contractor (Lloyd Gernhoefer) had recently desludged the first pond, spray irrigating piggery effluent to all the available flat pasture. The pond level had been lowered to below the discharge pipe.

**15 June 2015**

Piggery discharge and receiving water samples were collected during overcast weather conditions. A light westerly wind was blowing at the piggery with only a slight breeze drifting through the valley. The Tawhiti Stream was running at a moderate high swift flow and slightly turbid brown in colour. The treated piggery effluent discharge was pale pink in colour and the flow rate was estimated at 1.5 L/s. No visual environmental impact was observed at the monitoring site downstream from the piggery discharge into the Tawhiti Stream. Effluent drains and sumps were all found to be satisfactory showing no evidence of any recent overflow.

**2.1.2 Results of discharge monitoring****Receiving waters physicochemical monitoring**

The consent holders' farm boundary borders along the true right bank of Tawhiti Stream to where it meets the Tangahoe River, and along the river to South Road Bridge. Environmental monitoring sites are provided in relation to the piggery operation's discharge point (Table 1).

**Table 1** Location of sampling sites in Tawhiti Stream including the piggery discharge

Site	Site code	GPS reference	location
Tawhiti Stream	TWH000495	E1715350 N5614243	20 metres upstream of piggery discharge
Piggery effluent	PGP003001	E1715305 N5614206	Discharge outlet from aerobic pond
Tawhiti Stream	TWH000496	E1715356 N5614111	30 metres downstream of piggery discharge

Samples were collected from the discharge point as well as upstream and downstream of the discharge on two occasions during the monitoring year under review.

Results of the survey performed on 26 March 2015 are presented in Table 2. On this occasion the stream was running at a moderate steady flow, clear and uncoloured. The ponds' treated wastewater discharge was estimated at about 0.5 L/s and light brown in colour.

Samples were collected during overcast weather conditions. There was a moderate, steady flow in the Tawhiti Stream. The stream was running relatively clear and uncoloured. The wastewater discharge from the wetland showed no downstream environmental impact on the Tawhiti Stream. The above results showed the parameters tested were well within consented limit.



**Table 2** Receiving water and discharge samples – 26 March 2015

Parameters	Units	PGP003001 Discharge	TWH000495 Upstream	TWH000496 Downstream
Time of sample collection	hrs	1040	1030	1105
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m <sup>3</sup>	14.8	0.011	0.015
BOD	g/m <sup>3</sup>	49	-	-
BOD (filtered, carbonaceous)	g/m <sup>3</sup>	-	<0.5	<0.5
Chloride	g/m <sup>3</sup>	310	36.1	36.9
Conductivity	mS/m	142	27.9	28.0
DRP	g/m <sup>3</sup>	17.6	0.021	0.035
Suspended solids	g/m <sup>3</sup>	100	3	<2
Temperature	°C	17.0	16.9	16.7
Turbidity	NTU	66	1.2	1.6
Un-ionised ammonia	g/m <sup>3</sup>	0.1125	0.0003	0.0004
pH		7.3	7.9	7.9

Although not a consent requirement the results indicate that good dilution in Tawhiti Stream has been maintained.

Results of the survey performed on 15 June 2015 are presented in Table 3. On this occasion the stream was running at a moderate swift flow and the ponds' treated wastewater discharge was estimated at about 1.5 l/s.

**Table 3** Receiving water and discharge samples – 15 June 2015

Parameters	Units	PGP003001 Discharge	TWH000495 Upstream	TWH000496 Downstream
Time of sample collection	hrs	1105	1155	1120
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m <sup>3</sup>	71.6	0.043	0.094
BOD	g/m <sup>3</sup>	26	-	-
BOD (filtered, carbonaceous)	g/m <sup>3</sup>	-	<0.5	<0.5
Chloride	g/m <sup>3</sup>	246	39.3	40.1
Conductivity	mS/m	177	27.5	27.6
DRP	g/m <sup>3</sup>	21.0	0.028	0.043
Suspended solids	g/m <sup>3</sup>	42	43	54
Temperature	°C	12.3	11.4	11.4
Turbidity	NTU	28	23	29
Un-ionised ammonia	g/m <sup>3</sup>	1.510	0.0007	0.0015
pH		7.9	7.8	7.8

These samples were collected during overcast weather conditions. The Tawhiti Stream was running at a moderate swift flow and slightly turbid light brown in colour. No visual environmental effects were observed in the Tawhiti Stream from the piggery discharge along towards the downstream monitoring site.

Special consent condition 4b specifies that after a mixing zone of 30 m downstream of the point where the discharge enters the Tawhiti Stream, the un-ionised ammonia

level shall not exceed 0.025 g/m<sup>3</sup>. The above result showed the un-ionised ammonia level was well within limit (6% of the consented limit).

Special consent condition 4a specifies that after a mixing zone of 30 m downstream of the point where the discharge enters the Tawhiti Stream, filtered carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand must not exceed 2.00g/m<sup>3</sup>. The above results also show no measurable increase of BOD.

The above results indicate that the level of same test parameter in the treated piggery discharge resulted in a small elevation in the downstream receiving water monitoring site. Although not a consent requirement the above results indicate that good dilution in Tawhiti Stream has been maintained and the treated effluent discharge dilution ratio in the stream at the time of sampling was in the vicinity of ratio 1:1400.

**Table 4** Summary of treated wastewater analyses from RKM Farms Limited Piggery for the period July 2014 to June 2015

Parameter	unit	26 March 2015	15 June 2015	Median
Conductivity @ 20°C	mS/m	142	177	160
Chloride	g/m <sup>3</sup>	310	246	278
pH	pH	7.3	7.9	7.6
Total carbonaceous BOD <sub>5</sub>	g/m <sup>3</sup>	49	26	26
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m <sup>3</sup> N	14.8	71.6	38
Dissolved reactive phosphorus	g/m <sup>3</sup> P	17.6	21.0	19
Suspended solids	g/m <sup>3</sup>	100	42	71

Monitoring of wastewater on the two occasions during the 2014-2015 year indicated a well treated wastewater typical of treated wastewater quality in terms of BOD, suspended solids and turbidity with nutrient levels within an acceptable range (Table 4).

## 2.2 Air

### 2.2.1 Inspections

As far as practicable, inspections relating to air emissions were integrated with inspection undertaken for other purposes.

### 2.2.2 Results of discharge monitoring

The RMA effectively requires that there should be no offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary of the farm.

Odours emitted from normal piggery operations are generally influenced by weather conditions (i.e. wind direction), effluent treatment, pond management, irrigating sludge to land and general piggery hygiene practices.

The offensiveness of odour at any time is reliant on individual perception, Council methods of measurement, and practices of the pork producer. The Environmental

Management System (EMS) deals with piggery operational practices ensuring the effect of odour is taken into account when the pork producer is undertaking activities relating to different areas of the piggery.

All inspections that were carried out during the monitoring period found 'noticeable' piggery odour emanating from the southern side of the pond system and around the piggery in general when wind conditions were from the north to northwest quarter. No odour emissions were 'noted' beyond the perimeter of the boundary. However these odours were restricted to the property and not considered likely to impact neighbouring properties.

## **2.3 Investigations, interventions, and incidents**

The monitoring programme for the year was based on what was considered to be an appropriate level of monitoring, review of data, and liaison with the consent holder. During the year matters may arise which require additional activity by the Council, for example provision of advice and information, or investigation of potential or actual courses of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach that in the first instance avoids issues occurring is favoured.

The Council operates and maintains a register of all complaints or reported and discovered excursions from acceptable limits and practices, including non-compliance with consents, which may damage the environment. The Incident Register (IR) includes events where the Company concerned has itself notified the Council. The register contains details of any investigation and corrective action taken.

Complaints may be alleged to be associated with a particular site. If there is potentially an issue of legal liability, the Council must be able to prove by investigation that the identified company is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

In the 2014-2015 period, the Council was not required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with the Company's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans.

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1 Discussion of site performance**

All compliance inspections that were carried out by Council officers found the piggery in general to be a well managed operation. All wastewater treatment facilities and disposal processes were adequately maintained.

Although no pig farming operation can operate without producing some odour emissions steps are undertaken to prevent or minimise the effects of odour. No piggery odour complaints were received by the Council during the 2014-2015 monitoring period.

Wastewater (included solids) from the piggery operation initially directed to first anaerobic pond. This pond traps the solid component of the effluent, minimising the level of suspended solids discharging into the aerobic ponds. Desludging the anaerobic pond annually is recommended and an agricultural contractor (Lloyd Gernhoefer) performed this operation early May, spray irrigating piggery effluent to all the available flat pasture.

After 3 December 2015 no piggery stalls are allowed. RKM Farms Limited has nearly completed these upgrades. The piggery operation will continue to operate with the same level of stock units with no plans to increase production in the near future.

The consent holder had requested that Council reduce the number of inspections that are performed annually from four inspections to three triannual inspections. The frequency of inspections carried out was dependent on the overall performance of the piggery and it was recommended in an officer's report that this would be reviewed at a later date. This was brought up for discussion on 3 July 2014 at an on site meeting. The monitoring programme allows for the wastewater and receiving waters to be sampled on two separate occasions. This has been performed independent of compliance monitoring inspections and could be deemed at times as an extra inspection

The air discharge consent expires 1 June 2016.

### 3.2 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Tables 5 and 6

**Table 5** Summary of performance for consent 5108-2

<i>Purpose: To discharge treated piggery effluent from an oxidation ponds system followed by tertiary treatment into water</i>		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Provision of wastewater plan	Plan received by Council Nov 2010	Yes
2. Adoption of best practical option to avoid or minimise adverse effects	Liaison with Company and inspection	Yes
3. Maximum allowable number of pig equivalents	Liaison with Company	Yes
4. Specified limits in receiving water after mixing	Inspection and physicochemical sampling	Yes
5. Optional review provision	Consent expires June 2028 – next review June 2016	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>

**Table 6** Summary of performance for Consent 5266-1

<i>Purpose: To discharge emissions to air from a pig farming operation and associated practices including effluent treatment and other waste management activities</i>		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Adoption of action to minimise adverse environmental effects	Monitoring inspections	Yes
2. Consultation and approval prior to alterations to plant and process	Monitoring inspections	N/A
3. Minimisation of impact and emissions through use of equipment and suitable methods	Monitoring inspections	Yes
6. Operation in accordance with application	Monitoring inspections	Yes
7. Objectionable odour at site boundary not permitted	Monitoring inspections	Yes
8. Objectionable dust levels at site boundary not permitted	Monitoring inspections	Yes
9. Significant adverse ecological effect on ecosystems	Monitoring inspections	Yes
10. Review of consent conditions	Consent expires June 2016 with no further review	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>

N/A = not applicable

During the year, the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental and high level of administrative performance with the resource consents as defined in Section 1.1.4.

### **3.3 Recommendations from the 2013-2014 Annual Report**

In the 2013-2014 Annual Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT monitoring of consented activities at the Company in the 2014-2015 year continues at the same level as in 2013-2014.
2. THAT the provisions in the monitoring programme to sample the discharge and receiving waters on two separate occasions remain unchanged.
3. THAT the consent holder continues to notify Council with information when solids are extracted from the main pond for disposal on an annual basis, including details of where the solids are spread over land.
4. THAT the piggery inspections for the 2014-2015 period remain at four inspections as in the 2013-2014 period and these inspections to be carried out tri-monthly.

Recommendation 1, 2 & 3 were implemented. Compliance inspections were undertaken with two extra visits to the piggery when water quality samples were collected.

Recommendation 4 was partly implemented. Three out of four compliance inspections were undertaken with extra monitoring carried out during a sample run

### **3.4 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2015-2016**

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account the extent of information made available by previous authorities, its relevance under the RMA, its obligations to monitor emissions/discharges and effects under the RMA, and report to the regional community. The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki emitting to the atmosphere/ discharging to the environment.

In the case of the Company's monitoring programme it is recommended that there will be no significant alteration to the programme for the 2015-2016 period apart from reducing the number of annual inspections performed from four inspections to three inspections.

### **3.5 Exercise of optional review of consent**

Resource consent 5108-2 provides for an optional review of the consent in June 2016. Condition 5 allows the Council to review the consent, if there are grounds to consider that existing conditions are not adequate to deal with adverse effects, or to specify

further requirements of best practical option, or address any apparent deficiencies in the pond design.

Based on the results of monitoring in the year under review, and in previous years as set out in earlier annual compliance monitoring reports, it is considered that there are no grounds that require a review to be pursued or grounds to exercise the review option.

Resource Consent 5266-1 expires June 2016 with no further option for review.

#### **4. Recommendations**

1. THAT monitoring of consented activities at the Company in the 2015-2016 year continues at a similar level as in 2014-2014.
2. THAT the provisions in the monitoring programme to sample the discharge and receiving waters on two separate occasions remain unchanged.
3. THAT the consent holder continues to notify Council with information when solids are extracted from the main pond for disposal on an annual basis, including details of where the solids are spread over land.
4. THAT the inspections for the 2015-2016 period change from four to three inspections and these inspections to be carried out four-monthly.



## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms may be used within this report:

Biomonitoring	Assessing the health of the environment using aquatic organisms.
BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, taking into account the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate.
BODF	Biochemical oxygen demand of a filtered sample.
Bund	A wall around a tank to contain its contents in the case of a leak.
CBOD	Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, excluding the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate.
cfu	Colony forming units. A measure of the concentration of bacteria usually expressed as per 100 millilitre sample.
COD	Chemical oxygen demand. A measure of the oxygen required to oxidise all matter in a sample by chemical reaction.
Conductivity	Conductivity, an indication of the level of dissolved salts in a sample, usually measured at 20°C and expressed in mS/m.
Cumec	A volumetric measure of flow- 1 cubic metre per second (1 m <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ).
DO	Dissolved oxygen.
DRP	Dissolved reactive phosphorus.
E.coli	Escherichia coli, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre sample.
Ent	Enterococci, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre of sample.
FC	Faecal coliforms, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre sample.
Fresh	Elevated flow in a stream, such as after heavy rainfall.
g/m <sup>2</sup> /day	grams per square metre per day.
g/m <sup>3</sup>	Grams per cubic metre, and equivalent to milligrams per litre (mg/L). In water, this is also equivalent to parts per million (ppm), but the same does not apply to gaseous mixtures.
Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.

IR	The Incident Register contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan.
l/s	Litres per second.
m <sup>2</sup>	Square Metres.
MCI	Macroinvertebrate community index; a numerical indication of the state of biological life in a stream that takes into account the sensitivity of the taxa present to organic pollution in stony habitats.
mS/m	Millisiemens per metre.
Mixing zone	The zone below a discharge point where the discharge is not fully mixed with the receiving environment. For a stream, conventionally taken as a length equivalent to seven times the width of the stream at the discharge point.
NH <sub>4</sub>	Ammonium, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NH <sub>3</sub>	Unionised ammonia, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NO <sub>3</sub>	Nitrate, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the turbidity of water.
O&G	Oil and grease, defined as anything that will dissolve into a particular organic solvent (e.g. hexane). May include both animal material (fats) and mineral matter (hydrocarbons).
pH	A numerical system for measuring acidity in solutions, with 7 as neutral. Numbers lower than 7 are increasingly acidic and higher than 7 are increasingly alkaline. The scale is logarithmic i.e. a change of 1 represents a ten-fold change in strength. For example, a pH of 4 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 5.
Physicochemical	Measurement of both physical properties (e.g. temperature, clarity, density) and chemical determinants (e.g. metals and nutrients) to characterise the state of an environment.
Resource consent	Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).
RMA	<i>Resource Management Act</i> 1991 and including all subsequent amendments.
SS	Suspended solids.
Temp	Temperature, measured in °C (degrees Celsius).
Turb	Turbidity, expressed in NTU.
UI	Unauthorised Incident.

For further information on analytical methods, contact the Council's laboratory.

## **Bibliography and Technical references**

Taranaki Regional Council 2011: GD & J Harvie Piggery Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2010-2011. Technical Report 2011-05.

Taranaki Regional Council 2012: GD & J Harvie Piggery Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2011-2012. Technical Report 2012-25.

Taranaki Regional Council 2013: GD & J Harvie Piggery Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2012-2013. Technical Report 2013-02.

Taranaki Regional Council 2014: RKM Farms Limited (Piggery) Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2013-2014. Technical Report 2014-19.



## **Appendix I**

### **Resource consents held by RKM Farms Limited Piggery**



**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: RKM Farms Limited  
599B South Road  
R D 12  
HAWERA 4672

Decision Date: 9 August 2010

Commencement Date: 9 August 2010

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge treated piggery effluent from an anaerobic and twin aerobic pond treatment system, followed by a tertiary treatment system, into the Tawhiti Stream

Expiry Date: 1 June 2028

Review Date(s): June 2012, June 2014, June 2016, June 2022

Site Location: 599A South Road, Hawera

Legal Description: Pt Lot 3 DP 3116

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1715327E-5614198N

Catchment: Tangahoe

Tributary: Tawhiti

*For General, Standard and Special conditions  
pertaining to this consent please see reverse side of this document*

### **General condition**

- a. The consent holder shall pay to the Taranaki Regional Council [the Council] all the administration, monitoring and supervision costs of this consent, fixed in accordance with section 36 of the Resource Management Act.

### **Special conditions**

#### **Information to be submitted**

1. The consent holder shall prepare a Site Layout Plan [drawing] which clearly shows the entire wastewater network system including the location and extent of the following:
  - The drainage system [e.g. swales] within the piggery sheds which the wastewater generated drains to;
  - The collection areas [e.g. sumps] for the wastewater prior to it being pumped to the pond treatment system;
  - The pipe network between the collection areas and pond treatment system;
  - The pond treatment system including the location of the pipe network between the ponds; and
  - Any other details which would assist in showing how the wastewater is conveyed from the piggery sheds to the wastewater treatment system.

The Plan shall be submitted to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, within two months of the commencement date of this consent.

### **Wastewater discharge**

2. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
3. The number of pigs [equivalent 50 kg per pig] on the property at any one time shall not exceed 3636 pig equivalents.
4. After a mixing zone of 30 metres downstream of the point where the discharge enters the Tawhiti Stream, the discharge shall not, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, give rise to any or all of the following adverse effects in the Tawhiti Stream:
  - a) filtered carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand must not exceed 2.00 gm<sup>-3</sup>;
  - b) a level of unionised ammonia greater than 0.025 gm<sup>-3</sup>;
  - c) the production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - d) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - e) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - f) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals; and
  - g) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.



## Consent 5108-2

5. In accordance with section 128 and 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June in any of the following years: 2012, 2014, 2016, 2022; for any of the following purposes:
  - a) Ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, and in particular to address any more than minor adverse effects relating to the discharge of wastewater; and/or
  - b) To determine any measures that may be appropriate to comply with condition 2 of this consent, and which are necessary to address any adverse effects of the discharge of wastewater from the site; and/or
  - c) To address any apparent deficiencies in the design of the pond treatment system.

Transferred at Stratford on 01 August 2013

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**



**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: RKM Farms Limited  
599B South Road  
R D 12  
HAWERA 4672

Decision Date: 17 April 1998

Commencement Date: 17 April 1998

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge emissions into the air from a pig farming operation and associated practices including effluent treatment and other waste management activities

Expiry Date: 1 June 2016

Review Date(s): June 2004, June 2010

Site Location: South Road Hawera

Legal Description: Pt Lot 3 DP 3116 Pt Sec 540 & 687/8 Patea Dist Blk X  
Hawera SD

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1715250E-5613970N

*For General, Standard and Special conditions  
pertaining to this consent please see reverse side of this document*

### **General conditions**

- a) That on receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council (hereinafter the Chief Executive), the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) That unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) That the consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### **Special Conditions**

1. That at all times the consent holder shall adopt the best practicable option [as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991] to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment associated with the discharge of contaminants into the air from the site.
2. That prior to undertaking any alterations to the pig farming and effluent disposal processes, operations, equipment or layout, as specified in application 243 and supporting documentation, which may significantly change the nature or quantity of contaminants emitted from the site, the consent holder shall consult with the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall obtain any necessary approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991 and its amendments.
3. That the consent holder shall minimise the emissions and impacts of air contaminants discharged from the site by the selection of the most appropriate process equipment, process control equipment, and emission control equipment, the methods of control, supervision and operation, proper and effective operation, supervision, maintenance and control of all equipment and processes, and the proper care of all pigs on the site.
4. That the consent holder shall at all times operate the piggery and associated activities substantially in accordance with the information provided in support of application 243, except as otherwise required or directed by the conditions set out in this resource consent.
5. That the discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to an odour at or beyond the boundary of the site that, in the opinion of at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council, is offensive or objectionable.
6. That the discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to suspended or deposited dust at or beyond the boundary of the site that, in the opinion of at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council, is offensive or objectionable.

Consent 5266-1

7. That the discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to any direct significant adverse ecological effect on any ecosystems in the Taranaki region.
8. That the Taranaki Regional Council may review any or all of the conditions of this consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2004 and/or June 2010, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any significant adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this consent, which were not foreseen at the time the application was considered and which it was not appropriate to deal with at that time.

Transferred at Stratford on 1 August 2013

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**



**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: Lloyd Gernhoefer Contractor Limited  
P O Box 31  
ELTHAM

Consent Granted  
Date: 18 March 2008

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To empty farm dairy oxidation ponds or paddock ponds by irrigation of effluent onto and into land in the Taranaki region

Expiry Date: 1 December 2026

Review Date(s): June 2014, June 2020

Site Location: Various locations throughout Taranaki region

Legal Description: Various

Catchment: Various

### **General conditions**

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### **Special conditions**

1. Effluent removed from any particular pond system shall be sprayed onto the property from which it was derived.
2. Equipment used for the purpose of this consent shall be cleaned, on completion of each operation, upon the farm property used for the discharge of that effluent.
3. The removal operation shall be performed in such a manner as to ensure that a minimum of one-third of the total volume of wastes shall be retained within the anaerobic pond following the operation.
4. The discharge shall not result or be likely to result in any discharge of effluent to surface water.
5. The discharge shall not result in ponding on the surface that remains for more than three hours after the discharge has ceased.
6. No contaminants shall be discharged within 150 metres of any dwelling, unless the written approval of the occupier has been obtained to allow the discharge at a closer distance.
7. No contaminants shall be discharged within 50 metres of any bore, well or spring used for water supply purposes, nor within 25 metres of any surface water body.
8. The application rate shall not exceed 200 kg nitrogen/hectare/year.
9. The exercise of this consent shall not cause the emission of objectionable odours, in the opinion of at least one enforcement officer, at or beyond the boundary of the property on which the discharge occurs.
10. The consent holder shall maintain records of cleaning and spraying operations carried out pursuant to this consent, and shall make these available to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, upon request.



Consent 5352-2

11. Where, for any cause [accidental or otherwise], effluent associated with the consent holder's operations escapes to surface water, the consent holder shall:
- (a) immediately notify the Taranaki Regional Council and stop the discharge; and
  - (b) immediately take steps to control and stop the escape of effluent to surface water; and
  - (c) immediately take steps to ensure that a recurrence of the escape of effluent to surface water is prevented; and
  - (d) report in writing to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, describing the manner and cause of the escape and the steps taken to control it and to prevent such a recurrence; such report to be in the hands of the Chief Executive within seven [7] days of the occurrence.
12. The Taranaki Regional Council may review any or all of the conditions of this consent by giving notice of review during June 2014 and/or June 2020, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any significant adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this consent, which either were not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Signed at Stratford on 18 March 2008

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**

