

**Todd Energy Aquatic Centre**  
**Monitoring Programme**  
**Annual Report**  
**2023/24**  
**Technical Report 2024-34**





# **Todd Energy Aquatic Centre**

## **Monitoring Programme**

### **Annual Report**

#### **2023/24**

#### **Technical Report 2024-34**

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## Executive summary

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) operates the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre (the NPDC Aquatic Centre) located on Tisch Avenue, New Plymouth. Wastewater from backwashing the pool water filtration system and emptying the outdoor pools is discharged from the ocean outfall situated on the Kāwaroa Reef foreshore, to the east of the facility. This report for the period July 2023 to June 2024 describes the monitoring programme implemented by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess NPDC's environmental and consent compliance performance during the period under review. The report also details the results of the monitoring undertaken and assesses the environmental effects of NPDC's activities.

**During the monitoring period, New Plymouth District Council demonstrated an overall level of good environmental and administrative performance.**

NPDC holds two resource consents, which allow them to discharge swimming pool wastewater into the Tasman Sea and to erect, place, use and maintain an ocean outfall at the site. These consents include a total of 13 special conditions setting out the requirements that NPDC must satisfy.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included one site inspection, two physicochemical sampling surveys of the outdoor pool discharges, and two follow up marine ecological inspections.

The monitoring showed that results from the outdoor pool and shoreline samples were mostly compliant with consent limits, and did not appear to have any significant effects on the ecology of the Kāwaroa Reef, outside of the designated mixing zone. NPDC Aquatic Centre improved their environmental performance from 'improvement required' to 'good' by placing additional screens in their backwash system in efforts to prevent the discharge of paint chips, which had been an ongoing problem in previous years. There was one instance of non-compliance during the monitoring period where a discharge contained elevated oil and grease that was double the level of previous years. NPDC addressed the non-compliance promptly and returned a satisfactory result, citing flocculant as the cause. The Council advised NPDC to maintain vigilance in the management of the backwash process and downgraded administrative performance from 'high' to 'good' as a result of the incident.

For reference, in the 2023/24 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 864 (89%) of a total of 967 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 75 (8%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 26 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining two (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by the consent holder over the last several years, this report shows that the consent holder's performance is improving in the year under review.

This report includes recommendations for the 2024/25 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 2023 to June 2024 by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC). NPDC operates the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre (the Aquatic Centre) situated on Tisch Avenue in New Plymouth.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consents held by NPDC that relate to discharges of filtered backwash and outdoor pool wastewater into the Tasman Sea and to erect, place, use and maintain an ocean outfall. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual report to be prepared by the Council to cover NPDC's water discharges and their effects.

### 1.1.2 Structure of this report

Section 1 of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about:

- consent compliance monitoring under the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) and the Council's obligations;
- the Council's approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes;
- the resource consents held by NPDC for the Aquatic Centre;
- the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review; and
- a description of the activities and operations conducted at the Aquatic Centre.

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 2024/25 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); and
- 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' in as much 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 performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the consent holders, this report also assigns a rating as to each Company's environmental and administrative performance during the period under review. The rating categories are high, good, improvement required and poor for both environmental and administrative performance. The interpretations for these ratings are found in Appendix II.

For reference, in the 2023/24 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 864 (89%) of a total of 967 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 75 (8%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 26 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining two (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Process description

The NPDC Aquatic Centre is located along the foreshore at Tisch Avenue, New Plymouth and consists of outdoor pools (including a main pool, diving pool and children's pools) and an indoor pool complex (Figure 1). The heated indoor aquatic centre was constructed in 1993 next to the existing outdoor facility and consists of a main pool, children's pool and spa pool.

Discharge of wastewater from the outdoor pool complex filtration system takes place via an ocean outfall which is situated on the foreshore to the east of the facility (Photo 1). The outfall consists of a 300mm diameter encased concrete pipe that discharges at approximately mid-tide level. This structure was constructed in 1962 and has been in use ever since for the purpose of backwashing the outdoor pool filters. The outdoor pools are served by two large open gravity sand filters, which are located at the eastern end of the outdoor complex. These are air scoured and then backwashed through the outfall at high tide. Volumes of backwash water are significant (generally 22m<sup>3</sup>) and the discharge can be a muddy colour for a short time. Backwashes occur as frequently 1-2 times per week during the peak of the season, but generally occur every two weeks during the summer season. Backwash from the indoor, spa and children's pool are processed through a Defender Regenerative Media Filter straight to sewer, which was put in place in February 2022. Extra debris screens were put in place in the backwash holding tanks in May 2024 to help prevent the discharge of paint chips. Historical use of the pools filtration and discharges prior to this can be referred to in previous annual reports.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council has used these compliance grading criteria for more than 20 years. They align closely with the 4 compliance grades in the MfE Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement, 2018

The outdoor pools are also emptied once per year, generally at the start of May, for cleaning and maintenance. The water discharged is generally free of chlorine as the pools have not been used for a week prior to discharge. The pools are cleaned by mechanical methods, including water blasting and do not involve the use of chemical cleaners. Muslin cloths are placed over the drains during water blasting and cleaning to catch all loose paint chips. The pool cleanings are discharged via the outfall.

The Aquatic Centre uses a medium pressure UV disinfection system reducing the level of chloramines (combined chlorine compounds), which are the cause of the unpleasant chlorine smells in pools. Since the installation of the system the chlorine levels in the pool have decreased by 3 to 5 times to a level typically below 0.3ppm. The water is also clearer and less milky, with bacterial levels dropping from low to nearly zero due to the water going through the UV system several times a day. This system has resulted in savings on chemical, heating, maintenance and water costs.



Figure 1 Location of the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, New Plymouth



Photo 1 The ocean outfall, situated along the intertidal zone of Kāwaroa Reef (10 May 2024)

### 1.3 Resource consents

NPDC holds two resource consents, the details of which are summarised in the table below. Summaries of the conditions attached to each permit are set out in Section 3 of this report.

A summary of the various consent types issued by the Council is included in Appendix I, as are copies of all permits held by NPDC in relation to the Aquatic Centre during the period under review.

Table 1 Consents held by NPDC in relation to the Aquatic Centre wastewater discharges to the marine environment

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
Coastal permits				
2339-4.1	To discharge public swimming pool wastewater and filter backwash wastewater via an ocean outfall into the Tasman Sea.	22 August 2022	June 2026, and in accordance with special condition 10	1 June 2032
4588-3.0	To occupy the Coastal Marine Area with an ocean outfall structure from the New Plymouth Aquatic Centre.	6 August 2014	June 2026	1 June 2032

### 1.4 Monitoring programme

#### 1.4.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the RMA sets obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents within the Taranaki region. The Council is also required to assess the effects arising from the exercising of these consents and report upon them.

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 NPDC Aquatic Centre consisted of four 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;
- discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any consent reviews, renewals or new consent applications;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans; and
- consultation on associated matters.

## **1.4.3 Site inspections**

A site inspection was carried out in conjunction with chemical sampling of the backwash discharge, and included an inspection of the chemical storage shed and the ocean outfall. With regard to the consent for the 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 neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects.

## **1.4.4 Chemical sampling**

The Council undertook sampling on two occasions; at the backwash discharge and outdoor pool emptying. On both occasions, the collection of discharge samples was followed by the collection of seawater samples in the receiving environment. All samples were analysed for chlorine, pH, oil and grease and suspended solids.

## **1.4.5 Marine ecological inspections**

Inspections of the marine low tide biota were performed on two occasions in conjunction with the sampling of the backwash discharge and emptying of the outdoor pool. The inspections of marine biota focussed on the areas around the vicinity of the ocean outfall to assess compliance with condition 6(d) of the discharge permit.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Water

#### 2.1.1 Site inspection

A site inspection of the NPDC Aquatic Centre was conducted on 4 April 2024. The chemical storage shed was found to be in a tidy condition with chemicals stored on wooden pallets off the ground. Overall the pool and chemical areas were tidy and in good condition. The ocean outfall was also inspected during the site visit and no new cracking or dislodgements were seen.

### 2.2 Chemical sampling

#### 2.2.1 Outdoor pools backwash discharge

On 4 April 2024 the Council visited NPDC Aquatic Centre to take a sample of the backwash discharge from the outdoor pools. The backwash commenced at 7:58am NZDT, and a shoreline sample was collected approximately 5m east of the outfall at 8:17am NZDT. The discharge created a patch of cloudy water in the immediate surrounds of the outfall, but this did not extend beyond the 5m mixing zone. Some small paint chips of less than 3mm (width or length), were observed being discharged onto the reef during the release of the backwash.

The results of the outdoor pool backwash discharge and seawater samples are provided in Table 2. The oil and grease concentration of the backwash water sample exceeded reasonable limits for discharges (<15g/m<sup>3</sup>), all other parameters met consent conditions.

Table 2 Results of the outdoor pool backwash discharge and seawater samples (4 April 2024)

Parameter	Unit	Backwash discharge [STW001078]	5m east of outfall [SEA902051]	Backwash consent limit (Receiving water limit)
		4 April 2024 8:02am NZDT	4 April 2024 8:17am NZDT	
Temperature	°C	25.7	17.4	-
Free chlorine	g/m <sup>3</sup>	2.20	<0.07	-
Total chlorine	g/m <sup>3</sup>	2.20	<0.07	(0.1)
pH	pH	7.4	7.7	-
Suspended solids	g/m <sup>3</sup>	77	<3	-
Oil and grease	g/m <sup>3</sup>	41	<10	-

#### 2.2.2 Emptying of outdoor pools

On 8 May 2024, at the end of the summer season, the Council visited NPDC Aquatic Centre to sample the outdoor pools prior to the pools being emptied. The pool water was clear with some Pōhutukawa leaves and dog hair from the "pooch pool party" on 4 May 2024. Muslin cloths had been placed over the outlet pipes to catch debris and dog hair leaving the pool (Photo 2). The total chlorine was below the consented limit (Table 3) and NPDC Aquatic Centre released the first batch of water within their consent window (high tide 0933 NZST ± two hours). The discharge commenced at approximately 7:33am NZST, and the sample of the receiving waters was compliant with consent limits (Table 3). No paint chips were observed either within or beyond the 5m mixing zone from the outfall. At the inspection the Council was shown extra screens to be

added in the backwash holding tanks at the eastern end of the outdoor pool in efforts to prevent paint chips from being discharged during backwash (Photo 3).



Photo 2 Todd Energy Aquatic Centre outdoor pool and muslin cloths in place over outlet pipes (8 May 2024)

Table 3 Results of the outdoor pool emptying and seawater samples (8 May 2024)

Parameter	Unit	Outdoor pool sample [STW001079]	5m east of outfall [SEA902051]	Discharge consent limit (Receiving water limit)
		8 May 2024 7:20am NZST	8 May 2024 7:50am NZST	
Temperature	°C	13.7	12.1	-
Free chlorine	g/m <sup>3</sup>	0.14	0.08	-
Total chlorine	g/m <sup>3</sup>	0.08	<0.07	0.5 (0.1)
pH	pH	7.9	8.0	6.0 - 9.0
Suspended solids	g/m <sup>3</sup>	<3	20	100
Oil and grease	g/m <sup>3</sup>	<4	<4	15



Photo 3 Additional debris screens in place in backwash holding tank at eastern end of the outdoor pool (8 May 2024)

## 2.3 Marine ecological inspections

Two marine ecological inspections were conducted on Kāwaroa Reef in the vicinity of the outfall (Photo 4) on 4 April and 10 May 2024 following the backwash discharge and emptying of the outdoor pool. A very small amount of paint chips, less than 20 pieces of less than 3mm in size, were observed on the reef in the 5m vicinity from the outfall pipe after the backwash, but they were not seen elsewhere on the reef. There were no objectionable odours, conspicuous films or scums at the discharge point during either inspection. The composition of intertidal species identified during inspections was considered normal for this environment. Copies of the marine ecological inspection reports are available from the Council upon request.



Photo 4 Downshore from the ocean outfall pipe on Kāwaroa Reef (10 May 2024)

## 2.4 Incidents, investigations, and interventions

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 NPDC. 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 causes of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach, that in the first instance avoids issues occurring, is favoured.

For all significant compliance issues, as well as complaints from the public, the Council maintains a database record. The record includes events where the individual/organisation concerned has itself notified the Council. Details of any investigation and corrective action taken are recorded for non-compliant events.

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 individual/organisation is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

Table 4 sets out details of any incidents recorded, additional investigations, or interventions required by the Council in relation to the NPDC Aquatic Centre's activities during the 2023/24 monitoring period. This table



presents details of all events that required further investigation or intervention regardless of whether these were found to be compliant or not.

Table 4 Incidents, investigations, and interventions summary table

Date	Details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
4 April 2024	Elevated levels of oil and grease in outdoor pool backwash sample	N	Letter of explanation issued - no further action taken	NPDC investigated systems and re-tested backwash which returned a satisfactory result. No adverse effects were seen on local intertidal communities on this occasion.

## 3. Discussion

### 3.1 Discussion of site performance

The NPDC Aquatic Centre was managed in compliance with consent conditions for most of the period under review. The continued discharge of paint chips to the reef from the backwash was re-addressed with the Aquatic Centre Manager. NPDC investigated options for installing a screen on the outfall pipe however, a more practical alternative was settled on. NPDC added extra screens to the existing debris screens in the backwash holding tank in efforts to help prevent the discharge of paint chips. The Council's inspections for the 2024/25 period will check on the performance of the screens.

One instance of non-compliance in relation to oil and grease in the backwash was found during the monitoring year. The amount of oil and grease in the backwash sample was double the levels seen in previous year's inspections. NPDC was prompt in their follow up of this incident by investigating their systems and re-testing the backwash and pool water, which returned a satisfactory result (oil and grease <15gm<sup>3</sup>). The addition of pool flocculant 8 hours prior was described by NPDC as the primary cause for the initial elevated oil and grease. The Aquatic Centre Manager confirmed that no changes to the chemicals used for flocculation had occurred. NPDC's explanation of the pool flocculant getting caught up in the backwash system was accepted. The Council recommended however, that NPDC Aquatic Centre maintain vigilance with pool vacuuming after flocculation to prevent any further incidents. In this instance there was no enforcement action taken.

No new deterioration was seen on the outfall in this monitoring period however, the cracks in the concrete may need addressing in the near future. Special condition 2 of consent 4588-3.0 state that NPDC shall maintain the ocean outfall structure in a safe and sound condition. It is advised that NPDC Aquatic Centre maintain checks on the ocean outfall integrity to avoid any incidents arising.

### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

Chemical sampling results from the backwash, outdoor pools, and shoreline samples adjacent to the outfall were mostly all compliant with consent limits during the 2023/24 monitoring period. The elevated levels of oil and grease in the backwash sample on 4 April 2024 (Table 2) were a concern, as the result was double the level from previous year's samples. The seawater sample however, showed that the oil and grease had diluted to below reasonable limits. There were also no conspicuous scums or films seen in the 5m vicinity of the outfall at the time of discharge, nor on the reef at the low tide marine inspection. In this case the exceedance in the backwash water is expected to have had no observable effects on the surrounding environment.

The first marine ecological inspection after the backwash found the outfall had discharged a minor amount of suspended materials (blue paint chips) onto the reef however, no adverse effects on local intertidal communities were observed beyond the 5m mixing zone on this occasion. No suspended material was seen on the reef in the second marine ecological inspection. Neither of the discharges monitored in the period under review appeared to have any long-term significant effects on the ecology of the Kāwaroa Reef beyond the designated mixing zone.

### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

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

Table 5 Summary of performance for consent 2339-4.1

<b>Purpose: Discharge swimming pool wastewater and filter backwash wastewater</b>		
<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b>	<b>Compliance achieved?</b>
1. Best practice to prevent or minimise adverse effects	Inspections and correspondence	No
2. Limits on volume and frequency of discharge	Not assessed during period under review	N/A
3. No chemicals added to pool within seven days prior to discharge	Samples collected	Yes
4. Limits on discharge constituents	Samples collected	Yes
5. Council notified by the Aquatic Centre seven days prior to discharge	Aquatic Centre communicating with the Council via email	Yes
6. Effects not observed beyond mixing zone	Marine Ecological Inspection	Yes
7. Chlorine concentration limit beyond mixing zone	Samples collected	Yes
8. Discharge to occur within two hours of high tide	Inspection	Yes
9. Contingency plan	Plan reviewed in June 2016	Yes
10. Prepare and maintain a site Management Plan	Plan reviewed in April 2024	Yes
11. Option for review of consent	Requested in June 2022	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>Good</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>Good</b>

N/A = not applicable

Table 6 Summary of performance for consent 4588-3.0

<b>Purpose: To erect, place and maintain an ocean outfall</b>		
<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b>	<b>Compliance achieved?</b>
1. Notification prior to changes to nature or scale of structure	Inspection	Yes
2. Maintenance of structure	Inspection	Yes
3. Review of consent conditions	Not reviewed	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>Good</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>

N/A = not applicable

Table 7 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

<b>Year</b>	<b>Consent numbers</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Improvement req</b>	<b>Poor</b>
2019/20	2339, 4588	-	2	-	-
2020/21	2339, 4588	-	1	1	-
2021/22	2339-4.0, 4588-3.0	-	1	1	-
2022/23	2339-4.1, 4588-3.0	-	1	1	-

Year	Consent numbers	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2023/24	2339-4.1, 4588-3.0	-	1	-	-

During the year New Plymouth District Council demonstrated an overall good level of environmental and administrative performance with the resource consents as defined in Appendix II.

The level of environmental performance for consent 2339-4.1 was amended from 'improvement required' to 'good' to reflect the work that NPDC carried out after the first inspection to install new screens to help prevent paint chips being discharged in the backwash. Administrative performance for this consent however, was downgraded from 'high' to 'good' due to the incident in relation to the management of backwash. There were no environmental effects resulting from this incident as the receiving water sample was within conditions limits.

Environmental performance for consent 4588-3.0 continues at 'good' due to the overall condition of the ocean outfall structure and that no improvements have been made to the structure in this monitoring period.

### 3.4 Recommendations from the 2022/23 Annual Report

In the 2022/23 Annual Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the Aquatic Centre in the 2023/24 year continues at the same level as in 2022/23.
2. THAT should there be ongoing issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2023/24, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.

These recommendations were implemented in full.

### 3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2024/25

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account:

- the extent of information already made available through monitoring or other means to date;
- its relevance under the RMA;
- the Council's obligations to monitor consented activities and their effects under the RMA;
- the record of administrative and environmental performances of the consent holder; and
- reporting 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 exercising resource consents.

It is proposed that for 2024/25, the monitoring programme remains unchanged from that of previous years.

It should be noted that the proposed programme represents a reasonable and risk-based level of monitoring for the site(s) in question. The Council reserves the right to subsequently adjust the programme from that initially prepared, should the need arise if potential or actual non-compliance is determined at any time during 2024/25.

## 4. Recommendations

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the Aquatic Centre in the 2024/25 year continues at the same level as in 2023/24.
2. THAT should there be ongoing issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2024/25, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.

## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

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

Biota	Flora and fauna of a particular place.
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.
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 7 times the width of the stream at the discharge point.
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.
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 1991</i> and including all subsequent amendments.
SS	Suspended solids.
Temp	Temperature, measured in °C (degrees Celsius).

For further information on analytical methods, contact a manager within the Environment Quality Department.

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## Appendix I

### Resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council

For a copy of the signed resource consent  
please contact the TRC Consents department

## **Water abstraction permits**

Section 14 of the RMA stipulates that no person may take, use, dam or divert any water, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent or a rule in a regional plan, or it falls within some particular categories set out in Section 14. Permits authorising the abstraction of water are issued by the Council under Section 87(d) of the RMA.

## **Water discharge permits**

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. Permits authorising discharges to water are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **Air discharge permits**

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. Permits authorising discharges to air are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **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. Permits authorising the discharge of wastes to land are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

## **Land use permits**

Section 13(1)(a) of the RMA stipulates that no person may in relation to the bed of any lake or river use, erect, reconstruct, place, alter, extend, remove, or demolish any structure or part of any structure in, on, under, or over the bed, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Land use permits are issued by the Council under Section 87(a) of the RMA.

## **Coastal permits**

Section 12(1)(b) of the RMA stipulates that no person may erect, reconstruct, place, alter, extend, remove, or demolish any structure that is fixed in, on, under, or over any foreshore or seabed, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Coastal permits are issued by the Council under Section 87(c) of the RMA.

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

Name of Consent Holder: New Plymouth District Council

Decision Date (Review): 22 August 2022

Commencement Date (Review): 22 August 2022 (Granted Date: 6 August 2014)

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge public swimming pool wastewater and filter backwash wastewater via an ocean outfall into the Tasman Sea

Expiry Date: 1 June 2032

Review Date(s): June 2026

Site Location: Tisch Avenue, New Plymouth

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1692028E–5676596N (point of discharge/site of structure)

Catchment: Tasman Sea

*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 all the administration, monitoring and supervision costs of this consent, fixed in accordance with section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

### Special conditions

1. 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.
2. The consent authorises the following discharges:
  - a) up to 20 cubic metres per fortnight of outdoor pool treated filter backwash,
  - b) up to 1000 cubic metres of pool wastewater on two occasion per year for the purpose of emptying the indoor or outdoor swimming pool systems.
3. No discharge from the emptying of any pool shall occur unless there has been no addition of chemicals to the pool for at least seven days.
4. Constituents of the discharge from the emptying of either pool shall meet the standards shown in the following table.

Constituent	Standard
pH	Within the range 6.0 to 9.0
suspended solids	Concentration not greater than 100 gm <sup>-3</sup>
Oil and grease	Concentration not greater than 15 gm <sup>-3</sup>
Total residual chlorine	Concentration not greater than 0.5 gm <sup>-3</sup>

This condition shall apply before entry of the treated wastewater into the receiving waters at a designated sampling point approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.


5. On each occasion that a pool is emptied the consent holder shall notify the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, at least 7 working days before any discharge occurs. Notification shall include the consent number and a brief description of the activity consented, and shall be emailed to [worknotification@trc.govt.nz](mailto:worknotification@trc.govt.nz).
6. After allowing for reasonable mixing, within a mixing zone extending 5 metres of the discharge point, the discharge shall not, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, give rise to any or all of the following effects in the receiving water:
  - a) the production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - b) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - c) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - d) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.
7. Beyond a mixing zone of 5 metres the discharge shall not give rise to a total residual chlorine level of greater than 0.1 gm<sup>-3</sup>
8. Any discharge shall only occur two hours either side of high tide.

Consent 2339-4.1

9. The consent holder shall maintain and regularly update a 'Contingency Plan' that details measures and procedures that will be undertaken in the event of a chemical spill. The plan shall be approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, acting in a certification capacity as being adequate to avoid, remedy or mitigate the environmental effects of such an event.
10. By 1 December 2022, the consent holder shall prepare and maintain an operation, maintenance and discharge management plan that documents the procedures within the site at Tisch Avenue, New Plymouth. This plan shall be followed at all times, shall be certified by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall include but not necessarily be limited to:
  - a) general housekeeping and maintenance;
  - b) details of resource consent conditions and the location of valves discharging from the outdoor pools to the outfall pipe;
  - c) details of procedures to follow when emptying pools, water blasting pools and painting pools;
  - d) ensuring external contractors undertaking works at the facility are aware of their obligations in relation to the outfall through the contractor induction process;
  - e) the recording of training, monitoring and maintenance undertaken; and
  - f) the frequency of review of the plan.
11. In accordance with section 128 and section 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:
  - a) during the month of June 2020 and/or June 2026, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time; and/or
  - b) annually during the month of June for the purpose of including conditions requiring provision of records necessary to check compliance with condition 2.

Signed at Stratford on 22 August 2022

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A D McLay  
**Director - Resource Management**



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

Name of  
Consent Holder:                      New Plymouth District Council  
Private Bag 2025  
New Plymouth 4342

Decision Date                          06 August 2014

Commencement Date                  06 August 2014

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:                      To occupy the Coastal Marine Area with a discharge pipe  
from the New Plymouth Aquatic Centre

Expiry Date:                            01 June 2032

Review Date(s):                        June 2020, June 2026

Site Location:                          Tisch Avenue, New Plymouth

Legal Description:                      Adjacent to Pt Sec E Tn of New Plymouth

Grid Reference (NZTM)                1692028E-5676596N

Catchment:                                Tasman Sea

*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 all the administration, monitoring and supervision costs of this consent, fixed in accordance with section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Special conditions**

1. This consent authorises the occupation of space in the Coastal Marine Area by the outlet structure existing at the time the application for this consent was lodged, and as described in the application. Any change to the nature or scale of the structure may therefore need to be authorised by a formal process in accordance with the Resource Management Act, 1991.
2. The consent holder shall maintain the structure in a safe and sound condition such that it continues to function effectively as an outlet structure.
3. In accordance with section 128 and section 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 2020 and/or June 2026 for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either 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 06 August 2014

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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A D McLay  
**Director - Resource Management**



## Appendix II

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

## Categories used to evaluate 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 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 during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party 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 during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. 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 during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. 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.