

South Taranaki District Council  
Patea greenwaste  
Monitoring Programme  
Annual Report  
2013-2014

Technical Report 2014-30

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September 2014



## Executive summary

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) operates a green waste disposal area located on Beach Road at Patea beach. The site was established as a public facility that could accept green waste for sand dune stabilisation purposes. The site is consented to accept green waste from the Patea community and from STDC's kerbside and transfer station collection. This report for the period July 2013-June 2014 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council to assess STDC's environmental performance during the period under review, and the results and environmental effects of STDC's activities at the site.

STDC holds one resource consent, which includes a total of 12 conditions setting out the requirements that STDC must satisfy. The consent is for the purpose of discharging green waste onto land for stabilisation purposes.

The Council's monitoring programme for the period under review included six inspections of the site focussing on types of materials discharged, stormwater and leachate control, and emissions to air.

The monitoring showed that some illegal dumping of non greenwaste material occurred at the site on several occasions during the monitoring period, however STDC contractors conducted fortnightly inspections and removed any non greenwaste found on the site.

During the period under review Council received no complaints, nor were any incidents logged in regards to the site.

STDC demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and compliance with its resource consent in regards to its discharge at Patea Beach. Although there was regular unconsented dumping at the site, this was most likely done by third party users and the consent holder undertook fortnightly inspections and rubbish removal. When illegal dumping was observed the consent holder was cooperative in removing such material upon request.

For reference, in the 2013-2014 year, 60% 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 29% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

This report includes a recommendation for monitoring in the 2014-2015 period.



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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 the Annual Report for the period July 2013-June 2014 by the Taranaki Regional Council on the monitoring programme associated with the resource consent held by South Taranaki District Council (STDC). STDC holds a consent to discharge green waste onto and into the sand dunes situated on Beach Road at Patea Beach.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consent held by STDC that relates to the discharge of green waste onto sand dunes.

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 Taranaki Regional Council generally implements integrated environmental monitoring programmes and reports the results of the programmes jointly. This report discusses the environmental effects of STDC's use of water, land, and air, and is the eighth report by the Taranaki Regional Council for the Patea Beach site.

### 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 consent held by STDC, the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review, and a description of the activities and operations conducted at Patea Beach.

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

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

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2014-2015 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 *Resource Management Act 1991* (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 a discharger, and may include cultural and socio-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 (eg, 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 Taranaki Regional Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each discharge source. 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 consent performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the consent holder/s during the period under review, this report also assigns an overall rating. The categories used by the Council, and their interpretation, are as follows:

- A **high** level of environmental performance and compliance indicates that essentially there were no adverse environmental effects to be concerned about, and no, or inconsequential non-compliance with conditions.
- A **good** level of environmental performance and compliance indicates that adverse environmental effects of activities during the monitoring period were negligible or minor at most, or, 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, or, there were perhaps some items noted on inspection notices for attention but these items were not urgent nor critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with, and any inconsequential non-compliances with conditions were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly.
- **Improvement required (environmental) or improvement required (administrative compliance)** (as appropriate) indicates that the Council may have been obliged to record a verified unauthorised incident involving measurable environmental impacts, and/or, there were measurable environmental effects arising from activities and intervention by Council staff was required and there were matters that required urgent intervention, took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review, and/or, there were on-going issues around meeting resource consent conditions even in the absence of environmental effects. Abatement notices may have been issued.

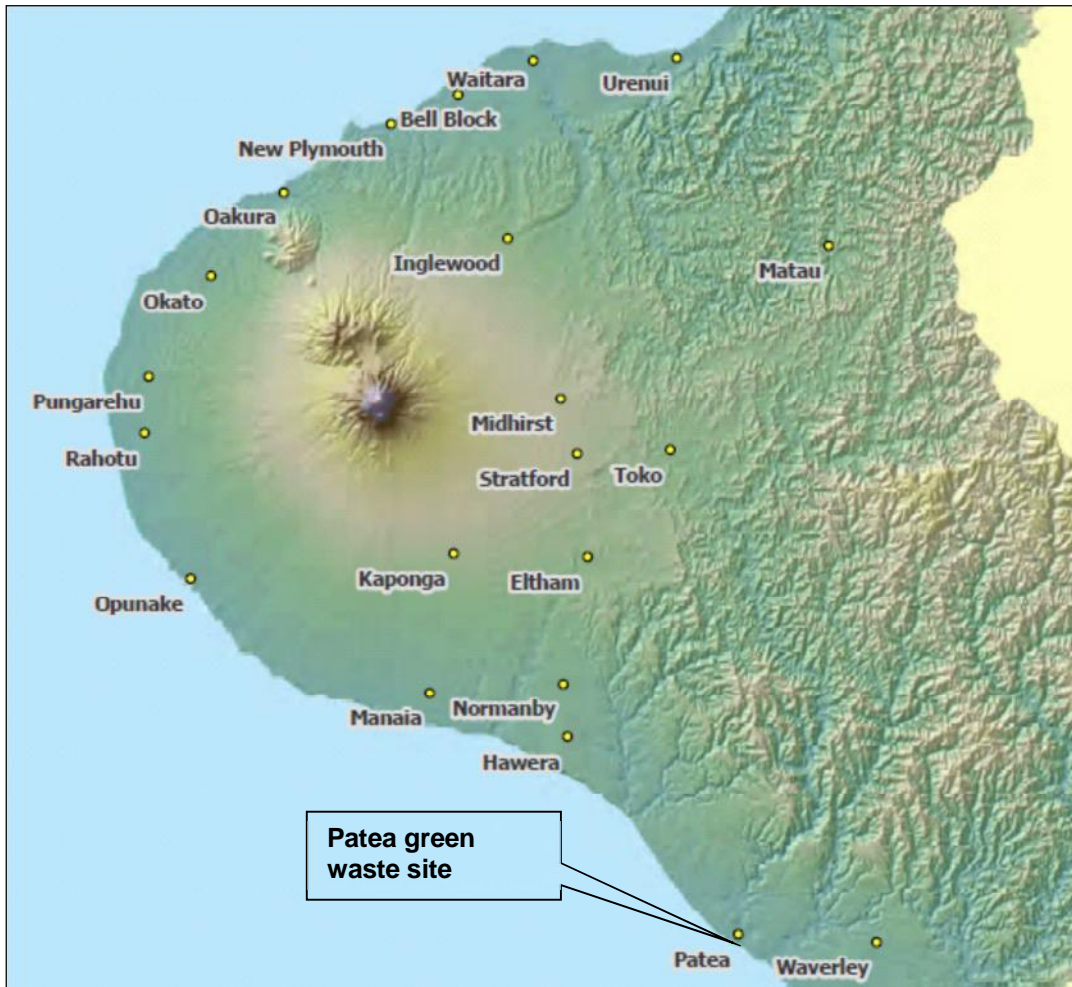


- **Poor performance (environmental) or poor performance (administrative compliance)** indicates generally that the Council was obliged to record a verified unauthorised incident involving significant environmental impacts, or there were material failings to comply with resource consent conditions that required significant intervention by the Council even in the absence of environmental effects. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice.

For reference, in the 2013-2014 year, 60% 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 29% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

## 1.2 Process description

The site was established as a public facility that could accept green waste for sand dune stabilisation purposes. It is consented to accept green waste from the Patea community and from South Taranaki District Council. The aim of the activity is to place green waste and plant material, such as branches, along the eroding sand dune area, to act as a sand trap, facilitating the reinstatement of the dune system and prevention of future erosion at the site. Members of the public are directed to specific discharge points at the beach area by means of signs. Periodically, the waste is moved around the site to make room for additional consented material. STDC also conducts a programme of fortnightly inspections to identify and remove unacceptable wastes being discharge at the site by third party users. The discharge site is approximately 120 metres long and 25 metres wide, and is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 1** Regional map showing location of the Patea green waste site



**Figure 2** Aerial view of the Patea Beach green waste disposal area

## 1.3 Resource consent

### 1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (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.

#### **Consent 6088-3**

STDC holds discharge permit **6088-3** to cover the discharge of green waste onto and into land for stabilisation purposes. This permit was issued by the Taranaki Regional Council on 30 October 2007 under Section 87(e) of the RMA (renewing the earlier consent). It is due to expire on 1 June 2022. Prior to this STDC held consents 6088-1 and 6088-2 which were active from December 2002 to October 2007.

Special condition 1 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option as defined by Section 2 of the Resource Management Act to minimise adverse effects.

Special condition 2 states that the consent shall be exercised as per the information supplied with the application.

Special condition 3 requires that site be controlled.

Special condition 4 specifies the nature of the material that can be discharged at the site.

Special condition 5 specifies signage requirements at the site.

Special condition 6 requires that the consent holder removes any unacceptable wastes discharged at the site.

Special condition 7 requires the consent holder to comply with Council rules in regards to pest plants at the site.

Special condition 8 requires that no waste be discharged at or below the high water springs mark.

Special condition 9 states that the discharge to land shall not result in contaminants entering surface water.

Special condition 10 requires stormwater to be controlled on site to prevent erosion.

Special condition 11 is a lapse condition

Special condition 12 is a review condition

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

## **1.4 Monitoring programme**

### **1.4.1 Introduction**

Section 35 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) sets out an obligation for the Taranaki Regional Council to gather information, monitor, and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents, and the effects arising, within the Taranaki region.

The Taranaki Regional 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 Patea Beach site consisted of three primary components.

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

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Taranaki Regional 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 Patea Beach site was visited a total of six times during the monitoring period. Inspections focused on fly and dust nuisances, and noxious or offensive emissions, and any sign of leaching or surface flows. The neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects such as litter. Inspections noted the type of materials and manner in which they were discharged to the site.

### **1.4.4 Chemical sampling**

Patea Beach is an elevated site which for most of the time is dry. Rain that does fall on the site drains away at a very rapid rate. The site does not suffer from flooding from rain or tidal action, due to its elevation. Monitoring over the past three years noted no discharge of leachate or liquids from the base of the dune as a result of the discharge.

Therefore, no water quality samples were programmed or collected at the site for the monitoring period under review.

## **2. Results**

### **2.1 Inspections**

Six inspections were carried out during the period under review.

#### **26 July 2013**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection. It was raining at the time of the inspection. No ponding was occurring and stormwater was quickly dispersing from the site.

A significant amount of greenwaste had recently been discharged at the site. There were only small amounts of unacceptable waste (i.e. plastic material) at the site that the consent holder was required to have removed

The following action was to be taken by the consent holder:

- Remove unacceptable waste and continue with regular inspections.

#### **23 October 2013**

There was evidence of recent incorporation of material into the dunes, all material seemed stable and no material was present on the beach. There were reasonably significant amounts of non-green waste dumped onsite by members of the public

The following action was to be taken by the consent holder:

- Consent holder to remove non-green waste from site

#### **20 January 2014**

A significant amount of greenwaste had recently been discharged at the site. There were small amounts of unacceptable waste at the site that the consent holder was required to have removed. No odour was emanating from the site at the time of inspection.

The following action was to be taken by the consent holder

- Remove unacceptable waste and continue with regular inspections.

#### **7 March 2014**

A compliance monitoring inspection was recently carried out at the Patea green waste dumping facility during fine weather conditions. A significant amount of greenwaste had recently been discharged at the site. There was a significant volume of unacceptable waste at the site (plastic material, mattress, and a sofa etc.) that would have to be removed. The consent holder was contacted to discuss the issue of non-greenwaste disposal by the public. No odour was found to be emanating from the site.

The following action was to be taken:

- Remove unacceptable waste and continue with regular inspections.

### **20 May 2014**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection.

The weather conditions were fine with a light westerly breeze and no rain falling over the previous 48 hours. A significant amount of greenwaste had recently been discharged at the site. It was noted that the large amount of non-greenwaste material noted at the last inspection had been removed, however there were new small amounts of unacceptable waste at the site that the consent holder was required to have removed

There were no issues in regards to odour or dust and the site was draining well. The beach below the site was inspected and no leachate runoff or greenwaste waste was found.

The following action was to be taken:

- Remove unacceptable waste and continue with regular inspections

### **30 June 2014**

A significant amount of greenwaste had recently been discharged at the site. There were small pockets of unacceptable waste at the site that the consent holder was required to have removed. There were no issues in regards to odour and the site was well drained considering the weather conditions at the time of inspection.

The following action was to be taken:

- Remove unacceptable waste and continue with regular inspections

## **2.2 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 e.g. 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 Taranaki Regional 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 Unauthorised Incident Register (UIR) 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 2013-2014 period, the Council was not required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents.

There were no incidents recorded by the Council that were associated with non-compliance by STDC with conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans. Whilst non-compliances were found in regard to the dumping of unacceptable wastes by members of the public this was not deemed to be of sufficient concern to be logged as an incident. STDC conducted clean-ups of the site upon request and on a routine basis to mitigate this issue.



### 3. Discussion

#### 3.1 Discussion of plant performance

In this monitoring period unacceptable waste was found at the site and STDC has continued with a programme of fortnightly inspections and rubbish removal. As the general public have access to the site it is difficult to prevent illegal dumping and STDC has complied with all consent conditions in regards to signage prohibiting the discharge of non greenwaste material.

#### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

The inclusion of unacceptable waste could potentially cause adverse environmental effects if it is not removed and is buried with the green waste. However as unacceptable materials were removed from the site on a regular basis, this prevented it being incorporated into the fill areas when the green waste was compacted and levelled. Therefore it is likely that any potentially significant effect from the presence of unacceptable material at the site is being mitigated.

There was no leachate observed discharging from the sand dune area during the period under review. The sandy substrate combined with low rainfall at the beach would be restricting the production of leachate from the green waste.

#### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of STDC's compliance record for the monitoring period under review is set out in Table 1.

**Table 1** Summary of performance for Consent 6088-3 to discharge green waste onto land for stabilisation purposes

Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. STDC to adopt the best practicable option	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management	Yes
2. Consent shall be carried out in accordance with application information	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management	Yes
3. Limit discharge to specific areas	Site specific monitoring programme – inspection	Yes
4. Only green waste to be discharged	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes-controlled with fortnightly inspections and removal
5. Maintain signage	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes
6. Unauthorised material shall be removed from the site	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes

Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
7. Comply with Pest Plant Plan	Site specific monitoring programme – no pest plant growth noted during inspections	Yes
8. Green waste shall not be discharged or moved below the mean high water springs mark	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes
9. Contaminants shall not enter surface water	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes
10. STDC to control surface water on the site	Site specific monitoring programme – site inspections	Yes
11. Relates to lapse of the consent	N/A	Yes
12. Optional review provision re environmental effects	No review option this period	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>

Based on the monitoring results from the period under review, STDC demonstrated a high level environmental performance and compliance, as defined in Section 1.1.4, with consent conditions in relation to its Patea Beach green waste. Although there was significant illegal dumping at the site, the consent holder undertook fortnightly inspections and rubbish removal. When illegal dumping was observed the consent holder was cooperative in removing such material upon request.

### 3.4 Recommendations from the 2012-2013 Annual Report

The 2012-2013 Annual report recommended:

THAT monitoring of discharges to Patea Beach in the 2013-2014 period remain unchanged from that implemented in the 2012-2013 period.

This recommendation was implemented during the period under review.

### 3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2014-2015

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Taranaki Regional Council has taken into account the extent of information made available by previous authorities, its relevance under the Resource Management Act, the obligations of the Act in terms of monitoring emissions/discharges and effects, and subsequently reporting to the regional community, 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.

It is proposed that for the 2014-2015 period the programme remain unchanged from that implemented in the 2013-2014 period. A recommendation to this effect is attached to this report.

#### **4. Recommendation**

THAT monitoring of discharges to Patea Beach in the 2014-2015 period remain unchanged from that implemented in the 2013-2014 period.

## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms are used within this report:

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.
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	Resource Management Act 1991 and subsequent amendments.
UI	Unauthorised Incident.
UIR	Unauthorised 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.

## **Bibliography and references**

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- Taranaki Regional Council (2012): 'South Taranaki District Council, Patea Beach green waste Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2011-12'. Technical Report 2012-07
- Taranaki Regional Council (2013): 'South Taranaki District Council, Patea Beach green waste Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2012-13'. Technical Report 2013-22



## **Appendix I**

**Resource consent held by STDC  
Patea Beach – green waste discharge**







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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
PRIVATE BAG 713  
47 CLOTEN ROAD  
STRATFORD  
NEW ZEALAND  
PHONE: 06-765 7127  
FAX: 06-765 5097  
[www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

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Please quote our file number  
on all correspondence

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Name of  
Consent Holder: South Taranaki District Council  
Private Bag 902  
HAWERA 4640

Consent Granted  
Date: 30 October 2007

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge domestic green waste onto land for the  
purpose of stabilising sand dunes at or about  
2637357E-6158276N

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Review Date(s): June 2010, June 2016

Site Location: Patea Beach, Beach Road, Patea

Legal Description: Sec 137 SO 2680 SO 6641 Pt Lot 6 DP 648 Pt Sec 74 Blk  
VII Carlyle SD

Catchment: Patea

## Consent 6088-3

### 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. 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 exercise of this consent shall be undertaken in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of application 4491. Specifically this includes *Patea Beach Management Plan, South Taranaki District Council (June 2007)*. If there is any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of the application and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. Dumping of green waste by the public shall be limited to specific designated areas identified by signs. The consent holder shall regularly remove the green waste from the dumping area and deposit it in the quantities and at the locations necessary to achieve the purpose of this consent.
4. For the purposes of this consent, domestic green waste is defined as: leaves, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, sticks/branches/logs with a diameter no greater than 100 mm, and other similar material all in quantities consistent with maintenance of a residential garden. Specifically excluded from the definition are: sticks/branches/logs with a diameter greater than 100 mm; timber (treated or not); and any viable plant identified in the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*.
5. The consent holder shall ensure that signs at the dumping points clearly describe the waste that may be dumped.
6. The consent holder shall remove any dumped material from the site that is not green waste (as defined in condition 4).
7. The consent holder shall comply with the requirements of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* at the site.
8. The consent holder shall ensure that no waste discharged to the site is placed at or below the mean high water springs mark.

Consent 6088-3

9. The discharge to land shall not result in any contaminant entering surface water.
10. The consent holder shall control and maintain all stormwater at the site to minimise erosion or scour of the adjacent foredune area to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
11. This consent shall lapse on the expiry of five years after the date of issue of this consent, unless the consent is given effect to before the end of that period or the Taranaki Regional Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
12. 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 2010 and/or June 2016, 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 30 October 2007

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council



Director-Resource Management

