

New Plymouth District Council
Inglewood, Okato,
and Marfell Park Landfills
Monitoring Programme
Annual Report 2015-2016
Technical Report 2016-69

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Executive summary

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) maintains two reinstated landfills, one at Inglewood and one at Okato. Both landfills have been used in the past, and are now used as transfer stations but are also held in reserve to accept refuse, if required, as a contingency. The Inglewood landfill is located on King Road at Inglewood, in the Waiongana catchment, and the Okato landfill is located on Hampton Road at Okato, in the Kaihihi catchment.

NPDC also maintains a closed landfill, Marfell Park (Marfell) landfill in the Huatoki catchment. This landfill does not accept any waste for disposal and has been fully reinstated.

This report for the period July 2015 to June 2016 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess NPDC's environmental 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 in regard to these closed landfills.

Overall, during the monitoring period NPDC demonstrated a high level of environmental performance.

NPDC holds seven resource consents, which include a total of 59 conditions setting out the requirements that they must satisfy. NPDC holds three consents to discharge leachate and stormwater into various streams, two consents to discharge contaminants onto and into land, and two consents to discharge emissions into the air.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included seven inspections, three discharge samples, 11 receiving water samples, two biomonitoring surveys of receiving waters, and one ambient air quality analysis. Monitoring was not scheduled at the Marfell landfill site during the year under review.

During the monitoring year there were no incidents logged by Council associated with NPDC's landfills covered in this report.

Overall during the year, NPDC demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance in relation to the Inglewood landfill consents as defined in Section 1.1.5 of this report. Although no significant environmental effects were found due to the operation of the site, the trend of increasing nitrogen compounds in the landfill tributary and the main tributary indicate that there may be the potential for environmental effects to emerge in the future, if the cap remediation undertaken during the 2014-2015 year is not confirmed as having arrested this trend.

During the year, NPDC demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance in relation to the Okato landfill resource consents as defined in Section 1.1.5.

For reference, in the 2015-2016 year, 71% 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 24% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

This report includes recommendations for the 2016-2017 period.

Table of contents

	Page	
1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991	1
1.1.1	Introduction	1
1.1.2	Structure of this report	1
1.1.3	The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring	2
1.1.4	Investigations, interventions, and incidents	3
1.1.5	Evaluation of environmental performance	3
1.2	Summary of resource consents	5
1.3	Monitoring programmes	6
1.3.1	Introduction	6
1.3.2	Programme liaison and management	6
1.3.3	Site inspections	7
1.3.4	Chemical sampling	7
1.3.5	Biomonitoring surveys	7
2.	Inglewood landfill	8
2.1	Introduction	8
2.1.1	Site description	8
2.1.2	Resource consents	10
2.1.2.1	Water discharge permit	10
2.1.2.2	Air discharge permit	11
2.1.2.3	Discharge of wastes to land	11
2.2	Results	12
2.2.1	Site inspections	12
2.2.2	Results of stormwater monitoring	14
2.2.3	Results surface water sampling	15
2.2.3.1	Chemical analysis	15
2.2.3.2	Biomonitoring	19
2.2.4	Air quality	22
2.2.5	Investigations, interventions, and incidents	22
2.3	Discussion	22
2.3.1	Discussion of site performance	22
2.3.2	Environmental effects of exercise of consents	23
2.3.3	Evaluation of performance	23
2.3.4	Recommendation from the 2014-2015 Annual Report	26
2.3.5	Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017	26
2.4	Recommendation	26
3.	Marfell Park landfill	27
3.1	Introduction	27
3.1.1	Site description	27

3.1.2	Water discharge permit	28
3.2	Results	28
3.2.1	Investigations, interventions, and incidents	29
3.3	Discussion	29
3.3.1	Evaluation of performance	29
3.3.2	Recommendation from the 2014-2015 Annual Report	29
3.3.3	Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017	30
3.4	Recommendation	30
4.	Okato landfill	31
4.1	Introduction	31
4.1.1	Site description	31
4.1.2	Resource consents	32
4.1.2.1	Water discharge permit	32
4.1.2.2	Air discharge permit	32
4.1.2.3	Discharge of wastes to land	33
4.2	Results	33
4.2.1	Inspections	33
4.2.2	Results of surface water sampling	34
4.2.3	Air quality	35
4.2.4	Investigations, interventions, and incidents	36
4.3	Discussion	36
4.3.1	Discussion of site performance	36
4.3.2	Environmental effects of exercise of consents	36
4.3.3	Evaluation of performance	36
4.3.4	Recommendations from the 2014-2015 Annual Report	38
4.3.5	Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017	38
4.4	Recommendation	39
5.	Summary of recommendations	40
	Glossary of common terms and abbreviations	41
	Bibliography and references	43
Appendix I	Resource consents held by NPDC (For a copy of the signed resource consent please contact the TRC Consent department)	
Appendix II	Biomonitoring reports	

List of tables

Table 1	Summary of consents held by NPDC	6
Table 2	Summary of monitoring activities carried out at the NPDC landfills during the monitoring period	7
Table 3	Chemical analysis of samples taken from the Inglewood landfill leachate/stormwater pond (site RTP002005)	14
Table 4	Chemical analysis of the Awai Stream tributaries sites on 18 November 2015	16
Table 5	Chemical analysis of the Awai Stream tributaries sites on 6 April 2016	16
Table 6	Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream	20
Table 7	Summary of performance for Inglewood contingency landfill leachate consent 3954-2	23
Table 8	Summary of performance for Inglewood contingency landfill air discharge consent 4526-2	24
Table 9	Summary of performance for Inglewood cleanfill and contingency landfill discharge to land consent 4527-3	25
Table 10	Summary of performance for Marfell Park closed landfill leachate consent 4902 -2	29
Table 11	Chemical analysis of a tributary of the Kaihihi Stream, sampled on 22 October 2015	35
Table 12	Chemical analysis of a tributary of the Kaihihi Stream, sampled on 1 June 2016	35
Table 13	Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill leachate consent 3860-3	36
Table 14	Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill air discharge consent 4528-3	37
Table 15	Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill discharge to land consent 4529-3	37

List of figures

Figure 1	Site layout at Inglewood contingency landfill	9
Figure 2	Inglewood landfill and receiving water sampling sites	10
Figure 3	Ammoniacal nitrogen concentration of the Inglewood landfill stormwater/leachate (RTP002005) for monitoring to date	15
Figure 4	Unionised ammonia concentration in the landfill tributary below Inglewood landfill	18
Figure 5	Unionised ammonia concentration in the main tributary below Inglewood landfill	18
Figure 6	Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen results in the main tributary upstream and downstream of the Inglewood landfill tributary discharge	19
Figure 7	Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream related to the Inglewood landfill	21
Figure 8	An aerial view showing former landfill at Marfell Park and sampling sites	27
Figure 9	Okato landfill and sampling sites	31

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 2015 to June 2016 by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC).

NPDC holds a consent to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater from its closed landfill, Marfell Park (Marfell) landfill in the Huatoki catchment. This landfill does not accept waste for disposal to land and has been fully reinstated.

NPDC also hold consents to discharge solids to land, emissions to air, and leachate and contaminated stormwater to land and water, at two contingency landfills that currently operate as transfer stations. These are Inglewood landfill in the Waiongana catchment, and Okato landfill in the Kaihihi catchment. These landfills are non-operational and are fully reinstated. They do, however, retain all necessary consents to act as contingency sites if the regional landfill at Colson Road has to cease accepting waste, or there are transportation issues in the event of an emergency.

The Colson Road regional landfill remains operational. The monitoring of this facility has been reported separately since the annual report covering the 1999-2000 monitoring period.

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 the discharges of leachate and stormwater within these catchments and discharges of contaminants onto and into land and emissions to air for the Inglewood and Okato sites.

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 NPDC's use of water, land, and air, and is the 26th combined annual report by the Council for the consent holder.

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 RMA and the Council's obligations;
- the Council's approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes;
- a summary of the resource consents held by NPDC for landfills in the Huatoki, Waiongana, and Kaihihi catchments;
- the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review; and
- a summary of the status of these three landfill sites.

Each of the closed/contingency landfills is then discussed in a separate section (Sections 2 to 4).

In each subsection 1 (e.g. Section 2.1) there is:

- a general description of the landfilled site and its discharges;
- an aerial photograph or map showing the location of the former landfill; and
- an outline of the matters covered by NPDC's permit(s) for the site.

Subsection 2 presents the results of monitoring of the NPDC's activities at each of the sites during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

Subsection 3 discusses the results, their interpretation, and their significance for the environment in the immediate vicinity of the site under discussion.

Subsection 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2016-2017 monitoring year.

Section 5 contains a summary of the recommendations for the 2016-2017 period.

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 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 (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' 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 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).

Any investigations, interventions, and incidents for each site are discussed in each subsection 2.

1.1.5 Evaluation of environmental performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the NPDC during the period under review, this report also assigns them a rating for their environmental and administrative performance during the period under review.

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 consent holder'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 interpretations, 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 compliance

- **High:** The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failures 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.

For reference, in the 2015-2016 year, 71% 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 24% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

1.2 Summary of resource consents

NPDC holds a total of seven consents in relation to its closed and contingency landfills. The consents held for each of the closed and contingency landfills are summarised in the following paragraphs and in Table 1, with further detail on the consents held for each landfill site provided in each subsection 1.

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.

There are consents held by NPDC for each of the sites to allow for the discharge of leachate and stormwater.

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.

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.

There are consents held by NPDC for the Inglewood and Okato contingency landfills to allow for the discharge of contaminants to air that cover both potential discharges from historical landfilling activities, and discharges to air that may occur should the landfills be used in the event of an emergency. The consent held for the Inglewood landfill also permits the discharge of cleanfill to land at the site and this aspect of the consent is routinely exercised. The consent held for Okato also permits the discharge of cleanfill and green waste and this aspect of the consent is routinely exercised.

Table 1 Summary of consents held by NPDC

Site	Consent No.	Purpose	Review opportunities	Expires
Inglewood	3954-2	To discharge up to a total of 4,752 m ³ /day (55 litres/second) of leachate and stormwater from the Inglewood municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream, a tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream in the Waiongana catchment	-	1 June 2020
	4526-3	To discharge contaminants, being landfill gas, and odours associated with a landfill, into the air from the Inglewood municipal landfill	June 2020	1 June 2026
	4527-3	To discharge cleanfill and inert materials onto and into land at the Inglewood municipal landfill, and to discharge municipal refuse onto and into land at the Inglewood municipal landfill when, and only when, it cannot be discharged at the Colson Road municipal landfill	June 2020	1 June 2026
Okato	3860-3	To discharge stormwater and leachate from the Okato municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Kaihihi Stream	June 2019 June 2025	1 June 2031
	4528-3	To discharge emissions into the air from the contingency discharge of solid contaminants at the Okato municipal landfill	June 2019 June 2025	1 June 2031
	4529-3	To discharge cleanfill and green waste to land and to discharge general refuse on a contingency basis to land	June 2019 June 2025	1 June 2031
Marfell	4902-2	To discharge leachate from the Marfell former landfill site via groundwater into the Mangaotuku Stream [Granted 21 October 2014]	June 2020 June 2026	1 June 2032

1.3 Monitoring programmes

1.3.1 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 programmes for the NPDC landfill sites consisted of four primary components as outlined below. The Inglewood and Okato landfills, where cleanfill and/or green waste is still being discharged are monitored annually. The closed Marfell site is monitored biennially and was not scheduled to be monitored in the 2015-2016 year.

1.3.2 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.

1.3.3 Site inspections

A total of seven inspections were carried out across all the sites. With regard to consents for the discharge to water, inspections focused on site processes with potential or actual discharges to receiving watercourses, including contaminated stormwater. The potential for emissions to air is also considered at the time of inspection.

1.3.4 Chemical sampling

The Council took 11 receiving water and two discharge samples for physicochemical analysis during the monitoring year across all of the NPDC landfill sites covered in this report.

Ambient air quality monitoring was also carried out at the Inglewood landfill during inspection on one occasion.

1.3.5 Biomonitoring surveys

A biological survey was performed on two occasions at the Inglewood landfill in two unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream.

Table 2 Summary of monitoring activities carried out at the NPDC landfills during the monitoring period

Landfill	Number of discharge samples	Number of receiving water samples	Number of inspections	Biomonitoring surveys	Ambient air surveys
Inglewood	2	7	4	2	1
Marfell	0	0	0	0	0
Okato	0	4	3	0	0
TOTAL	2	11	7	2	1

2. Inglewood landfill

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Site description

The Inglewood landfill opened in 1978 and operated as a municipal landfill for about 24 years.

The site had been constructed in the head of a gully in the Awai Stream catchment. As the gully was filled with refuse, cover material was progressively excavated from the side walls ahead of the fill. The underlying soil, cover and capping material at the site is clay (Taranaki Ash).

Solid waste from the Inglewood kerbside collection was disposed of at Colson Road from about 1999 and the Inglewood landfill was closed to general waste acceptance on 1 September 2006. During the period January 2005 to March 2006 solid waste from the Stratford District kerbside collection was disposed of at this site, and for three months from July 2005 to October 2005 solid waste normally disposed of at Colson Road, was disposed of here whilst remedial work was undertaken at Colson Road.

The site has continued to be used as a waste transfer station. Refuse is placed in bins for removal and disposal at the Colson Road landfill. The disposal of cleanfill is still permitted at the site, and the site has been identified as a contingency landfill in the event that refuse can not be disposed of at Colson Road.

In total approximately 1.78 ha of the site has been used for landfilling. As required by the conditions of the consent, NPDC maintains a Landfill Closure Management Plan for the site that addresses monitoring and management of the site. NPDC staff also undertake regular inspections at the site, and the plan states that if any issues are identified they will be remediated appropriately.

The Inglewood Landfill Closure Plan states that it is suspected that when this landfill was originally developed there were no standard specifications for the siting and operation of landfills. As a result the site is not lined, nor does it have landfill gas or leachate collection systems in place.

Figure 1 shows the approximate extent of the fill and the general layout of the Inglewood landfill site. The discharge and receiving water monitoring site locations are shown in Figure 2.

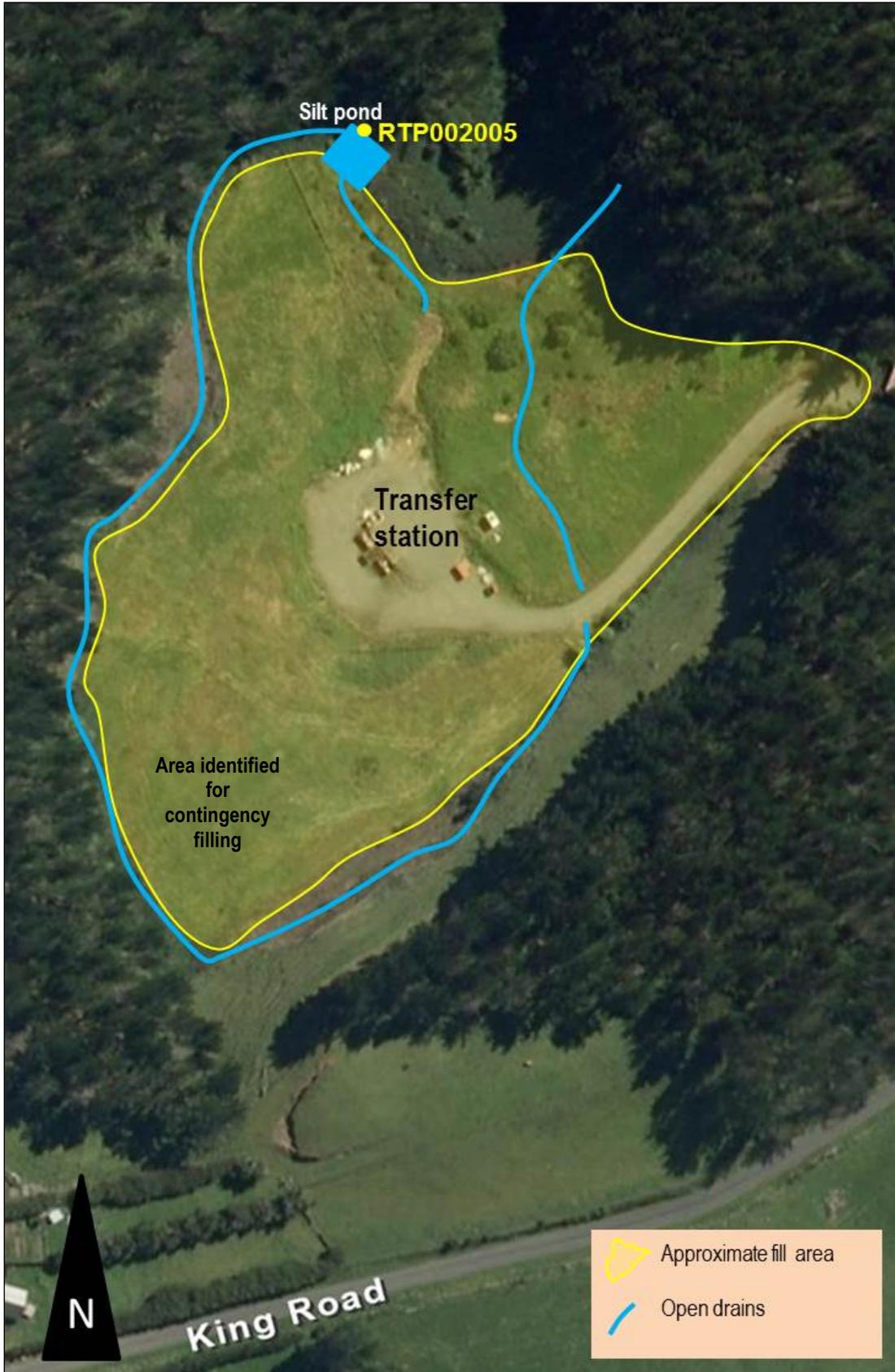


Figure 1 Site layout at Inglewood contingency landfill

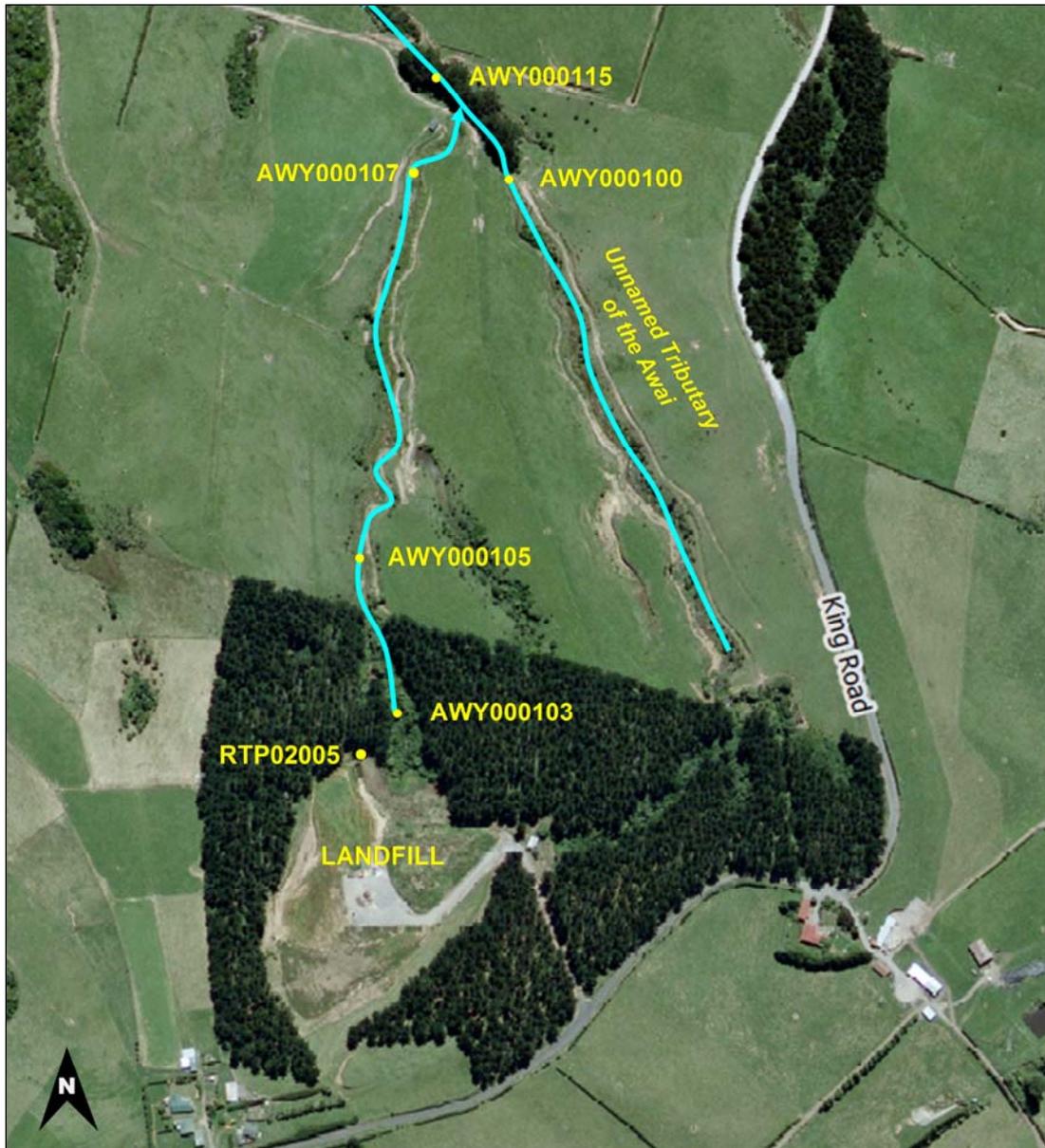


Figure 2 Inglewood landfill and receiving water sampling sites

2.1.2 Resource consents

2.1.2.1 Water discharge permit

NPDC holds water discharge permit 3954-2 to cover the discharge of up to a total of 4,752 m³/day or 55 L/s of leachate and stormwater from the Inglewood municipal landfill to an unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream, a tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream, in the Waiongana catchment. This permit was issued by the Council on 18 February 2002 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2020.

It has eight conditions:

Condition 1 requires that a site contingency plan be prepared, maintained and adhered to.

Condition 2 requires the consent holder to prepare a landfill operations and management plan.

Condition 3 states that the consent holder shall prepare a landfill closure management plan by 1 June 2007 or 3 months prior to the closure of the landfill.

Condition 4 allows for changes to management plans relating to the landfill.

Conditions 5, 6 and 7 relate to monitoring of water associated with the site, leachate and stormwater collection and discharge, and discharge effects on aquatic life or receiving water quality respectively.

Condition 8 allows for the review, amendment, deletion or addition to the conditions of the resource consent.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I of this report.

2.1.2.2 Air discharge permit

The NPDC holds air discharge consent **4526-3** to discharge emissions into the air from the Inglewood municipal landfill site. This permit was issued by the Council on 20 March 2007 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2026. It has four conditions:

Conditions 1 and 2 require the submission of a contingency plan and management plan.

Condition 3 requires the NPDC to notify Council of any changes to its operations at the site.

Condition 4 is a review condition.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I of this report

2.1.2.3 Discharge of wastes to land

NPDC holds water discharge permit **4527-3** to discharge cleanfill and inert materials onto and into land at the Inglewood municipal landfill and to discharge municipal refuse onto and into land when, and only when, it cannot be discharged at the Colson Road municipal landfill. The consent expires on 1 June 2026. It has 12 conditions:

Condition 1 requires that the consent holder adopts the best practicable option.

Conditions 2, 3, 4 and 5 stipulate the requirements regarding the adherence to the information supplied in the consent applications and the landfill management plan and the maintenance of the management plan.

Condition 6 stipulates the maximum water content of sludges to be disposed.

Conditions 7 and 8 define the term "cleanfill".

Condition 9 stipulates that discharge to land shall not result in any contaminants entering surface water.

Conditions 10 and 11 require that stormwater and leachate systems are maintained.

Condition 12 is a lapse condition.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I of this report.

2.2 Results

2.2.1 Site inspections

18 September 2015

The site was inspected in overcast weather with very light wind conditions. The cap was found to be well vegetated and was being grazed by sheep at the time of inspection. No slumping, cracking or erosion was noted and although the cap was moist underfoot following recent rain, there was no ponding present.

The batters were well grassed and fenced, and were also being grazed. There was no evidence of rabbit holes or exposed refuse.

The stormwater drains around the cap contained some dead vegetation, but it was noted that they were otherwise clear and tidy, and were still free draining. The leachate drains were noted to contain some water following recent showers. It was observed that the leachate/stormwater collection pond was a turbid and a milky light green colour. The pond was full but was not discharging at the time of inspection.

The transfer station was tidy and appeared to be well managed, with the contractor on site removing whiteware at the time of inspection.

It was observed that recent cleanfill brought on site had been spread over the top of existing area. The fill consisted mainly of broken concrete and no unauthorised material was noted.

The fencing on site was permanent and in good condition as was the road signage, which was easily visible, in good condition, and appeared to have been recently cleaned.

A methane survey was carried out over the site and perimeter using a MultiRAE gas detector. No methane or hydrogen sulphide was detected either on or off site, and no odour or dust issues were found.

18 November 2015

The site was inspected in fine weather with light wind conditions. There were no odour or dust issues found at this inspection.

The cap was well grassed with no cracking, ponding or exposed refuse evident. The cap was dry underfoot following the recent spell of fine weather. The crack

remediated in the previous monitoring period had fully revegetated and appeared to be tidy and secure. There was no stock present on site at the time of inspection.

The batters were found to be well grassed and vegetated, with no cracking, slumping or exposed refuse evident.

The stormwater drains were grassed with evidence of weed spraying and no obstructions to flow. The leachate pond had plenty of freeboard available and was not discharging at the time of inspection. Samples were collected from the pond and from the receiving water downstream of the site.

The transfer station was tidy and quiet, and there was no evidence of new cleanfill having been disposed of at the site. No unauthorised material was found.

The fencing at the site was intact and the road signage was clear and visible.

It was noted that the discharge drain from the leachate/stormwater pond to the tributary of the Awai Stream had some debris and vegetation in the channel. This appeared to be partially obstructing the flow path, and the NPDC was informed that this could potentially be an issue in times of high flows.

6 April 2016

The site was inspected in fine weather with light southerly wind conditions. No odour or dust issues were found.

The cap and batters were well vegetated with no ponding, slumping, cracking or exposed refuse apparent. It was noted that the remediated area of the southern cap was sound and still fully vegetated. There was no stock on site at the time of inspection.

It was found that the drains on site were grassed and free of obstructions. There was some minor ponding present in the leachate drain at a topographical low point, but no slumping or erosion of the drains was noted. The stormwater/leachate pond level was low and there was approximately 1 m of freeboard available. The contained water was slightly turbid with a green-grey colouration. The pond was not discharging at the time of inspection and the leachate sample was collected near the outlet of the pond. The NPDC was informed that downstream surface water samples were also collected.

The transfer station was again found to be tidy and quiet, and there was again no evidence of new cleanfill having been disposed of at the site. No unauthorised material was found.

The fencing at the site was intact and the road signage was clear and visible.

NPDC was informed that a pile of green waste appeared to have been dumped at the road gate. Photographs were taken.

17 May 2016

The site was inspected in overcast conditions with light showers and a light southerly wind. There were no odour or dust issues found at this inspection.

The cap was being grazed by sheep at the time of inspection. The cap and batters were found to be intact and well grassed, and were considered to be stable. There was no slumping, cracking or exposed refuse and there was no stock damage or erosion noted on the batters. There was no ponding on the cap despite the recent heavy downpours.

The stormwater drains were grassed and free of obstructions with no ponding or erosion of the drains occurring. The leachate/stormwater pond was relatively full with only approximately 0.5 m of freeboard available. The pond contents were a slightly turbid, grey colour and the pond was not discharging at the time. The drain from the leachate pond still had some vegetation present in the channel, but it was observed that this was not causing any issues at the time of inspection.

The transfer station was tidy and well maintained and there was no unauthorised material present in the cleanfill area.

The fencing at the site was intact and the road signage was clear and visible.

The green waste noted at the road gate on the previous inspection was still present, however the Council was subsequently advised that this had been removed.

2.2.2 Results of stormwater monitoring

Two samples were taken from the stormwater/leachate pond during the monitoring period. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Chemical analysis of samples taken from the Inglewood landfill leachate/stormwater pond (site RTP002005)

Parameter	Unit	18 Nov 15	06 Apr 16	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Number
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³ N	0.073	0.048	0.01	73.3	2.03	24
Biochemical oxygen demand 5day	g/m ³	7.1	2.6	0.6	850	2.9	23
Conductivity @ 20°C	mS/m@20C	19.1	19.5	13.3	208	35.1	24
pH	pH	8.3	7.2	6.7	8.5	7.4	24
Temperature	Deg.C	17.8	14.5	4.8	18.1	12.6	23
Turbidity	NTU	3.9	3.0	1.5	58	3.0	8
Un-ionised ammonia	g/m ³	0.00555	0.00024	0.00005	0.03404	0.00107	13
Zinc Dissolved	g/m ³	<0.005	0.013	0.005	0.630	0.008	24

It has previously been found that the pond only discharges directly into the landfill tributary after heavy rain, as accumulated water in the pond tends to be lost to evaporation and seepage. This means that there is usually a significant amount of freeboard present at any given time.

During the year under review the pond was not found to be discharging at the time of inspection and therefore the leachate/stormwater sample was again collected from the pond immediately upstream of the pond outlet.

Unlike the autumn samples collected after heavy rainfall in the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 years, the ammoniacal nitrogen concentration of the November 2015 sample was not found to be inconsistently high when compared to more recent historical results (Figure 3).

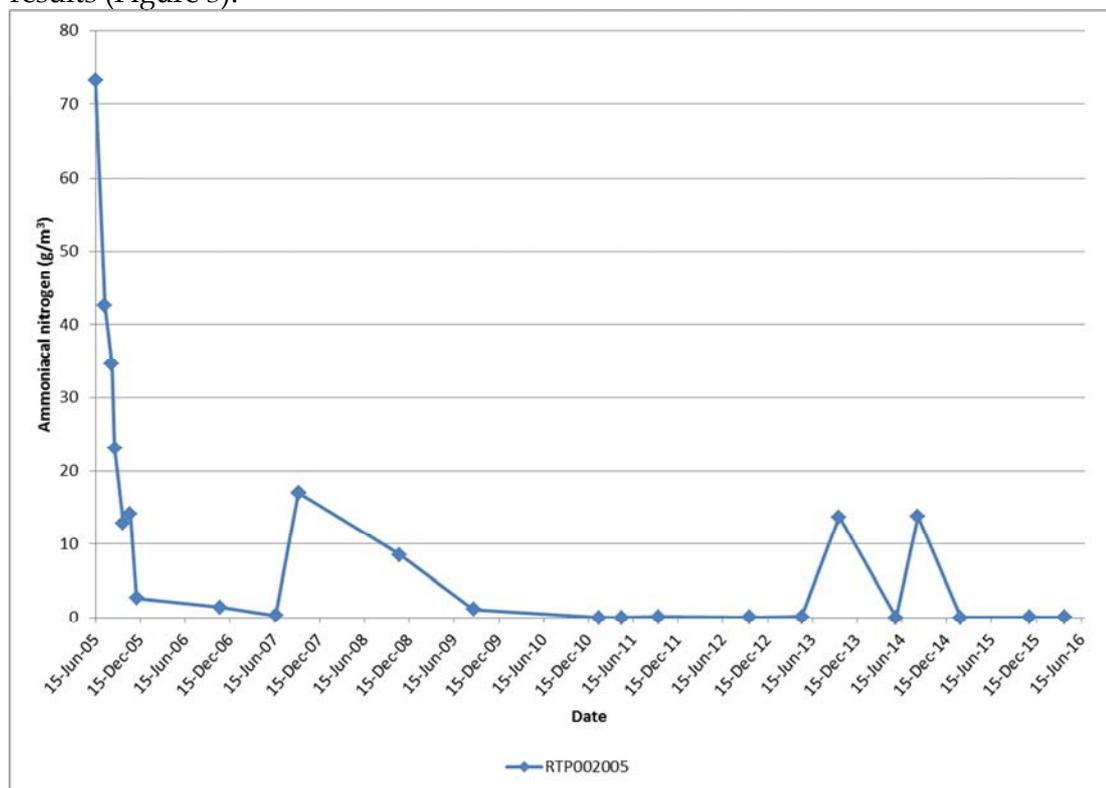


Figure 3 Ammoniacal nitrogen concentration of the Inglewood landfill stormwater/leachate (RTP002005) for monitoring to date

The inconsistently high values obtained previously may have been the result of one or more of a number of factors including; the surrounding area and the drain being cleared of vegetation, the dying sprayed vegetation in the stormwater drains, the recent grazing, seasonal variation and/or additional stormwater infiltration causing increased leachate generation due to the condition of the cap on the central area of the landfill as noted at the August 2014 inspection. This crack was remediated during the 2014-2015 year, and this may have contributed to the apparent reduction in the spring ammoniacal nitrogen concentration found during the year under review.

The receiving water results discussed in Section 2.2.3 indicate that this low flow discharge is unlikely to be responsible for the elevated ammoniacal nitrogen concentrations found in the landfill tributary immediately below the culvert outlet (site AWT000103).

2.2.3 Results surface water sampling

2.2.3.1 Chemical analysis

Receiving water sampling was undertaken at sites AWY00100, AWY100115, AWY000103 and AWY000115 on two occasions (18 November 2015 and 6 April 2016). The locations of these monitoring sites are shown in Figure 2 and the results of the chemical analysis of the samples are presented in Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 4 Chemical analysis of the Awai Stream tributaries sites on 18 November 2015

Parameter	Unit	AWY000103	AWY000105	AWY000100	AWY000115
		30 m d/s of landfill(culvert discharge)	130m d/s of landfill	u/s of confluence of landfill trib	d/s of confluence of landfill trib
Alkalinity	g/m ³ CaCO ₃	312	68	22	42
BOD	g/m ³	2.8	1.5	<0.5	0.6
Conductivity	mS/m	65.9	25.4	8.8	15.6
Dissolved reactive phosphorus	g/m ³ -P	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
Acid soluble iron	g/m ³	28	0.68	0.40	0.49
Total mercury	g/m ³	-	<0.0002	-	-
Acid soluble manganese	g/m ³	7.93	0.39	0.04	0.09
Unionised ammonia	g/m ³ -N	0.09062	0.00002	0.0001	0.00007
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	30.3	0.003	0.041	0.018
Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	0.71	7.5	0.41	2.86
pH	pH	7.0	7.3	6.9	7.1
Temperature	Deg C	13.7	14.4	13.9	14.4
Turbidity	NTU	310	1.7	9.9	0.79
Dissolved zinc	g/m ³	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005

Table 5 Chemical analysis of the Awai Stream tributaries sites on 6 April 2016

Parameter	Unit	AWY000103*	AWY000105	AWY000100	AWY000115
		30 m d/s of landfill(culvert discharge)	130m d/s of landfill	u/s of confluence of landfill trib	d/s of confluence of landfill trib
Alkalinity	g/m ³ CaCO ₃	-	58	22	35
BOD	g/m ³	-	0.6	<0.5	0.7
Conductivity	mS/m	-	20.1	8.9	12.3
Dissolved oxygen	g/m ³	-	8.83	8.99	8.92
Dissolved reactive phosphorus	g/m ³ -P	-	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003
Acid soluble iron	g/m ³	-	0.52	1.1	0.74
Total mercury	g/m ³	-	<0.0002	-	-
Acid soluble manganese	g/m ³	-	0.27	0.19	0.2
Unionised ammonia	g/m ³ -N	-	0.0003	0.00008	0.0001
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	-	0.041	0.033	0.027
Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	-	3.11	0.56	1.3
pH	pH	-	85.2	86.7	85.7
Temperature	Deg C	-	7.4	6.9	7.1
Turbidity	NTU	-	13.2	13.2	13
Dissolved zinc	g/m ³	-	3.1	6.1	8.1

* Insufficient flow to be able to collect sample

As with previous results, the discharge from the culvert below the landfill exhibits leachate contamination as indicated by the high levels of conductivity, alkalinity, iron, manganese, ammoniacal nitrogen and ammonia.

With the exception of nitrate/nitrite nitrogen, the levels of contaminants found 130 m downstream of the discharge (at site AWY000105) are far lower, indicating that the intervening wetland is being effective at reducing contaminant levels. The higher nitrate/nitrite nitrogen at site AMY000105 when compared to AMY000103 is due to the oxidation of the ammoniacal nitrogen in the landfill tributary.

When comparing the ammoniacal nitrogen results for the stormwater/leachate pond (Table 3) to the landfill tributary below the culvert outlet (AWY000103), as was the case with the 2014-2015 year, the concentration was again much lower in the pond than in this tributary. This continues to indicate that ammoniacal nitrogen is entering the landfill tributary via another route, potentially via shallow groundwater.

It is also noted that the unionised ammoniacal nitrogen concentration has been consistently above the 0.025 g/m³ guideline adopted by the Council to protect aquatic organisms from chronic effects at the culvert outlet. From a review of the historical results, it appears that there has been an emerging trend of increasing levels of this contaminant at this site. It is however noted that, for the most part, this is generally assimilated in the wetland area, and the concentrations found at the lower end of the landfill tributary are normally well below this guideline value (Figure 4).

The concentration range above which acute toxic effects may be seen for New Zealand native fish, for example a fish kill, is 0.75 to 2.35 g/m³, and the levels of unionised ammonia found at all monitoring sites during the year under review were well below this concentration range. It can be seen from Figure 5 that, although the unionised ammonia concentration was found to be above the 0.025 g/m³ guideline at the lower end of the tributary on occasion, there was little, if any, effect found on the unionised ammonia concentration of the larger (main) tributary (site AWY000115).

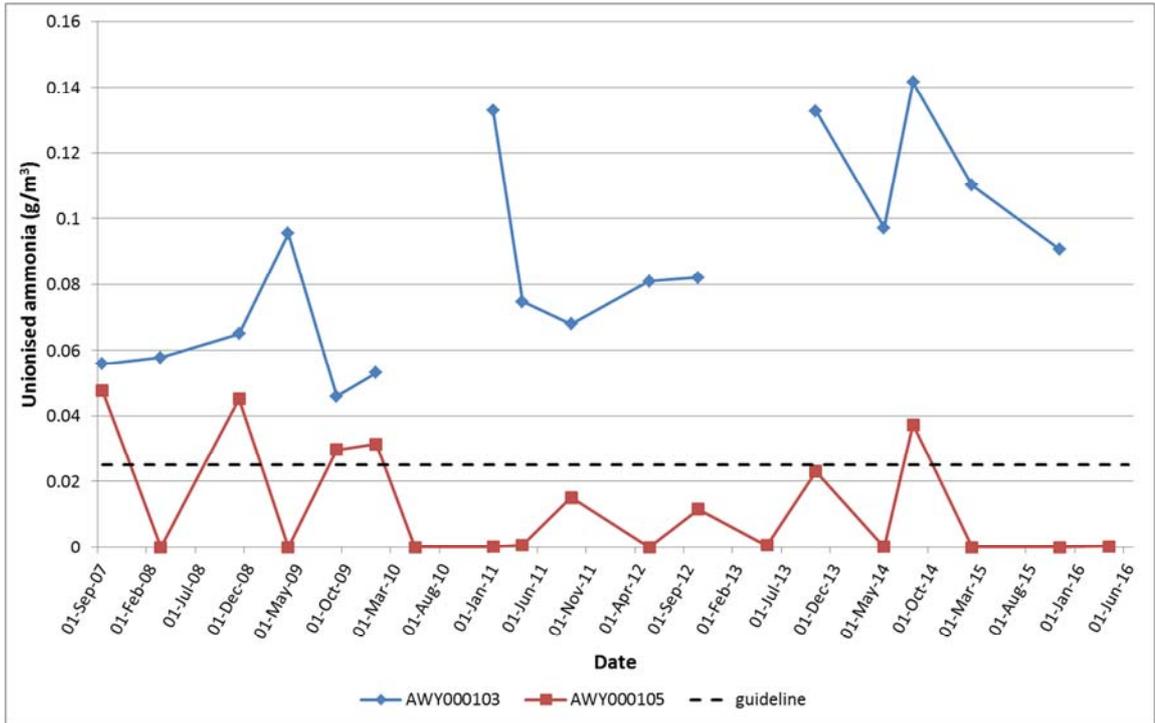


Figure 4 Unionised ammonia concentration in the landfill tributary below Inglewood landfill

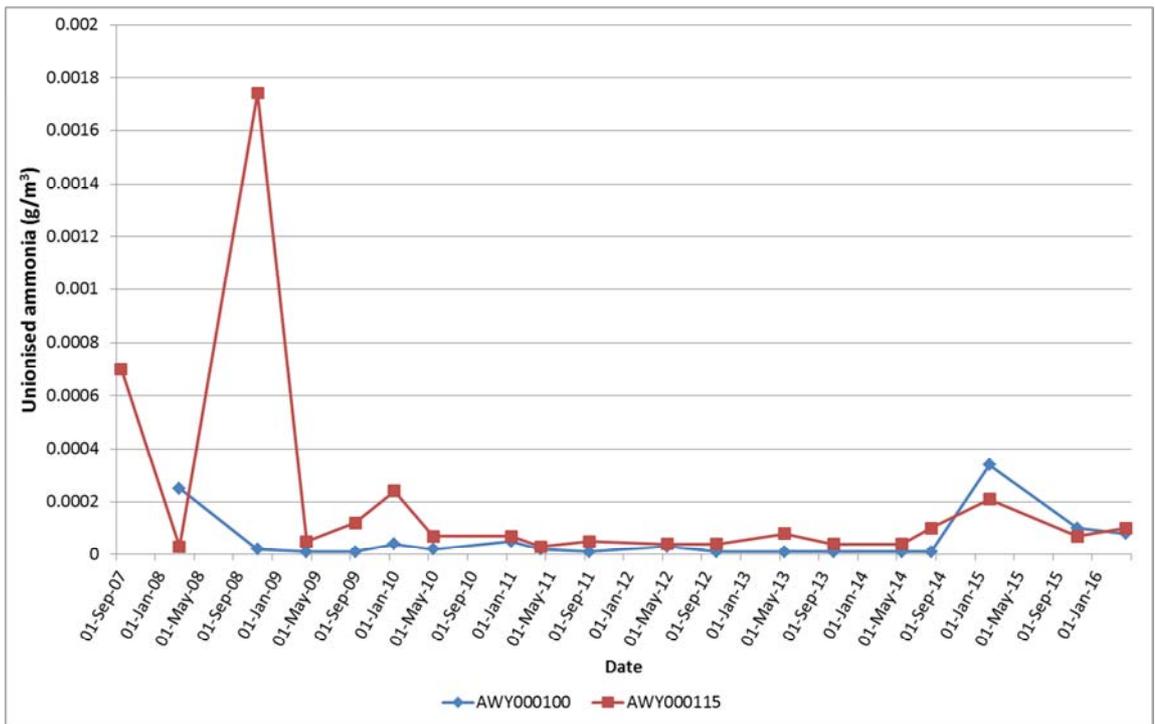


Figure 5 Unionised ammonia concentration in the main tributary below Inglewood landfill

The main unnamed tributary that receives the discharge from the landfill tributary displays slight elevations in conductivity, pH, alkalinity and ammoniacal nitrogen and nitrite/nitrate nitrogen at AWY000115 when compared to the upstream site (AWY000100). These minor increases have been noted in previous monitoring years and have been considered most likely a result of the presence of the landfill and from inputs from stock grazing in the area immediately downstream of the landfill site.

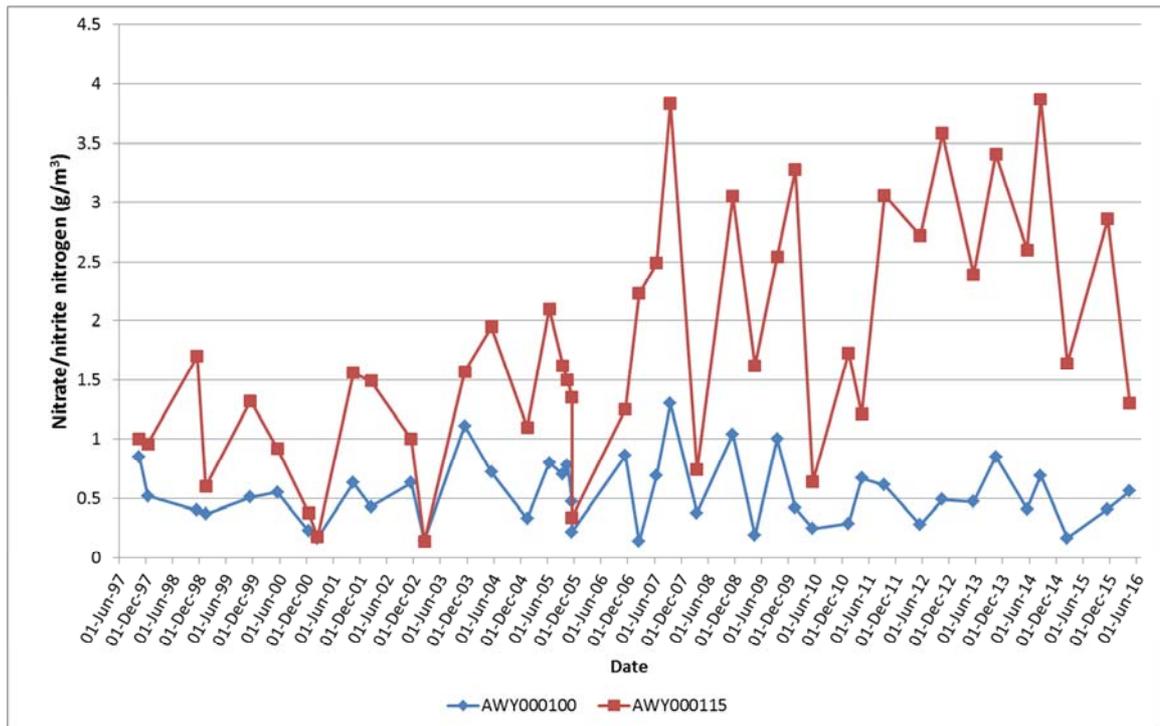


Figure 6 Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen results in the main tributary upstream and downstream of the Inglewood landfill tributary discharge

A review of the historical data also shows that the difference in the nitrate/nitrite nitrogen concentrations between sites AWY000100 and AWY000115 appeared to be increasing (Figure 6), although the difference may be starting to reduce since the cracked cap was remediated. The current levels of contaminants found were within acceptable ranges in the main tributary and would therefore be considered a minor effect, at most, on the aquatic environment.

Due to the changes observed in recent years in the ammoniacal nitrogen and nitrate/nitrite concentrations at the various sites, it is considered useful to include total nitrogen in the suite of analyses performed. A recommendation to this effect is attached to this report.

2.2.3.2 Biomonitoring

Macroinvertebrate sampling was undertaken on 13 October 2015 and 3 February 2016, at four sites in two tributaries of the Awai Stream; sites 1(a) and 1(b) were located in the smaller tributary and sites 2 and 3 on the larger tributary (Figure 7).

A combination of the standard 400 ml 'kick-sampling' and 'sweep-net' sampling techniques were used to collect streambed macroinvertebrates from sites 1a and 1b. The 400 ml 'kick-sampling' technique was used at site 2 and the 'sweep-net' sampling technique was used at site 3. The 'kick-sampling' technique is very similar to Protocol C1 (hard-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol for macroinvertebrate samples in wadeable streams (Stark *et al*, 2001). The 'sweep-net' sampling technique was very similar to Protocol C2 (soft-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol of the New Zealand Macroinvertebrate Working Group (NZMWG).

Table 6 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream

Site	Site code	Location
1a	AWY000105	Smaller tributary, 100 metres below tip face
1b	AWY000107	Smaller tributary, 400 metres below tip face
2	AWY000100	Larger tributary, above confluence with small tributary
3	AWY000115	Larger tributary, 80 metres below confluence with small tributary

The survey was undertaken to assess whether leachate discharges from Inglewood landfill had had any adverse effects on the macroinvertebrate communities of this waterbody. Samples were processed to provide number of taxa (richness), MCI and SQMCI_s scores for each site.

The MCI is a measure of the overall sensitivity of the macroinvertebrate community to the effects of organic pollution in stony streams. It is based on the presence/absence of taxa with varying degrees of sensitivity to environmental conditions. The SQMCI_s takes into account taxa abundance as well as sensitivity to pollution, and may reveal more subtle changes in communities, particularly if non-organic impacts are occurring. Significant differences in the MCI or the SQMCI_s between sites indicate the degree of adverse effects (if any) of the discharges monitored.

13 October 2015

This October 2015 survey did not indicate that leachate from the Inglewood landfill had significantly affected the freshwater macroinvertebrate communities in these tributaries. These communities appear to be determined by the physical habitat conditions, particularly the very slow to slow current speeds, soft/fine substrate and changes in macrophyte habitats available to the aquatic invertebrates.

The smaller, landfill drainage tributary sites exhibited slight improvements in taxa richness and SQMCI_s score in a downstream direction. The differences observed between the sites can probably be attributed to the difference in available habitat, with better habitat at site 1b (downstream). This site has progressively become choked with vegetation, but the wetted area is greater, and water speeds swifter. Significant differences were recorded in the MCI and SQMCI_s scores between sites 2 and 3 in the larger tributary of the Awai Stream which can be attributed to a number of slight changes in taxa abundances, the result of varying habitat condition.

Site 2 had higher MCI and SQMCI_s scores compared to the two sites in the smaller tributary (1a and 1b), and these scores were also higher than their respective medians, which was indicative of improved water quality at this site. Once again, differences in habitat condition were thought to be the main reason for these differences in the macroinvertebrate communities at all sites.

No sites supported any undesirable biological growths.

The results of this survey provide no indication that the discharge of leachate into the unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream was having a significant adverse effect on the macroinvertebrate communities in the tributaries monitored.

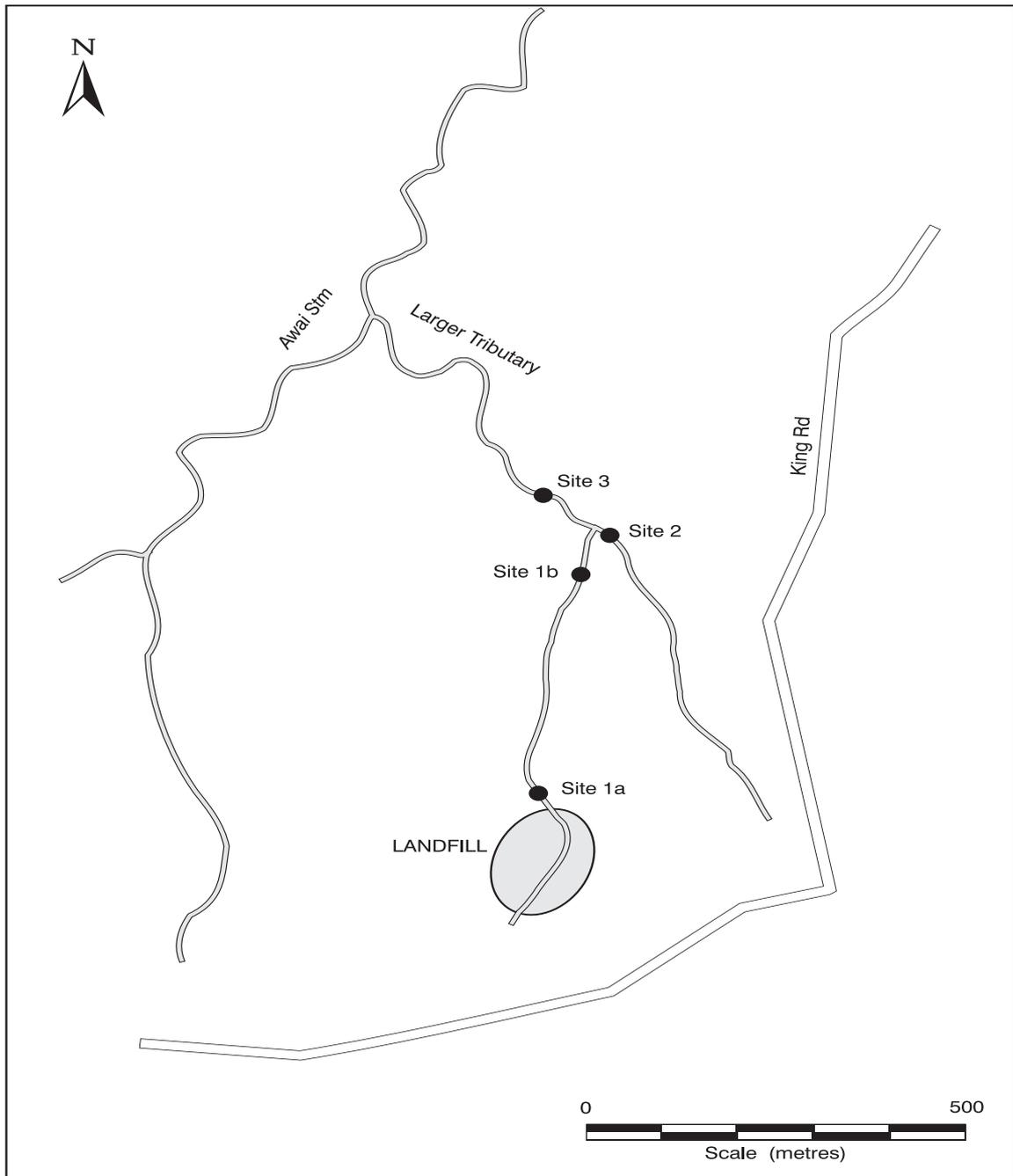


Figure 7 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream related to the Inglewood landfill

3 February 2016

This February 2016 survey did not indicate that leachate from the Inglewood landfill had significantly affected the freshwater macroinvertebrate communities in these tributaries. These communities appear to be determined by the physical habitat conditions, particularly the very slow to still current speeds, soft/fine substrate and changes in macrophyte habitats available to the aquatic invertebrates.

The smaller, landfill drainage tributary sites exhibited improvements in taxa richness and SQMCI_s score in a downstream direction. The differences observed between the sites can probably be attributed to the difference in available habitat, with better

habitat at site 1b (downstream). This site has progressively become choked with vegetation, but the wetted area is greater, and water speeds swifter.

Significant differences were recorded in the MCI and SQMCI_s scores between sites 2 and 3 in the larger tributary of the Awai Stream which can be attributed to a number of slight changes in taxa abundances, the result of varying habitat condition.

Site 2 had a higher MCI score compared to the two sites in the smaller tributary (1a and 1b) and again, differences in habitat condition were thought to be the main reason for these differences in the macroinvertebrate communities at all sites.

No sites supported any undesirable biological growths.

The results of this survey provide no indication that the discharge of leachate into the unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream was having a significant adverse effect on the macroinvertebrate communities in the tributaries monitored.

It is recommended that site access be improved before undertaking the spring 2016 survey.

2.2.4 Air quality

Methane and hydrogen sulphide readings were taken at the landfill entrance gate, and at the culvert at the toe of the landfill, during routine site inspections.

No methane was detected at either monitoring location during the period under review. No objectionable odours were noted on the site or beyond the site boundary during any of the inspections.

2.2.5 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

In the 2015-2016 period, it was not necessary for the Council to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with NPDC's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans in relation to the consent holder's activities at the Inglewood landfill during the monitoring period.

2.3 Discussion

2.3.1 Discussion of site performance

The landfill at Inglewood continues to act as a contingency landfill for NPDC, and is currently actively used for the disposal of cleanfill.

There were no issues raised with regard to site management during the period under review. No unauthorised materials were found in the cleanfill area, the cap was found to be stable and secure, and grazing on the site was well managed. A minor matter was noted regarding a small amount of green waste having been dumped outside the landfill site's gates. This was subsequently removed.

Air monitoring did not detect any methane or hydrogen sulphide emissions at the site, and no dust or odour issues were found.

There were no complaints received by Council in regard to the landfill during the period under review.

2.3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

Water sampling undertaken during the year shows that the tributary immediately below the landfill continues to experience contamination from the landfill, however the levels of these contaminants (with the exception of nitrate/nitrite nitrogen) are significantly attenuated in the landfill tributary 130 m downstream of the landfill.

Chemical monitoring shows that the larger tributary of the Awai Stream (downstream of the landfill tributary) appears to be impacted to only a minor degree, with the levels of contaminants monitored being at an acceptable level in this tributary. However, it is noted that the ammoniacal nitrogen and unionised ammonia concentrations in the landfill tributary at the culvert had appeared to be increasing and the difference in the nitrate/nitrogen concentrations between the upstream and downstream sites in the main tributary also appeared to be increasing. It was thought possible that the condition of the cap as found in the 2014-2015 year, with its increased permeability, may have contributed to the increasing trends seen in the nitrogen containing species in recent years. It was thought that this may resolve with the remediation work undertaken on the cap during the 2014-2015 year.

Monitoring undertaken in the 2015-2016 year indicated that this trend may be starting to level off, however further monitoring would be required to confirm this. Council will continue to monitor the situation under the routine compliance monitoring programme, but may require further investigations if necessary. Biomonitoring surveys undertaken during the 2015-2016 year indicated that there were no significant effects to aquatic life in either of the unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream downstream of the landfill as a result of the discharges from the site.

Based on the results of this monitoring period the presence of the landfill has not been found to have had significant adverse effects on the water quality downstream of the site during the period under review.

The results from inspections and air quality monitoring show that the presence of the landfill is unlikely to have any significant effects in terms of emissions to air.

2.3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of NPDC's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 7, Table 8 and Table 9.

Table 7 Summary of performance for Inglewood contingency landfill leachate consent 3954-2

<i>Purpose: To discharge up to a total of 4,752 m³/day (55 L/s) of leachate and stormwater from the Inglewood municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream, a tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream in the Waiongana Catchment</i>		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Prepare and maintain a site contingency plan	Review of documentation on file in relation to inspection findings. Latest plan dated September 2014	Yes

Purpose: To discharge up to a total of 4,752 m³/day (55 L/s) of leachate and stormwater from the Inglewood municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream, a tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream in the Waiongana Catchment		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
2. Prepare and maintain a landfill operations and management plan	Review of documentation on file in relation to inspection finding. Latest plan dated September 2014	Yes
3. Provide a landfill closure management plan by 1 June 2007	Plan provided, and updated September 2014	Yes
4. Advise of any changes being made to the operation and management plan or closure management plan	Updated plan reviewed and accepted	Yes
5. Monitor ground and surface water on and near the site	Surface water monitoring undertaken by the Council	Yes
6. Maintain all stormwater and collection systems	Inspection	Yes
7. No adverse impact on aquatic life or receiving water quality	Biomonitoring and surface water sampling. Some contaminants increasing in landfill tributary and main tributary. However, no unacceptable changes found during the year under review	Yes
8. Optional review provision re environmental effects	No further opportunities for review	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 8 Summary of performance for Inglewood contingency landfill air discharge consent 4526-2

Purpose: To discharge contaminants, being landfill gas, and odours associated with a landfill, into the air from the Inglewood municipal landfill		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Prepare and maintain a site contingency plan	Review of documentation on file in relation to inspection findings. Latest plan dated September 2014	Yes
2. Prepare and maintain a landfill operations and management plan	Review of documentation on file in relation to inspection finding. Latest plan dated September 2014	Yes
3. Advise of any changes being made to the operation and management plan	Updated plan reviewed and accepted	Yes
4. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Next optional review scheduled in June 2020	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 9 Summary of performance for Inglewood cleanfill and contingency landfill discharge to land consent 4527-3

Purpose: To discharge cleanfill and inert materials onto and into land at the Inglewood municipal landfill, and to discharge municipal refuse onto and into land at the Inglewood municipal landfill when, and only when, it cannot be discharged at the Colson Road municipal landfill		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. The consent holder shall adopt the best practicable option	Site inspection and sampling	Yes
2. The activity shall be undertaken in accordance with the application documents	Site inspection	Yes
3. Notification of changes to landfill management plan	Updated plan reviewed and accepted	Yes
4. Maintain and adhere to management plan	Review of inspection findings in relation to documentation on file	Yes
5. Consent conditions to prevail over management plan	Review of inspection findings in relation to documentation on file	Yes
6. Liquid waste shall not be accepted at the landfill	Inspection – transfer station and cleanfilling activities only	Yes
7. Acceptable cleanfill criteria	Inspection	Yes
8. Unacceptable cleanfill criteria	Inspection	Yes
9. Discharge shall not result in contaminants directly entering water	Inspection and sampling	Yes
10. Install leachate retention structures	Inspection	Yes
11. Install stormwater systems	Inspection	Yes
12. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Next optional review scheduled in June 2020	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		Good
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Overall during the year, NPDC demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance in relation to the Inglewood landfill consents as defined in Section 1.1.5.

Although no significant environmental effects were found due to the operation of the site, the trend of increasing concentrations of nitrogen compounds in the landfill tributary and the main tributary indicate that there may be the potential for environmental effects to emerge in the future. It is anticipated that the recent cap remediation may arrest this trend.

2.3.4 Recommendation from the 2014-2015 Annual Report

In the 2014-2015 Annual Report, it was recommended:

THAT monitoring of discharges from Inglewood landfill in the 2015-2016 year continues at the same level as in 2014-2015.

This recommendation was implemented.

2.3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air and 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 and discharges and their effects under the RMA; and
- to 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 and discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that for 2016-2017, monitoring of the Inglewood landfill be amended from that undertaken in 2015-2016 by the addition of total nitrogen analysis to the discharge and receiving water sampling.

2.4 Recommendation

THAT monitoring of discharges from Inglewood landfill in the 2016-2017 year be amended from that undertaken in 2015-2016 by the addition of total nitrogen analysis to the discharge and receiving water sampling.

3. Marfell Park landfill

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Site description

The landfill at Marfell closed in 1982. Due to effects caused by leachate discharging into the Mangaotuku Stream, NPDC applied for consent to discharge leachate in 1996. In 1998 NPDC captured the main leachate flow and directed it to the trade waste system. Various investigations have taken place at the site during previous monitoring periods, some undertaken by Council and others by consultants. The findings of these investigations are in earlier Council Annual Reports and other documents listed in the bibliography.

The discharge from the site now is predominantly stormwater. Presently the site is a park with sports field, playground and a BMX track.



Figure 8 An aerial view showing former landfill at Marfell Park and sampling sites

3.1.2 Water discharge permit

NPDC held resource consent **4902-1** to cover the discharge of up to 2 L/s of leachate from the Marfell former landfill site via groundwater into the Mangaotuku Stream in the Huatoki catchment. This permit was issued by the Council on 26 January 1996 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It expired on 1 June 2014, however as a renewal application had been submitted to Council early, NPDC continued to operate the site under the conditions of the expired consent as provided for in Section 124 of the RMA. A new consent was granted on 21 October 2014.

The NPDC now holds resource consent **4902-2** to cover the discharge leachate from the Marfell former landfill site via groundwater into the Mangaotuku Stream. This permit was issued by the Council on 21 October 2014 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2032.

Resource consent 4902-2 contains six conditions:

Condition 1 requires the adoption of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any adverse effect on the environment associated with the discharge of leachate from the site.

Condition 2 requires that the cap and stormwater structures be maintained to prevent ponding, to minimise stormwater infiltration, ensure effective stormwater diversion and drainage, and prevent iron oxide deposits at the outfall structure from entering the stream.

Condition 3 requires the provision of a management plan within three months of the granting of the consent (by 21 January 2015) that is to be certified by the Council. This is to cover general site management practices to ensure consent compliance and specifically addresses the way in which compliance with the matters contained in condition 2 will be achieved.

Condition 4 places limits on the concentration of ammoniacal nitrogen (0.9 g/m^3), unionised ammonia (0.025 g/m^3), pH range (6-9) and dissolved zinc (0.05 g/m^3) in the stream downstream of the discharge.

Condition 5 prohibits a range of specific effects in the stream downstream of the discharge.

Condition 6 provides for a review of the conditions of the consent in June 2020 and/or in June 2026.

3.2 Results

The closed landfill at Marfell is monitored on a biennial basis. Monitoring is next scheduled for the 2016-2017 year. No inspections or discharge or receiving water sampling were undertaken during the year under review.

3.2.1 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

In the 2015-2016 period, it was not necessary for the Council to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with NPDC's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans in relation to the consent holders activities at the Marfell landfill during the monitoring period.

3.3 Discussion

3.3.1 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of NPDC's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 10.

Table 10 Summary of performance for Marfell Park closed landfill leachate consent 4902 -2

Purpose: To discharge leachate from the Marfell Park former landfill site via groundwater into the Mangaotuku Stream		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Adopt best practice to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment	Not monitored during period this period	Not assessed
2. Maintain cap and drains on site to minimise ponding, stormwater infiltration, ensure stormwater diversion and drainage, and prevent iron oxide on outlet structure entering the stream	Not monitored during period this period	Not assessed
3. Site to be operated in accordance with management plan that details how the site will be managed to ensure consent compliance. Plan required by 21 January 2014	Review of Council records. Plan received 11 March 2015	N/A
4. The discharge shall not cause given parameter concentrations in the Mangaotuku Stream to be outside prescribed limits	Not monitored during period this period	Not assessed
5. Prohibits certain effects in the stream beyond reasonable mixing	Not monitored during period this period	Not assessed
6. Provision of review of consent conditions	Next opportunity of review June 2020	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		N/A
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		N/A

N/A = not applicable

During the year, the environmental performance and administrative performance of NPDC was not assessed in relation to their Marfell landfill resource consent.

3.3.2 Recommendation from the 2014-2015 Annual Report

In the 2014-2015 Annual Report, it was recommended:

THAT the biennial monitoring of discharges at the Marfell landfill continue unchanged and that the programme next be implemented in the 2016-2017 period.

This recommendation was implemented.

3.3.3 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air and 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 and discharges and their effects under the RMA; and
- to 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 and discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that the biennial monitoring of discharges at the Marfell landfill continue unchanged with the programme next being implemented in 2016-2017.

3.4 Recommendation

THAT the biennial monitoring of discharges at the Marfell landfill continue unchanged and that the programme next be implemented in the 2016-2017 period.

4. Okato landfill

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Site description

The Okato landfill stopped accepting general waste for discharge to land in 2005. The landfill was capped and the site became a transfer station. The NPDC also continued to exercise consent 4529-3 (discharge of contaminants to land) for the purpose of accepting and discharging green waste and cleanfill. All other refuse accepted at the site is transferred to New Plymouth for disposal or recycling. The site is also designated as a contingency landfill in the event that Colson Road landfill and/or Inglewood landfill became unusable or inaccessible.

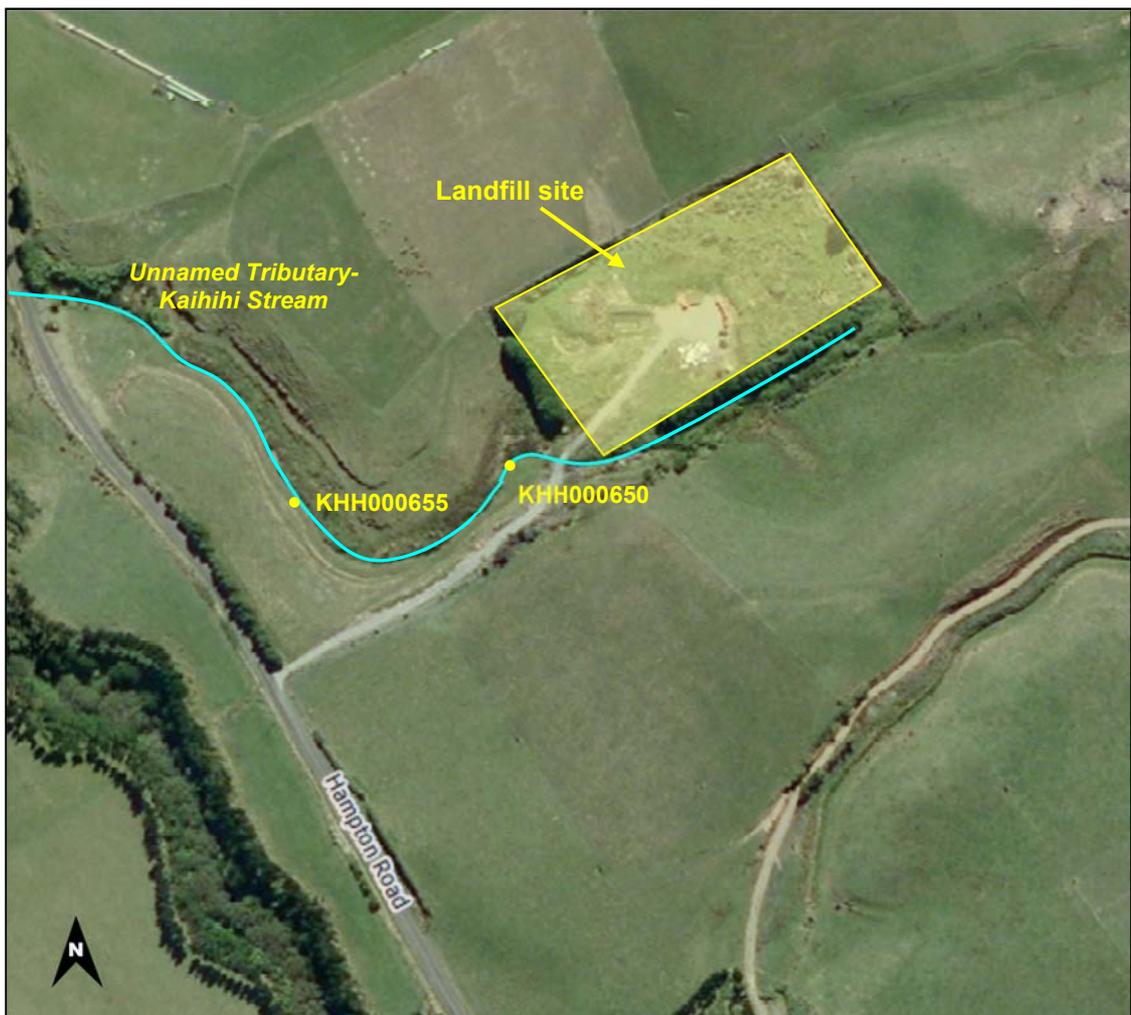


Figure 9 Okato landfill and sampling sites

4.1.2 Resource consents

4.1.2.1 Water discharge permit

NPDC holds resource consent **3860-3** to discharge stormwater and leachate from the Okato municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Kaihihi Stream. This permit was issued by the Council on 13 September 2013 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It expires on 1 June 2031.

It has seven conditions:

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

Condition 2 requires the consent holder to adhere to the landfill management plan as supplied with the application.

Conditions 3 and 4 deal with the management of stormwater and leachate from the closed filling areas.

Condition 5 requires that leachate from any contingency filling be directed to a lined holding pond for removal from the site.

Condition 6 is a lapse condition.

Condition 7 is a review condition.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I of this report.

4.1.2.2 Air discharge permit

The NPDC holds air discharge permit **4528-3** to discharge emissions into the air from the contingency discharge of solid contaminants at the Okato municipal landfill. This permit was issued by the Council on 13 September 2013 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2031. It has six conditions:

Condition 1 specifies that discharge of refuse only occur on a contingency basis as set out in the management plan supplied with the application.

Condition 2 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option.

Condition 3 prohibits objectionable and offensive odours beyond the boundary.

Condition 4 sets out limits for PM₁₀ and dust deposition.

Condition 5 is a lapse condition.

Condition 6 contains provisions for review of the conditions of the consent.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I.

4.1.2.3 Discharge of wastes to land

NPDC holds discharge permit **4529-3** to discharge cleanfill and green waste to land and to discharge general refuse on a contingency basis to land at the Okato landfill. This permit was issued by the Council on 9 September 2013 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It will expire on 1 June 2031. It has 15 conditions:

Condition 1 specifies that contaminants may only be discharged within the footprint of the existing landfill.

Condition 2 requires the consent holder adopt the best practicable option.

Condition 3 requires the consent holder to maintain stormwater and diversion drains.

Condition 4 requires that the existing landfill cap not be disturbed.

Condition 5 requires any areas used for the discharge of cleanfill and green waste be re-vegetated and reinstated prior to expiry or surrender of the consent.

Condition 6 requires that cleanfill be discharged as set out in the landfill management plan as supplied with the application.

Conditions 7, 8 and 9 deal with what materials are acceptable as cleanfill.

Condition 10 requires that green waste be discharged as set out in the landfill management plan as supplied with the application.

Condition 11 states that general refuse shall only be discharged as set out in the landfill management plan as supplied with the application.

Condition 12 deals with notification requirements.

Condition 13 deals with site reinstatement.

Condition 14 is a lapse condition.

Condition 15 is a review condition.

A copy of this consent is included in Appendix I.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Inspections

22 October 2015

The site inspection was conducted in overcast, showery conditions with a gusty westerly wind.

The cap was found to be intact, being either well vegetated or metalled. There were no signs of ponding, slumping or erosion. The batters were well vegetated and stable, with no evidence of slumping or erosion. No exposed refuse was noted.

The stormwater and leachate drains were clear of obstructions. There was some minor ponding noticeable in the drains following recent heavy showers. It was observed that the stormwater drains on the cap appeared to have been recently sprayed and cleared of gorse. The stormwater/leachate system was not discharging at the time of inspection.

The site was found to be well fenced and secure, with clear and tidy signage visible. The transfer station area was tidy and no unauthorised material was noted in the cleanfill or green waste areas.

No odour or dust issues were noted.

NPDC was informed that sampling was undertaken in the tributary downstream of the site and it was noted that (as usual) some iron oxide was present in the tributary.

27 April 2016

The site was inspected in overcast conditions with a light north westerly breeze.

The cap was again found to be intact and well grassed. There was no cracking, ponding or erosion observed. The batters were also well grassed and stable, with no slumping, erosion, or exposed refuse found.

The stormwater drains were dry, clear of obstructions and well grassed and the stormwater drains on the cap were clear of gorse. The stormwater/leachate system was dry and not discharging at the time of inspection.

The site was secure, with clear signage and permanent fencing in place. The transfer station area was tidy. Recently deposited green waste and cleanfill was observed on site, and it was noted that there was no unauthorised material observed in these areas. There were no odour or dust issues found. It was noted that the contracted operator arrived on site at the end of the inspection.

NPDC was informed that sampling was scheduled to be undertaken in the tributary downstream of the site. However, the stormwater drains and downstream wetland were dry, so no samples could be collected on this occasion.

1 June 2016

The site was inspected in fine weather with light south easterly winds. No odour or dust issues were found. The site was secure and signage was present. The transfer station appeared to be tidy and well managed. The landfill cap appeared to be intact and no obvious damage was observed. The site drains were clear and well grassed. Samples were taken from sites KHH000650 and KHH000655 (TRC161853 and TRC161854). The tributary level was very low, making sampling difficult. The sample collected from KHH000655 (the site 200 m downstream) was turbid as it was difficult to sample without sediment entering the bottle. The actual flow in the tributary was observed to be relatively clear with no odour.

4.2.2 Results of surface water sampling

Samples were collected from the tributary of the Kaihihi Stream below the landfill on two occasions, 22 October 2015 and 1 June 2016.

Figure 9 shows the Okato sampling sites and Table 11 and Table 12 present the water quality results.

Table 11 Chemical analysis of a tributary of the Kaihihi Stream, sampled on 22 October 2015

Parameter	Units	KHH000650 30 m d/s of landfill	KHH000655 200 m d/s of landfill
Alkalinity	g/m ³ CaCO ₃	109	96
Conductivity	mS/m	35.4	31.6
Dissolved reactive phosphorus	g/m ³ -P	<0.003	<0.003
Acid soluble iron	g/m ³	1.04	0.18
Unionised ammonia	g/m ³ -N	0.0008	0.00004
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	0.31	<0.003
Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	1.72	1.08
pH	pH	6.9	7.6
Temperature	Deg C	14.8	14.7
Dissolved zinc	g/m ³	0.006	<0.005

Table 12 Chemical analysis of a tributary of the Kaihihi Stream, sampled on 1 June 2016

Parameter	Units	KHH000650 30 m d/s of landfill	KHH000655 200 m d/s of landfill
Alkalinity	g/m ³ CaCO ₃	73	67
Conductivity	mS/m	31.3	31.3
Dissolved reactive phosphorus	g/m ³ -P	<0.003	<0.003
Acid soluble iron	g/m ³	2.86	63.3
Unionised ammonia	g/m ³ -N	0.00019	0.00005
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	0.051	0.017
Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen	g/m ³ -N	0.58	0.02
pH	pH	7.2	7.1
Temperature	°C	10.4	11
Dissolved zinc	g/m ³	<0.005	<0.005

As with previous monitoring results there is no indication that the presence of the landfill is having any significant adverse effects on the environment. The levels of ammonia and other indicator contaminants immediately below the landfilled area are low, indicating only low levels of leachate contamination. An elevated level of iron was found at the downstream site on 1 June 2016, however the receiving water sites are both very swampy and samples are easily contaminated with sediments, as was noted at the downstream site during this sampling survey, which may contribute to these higher levels.

Based on the results of the period under review, and from previous monitoring periods, the presence of the closed landfill is not likely to be having a significant adverse effect on the receiving environment.

4.2.3 Air quality

Objectionable odour and dust nuisance were checked for during each inspection during the monitoring period. There were no problems in regard to dust or odour during any of the inspections for the period under review.

4.2.4 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

In the 2015-2016 period, it was not necessary for the Council to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with NPDC's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans in relation to the consent holder's activities at the Okato landfill during the monitoring period.

4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 Discussion of site performance

Overall, the site was well managed during the 2015-2016 period. There were no issues in regards to cap condition. It was considered that there was generally good control over the site and its operation during the monitoring period.

4.3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

The landfill will carry on generating leachate, some of which will continue to enter the stream below the site via ground and spring water.

Physicochemical analysis of the unnamed tributary indicates that the landfill is having no significant adverse effect on water quality at this site.

There were no issues of concern during the 2015-2016 monitoring period. No odour or dust problems were observed at or beyond the boundary of the site.

4.3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of NPDC's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 13, Table 14, and Table 15.

Table 13 Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill leachate consent 3860-3

Purpose: To discharge stormwater and leachate from the Okato municipal landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Kaihihi Stream		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Best practicable option	Site inspection	Yes
2. Discharges in accordance with management plan	Site inspection	Yes
3. Install and maintain stormwater diversion drains	Site inspection	Yes
4. Surface runoff and leachate directed to leachate stormwater/collection drain	Site inspection	Yes
5. All leachate generated from a contingency discharge to be directed to a lined pit and removed from site	No contingency discharge during monitoring period	N/A
6. Consent lapse September 2018	N/A	N/A
7. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Next review opportunity June 2019	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 14 Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill air discharge consent 4528-3

Purpose: To discharge emissions into the air from the contingency discharge of solid contaminants at the Okato municipal landfill		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Discharge to occur on contingency basis only	Consent not exercised	N/A
2. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Consent not exercised	N/A
3. Discharge not to result in offensive or objectionable odours at or beyond the boundary	Consent not exercised	N/A
4. Limits on deposited and suspended dust	Consent not exercised	N/A
5. Lapse of consent	N/A	N/A
6. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Next optional review scheduled in June 2019	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		N/A
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		N/A

N/A = not applicable

Table 15 Summary of performance for Okato contingency landfill discharge to land consent 4529-3

Purpose: To discharge cleanfill and green waste to land and to discharge general refuse on a contingency basis to land		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Discharges to occur within existing landfill footprint	Site inspection and review of records	Yes
2. Best practicable option to prevent or minimise environmental effects	Site inspection	Yes
3. Consent holder to install stormwater diversion drains	Site inspection	Yes
4. Existing landfill cap to remain undisturbed	Site inspection	Yes
5. Areas used for discharge of cleanfill and green waste to be stabilised and revegetated prior to surrender or expiry	Consent still being exercised	N/A
6. Cleanfill may be discharged at any time in accordance with Management Plan	Site inspection and review of records	Yes
7. Allowable cleanfill materials	Site inspection	Yes
8. Materials not to be discharged	Site inspection	Yes

Purpose: To discharge cleanfill and green waste to land and to discharge general refuse on a contingency basis to land		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
9. Written approval required where uncertainty of acceptability of waste	Site inspection	Yes
10. Greenwaste may be discharged at any time in accordance with Management Plan	Site inspection	Yes
11. Discharge of general refuse on a contingency basis only	No discharge to landfill during the monitoring period	N/A
12. Notification of contingency discharge	No discharge to landfill during the monitoring period	N/A
13. Contingency discharge to be capped and revegetated	No discharge to landfill during the monitoring period	N/A
14. Consent lapse September 2018	N/A	N/A
15. Optional review of consent	Next optional review scheduled in June 2019	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

During the year, NPDC demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance in relation to the Okato landfill resource consents as defined in Section 1.1.5.

4.3.4 Recommendations from the 2014-2015 Annual Report

In the 2014-2015 Annual Report, it was recommended:

THAT monitoring of discharges from the Okato landfill in the 2015-2016 year continues at the same level as in 2014-2015.

This recommendation was implemented.

4.3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2016-2017

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air and 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 and discharges and their effects under the RMA; and
- to 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 and discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that for 2016-2017, the programme remained unchanged.

4.4 Recommendation

THAT monitoring of discharges from the Okato landfill in the 2016-2017 year continues at the same level as in 2015-2016.

5. Summary of recommendations

The following is a summary of the recommendations for each landfill as presented in the individual sections of this report.

1. THAT monitoring of discharges from Inglewood landfill in the 2016-2017 year be amended from that undertaken in 2015-2016 by the addition of total nitrogen analysis to the discharge and receiving water sampling.
2. THAT the biennial monitoring of discharges at the Marfell landfill continue unchanged and that the programme next be implemented in the 2016-2017 period.
3. THAT monitoring of discharges from the Okato landfill in the 2016-2017 year continues at the same level as in 2015-2016.

Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms that may have been 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.
Conductivity	Conductivity, an indication of the level of dissolved salts in a sample, usually measured at 20°C and expressed in mS/m.
DO	Dissolved oxygen.
DRP	Dissolved reactive phosphorus.
g/m ³	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 and events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
IR	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.
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 ₄	Ammonium, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NH ₃	Unionised ammonia, 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.
PM ₁₀	Relatively fine airborne particles (less than 10 micrometre diameter).
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 including all subsequent amendments.
SS	Suspended solids.
SQMCI	Semi quantitative macroinvertebrate community index.
Temp	Temperature, measured in °C (degrees Celsius).
Turbidity	Turbidity, expressed in NTU.
UI	Unauthorised Incident.
Zn*	Zinc.

*An abbreviation for a metal or other analyte may be followed by the letters 'As', to denote the amount of metal recoverable in acidic conditions. This is taken as indicating the total amount of metal that might be solubilised under extreme environmental conditions. The abbreviation may alternatively be followed by the letter 'D', denoting the amount of the metal present in dissolved form rather than in particulate or solid form.

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

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Appendix I

Resource consents held by NPDC

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

Inglewood

Discharge 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

Consent Granted 18 February 2002
Date:

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge up to a total of 4,752 cubic metres/day (55 litres/second) of leachate and stormwater from the Inglewood Municipal Landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream, a tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream in the Waiongana Catchment at or about GR: Q19:124-296

Expiry Date: 1 June 2020

Review Date(s): June 2008, June 2014

Site Location: Inglewood Municipal Landfill, 277 King Road, Inglewood

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 16116 Blk XI Paritutu SD

Catchment: Waiongana

Tributary: Mangaoraka
Awai

Consent 3954-2

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. Within three months of granting of this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a site contingency plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, outlining measures and procedures undertaken to prevent spillage or accidental discharge of contaminants and procedures carried out should such a spillage or discharge occur. This shall be reviewed by the Council on an annual basis.
2. Within three months of granting of this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a landfill operations and management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall adhere to such a plan in so far as they concern the exercise of this consent at all times.
3. The consent holder shall provide a landfill closure management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, by 1 June 2007 or 3 months prior to the closure of the landfill should this occur before 1 June 2007; such plan to address site security, litter control, vegetation cover, stormwater diversion, leachate control, site contouring, and cover placement and compaction, in addition to any other matters relevant to the exercise of this consent.
4. The consent holder shall advise the Taranaki Regional Council one month prior to any changes being made to the operation and management plan or landfill closure management plan. Should the Taranaki Regional Council wish to review either of these plans, one month's notice shall be provided to the consent holder.
5. The monitoring of the site and adjacent surface and groundwaters shall be to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council
6. The leachate and stormwater diversion, collection, treatment and discharge systems shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council
7. Any discharge shall not, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, cause nor be likely to cause any significant adverse effects on aquatic life or receiving water quality.

Consent 3954-2

8. 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 2008 and/or June 2014, 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 18 February 2002

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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: New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
NEW PLYMOUTH 4600

Consent Granted
Date: 20 March 2007

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge contaminants, being landfill gas, and odours
associated with a landfill, into the air from the Inglewood
Municipal Landfill at or about GR: Q19:120-295

Expiry Date: 1 June 2026

Review Date(s): June 2014, June 2020

Site Location: Inglewood Municipal Landfill, 277 King Road, Inglewood

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 16116 Blk XI Paritutu SD

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 generally in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of applications 4475, 1611 and 94/118. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of applications 4475, 1611 and 94/118 and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
- 3. The consent holder shall advise the Taranaki Regional Council one month prior to any changes being made to the landfill management plan, and/or landfill closure management plan. Should the Taranaki Regional Council wish to review any of these plans, one month's notice shall be provided to the consent holder.
- 4. The consent holder shall maintain the landfill management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall adhere to such a plan in so far as it concerns the exercise of this consent at all times.
- 5. In case of any contradiction between the landfill management plan and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
- 6. The discharge of contaminants into the air from the landfill operation shall not result in any of the following - offensive or objectionable odours; offensive or objectionable dust; or dangerous or noxious ambient concentrations of any airborne contaminant - as determined by at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council, at or beyond the boundary of the site.
- 7. No material is to be burnt at the landfill site.

Consent 4526-3

8. The discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to any significant adverse ecological effects on any ecosystem, including but not limited to, habitats, plants, animals, microflora and microfauna.
9. The consent holder shall keep a record of any complaints received relating to discharges to air with respect to the landfill activity. The complaints record shall include the following where possible:
 - a) name and address of complainant;
 - b) nature of complaint;
 - c) date and time of the complaint and alleged event;
 - d) weather conditions at the time of the event; and
 - e) any action taken in response to the complaint.
10. 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 2014 and/or June 2020, 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 20 March 2007

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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: New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
NEW PLYMOUTH 4600

Consent Granted
Date: 20 March 2007

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge cleanfill and inert materials onto and into land at the Inglewood Municipal Landfill at or about GR: Q19:120-295, and to discharge municipal refuse onto and into land at the Inglewood Municipal Landfill when, and only when, it cannot be discharged at the Colson Road Municipal Landfill

Expiry Date: 1 June 2026

Review Date(s): June 2014, June 2020

Site Location: Inglewood Municipal Landfill, 277 King Road, Inglewood

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 16116 Blk XI Paritutu SD

Catchment: Waiongana

Tributary: Awai
Mangaoraka

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 generally in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of applications 4476, 1613 and 94/119. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of applications 4476, 1613 and 94/119 and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. The consent holder shall advise the Taranaki Regional Council one month prior to any changes being made to the landfill management plan, and/or landfill closure management plan. Should the Taranaki Regional Council wish to review any of these plans, one month's notice shall be provided to the consent holder.
4. The consent holder shall maintain the landfill management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall adhere to such a plan in so far as it concerns the exercise of this consent at all times.
5. In case of any contradiction between the landfill management plan and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
6. Waste, including liquid and sludges, with a solids content of 20% or less, shall not be accepted at the landfill.
7. For the purposes of this consent, "clean fill and inert materials" are defined as materials consisting of any solid concrete, cement or cement wastes, bricks, mortar, tiles (clay, ceramic or concrete), non-tanalised timber, porcelain, glass, gravels, boulders, shingles, fibreglass, plastics, sand, soils and clays, and/or tree stumps and roots, whether singly or in combination or mixture, or any other material that when placed onto and into land will not render that land or any vegetation grown on that land toxic to vegetation or animals consuming vegetation.

Consent 4527-3

8. For the purposes of this consent, “clean fill and inert materials” excludes: food wastes, paper and cardboard, grass clippings, vegetative wastes other than tree stumps and roots, textiles, steel, galvanised metals, construction materials containing paint or fillers or sealers or their containers, oils or greases or any liquids or sludges or their containers, any industrial process by-products other than as permitted under condition 7, any poisons or solvents or their containers, batteries, general domestic refuse not otherwise described, or any wastes with the potential to render land or any vegetation grown on the land toxic to vegetation or to animals consuming such vegetation.
9. The discharge to land shall not result in any contaminant entering surface water.
10. Silt and leachate retention structures shall be installed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
11. The consent holder shall install and maintain stormwater diversion drains to minimise stormwater movement across, or ponding on the site, to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
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 2014 and/or June 2020, 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 20 March 2007

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

Director-Resource Management

Marfell Park

Discharge 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: 21 October 2014

Commencement Date: 21 October 2014

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge leachate from the Marfell Park former landfill
site via groundwater into the Mangaotuku Stream

Expiry Date: 01 June 2032

Review Date(s): June 2020, June 2026

Site Location: Marfell Park, Grenville Street, New Plymouth

Legal Description: Lot 4 DP 9485 (Discharge point)
Lot 1 DP 9295 Lot 1 DP 15742 (Discharge source)

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1690275E-5674646N

Catchment: Huatoki

Tributary: Mangaotuku

*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 landfill cap and associated stormwater structures shall be maintained in a manner that;
 - a) Minimises ponding to prevent stormwater infiltration into the filled area;
 - b) Ensures stormwater is adequately diverted and/or drained away from the land fill cap; and
 - c) Ensures iron oxide deposits on the outfall structure do not directly enter the Mangaotuku Stream.
3. The site shall be operated in accordance with a 'Management Plan' prepared by the consent holder within 3 months of granting of this consent, and approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, acting in a certification capacity. The plan shall detail how the site will be managed to achieve compliance with the conditions of this consent and shall include but not be limited to:
 - a) maintenance of the landfill cap to minimise ponding and stormwater infiltration;
 - b) maintenance and management of the stormwater drains on and around the landfill to ensure stormwater is adequately diverted and/or drained away from the land fill cap; and
 - c) monitoring and management of iron oxide deposits on the outfall structure to ensure iron oxide deposits do not enter the water way.
4. After reasonable mixing the receiving waters downstream of the discharge shall meet the following standards;
 - a) unionised ammonia concentration less than 0.025 g/m³;
 - b) ammoniacal nitrogen level concentration less than 0.9 g/m³;
 - c) pH within the range of 6.0 and 9.0; and
 - d) dissolved zinc concentration less than or equal to 0.05 g/m³.
5. The discharge shall not cause the following effects in the receiving waters after reasonable mixing;
 - 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) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
 - e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

Consent 4902-2.0

6. 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 21 October 2014

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

Okato

Discharge 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: 13 September 2013

Commencement Date: 13 September 2013

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge stormwater and leachate from the Okato
Municipal Landfill into an unnamed tributary of the Kaihihi
Stream

Expiry Date: 1 June 2031

Review Date(s): June 2019, June 2025

Site Location: Okato Municipal Landfill, Hampton Road, Okato

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 13150 Blk I Cape SD (Discharge site)

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1674817E-5663981N

Catchment: Kaihihi

*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

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. All discharges permitted under this consent shall be undertaken in accordance with the "Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management Plan" as supplied with the application (5831).
3. The consent holder shall install and maintain all stormwater diversion drains to minimise stormwater entering or flowing across the discharge area.
4. During routine operations all surface runoff and leachate from the previously filled area of the landfill shall be directed to the leachate stormwater/ collection drain.
5. During and after any contingency discharge of general refuse (as permitted under consent 4529-2), all leachate generated from the new fill shall be directed to a lined pond and removed from the site.
6. This consent shall lapse on 30 September 2018, 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.
7. 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 2019 and/ or June 2025 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 13 September 2013

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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: New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
NEW PLYMOUTH 4342

Decision Date: 13 September 2013

Commencement Date: 13 September 2013

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge emissions into the air from the contingency
discharge of solid contaminants at the Okato Municipal
Landfill

Expiry Date: 1 June 2031

Review Date(s): June 2019, June 2025

Site Location: Okato Municipal Landfill, Hampton Road, Okato

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 13150 Blk I Wairau SD (Discharge source & site)

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1674817E-5663981N

*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

1. The discharge of general refuse at the site shall only occur on a contingency basis and in accordance with the Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management Plan as submitted with application 5832.
2. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option or options [as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991] to prevent or minimise any actual or potential effect on the environment arising from any discharge at the site.
3. That the discharge of contaminants into the air shall not result in offensive or objectionable odours or dangerous or noxious ambient concentrations of any airborne contaminant that, in the opinion of at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council, is offensive or objectionable at or beyond the boundary of the site.
4. The discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to suspended or deposited dust at or beyond the boundary of the site that is offensive or objectionable. For the purpose of this condition, discharges in excess of the following limits are deemed to be offensive or objectionable:
 - a) dust deposition rate 0.13 g/m²/day; and/or
 - b) suspended dust level 3 mg/m³.
5. That this consent shall lapse on 1 June 2031, 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.
6. 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 2019 and or June 2025, 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 13 September 2013

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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: New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
NEW PLYMOUTH 4342

Decision Date: 13 September 2013

Commencement Date: 13 September 2013

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge cleanfill and greenwaste to land and to
discharge general refuse on a contingency basis to land

Expiry Date: 1 June 2031

Review Date(s): June 2019, June 2025

Site Location: Okato Municipal Landfill, Hampton Road, Okato

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 13150 Blk I Wairau SD (Discharge source & site)

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1674817E-5663981N

Catchment: Kaihihi

*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

1. All discharges permitted by this consent shall occur within the existing landfill footprint as shown by the red dotted line on the attached plan (appendix 1).
2. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option or options [as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991] to prevent or minimise any actual or potential effect on the environment arising from any discharge at the site.
3. The consent holder shall install and maintain stormwater diversion drains to minimise stormwater entering or flowing across the discharge area.
4. The existing landfill cap shall at all times be maintained in its existing condition and shall not be disturbed during any activities permitted by this consent.
5. Prior to the expiry or surrender of this consent all areas used to discharge greenwaste and/or cleanfill shall be stabilised and re-vegetated to minimise erosion, sedimentation and stormwater infiltration.

Cleanfill

6. Cleanfill as defined by special conditions seven and eight may be discharged at any time and shall be undertaken in accordance with the Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management Plan as submitted with application 5833.
7. The contaminants to be discharged shall be limited to cleanfill and/or inert materials. For the purposes of this condition, "clean fill and inert materials" are defined as materials consisting of any concrete, cement or cement wastes, bricks, mortar, tiles [clay, ceramic or concrete], non-tanalised timber, porcelain, glass, gravels, boulders, shingles, fibreglass, plastics, sand, soils and clays, and/or tree stumps and roots, whether singly or in combination or mixture, or any other material [subject to condition 8] that when placed onto and into land will not render that land or any vegetation grown on that land toxic to vegetation or animals consuming vegetation.
8. The discharge of the following contaminants shall not occur: food wastes, paper and cardboard, grass clippings, garden wastes including but not limited to wastes containing foliage or other vegetation [other than tree stumps and roots as permitted under condition 7], textiles, steel, galvanised metals, construction materials containing paint or fillers or sealers or their containers, oils or greases or any liquids or sludges or their containers, any industrial process by-products other than as permitted under condition 7, any poisons or solvents or their containers, batteries, general domestic refuse not otherwise described, or any wastes with the potential to render land or any vegetation grown on the land toxic to vegetation or to animals consuming such vegetation.

Consent 4529-3

9. If the consent holder is uncertain as to the acceptability or not of a certain material the consent holder shall obtain written approval from the Consents Manager, Taranaki Regional Council, prior to its discharge.

Greenwaste

10. Green waste may be discharged at any time and shall be undertaken in accordance with the Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management Plan as submitted with application 5833.

Contingency Landfilling

11. The discharge of general refuse at the site shall only occur on a contingency basis and in accordance with the Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management Plan as submitted with application 5833.
12. In the event that contingency filling is required, the consent holder shall notify Council within 48 hours via email at worksnotification@trc.govt.nz . The notification shall include, reasons for using the site, likely volume of material to be discharged and likely duration of the contingency discharge.
13. Upon completion of any contingency discharge, the discharged refuse shall be capped and re-vegetated to the specifications set out in section 4.10.3 of the Okato Landfill Contingency Disposal Management plan as submitted with application 5833.
14. This consent shall lapse on 30 September 2018, 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
15. 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 2019 and or June 2025, 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 13 September 2013

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

Director-Resource Management

Appendix 1



Figure 1 Aerial plan of Okato landfill site

Appendix II
Biomonitoring reports

To Job Manager, Lorraine Smith
 From Scientific Officers, Darin Sutherland and Brooke Thomas
 Report No BT045
 Document No 1625369
 Date 14 January 2016

Biomonitoring of two unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream, below the Inglewood landfill, October 2015

Introduction

This was the first biological survey undertaken of the two surveys scheduled for the 2015-2016 monitoring year in two tributaries of the Awai Stream in relation to the Inglewood landfill. Leachate from the landfill discharges to a small tributary, which then joins a larger tributary approximately 450m below the face of the landfill. Results of biological surveys performed in the tributaries since the 2001-2002 monitoring year are discussed in the series of reports referenced at the end of this report.

Methods

This survey was undertaken on 13 October 2015 at four sites on the two tributaries of the Awai Stream; sites 1(a) and 1 (b) were located in the smaller tributary and sites 2 and 3 on the larger tributary (Figure 1).

A combination of the standard 400 ml 'kick-sampling' and 'sweep-net' sampling techniques was used to collect streambed macroinvertebrates. The 'kick-sampling' technique is very similar to Protocol C1 (hard-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol for macroinvertebrate samples in wadeable streams (Stark *et al*, 2001). The 'sweep-net' sampling technique was very similar to Protocol C2 (soft-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol of the New Zealand Macroinvertebrate Working Group (NZMWG).

Table 1 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream

Site	Site code	Location
1a	AWY000105	Smaller tributary, 100 metres below tip face
1b	AWY000107	Smaller tributary, 400 metres below tip face
2	AWY000100	Larger tributary, above confluence with small tributary
3	AWY000115	Larger tributary, 80 metres below confluence with small tributary

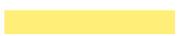
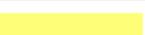
Samples were preserved with Kahle's Fluid for later sorting and identification under a stereomicroscope using protocol P1 of NZMWG protocols for sampling macroinvertebrates in wadeable streams (Stark *et al*. 2001). Macroinvertebrate taxa found in each sample were recorded as:

R (rare)	= less than 5 individuals;
C (common)	= 5-19 individuals;
A (abundant)	= estimated 20-99 individuals;
VA (very abundant)	= estimated 100-499 individuals;
XA (extremely abundant)	= estimated 500 individuals or more.

Stark (1985) developed a scoring system for macroinvertebrate taxa according to their sensitivity to organic pollution in stony New Zealand streams (MCI). Highly 'sensitive' taxa were assigned the highest scores of 9 or 10, while the most 'tolerant' forms scored 1 and 0.1 in hard bottomed and soft bottomed streams respectively. The sensitivity scores for certain taxa found in hard bottomed streams have been modified in accordance with Taranaki experience. After extensive use of the MCI, categories were assigned to the sensitivity scores, to clarify their 'relative' sensitivity e.g. taxa that scored between 1 and 4 inclusive are considered tolerant (see Table 3).

By averaging the scores obtained from a list of taxa taken from one site and multiplying by a scaling factor of 20, a Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) value was obtained. The MCI is a measure of the overall sensitivity of macroinvertebrate communities to the effects of organic pollution. More 'sensitive' communities inhabit less polluted waterways.

A gradation of biological water quality conditions based upon MCI ranges has been adapted for Taranaki streams and rivers from Stark's classification (Stark, 1985 and Boothroyd & Stark, 2000). This is as follows:

Grading	HBMCI	Code
Excellent	>140	
Very Good	120-140	
Good	100-119	
Fair	80-99	
Poor	60-79	
Very Poor	<60	

A semi-quantitative MCI value (SQMCI_s) has also been calculated for the taxa present at each site by multiplying each taxon score by a loading factor (related to its abundance), totalling these products, and dividing by the sum of the loading factors (Stark 1998 and 1999). The loading factors were 1 for rare (R), 5 for common (C), 20 for abundant (A), 100 for very abundant (VA) and 500 for extremely abundant (XA). Unlike the MCI, the SQMCI_s is not multiplied by a scaling factor of 20, so that its corresponding range of values is 20x lower.

Sub-samples of algal and detrital material taken from the macroinvertebrate samples were scanned under 40-400x magnification to determine the presence or absence of any mats, plumes or dense growths of bacteria, fungi or protozoa ('undesirable biological growths') at a microscopic level. The presence of these organisms is an indicator of organic enrichment within a stream.

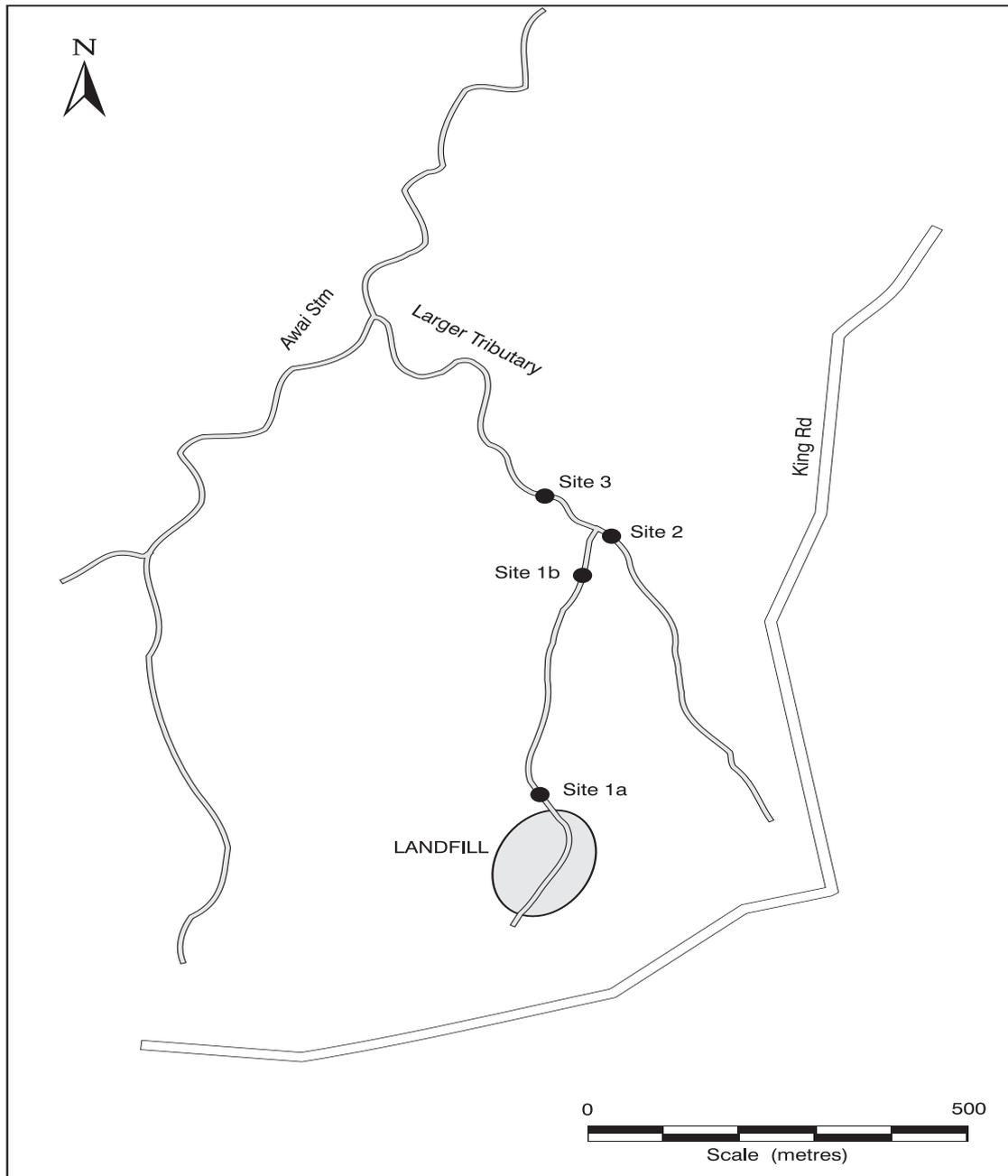


Figure 1 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream related to the Inglewood landfill

Results

This October 2015 survey was carried out under low flow conditions. The water at all sites was clear and uncoloured. It had been 12 days since the nearby Mangaoraka Stream flowed at more than three times its median flow and 12 days since flows exceeded seven times median.

The substrate comprised of silt at all four sites. Site 1a had patchy leaves and wood, whereas site 1b had none. Site 2 had widespread leaves and patchy wood and site 3 had widespread leaves and wood. Macrophytes dominated the bed and banks of the stream at site 1a and site 1b. No macrophytes were recorded at site 2 or site 3. The iron oxide coating noted at site 1a, was not recorded at any other site during this survey. At the time of this survey the water

temperatures recorded ranged between 12.8°C and 13.7°C. There was no shading at site 1a, partial shading at site 1b and site 3 and complete shading at site 2. There was no periphyton recorded at any of the sites and no site supported any undesirable biological growths.

Macroinvertebrate communities

A summary of results from previous surveys performed in the tributaries of the Awai Stream in relation to the Inglewood landfill are presented together with current results in Table 2. The full results of the present survey are provided in Table 3.

Table 2 Numbers of taxa and MCI values recorded in previous surveys related to the Inglewood landfill, together with current results

Site No	No. Taxa				MCI values				SQMCI _s values			
	No. samples	Range	Median	Current result	No. Samples	Range	Median	Current result	No. samples	Range	Median	Current result
1a	42	4-23	15	10	42	60-86	72	92	32	1.2-3.6	2.6	2.9
1b	45	11-29	19	18	45	69-88	77	74	32	2.1-4.5	3.3	3.9
2	46	8-29	18	13	46	79-108	90	100	32	1.4-6.1	3.9	4.9
3	46	9-27	19	17	46	74-105	91	111	32	1.3-5.8	3.3	5.1

Table 3 Macroinvertebrate fauna of unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream sampled in relation to the Inglewood landfill on 13 October 2015

Taxa List	Site Number	MCI score	1a	1b	2	3
	Site Code		AWY000105	AWY000107	AWY000100	AWY000115
	Sample Number		FWB15279	FWB15280	FWB15278	FWB15281
PLATYHELMINTHES (FLATWORMS)	<i>Cura</i>	3	-	C	R	R
NEMATODA	Nematoda	3	-	R	-	-
ANNELIDA (WORMS)	Oligochaeta	1	-	C	A	C
MOLLUSCA	<i>Potamopyrgus</i>	4	-	XA	R	R
CRUSTACEA	Ostracoda	1	A	C	-	-
	Paraleptamphopidae	5	-	C	VA	XA
	<i>Paranephrops</i>	5	-	-	-	R
EPHEMEROPTERA (MAYFLIES)	<i>Coloburiscus</i>	7	-	-	-	C
	<i>Neozephlebia</i>	7	-	-	-	R
	<i>Zephlebia group</i>	7	-	-	A	A
PLECOPTERA (STONEFLIES)	<i>Acroperla</i>	5	-	R	-	-
	<i>Zelandobius</i>	5	-	R	-	-
ODONATA (DRAGONFLIES)	<i>Xanthocnemis</i>	4	-	R	-	-
HEMIPTERA (BUGS)	<i>Microvelia</i>	3	-	R	-	-
COLEOPTERA (BEETLES)	Dytiscidae	5	R	-	-	-
	Ptilodactylidae	8	-	-	C	R
MEGALOPTERA (DOBSONFLIES)	<i>Archichauliodes</i>	7	R	-	-	-
TRICHOPTERA (CADDISFLIES)	<i>Hydropsyche (Orthopsyche)</i>	9	-	-	C	R
	<i>Polyplectropus</i>	6	C	-	R	R
	<i>Psilochorema</i>	6	-	R	-	R
	Oeconesidae	5	-	R	-	-
	<i>Pycnocentria</i>	7	-	-	-	C
DIPTERA (TRUE FLIES)	<i>Triplectides</i>	5	-	-	R	A
	Hexatomini	5	-	-	R	-
	<i>Zelandotipula</i>	6	R	R	-	R
	<i>Corynoneura</i>	3	-	R	-	-
	Orthoclaadiinae	2	-	C	-	-
	<i>Polypedilum</i>	3	VA	R	C	R
	Tanypodinae	5	R	R	-	-
	<i>Paradixa</i>	4	-	-	R	-
	Empididae	3	R	-	-	-
	<i>Austrosimulium</i>	3	-	C	-	-
Stratiomyidae	5	R	-	-	-	
ACARINA (MITES)	Acarina	5	R	-	R	R
No of taxa			10	18	13	17
MCI			92	74	100	111
SQMCIs			2.9	3.9	4.9	5.1
EPT (taxa)			1	4	4	8
%EPT (taxa)			10	22	31	47
'Tolerant' taxa		'Moderately sensitive' taxa		'Highly sensitive' taxa		
R = Rare		C = Common		A = Abundant		
		VA = Very Abundant		XA = Extremely Abundant		

Site 1a

A total of 10 taxa was recorded at site 1a, 100 metres downstream of the landfill face. This result was five taxa less than the median richness recorded at this site. The majority of taxa (70%) recorded at the site were 'sensitive' taxa which was reflected in the moderate MCI score of 92 units. This MCI score was significantly higher than the median and the highest MCI recorded to date (Stark, 1998). There was a significant increase of 20 units in the MCI score at this site from the previous February 2015 survey (Figure 2) (Stark, 1998).

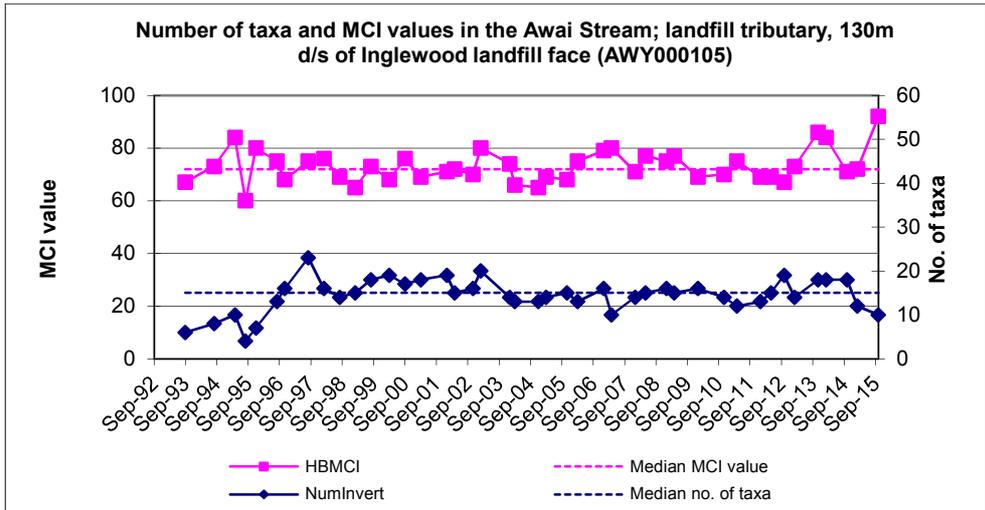


Figure 2 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 1a in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The macroinvertebrate community at this site was characterised by two ‘tolerant’ taxa (ostracod seed shrimps and *Polypedilum* midge larvae) (Table 3). The numerical dominance by ‘tolerant’ taxa resulted in a moderate SQMCI_s score of 2.9 units which was similar to the median SQMCI_s score for the site, and within the range of scores recorded at site 1a previously.

Site 1b

Eighteen taxa were recorded at site 1b, approximately 400 metres downstream of the landfill face, one taxon less than the median recorded at this site but eight taxa higher than that recorded at site 1a in this same survey. At the time of this survey, a higher proportion of ‘tolerant’ than ‘sensitive’ taxa was recorded. A low MCI score of 74 units was recorded, three units lower than the median score for the site (Figure 3) and a significant (Stark, 1998) 18 units lower than the MCI score recorded at site 1a in this survey.

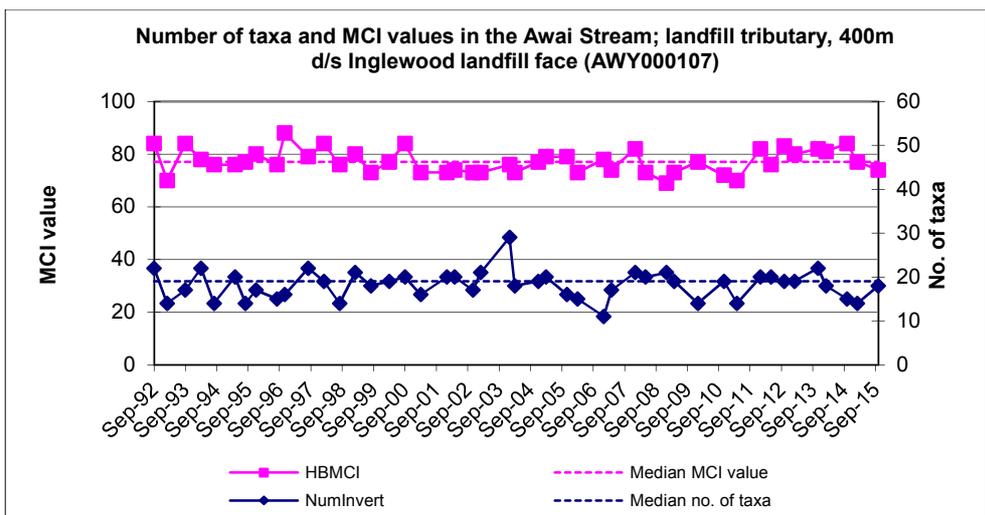


Figure 3 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 1b in a tributary of the Awai Stream

In this survey, the macroinvertebrate community was dominated by one extremely abundant ‘tolerant’ taxon (*Potamopyrgus* snail) (Table 3). The SQMCI_s score of 3.9 units

recorded at site 1b was 0.6 unit higher than the median score for the site and 1.0 unit higher than that recorded at site 1a in this survey (Stark, 1998).

Site 2

The 'control' site 2 upstream of the confluence with the landfill tributary had a community richness of 13 taxa, five taxa lower than the median number found by previous surveys (Table 2, Figure 4). A high proportion of the community recorded at this site in the current survey were 'sensitive' taxa (61%) which resulted in a relatively high MCI score of 100 units for the site (Table 3). This MCI score was 10 units higher than the median score recorded at the site previously and was higher than the MCI score recorded at the two sites in the small unnamed tributary (1a and 1b) (by 8 and 26 units respectively) (Stark 1998).

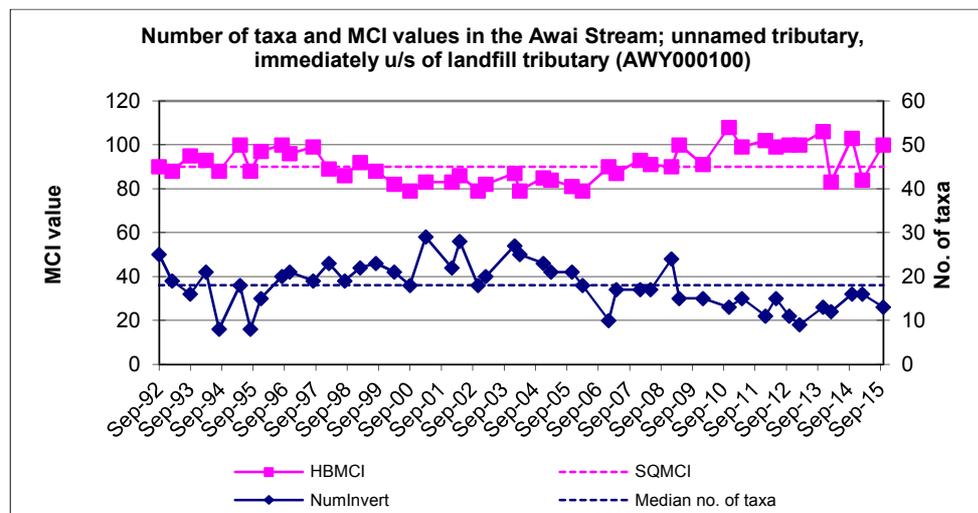


Figure 4 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 2 in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The community was dominated by two 'sensitive' taxa (amphipod *Paraleptamphopidae* and mayfly *Zephlebia*) and one abundant 'tolerant' taxon (oligochaete worms) which resulted in a moderate SQMCI_s score of 4.9 units (Table 3). This SQMCI_s score was substantially higher than the median score recorded at the site previously (by 1.0 unit) and also higher than score recorded at site 1a in the small unnamed tributary (by 2.0 units).

Site 3

A total of 17 taxa was found at site 3 below the confluence with the landfill drainage tributary, which was two taxa less than the median richness recorded by previous surveys. The MCI score of 111 units reflected the high proportion of 'sensitive' taxa (76%) present in the community at this site in the current survey. This MCI score was significantly (Stark, 1998) higher (by 20 units) than the median for this site and a significant 26 units higher than that recorded in the previous survey (Figure 5).

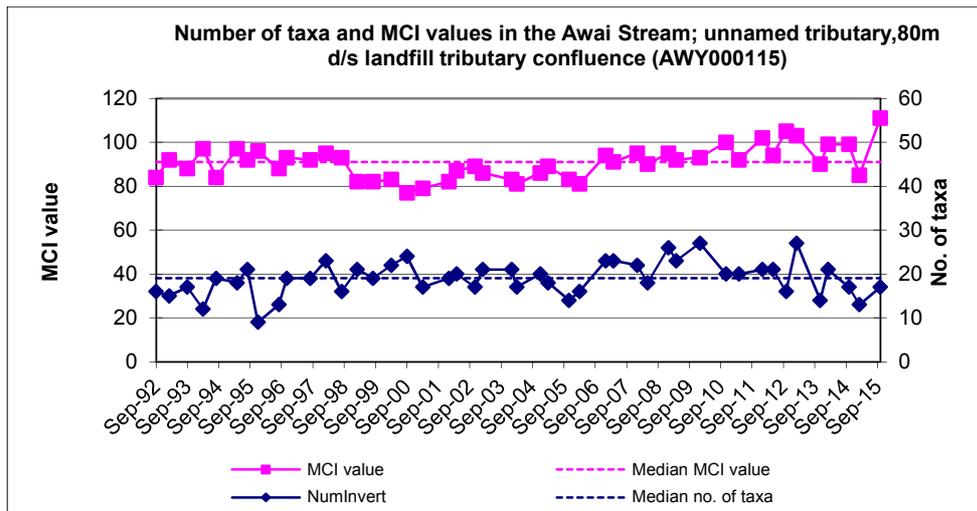


Figure 5 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 3 in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The macroinvertebrate community at this site was characterised by three 'sensitive' taxa (paralectamphopid amphipods, mayfly (*Zephlebia* group) and caddisfly (*Triplectides*) (Table 3)). The numerical dominance of 'sensitive' taxa in the community resulted in a high SQMCI_s score of 5.1 units, which was substantially higher than the median score of 3.3 units recorded at this site in previous surveys. This score was also higher than the scores recorded at site 1b in the smaller tributary and slightly higher than that recorded upstream at site 2.

Discussion and conclusions

Wetland and grassy stream habitats such as at sites 1a and 1b often support abundances of molluscs, crustacea, true flies (dipterans), and certain caddisflies, and this was reflected in the current survey.

At the time of this October survey, there was low flow of very slow moving water recorded at site 1a which was indicative of a seepage feed stream. This was reflected in the macroinvertebrate community recorded at the site which was numerically dominated by low scoring 'tolerant' taxa. This resulted in a moderate MCI of 92 units and a moderately low SQMCI_s score of 2.9 units. This MCI was the highest score recorded to date, however the SQMCI_s score was well within the range of scores recorded at the site in previous surveys.

Previous surveys typically recorded a poorer community at site 1a than at site 1b. Other than the MCI score the results of this survey were consistent with this. There was an eight taxa increase in taxa richness between the sites, and the SQMCI_s score increased substantially by 1.0 unit. The MCI score was significantly lower at site 1b compared with site 1a (Stark, 1998) which can be attributed to the reduction in the proportion of 'sensitive' taxa at this site.

In the current survey, the macroinvertebrate community recorded at the upstream 'control' site (2) consisted of a high proportion of 'sensitive taxa' including two abundant 'moderately sensitive' taxa (*Zephlebia* mayfly and the paralectamphopid amphipods). This was reflected in the moderately high MCI and SQMCI_s scores recorded at the site in this survey. The MCI score at site 2 was higher than that recorded at site 1a and significantly (Stark 1998) higher than that recorded at site 1b in the smaller tributary of the Awai Stream. The SQMCI_s score recorded at site 2 was substantially higher than that recorded at site 1a and site 1b. This is

most likely the result of marked differences in the habitat quality at site 2 compared to sites 1a and 1b.

The MCI and SQMCI_s scores recorded at site 3 downstream of the confluence with the small tributary were significantly more (Stark, 1998) than those recorded at site 2 in this survey although the taxa richness was only slightly greater and community composition were very similar, with only two significant differences in taxa abundance. The significant differences in MCI and SQMCI_s scores are equated to differences in habitat quality.

Overall, the results suggest that differences in the macroinvertebrate communities between the four sites relate to differences in habitat rather than the effects of any discharge from the landfill site.

Summary

Macroinvertebrate sampling was undertaken on 13 October 2015, at four sites in two tributaries of the Awai Streams, using a combination of the 'sweep-net' and 'kick' sampling techniques, both standard sampling techniques used by the Council. This was undertaken to assess whether leachate discharges from Inglewood landfill had had any adverse effects on the macroinvertebrate communities of this stream. Samples were processed to provide number of taxa (richness), MCI and SQMCI_s scores for each site.

The MCI is a measure of the overall sensitivity of the macroinvertebrate community to the effects of organic pollution in stony streams. It is based on the presence/absence of taxa with varying degrees of sensitivity to environmental conditions. The SQMCI_s takes into account taxa abundance as well as sensitivity to pollution, and may reveal more subtle changes in communities, particularly if non-organic impacts are occurring. Significant differences in with the MCI or the SQMCI_s between sites indicate the degree of adverse effects (if any) of the discharges monitored.

This October 2015 survey did not indicate that leachate from the Inglewood landfill had significantly affected the freshwater macroinvertebrate communities in these tributaries. These communities appear to be determined by the physical habitat conditions, particularly the very slow to slow current speeds, soft/fine substrate and changes in macrophyte habitats available to the aquatic invertebrates.

The smaller, landfill drainage tributary sites exhibited slight improvements in taxa richness and SQMCI_s score in a downstream direction. The differences observed between the sites can probably be attributed to the difference in available habitat, with better habitat at site 1b (downstream). This site has progressively become choked with vegetation, but the wetted area is greater, and water speeds swifter.

Significant differences were recorded in the MCI and SQMCI_s scores between sites 2 and 3 in the larger tributary of the Awai Stream which can be attributed to a number of slight changes in taxa abundances, the result of varying habitat condition.

Site 2 had higher MCI and SQMCI_s scores compared to the two sites in the smaller tributary (1a and 1b), and these scores were also higher than their respective medians, which was indicative of improved water quality at this site. Once again, differences in habitat condition

were thought to be the main reason for these differences in the macroinvertebrate communities at all sites.

No sites supported any undesirable biological growths.

The results of this survey provide no indication that the discharge of leachate into the unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream was having a significant adverse effect on the macroinvertebrate communities in the tributaries monitored.

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To Job Manager, Lorraine Smith
 From Scientific Officer, Brooke Thomas
 Report No BT054
 Document No 1657652
 Date 18 March 2016

Biomonitoring of two unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream, below the Inglewood landfill, February 2016

Introduction

This was the second biological survey undertaken of the two surveys scheduled for the 2015-2016 monitoring year in two tributaries of the Awai Stream in relation to the Inglewood landfill. Leachate from the landfill discharges to a small tributary, which then joins a larger tributary approximately 450m below the face of the landfill. Results of biological surveys performed in the tributaries since the 2001-2002 monitoring year are discussed in the series of reports referenced at the end of this report.

Methods

This survey was undertaken on 03 February 2016 at four sites on the two tributaries of the Awai Stream; sites 1(a) and 1 (b) were located in the smaller tributary and sites 2 and 3 on the larger tributary (Figure 1).

A combination of the standard 400 ml 'kick-sampling' and 'sweep-net' sampling techniques was used to collect streambed macroinvertebrates. The 'kick-sampling' technique is very similar to Protocol C1 (hard-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol for macroinvertebrate samples in wadeable streams (Stark *et al*, 2001). The 'sweep-net' sampling technique was very similar to Protocol C2 (soft-bottomed, semi-quantitative) protocol of the New Zealand Macroinvertebrate Working Group (NZMWG).

Table 1 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream

Site	Site code	Location
1a	AWY000105	Smaller tributary, 100 metres below tip face
1b	AWY000107	Smaller tributary, 400 metres below tip face
2	AWY000100	Larger tributary, above confluence with small tributary
3	AWY000115	Larger tributary, 80 metres below confluence with small tributary

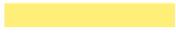
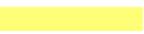
Samples were preserved with Kahle's Fluid for later sorting and identification under a stereomicroscope using protocol P1 of NZMWG protocols for sampling macroinvertebrates in wadeable streams (Stark *et al*. 2001). Macroinvertebrate taxa found in each sample were recorded as:

R (rare)	= less than 5 individuals;
C (common)	= 5-19 individuals;
A (abundant)	= estimated 20-99 individuals;
VA (very abundant)	= estimated 100-499 individuals;
XA (extremely abundant)	= estimated 500 individuals or more.

Stark (1985) developed a scoring system for macroinvertebrate taxa according to their sensitivity to organic pollution in stony New Zealand streams (MCI). Highly 'sensitive' taxa were assigned the highest scores of 9 or 10, while the most 'tolerant' forms scored 1 and 0.1 in hard bottomed and soft bottomed streams respectively. The sensitivity scores for certain taxa found in hard bottomed streams have been modified in accordance with Taranaki experience. After extensive use of the MCI, categories were assigned to the sensitivity scores, to clarify their 'relative' sensitivity e.g. taxa that scored between 1 and 4 inclusive are considered tolerant (see Table 3).

By averaging the scores obtained from a list of taxa taken from one site and multiplying by a scaling factor of 20, a Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) value was obtained. The MCI is a measure of the overall sensitivity of macroinvertebrate communities to the effects of organic pollution. More 'sensitive' communities inhabit less polluted waterways.

A gradation of biological water quality conditions based upon MCI ranges has been adapted for Taranaki streams and rivers from Stark's classification (Stark, 1985 and Boothroyd & Stark, 2000). This is as follows:

Grading	HBMCI	Code
Excellent	>140	
Very Good	120-140	
Good	100-119	
Fair	80-99	
Poor	60-79	
Very Poor	<60	

A semi-quantitative MCI value (SQMCI_s) has also been calculated for the taxa present at each site by multiplying each taxon score by a loading factor (related to its abundance), totalling these products, and dividing by the sum of the loading factors (Stark 1998 and 1999). The loading factors were 1 for rare (R), 5 for common (C), 20 for abundant (A), 100 for very abundant (VA) and 500 for extremely abundant (XA). Unlike the MCI, the SQMCI_s is not multiplied by a scaling factor of 20, so that its corresponding range of values is 20x lower.

Sub-samples of algal and detrital material taken from the macroinvertebrate samples were scanned under 40-400x magnification to determine the presence or absence of any mats, plumes or dense growths of bacteria, fungi or protozoa ('undesirable biological growths') at a microscopic level. The presence of these organisms is an indicator of organic enrichment within a stream.

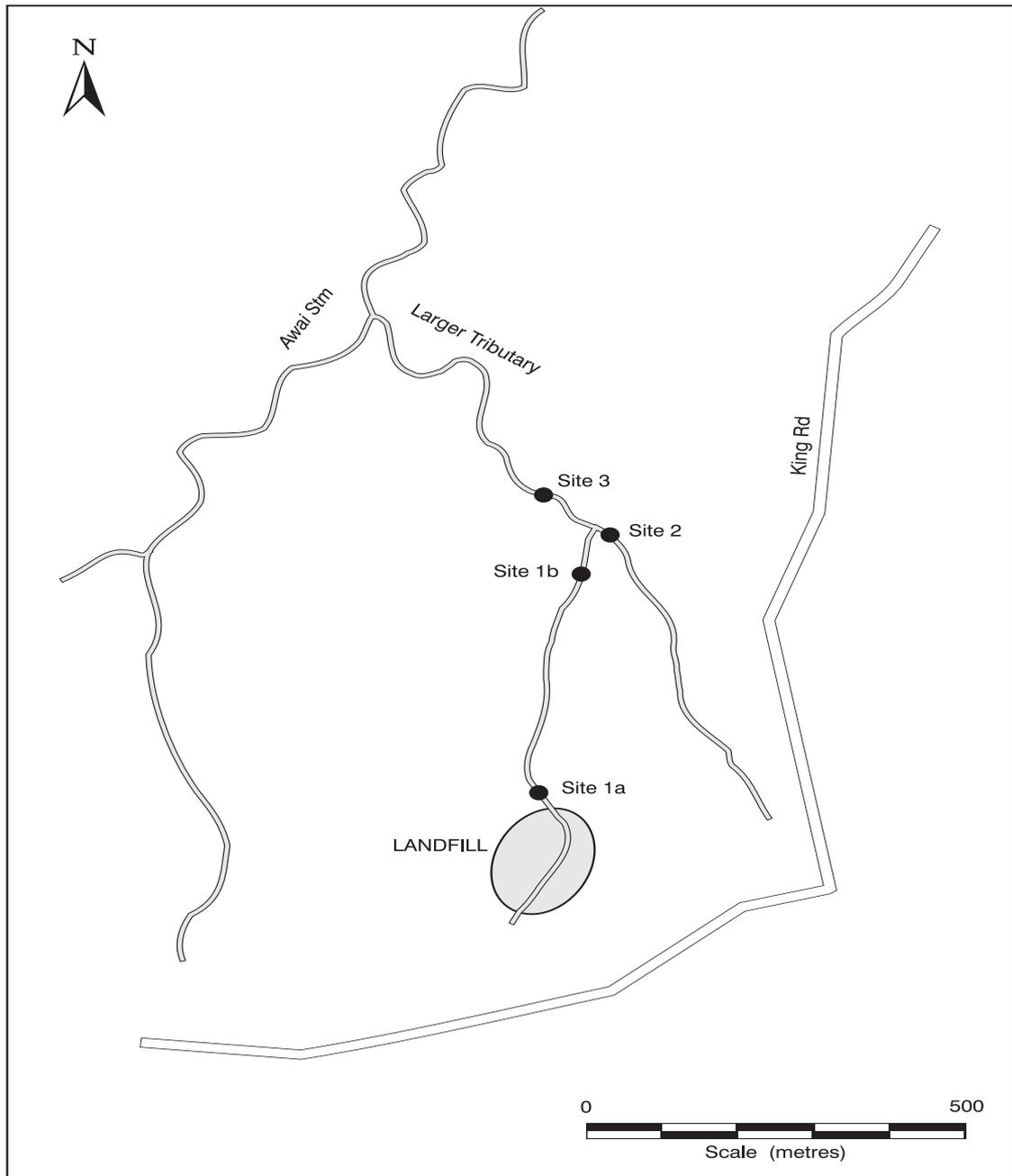


Figure 1 Biomonitoring sites in tributaries of the Awai Stream related to the Inglewood landfill

Results

This February 2016 survey was carried out under very low flow conditions. The water at all sites was clear and uncoloured. It had been 15 days since the nearby Mangaoraka Stream flowed at more than three times its median flow and 26 days since flows exceeded seven times median.

The substrate comprised predominantly of silt at all four sites. Site 2 had the addition of sand, gravels and wood/root and site 3 had the addition of sand and fine gravel. Site 2 and 3 had patchy leaves and wood, whereas sites 1a and 1b had none. Macrophytes dominated the bed and banks of the stream at site 1a and site 1b. No macrophytes were recorded at site 2 or site 3. The iron oxide coating noted at site 1a, was not recorded at any other site during

this survey. At the time of this survey the water temperatures recorded ranged between 17.3 and 22.7°C. There was no shading at site 1a, partial shading at site 1b and complete shading at site 3 and site 2. There were patchy filaments of periphyton growing at site 1a but no periphyton recorded at any of the other sites. No site supported any undesirable biological growths.

Macroinvertebrate communities

A summary of results from previous surveys performed in the tributaries of the Awai Stream in relation to the Inglewood landfill are presented together with current results in Table 2. The full results of the present survey are provided in Table 3.

Table 2 Numbers of taxa and MCI values recorded in previous surveys related to the Inglewood landfill, together with current results

Site No	No. Taxa				MCI values				SQMCI _s values			
	No. samples	Range	Median	Current result	No. Samples	Range	Median	Current result	No. samples	Range	Median	Current result
1a	43	4-23	15	12	43	60-92	72	68	33	1.2-3.6	2.6	1.6
1b	46	11-29	19	25	46	69-88	77	70	33	2.1-4.5	3.3	3.9
2	47	8-29	18	12	47	79-108	90	85	33	1.4-6.1	3.9	3.1
3	47	9-27	19	11	47	74-111	91	69	33	1.3-5.8	3.3	1.4

Table 3 Macroinvertebrate fauna of unnamed tributaries of the Awai Stream sampled in relation to the Inglewood landfill on 03 February 2016

Taxa List	Site Number	MCI score	1a	1b	2	3
	Site Code		AWY000105	AWY000107	AWY000100	AWY000115
	Sample Number		FWB16029	FWB16030	FWB16031	FWB16032
PLATYHELMINTHES (FLATWORMS)	<i>Cura</i>	3	-	C	-	-
NEMERTEA	Nemertea	3	-	R	-	-
ANNELIDA (WORMS)	Oligochaeta	1	-	A	VA	XA
MOLLUSCA	<i>Ferrissia</i>	3	R	-	-	-
	Lymnaeidae	3	-	C	-	-
	<i>Potamopyrgus</i>	4	R	XA	R	C
	Sphaeriidae	3	-	-	-	C
CRUSTACEA	Copepoda	5	-	-	R	-
	Ostracoda	1	VA	C	-	XA
	Paraleptamphopidae	5	-	A	R	A
	<i>Paranephrops</i>	5	-	R	C	-
EPHEMEROPTERA (MAYFLIES)	<i>Zephlebia group</i>	7	-	-	C	-
ODONATA (DRAGONFLIES)	<i>Xanthochemis</i>	4	C	-	-	-
HEMIPTERA (BUGS)	<i>Microvelia</i>	3	R	C	-	-
COLEOPTERA (BEETLES)	Dytiscidae	5	R	-	-	-
TRICHOPTERA (CADDISFLIES)	<i>Polyplectropus</i>	6	-	R	R	C
	<i>Psilochorema</i>	6	-	C	-	-
	Oeconesidae	5	-	C	-	-
	<i>Oxyethira</i>	2	R	R	-	-
	<i>Triplectides</i>	5	-	R	-	-
DIPTERA (TRUE FLIES)	<i>Chironomus</i>	1	C	R	R	C
	<i>Corynoneura</i>	3	-	R	-	-
	Orthoclaadiinae	2	-	R	-	-
	<i>Polypedilum</i>	3	C	C	XA	VA
	Tanypodinae	5	C	R	R	C
	<i>Paradixa</i>	4	-	-	R	R
	Empididae	3	-	R	-	-
	Ephydriidae	4	-	R	-	-
	Muscidae	3	-	R	-	-
	Sciomyzidae	3	-	R	-	-
	<i>Austrosimulium</i>	3	-	R	-	-
	Stratiomyidae	5	R	-	-	-
ACARINA (MITES)	Acarina	5	C	A	VA	A
No of taxa			12	25	12	11
MCI			68	70	85	69
SQMCIs			1.6	3.9	3.1	1.4
EPT (taxa)			0	4	2	1
%EPT (taxa)			0	16	17	9
'Tolerant' taxa		'Moderately sensitive' taxa		'Highly sensitive' taxa		

R = Rare C = Common A = Abundant VA = Very Abundant XA = Extremely Abundant

Site 1a

A total of 12 taxa was recorded at site 1a, 100 metres downstream of the landfill face. This result was three taxa less than the median richness recorded at this site. The majority of taxa (67%) recorded at the site were 'tolerant' taxa which was reflected in the poor MCI score of 68 units. This MCI score was slightly lower than the median but within the range of MCI scores recorded to date. There was a significant decrease of 24 units in the MCI score at this site from the previous October 2015 survey, a reflection of the extremely low flow recorded at the time of sampling (Figure 2) (Stark, 1998).

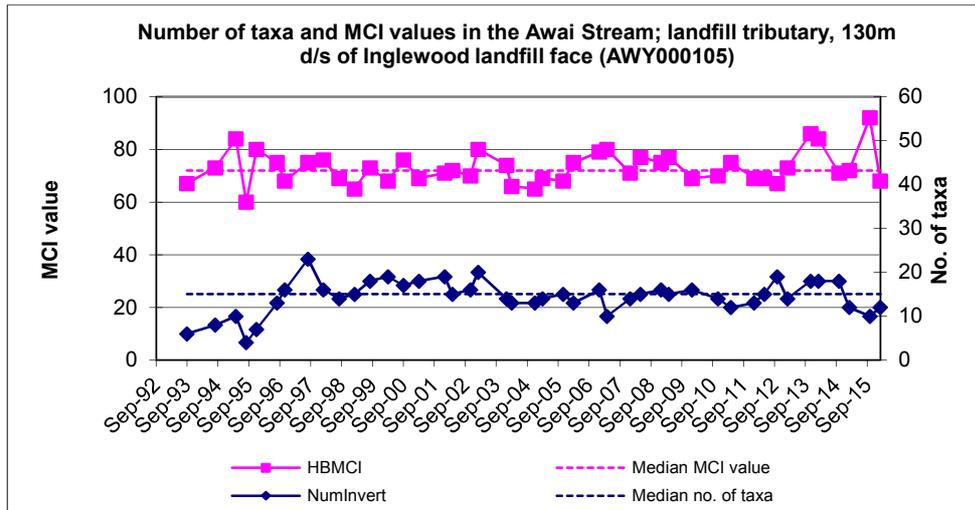


Figure 2 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 1a in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The macroinvertebrate community at this site was characterised by one 'tolerant' taxon (ostracod seed shrimps) (Table 3). The numerical dominance by 'tolerant' taxa resulted in a very low SQMCI_s score of 1.6 units which was substantially lower than the median SQMCI_s score for the site, but within the range of scores recorded at site 1a previously.

Site 1b

Twenty-five taxa were recorded at site 1b, approximately 400 metres downstream of the landfill face, six taxa more than the median recorded at this site and 13 taxa higher than that recorded at site 1a in this same survey. At the time of this survey a higher proportion of 'tolerant' taxa was recorded. A low MCI score of 70 units was recorded, 7 units lower than the median score for the site (Figure 3) and 2 units higher than the MCI score recorded at site 1a in this survey.

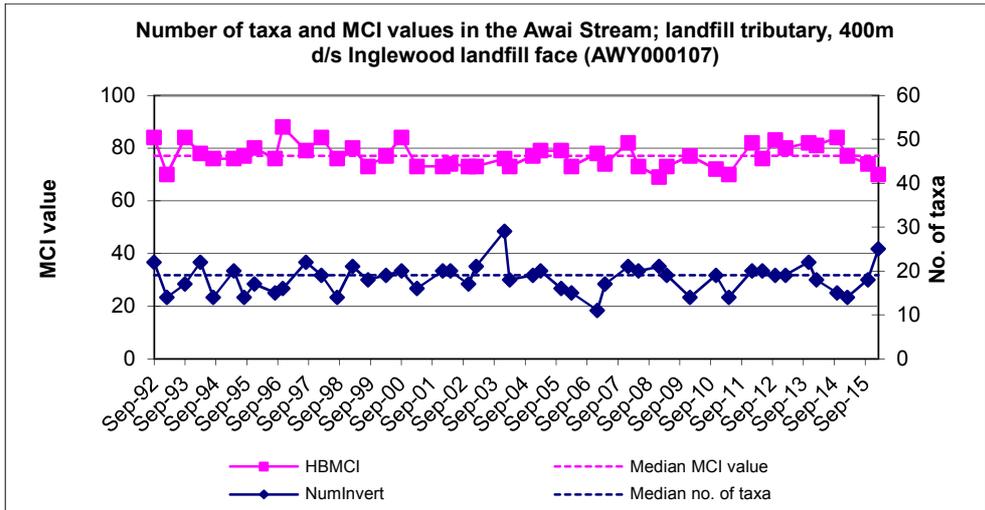


Figure 3 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 1b in a tributary of the Awai Stream

In this survey, the macroinvertebrate community was characterised by two ‘tolerant’ taxa, extremely abundant (*Potamopyrgus*) snail and oligochaete worms, and two ‘moderately sensitive’ taxa mites (Acarina) and amphipods (*Paraleptamphopidae*) (Table 3). The SQMCI_s score of 3.9 units recorded at site 1b was 0.6 unit higher than the median score for the site and a significant (Stark, 1998) 2.3 units higher than that recorded at site 1a in this survey (Stark, 1998).

Site 2

The ‘control’ site 2, upstream of the confluence with the landfill tributary had a community richness of 12 taxa, six taxa lower than the median number found by previous surveys (Table 2, Figure 4). A moderate proportion of the community recorded at this site in the current survey were ‘sensitive’ taxa (58%) which resulted in a moderate MCI score of 85 units for the site (Table 3). This MCI score was 5 units less than the median score recorded at the site previously and was significantly (Stark, 1998) higher than the MCI score recorded at the two sites in the small unnamed tributary (1a and 1b) (by 17 and 15 units respectively) (Stark 1998).

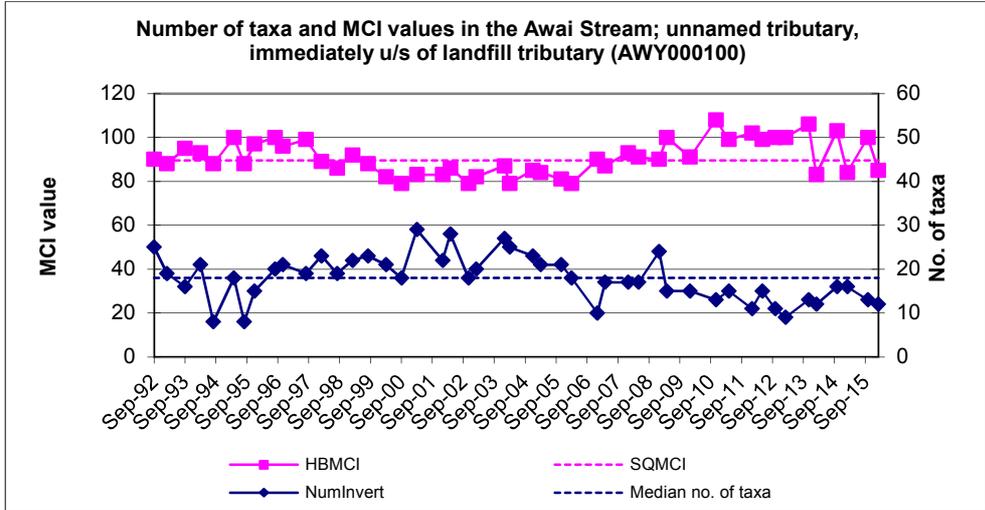


Figure 4 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 2 in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The community was dominated by two 'tolerant' taxa; oligochaete worms and extremely abundant chironomid midge (*Polypedilum*) and one 'moderately sensitive' taxon mite (Acarina), which resulted in the SQMCI_s score of 3.1 units (Table 3). This SQMCI_s score was substantially lower than the median score recorded at the site previously (by 0.8 unit) but higher than score recorded at site 1a in the small unnamed tributary (by 1.5 units). This score was slightly lower than that recorded at site 2b (by 0.8 unit).

Site 3

A total of 11 taxa was found at site 3 below the confluence with the landfill drainage tributary, which was eight taxa less than the median richness recorded by previous surveys. The MCI score of 69 units reflected the high proportion of 'tolerant' taxa (64%) present in the community at this site in the current survey. This MCI score was significantly (Stark, 1998) lower (by 22 units) than the median for this site and a significant 42 units lower than that recorded in the previous survey (Figure 5).

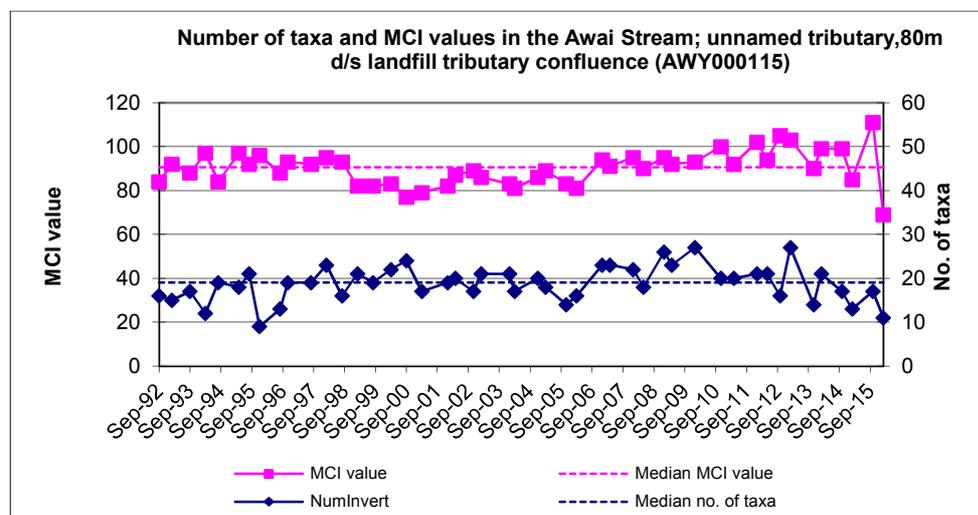


Figure 5 Number of taxa and MCI values at site 3 in a tributary of the Awai Stream

The macroinvertebrate community at this site was characterised by three 'tolerant' taxa (oligochaete worms, ostracod seed shrimp, and chironomid midge (*Polypedilum*) and two 'moderately sensitive' taxa (paraleptamphopid amphipods and mites (Acarina)) (Table 3). The numerical dominance of 'sensitive' taxa in the community resulted in a high SQMCI_s score of 5.1 units, which was substantially higher than the median score of 3.3 units recorded at this site in previous surveys. This score was also higher than the scores recorded at site 1b in the smaller tributary and slightly higher than that recorded upstream at site 2.

Discussion and conclusions

Wetland and grassy stream habitats such as at sites 1a and 1b often support abundances of molluscs, crustacea, true flies (dipterans), and certain caddisflies, and this was reflected in the current survey.

At the time of this February survey, there was very low flow of very slow moving to still water recorded at site 1a which was indicative of a seepage feed stream. This was reflected in the macroinvertebrate community recorded at the site which was numerically dominated by low scoring 'tolerant' taxa. This resulted in a low MCI of 68 units and a low SQMCI_s score

of 1.6 units. The MCI and SQMCI_s scores were both within the range of scores recorded at the site in previous surveys.

Previous surveys typically recorded a poorer community at site 1a than at site 1b. The results of this survey were consistent with this. There was a 13 taxa increase in taxa richness between the sites, and the SQMCI_s score increased substantially by 2.3 units. The MCI scores were similar between sites.

In the current survey, the macroinvertebrate community recorded at the upstream 'control' site (2) consisted of a high proportion of 'tolerant' taxa including extremely abundant chironomid midge (*Polypedilum*) and very abundant oligochaete worms. Also present in abundance were 'sensitive' Acarina mites, which are often found in ponds and wetlands and other slow flowing water. A slightly higher portion of 'sensitive' taxa recorded at site 2 was reflected in the moderate MCI score of 85 units. The MCI score at site 2 was significantly (Stark, 1998) higher than that recorded at site 1a and slightly higher than that recorded at site 1b in the smaller tributary of the Awai Stream. The SQMCI_s score recorded at site 2 was substantially higher than that recorded at site 1a, but slightly lower than that recorded at site 1b. This is most likely the result of differences in the habitat quality at site 2 compared to sites 1a and 1b and a change in sampling technique used between the sites. Access to site 2 was difficult and only a small area was surveyed which may have also affected the results.

The MCI and SQMCI_s scores recorded at site 3 downstream of the confluence with the small tributary were significantly less (Stark, 1998) than those recorded at site 2 in this survey although the taxa richness was only slightly lower, and community composition was relatively similar, with only four significant differences in taxa abundance. The significant differences in MCI and SQMCI_s scores are equated to differences in habitat quality. Again, this site was very overgrown making access difficult. Only a small area was surveyed which may have affected results.

Overall, the results suggest that differences in the macroinvertebrate communities between the four sites relate to differences in habitat rather than the effects of any discharge from the landfill site. It is likely the very low and very slow flows recorded at the time of survey have also affected the current results.

Summary

Macroinvertebrate sampling was undertaken on 03 February 2016, at four sites in two tributaries of the Awai Streams, using a combination of the 'sweep-net' and 'kick' sampling techniques, both standard sampling techniques used by the Council. This was undertaken to assess whether leachate discharges from Inglewood landfill had had any adverse effects on the macroinvertebrate communities of this stream. Samples were processed to provide number of taxa (richness), MCI and SQMCI_s scores for each site.

The MCI is a measure of the overall sensitivity of the macroinvertebrate community to the effects of organic pollution in stony streams. It is based on the presence/absence of taxa with varying degrees of sensitivity to environmental conditions. The SQMCI_s takes into account taxa abundance as well as sensitivity to pollution, and may reveal more subtle changes in communities, particularly if non-organic impacts are occurring. Significant differences in

with the MCI or the SQMCI_s between sites indicate the degree of adverse effects (if any) of the discharges monitored.

This February 2016 survey did not indicate that leachate from the Inglewood landfill had significantly affected the freshwater macroinvertebrate communities in these tributaries. These communities appear to be determined by the physical habitat conditions, particularly the very slow to still current speeds, soft/fine substrate and changes in macrophyte habitats available to the aquatic invertebrates.

The smaller, landfill drainage tributary sites exhibited improvements in taxa richness and SQMCI_s score in a downstream direction. The differences observed between the sites can probably be attributed to the difference in available habitat, with better habitat at site 1b (downstream). This site has progressively become choked with vegetation, but the wetted area is greater, and water speeds swifter.

Significant differences were recorded in the MCI and SQMCI_s scores between sites 2 and 3 in the larger tributary of the Awai Stream which can be attributed to a number of slight changes in taxa abundances, the result of varying habitat condition.

Site 2 had a higher MCI score compared to the two sites in the smaller tributary (1a and 1b) and again, differences in habitat condition were thought to be the main reason for these differences in the macroinvertebrate communities at all sites.

No sites supported any undesirable biological growths.

The results of this survey provide no indication that the discharge of leachate into the unnamed tributary of the Awai Stream was having a significant adverse effect on the macroinvertebrate communities in the tributaries monitored.

It is recommended that site access be improved before undertaking of the next spring 2016 survey.

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