NPDC Urenui and Onaero Beach Camps

Monitoring Programme
Annual Report
2023/24
Technical Report 2024-10

Taranaki
Regional Council

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Executive summary

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) operates the sewage disposal systems located at Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park. NPDC holds resource consents to allow it to discharge septic tank treated sewage to groundwater via infiltration trenches at each of the beach camps.

This report for the period July 2023 to June 2024 describes the monitoring programme implemented by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess NPDC's environmental and consent compliance performance during the period under review. The report also details the results of the monitoring undertaken and assesses the environmental effects of the NPDC's activities.

During the monitoring period, NPDC demonstrated an overall level of environmental performance that requires improvement and a high level of administrative performance.

NPDC held separate consents for Urenui and Onaero that expired on 1 June 2021, each including five conditions setting out the requirements that NPDC must satisfy. NPDC were previously under Abatement Notices EA-23206 and EAC-23207 for exceeding the consented limits of wastewater effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches at both Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Holiday Park.

As of 12 September 2024, the decision for replacement consents was agreed upon with new consents for each site commencing 3 October 2024. Up until this date, NPDC have implemented an in depth monitoring programme, carried out maintenance and inspections on the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and provided an update to the previously submitted Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) in support of the application. Included in the new conditions, is a significant increase to discharge consent limits, which is supported by the AEE.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included three inspections at each beach camp and one low tide bacteriological sampling survey encompassing four sites at Urenui Beach Camp, and five sites at Onaero Bay Holiday Park. As in previous years, the bacteriological monitoring did not detect any adverse environmental effects caused by the beach camps' wastewater systems during the 2023/24 monitoring period. Any incidents, investigations and interventions were reported to the Council either by NPDC or members of the public. Over the 2023/24 monitoring year, five incidents were recorded; one for Onaero Bay Holiday Park and five for Urenui Beach Camp. NPDC were proactive in their responses and have worked with the Council towards a solution.

For reference, in the 2023/24 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 864 (89%) of a total of 987 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 75 (8%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 26 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining two (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by the consent holder over the last several years, this report shows that the consent holder's performance remains at a level that requires improvement in the year under review.

This report includes recommendations for the 2024/25 year.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

1.1.1 Introduction

This report is for the period July 2023 to June 2024 by Taranaki Regional Council describing the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) for the disposal of treated sewage at the Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park. NPDC operates the wastewater treatment systems at each of the beach camps.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consents held by NPDC that relate to discharges of septic tank treated sewage effluent to groundwater via soakage trenches. This is the 34th report to be prepared by the Council to cover NPDC's water discharges and their effects.

1.1.2 Structure of this report

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

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

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

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

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2024/25 monitoring year.

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

1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

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

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

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

1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental performance

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

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

1.2 Process description

1.2.1 Urenui Beach Camp

The Urenui Domain is located on a spit of land at the mouth of the Urenui River and has been a summer recreation ground for more than 100 years. The Domain comprises of a number of permanent baches, boat ramp and campground including campsites, cabins, two visitors' ablution blocks, a house for the campground operator and camp store.

The current sewage disposal system has been in use since 1987. Prior to this, septic tank waste was pumped to a nearby cliff top and discharged to the sea below. This was found to be unsatisfactory as the septic tank retention time was about 21 hours during the peak summer usage period, resulting in inadequate treatment of sewage. The current disposal system collects all sewage from various gravity fed sewers and discharges to a single centralised septic tank to the east of the camp site where it receives primary treatment, before being discharged to a pump station (located immediately west of the golf course). It is then transferred to a system of four discharge leach fields approximately 50m from the edge of the cliff to the northeast of the camp and golf course.

1.2.2 Onaero Bay Holiday Park

The campground at Onaero has a mixture of campsites and a cabin as well as housing for the campground manager, 16 privately owned baches and a public toilet block.

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

The current sewage disposal system has been in use since 1984. Prior to this, waste was collected in septic tanks and the overflow gravitated to a small pumping station on the northern side of the Onaero River. The septic tank waste was then pumped to the top of a nearby ridge and into a small soakage pit. This was found to be unsatisfactory during the peak summer period, and resulted in inadequate treatment of sewage. The current disposal system treats waste from the campsite in a similar manner to the Urenui Beach Camp's wastewater treatment system. A collection manhole collects all sewage from various gravity fed sewers across the camp and a pump station transfers the wastewater to a leach field to the north of the camp where it is fed to two discharge fields approximately 300m from site.

1.3 Resource consents

NPDC holds two resource consents, the details of which are summarised in the table below. Summaries of the conditions attached to each permit are set out in Section 3 of this report. Consent renewal applications were submitted by NPDC in February 2021 for both consents. Section 124 of the RMA provides the ability for consent holders to exercise their existing resource consent while applying for a replacement resource consent. A decision for limited notification was determined during June 2024. Both consents continued to be protected under Section 124 with a decision for renewal made on 12 September 2024. New consents will come into effect for the 2024/25 monitoring year

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

Table 1 Resource consents held by NPDC, in relation to treated septic tank effluent discharges into groundwater, at the Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
Water discharge permits				
2046-3	To discharge treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into groundwater in the vicinity of the Urenui River	6 December 2002	N/A	Expired 1 June 2021 S.124 Protection
1389-3	To discharge treated septic tank effluent via soakage trenches into groundwater in the vicinity of the Onaero River	6 December 2002	N/A	Expired 1 June 2021 S.124 Protection
2046-4	To discharge treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into land where contaminants may enter groundwater	3 October 2024	October 2025	1 June 2034
1389-4	To discharge treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into land where contaminants may enter groundwater	3 October 2024	October 2025	1 June 2034

1.4 Monitoring programme

1.4.1 Introduction

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

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

The monitoring programme for the Urenui and Onaero beach camps consisted of three primary components.

1.4.2 Programme liaison and management

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

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

1.4.3 Site inspections

The Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park were both visited on three occasions during the monitoring period. The main points of interest were plant processes with potential or actual discharges to receiving watercourses. In addition, air inspections undertaken focused on site processes with associated actual and potential emission sources and characteristics, including potential odour, dust, noxious or offensive emissions. The neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects. The infiltration trenches for both locations were also inspected during the 2023/24 monitoring year.

1.4.4 Bacteriological sampling

The Council undertook bacteriological sampling in conjunction with the second site inspection on 23 January 2024. Samples were analysed for temperature, conductivity and the faecal indicator bacteria (FIB) enterococci or *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) depending on whether it was freshwater or seawater. The FIB were monitored to provide an indication of potential contamination of the water by animal and/or human excreta. Electrical conductivity, which reflects the total ionic content of water, was measured as a supporting variable; conductivity indirectly relates to water composition as it correlates well with total dissolved solid concentrations (Davies-Colley, 2013).

Water quality at these sites is of particular interest as the beaches and rivers around the Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park are popular summer swimming areas. In 2003, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) developed the Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality to assess the safety of water for contact recreation. The coastal guidelines focus on enterococci as these bacteria have the ability to survive in marine water, providing the closest correlation with health effects in New Zealand coastal waters, and for freshwater, the guidelines use *E. coli* as the preferred indicator (MfE, 2003). Guideline levels are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Recreational bathing guidelines (MfE, 2003)

	Indicator	Mode		
		Surveillance	Alert	Action
Marine	Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	No single sample >140	Single sample >140	Two consecutive single samples >280
Freshwater	*E. coli* (cfu/100ml)	No single sample >260	Single sample >260	Single sample >550

1.4.4.1 Urenui Beach Camp

Water samples were collected at two river and two coastal sites at Urenui Beach Camp during the 2023/24 monitoring year (Table 3; Figure 1). The bridge on State Highway 3 (Site 1) was previously used as the upstream sampling site. An alternative site, 1km downstream at the footbridge (Site 1a), has been used since 2001 because Site 1 is no longer safe to sample from.

Table 3 Locations of bacteriological sampling sites at Urenui Beach Camp

Site	Location	Site code	GPS coordinates (NZTM)
1	Upstream Urenui River SH3 bridge	URN000420	1721404 - 5682968
1a	Upstream Urenui River footbridge	URN000440	1720608 - 5682914
2	Urenui River at mouth	URN000480	1720245 - 5683370
3	Sea coast approx. 200 m east of river mouth	SEA900072	1720582 - 5683563
4	Sea coast at east end of beach	SEA900070	1720803 - 5683667

Figure 1 Map of sampling sites and other features of interest at Urenui Beach Camp

In addition to water quality monitoring during inspections, bacteriological samples were collected from Urenui Beach 200m east of river mouth (SEA900072) and from the Urenui River at the mouth (URN000480) as part of the Council's Can I Swim Here (CISH) Programme over the summer bathing season (November through to March).

1.4.4.2 Onaero Bay Holiday Park

Water samples were collected at two river and three coastal sites at Onaero Bay Holiday Park during the 2023/24 monitoring year (Table 4; Figure 2).

Table 4 Locations of bacteriological sampling sites at Onaero Bay Holiday Park

Site	Location	Site code	GPS coordinates (NZTM)
1	Onaero River SH3 bridge	ONR000450	1718296 - 5682687
2	Onaero River at domain pump station bridge	ONR000470	1718283 - 5682895
3	Sea coast on beach adjacent to surf club	SEA900085	1718158 - 5683163
4	Sea coast beneath sewage infiltration cliff	SEA900083	1718216 - 5683212
5	Sea coast north of sewage infiltration cliff	SEA900081	1718296 - 5683239

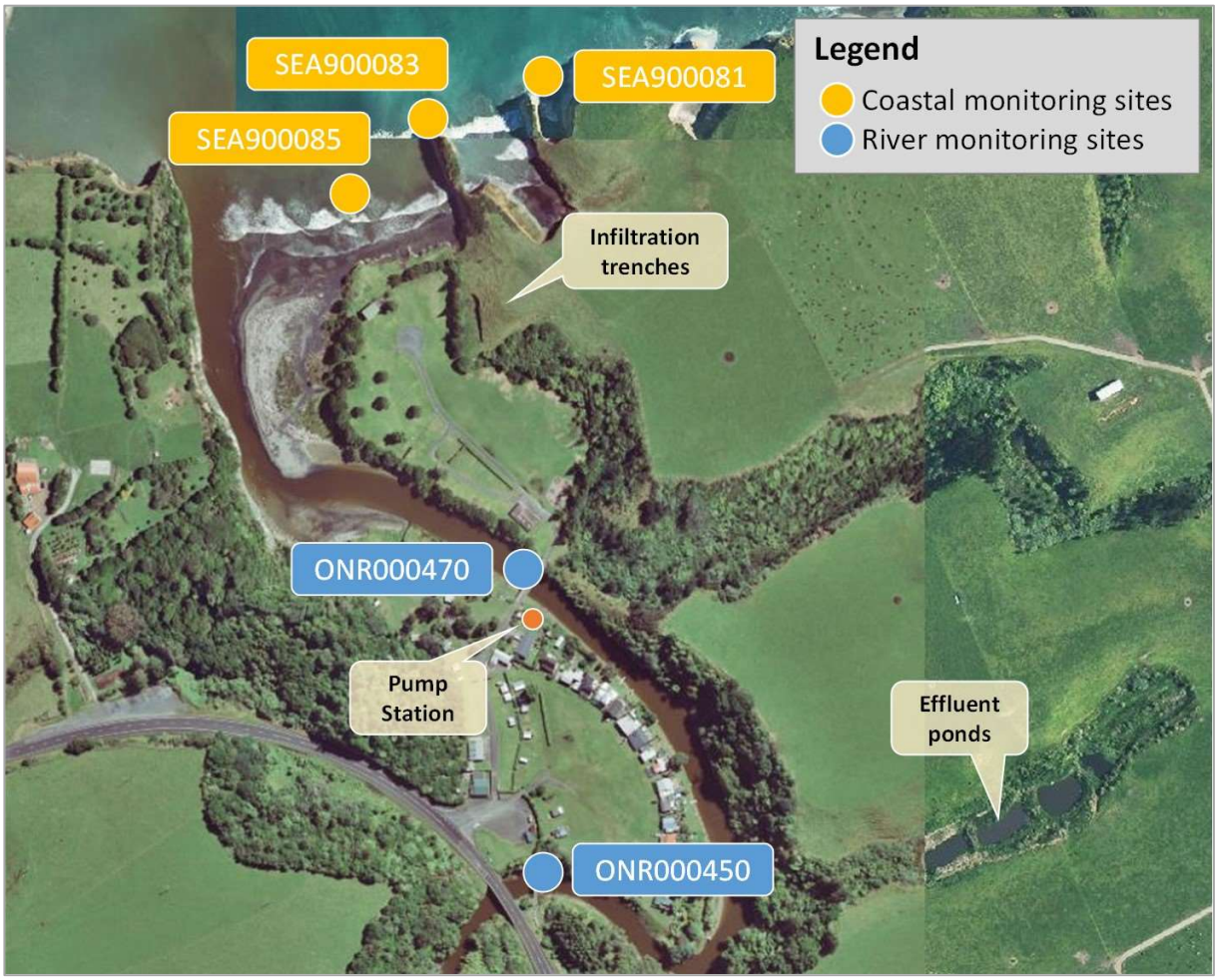

Figure 2 Map of sampling sites and other features of interest at Onaero Bay Holiday Park

In addition to water quality monitoring during inspections, bacteriological samples were collected from in front of the Onaero Surf Club (SEA900085) as part of the Council's CISH Programme over the summer bathing season (November through to March).

2. Results

2.1 Urenui Beach Camp

2.1.1 Inspections

Three inspections were undertaken at Urenui Beach Camp on 18 December 2023, 23 January 2024 and 20 February 2024. During the December inspection the Council officer was advised by a staff member of the Company that weekly services and remote monitoring of the system was occurring as scheduled. There were no odour or visual issues found during any of the inspections at the pump station, golf course, or in the vicinity of the trenches however, during the second inspection, the Council officer was advised that there had been issues with odour over the Christmas and New Year period. NPDC were notified and a contractor was sent out to rectify the situation. The pump station and the system operated as expected during the summer season. Sampling by the Council coincided with the second inspection in January.

2.1.2 Bacteriological sampling

Faecal indicator bacteria (FIB) have been sampled at the Urenui Beach Camp since 1987. A summary of historical bacteriological results from 1987 to 2023 is provided in Table 5. Median results indicate that FIB levels are typically lower at the river mouth than further upstream. This is most likely due to a mixing effect at the river mouth where seawater, with lower levels of FIB, dilutes the higher FIB counts of the riverine water. This is supported by a higher median conductivity level at the river mouth than at the upstream site, due to the high ionic content and therefore conductivity of seawater. These higher FIB counts are typically not reflected at the coastal sites, where even more mixing and dilution occurs after the river enters the Tasman Sea.

Table 5 Summary of previous bacteriological results at Urenui Beach Camp (1993-2023)

	Upstream Urenui River URN000420/URN000440		Urenui River @ mouth URN000480		200m E of mouth SEA900072		End of beach SEA900070	
	E. coli **(MPN[a]/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	***E. coli*** **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**
Number of samples	28	30	28	30	29	28	31	30
Minimum	8	192	4	144	0.5	1560	1	1480
Maximum	3300	4740	2100	4750	250	4750	900	4760
Median	290	1900	190	2835	23	3785	20	4170

Note: [a] MPN is equivalent to cfu

Table 6 Bacteriological results for Urenui Beach Camp (23 January 2024)

	Upstream Urenui River URN000440		Urenui River @ mouth URN000480		200m E of mouth SEA900072		End of beach SEA900070	
	E. coli **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	***E. coli*** **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**
23 Jan 2024	1120	2940	613	3760	440	4080	2400	3360

The results of the routine bacteriological monitoring undertaken during the 2023/24 summer monitoring period are presented in Table 6. Both *E. coli* counts recorded at the upstream and downstream river sampling sites were significantly higher than the historical median. Contrary to the previous monitoring year, the counts were higher at the upstream site (URN000440) than at the river mouth (URN000480).

The Urenui River at the mouth site (URN000480) and river upstream site (URN000440) presented results higher than the MfE 'Action' level for freshwater with *E. coli* counts upstream of the Urenui River double the 'Action' level threshold (Table 2), Enterococci counts at both coastal sampling sites were significantly higher than the MfE 'Alert' levels for marine waters (Table 2).

2.1.3 Provision of consent holder data

NPDC provided records of effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 (Figure 3). During the 2023/24 monitoring period the Urenui Beach Camp exceeded the consent limit of 85m^3/day on 23 days of the year (94% compliance). Many of these events followed periods of high rainfall, and/or aligned with dates of higher occupancy (i.e. holiday periods).

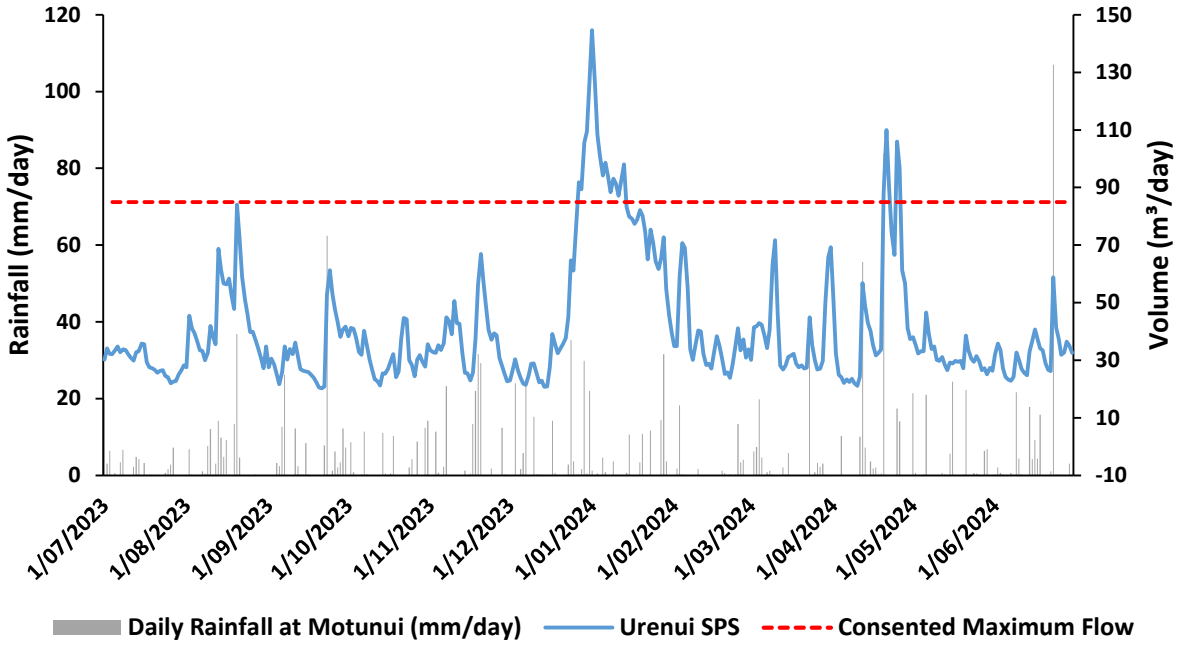

Figure 3 Supplied flow meter data from NPDC for Urenui Beach Camp (01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024)

2.2 Onaero Bay Holiday Park

2.2.1 Inspections

Three inspections were undertaken at Onaero Bay Holiday Park on the 18 December 2023, 23 January 2024 and 20 February 2024. Generally, there were no odour or visual issues identified during any of the inspections. However, during the first inspection, Tank 2 (public toilets) was emanating a small amount of odour, but this dissipated after flushing. Throughout the inspections, it was noted that while not of immediate concern, ongoing erosion of the cliff area requires continuous monitoring for any potential impact on the trench area. Sampling by the Council coincided with the second inspection in January.

2.2.2 Bacteriological sampling

FIB have been sampled for at the Onaero Bay Holiday Park since 1987. A summary of historical bacteriological results from 1987 to 2023 is presented in Table 7. Median results indicate that FIB levels and conductivity are typically higher at the bridge below the beach camp's pump station, compared with the

upstream sample. These higher FIB counts are typically not reflected at the coastal sites, where extensive mixing and dilution occurs after the river meets the Tasman Sea.

Table 7 Summary of previous bacteriological results at Onaero Bay Holiday Park (1993-2023)

	Onaero River upstream ONR000450		Onaero River downstream ONR000470		Beach, adjacent to surf club SEA000085		Beach, beneath infiltration cliff SEA000083		Beach, north of infiltration cliff SEA000081	
	E. coli **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	***E. coli*** **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**
No. of samples	29	31	30	32	31	30	31	30	27	26
Minimum	77	10	69	11	1	757	3	603	1	2280
Maximum	2420	2000	2420	4680	4000	4810	1900	4710	1100	5030
Median	460	106	637	183	80	4040	40	4350	31	4470

Table 8 Bacteriological results for Onaero Bay Holiday Park (23 January 2024)

	Onaero River upstream ONR000450		Onaero River downstream ONR000470		Beach, adjacent to surf club SEA000085		Beach, beneath infiltration cliff SEA000083		Beach, north of infiltration cliff SEA000081	
	E. coli **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	***E. coli*** **(MPN/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**	**Ent (cfu/ 100ml)**	**EC (mS/m)**
23 January 2024	2420	277	>2420	472	>10000	1132	5800	3200	5500	3760

Table 8 shows the results of the bacteriological monitoring undertaken during the 2023/24 monitoring year. The *E. coli* counts recorded at both the upstream and downstream sites were significantly higher than the MfE 'Action' level for freshwater as well as their historical medians (Table 2).

Enterococci counts at the coastal sites were also higher than their respective historical medians, and the MfE 'Alert' level for marine waters (Table 2).

2.2.3 Provision of consent holder data

NPDC provided records of effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 (Figure 4). During the 2023/24 monitoring period Onaero Bay Holiday Park exceeded the consent limit of 17m^3/day on 6 days of the year (99% compliance). Many of these events followed periods of high rainfall, and/or aligned with dates of higher occupancy (i.e. holiday periods).

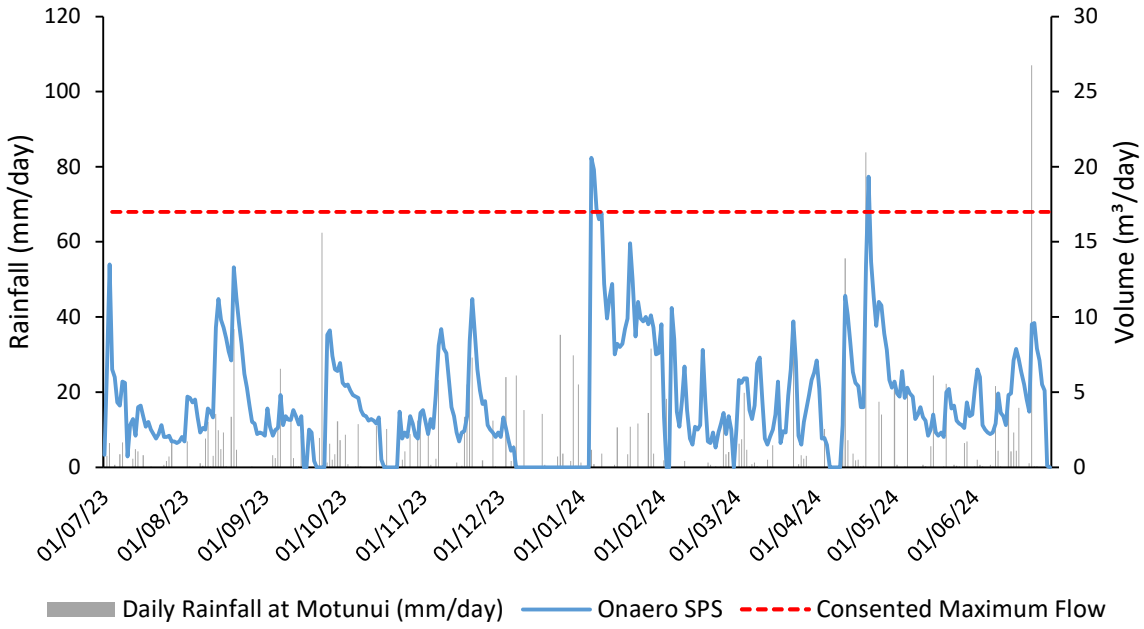

Figure 4 Supplied flow meter data from NPDC for Onaero Bay Holiday Park (1 July 2023– 30 June 2024)

2.3 Incidents, investigations, and interventions

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

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

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

Since February 2020, NPDC have been under Abatement Notices EAC-23206 and EAC-23207 for exceeding the consented limits of wastewater effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches at both Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park. Consent renewal applications alongside an AEE were submitted by NPDC in February 2021, with continued activities allowed in accordance with RMA s.124(1)/124(2). Applications for both consents address the volume exceedances and ongoing Abatement notices. On 23 August 2024, the Council held a meeting with NPDC and Ngāti Mutunga representatives to discuss and finalise the new consent conditions. As of 12 September 2024, the Council confirmed the issue of new consents which will come into effect for the 2024/25 monitoring year. Both abatement notices were lifted on 23 September 2024.

Table 3 below sets out details of any incidents recorded, additional investigations, or interventions required by the Council in relation to the Company's wastewater discharge activities during the 2023/24 period. This table presents details of all events that required further investigation or intervention regardless of whether these were found to be compliant or not.

Table 9 Incidents, investigations, and interventions summary table

Date	Details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
Onaero Bay Holiday Camp				
05/12/23	Self-notification was received regarding a discharge of wastewater from the NPDC operated wastewater network at Onaero Bay Holiday Camp. During routine monitoring a small leak was observed within the reticulation network adjacent to the Onaero River. A sucker truck was mobilised to clean up the spill area and works were immediately undertaken to repair the network in accordance with the management plan for the site.	N	N/A	Water samples were taken to assess the water quality within the immediate area of the spill. Results showed no adverse effects downstream of the discharge location and a further re-inspection (15/12/23) found that the system was operating within resource consent conditions. No further action.
Urenui Beach Camp				
22/12/23	A complaint was received by a member of the public regarding a sewage discharge onto land from the Urenui Beach Camp sewerage system. Inspection found a small discharge coming from the soakage trench. There was no risk of the discharge reaching any surface water.	N		Ongoing
5/1/24	A complaint by a member of the public regarding sewage discharge from the Urenui Beach Camp sewerage system. Leakage was occurring in an area of the infiltration trenches. Liquid with the odour of sewage was running in a steady slow flow overland within an area of approximately 200m^2. NPDC staff arrived and switched the direction of flow to a different leach field preventing further sewage flow in the direction of the leakage.	N		Ongoing
9/1/24	The same complainant from the previous incident advised no works had been undertaken to stop the discharge and the discharge was getting worse. NPDC advised that occasionally access by the complainant is prevented making monitoring of the discharge and infiltration beds difficult. NPDC to monitor the discharge, determine the issue and undertake works to remedy and potentially install CCTV cameras. However, no remedial action had been undertaken.	N	14-Day Letter sent 16/1/24	Response received on 16/1/24 Follow-up inspection carried out on 27/2/24 found no overflowing discharge nor odour. Found to be compliant at the time. Infringement Notice issued 8/7/24

3. Discussion

3.1 Discussion of site performance

3.1.1 Urenui Beach Camp

During the three inspections, no visual issues or offensive odours were noted with the wastewater treatment plant. Routine bacteriological monitoring recorded *E. coli* counts at both river sites as well above the MfE 'Action level for freshwater (Table 2). Enterococci counts at both coastal sampling sites were also well above the MfE 'Action' levels for marine waters. MfE bathing guidelines state that for marine waters to be at an 'Action' level, enterococci count need to be greater than 280cfu/100ml for two consecutive single samples. Although specific follow up samples were not taken, sampling occurs as part of the Council's CISH Programme, which provides the public with regular updates on water quality of popular bathing locations over the summer. Sampling at Urenui Beach 200m East of the Mouth (URN00072) was conducted earlier on the same day for this programme, resulting in a significantly higher enterococci value putting this coastal site at 'Alert' level. Significant rainfall events were preceding and occurring on the sampling date; therefore the heightened counts are more than likely a consequence.

During the 2023/24 monitoring period, Urenui Beach Camp exceeded the consent limit of 85m^3/day on 23 occasions following periods of high rainfall and/or dates of higher occupancy; additionally coinciding with complaints from the public outlined in Table 3. The monitoring of the site to date has shown that, over summer when campground occupancy peaks, compliance with the current consent limit is often not met. Over the past three years, NPDC have implemented a comprehensive monitoring programme, regular system inspections and ongoing maintenance work. Plans are in place for a North Taranaki wastewater treatment plant, which has secured funding and is included within the NPDC 10-year plan. Through negotiations with the Council, Iwi and the Company, it has been concluded that the current discharge consent limit cannot be complied with going forward. New consent conditions coming into effect for the next monitoring year include an alteration to the discharge limit. Supporting data from the AEE and subsequent monitoring commissioned by NPDC concludes that the effects of a higher discharge volume are no more than minor however, improved management of the wastewater system is necessary (LOWE 2020 & 2023).

3.1.2 Onaero Bay Holiday Park

During the three inspections, there were no visual issues or offensive odours noted with the wastewater treatment plant however, it was noted that the active erosion of the cliff area should be closely monitored for any impacts to the soakage trenches. Routine monitoring by NPDC identified a leak issue in December 2023, which was quickly rectified; the Council was also notified in a timely manner. Routine bacteriological monitoring recorded *E. coli* counts at the upstream and downstream site significantly above the MfE 'Alert level for freshwater. Enterococci counts at the coastal sites were high, with CISH sampling confirming coastal sites to be significantly above the MfE 'Action' level. As with Urenui Beach Camp, rainfall events were preceding and occurring on the sampling date, and the heightened counts are more than likely a consequence.

The daily discharge at Onaero Bay Holiday Park exceeded the consent limit of 17m^3/day on 6 days following periods of high rainfall and/or dates of higher occupancy. An increase to discharge limit will come into effect for the 2024/25 monitoring year, as supported by the updated AEE (LOWE 2020 & 2024). Such an amendment allows compliance for this condition going forward. In the interim, close management of the wastewater treatment system is required, in anticipation of the North Taranaki wastewater treatment plant.

3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

Bacteriological monitoring was undertaken in the Urenui River, Onaero River and adjacent coastal waters during the period under review. The monitoring did not detect any adverse effects caused by the beach camps' wastewater systems during the 2023/24 monitoring period.

3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Tables 9-11.

Table 10 Summary of performance for Consent 2046-3

Purpose: To discharge up to 85m³/day of treated septic tank sewage effluent in the vicinity of the Urenui River		
Condition requirement	**Means of monitoring during period under review**	**Compliance achieved?**
1. Bacteriological monitoring of Urenui River and coastal foreshore	Sample collection	Yes
2. Consent holder to maintain septic tank system as required	Site inspections, liaison with camp management	Yes
3. Records of daily effluent volumes if requested	Flow meter installed in December 2019, with data provided monthly by NPDC	Yes – Records provided however, NPDC previously under Abatement Notice EAC-23206 for exceeding consented limits of wastewater effluent volumes discharged to soakage trenches
4. Contingency plan	NPDC Water & Wastes Incident Response Plan version 10.5, received February 2019	Yes
5. Optional review provision re. environmental effects	No further provisions for review; expired 1 June 2021, new consent processed as of 12 September 2024	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		**Improvement required** **High**

N/A = not applicable

Table 11 Summary of performance for Consent 1389-3

Purpose: To discharge up to 17m³/day of treated septic tank sewage effluent in the vicinity of the Onaero River		
Condition requirement	**Means of monitoring during period under review**	**Compliance achieved?**
1. Bacteriological monitoring of Onaero River and coastal foreshore	Sample collection	Yes
2. Consent holder to maintain septic tank system as required	Site inspections, liaison with camp management	Yes

Purpose: To discharge up to 17m³/day of treated septic tank sewage effluent in the vicinity of the Onaero River		
Condition requirement	**Means of monitoring during period under review**	**Compliance achieved?**
3. Records of daily effluent volumes if requested	Flow meter installed in December 2019, with data provided monthly by NPDC	Yes – Records provided however, NPDC previously under Abatement Notice EAC-23207 for exceeding consented limits of wastewater effluent volumes discharged to soakage trenches
4. Contingency plan	NPDC Water & Wastes Incident Response Plan version 10.5, received February 2019. Operations Management Plan update (October 2022) received	Yes
5. Optional review provision re environmental effects	No further provisions for review; expires 1 June 2021, new consent processed as of 12 September 2024	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		**Improvement required** **High**

N/A = not applicable

Table 12 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

Year	Consent numbers	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2019/20	2046, 1389	x	2	-	x
2020/21		x	x	2	x
2021/22		x	x	2	x
2022/23		x	x	2	x
2023/24		x	x	2	x

This rating reflects the ongoing exceedances of discharge volume limits from both camps. No adverse effects have been identified in relation to these discharges and NPDC are being pro-active in their efforts to resolve the issues. The confirmation of new resource consents for Urenui Beach Camp and Onaero Bay Holiday Park, has been a result of extensive discussion between Ngāti Mutunga, NPDC and the Council. The updated AEE commissioned by NPDC confirms that an increase to the discharge consent limits will pose minimal environmental impacts long term however, it is in the best interest of NPDC to actively and closely manage the wastewater treatment systems and any short term environmental impacts that may arise at both sites.

3.4 Recommendations from the 2022/23 Annual Report

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

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at Urenui and Onaero in the 2022/23 year continue at the same level as in 2021/22.
2. THAT NPDC continue to make all attempts possible to comply with Abatement Notices EAC-23206 and EAC-23207.
3. THAT should there be ongoing issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2022/23, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.

These recommendations were implemented as appropriate.

3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2024/25

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

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

The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki exercising resource consents.

It is proposed that for 2024/25, the monitoring programme for the Urenui and Onaero Beach Camps monitoring programme remains unchanged.

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

4. Recommendations

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

Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

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

cfu	Colony forming units. A measure of the concentration of bacteria usually expressed as per 100 millilitre sample.
Conductivity	Conductivity, an indication of the level of dissolved salts in a sample, usually measured at 25°C and expressed in mS/m.
Contact recreation	Recreational activities that bring people physically in contact with water, involving a risk of involuntary ingestion or inhalation of water.
E. coli	*Escherichia coli*, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre sample.
Ent	Enterococci, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre of sample.
Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
Incident Register	The Incident Register contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan.
Median	Central value when values are arranged in order of magnitude.
MPN	Most Probable Number. A method used to estimate the concentration of viable microorganisms in a sample.
mS/m	Millisiemens per metre.
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.
Water quality	The bacteriological condition of a water body as it relates to human health, measured using indicator bacteria.

*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 a manager within the Environment Quality Department.

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Appendix I

Resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council

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

Water abstraction permits

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

Water discharge permits

Section 15(1)(a) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant into water, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent or a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising discharges to water are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

Air discharge permits

Section 15(1)(c) of the RMA stipulates that no person may discharge any contaminant from any industrial or trade premises into air, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising discharges to air are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

Discharges of wastes to land

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations. Permits authorising the discharge of wastes to land are issued by the Council under Section 87(e) of the RMA.

Land use permits

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

Coastal permits

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

Consent 1389-3

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 Date:	6 December 2002

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted:	To discharge up to 17 cubic metres/day of treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into groundwater in the vicinity of the Onaero River at or about GR: Q19:284-448
Expiry Date:	1 June 2021
Review Date(s):	June 2009, June 2015
Site Location:	Onaero Bay Motor Camp, State Highway 3, Onaero
Legal Description:	Sec 82 Urenui Dist Blk III Waitara SD Kaipikari Farm Sett Rec Res
Catchment:	Onaero

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

General conditions

a) 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) 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, in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council, undertake such bacteriological monitoring of the Onaero River and coastal waters of the foreshore as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

2. The consent holder shall ensure proper maintenance of the septic tanks, pumping station and soakage trenches as required.

3. The consent holder shall provide records of daily effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches at the request of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

4. The consent holder shall provide a contingency plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, outlining measures to be undertaken in the event of power failure, pump breakdown, pipe blockage and failure of soakage trenches, within three months of granting this consent.

5. 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 2009 and/or June 2015, 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 6 December 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
Decision Date:	12 September 2024
Commencement Date:	3 October 2024

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted:	To discharge treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into land where contaminants may enter groundwater
Expiry Date:	1 June 2034
Review Date(s):	October 2025 and annually thereafter
Site Location:	Onaero Bay Holiday Park, State Highway 3, Onaero
Grid Reference (NZTM)	1718300E-5683080N
Catchment:	Onaero

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

47 Cloten Road, Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352, New Zealand | 06 765 7127 0800 736 222 | info@trc.govt.nz www.trc.govt.nz

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 1991.

Special conditions

1. The exercise of this consent must be undertaken in general accordance with the information submitted in support of application for consent 1389-4.0. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.

2. The consent holder must at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment associated with the discharge.

3. The consent holder must notify the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga prior to making any intended change to the wastewater system that could alter the nature of the discharge to land. The notification must include the consent number, a brief description of the activity consented and an assessment of the environmental effects of any changes. Unless the Council advises that an alternative method is required the notice to Council shall be served by completing and submitting the 'Notification of work' form on the Council's website (http://bit.ly/TRCWorkNotificationForm).

4. The discharge must not exceed 90 m^3 in any 24 hour period ending at midnight (New Zealand standard time).

5. The consent holder must maintain a meter and a data logger at the site of discharge. The flow meter and data logger must be tamper-proof and must measure and record the rate and volume of the discharge to an accuracy of ± 5%, at intervals not exceeding 15 minutes. Records of the date, time, rate and the volume of the discharge must be submitted monthly to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga. The records must be in a format that, as determined by the Council, is suitable for auditing.

   Advice Note: The consent holder is responsible for ensuring validation of the monitoring equipment.

6. The consent holder must monitor groundwater quality and levels at the 3 onsite bores at least 4 times per year, with sampling undertaken every 3 months where practicable. The samples must be analysed for the following parameters:

   a) pH
   b) Electrical conductivity
   c) Dissolved oxygen
   d) Biochemical oxygen demand
   e) Total nitrogen
   f) Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen
   g) Ammoniacal nitrogen
   h) Total phosphorus
   i) Dissolved reactive phosphorus
   j) E.coli
   k) Total Calcium
   l) Total Magnesium
   m) Total Potassium
   n) Total Sodium

7. The consent holder must collect at least 4 treated wastewater samples per year from the Onaero Pump Station, with sampling approximately every 3 months where practicable. The samples must be analysed for the following parameters:

   a) pH
   b) Total suspended solids
   c) Biochemical oxygen demand
   d) Total nitrogen
   e) Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen
   f) Ammoniacal nitrogen
   g) Total phosphorus
   h) Dissolved reactive phosphorus
   i) E. coli
   j) Total Calcium
   k) Total Magnesium
   l) Total Potassium
   m) Total Sodium

8. The records required by conditions 6 and 7 must:

   a) be in a format that, as determined by the Council, is suitable for auditing;
   b) be provided on a 3-monthly basis to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga; and
   c) be provided to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga by 31 July each year

9. The consent holder must ensure there is a sampling point where the treated effluent can be sampled before it is discharged to the wastewater land application area. The consent holder must, as far as practicable, provide Council access to enable a sample to be taken as required.

10. Within 4 months of consent commencement, the consent holder must submit a Contingency Plan ('the Plan') to the Council for certification. The Plan must detail site specific measures and procedures that will be undertaken to respond to a spillage or any discharge of contaminants not authorised by this consent. The site must adhere to the certified Plan and any subsequent variations.

11. The consent holder must undertake an annual review of the Plan, and provide an update to the Council by 31 July each year. While review is mandatory, amendments are only required if there have been incidents or site changes inadequately addressed by the current Plan, as determined by the Council. Any Plan amendments must be submitted to the Council for review and certification. A copy of the certified Plan, and any subsequent amended and certified Plan, must also be provided to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

    Advice Note: The Contingency Plan could be a section in the Operation and Management Plan required by Condition 12.

12. Within 4 months of granting this consent, the consent holder must submit an Operation and Management Plan ('OMP') to the Council for certification. The objective of the OMP is to ensure the effective management, monitoring and maintenance of the

wastewater treatment system, and compliance with the relevant consent conditions. The OMP must include, but is not limited to, the following:

a) management and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system;
b) an ongoing engagement plan developed in consultation with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga;
c) identification of staff roles and responsibilities for managing the wastewater treatment system;
d) monitoring of the wastewater effluent quality and the rate of discharge;
e) measures to ensure the activity does not result in damage to the soil in the land discharge area;
f) monitoring the impacts of the discharge on groundwater; and
g) monitoring of coastal erosion and contingency planning for re-location.

13. The consent holder must undertake an annual review of the OMP, and provide an update to the Council by 31 July each year. While review is mandatory, amendments are only required if there have been incidents or site changes inadequately addressed by the current OMP, as determined by the Council. Any OMP amendments must be submitted to the Council for review and certification. The site must be operated in accordance with the certified OMP and any certified variation thereafter. A copy of the certified OMP, and any subsequent amended and certified OMP, must also be provided to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

Advice Note: Certification of the Contingency Plan and Operation and Management Plan by the Council relates only to those aspects of the management plans that are relevant under the Resource Management Act 1991. The certification does not amount to an approval or acceptance of suitability by the council of any elements of the management plan that relate to other legislation, for example, but not limited to, the Building Act 2004, the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, or the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

14. The consent holder must maintain an Inspections, Repairs and Maintenance Log ('IRML') for the wastewater treatment system, detailing:
a) the dates of all inspections, repairs and maintenance work undertaken;
b) a description of the work completed; and
c) the results/outcomes of all inspections, repairs and maintenance work undertaken.

The IRML must be provided to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga by 31 July each year.

15. The consent holder must ensure that the design of land drainage areas and the rate, frequency and method of the discharge of treated wastewater, does not result in:

a) run-off to surface water, surface drains or sub-drains;
b) run-off to within 6 metres of the Significant Natural Area, site ID 9;
c) any ponding on the soil surface as a direct result of discharge that lasts for more than one day; and
d) uneven distribution, as far as practicable, across the land discharge area.

16. Once the Urenui/Onaero municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant ('WWTP') is operational, the consent holder must cease discharging on site and connect to the WWTP as soon as practicable.

17. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the 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 October annually for the purposes 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 12 September 2024

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

A D McLay
Director - Resource Management

Consent 2046-3

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 Date:	6 December 2002

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted:	To discharge up to 85 cubic metres/day of treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into groundwater in the vicinity of the Urenui River at or about GR: Q19:310-452
Expiry Date:	1 June 2021
Review Date(s):	June 2009, June 2015
Site Location:	Urenui Beach Motor Camp, Beach Road, Urenui
Legal Description:	Lot 1 DP 15787 Blk III Waitara SD
Catchment:	Urenui

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

General conditions

a) 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) 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, in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council, undertake such bacteriological monitoring of the Urenui River and coastal waters of the foreshore as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

2. The consent holder shall ensure proper maintenance of the septic tanks, pumping station and soakage trenches as required.

3. The consent holder shall provide records of daily effluent volumes discharged to the soakage trenches at the request of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

4. The consent holder shall provide a contingency plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, outlining measures to be undertaken in the event of power failure, pump breakdown, pipe blockage and failure of soakage trenches, within three months of granting this consent.

5. 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 2009 and/or June 2015, 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 6 December 2002

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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Director-Resource Management

Discharge Permit

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

Name of Consent Holder:	New Plymouth District Council
Decision Date:	12 September 2024
Commencement Date:	3 October 2024

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted:	To discharge treated septic tank sewage effluent via soakage trenches into land where contaminants may enter groundwater
Expiry Date:	1 June 2034
Review Date(s):	October 2025 and annually thereafter
Site Location:	Urenui Beach Motor Camp, Beach Road, Urenui
Grid Reference (NZTM)	1720970E-5683530N
Catchment:	Urenui

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

47 Cloten Road, Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352, New Zealand | 06 765 7127 0800 736 222 | info@trc.govt.nz www.trc.govt.nz

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 1991.

Special conditions

1. The exercise of this consent must be undertaken in general accordance with the information submitted in support of application for consent 2046-4.0. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.

2. The consent holder must at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment associated with the discharge.

3. The consent holder must notify the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga prior to making any change to the wastewater system that could alter the nature of the discharge to land. Any such change shall then only occur following receipt of any necessary approval under the Resource Management Act. The notification must include the consent number, a brief description of the activity consented and an assessment of the environmental effects of any changes. Unless the Council advises that an alternative method is required the notice to Council shall be served by completing and submitting the 'Notification of work' form on the Council's website (http://bit.ly/TRCWorkNotificationForm).

4. The discharge must not exceed 400 m^3 in any 24 hour period ending at midnight (New Zealand standard time).

5. The consent holder must maintain a meter and a data logger at the site of discharge. The flow meter and data logger must be tamper-proof and must measure and record the rate and volume of the discharge to an accuracy of ± 5%, at intervals not exceeding 15 minutes. Records of the date, time, rate and the volume of the discharge must be submitted monthly to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga. The records must be in a format that, as determined by the Council, is suitable for auditing.

   Advice Note:The consent holder is responsible for validating the monitoring equipment.

6. The consent holder must undertake groundwater quality and level monitoring at the 3 bores established on site at least 4 times per year. The samples must be taken, as far

as practicable, at 3 monthly intervals. The samples must be analysed, and the results recorded, for:

a) pH
b) Electrical conductivity
c) Dissolved oxygen
d) Biochemical oxygen demand
e) Total nitrogen
f) Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen
g) Ammoniacal nitrogen
h) Total phosphorus
i) Dissolved reactive phosphorus
j) E.coli
k) Total Calcium
l) Total Magnesium
m) Total Potassium
n) Total Sodium

7. The consent holder must take at least 4 samples of treated wastewater per year from the Urenui splitter box. The samples must be taken, as far as practicable, at 3-monthly intervals. The samples must be analysed, and the results recorded, for:

a) pH
b) Total suspended solids
c) Biochemical oxygen demand
d) Total nitrogen
e) Nitrate/nitrite nitrogen
f) Ammoniacal nitrogen
g) Total phosphorus
h) Dissolved reactive phosphorus
i) E. coli
j) Total Calcium
k) Total Magnesium
l) Total Potassium
m) Total Sodium

8. The records required by conditions 6 and 7 must:

a) be in a format that, as determined by the Council, is suitable for auditing;
b) be provided on a 3-monthly basis to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga; and
c) be provided to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga by 31 July each year.

9. The consent holder must ensure that there is a point where the treated effluent can be sampled before it is discharged to the wastewater land application area. The consent holder must, as far as practicable, provide Council access to enable a sample to be taken as required.

10. Within 4 months of granting this consent, the consent holder must submit a Contingency Plan ('the Plan') to the Council for certification. The Plan must detail site specific measures and procedures that will be undertaken to respond to a spillage or any discharge of contaminants not authorised by this consent. The site must adhere to the certified Plan and any subsequent variations.

11. The consent holder must undertake an annual review of the Plan, and provide an update to the Council by 31 July each year. While review is mandatory, amendments are only required if there have been incidents or site changes inadequately addressed by the current Plan, as determined by the Council. Any Plan amendments must be submitted to

the Council for review and certification. A copy of the certified the Plan, and any subsequent amended and certified Plan, must also be provided to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

Advice Note: The Contingency Plan could be a section in the Operation and Management Plan required by Condition 12.

12. Within 4 months of granting this consent, the consent holder must submit an Operation and Management Plan ('OMP') to the Council for certification. The objective of the OMP is to ensure the effective management, monitoring, and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system, and compliance with the relevant consent conditions. The OMP must include, but is not limited to, the following:

    a) management and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system;
    b) an ongoing engagement plan developed in consultation with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga;
    c) identification of staff roles and responsibilities for managing the wastewater treatment system;
    d) monitoring the wastewater effluent quality and the rate of discharge;
    e) measures to ensure the activity does not result in damage to the soil in the land discharge area; and
    f) monitoring the impacts of the discharge on groundwater.

13. The consent holder must undertake an annual review of the OMP, and provide an update to the Council by 31 July each year. While review is mandatory, amendments are only required if there have been incidents or site changes inadequately addressed by the current OMP, as determined by the Council. Any OMP amendments must be submitted to the Council for review and certification. The site must be operated in accordance with the certified OMP and any certified variation thereafter. A copy of the certified OMP, and any subsequent amended and certified OMP, must also be provided to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

    Advice Note: Certification of the Contingency Plan and Operation and Management Plan by the Council relates only to those aspects of the management plan that are relevant under the Resource Management Act 1991. The certification does not amount to an approval or acceptance of suitability by the council of any elements of the management plan that relate to other legislation, for example, but not limited to, the Building Act 2004, the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, or the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

14. The consent holder must maintain an Inspections, Repairs and Maintenance Log ('IRML') for the wastewater treatment system, detailing:
    a) the dates of all inspections, repairs and maintenance work undertaken;
    b) a description of the work completed; and
    c) the results/outcomes of all inspections, repairs and maintenance work undertaken.

    The IRML must be provided to the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga by 31 July each year.

15. The consent holder must ensure that the design of land drainage areas and the rate, frequency and method of the discharge of treated wastewater, does not result in:
    a) run-off to surface water, surface drains or sub-drains;
    b) run-off to within 6 metres of the Significant Natural Area, site ID 9;
    c) any ponding on the soil surface as a direct result of discharge that lasts for more than one day; and

d) uneven distribution, as far as practicable, across the land discharge area.

16. Once the Urenui/Onaero municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant ('WWTP') is operational, the consent holder must cease discharging on site and connect to the WWTP as soon as practicable.

17. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the 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 October annually for the purposes 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 12 September 2024

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

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A D McLay
Director - Resource Management

Appendix II

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

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

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

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

Environmental Performance

High: No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.

Good: Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects however, abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur.

For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however, the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
- Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.

Improvement required: Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.

Poor: Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self-reports, or during investigations of incidents reported to the Council by a third party. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

Administrative performance

High: The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.

Good: Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time however, this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.

Improvement required: Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.

Poor: Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.