

**NPDC New Plymouth WWTP**  
**Monitoring Programme**  
**Annual Report**  
**2023/24**  
**Technical Report 2024-79**





# **NPDC New Plymouth WWTP**

## **Monitoring Programme**

### **Annual Report**

#### **2023/24**

#### **Technical Report 2024-79**

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## Executive summary

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) operates a wastewater treatment plant (NPWWTP) located on Rifle Range Road between New Plymouth and Bell Block.

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

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

In relation to the operation of the NPWWTP, NPDC holds six resource consents, which include a total of 58 conditions setting out the requirements that NPDC must satisfy. NPDC holds one consent to discharge treated wastewater into the Tasman Sea, one consent to discharge sludge leachate to groundwater, two consents relating to structures, and one consent to discharge emissions into the air at the site. A further consent is held in relation to the discharge of screened untreated wastewater from the Waitara Marine Outfall during periods of high flow.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included the review of data supplied by NPDC, two routine site inspections, effluent samples collected for various analyses (including inter-laboratory comparison), a five site marine ecological survey, and analysis of green lipped mussels for norovirus and heavy metals.

Monitoring through the year found that the NPWWTP generally performed as designed, discharging highly treated effluent into the Tasman Sea. The marine ecological survey did not find any evidence of adverse effects resulting from the outfall discharge. Norovirus was not detected in mussel samples collected during the monitoring period however, past monitoring indicates there is still a risk of mussel contamination between Waiwhakaiho and Bell Block and as such signage remains in place at these locations to advise against collecting shellfish.

There were four unauthorised incidents that occurred at the NPWWTP during the year; one due to a power outage, one due to heavy rainfall and two mechanical/technical issues. No events were recorded for sewer pump stations. There were five reticulation overflows (all of which were due to blockages due to fat and/or gravel). This total of nine incidents is significantly lower than the previous four monitoring periods. NPDC received an infringement notice in relation to one of the incidents, while the remaining incidents were considered to be beyond the control of NPDC and no further action was taken by Council (NPDC has a rigorous procedure for dealing with any overflows).

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

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

This report includes recommendations for the 2024/25 year.

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# 1. Introduction

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

### 1.1.1 Introduction

This report is for the period July 2023 to June 2024 by Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held for the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPWWTP). New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) is the consent holder for the operation which is situated on Rifle Range Road at New Plymouth, in the Waiwhakaiho catchment.

The report includes 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 air, treated wastewater and sludge leachate, a marine outfall structure and a culvert. This report is the 29<sup>th</sup> annual report to be prepared by the Council for the NPWWTP.

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

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

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

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

### 1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental performance

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

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

## 1.2 Process description

The NPWWTP (Photo 1) treats the municipal wastewater from the New Plymouth urban area, Bell Block, Oakura, Inglewood and Waitara by a process of biological nutrient removal using activated sludge. There is also a substantial industrial load, equivalent to approximately 25% of the total biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) load, treated by the plant. The plant was commissioned in 1984, and has had its capacity expanded several times since.

The wastewater enters the plant at the inlet works (Figure 1) to remove plastics and solids from the wastewater, followed by the removal of grit. The solids are collected and removed regularly for land disposal. Following this preliminary treatment, the wastewater enters the bioreactor basins where micro-organisms, collectively called “activated sludge”, break down the organic matter in the wastewater. Pathogens and heavy metals stick to the activated sludge, and are removed at a later stage of the process. The mix of wastewater and activated sludge then overflows into clarifiers, which separate the activated sludge from the water. The clear water overflows into the chlorine contact tank for disinfection prior to discharge through a 450m marine outfall offshore of the mouth of the Waiwhakaiho River.

The activated sludge remaining in the clarifiers is returned to the bioreactor basins to maintain biological levels, while the surplus is diverted to the solid stream. This involves thickening and dewatering the surplus

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

activated sludge before being processed in the thermal drying facility (TDF) for sterilisation and disposal by alternative use (soil conditioner).

Thermal drying of the sludge results in a dry granular solid (biosolid) with a moisture content of 5-10%. The temperatures used in the process are such that there is sterilisation of the micro-organisms and pathogens present in the sludge. The biosolid is registered for sale as *Taranaki Bioboost 6-2-0* fertiliser.



Photo 1 The New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant prior to expansion



Figure 1 Layout of the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant

Major construction works were undertaken as part of an upgrade of the NPWWTP between December 2012 and December 2013. The upgrade involved major modification of the plant's two existing aeration basins to make them more efficient by introducing anoxic and anaerobic zones to the process and improving aeration within aerobic zones. The basins are therefore now referred to as the bioreactor basins.

## 1.3 Resource consents

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

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

Table 1 Resource consent summary

| Consent number                 | Purpose   | Granted  | Review             | Expires                |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Water discharge permits</i> |   |          |                    |                        |
| 0882-4                         | To discharge treated municipal wastewater from the NPWWTP through a marine outfall structure into the Tasman Sea.   | Dec 2011 | Jun 2027           | Jun 2041               |
| 2982-4                         | To discharge of up to 60m <sup>3</sup> /day of leachate from a sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater in the vicinity of the Waiwhakaiho River.   | Oct 2002 | No further reviews | Jun 2020* <sup>^</sup> |
| <i>Air discharge permit</i>    |   |          |                    |                        |
| 4740-2                         | To discharge contaminants into the air from sludge drying and processing activities at the NPWWTP.  | May 2008 | No further reviews | June 2026              |
| <i>Land use permit</i>         |   |          |                    |                        |
| 1826-2                         | To erect, place and maintain a twin box culvert on the Mangaone Stream for road access purposes.  | Jan 2002 | No further reviews | June 2020*             |
| <i>Coastal permit</i>          |   |          |                    |                        |
| 4593-3                         | To occupy the Coastal Marine Area with a marine outfall as part of the New Plymouth wastewater treatment system.  | Sep 2014 | June 2026          | June 2041              |
| 7861-1                         | To discharge screened untreated municipal wastewater into the Tasman Sea via the Waitara Marine Outfall during high flow events at the Waitara Pump Station [previously the Waitara Wastewater Treatment Plant] | Nov 2011 | June 2027          | June 2041              |

\* S.124 protection, ^ assessment on whether consent is still required being undertaken

## 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 NPWWTP consisted of six 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 NPWWTP was visited twice during the monitoring period. With regard to consents for the discharge to water, the main points of interest were plant processes with potential or actual discharges to receiving watercourses. Air inspections focused on plant processes with associated actual and potential emission sources and characteristics, including potential odour, dust, noxious or offensive emissions. Sources of data being collected by NPDC were identified and accessed, so that performance in respect of operation, internal monitoring, and supervision could be reviewed by the Council. The neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects.

## 1.4.4 Council effluent monitoring

### 1.4.4.1 Grab samples

Grab samples were collected from the final effluent twice during the monitoring period. Samples were analysed for chlorine (total and free) and faecal indicator bacteria (FIB), specifically; *Escherichia coli*, and enterococci.

### 1.4.4.2 Inter-laboratory comparison

Two inter-laboratory comparisons between the Council and NPDC were performed during the 2023/24 monitoring period using 24-hour composite samples. The comparisons were performed to verify the validity of monitoring results reported by NPDC, and to provide an independent check on compliance with consent conditions. The samples were analysed by both Hill Laboratories (on behalf of Council), and NPDC, for cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc (all acid soluble), cyanide (total), and phenolic compounds.

## 1.4.5 Review of NPDC self-monitoring data

NPDC monitors the influent and effluent for a number of chemical, biochemical and bacteriological parameters and forwards the results through to the Council on a monthly basis.

### 1.4.5.1 Composite samples

A number of composite samples were collected from the effluent and analysed for various parameters. Following a review of the monitoring programme in 2017, the testing frequency for cyanide, phenols, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, and mercury, to assess compliance with condition 3 (Consent 0882-4), was reduced from monthly to biannual. Approximately three times a week, samples were collected for the analysis of suspended solids and BOD to assess compliance with condition 4 (Consent 0882-4).

#### **1.4.5.2 Grab samples**

Grab samples were collected and analysed for total available chlorine twice a day, to assess compliance with condition 10 (Resource Consent 0882-4).

#### **1.4.5.3 Norovirus sampling**

Following review of the monitoring programme in 2013, norovirus analysis of mussel flesh and influent and effluent from the NPWWTP was added as a new component of the monitoring programme in accordance with condition 14 (e) of Consent 0882-4. Two sets of influent, clarifier composite and effluent samples were analysed for norovirus GI and GII by The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR).

#### **1.4.5.4 Sludge lagoon monitoring**

Monitoring of the sludge lagoon is focused on the potential contamination of groundwater and of the drainage channel located next to the lagoon. Three groundwater bores are located around the lagoon. Samples from these bores are collected once a month and analysed for various parameters. The drainage channel is also sampled once a month at two sites, one upstream and the other downstream of the sludge lagoon.

### **1.4.6 Bacteriological water quality**

A survey of shoreline bacteriological water quality at three seawater sites in the vicinity of the marine outfall, as well as a site on the lower reaches of the Waiwhakaiho River, has been carried out every second year during the summer months. This monitoring was undertaken in the 2020/21 period, and was next scheduled to be carried out during the 2022/23 monitoring period in conjunction with the region-wide Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Programme (RWQMP). However, it was considered that changes to the methodology of the RWQMP would limit the ability to detect an influence on bacteria numbers from the NPWWTP so samples were instead collected directly from the NPWWTP outlet weekly over the summer months. This sampling was carried out during 2022/23 and is next scheduled for 2024/25.

### **1.4.7 Marine ecological surveys**

An annual intertidal ecological survey was carried out at three potential impact sites and two control sites during the 2023/24 monitoring period. The objective of this survey was to indicate any change in intertidal community structure attributable to discharges from the NPWWTP outfall.

### **1.4.8 Shellfish monitoring**

#### **1.4.8.1 Metals**

Mussels are collected from three sites around the outfall (Waiwhakaiho Reef, Bell Block and East End) on a biennial basis and tested for trace metals.

#### **1.4.8.2 Norovirus**

Mussels were collected on two occasions and analysed for norovirus GI and GII by ESR. Mussels are collected from Waiwhakaiho Reef and Bell Block Reef.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Water

#### 2.1.1 Inspections

Routine site inspections were carried out at the plant on 30 November 2023 and 22 May 2024. These inspections involved a visual assessment of the plant processes and effluent, a check of the final effluent chlorine data, a brief consultation with operations and/or laboratory staff, and an inspection of the foreshore and seawater adjacent to the outfall.

The plant and surrounds were found to be tidy and well managed during each visit. All wastewater was contained within the plant, with no evidence of any overflows or spills having occurred.

The sludge lagoon de-sludging project was completed near the end of the 2021/22 monitoring period with the sludge bags remaining in situ, most of these had finished draining.

Noticeable effluent odour was noted around the south-eastern plant boundary near the TDF and biofilter however, no offensive or objectionable odours were noted beyond the site boundary.

The north-eastern perimeter tributary (upstream and downstream of Bore 1) contained a low-moderate volume of water with an accumulation of light brown algae. *E.coli* sample results from the tributary have been fluctuating widely and due to the possibility of a leak or spill in this area causing sewage fungus, a sample of the light brown material in the perimeter tributary was collected on 23 May 2024. The sample was analysed under a microscope and identified as naturally occurring iron bacteria.

The wastewater plume was not visible at the coast. The twin box culvert beneath Rifle Range Road did not appear to be obstructing fish passage.

The Council collected two grab samples of the final effluent during the year (Table 2). The concentration of total available chlorine was compliant with the consent limit and faecal bacteria counts were consistently low.

Table 2 Effluent grab samples 2023/24 (site SWG002002)

| Parameter                | Unit             | Date        |             | Consent Limit |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|                          |                  | 30 Nov 2023 | 22 May 2024 |               |
| Free available chlorine  | g/m <sup>3</sup> | ^           | 0.11        | -             |
| Total available chlorine | g/m <sup>3</sup> | ^           | 1.7         | ≥0.3 *        |
| <i>E. coli</i>           | cfu/100ml        | <10         | <100        | -             |
| Enterococci              | cfu/100ml        | <10         | <100        | -             |

\* The total available chlorine in the effluent, prior to entering the outfall pipe, shall be no less than 0.3g/m<sup>3</sup>

^ Chlorine meter not calibrated, no result

#### 2.1.1 Effluent monitoring

##### 2.1.1.1 Composite samples

An annual summary of the composite effluent monitoring undertaken by NPDC in relation to condition 3 is presented in Table 3, along with the associated resource consent limits and a summary of previous results. Table 4 presents the results of samples that were split in order to perform inter-laboratory comparisons. For these comparisons, a satisfactory agreement between two samples was reached if they were each within

10% of the resultant mean. Because both NPDC and the Council were sending samples to Hill Laboratories for mercury analysis, an inter-lab comparison was deemed unnecessary for this analyte.

During the 2023/24 monitoring year, sample results for heavy metals, cyanide and phenols remained within consent limits, and were comparable with those previously recorded. The majority of results were below detection limits.

The inter-laboratory comparisons showed that, with the exception of cyanide, the results were all in good agreement. Although NPDC recorded twice the level of cyanide compared to Council, both results were well below the consent limit.

Table 3 Summary results of effluent composite samples collected by NPDC (2023/24)

| Parameter | Unit             | Consent limit | 2023/24            |                   |             | Previous results (NPDC) |             |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|           |                  |               | Sample location    | Number of samples | % compliant | Max                     | No. samples |
| Cyanide   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.1                     | 323         |
| Cadmium   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.04          | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.01                    | 335         |
| Chromium  | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.15          | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.05                    | 335         |
| Copper    | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.05                    | 335         |
| Lead      | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.05                    | 335         |
| Mercury   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.002         | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.001                   | 309         |
| Nickel    | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.15          | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.07                    | 335         |
| Phenols   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 1             | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.17                    | 320         |
| Zinc      | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.2           | Effluent composite | 2                 | 100         | 0.15                    | 335         |

Table 4 Summary results of effluent composite samples collected by NPDC and TRC (2023/24)

| Parameter | Unit             | Consent limit | 2023/24          |        |           |             |          |           | % compliant |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
|           |                  |               | 30 November 2023 |        |           | 22 May 2024 |          |           |             |
|           |                  |               | TRC              | NPDC   | Inter-lab | TRC         | NPDC     | Inter-lab |             |
| Cyanide   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | <0.02            | 0.02   | √         | 0.03        | 0.06     | *         | 100         |
| Cadmium   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.04          | <0.001           | <0.005 | √         | <0.001      | <0.005   | √         | 100         |
| Chromium  | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.15          | <0.01            | <0.005 | √         | <0.01       | <0.005   | √         | 100         |
| Copper    | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | <0.01            | <0.005 | √         | <0.01       | <0.005   | √         | 100         |
| Lead      | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.1           | <0.002           | <0.05  | √         | <0.002      | <0.05    | √         | 100         |
| Mercury   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.002         | <0.00008         | -      | -         | <0.00008    | <0.00008 | √         | 100         |
| Nickel    | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.15          | <0.01            | <0.005 | √         | <0.01       | <0.005   | √         | 100         |
| Phenols   | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 1             | <0.02            | <0.05  | √         | <0.02       | <0.05    | √         | 100         |
| Zinc      | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 0.2           | <0.02            | <0.05  | √         | 0.02        | <0.05    | √         | 100         |

√ = satisfactory agreement

\* = unsatisfactory agreement

As stated in condition 4, neither BOD nor suspended solids shall exceed a concentration of 25g/m<sup>3</sup> in more than 5% of samples of the final effluent during normal plant operation. Condition 5 allows concentrations of up to 130g/m<sup>3</sup> BOD and 110g/m<sup>3</sup> suspended solids when one aeration basin is off-line for planned maintenance. A summary of the BOD and suspended solids results from the effluent composite samples collected during the year under review is presented in Table 5.

All samples complied with consent limits.



Table 5 Summary of BOD and suspended solids results from 24-hour effluent composite samples

| Parameter                 | Unit             | Consent limit | No. of samples | % compliant |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Biochemical oxygen demand | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 25            | 151            | 100%        |
| Suspended solids          | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 25            | 153            | 100%        |

### 2.1.1.2 Grab samples

Condition 10 requires that the concentration of total available chlorine (TAC) in the effluent shall be no less than 0.3g/m<sup>3</sup>. NPDC collect a minimum of two grab samples of effluent each working day and one sample on non-working days to assess this condition. The results from the period under review are presented in Table 6.

Table 6 Summary of chlorine concentrations in effluent grab samples

| Parameter                | Unit             | No. of samples | Consent limit | % compliant |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Total available chlorine | g/m <sup>3</sup> | 847            | ≥ 0.3         | 100         |

The concentration of TAC was found to be at or above 0.3g/m<sup>3</sup> in every routine sample collected during the monitoring year. (Table 6).

### 2.1.1.3 Norovirus samples

Condition 14 requires shellfish to be monitored for microbial contamination in relation to the NPWWTP outfall discharge. In conjunction with this, samples of influent and effluent at the NPWWTP are also collected and analysed for norovirus (GI and GII). Three sets of samples were collected for analysis during the period under review. The wastewater results from this monitoring year are presented in Table 7.

Table 7 Norovirus concentration in the effluent and influent at the NPWWTP

| Plant operation | Date        | Norovirus GI (genome copies/L) |          |                                | Norovirus GII (genome copies/L) |          |                                |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
|                 |             | Influent                       | Effluent | Log <sub>10</sub> inactivation | Influent                        | Effluent | Log <sub>10</sub> inactivation |
| Normal          | 31 Jul 2023 | 27,000                         | <50      | 3.03                           | 210,000                         | <50      | 3.92                           |
| Normal          | 7 Feb 2024  | 360,000                        | <50      | 4.16                           | 38,000                          | <50      | 3.18                           |

\* limit of quantitation (<50 genome copies/L), detection limit (<13 genome copies/L)

The NPWWTP achieved a high level of norovirus inactivation during the year under review, with between 99.9% to 99.999% reductions.

## 2.1.2 Sludge lagoon monitoring

The lagoon was designed with the intention that sludge would be forced by hydraulic pressure into the fine river silts and ash which underline the lagoon, thus blinding and sealing the bottom of the lagoon. Resource Consent 2982-4 authorises a discharge of up to 60m<sup>3</sup>/day of sludge lagoon leachate to groundwater. Monitoring results of shallow groundwater bores and surface waters in the vicinity of the lagoon indicate that leakage is occurring.

During the 2021/22 year, NPDC completed the process of decommissioning the sludge lagoon. Monitoring has been undertaken since to assess if there are any ongoing effects from the decommissioned lagoon.

NPDC collects monthly groundwater and surface water samples from selected sites in the vicinity of the sludge lagoon (Figure 2). Summarised results from the year under review are provided in Tables 8 to 13, along with a summary of previous results from 1990 to 2022.



Figure 2 NPWWTP sludge lagoon and groundwater bore and drain sampling sites

The pH results of the three bore sites, and pH results of the two drain sites, were similar during the year under review (Table 8). The minimum results for all sites were higher than historical results, while the median results were identical or similar to the historical results at each site. Maximum values at all sites were lower compared with historical results. Further statistical analysis did not show any significant changes between historical results and those collected after decommissioning of the lagoon.

Table 8 Summary of 2023/24 monthly pH data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 12          | 365        | 5.7     | 4.9        | 6.1     | 6.1        | 6.4     | 7.1        |
| B2   | 12          | 366        | 5.7     | 4.9        | 6.0     | 6.0        | 6.2     | 7.4        |
| B3   | 12          | 354        | 6.0     | 5.0        | 6.2     | 6.2        | 6.3     | 7.3        |
| D2   | 12          | 360        | 6.5     | 6.0        | 6.6     | 6.6        | 6.7     | 7.0        |
| D3   | 12          | 360        | 6.4     | 6.0        | 6.6     | 6.7        | 6.7     | 7.1        |

The ammoniacal-N results from bores B1 and B2 were similar during the year under review, while the levels in Bore 3 were much lower (Table 9).

Table 9 Summary of 2023/24 monthly ammoniacal-N ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{N}$ ) data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 12          | 364        | 0.59    | <0.1       | 1.9     | 2.0        | 2.4     | 100        |
| B2   | 12          | 364        | <0.1    | <0.1       | 1.1     | 1.5        | 2.9     | 25         |
| B3   | 12          | 353        | <0.1    | <0.1       | <0.1    | 0.44       | 1.9     | 198        |
| D2   | 12          | 359        | 0.38    | <0.1       | 0.46    | 0.50       | 0.54    | 7.5        |
| D3   | 12          | 360        | 1.6     | 0.1        | 2.3     | 4.1        | 8.2     | 27         |

There still remains a considerable increase in ammoniacal-N between the upstream (D2) and downstream (D3) drain monitoring sites (as has been the subject of investigation in previous monitoring years; see

Section 3.2.2). The 2023/24 median and maximum results were lower than the historic medians and maximums for both bore and drain sites.

Median and maximum concentrations of oxidised-N were below the historical results at all three bores (Table 10). This potentially indicates that the removal of the sludge is having a positive effect on the groundwater.

Table 10 Summary of 2023/24 monthly oxidised-N ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{N}$ ) data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three monitoring bores

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 10          | 365        | 0.04    | <0.02      | 0.04    | 0.37       | 0.68    | 28         |
| B2   | 10          | 366        | <0.05   | <0.05      | <0.05   | 0.12       | 5.1     | 40         |
| B3   | 10          | 352        | 0.12    | 0.02       | 0.12    | 0.22       | 2.2     | 64         |

In 2023/24, the majority of DRP results at all bores were below the detection limit (Table 11).

Table 11 Summary of 2023/24 monthly DRP ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three monitoring bores

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 10          | 364        | <0.08   | <0.01      | <0.08   | 0.025      | <0.08   | 3.30       |
| B2   | 10          | 365        | <0.08   | <0.01      | <0.08   | 0.025      | 0.14    | 0.36       |
| B3   | 10          | 351        | <0.08   | <0.01      | <0.08   | <0.08      | 0.08    | 1.00       |

COD concentrations for the 2023/24 year in Bores 1 and 3 were below historical medians and maximums (Table 12). While the median COD in Bore 2 was well above the historical median, with a very high maximum result. Further statistical analysis showed that the COD levels in Bores 1 and 3 were potentially dropping post-decommissioning, while Bore 2 was increasing.

Table 12 Summary of 2023/24 monthly COD data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three monitoring bores

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 12          | 364        | <10     | <1         | 10      | 12         | 18      | 48         |
| B2   | 12          | 364        | <10     | 6          | 26      | 18         | 125     | 181        |
| B3   | 12          | 352        | <10     | 1          | 23      | 26         | 50      | 740        |

Faecal coliform counts were relatively low in Bore 1 during the year (Table 13). The numbers were higher in Bores 2 and 3. While the maximums were much lower than historical results, medians at the drain sites were higher than previously recorded (Table 13).

Table 13 Summary of 2023/24 monthly FC data and historic results (1990-2023) at the three bores and two drain sites

| Site | No. samples |            | Minimum |            | Median  |            | Maximum |            |
|------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|      | 2023/24     | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical | 2023/24 | Historical |
| B1   | 12          | 362        | <10     | <1         | <10     | <10        | 280     | 2,300      |
| B2   | 12          | 364        | <10     | <1         | 33      | <10        | 1,620   | 10,000     |
| B3   | 12          | 365        | <10     | <2         | 33      | 10         | 2,160   | 72,000     |
| D2   | 12          | 359        | 60      | <10        | 253     | 110        | 1,000   | 6,960      |
| D3   | 12          | 360        | 70      | <10        | 360     | 153        | 2,200   | 13,280     |

Overall, the results indicate that the impact of the decommissioned sludge lagoon has continued during the monitoring year. While some parameters appear to be improving in some areas the results are not conclusive and continued monitoring is recommended.

### 2.1.3 Bacteriological water quality

Bacteriological water quality monitoring was not undertaken during the 2023/24 period, this is next scheduled during 2024/25.

### 2.1.4 Marine ecological surveys

In order to assess the effects of the NPWWTP outfall discharge on the nearby intertidal communities, ecological surveys were conducted between 12 January and 13 March 2024 at five sites. These surveys included three potential impact sites (SEA902015; Waiwhakaiho Reef 500 m SW of the outfall, SEA902010; Waiwhakaiho Reef 300m NE of the outfall, and SEA902005; Mangati Reef) and two control sites (SEA903070; Greenwood Road and SEA900095; Turangi Reef), north and south of the outfall. Any adverse effects of the NPWWTP outfall discharge on the intertidal communities would likely have been evident as a significant decline in species diversity at the potential impact sites relative to the control sites. While sand inundation and climatic factors remain, the primary drivers influencing local marine biodiversity, significant decreases in species abundance and diversity could signal a potential issue or severe contamination related to the NPWWTP outfall discharge.

The main findings of these surveys are summarised below, and are presented in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

Comparable numbers of species per quadrat were found at the potential impact site located at Mangati reef, and the control sites located in Turangi reef and Greenwood Road. The site located 500m SW of the outfall presented significantly lower numbers of species per quadrat. With regards to the Shannon-Weiner indices, indices for the potential impact site 500m SW of the outfall were significantly lower compared to all other sites surveyed. The potential impact site 300m NE of the outfall presented significantly higher indices than the site 500m SW of the outfall, Turangi reef and Greenwood Road site, but presented no statistically significant differences with Mangati reef. The control site Turangi reef was significantly different to the site 300m NE of the outfall, the site 500m SW of the outfall and Mangati reef. It presented Shannon-Weiner indices significantly higher than the 500m SW site, and significantly lower than Mangati reef and the 300m NE site. The control site at Greenwood Road presented significantly higher Shannon-Weiner indices than the site 500m SW of the outfall and significantly lower Shannon-Weiner indices than the site 300m NE of the outfall, but had no significant differences with Mangati reef and Turangi reef.

Over the long-term record, there has been no obvious decline in species richness or diversity at the potential impact sites relative to the control sites. The observations from these surveys suggest that the fluctuations are more likely related to natural changes in reef habitat, rather than adverse impacts from the wastewater discharge. The results indicate that the outfall discharge was not having detectable adverse effects on the intertidal reef communities of North Taranaki during the monitoring period. Natural environmental factors, in particular sand cover, substrate type and substrate mobility, appeared to be the dominant drivers of species diversity at the sites surveyed.

A full copy of the marine ecological survey report, including a comprehensive analysis and interpretation of results, is available from the Council upon request.

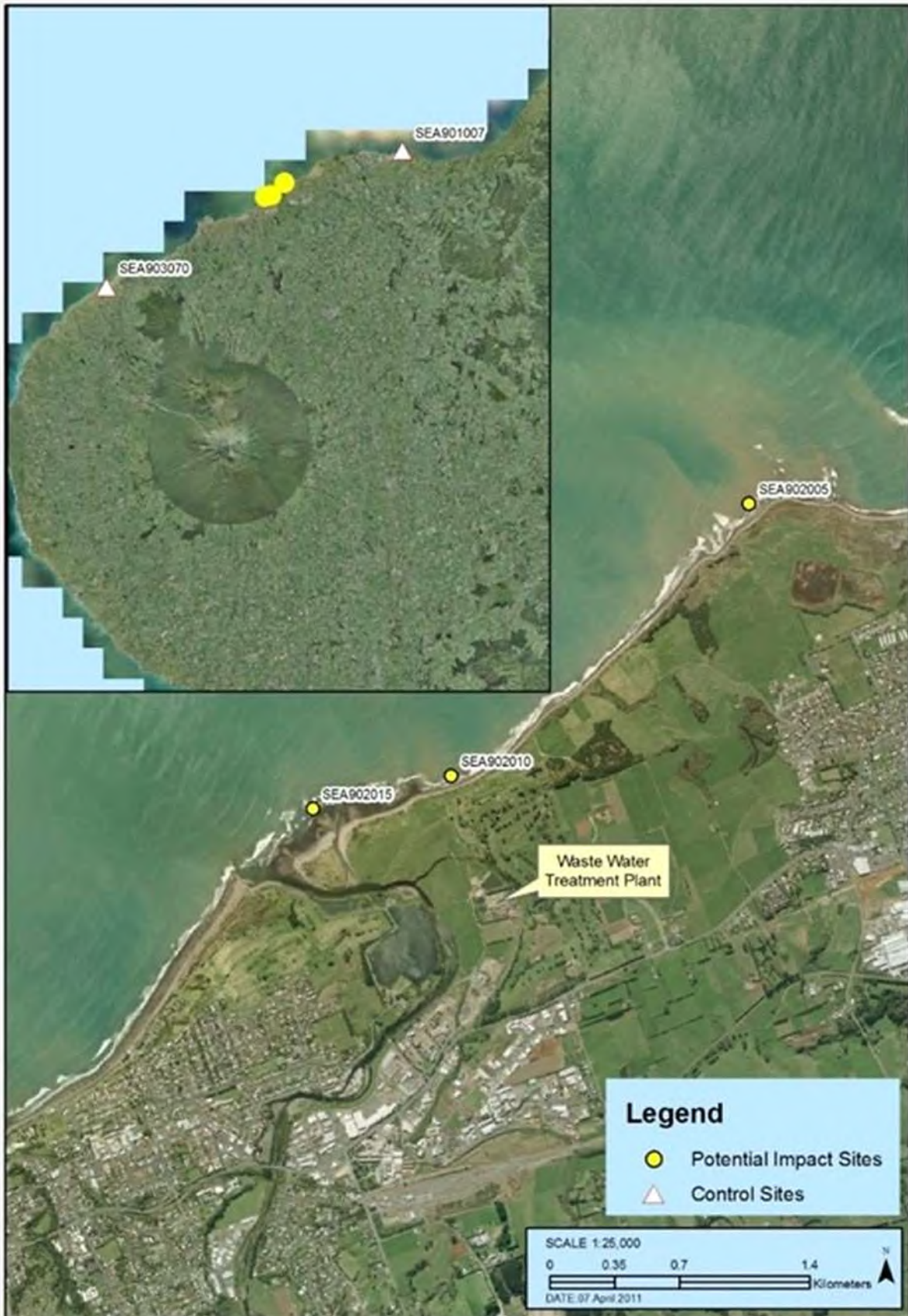


Figure 3 Marine ecological survey sites for NPWWTP

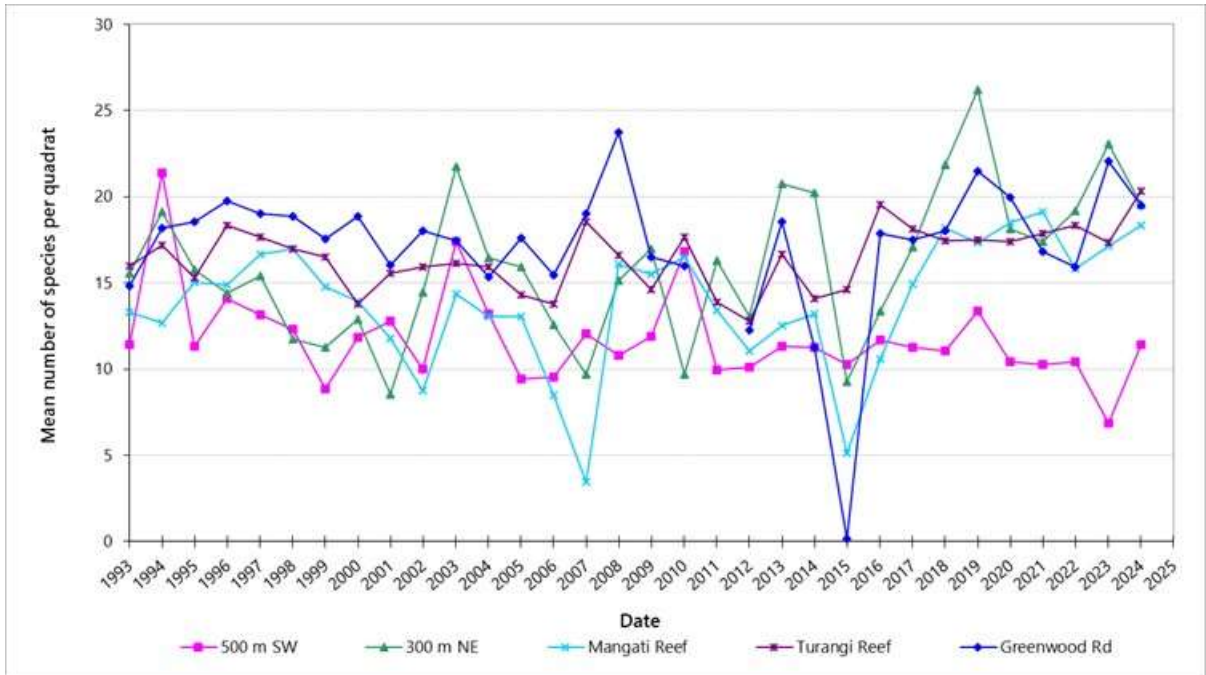


Figure 4 Mean number of species per quadrat for summer surveys (1993-2024)

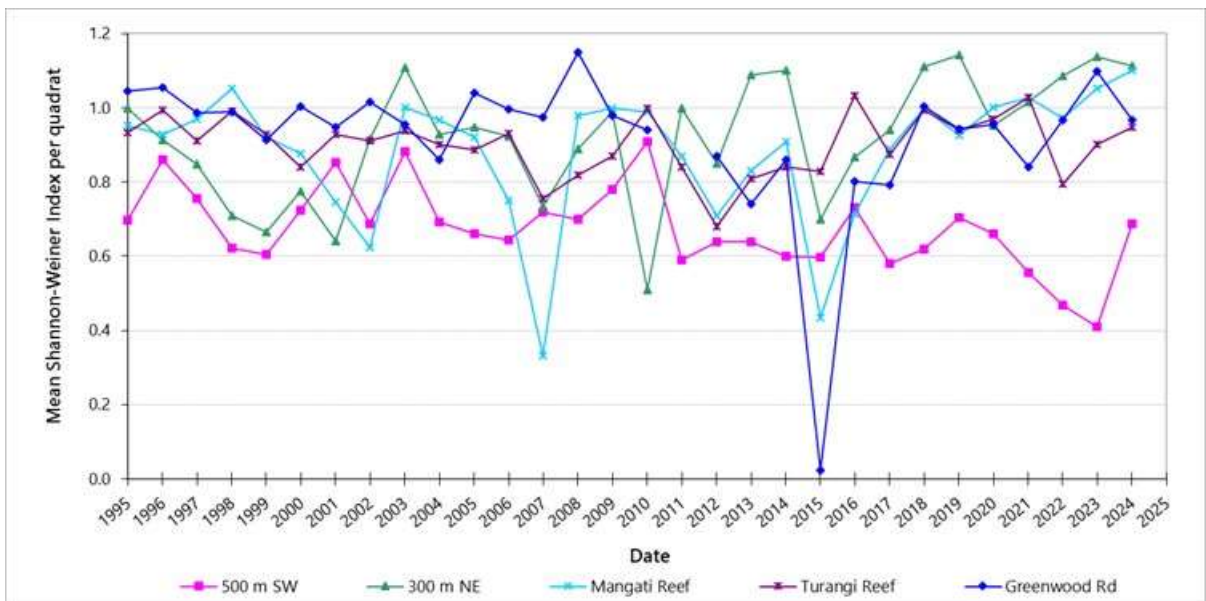


Figure 5 Mean Shannon-Weiner index per quadrat for summer surveys (1995-2024)

## 2.1.5 Shellfish monitoring

### 2.1.5.1 Metals in mussel flesh

Green lipped mussels (and other filter feeding shellfish) can accumulate contaminants in their tissues over time. As a consequence, they can be used as bio-monitors to assess the contaminant load at a particular site. Naturally occurring green lipped mussel were collected from three low shore sites. In order of influence from the NPWWTP outfall discharge, the sites sampled were: Waiwhakaiho Reef (SEA902015), Bell Block (SEA902001) and the eastern end of Arakaitai Reef at East End Beach (SEA902040). The concentrations of heavy metals in the mussel tissue and guideline values are presented in Table 14.

Table 14 Heavy metal contaminants in green lipped mussel flesh, 12 February 2024

| Parameter | Units | Site               |       |             |       |            |       | Shellfish guideline maximum limit* |
|-----------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|------------------------------------|
|           |       | Arakaitai/East End |       | Waiwhakaiho |       | Bell Block |       |                                    |
|           |       | 2023/24            | Avg.  | 2023/24     | Avg.  | 2023/24    | Avg.  |                                    |
| Silver    | mg/kg | <0.01              | <0.01 | <0.01       | 0.01  | <0.01      | <0.01 | -                                  |
| Cadmium   | mg/kg | 0.045              | 0.034 | 0.039       | 0.037 | 0.03       | 0.034 | 2.0                                |
| Chromium  | mg/kg | <0.19              | 0.068 | <0.2        | 0.065 | <0.2       | 0.057 | -                                  |
| Copper    | mg/kg | 1.18               | 0.74  | 0.73        | 0.83  | 0.66       | 0.83  | -                                  |
| Mercury   | mg/kg | 0.014              | 0.012 | 0.013       | 0.012 | 0.01       | 0.011 | 0.5                                |
| Nickel    | mg/kg | 0.29               | 0.37  | 0.32        | 0.35  | 0.29       | 0.37  | -                                  |
| Lead      | mg/kg | 0.034              | 0.06  | 0.02        | 0.047 | 0.02       | 0.024 | 2.0                                |
| Zinc      | mg/kg | 15                 | 8.3   | 15          | 9.8   | 10         | 9.1   | -                                  |

\*Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, 2016

Avg = Average concentration 1993 – 2020; Less than values have been halved when calculating averages.

Mercury, cadmium and lead concentrations in mussel flesh from all three sites (Table 14) were well below Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code guidelines (2016). Although no guidelines exist for the remaining metals, these results were all comparable with the range of previous concentrations found during NPWWTP shellfish surveys (Appendix III).

The results collected since 1993 indicate that, over the long term, median concentrations of cadmium, copper, and zinc in mussel flesh are the greatest at the site closest to the outfall; Waiwhakaiho Reef (Table 14; Appendix III). However, the differences in the concentrations between sites have typically been minor.

### 2.1.5.2 Norovirus in shellfish flesh

In waters affected by discharges from wastewater treatment plants, the relationship between indicators and pathogens can be altered by the wastewater treatment process. Currently, it is norovirus that is believed to pose the greatest health risk in seawater containing treated wastewater. Norovirus is the main cause of gastroenteritis associated with shellfish consumption and only low concentrations are required to pose a high risk of infection in humans. Mussels and other filter feeding molluscs are efficient at concentrating norovirus, which can be retained in their flesh for up to 8-10 weeks.

As a requirement of condition 13, Consent 0882-4, a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) was completed, which assesses the human health effects associated with norovirus in wastewater discharges from the NPWWTP (McBride, 2012).

In conjunction with the QMRA, and as a requirement of condition 14, Consent 0882-4, monitoring of microbial contamination within shellfish was implemented within the consent compliance monitoring programme for the NPWWTP. Mussel flesh has been monitored for norovirus (GI and GII) at two potential

impact sites (Waiwhakaiho Reef and Bell Block) since October 2012. A control site (Oakura) was also monitored initially however, this has since been discontinued as it was decided that a control site was not required for interpretation of the results. Norovirus (GI and GII) concentrations were also measured within the NPWWTP influent and effluent (see Section 2.1.2.3).

Norovirus was not detected in any of the samples collected during 2023/24. Permanent health warning signs remain at Waiwhakaiho and Bell Block due to the elevated risk of norovirus presence in shellfish at these sites.

Table 15 Mussel flesh norovirus results 2023/24

| Plant operation | Date             | Site             | Mussel flesh norovirus |          |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|
|                 |                  |                  | GI                     | GII      |
| Normal          | 31 August 2023   | Waiwhakaiho Reef | Negative               | Negative |
|                 |                  | Bell Block       | Negative               | Negative |
| Normal          | 12 February 2024 | Waiwhakaiho Reef | Negative               | Negative |
|                 |                  | Bell Block       | Negative               | Negative |

## 2.2 Air

### 2.2.1 Inspections

No offensive or objectionable odours were noted during either inspection.

## 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).

During the year under review, there were a total of nine incidents associated with the NPWWTP and New Plymouth District wastewater network. Four events occurred at the NPWWTP, with one due to a power outage, one due to heavy rainfall and two mechanical/technical issues. No events were recorded in relation to sewer pump stations. Reticulation overflows accounted for the remaining five events, with all overflows due to blockages in the network. The number of incidents that occurred in 2023/24 was significantly lower than the previous several years (Table 16).

Incidents are investigated and assessed based on the cause of incident, NPDC's adherence to their Incident Response Plan (IRP) and the resulting environmental effects. For the purpose of discussion, incidents have been separated into those directly associated with the NPWWTP, sewage pump station incidents and reticulation overflows. A breakdown of all of the incidents from 2023/24 is provided in the following sections.



Table 16 Incidents associated with the NPWWTP and New Plymouth District wastewater network since 2014/15

| Year    | Number of incidents |
|---------|---------------------|
| 2014/15 | 40                  |
| 2015/16 | 24                  |
| 2016/17 | 20                  |
| 2017/18 | 16                  |
| 2018/19 | 9                   |
| 2019/20 | 23                  |
| 2020/21 | 24                  |
| 2021/22 | 23                  |
| 2022/23 | 27                  |
| 2023/24 | 9                   |

### 2.3.1 New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant incidents

Four incidents occurred at the NPWWTP during the 2023/24 year (Table 17).

Table 17 Summary of incidents at the NPWWTP during the 2023/24 monitoring year

| Date            | Incident details   | Compliant (Y/N) | Enforcement Action Taken?       | Outcome  |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 31 August 2023  | Unanticipated equipment error during a planned power outage simulation. Chlorine levels in the discharge fell below the consented limit of 0.3g/m <sup>3</sup> .   | N               | No                              | Power was restored to the site, air compressors reset and manual chlorine dosing was restored to compliant levels.   |
| 28 January 2024 | Temporary bypass of the biological treatment process due to high inflows   | N               | No                              | Response as per IRP.   |
| 23 June 2024    | Sanitary Wetwell overflow caused by bypassing chamber filling the Sanitary Wetwell as two drain valves from the bypass structure were open when normally these are either fully open or only partially closed.   | N               | No                              | Valves immediately returned to appropriate positions.  |
| 23 June 2024    | High inflows due to significant rainfall overwhelmed band screens. Excess wastewater overflowed into the bypass channel and through disinfection resulting in chlorinated but untreated wastewater being discharged via the outfall. The by-pass was unable to keep up with the inflows and untreated wastewater also discharged to an unnamed tributary of the Waiwhakaiho River. | N               | Yes. Infringement notice issued | Inspection found that the Waiwhakaiho River was in flood and no adverse effects were observed as a result of the discharge. Problem self-corrected when inflows reduced as rain eased. An incident report was provided by NPDC. An infringement notice was issued. |

### 2.3.2 Sewage pump station incidents

There were no unauthorised discharges from sewage pump stations (SPSs) during the 2023/24 monitoring year.

### 2.3.3 Reticulation overflow incidents

Five unauthorised discharges to surface water occurred due to overflows in the reticulation network during the 2023/24 monitoring period (Table 18).

NPDC has continued work on the Inflow and Infiltration programme to reduce overflow events caused by heavy rainfall. They have also developed a Three Water Education Strategy that includes education on the effect of blockages in the sewer network. Work with trade waste customers to reduce fat discharges into the network is ongoing.

Table 18 Summary of reticulation overflows during the 2023/24 year

| Date              | Details  | Compliant (Y/N) | Enforcement Action Taken?                    | Outcome  |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| 29 August 2023    | Pioneer Road, NPL. Fat and gravel blockage causing overflow.                       | N               | No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage). | Blockage cleared, site cleaned and sanitised, warning signs erected. |
| 18 September 2023 | Dawson Street, NPL. Fat and gravel blockage causing overflow.                      | N               | No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage). | Blockage cleared, site cleaned and sanitised, warning signs erected. |
| 6 November 2023   | Shaldon Cres, NPL. Fat blockage causing overflow.                                  | N               | No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage). | Blockage cleared, site cleaned and sanitised, warning signs erected. |
| 3 February 2024   | Whakawhiti Street, NPL. Blockage of network by fat and wet wipes causing overflow. | N               | No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage). | Blockage cleared, site cleaned and sanitised, warning signs erected. |
| 7 May 2024        | Gilmour Street, NPL. Blockage of network by gravel and metal.                      | N               | No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage). | Blockage cleared, site cleaned and sanitised, warning signs erected. |

## 3. Discussion

### 3.1 Discussion of site performance

During routine inspections, the plant was found to be well managed, with no issues noted.

The TDF ran for most of the year, with the exception of planned maintenance in July and November 2023, and February 2024, and breakdowns in August and September 2023. Dewatered sludge was sent to Hampton Downs landfill during these periods. Construction of the new TDF commenced in July 2023, with commissioning expected in summer 2025/26.

A total of nine incidents occurred during the year in relation to the NPWWTP and New Plymouth District wastewater network. Four of these events occurred at the NPWWTP, while reticulation overflows accounted for the remaining five events. This was a large decrease in incidents compared with the previous several years. NPDC received an Infringement Notice in relation to one of the incidents, while the remaining incidents were considered to be beyond the control of NPDC and no further action was taken by Council (NPDC has a rigorous procedure for dealing with any overflows).

#### General consent requirements

Conditions 18 and 19 relate to the ongoing peer review of the monitoring plan and provision of a technology report at various times during the consent period. The monitoring plan was internally reviewed in November 2021, prior to being peer reviewed by a consultant. An amended plan was issued to Council in March 2022 for approval. As per condition 18, the next review of the monitoring plan is to be undertaken in 2027.

Condition 20 of Consent 0882-4 requires that NPDC provide an annual report to the Council by 31 July each year. The report details progress made towards reducing inflow and infiltration reduction; NPDC's target for reduction of inflow and infiltration; and works proposed to meet that target over the coming year. A report addressing these requirements for 2023/24 was provided by NPDC. A total sum of \$3,110,978 was spent on inflow and infiltration during 2023/24, this included pipelining, digital temperature sensing, pipe renewals, and CCTV.

The NPDC Sewer System Emergency Discharge Contingency Plan is incorporated into the Infrastructure Incident Response Plan (INFRA-IRP). This new format IRP was produced in August 2021, with the most recent updated in November 2023. This plan satisfies the requirements of condition 21, Consent 0882-4.

An annual meeting with representatives of the Council, Ngati Tawhirikura Hapu, and interested submitters is required by condition 22 of Consent 0882-4. The invitation for the meeting was extended to interested parties for New Plymouth, Inglewood and Waitara wastewater treatment plant consents. This meeting was held on 7 December 2023.

### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

#### 3.2.1 Effluent discharge to Tasman Sea

Two consents cover the discharge of treated wastewater from the plant to the Tasman Sea via the marine outfall. Consent 0882-4 allows the discharge of the wastewater through the marine outfall and consent 4593-2 licenses the presence of the outfall structure in the coastal marine area.

Monitoring of the wastewater discharge to the Tasman Sea during the 2023/24 monitoring period consisted both of monitoring of the final wastewater composition prior to discharge, and monitoring of the effects of the discharge on the receiving environment.

Monitoring of the final wastewater prior to discharge was primarily undertaken by NPDC in the form of regular grab samples and 24-hour composite samples. Inter-laboratory comparisons and checks of compliance with consent conditions were also undertaken by the Council. Through this monitoring, NPDC demonstrated 100% compliance regarding contaminants as per condition 3 of Consent 0882-4. BOD and suspended solids concentrations were below consent limits in 100% of samples during the year; maintaining compliance with condition 4. Compliance with condition 10, regarding the minimum required effluent chlorine concentration, is assessed using results from grab samples. All routine grab samples were compliant with this condition throughout the monitoring period. There was one occasion where an equipment error resulted in the chlorine level falling below 0.3g/m<sup>3</sup>, this was for a short duration and no significant adverse effects were likely to have occurred. The NPWWTP continued to achieve a high level of norovirus inactivation during the year under review. Overall, monitoring results indicated that the effluent discharge from the NPWWTP to the Tasman Sea was of a high quality during the 2023/24 year.

Monitoring of effects on the receiving environment consisted of an intertidal marine ecological survey, and the analysis of heavy metals and norovirus in green lipped mussel tissue. The ecological intertidal surveys found no evidence to suggest that the outfall discharge was adversely affecting rocky shore communities. Although norovirus monitoring results were negative during 2023/24, previous monitoring has showed that there is still a risk of shellfish contamination between Waiwhakaiho and Bell Block. As such, health warning signage remains in place. Mercury, cadmium and lead concentrations in mussel flesh from all three monitoring sites were well below Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code guidelines (2016). Although no guidelines exist for the remaining metals, these results were all comparable with the range of previous concentrations found during NPWWTP shellfish surveys at both control and potential impact sites.

### **3.2.2 Sludge lagoon and contingency sludge disposal monitoring**

NPDC holds Consent 2982-4 which allows the discharge of leachate from the sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater.

Monitoring of the sludge lagoon facility during the 2023/24 monitoring period consisted of monthly testing of groundwater bores and nearby surface water in an open drain by NPDC, and inspections by the Council.

As per previous years, the routine monitoring found that despite the decommissioning of the sludge lagoon the groundwater in its vicinity was still impacted. Noting that, an investigation completed in 2017/18 deemed that the measured concentrations of nutrients and metals are not of significant concern in terms of their environmental impact. That is because the groundwater system down-gradient of the lagoon is highly reducing in nature, it therefore has significant capacity to attenuate nitrogen. As a result any adverse effects resulting from the discharge on groundwater are likely to occur within close proximity of the lagoon itself and are unlikely to extend outside of the boundaries of the site.

During the 2021/22 year, NPDC completed the process of decommissioning the sludge lagoon. Monitoring continued through the 2022/23 year and 2023/24 periods, with an assessment to be made on whether the consent will need to be renewed or left to expire (this expired in June 2020 but is under section 124 protection). As discussed in Section 2.1.2 above, some of the results are looking promising, with some of the parameters tested potentially showing improvement. However, the results are not conclusive and further monitoring and analysis is recommended.

### 3.2.3 Overflows from Waitara pump station

Consent 7861-1 allows the discharge of screened, untreated wastewater from the Waitara pump station to the Tasman Sea via the Waitara outfall in times of high rainfall when the pump station is overwhelmed.

Since the Waitara Pump Station was commissioned in October 2014, at which point pumping of from Waitara to the NPWWTP commenced, and the treatment and discharge of municipal sewage to the Tasman Sea via the Waitara outfall ceased, there have been very few overflows.

The first event occurred between 5 and 6 April 2017 with an intermittent discharge totalling 96 minutes (2,250m<sup>3</sup>). The second event occurred on 16 May 2018 with an intermittent discharge totalling 66 minutes (1,400m<sup>3</sup>). A third event was recorded between 9 and 11 December 2020 with an intermittent discharge of approximately 215 minutes over a 40 hour period (4,000m<sup>3</sup>). Coastal water samples and mussel testing did not identify any detectable impacts as a result of the discharge.

During 2021/22, discharge occurred from the outfall on 13 and 14 February 2022 due to a combination of the extreme rainfall and power cuts caused by Cyclone Dovi. The discharge occurred intermittently for a total time of approximately 97 minutes over the two days. As a result of this event, NPDC plans to install a permanent back-up generator at the Waitara outfall pump station.

During 2022/23 there was one discharge event to the sea via the outfall, beginning on 19 August 2022 and ceasing on 23 August 2022. The overflow was due to prolonged heavy rainfall causing high inflows which overwhelmed the pump station.

There were no overflows during the 2023/24 year.

### 3.2.4 Air discharge

NPDC holds Consent 4740-2 that allows the discharge of contaminants into the air from sludge processing activities.

No odours were detected at or beyond the boundary on either routine inspection during normal plant operation. No odours were detected in relation to the de-sludging and dewatering activities that were occurring on site during the year.

## 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 19-24.

Table 19 Summary of performance for Consent 0082-4

| Purpose: To discharge wastewater to the Tasman Sea                                   |   |                      |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Condition requirement  | Means of monitoring during period under review  | Compliance achieved? |
| 1. Consent holder to adopt best practicable option to minimise environmental effects | Inspections, liaison with consent holder, sampling, ecological surveys  | Yes                  |
| 2. Maintenance of multiport diffuser system  | NPDC annual report, plant operated as per design  | Yes                  |
| 3. Concentration limits upon potential contaminants in discharge                     | Samples collected by both Council and consent holder: 100% compliance achieved  | Yes                  |
| 4. Concentration limits for TSS and BOD  | Samples collected by both Council and consent holder: 95% compliance required, 100% compliance achieved for BOD and TSS | Yes                  |
| 5. Concentration limits upon TSS and BOD when aeration basins off-line               | No aeration basins offline during 2023/24 period  | N/A                  |

| Purpose: To discharge wastewater to the Tasman Sea  |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Condition requirement   | Means of monitoring during period under review  | Compliance achieved? |
| 6. Public notification prior to taking aeration basin off-line                                    | No aeration basins offline during 2023/24 period  | N/A                  |
| 7. Minimum duration off-line to achieve purpose   | No aeration basins offline during 2023/24 period  | N/A                  |
| 8. Notification to Council prior to taking aeration basins off-line                               | No aeration basins offline during 2023/24 period  | N/A                  |
| 9. Consent holder to erect signage during off-line periods  | No aeration basins offline during 2023/24 period  | N/A                  |
| 10. Total available chlorine at least 0.3gm <sup>-3</sup> in effluent                             | Analysis of grab samples collected by NPDC and Council.   | Yes                  |
| 11. Effluent through 5 mm screen  | Inspection, liaison with consent holder   | Yes                  |
| 12. Consent holder to undertake monitoring  | Monitoring undertaken and results supplied  | Yes                  |
| 13. Consent holder to submit a QMRA   | QMRA revised February 2017; a model rerun was completed in 2023 however, further work needs to be carried out on this | Yes                  |
| 14. Consent holder to submit a monitoring plan  | Reviewed in June 2013.  | Yes                  |
| 15. Preparation of draft monitoring plan for consultation   | Draft issued, consultation undertaken in April and June 2013  | Yes                  |
| 16. Peer review of monitoring plan  | Reviewed March 2017   | Yes                  |
| 17. Consent holder to provide comments received during consultation and peer review to Council    | Reviewed March 2017   | Yes                  |
| 18. Results of peer review of monitoring programme in 2017, 2022, 2027, 2032 and 2037             | Approved April 2022   | Yes                  |
| 19. Provide Technology Report in March 2027 and 2037  | Due March 2027  | N/A                  |
| 20. Provide Annual Report by 31 July  | Report received   | Yes                  |
| 21. Maintain Contingency Plan   | IRP updated in November 2023  | Yes                  |
| 22. Annual meeting with Council, iwi and others   | Meeting held December 2023  | Yes                  |
| 23. Meeting to include future management of wastewater  | Next scheduled in 2027  | N/A                  |
| 24. Review of consent   | Next option for review scheduled in June 2027   | N/A                  |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent |   | <b>Good</b>          |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent                       |   | <b>High</b>          |

N/A = not applicable

Table 20 Summary of performance for Consent 1826-2

| Purpose: To erect, place and maintain a culvert         |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Condition requirement                                   | Means of monitoring during period under review | Compliance achieved? |
| 1. Structure maintained to meet consent conditions      | Inspections                                    | Yes                  |
| 2. Instream maintenance work between November and April | No maintenance required                        | Yes                  |

| Purpose: To erect, place and maintain a culvert   |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Condition requirement   | Means of monitoring during period under review | Compliance achieved? |
| 3. Notification prior to maintenance work   | No maintenance required                        | N/A                  |
| 4. Best practicable option during maintenance to avoid adverse effects on environments            | No maintenance required                        | N/A                  |
| 5. Area and volume of streambed disturbance minimised during maintenance                          | No maintenance required                        | N/A                  |
| 6. No obstruction of fish passage   | Inspections                                    | Yes                  |
| 7. Removal and reinstatement  | N/A  | N/A                  |
| 8. Review of consent conditions   | No further provision for review                | N/A                  |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent |  | <b>High</b>          |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent                       |  | <b>High</b>          |

N/A = not applicable

Table 21 Summary of performance for Consent 2982-4

| Purpose: To discharge leachate from a sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater                  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Condition requirement   | Means of monitoring during period under review | Compliance achieved?   |
| 1. Monitoring of groundwater adjacent to lagoon   | Monitoring undertaken by consent holder        | Yes  |
| 2. Monitoring of unnamed tributary of the Waiwhakaiho River                                       | Monitoring undertaken by consent holder        | Yes  |
| 3. No direct discharge of contaminants to surface water from sludge lagoons                       | Inspections and results of monitoring          | Yes  |
| 4. No adverse effects upon ground or surface waters   | Inspections and results of monitoring          | <b>No</b><br>Minor, relatively localised effects on groundwater and surface water downstream of the lagoon |
| 5. Review of consent  | No further provision for review                | N/A  |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent |  | <b>Good</b>  |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent                       |  | <b>High</b>  |

N/A = not applicable

Table 22 Summary of performance for Consent 4593-3

| Purpose: To erect, place, maintain and use a marine outfall                                       |  |                      |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Condition requirement   | Means of monitoring during period under review                       | Compliance achieved? |
| 1. Structures authorised as per details in application  | No alterations have been made to structure                           | Yes                  |
| 2. Consent holder to maintain structure   | Outfall maintenance inspection previously undertaken in January 2022 | Yes                  |
| 3. Review of consent conditions   | Next optional review scheduled in June 2026                          | N/A                  |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent |  | <b>High</b>          |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent                       |  | <b>High</b>          |

Table 23 Summary of performance for Consent 4740-2

| <b>Purpose: To discharge contaminants to air</b>  |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Condition requirement</b>  | <b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b> | <b>Compliance achieved?</b> |
| 1. Best practicable option to prevent or minimise adverse effects                                 | Inspections   | Yes                         |
| 2. Operation and maintenance of sludge management processes                                       | Inspections, consent holder liaison                   | Yes                         |
| 3. No odours beyond property boundary   | Inspections   | Yes                         |
| 4. Statement of how biofilters are maintained   | Information received                                  | Yes                         |
| 5. Preparation of contingency plan, to be reviewed biennially.                                    | Plan received   | Yes                         |
| 6. Plan and notification prior to removal of sludge from No. 2 lagoon                             | Liaison with consent holder                           | Yes                         |
| 7. Review of consent  | No further reviews prior to expiry                    | N/A                         |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent |   | <b>High</b>                 |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent                       |   | <b>High</b>                 |

N/A = not applicable

Table 24 Summary of performance for Consent 7861-1

| <b>Purpose: To discharge screened untreated municipal wastewater to the Tasman Sea via the Waitara Marine Outfall during high flow events</b> |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Condition requirement</b>  | <b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b> | <b>Compliance achieved?</b> |
| 1. Discharge as consequence of high rainfall events only  | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | Yes                         |
| 2. BPO to prevent or minimise adverse effects   | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 3. Effluent discharged through ≤0.5mm aperture screen   | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 4. Discharge to occur through multiport diffuser system   | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 5. Submission of report before 30 June annually on inflow and infiltration  | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 6. Record of time and dates of discharges   | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 7. Notification of discharges   | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 8. Monitoring as deemed necessary   | No additional monitoring required during 2023/24      | N/A                         |
| 9. Signage erected at Waitara West End and Waitara East beaches if discharge  | No discharges during 2023/24 period                   | N/A                         |
| 10. Annual meeting with Council, iwi and other interested parties   | Meeting held  | Yes                         |
| 11. Review of consent   | Next option for review in June 2027                   | N/A                         |
| Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent   |   | <b>High</b>                 |
| Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent   |   | <b>High</b>                 |

N/A = not applicable



Table 25 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

| Year    | Consent numbers                          |  | High | Good | Improvement req | Poor |
|---------|--|--|------|------|-----------------|------|
| 2019/20 | 0882, 1826, 2982, 4593, 4740, 9984       |  | 3    | 2    | 1               | -    |
| 2020/21 | 0882, 1826, 2982, 4593, 4740, 9984       |  | 5    | 1    | -               | -    |
| 2021/22 | 0882, 1826, 2982, 4593, 4740, 7861, 9984 |  | 6    | 6    | -               | -    |
| 2022/23 | 0882, 1826, 2982, 4593, 4740, 7861       |  | 4    | 2    | -               | -    |
| 2023/24 | 0882, 1826, 2982, 4593, 4740, 7861       |  | 4    | 2    | x               | x    |

During the year, NPDC demonstrated an overall good level of environmental and a high level of administrative compliance and performance with the NPWWTP resource consents as defined in Appendix II.

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

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

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

Recommendation one was implemented, while it was not considered necessary to undertake further monitoring or investigation as per recommendation two.

### 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.

No planned changes have been made to the 2024/25 monitoring programme.

It should be noted that the proposed programme represents a reasonable and risk-based level of monitoring for the site 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 NPWWTP in the 2024/25 year continue at the same level as in 2023/24.
2. THAT should there be 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:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Ammoniacal-N      | Both forms of ammonia; unionised and ionised (NH <sub>3</sub> and NH <sub>4</sub> ).  |
| BOD               | Biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, taking into account the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate.   |
| Bund              | A wall around a tank to contain its contents in the case of a leak.   |
| COD               | Chemical oxygen demand. A measure of the oxygen required to oxidise all matter in a sample by chemical reaction.  |
| Conductivity      | An indication of the level of dissolved salts in a sample, usually measured at 25°C and expressed in µS/cm.   |
| DRP               | Dissolved reactive phosphorous.   |
| <i>E. coli</i>    | 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.   |
| Enterococci       | An indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units (CFU) per 100 millilitre of sample.  |
| FAC               | Free available chlorine.  |
| Faecal coliforms  | An indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units (CFU) per 100 millilitre sample.   |
| g/m <sup>3</sup>  | Grams per cubic metre, and equivalent to milligrams per litre (g/m <sup>3</sup> ). 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.                 |
| 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.  |
| 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.   |
| L/s               | Litres per second.  |
| µS/cm             | Microsiemens per centimetre.  |
| Oxidised-N        | Total oxidised nitrogen; nitrite and nitrate (NO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>3</sub> ).  |
| 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. |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Quantitation limit | A quantitation limit is the smallest value of a given parameter that can be reliably quantified by a specified analytical procedure. Below this limit, the parameter in question may still be present, though the test method is not accurate enough to reliably quantify it. |
| Resource consent   | Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).   |
| RMA                | <i>Resource Management Act 1991</i> and including all subsequent amendments.  |
| TSS                | Total suspended solids.   |
| TAC                | Total available chlorine.   |

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

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## Appendix I

### Resource consents held by New Plymouth District Council

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

## **Water abstraction permits**

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

## **Water discharge permits**

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

## **Air discharge permits**

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

## **Discharges of wastes to land**

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

## **Land use permits**

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

## **Coastal permits**

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



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

|                             |  |                                  |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Name of Consent Holder:     | New Plymouth District Council<br>Private Bag 2025<br>New Plymouth 4342 |                                  |
| Decision Date (Change):     | 31 October 2019  |                                  |
| Commencement Date (Change): | 31 October 2019  | (Granted Date: 13 December 2011) |

**Conditions of Consent**

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Consent Granted:      | To discharge treated municipal wastewater from the New Plymouth wastewater treatment plant through a marine outfall structure into the Tasman Sea |  |
| Expiry Date:          | 1 June 2041   |  |
| Review Date(s):       | June 2022, June 2027, June 2032, June 2037 and in accordance with special condition 13  |  |
| Site Location:        | Waiwhakaiho Marine Outfall<br>(approximate 450 metres offshore)   |  |
| Grid Reference (NZTM) | 1696210E-5679250N   |  |
| Catchment:            | Tasman Sea  |  |
| Tributary:            | Waiwhakaiho   |  |

*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 discharge shall occur through a multiport diffuser system that ensures a minimum dilution of 13:1 at the sea surface at chart datum under dry weather discharge flow and calm sea conditions.
3. Constituents in the effluent discharged shall meet the standards shown in the table below.

| Constituent                            | Standard  |
|--|---|
| Zinc                                   | Concentration not greater than 0.2 gm <sup>-3</sup>   |
| Chromium                               | Concentration not greater than 0.15 gm <sup>-3</sup>  |
| Cadmium                                | Concentration not greater than 0.04 gm <sup>-3</sup>  |
| Lead                                   | Concentration not greater than 0.1 gm <sup>-3</sup>   |
| Nickel                                 | Concentration not greater than 0.15 gm <sup>-3</sup>  |
| Copper                                 | Concentration not greater than 0.1 gm <sup>-3</sup>   |
| Mercury                                | Concentration not greater than 0.002 gm <sup>-3</sup> |
| Cyanide                                | Concentration not greater than 0.1 gm <sup>-3</sup>   |
| Phenols[including chlorinated phenols] | Concentration not greater than 1.0 gm <sup>-3</sup>   |

4. Subject to condition 5 below, at least 95% of effluent discharge samples shall meet the standards shown in the table below.

| Constituent                     | Standard   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Suspended solids                | Concentration not greater than 25 gm <sup>-3</sup> |
| 5-day Biochemical oxygen demand | Concentration not greater than 25 gm <sup>-3</sup> |

5. During:
  - (a) two periods, occurring before 30 June 2015, during which one of the aeration basins is off-line while being upgraded; and
  - (b) periods not exceeding 14 days, occurring no more than once per year, when one of the aeration basins is off-line for planned maintenance purposes;

Condition 4 shall not apply and samples shall instead meet the following standards:

| Constituent                     | Standard  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Suspended solids                | Concentration not greater than 110 gm <sup>-3</sup> |
| 5-day Biochemical oxygen demand | Concentration not greater than 130 gm <sup>-3</sup> |

## Consent 0882-4.1

6. The consent holder shall publicly notify its intention to exercise condition 5(a) at least five working days prior to taking an aeration basin off-line. The public notice shall detail the health and safety risks, reasons why the basin is being taken off line, and associated potential effects.
7. Notwithstanding any duration specified in condition 5 above, the periods when aeration basins are off-line shall be of the minimum duration necessary to achieve the purpose.
8. The consent holder shall give at least 30 working days notice to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council of the intention to take an aeration basin off-line. Unless the Chief Executive advises that an alternative electronic method is required this notice shall be served by completing and submitting the 'Notification of work' form on the Council's website (<http://bit.ly/TRCWorkNotificationForm>). The information provided in the notice shall include:
  - (a) The intended dates that the aeration basin will be offline; and
  - (b) Documentation demonstrating the off-line period complies with the requirement to be the minimum necessary.
9. The consent holder shall erect and maintain signs for a period beginning on the date that an aeration basin goes off-line, as described in condition 5(a), and ending 14 days after the date that the off-line period ends. The signs shall advise the public of the discharge of sewage that has not been fully treated and inform them of the potential health risks, and are to be placed in a prominent location at:
  - Fitzroy Beach; and
  - Bell Block Beach.
10. The total available chlorine in the effluent, prior to entering the outfall pipe, shall be no less than 0.3 gm-3.
11. All effluent discharged shall have passed through a screen with an aperture no more than 5 mm, except that during periods when the screen is non-operational for maintenance purposes, effluent may pass through a screen with an aperture no more than 6 mm.
12. The consent holder shall undertake sampling and testing necessary to:
  - (a) Determine compliance with the conditions of this consent; and
  - (b) Characterise the effluent to the extent necessary to identify the nature and scale of its effects on the environment, during normal operation and at times when all the effluent is not being fully treated. In particular, monitoring must occur at times when an aeration basin is off-line, and be discussed at the annual meeting required by special condition 22.

Until the Monitoring Plan required by condition 14 is submitted to Taranaki Regional Council, monitoring will continue in accordance with the existing monitoring plan prepared under consent 0882-3.

## Consent 0882-4.1

13. Within one year of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall submit to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) of the discharge under this consent (focusing primarily on bypass discharges).
14. Within six months of the provision of the QMRA under condition 13, the consent holder shall prepare, and submit to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council for certification, a 'Monitoring Plan' detailing the sampling, testing and measuring that will be undertaken to achieve compliance with condition 12. The Plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
  - (a) Details of the measuring and sampling to be undertaken including: sampling location, frequency and methodology; and
  - (b) Documentation of how the measuring and sampling described in 14(a) above, adequately characterises the effluent at all times.

As a minimum, the Monitoring Plan will require:

  - (c) Monitoring of the effluent to determine compliance with conditions 3, 4 and 5;
  - (d) Monitoring of ecology in the intertidal zone approximately adjacent to the point of discharge, with appropriate control sites; and
  - (e) Monitoring of microbiological contamination within shellfish.
15. In preparing the Monitoring Plan, the consent holder shall issue a draft Monitoring Plan and then carry out reasonable consultation with the Department of Conservation, Ngati Tawhirikura Hapu and interested community groups, allowing at least one month for a response from those groups on the draft Plan.
16. Before submitting the Monitoring Plan to Taranaki Regional Council for certification, the consent holder shall have the Monitoring Plan peer reviewed by an independent, suitably qualified expert.
17. The consent holder shall provide any comments received from the Department of Conservation, Ngati Tawhirikura Hapu and interested community groups under condition 15, and the peer review under condition 16, to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, at the time the final Monitoring Plan is submitted for certification under condition 14. In the event that the consent holder declines to adopt any recommendations provided by the peer reviewer under condition 16, the consent holder shall also provide, at the same time, its written reasons for declining to follow those recommendations.
18. By 31 March in the years 2017, 2022, 2027, 2032 and 2037, the consent holder shall provide to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the results of a peer review of the Monitoring Plan by an independent, suitably qualified expert to ensure that the monitoring programme is still appropriate. The results of the peer review shall also be made publicly available. In the event that the consent holder declines to adopt any recommendations provided by the peer reviewer under this condition, the consent holder shall also provide, at the same time, its written reasons for declining to follow those recommendations.

## Consent 0882-4.1

19. By 31 March in the years 2027 and 2037, the consent holder shall provide to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council a Technology Report covering:
  - (a) A summary of any improvements made to the reticulation, treatment or disposal system since the granting of this consent;
  - (b) An outline of technological changes and advances in relation to wastewater management, treatment, disposal and technologies which may be available to address any residual adverse effects; and
  - (c) An assessment of whether any such options or combination of options represent the Best Practicable Option to minimise the effects of the discharge and whether the consent holder intends to incorporate such changes.
  - (d) The Technology Report shall also be made publicly available. The Regional Council may obtain an independent peer review of the Technology Report, and may charge the consent holder for the actual and reasonable cost of obtaining this peer review.
20. By 31 July each year, the consent holder shall provide to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council a report covering:
  - (a) details of the progress made towards reducing inflow and infiltration reduction over the past year;
  - (b) the consent holder's target for reduction of inflow and infiltration in the coming year; and
  - (c) details of the works proposed in order to meet that target.
21. The consent holder shall maintain a Contingency Plan for the wastewater treatment plant site that shall be adhered to in the event of a spill or emergency. The Plan shall be approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, acting in a certification capacity and shall detail measures and procedures to be undertaken to prevent spillage or accidental discharge of contaminants not authorised by this consent and measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the environmental effects of such a spillage or discharge.
22. At least once every year, the consent holder shall convene a meeting with representatives of the Taranaki Regional Council, Ngati Tawhirikura Hapu, and interested submitters on application 6803, to discuss any matter relating to the operation or monitoring of this consent.<sup>1</sup>
23. In the years 2027 and 2037, the consent holder shall use the meeting required by condition 22 as a means of collaborating with the community and stakeholders about the strategy for the future management of wastewater in New Plymouth district.

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, this meeting can be combined with the annual meetings required under consents 7861-1 and 3397-2.

## Consent 0882-4.1

24. 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 within three months of the receipt of the QMRA required by condition 13 and/or during the month of June 2017 and/or June 2022 and/or June 2027 and/or June 2032 and/or June 2037 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. Reviews may also be undertaken at the dates listed above to enable the Taranaki Regional Council to deal with the consequences of the consent holder declining to accept the Peer Reviewer's recommendations under condition 18.

**Advice note:** The consent holder intends to establish a collaborative approach with Maori to investigate a trial of land-based disposal of treated wastewater. The commencement of such a trial will be subject to the consent holder being satisfied that:

- (a) the owner(s) of land which has been offered for that purpose consent to its use for effluent disposal over the period of the trial and appropriate arrangements for its use are able to be satisfactorily resolved; and
- (b) the disposal is technically, economically and environmentally feasible (including addressing relevant RMA requirements).

Signed at Stratford on 31 October 2019

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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A D McLay  
**Director - Resource Management**

**Land Use Consent**  
**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           16 January 2002  
Date:

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:       To erect, place, use and maintain a twin box culvert on the  
Mangaone Stream for road access purposes at or about  
GR: P19:069-400

Expiry Date:           1 June 2020

Review Date(s):       June 2008, June 2014

Site Location:           Mangaone Stream, Rifle Range Road, New Plymouth

Legal Description:     Pt Sec 161,138 & Lot 1 DP 12331 Hua Dist

Catchment:            Waiwhakaiho

Tributary:             Mangaone

## Consent 1826-2

### 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. The structure[s] authorised by this consent shall be maintained to ensure the conditions of this consent are met.
2. Any instream maintenance works shall take place only between 1 November and 30 April inclusive, except where this requirement is waived in writing by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
3. The consent holder shall notify the Taranaki Regional Council in writing at least 48 hours prior to and upon completion of any maintenance works which would involve disturbance of or deposition to the streambed or discharges to water.
4. During any maintenance of the structure[s] authorised by this consent, the consent holder shall adopt the best practicable option to avoid or minimise the discharge of silt or other contaminants into water or onto the streambed and to avoid or minimise the disturbance of the streambed and any adverse effects on water quality.
5. During any maintenance of the structure[s] authorised by this consent, the consent holder shall ensure that the area and volume of streambed disturbance shall, so far as is practicable, be minimised and any areas which are disturbed shall, so far as is practicable, be reinstated.
6. The structure[s], which are the subject of this consent, shall not obstruct fish passage.
7. The structure[s] authorised by this consent shall be removed and the area reinstated, if and when the structure[s] are no longer required. The consent holder shall notify the Taranaki Regional Council at least 48 hours prior to structure[s] removal and reinstatement.



## Consent 1826-2

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 16 January 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  
Private Bag 2025  
NEW PLYMOUTH

Consent Granted  
Date:                        17 October 2002

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:        To discharge up to 60 cubic metres/day of leachate from a  
sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater in the vicinity of  
the Waiwhakaiho River at or about GR: P19:070-402

Expiry Date:             1 June 2020

Review Date(s):         June 2008, June 2014

Site Location:           New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rifle Range  
Road, New Plymouth

Legal Description:       Pt Sec 224 SO 11937 Hua Dist Blk II Paritiutu SD

Catchment:               Waiwhakaiho

## Consent 2982-4

### 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, in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council, shall monitor the groundwater adjacent to the lagoon. The number of monitoring sites, the parameters to be monitored and the frequency of the monitoring shall be to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
2. The consent holder, in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council, shall monitor the surface water in the small open drain [an unnamed tributary of the Waiwhakaiho River] located adjacent to the northern and eastern boundary of the lagoon. The number of sites, the parameters to be monitored and the frequency of the monitoring shall be to the satisfaction of the Chief executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
3. The exercise of this consent shall not lead to a direct discharge of contaminants from the sludge stabilisation lagoon to any other surface water body.
4. That the exercise of this consent shall not result in any adverse impacts to groundwaters and surface waters such that the suitability of those waters for any use is changed as determined by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
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 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 17 October 2002

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**

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

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

Decision Date:                        10 September 2014

Commencement Date:                10 September 2014

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:                      To occupy the Coastal Marine Area with a marine outfall as  
part of the New Plymouth wastewater treatment system

Expiry Date:                            01 June 2041

Review Date(s):                        June 2020, June 2026, June 2032, June 2038

Site Location:                          115 Rifle Range Road, Waiwakaiho

Legal Description:                      Secs 5-6 SO 314271 Pt Sec 224 Hua Dist Blk II Paritutu SD  
(Site of structure)

Grid Reference (NZTM)                1696272E-5679362N

Catchment:                                Tasman Sea

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

**General condition**

- a. The consent holder shall pay to the Taranaki Regional Council all the administration, monitoring and supervision costs of this consent, fixed in accordance with section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Special conditions**

1. This consent authorises the occupation of space in the Coastal Marine Area by the structure existing at the time the application for this consent was lodged, and as described in the application. Any change to the nature or scale of the structure may therefore need to be authorised by a formal process in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
2. The consent holder shall maintain the structure in a safe and sound condition such that it continues to function effectively as an outfall and as required in the conditions of any consent to discharge through it.
3. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2020 and/or June 2026 and/or June 2032 and/or June 2038, 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 10 September 2014

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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A D McLay  
**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

Consent Granted  
Date:                         29 May 2008

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:         To discharge contaminants into the air from sludge drying  
and processing activities at the New Plymouth Wastewater  
Treatment Plant at or about (NZTM) 1697041E-5678313N

Expiry Date:               1 June 2026

Review Date(s):         June 2014, June 2020

Site Location:             Rifle Range Road, New Plymouth

Legal Description:        Secs 5-6 So 314271 Pt Sec 224 Hua Dist Blk II 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. Notwithstanding any other condition of this consent, 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 actual or likely adverse effect on the environment associated with the discharges into air from sludge management processing activities and facilities on the site.
2. That the consent holder shall at all times operate, maintain, supervise, monitor and control all sludge management processes (including but not limited to associated emission treatment processes) so that discharges authorised by this consent are maintained at a practicable minimum.
3. That the discharges authorised by this consent shall not give rise to any odours that are offensive or objectionable at or beyond any boundaries of the property.
4. Without restricting the generality of condition 1, the consent holder shall supply a statement of how the biofilters are maintained, operated, and monitored, to give effect to condition 1. This statement shall be provided to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, within six months of the granting of the consent.
5. The consent holder shall prepare a contingency plan addressing events at the New Plymouth Waste Water Treatment Plant that could give rise to abnormal odour release potential, and the procedures the consent holder would adopt to deal with any such event. This contingency plan shall be provided to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, within six months of the granting of the consent. The contingency plan shall subsequently be reviewed at intervals not exceeding two years.



## Consent 4740-2

6. Prior to undertaking processing of, including removal of, sludge from No. 2 lagoon, the consent holder shall submit a plan, for approval by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council [such approval not to be unreasonably withheld], describing the methodology proposed for sludge recovery from the lagoon and measures proposed for mitigation of odours and any off-site effects of odours, during the recovery activity, demonstrating the capability to satisfy the conditions of this consent. The consent holder shall notify the Council at least 72 hours prior to any processing/removal activity, including associated recovery of sludge, before undertaking removal. Notification shall be emailed to [worknotification@trc.govt.nz](mailto:worknotification@trc.govt.nz).
  
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 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 29 May 2008

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**



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

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

Decision Date:           15 November 2011

Commencement  
Date:                       13 December 2011

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted:        To discharge screened untreated municipal wastewater into the Tasman Sea via the Waitara Marine Outfall during high flow events at the Waitara Pump Station [previously the Waitara Wastewater Treatment Plant [WWWTP]] at or about (NZTM) 1705938E-5685058N

Expiry Date:            1 June 2041

Review Date(s):        June 2017, June 2022, June 2027, June 2032, June 2037

Site Location:           Waitara Marine Outfall [approximately 1250 metres offshore]

Catchment:              Tasman Sea  
Waitara

*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 to section 36 of the Resource Management Act.

### Special conditions

1. The discharge shall occur as a consequence of high rainfall events when the instantaneous inflow to the Waitara Pump Station exceeds 280 litres per second, or when the inflow to the pump station exceeds 18,800m<sup>3</sup> in the previous 24-hour period, or when the storage tanks at the Waitara Pump Station are full and the inflow to the Waitara Pump Station exceeds the transfer pumping rate of 140 litres per second.
2. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
3. All effluent discharged shall have passed through a screen with an aperture no more than 0.5 mm.
4. The discharge shall occur through a multiport diffuser system that ensures a minimum dilution of 100:1 at the sea surface at chart datum under dry weather discharge flow and calm sea conditions.
5. Before 30 June each year, the consent holder shall prepare and submit a report that includes, but is not necessarily limited to:
  - (a) details of the proposed works, staging, and a timeline for reducing inflow and infiltration to achieve average dry weather flow volumes that are in line with the New Plymouth District Council Code of Practice for Infrastructure 2009, and to a level where the 'Waitara to New Plymouth sewer pipeline' will continue to meet the design specifications in achieving an overflow frequency discharge occurrence of <1% per year, averaged over a five year period; and
  - (b) in relation to 5(a) above, details of the progress undertaken towards achieving the specified works.
6. For each discharge event the consent holder shall record the date and time that the discharge started and finished. This record shall be provided to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council on request.
7. The consent holder shall notify the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council of the occurrence of any discharge. Notice shall be given by sending an email to [worknotification@trc.govt.nz](mailto:worknotification@trc.govt.nz) as soon as practicable but no more than 24 hours after the consent holder became aware the discharge was occurring.

## Consent 7861-1

8. Subject to Section 36 of the Resource Management Act [1991], monitoring, including physicochemical, bacteriological and ecological monitoring of the wastewater treatment system and receiving waters shall be undertaken, as deemed reasonably necessary by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, to identify the effects of the discharge.
9. As soon as practicable, but within 24 hours of any discharge commencing, the consent holder shall erect and maintain signs on or near the shoreline in the following areas:
  - (a) Waitara West Beach – Marine Park and the termination of Brown Street Extension; and
  - (b) Waitara East Beach – near the Waitara Swimming and Surf Life Saving Club and the termination of the access walkway by the Waitara Golf Club.

The consent holder shall consult with Taranaki District Health Board regarding the wording of the signs to ensure that the signs advise the public of the discharge of untreated sewage and appropriately inform the community of the potential health risks.

10. At least once every year the consent holder shall convene a meeting with representatives of the Taranaki Regional Council, Otaraua, Manukorihi, Ngati Rahiri, and other interested submitters on application 6794, to discuss any matter relating to the operation or monitoring of this consent and in particular to review the progress in inflow and infiltration reduction and whether this has had an effect on the frequency of overflows.<sup>1</sup>
11. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2017 and/or June 2022 and/or June 2027 and/or June 2032 and/or June 2037 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 December 2011

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, this meeting can be combined with the annual meetings required under consents 0882-4 and 3397-2.



## 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.