



## Discharge of stormwater from wellsites



### Introduction

The Taranaki Regional Council regulates the discharges of stormwater from wellsites within the Taranaki region under the Resource Management Act 1991, through the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki [RFPW].

Please note that this guide **does not** relate to stormwater discharges from earthworks associated with wellsite construction.

### Plan provisions

Rule 24 of the RFPW regulates 'Discharge of stormwater into or onto land or into water (excluding those wetlands listed in Appendix II) that is not covered by Rules 25-27 and that does not come within or comply with the conditions of Rule 23' as a controlled activity that may be non-notified without written approval, provided the following standards are met. The standards are:

- A stormwater management plan shall be submitted to the Taranaki Regional Council;
- The discharger shall at all times adopt the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any adverse effects of the discharge or discharges on any water body.

### Consent information requirements

The key information that must accompany wellsite stormwater discharge applications includes:

- Maximum area of wellsite;
- Description of proposal/activity;
- Stormwater management plan, including a site map and identification of areas to be directed to mud sumps;
- Holding capacity of sumps, settling ponds etc;
- Adoption of best practicable option and measures outlined;
- Outline of any changes to stormwater management should the site be used for production in the future;
- Aerial photo and/or 1:50,000 [or less] topographic map showing position of the proposed wellsite in relation to receiving surface waters, property boundaries and any other features of interest;
- Details of local topography, streams, wetlands, drains, general contours of land etc.
- Assessment of environmental effects summary including summary of any previous monitoring reports;
- Outline of consultation with interested and affected parties including tangata whenua; and
- Description of generic contingency plan and outline of site-specific information to be provided following site development.

Consideration should also be given to those matters over which Council has reserved its control. That is:

- Approval of a stormwater management plan and the matters contained therein;
- Provision and approval of a contingency plan;
- Design, location, operation and maintenance of stormwater treatment and disposal system;
- The setting of conditions relating to volume and discharge rates;
- The setting of conditions relating to effects on receiving waters;
- Definition and delineation of mixing zone;
- Monitoring and information requirements;
- Duration of consent;
- Review of conditions of consent and the timing and purpose of the review;
- Payment of administrative charges and financial contributions.

If produced water is to be included in the discharge, then this activity falls under Rule 41 of the RFPW and is classified as a controlled activity that may be non-notified without written approval provided the following standards can be met:

- The discharger must at all times adopt the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any adverse effects of the discharge or discharges on any surface water body;
- The discharge shall contain less than 15gm<sup>-3</sup> of oil and grease;
- The discharge shall contain less than 100gm<sup>-3</sup> suspended solids;
- The discharge shall not cause the temperature of the receiving water to increase by more than 2°C or the level of biochemical oxygen demand to increase by more than 2.00gm<sup>-3</sup> after reasonable mixing;
- The discharge shall not give rise to any or all of the following effects in the receiving water after reasonable mixing:
  - a) the production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - b) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - c) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - d) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
  - e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life;
- The applicant must provide with an application, a contingency plan for avoiding, remedying or mitigating unauthorised discharges.

Consideration should also be given to those matters over which Council has reserved its control:

- Definition and delineation of mixing zone;
- Approval of a contingency plan and all matters contained therein;
- Setting of conditions relating to adverse effects on aquatic life and the environment;
- Monitoring and information requirements;
- Duration of consent;
- Review of conditions of consent and the timing and purpose of the review;
- Payment of administrative charges and financial contributions.

**If you require further explanation of the information in this pamphlet, please contact:**

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