

South Taranaki District Council  
Patea Beach – green waste discharge  
Monitoring Programme  
Annual Report  
2010-2011

Technical Report 2011-08

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Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
STRATFORD

August 2011



## **Executive summary**

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) operates a green waste disposal area located at Patea Beach, Beach Road at Patea. The site was established as a public facility that could accept green waste for sand dune stabilisation purposes. The site is consented to accept green waste from the Patea community and from STDC's kerbside and transfer station collection. This report for the period July 2010-June 2011 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council to assess STDC's environmental performance during the period under review, and the results and environmental effects of STDC's activities at the site.

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

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

The monitoring showed that there was a decrease in illegal dumping occurring at the site when compared to previous monitoring years. During the period under review Council received no complaints, nor were any incidents logged in regards to the site.

STDC demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and compliance with its resource consent in regards to its discharge at Patea Beach.

This report includes a recommendation for monitoring in the 2011-2012 period.



## Table of contents

	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991	1
1.1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.2 Structure of this report	1
1.1.3 The Resource Management Act (1991) and monitoring	1
1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental performance	2
1.2 Process description	3
1.3 Resource consent	4
1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land	4
1.4 Monitoring programme	5
1.4.1 Introduction	5
1.4.2 Programme liaison and management	5
1.4.3 Site inspections	6
1.4.4 Chemical sampling	6
2. Results	7
2.1 Inspections	7
2.2 Register of incidents	8
3. Discussion	9
3.1 Discussion of plant performance	9
3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents	9
3.3 Evaluation of performance	9
3.4 Recommendations from the 2009-2010 Annual Report	10
3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2011-2012	10
4. Recommendation	11
Glossary of common terms and abbreviations	12
Bibliography and references	14
Appendix I      Resource consent held by STDC Patea Beach – green waste discharge	

## List of tables

Table 1	Summary of performance for Consent 6088-3 to discharge green waste onto land for stabilisation purposes	9
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## List of figures

Figure 1	Regional map showing location of the Patea Greenwaste site	3
Figure 2	Aerial view of the Patea Beach green waste disposal area	4

# **1. Introduction**

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

### **1.1.1 Introduction**

This report is the Annual Report for the period July 2010-June 2011 by the Taranaki Regional Council on the monitoring programme associated with the resource consent held by South Taranaki District Council (STDC). STDC holds a consent to discharge green waste onto and into the sand dunes situated on Beach Road at Patea Beach.

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

One of the intents of the Resource Management Act (1991) is that environmental management should be integrated across all media, so that a consent holder's use of water, air, and land should be considered from a single comprehensive environmental perspective. Accordingly, the Taranaki Regional Council generally implements integrated environmental monitoring programmes and reports the results of the programmes jointly. This report discusses the environmental effects of STDC's use of water, land, and air, and is the fifth report by the Taranaki Regional Council for the Patea Beach site.

### **1.1.2 Structure of this report**

Section 1 of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about compliance monitoring under the Resource Management Act and the Council's obligations and general approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes, the resource consent held by STDC, the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review, and a description of the activities and operations conducted at Patea Beach.

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

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

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2011-2012 monitoring year.

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

### **1.1.3 The Resource Management Act (1991) and monitoring**

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

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

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Taranaki Regional Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each discharge source. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the obligations of the Resource Management Act to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans; and maintains an overview of performance of resource users against regional plans and consents. Compliance monitoring, including impact monitoring, also enables the Council to continuously assess its own performance in resource management as well as that of resource users particularly consent holders. It further enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management, and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

#### 1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental performance

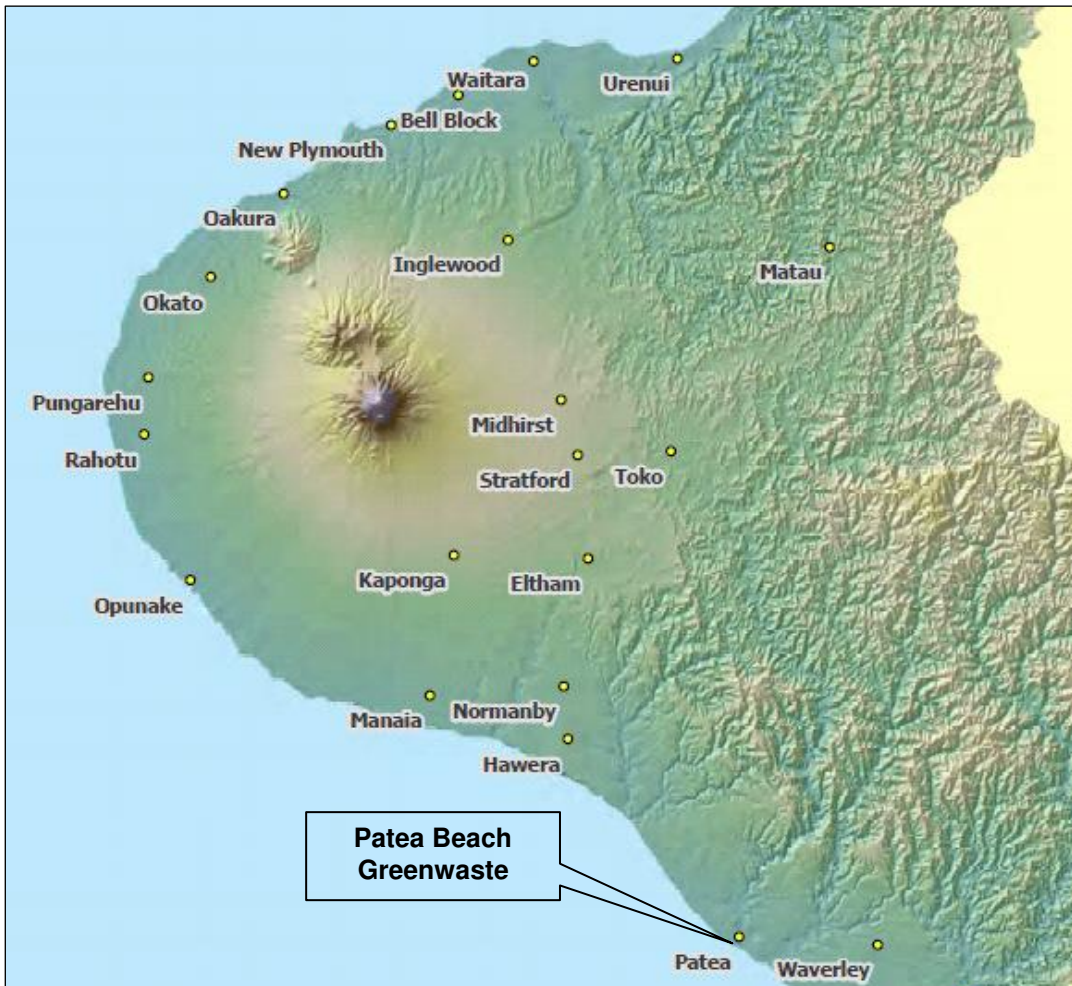
Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by STDC during the period under review, this report also assigns an overall rating. The categories used by the Council, and their interpretation, are as follows:

- a **high** level of environmental performance and compliance indicates that essentially there were no adverse environmental effects to be concerned about, and no, or trivial (such as data supplied after a deadline) non-compliance with conditions.
- a **good** level of environmental performance and compliance indicates that adverse environmental effects of activities during the year were negligible or minor at most, items of concern were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly, the Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving significant environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices, there were perhaps some items noted on inspection notices for attention but these items were not urgent nor critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with.
- **improvement desirable** indicates that the Council may have been obliged to record a verified unauthorised incident involving significant environmental impacts against the company, and/or abatement notices may have been issued; there were adverse environmental effects arising from activities and intervention by Council staff was required, and there were matters that required urgent intervention, took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at end of the period under review.

- **poor** performance is used when there were grounds for prosecution or infringement notice

## 1.2 Process description

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



**Figure 1** Regional map showing location of the Patea Greenwaste site



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

## 1.3 Resource consent

### 1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the Resource Management Act stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

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

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

Special condition 1 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option.

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

Special condition 3 requires that site be controlled.

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

Special condition 5 specifies signage requirements at the site.

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

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

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

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

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

Special condition 11 is a lapse condition

Special condition 12 is a review condition

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

## **1.4 Monitoring programme**

### **1.4.1 Introduction**

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

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

The monitoring programme for the Patea Beach site consisted of three primary components.

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

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Taranaki Regional Council in ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application, in discussion over monitoring requirements, preparation for any reviews, renewals, or new consents, advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and the content of regional plans, and consultation on associated matters.

### **1.4.3 Site inspections**

The Patea Beach site was visited a total of six times during the 2010-2011 period. Inspections focused on fly and dust nuisances, and noxious or offensive emissions, any sign of leaching or surface flows, and pest plants. The neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects such as litter. Inspections noted the type of materials and manner in which they were discharged to the site.

### **1.4.4 Chemical sampling**

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

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

## **2. Results**

### **2.1 Inspections**

Eight inspections were carried out during the 2010-2011 period.

#### **15 July 2010**

The site was quite full of greenwaste at the time of the inspection. There were only very small incidental amounts of unacceptable wastes in three places across the site. There was no evidence of systematic dumping of unacceptable wastes. No issues in regards to ponding, dust odour or leachate generation were noted.

#### **2 November 2010**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection. The weather was fine with no rain over the last five days. The site looked tidy and the greenwaste had recently been leveled and blended with the sand. There was no evidence of leachate seepage, ponding or greenwaste on the foreshore. There was a small amount of unacceptable wastes in one area of the site (near the entrance) and this will have to be removed.

The following action was to be taken:

- Continue with weekly site inspections to remove unacceptable wastes.

#### **16 December 2010**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection. The weather was overcast with 3 mm of rain over the past three days.

Generally the site was quite tidy and most of the spread greenwaste was free of unacceptable materials. There were two areas where recent illegal dumping had occurred and these will need to be cleaned up. Overall it seems that the weekly inspection and removal of rubbish undertaken by the consent holder is being effective.

The following action was to be taken:

- Remove the unacceptable wastes at the site and continue with weekly inspections.

#### **14 January 2011**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection. The weather was fine and hot with no rain falling over the previous 7 days.

The site was tidy and there was very little unacceptable material on the site. No issues in regards to odour or leachate were noted at the site.

#### **30 March 2011**

The following was found to be occurring: A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection and to take water samples. The weather was fine with a southerly breeze with 9mm rain falling over the previous 72 hours.

The site was very tidy and there was no unacceptable waste present at the time of the inspection. The dunes below the discharge were inspected and there was no sign of leachate seepage. No problems this visit.

### **24 June 2011**

A site visit was made to conduct a compliance monitoring inspection . The weather was fine with 15 mm rain falling over the previous 72 hours. The site was tidy and organised and no unacceptable wastes were found. There were no issues in regards to ponding, odour or leachate.



**Photograph 1** Patea Beach greenwaste disposal site 24 June 2011

## **2.2 Register of incidents**

The Taranaki Regional Council operates and maintains a register of all complaints or reported and discovered excursions from acceptable limits and practices, including non-compliance with consents, which may damage the environment. The 'Unauthorised Incident Register' (UIR) includes events where the company concerned has itself notified the Council. The register contains details of any investigation and corrective action taken.

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

In the 2010-2011 period, there were no incidents recorded by the Council associated with the Patea Beach site.

### 3. Discussion

#### 3.1 Discussion of plant performance

There were minor incidences of unacceptable wastes being left at the site by members of the public, but as a result of increased surveillance and the regular (weekly) visits of clean up crews this was all removed prior to the spreading and blending of greenwaste with the sand.

It is recommended that STDC continue to inspect the site and remove unacceptable wastes at least once every seven days.

#### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

The inclusion of unacceptable waste could potentially cause adverse environmental effects if it is not removed and is allowed to be buried with the green waste. However all the unacceptable materials were removed from the site and therefore would have had no long term effect.

There was no leachate observed discharging from the sand dune area during the period under review. The sandy substrate combined with low rainfall at the beach restricted the production of leachate from the green waste. It should also be noted that the receiving environment is nutrient poor and any leachate discharged is likely to quickly bind to the underlying substrate.

#### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

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

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

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

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

Based on the monitoring results from the period under review, STDC demonstrated a high level environmental performance and compliance with consent conditions in relation to its Patea Beach green waste.

### 3.4 Recommendations from the 2009-2010 Annual Report

The 2010-2011 Annual report recommended:

THAT monitoring of discharges to Patea Beach in the 2010-2011 year continue at the same level as in 2008-2009.

This recommendation was implemented during the period under review.

### 3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2011-2012

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Taranaki Regional Council has taken into account the extent of information made available by previous authorities, its relevance under the Resource Management Act, the obligations of the Act in terms of monitoring emissions/discharges and effects, and subsequently reporting to the regional community, the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki emitting to the atmosphere/discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that for the 2011-2012 period the programme remain unchanged from that implemented in the 2009-2010 period. A recommendation to this effect is attached to this report.

#### **4. Recommendation**

1. THAT monitoring of discharges to Patea Beach in the 2011-2012 period remain unchanged from that implemented in the 2009-2010 period.
2. THAT STDC continue to inspect the site and remove unacceptable wastes at least once every seven days.

## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms are used within this report:

Al*	aluminium
As*	arsenic
Biomonitoring	assessing the health of the environment using aquatic organisms
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, taking into account the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate
BODF	biochemical oxygen demand of a filtered sample
bund	a wall around a tank to contain its contents in the case of a leak
CBOD	carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, excluding the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate
cfu	colony forming units. A measure of the concentration of bacteria usually expressed as per 100 millilitre sample
COD	chemical oxygen demand. A measure of the oxygen required to oxidise all matter in a sample by chemical reaction.
Condy	Conductivity, an indication of the level of dissolved salts in a sample, usually measured at 20°C and expressed in mS/m
Cu*	copper
DO	dissolved oxygen
DRP	dissolved reactive phosphorus
<i>E.coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre sample
Ent	Enterococci, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre of sample
F	Fluoride
FC	Faecal coliforms, an indicator of the possible presence of faecal material and pathological micro-organisms. Usually expressed as colony forming units per 100 millilitre sample
fresh	elevated flow in a stream, such as after heavy rainfall
g/m <sup>3</sup>	grammes per cubic metre, and equivalent to milligrammes per litre (mg/L). In water, this is also equivalent to parts per million (ppm), but the same does not apply to gaseous mixtures
l/s	litres per second
MCI	macroinvertebrate community index; a numerical indication of the state of biological life in a stream that takes into account the sensitivity of the taxa present to organic pollution in stony habitats
mS/m	millisiemens per metre
mixing zone	the zone below a discharge point where the discharge is not fully mixed with the receiving environment. For a stream, conventionally taken as a length equivalent to 7 times the width of the stream at the discharge point.
NH <sub>4</sub>	ammonium, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N)

NH <sub>3</sub>	unionised ammonia, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N)
NO <sub>3</sub>	nitrate, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the turbidity of water
O&G	oil and grease, defined as anything that will dissolve into a particular organic solvent (e.g. hexane). May include both animal material (fats) and mineral matter (hydrocarbons)
Pb*	lead
pH	a numerical system for measuring acidity in solutions, with 7 as neutral. Numbers lower than 7 are increasingly acidic and higher than 7 are increasingly alkaline. The scale is logarithmic i.e. a change of 1 represents a ten-fold change in strength. For example, a pH of 4 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 5.
Physicochemical	measurement of both physical properties(e.g. temperature, clarity, density) and chemical determinants ( e.g. metals and nutrients) to characterise the state of an environment
PM <sub>10</sub>	relatively fine airborne particles (less than 10 micrometre diameter
resource consent	refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15)
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991 and subsequent amendments
SS	suspended solids,
Temp	temperature, measured in °C (degrees Celsius)
Turb	turbidity, expressed in NTU
UI	Unauthorised Incident
UIR	Unauthorised Incident Register – contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan
Zn*	zinc

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

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

## **Bibliography and references**

Taranaki Regional Council (2008): 'South Taranaki District Council, Patea Beach green waste Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2009-10'. Technical Report 2010-21.

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Taranaki Regional Council (2008): 'South Taranaki District Council, Patea Beach green waste Monitoring Programme Triennial Report 2005-08'. Technical Report 2008-95.

Taranaki Regional Council (2005): 'South Taranaki District Council, Patea Beach green waste Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2003-05'. Technical Report 2005-116.

## **Appendix I**

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





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

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

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Please quote our file number  
on all correspondence

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

Consent Granted  
Date: 30 October 2007

**Conditions of Consent**

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

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Review Date(s): June 2010, June 2016

Site Location: Patea Beach, Beach Road, Patea

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

Catchment: Patea

## Consent 6088-3

### General conditions

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### Special conditions


1. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
2. The exercise of this consent shall be undertaken in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of application 4491. Specifically this includes *Patea Beach Management Plan, South Taranaki District Council (June 2007)*. If there is any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of the application and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. Dumping of green waste by the public shall be limited to specific designated areas identified by signs. The consent holder shall regularly remove the green waste from the dumping area and deposit it in the quantities and at the locations necessary to achieve the purpose of this consent.
4. For the purposes of this consent, domestic green waste is defined as: leaves, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, sticks/branches/logs with a diameter no greater than 100 mm, and other similar material all in quantities consistent with maintenance of a residential garden. Specifically excluded from the definition are: sticks/branches/logs with a diameter greater than 100 mm; timber (treated or not); and any viable plant identified in the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*.
5. The consent holder shall ensure that signs at the dumping points clearly describe the waste that may be dumped.
6. The consent holder shall remove any dumped material from the site that is not green waste (as defined in condition 4).
7. The consent holder shall comply with the requirements of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* at the site.
8. The consent holder shall ensure that no waste discharged to the site is placed at or below the mean high water springs mark.

Consent 6088-3

9. The discharge to land shall not result in any contaminant entering surface water.
10. The consent holder shall control and maintain all stormwater at the site to minimise erosion or scour of the adjacent foreshore area to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
11. This consent shall lapse on the expiry of five years after the date of issue of this consent, unless the consent is given effect to before the end of that period or the Taranaki Regional Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
12. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2010 and/or June 2016, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Signed at Stratford on 30 October 2007

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council



Director-Resource Management

