

Remediation New Zealand Ltd
Waitara Road Facility
Monitoring Programme
Annual Report
2022-2023

Technical Report 2023-41



Working with people | caring for Taranaki



Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford

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Executive summary

Remediation NZ Ltd (the Company) operates a greenwaste collection and composting facility at 96 Waitara Road, Brixton in the Waiongana catchment. The Company holds one consent for the discharge stormwater onto and into land and into an unnamed tributary of the Waiongana Stream. The consent includes 11 conditions setting out minimum requirements that the Company must comply with.

This report assesses the 2022-2023 compliance monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess the Company's environmental and administrative performance during the period under review. In addition, it details the results of the site inspections and water quality sampling undertaken to assess the environmental effects of the Company's activities.

During the 2022-2023 monitoring period Remediation NZ Ltd demonstrated a good level of both environmental and administrative performance.

The Council's monitoring programme for the year under review included three inspections which found the Company was operating in accordance with the consent conditions. Several areas for improvement to housekeeping and maintenance of the site were identified and the operator generally addressed these matters. The programme provides for sampling and analysis of the stormwater discharges for comparison against the pH and suspended solids limits in the consent conditions. The Company was not discharging stormwater during two of the inspections so samples were not collected. During the third inspection the discharge was not observed to be having any impact on the tributary so a sample was not collected. An upgrade to the stormwater system was undertaken at the site in the 2021-22 monitoring year and the stormwater management plan still hadn't been updated to reflect this

For reference, in the 2022-2023 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 878 (87%) of a total of 1007 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 96 (10%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 27 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining one (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by the Company over the last several years, this report concludes that the Company has maintained a good level of performance for the year under review. The recommendations in this report include updating the stormwater management plan to reflect changes on the site, that repairs to the chicken litter shed cladding be completed, and that monitoring continues at the same level as the previous monitoring year.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Compliance monitoring programme and the Resource Management Act 1991

1.1.1 Introduction

This report details and discusses the results and findings of the 2022-2023 monitoring programme undertaken by the Council to monitor resource consent 5892-2 held by Remediation New Zealand Ltd (the Company) for discharges of stormwater onto and into land, and into a tributary in the Waiongana catchment. This is the third annual report to be prepared by the Council for the Company's stormwater discharges and associated environmental effects at this site (previously the discharges had been reported on as part of combined annual report).

1.1.2 Structure of this report

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

- consent compliance monitoring under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Council's obligations;
- the Council's approach to monitoring consented sites through annual programmes;
- summary of the location and onsite processes
- the resource consent held by the Company in the Waiongana catchment;
- the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review; and
- a description of the activities and operations conducted in the Company's site.

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 2022-2023 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 promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, in a manner which avoids, remedies, or mitigates adverse environmental effects. These effects may impact:

- 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 for 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 consent 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 of 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 effects 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 and administrative 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 2022-2023 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 878 (87%) of a total of 1007 consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 96 (10%) of the consents a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. A further 27 (3%) of consents monitored required improvement in their performance, while the remaining one (<1%) achieved a rating of poor.¹

1.2 Process description

A full description of the activity can be found in the application documents for the resource consent. Greenwaste is collected from commercial greenwaste contractors, and shredded onsite to create a consistent size fraction. Some of the greenwaste is composted at the Site (Figure 1), while the majority is transported to the Company's other composting operation located in Uruti Valley.

The shredded material may be blended with additives such as chicken litter, vermicast, compost or fertiliser. These additives are stored in sheds and the blending is carried out in an enclosed shed. Composted material supplied from the Uruti site is applied to worm windrows at an average depth of 150-200 mm (Figure 1). The worms work the top 100 mm and convert the material to compost within 5 to 7 days. Aeration of the windrows is achieved using a metal arm with long 'teeth' mounted on a tractor which overturns the windrows. The covered windrows are 3 m wide and separated by a 2 m metal access track in between. The final product, called vermicast, is collected and packaged for distribution as a fertiliser.

The additive material used to make the Revital Fertiliser products are stored within onsite sheds (Figure 1). Mixing of fertiliser blends is carried out within a large shed immediately prior to dispatch of the product. The screened and blended compost is dispatched in covered trucks from the loading ramp to the northeast of the large storage shed. A vehicle washdown facility is provided between the storage sheds.

1.2.1 Location

The Company operates the composting and vermiculture business at the Site facility. The layout of the site can be found in Figure 1 below. The surrounding properties are in pasture or market gardens, the property adjacent to the northern boundary is a contractor's yard. The nearest residential property is 60 m to the south from the property boundary.

¹ The Council has used these compliance grading criteria for more than 19 years. They align closely with the 4 compliance grades in the MfE Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement, 2018



Figure 1 RNZ Waitara Road Facility map

Stormwater consent

Drainage flows generally from the north east boundary of the site closest to the worm beds to the south west boundary (Figure 2). Surface stormwater from the wormbeds and compost windrows is directed to open, grassed drains along the property boundary. Stormwater from the concrete mixing pad is directed to a sump and holding tank and subsequently pumped back onto the windrows. Stormwater from roofed catchments is directed to holding tanks and pumped back onto windrows. Stormwater from the concrete apron in front of the lime, rock and phosphate shed is directed via pipe to an open drain.

Offsite discharges are via the open drain which crosses the neighbouring property before discharging into an unnamed tributary of the Waiongana Stream, approximately 2.5 km to the south west of the site.

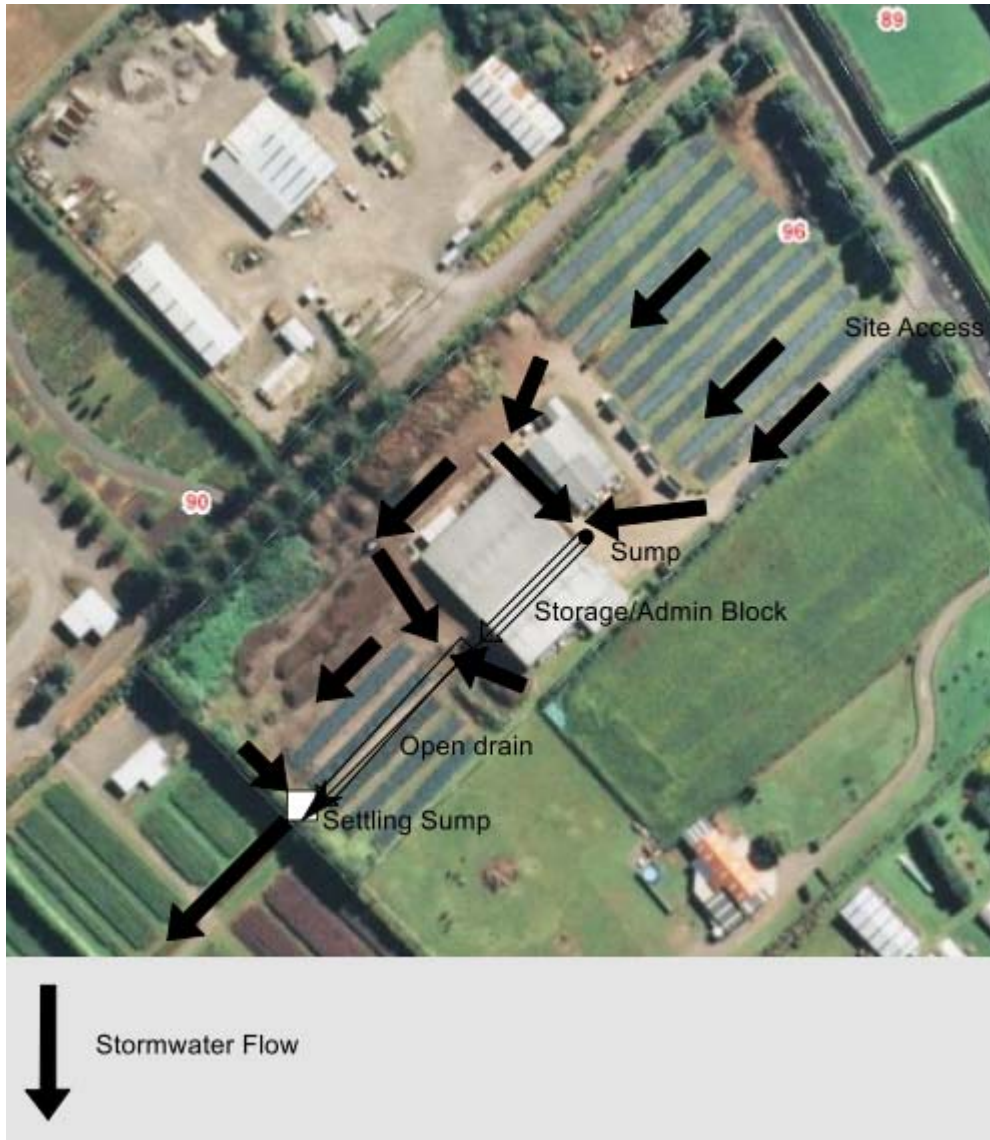


Figure 2 Stormwater drainage on the site

1.3 Resource consent

The Company holds one resource consent which is summarised in Table 1 below. Summaries of the conditions attached to each permit are set out in Section 3.2 of this report.

Table 1 Resource consent held by the Company

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
<i>Water discharge permits</i>				
5892-2	To discharge stormwater from worm farming operations onto and into land and into an unnamed tributary of the Waiongana Stream	September 2006	-	June 2020 S.124 Protection while application to renew the consent is processed

1.4 Monitoring programme

1.4.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the RMA sets obligations on 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 on 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.

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.

2 Results

2.1 Inspections

Three inspections were conducted during the 2022-2023 monitoring year and the officer's findings are reported below.

22 October 2022

Compliance monitoring inspection carried out to assess compliance with Resource Consent conditions. Visual inspection only. The inspection found that the sediment retention ponds were almost empty but look to be due for desludging. No stormwater was discharging off site. Some chicken litter had spilt out from the shed and needed to be cleaned up. All worm beds were covered. Site was reasonably clean and tidy. The area in front of the sheds needed sweeping. All drain bunding was in place. No dust or was noted on or beyond the boundary of the site. Some odour noted on site, but was not offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the property.

17 March 2023

Inspection undertaken to assess compliance with resource consent conditions. The inspection found that the site was in need of maintenance. The worm beds had rips in several locations. It was advised that the material needed to cover the beds was onsite. The Company was advised that the windrows must be kept covered at all times except when discharging. It was also noted that some of the wall of the shed that houses the chicken litter has been ripped off in the recent wind events and product had spilled out of the shed. There was also spilled product in the area in front of the shed which required cleaning. Product should be cleaned up periodically to prevent it from entering the treatment system and to ensure the treatment system is operating effectively. The stormwater treatment system was not discharging at the time of inspection. No odour was noted on the site, or beyond the boundary of the property. The Company was advised to ensure that the issues are remedied prior to the next inspection.

11 May 2023

Inspection undertaken to assess compliance with resource consent conditions. The inspection found that the site had undergone maintenance since the last inspection in March, however, general upkeep and day to day cleaning of the hardstand areas in the stormwater catchment were required. The stormwater pond has been de-sludged in February. Covers on worm beds have been replaced, however, several worm beds still need maintenance. Windrows were not all covered and the Company was advised that they must be kept covered at all times except when discharging. The chicken litter shed had not yet been repaired. The stormwater treatment system was discharging at the time of inspection. The colour of the discharge was dark, however, was not having any effect on the receiving waters beyond the mixing zone. No odour was noted on the site, or beyond the boundary of the property.

2.2 Stormwater discharge monitoring

As reported in the inspections notes in section 2.1 there were no stormwater discharge samples collected during this monitoring year. During the first two inspections there was no discharge occurring at the time. During the inspection on 11 May 2023 the officer described the stormwater discharge as "dark" but did not observe any effects in the tributary beyond the mixing zone. On this basis a sample was not collected.

The 2021-2022 annual report noted that there has been a general improvement in stormwater discharge quality due to recent upgrades to the stormwater management and treatment system implemented following an external review (*Brixton Plant: Stormwater review*, prepared by Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd and dated 26 October 2021). The results of the sample collected during the same monitoring year were less

than the consent limits, and for the Organonitro and phosphorus pesticides less than the level of detection. The annual report for 2021-2022 attributes this directly to the onsite improvements.

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 the Company. 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. The database 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 2022-2023 monitoring period the Council was not required to undertake additional investigations, interventions, or record any incidents, in association with the Company's resource consent conditions or provisions in Regional Plans. The Council did not receive any complaints about the Company's operation during the monitoring period.

3 Discussion

3.1 Discussion of site and environmental performance

As a result of an abatement notice issued during the 2020-2021 monitoring period, the Company engaged Pattle Delamore and Partners (PDP) to review on site stormwater management and recommend improvements. The report made eight recommendations for improving the stormwater management system.

Inspections undertaken during the 2021-2022 monitoring period noted that the Company had implemented these recommendations, including; construction of new settling ponds, increased capacity of settling ponds, redirection of roof water, repairs to sheds to prevent loss of product, repair of broken pipework, improved yard maintenance, and redirection of stormwater away from product.

Inspections conducted during this monitoring year found the site to be generally well run and in a tidy condition, with some housekeeping concerns noted. The Company was advised to repair and maintain the exterior cladding of the chicken litter storage shed to avoid spillages, to repair tears in the worm bed covers, and keep the hardstand area tidy. These issues were largely attended to although the exterior cladding of the chicken litter sheds had not been completed at the time of the final inspection.

As discussed earlier, stormwater sampling was not conducted this year and therefore a quantitative evaluation of the Company's environmental performance is not possible. Given the recent improvements to the stormwater management system, and visual observations during the site inspections, it's likely that any effects on the tributary were less than previous years. The de-sludging of the settling pond likely helped to reduce sediment loadings in any discharges throughout the year.

3.2 Evaluation of compliance performance

A summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 2, and a history of the compliance record in Table 3 .

Table 2 Summary of performance for consent 5892-2

Purpose 5892-2.0: To discharge stormwater from the worm farming operations onto and into land and into an unnamed tributary of the Waiongana Stream		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Exercise of consent in accordance with information provided in application	Site inspections	Yes
2. Operation in accordance with best practicable option	Site inspections	No Site maintenance not undertaken and some housekeeping issues
3. Prepare and maintain stormwater management plan	Review of records - received 14 November 2016	No Stormwater upgrades undertaken in 2020/21 monitoring year and SMP not yet updated.
4. Records nature and volume of wastes received	Liaison with consent holder	Yes Available on request

Purpose 5892-2.0: To discharge stormwater from the worm farming operations onto and into land and into an unnamed tributary of the Waiongana Stream		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
5. No contamination of ground or surface water	Site inspections and samples	Yes
6. Maintenance of stormwater treatment system and concentration limits	Site inspections and observations	Yes
7. Post mixing zone stormwater effects	Site inspections and observations	Yes
8. Windrows covered except when discharging	Site inspections	Yes
9. Alterations to processes and operations	Site inspections	Yes
10. Reinstatement of site at closure	Not required	Yes
11. Review of consent	Consent has expired, no further provision for review	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		Good
Overall administrative compliance with this consent		Good

Table 3 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

Year	Consent no	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2013-2014	5892-2	1	-	-	-
2014-2015	5892-2	1	-	-	-
2015-2016	5892-2	1	-	-	-
2016-2017	5892-2	1	-	-	-
2018-2019	5892-2	-	-	1	-
2019-2020	5892-2	1	-	-	-
2020-2021	5892-2	-	1	-	-
2021-2022	5892-2	-	1	-	-
2022-2023	5892-2	-	1	-	-
Totals		5	3	1	0

During the year, the Company demonstrated a good level of environmental and administrative performance with the stormwater discharge consent 5892-2 as defined in Appendix II.

3.3 Recommendations from the 2021-2022 Annual Report

In the 2021-2022 Annual Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at Waitara Road facility in the 2022-2023 year continue at the same level as 2021-2022.

2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2022-2023, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.

These recommendations were adopted. The site inspection frequency was retained for this monitoring year. There were no environmental or administrative concerns during the monitoring year which necessitated adjustments.

3.4 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2023-2024

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for discharges of contaminants 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.

On the basis of this year's environmental and administrative performance this report does not recommend any changes to the monitoring programme for the 2023-2024 monitoring programme. The site continues to be a low risk activity with minimal environmental impact when the consent conditions are met, and if management plans are followed. The triannual frequency for inspections, and sampling when possible, is considered reasonable for the low level of risk presented by discharges from the site. Council may conduct additional inspections in the event of non-compliance or an environmental incident.

4 Recommendations

1. THAT an updated Stormwater Management Plan which incorporates recent stormwater upgrades should be provided this monitoring year.
2. THAT repairs to the cladding of the chicken litter shed must be completed to minimise odour, dust and avoid spillage.
3. THAT inspections of consented activities and stormwater sampling at the site in the 2023-2024 monitoring year shall continue at the same frequency as during 2022-2023.
4. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2023-2024, the monitoring programme may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention.

Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

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

Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
Incident register	The incident register contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan.
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.
ONP	Organonitro and phosphorus pesticides
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.

For further information on analytical methods, contact the Manager – Environmental Assurance.

Bibliography and references

Ministry for the Environment, Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement under the Resource Management Act 1991. Wellington.

Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd, 2021, Brixton Plant: Stormwater review.

Taranaki Regional Council 2022: Remediation New Zealand Ltd Uruti Waitara Road Facility Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2020-2021 Technical Report 2021-80. Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford.

Appendix I

Resource consent held by RNZ New Zealand Ltd Waitara Road Facility

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

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.

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

Name of
Consent Holder: Remediation (NZ) Limited
 P O Box 8045
 NEW PLYMOUTH 4342

Consent Granted 7 September 2006
Date:

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge stormwater from worm farming operations
 onto and into land and into an unnamed tributary of the
 Waiongana Stream at or about (NZTM)
 1705949E-5679907N

Expiry Date: 1 June 2020

Review Date(s): June 2008, June 2014

Site Location: 96 Waitara Road, Brixton, Waitara

Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 19670 Blk III Paritutu SD

Catchment: Waiongana

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. This consent shall be exercised generally in accordance with the information submitted in support of applications 1559 and 4037. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of applications 1559 and 4037 and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
2. At all times the consent holder shall adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Act, to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment associated with worm farming activities and the discharge of stormwater onto and into land.
3. Within three months of granting of this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a stormwater management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council. This plan shall be updated as required by any significant changes to plant processes.
4. The consent holder shall keep and make available to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, upon request, records of the nature and volume of all wastes received at the site; such records to be kept for at least 12 months.
5. The exercise of this consent shall not result in any contamination of groundwater or surface water, other than as provided for in special condition 6 of this consent.
6. The stormwater treatment system shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

The following concentrations shall not be exceeded within the discharge effluent:

Component	Concentration
pH (range)	6.5-8.5
suspended solids	100 gm ⁻³

Consent 5892-2

This condition shall apply prior to any stormwater prior to leaving the site into the neighbouring drain, at a designated sampling point approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

7. After allowing for reasonable mixing, with a mixing zone extending seven times the width of the receiving waters downstream of the discharge point, the discharge shall not give rise to any of the following effects in the receiving waters of the unnamed tributary:
 - 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 or objectionable odour;
 - d) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
 - e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.
8. The consent holder shall ensure that except when discharging, windrows shall be covered at all times.
9. Prior to undertaking any alterations to the processes or operations which significantly change the nature or quantity of contaminants emitted from the site, the consent holder shall consult with the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall obtain any necessary approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991.
10. The Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, shall be advised in writing at least 48 hours prior to the reinstatement of the site and the reinstatement shall be carried out so as to minimise effects on stormwater quality, and to meet the criteria of Tables 4.11, 4.14 & 4.20 of the Ministry for the Environment (1999) document 'Guidelines for Assessing & Managing Petroleum Hydrocarbon Contaminated sites in N.Z.'. .
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 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.

Transferred at Stratford on 22 September 2008

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

Director-Resource Management

Appendix II

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

Categories used to evaluate environmental and administrative performance

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

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

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

Environmental Performance

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

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

For example:

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

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

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

Administrative performance

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

Good: Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively

adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.

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

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