

New Plymouth District Council
New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant
Marine Outfall and Sludge Lagoon
Monitoring Programme
Annual Report
2018-2019

Technical Report 2019-80

ISSN: 1178-1467 (Online)
Document: 2342392 (Word)
Document: 2389513 (Pdf)

Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
STRATFORD
February 2020

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 2018 to June 2019 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the 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.

In relation to the operation of the NPWWTP, NPDC holds six resource consents, which include a total of 72 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, one consent to discharge emissions into the air at the site and one consent to discharge dewatered sludge to land on a contingency basis.

During the monitoring period, the NPDC demonstrated an overall high level of environmental performance at the NPWWTP.

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

Neither the ecological survey nor the bathing beach water quality survey found any evidence of adverse effects resulting from the outfall discharge. Norovirus was not detected in green lipped mussels sampled near Bell Block, however, low levels were detected in mussels sampled from Waiwhakaiho Reef. Because this site is close to the outfall discharge, the risk of pathogen contamination in shellfish remains significant. As such, permanent health warning signage remains in place.

Following recommendations from the previous year, an additional survey was undertaken to investigate the elevated levels of contaminants in the drain adjacent to the sludge lagoon. The survey failed to locate any point source discharges entering the drain, and so it was concluded that sub-surface groundwater seepage was the most likely pathway. The source of contaminants should be removed in the near future once NPDC complete the decommissioning of the lagoon.

During the year under review, there were a total of nine incidents which resulted in discharges from the wider wastewater network to waterways. Five of these incidents were related to pipe blockages or breakages, two were related to mechanical or technical failures and two were related to power outages. No unauthorised discharges were caused by high rainfall events during the year under review. The number of incidents has continued to decrease from recent years (40 incidents in the 2014-2015 year, 24 in 2015-2016, 20 in 2016-2017 and 16 in 2017-2018). Only one of these incidents was directly related to the operation of the NPWWTP and an associated resource consent condition, therefore, the remaining eight have not been considered when rating NPDC's environmental performance for this monitoring programme.

One of the incidents that occurred during 2018-2019 was an overflow from the Mangati Sewage Pump Station on 21 January 2019 which resulted in significant adverse environmental effects. This incident has resulted in a prosecution which is currently ongoing, therefore only summary details are provided within this report. The outcome of this investigation and prosecution will be included in the next annual compliance report.

During the year, NPDC demonstrated a high level of environmental and administrative performance with the resource consents relating to NPWWTP operations.

For reference, in the 2018-2019 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 83% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring

programmes, while for another 13% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by NPDC over the last several years, this report shows that their performance has remained high in recent years. NPDC were found to be generally compliant with consents.

This report includes recommendations for the 2019-2020 year.

Table of contents

		Page
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 and administrative performance	2
1.2	Process description	3
1.3	Resource consents	5
1.4	Monitoring programme	6
1.4.1	Introduction	6
1.4.2	Programme liaison and management	6
1.4.3	Site inspections	6
1.4.4	Council effluent monitoring	7
1.4.5	Review of NPDC self-monitoring data	7
1.4.6	Marine ecological surveys	8
1.4.7	Shoreline bacteriological surveys	8
1.4.8	Shellfish monitoring	8
2	Results	9
2.1	Water	9
2.1.1	Inspections	9
2.1.2	Effluent monitoring	9
2.1.3	Sludge lagoon monitoring	13
2.1.4	Marine ecological surveys	18
2.1.5	Shoreline bacteriological survey	20
2.1.6	Shellfish monitoring	20
2.2	Air	21
2.2.1	Inspections	21
2.3	Investigations, interventions, and incidents	22
2.3.1	New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant incidents	22
2.3.2	Sewage pump station incidents	22
2.3.3	Reticulation overflow incidents	23
3	Discussion	25

3.1	Discussion of plant performance	25
3.2	Environmental effects of exercise of consents	25
3.2.1	Effluent discharge to Tasman Sea	25
3.2.2	Sludge lagoon and sludge disposal monitoring	26
3.2.3	Air discharge	26
3.3	Evaluation of performance	27
3.4	Recommendations from the 2017-2018 Annual Report	33
3.5	Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2019-2020	34
4	Recommendations	35
	Glossary of common terms and abbreviations	36
	Bibliography and references	38
	Appendix I Resource consents held by NPDC	
	Appendix II Graphical results of monthly composite effluent monitoring 1990-2019	
	Appendix III Results of routine sludge lagoon monitoring 2018-2019	

List of tables

Table 1	Resource consent summary	5
Table 2	Effluent grab samples 2018-2019 (site SWG002002)	9
Table 3	Summary results of effluent composite samples collected by NPDC and TRC (2018-2019)	10
Table 4	Summary of composite influent and effluent data from the 2018-2019 monitoring period	12
Table 5	Norovirus concentration in the effluent and influent at the NPWWTP	13
Table 6	Mussel flesh norovirus results since the NPWWTP upgrade	21
Table 7	Summary of incidents at the NPWWTP during the 2018-2019 monitoring year	22
Table 8	Summary of pump station overflows during the 2018-2019 year	23
Table 9	Summary of reticulation overflows during the 2018-2019 year	23
Table 10	Summary of performance for Consent 0882-4	27
Table 11	Summary of performance for Consent 1826-2	28
Table 12	Summary of performance for Consent 2982-4	29
Table 13	Summary of performance for Consent 4593-3	30
Table 14	Summary of performance for Consent 4740-2	30
Table 15	Summary of performance for Consent 9984-1	31
Table 16	Evaluation of environmental performance over time	32

List of figures

Figure 1	Layout of the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant	5
Figure 2	Biochemical oxygen demand results from two different test methods in 24-hour effluent composite samples, presented on a logarithmic scale	11
Figure 3	Concentration of total suspended solids in 24-hour effluent composite samples, presented on a logarithmic scale	11
Figure 4	Total available chlorine (TAC) concentrations and faecal coliform (FC) counts, in effluent grab samples	12
Figure 5	Sludge lagoon showing location of NPDC's groundwater bore and drain sampling sites	14
Figure 6	Boxplots of monthly pH data from the year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites	14
Figure 7	Boxplots of monthly ammoniacal-N data from the year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites (lower detection limit = 0.1 g/m ³)	15
Figure 8	Boxplots of monthly oxidised-N data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 0.05 g/m ³)	15
Figure 9	Boxplots of monthly DRP data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 0.08 g/m ³)	16
Figure 10	Boxplots of monthly COD data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 1 g/m ³)	16
Figure 11	Boxplots of monthly FC data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites (lower detection limit = 5 cfu/100 ml)	17
Figure 12	Marine ecological survey sites for NPWWTP	18
Figure 13	Mean number of species per quadrat from 1993 to 2019	19
Figure 14	Mean Shannon-Weiner index per quadrat from 1995 to 2019	19

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 2018 to June 2019 by the 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.

One of the intents of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) 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 Council generally implements integrated environmental monitoring programmes and reports the results of the programmes jointly. This report discusses the environmental effects of NPDC's use of water, land and air, and is the 24th combined report by the Council for NPDC's 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 the 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 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 2019-2020 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' inasmuch 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 and administrative performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by NPDC, this report also assigns them a rating for their environmental and administrative performance during the period under review.

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 NPDC'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.

For reference, in the 2018-2019 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 83% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 13% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved.¹

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", breakdown 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

¹ The Council has used these compliance grading criteria for 15 years. They align closely with the 4 compliance grades in the MfE Best Practice Guidelines for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement, 2018

sludge from the water. The clear water overflows into the chlorine contact tank for disinfection prior to discharge through a 450 m marine outfall offshore of the mouth of the Waiwhakaiho River.



Photo 1 The New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant

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 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.

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 of aerobic zones. The basins are therefore now referred to as the bioreactor basins.



Figure 1 Layout of the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant

1.3 Resource consents

NPDC holds six resource consents in relation to the NPWWTP; 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 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.	13 Dec 2011	1 Jun 2022	1 Jun 2041
2982-4	To discharge of up to 60 m ³ /day of leachate from a sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater in the vicinity of the Waiwhakairo River.	17 Oct 2002	No further reviews	1 Jun 2020
<i>Air discharge permit</i>				
4740-2	To discharge contaminants into the air from sludge drying and processing activities at the NPWWTP.	29 May 2008	1 Jun 2020	1 June 2026
<i>Discharges of waste to land</i>				

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
9984-1	To discharge contaminants onto and into land and into air at the NPWWTP on a contingency basis	15 Apr 2015	Special condition 23	1 June 2022
<i>Land use permit</i>				
1826-2	To erect, place and maintain a twin box culvert on the Mangaone Stream for road access purposes.	16 Jan 2002	No further reviews	1 June 2020
<i>Coastal permit</i>				
4593-3	To erect, place, maintain and use a marine outfall within the coastal marine area as part of the NPWWTP system.	10 Sep 2014	1 Jun 2020	1 June 2041

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 during the 2018-2019 monitoring period.

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 inspected twice during the monitoring period. With regard to consents for the abstraction of or discharge to water, the main points of interest were plant processes with potential or actual discharges to receiving watercourses, including contaminated stormwater and process wastewaters.

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 on two occasions. 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

One inter-laboratory comparison between the Council and NPDC were performed during the 2018-2019 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 the 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 flow-proportional composite samples were collected from the influent over a 24 hour period and analysed for parameters including pH, ammoniacal nitrogen (ammoniacal-N), oxidised nitrogen (oxidised-N), nitrite, nitrate, dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), suspended solids, and faecal coliforms.

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 (resource 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 (resource consent 0882-4). Ammoniacal-N, Oxidised-N, DRP, pH and COD are tested on a monthly basis.

A summary of the influent and effluent composite data is presented in this report.

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). Grab samples were also collected and analysed for faecal coliform bacteria approximately three times each week.

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. Following recommendations set out in the 2017-2018 compliance monitoring report for the site, a

targeted drain sampling programme was also undertaken in order to identify any preferential flow paths or point source discharges that may be entering the drain.

1.4.6 Marine ecological surveys

An annual intertidal ecological survey was carried out at three potential impact sites and two control sites during the 2018-2019 monitoring period. The objective of this survey was to indicate any change in intertidal community structure attributable to discharges from the NPWWTP outfall.

1.4.7 Shoreline bacteriological surveys

A survey of shoreline bacteriological water quality at three seawater sites in the vicinity of the marine outfall, as well as a site located downstream of Lake Rotomanu, is carried out every second year during the summer months. Thirteen samples were collected from each site under dry weather conditions during 2018-2019. The samples were analysed for conductivity and the relevant faecal indicator bacteria (enterococci for marine sites and *E. coli* for the Waiwhakaiho River). The survey is next due to be undertaken in the summer of 2020-2021.

1.4.8 Shellfish monitoring

1.4.8.1 Metals

Mussels are collected from three sites around the outfall (Waiwhakaiho Reef, Bell Block and Arakaitai Reef) on a biennial basis and tested for trace metals. This monitoring was not undertaken during the year under review. It is next scheduled to occur in the 2019-2020 monitoring year.

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

Two scheduled site inspections were carried out at the plant during the monitoring period. 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. The final effluent observed in the chlorine contact tank was clear and odourless, with little colour or suspended particulate.

At the coast, the effluent plume was not visible during either inspection. There was no evidence of contamination of the foreshore or shoreline waters.

Grab samples were collected of the final effluent in conjunction with two of the inspections. The samples were analysed for enterococci, *E. coli*, total available chlorine, and free available chlorine (Table 2).

The concentration of total available chlorine was compliant with the consent limit during both inspections.

Table 2 Effluent grab samples 2018-2019 (site SWG002002)

Parameter	Unit	Date		Consent Limit
		29 Nov 2018	08 Apr 2019	
Free available chlorine	g/m ³	0.22	0.09	-
Total available chlorine	g/m ³	1.71	0.54	0.3 *
<i>E. coli</i>	cfu/100 ml	<1	4	-
Enterococci	cfu/100 ml	6	24	-

* The total available chlorine in the effluent, prior to entering the outfall pipe, shall be no less than 0.3 g/m³

2.1.2 Effluent monitoring

2.1.2.1 Composite samples

An annual summary of the composite effluent monitoring undertaken by NPDC in relation to Special Condition 3 is presented in Table 3, along with the associated resource consent limits and a summary of previous results. One sample was split in order to perform an inter-laboratory comparison. For this comparison, 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.

Table 3 Summary results of effluent composite samples collected by NPDC and TRC (2018-2019)

Parameter	Unit	Consent limit	2018-2019 (NPDC and TRC)						Previous results (NPDC)	
			TRC 29 Nov	NPDC 12 Dec	TRC 2 May	NPDC 2 May	Inter-lab agreement (2 May)	% compliant	Max	No. samples
Cyanide	g/m ³	0.1	< 0.02	0.02	< 0.02	< 0.02	√	100	0.1	312
Cadmium	g/m ³	0.04	< 0.001	< 0.02	< 0.001	< 0.02	√	100	0.01	317
Chromium	g/m ³	0.15	< 0.01	< 0.1	< 0.01	< 0.1	√	100	0.05	317
Copper	g/m ³	0.1	0.016	< 0.05	< 0.01	< 0.05	√	100	0.05	317
Lead	g/m ³	0.1	< 0.002	< 0.1	< 0.002	< 0.1	√	100	0.05	317
Mercury	g/m ³	0.002	-	< 0.00008	-	< 0.00008	-	100	0.001	301
Nickel	g/m ³	0.15	< 0.01	< 0.05	< 0.01	< 0.05	√	100	0.07	317
Phenols	g/m ³	1	< 0.02	< 0.05	< 0.02	< 0.05	√	100	0.17	309
Zinc	g/m ³	0.2	0.04	< 0.05	< 0.02	< 0.05	√	100	0.15	317

√ = satisfactory agreement

During the 2018-2019 monitoring year, all contaminants were within their consent limits, and all results were comparable with those previously recorded. The majority of metals were below detection limits.

The results of the inter-laboratory comparison show that the results obtained were in good agreement.

As stated in Special Condition 4, neither BOD nor suspended solids shall exceed a concentration of 25 g/m³ in more than 5% of samples of the final effluent. Results from the effluent composite samples analysed for BOD and suspended solids during the year under review are presented in Figures 2 and 3.

The concentrations of both discharge constituents remained below 25 g/m³ in all samples during this monitoring period. Condition 5 permits greater concentration limits for suspended solids and BOD when plant maintenance is being carried out. There was no work undertaken during the 2018-2019 monitoring year which required these limits to be adopted.

NPDC provided the Council with influent composite data, which, when interpreted alongside the effluent composite data, provides an indication of plant performance. A summary of the influent and effluent composite data from the period under review is presented in Table 4.

Treatment of influent at the NPWWTP resulted in large reductions in ammoniacal-N, BOD, COD and suspended solids. Oxidised-N generally increased as the ammonia was converted to nitrate by way of nitrification. Historical results from the monthly effluent composite samples are presented in Appendix II.

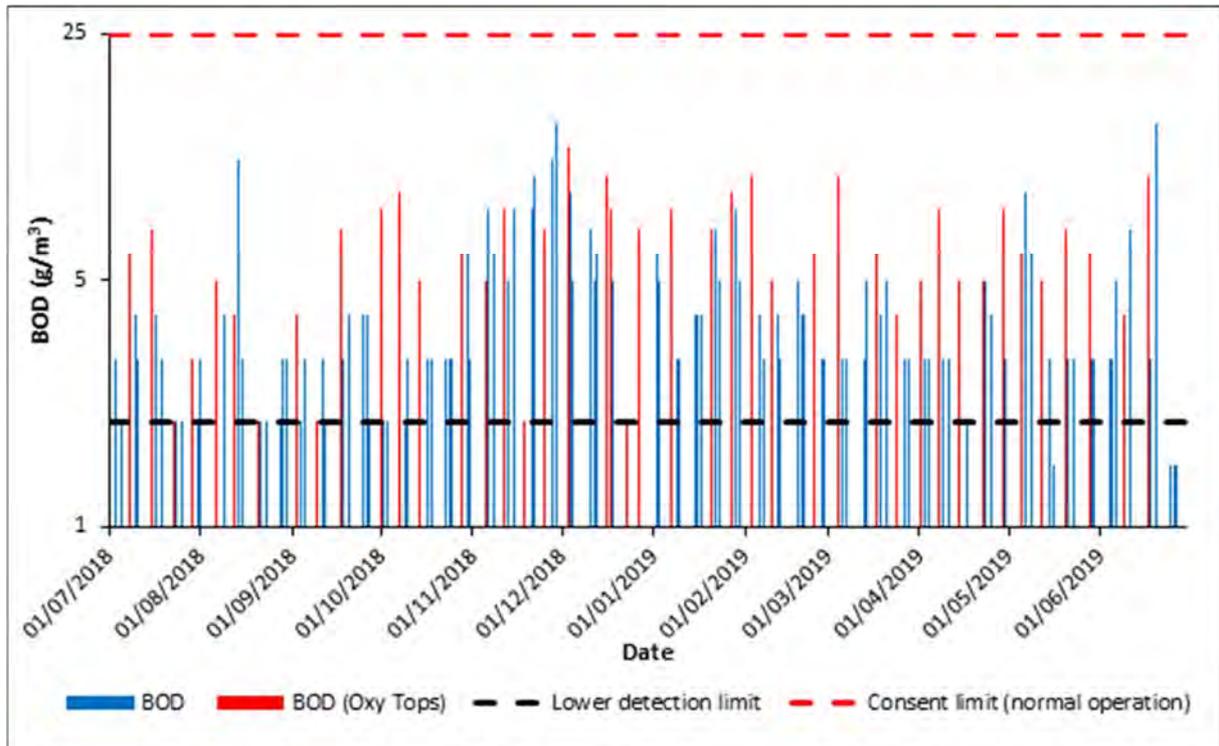


Figure 2 Biochemical oxygen demand results from two different test methods in 24-hour effluent composite samples, presented on a logarithmic scale

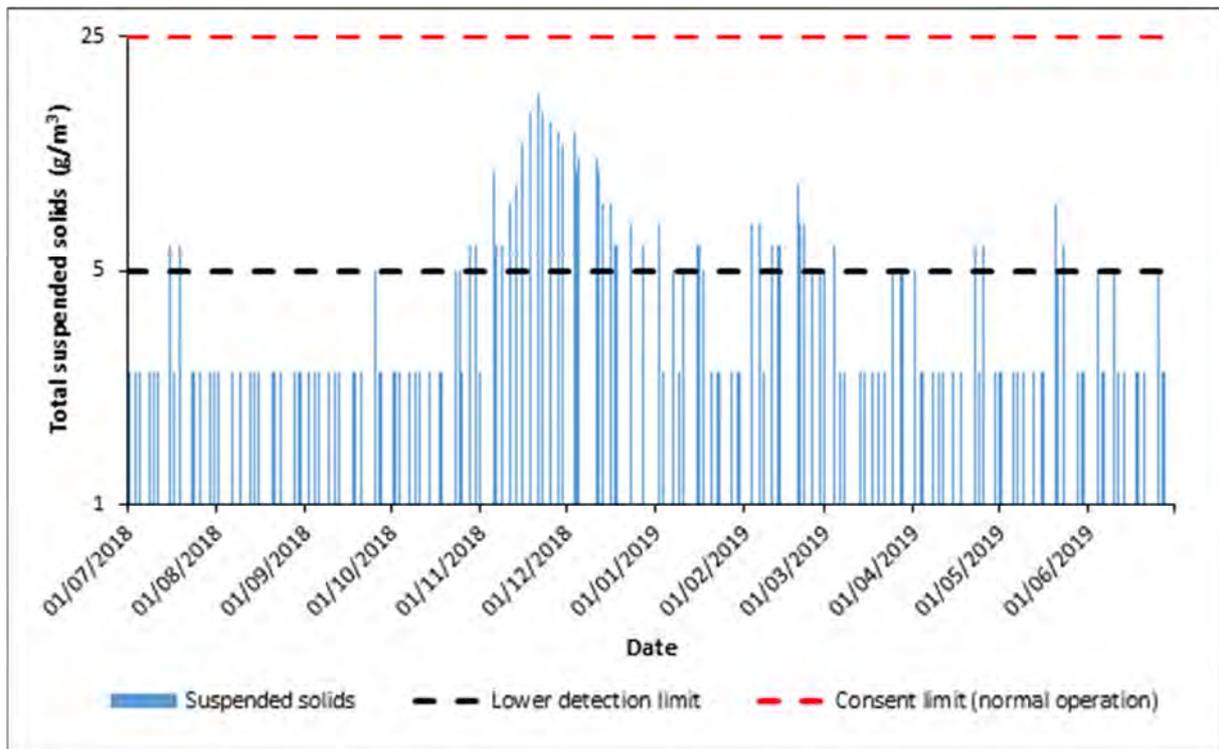


Figure 3 Concentration of total suspended solids in 24-hour effluent composite samples, presented on a logarithmic scale

Table 4 Summary of composite influent and effluent data from the 2018-2019 monitoring period

Parameter	Units	Influent		Effluent	
		Median	Number of samples	Median	Number of samples
pH	pH units	7.4	58	7.4	12
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³	31	80	0.11	12
Oxidised nitrogen	g/m ³	<0.1	51	7.9	12
Phosphate	g/m ³	5	51	-	-
Dissolved reactive phosphorous	g/m ³	-	-	<0.08	11
BOD	g/m ³	240	31	3	106
BOD (Oxy Tops method)	g/m ³	220	25	6	44
COD	g/m ³	480	81	26	12
Suspended Solids	g/m ³	297	81	<5	151

2.1.2.2 Grab samples

Special Condition 10 requires that the concentration of total available chlorine (TAC) in the effluent shall be no less than 0.3 g/m³. NPDC collect regular grab samples of the effluent to assess this condition. The results from the period under review are presented in Figure 4.

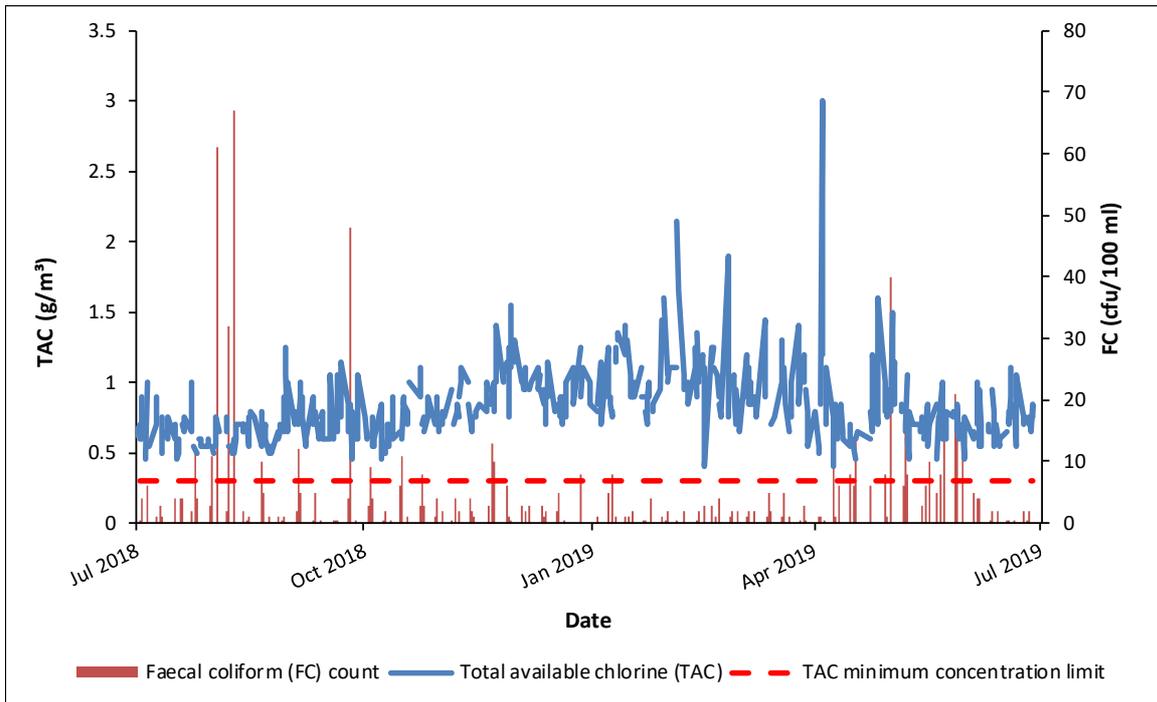


Figure 4 Total available chlorine (TAC) concentrations and faecal coliform (FC) counts, in effluent grab samples

The concentration of TAC was found to be at or above 0.3 g/m³ in every routine sample collected during the monitoring year. The concentrations of TAC were reflected in the relatively low counts of faecal coliform bacteria present in effluent grab samples throughout the year, with a maximum recorded count of 67 cfu/100 ml (Figure 4). Chlorine concentrations dropped below the consent limit for a short period of time on

10 April 2019, as confirmed with additional, non-routine sampling. This incident is discussed further in section 2.3.

2.1.2.3 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 results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Norovirus concentration in the effluent and influent at the NPWWTP

Operation	Date	Norovirus GI (genome copies/L)			Norovirus GII (genome copies/L)		
		Influent	Effluent	Log ₁₀ inactivation	Influent	Effluent	Log ₁₀ inactivation
Pre-upgrade	9 Oct 2012	280,000	100	3.45	470,000	13,000	1.56
Pre-upgrade	16 Oct 2012	37,000	180	2.31	1,600,000	30,000	1.73
Pre-upgrade	23 Oct 2012	17,000	460	1.57	28,000,000	21,000	3.12
Upgrade	31 Jul 2013	35,000	8,200	0.63	1,200,000	140,000	0.93
Post-upgrade	9 Jun 2014	67,000	200	2.53	480,000	2,300	2.32
Post-upgrade	20 Apr 2015	4,300	25*	2.24	3,000,000	1,300	3.36
Post-upgrade	11 Apr 2016	92,000	25*	3.57	1,900,000	770	3.39
Post-upgrade	29 May 2017	7,200	25*	2.46	890,000	25*	4.55
Post-upgrade	7 Nov 2017	600,000	25*	4.38	750,000	25*	4.48
Post-upgrade	23 July 2018	680	25*	1.43	1,400,000	25*	4.75
Post-upgrade	26 Nov 2018	9,000	280	1.51	150,000	25*	3.78
Post-upgrade	28 Apr 2019	66,000	50	3.12	2,000,000	1,300	3.19

* norovirus below limit of quantitation (<50 genome copies/L)

The NPWWTP continued to achieve a high level of norovirus inactivation during the year under review.

2.1.3 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 60 m³/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.

NPDC collects monthly groundwater and surface water samples from selected sites in the vicinity of the sludge lagoon (Figure 5). Summarized results from the year under review are provided in Figures 6 to 11, along with a summary of previous results from 1990 to 2018. Findings from the targeted drain sampling survey that was completed during 2018-2019 are also summarised in Section 2.1.3.1.



Figure 5 Sludge lagoon showing location of NPDC’s groundwater bore and drain sampling sites

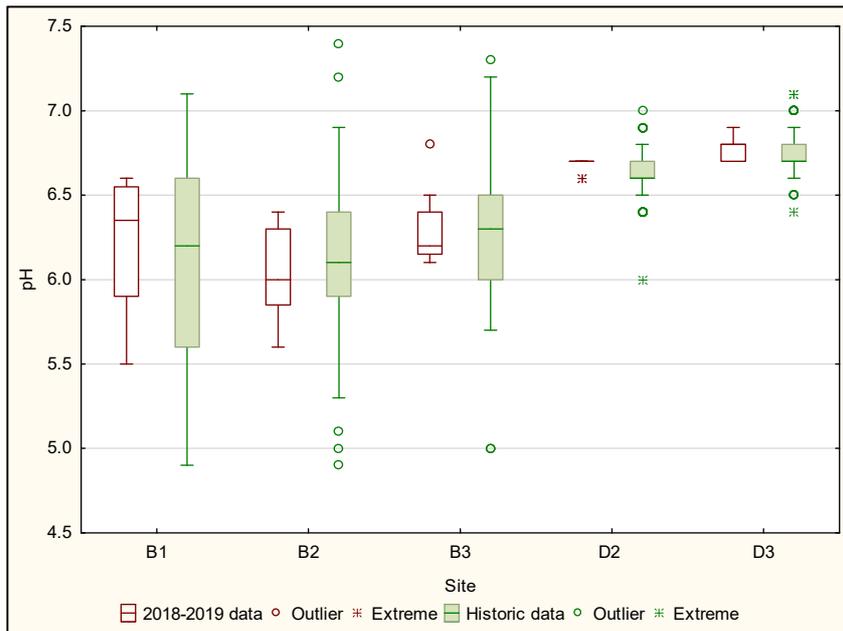


Figure 6 Boxplots of monthly pH data from the year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites

Bore two recorded the lowest median pH during the year under review, while Bore three was the least variable out of the three sites (Figure 6, Appendix III). The downstream drain sampling site recorded slightly higher pH values than the upstream site. Overall, the results from the 2018-2019 year were comparable with the historic data.

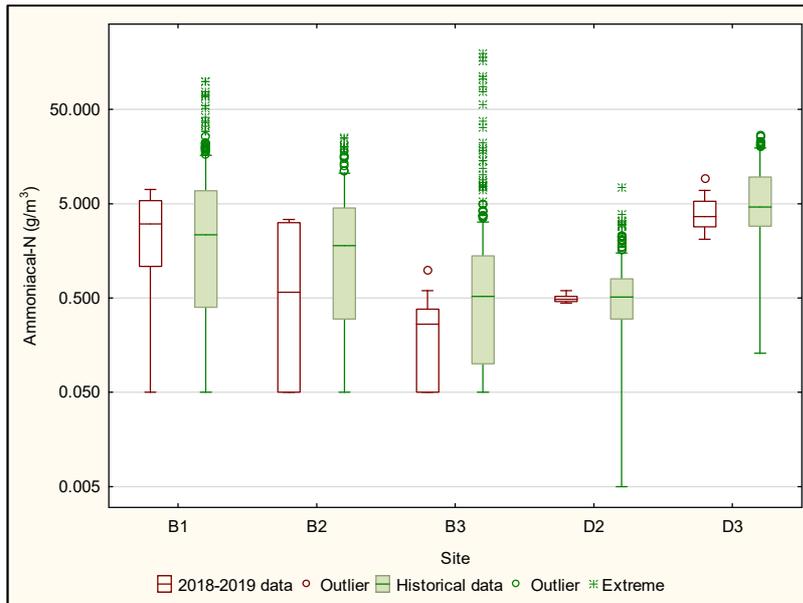


Figure 7 Boxplots of monthly ammoniacal-N data from the year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites (lower detection limit = 0.1 g/m³)

The process of decomposition of nitrogenous fractions within the sludge biomass generates ammoniacal-N. Concentrations increased from Bore 3 to Bore 1, and from the upstream drain site to the downstream drain site (Figure 7, Appendix III). As has been concluded through recent investigations, these results indicate that there is a hydraulic gradient moving towards Bore 1, and as such, this bore should not be interpreted as a control site. Overall, the 2018-2019 results were similar to, or less than, historic monitoring results.

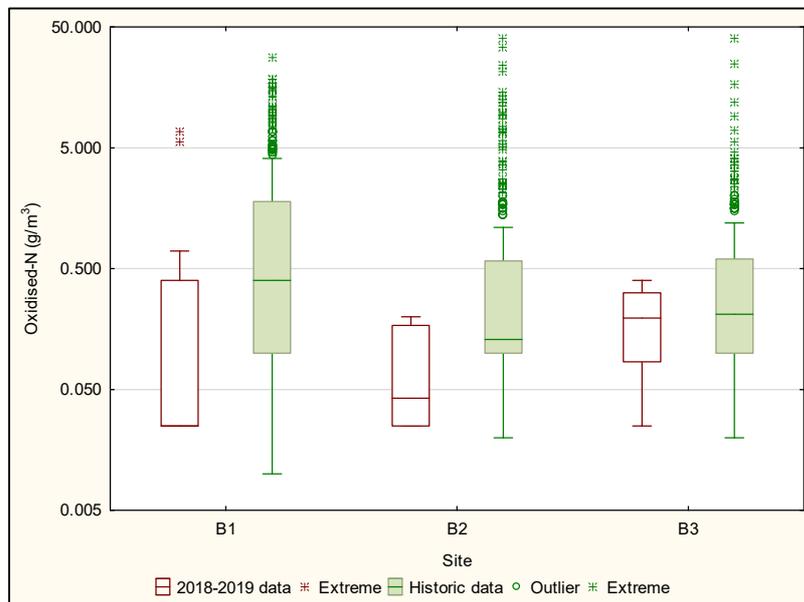


Figure 8 Boxplots of monthly oxidised-N data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 0.05 g/m³)

The median concentrations of oxidised-N were low in all three bores during the year and were comparable with previous monitoring results (Figure 8, Appendix III). The highest results from 2018-2019 were recorded at Bore 3.

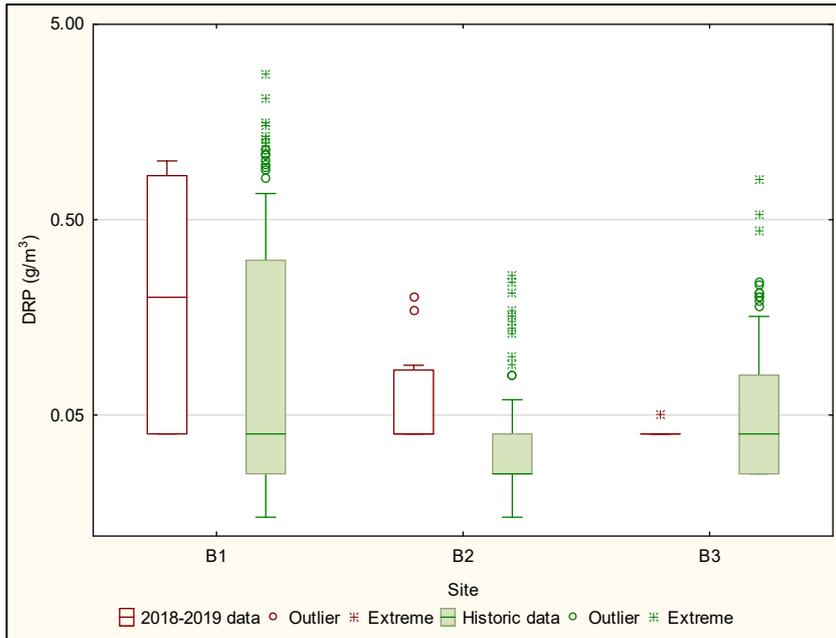


Figure 9 Boxplots of monthly DRP data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 0.08 g/m^3)

Soluble phosphate is released from the sludge lagoon biomass under anaerobic conditions and is therefore the major contributor to dissolved phosphorous levels. In 2018-2019, all DRP results at Bore 3 were below detection limits (Figure 9, Appendix III). Results were higher than normal at Bore 1, which recorded the highest concentrations out of the three sites.

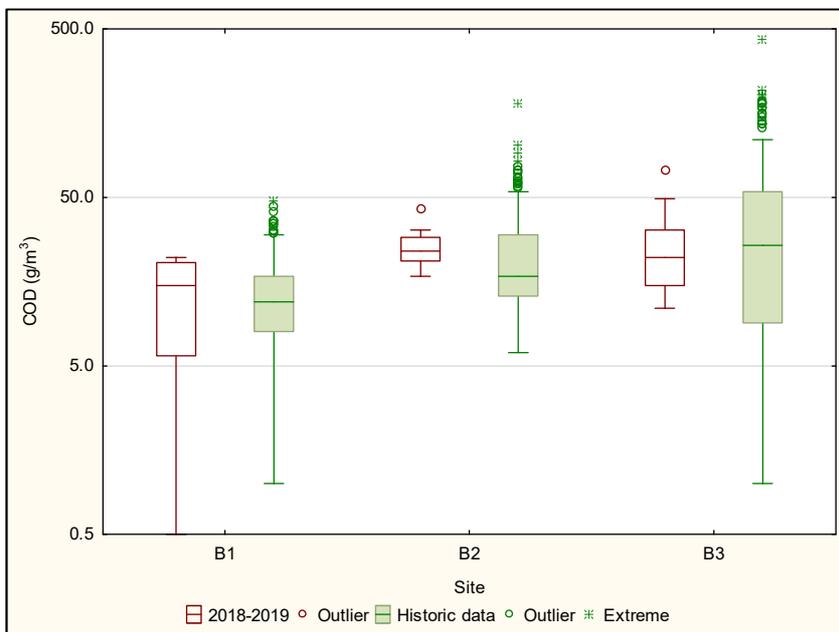


Figure 10 Boxplots of monthly COD data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores (lower detection limit = 1 g/m^3)

COD concentrations from the 2018-2019 year were comparable with the historical data (Figure 10, Appendix III). In contrast to the previous three parameters, COD values were lowest at Bore 1 during the year under review.

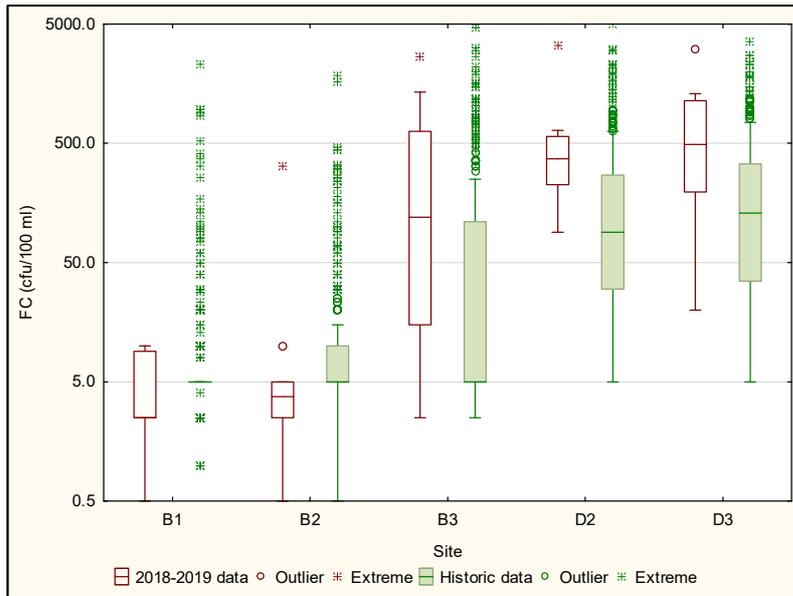


Figure 11 Boxplots of monthly FC data from year under review and historic results (1990-2018) at the three monitoring bores and two drain sites (lower detection limit = 5 cfu/100 ml)

Faecal coliform counts were relatively low at Bore 1 and 2 during the year, with the majority of results at or near the lower detection limit (Figure 11, Appendix III). As has been the case with previous monitoring results, counts were elevated at Bore 3 when compared with the other two bores. It is possible that this is related to the lower water level within this bore, meaning that bottom sediments are easily disturbed when sampling; leading to higher faecal coliform counts. In the drain, faecal coliform counts were generally higher, yet more variable, at the downstream site.

2.1.3.1 Targeted drain sampling survey

Consistent with previous monitoring results, an additional investigation carried out in 2017-2018 found elevated concentrations of ammoniacal-N at the sampling sites located downstream of the sludge lagoon. These concentrations significantly exceeded the NPS-FM national bottom line for fish toxicity. FC counts also increased at the downstream sites. Due to its limited flow, the drain is only a minor contributor to downstream receptors, i.e. the Waiwhakaiho River. Therefore, the overall environmental impact of the drain is reduced. Nonetheless, it was recommended that a targeted drain sampling programme be carried out to identify the location of any potential preferential flow paths or point source discharges.

This survey was undertaken on 8 April 2019, involving both Council and NPDC staff. Water samples were collected at a variety of locations between the two fixed sampling sites in order to narrow down any zones of interest. The results highlighted a section of the drain where there was a likely contaminant source. However, visual assessments undertaken during the survey failed to identify any point source discharges entering the drain. It was concluded that sub-surface groundwater seepage was the most likely pathway for water to be entering the drain between the two sampling sites.

2.1.4 Marine ecological surveys

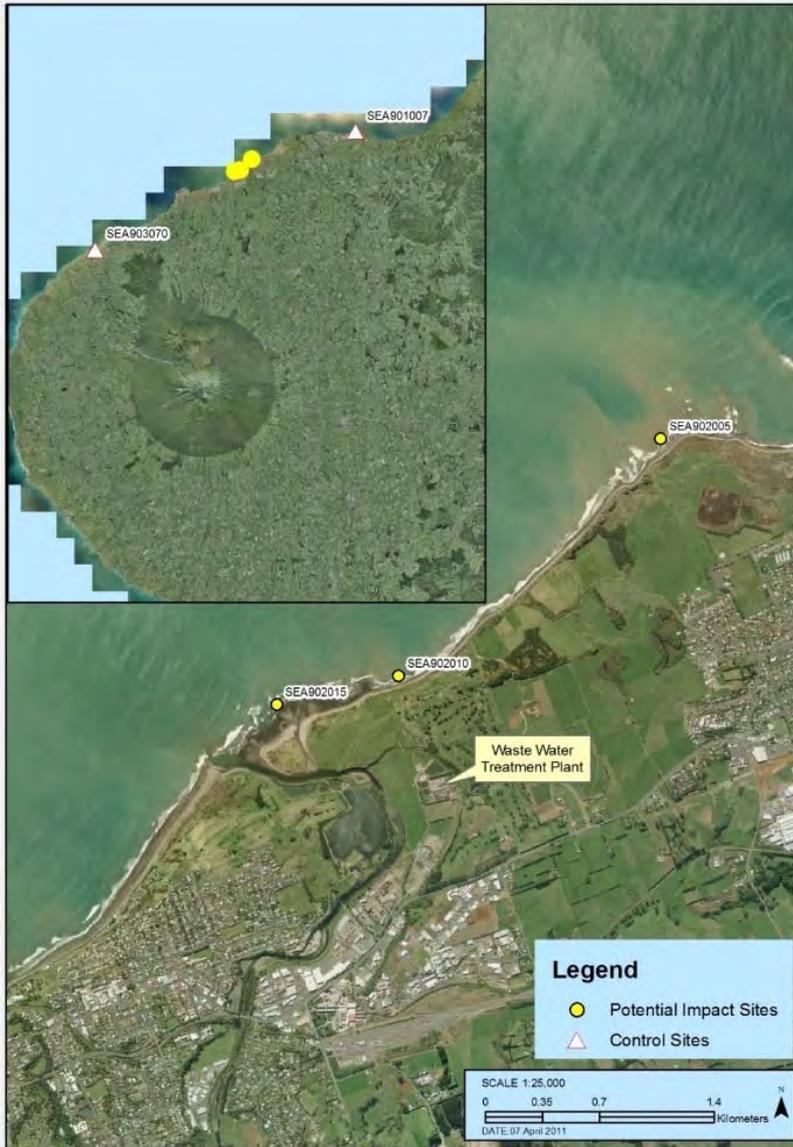


Figure 12 Marine ecological survey sites for NPWWTP

In order to assess the effects of the NPWWTP outfall discharge on the nearby intertidal communities, ecological surveys were conducted between 20 and 25 January 2019 at five sites (Figure 12). These surveys included three potential impact sites (SEA902015; 500 m SW, SEA902010; 300 m NE, SEA902005; Mangati Reef) and two control sites (SEA903070; Greenwood Road, 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.

The main findings of these surveys are summarised below, and are presented in Figures 13 and 14.

There was no distinguishable shift in species richness or diversity at the potential impact sites compared with the control sites in this year's survey. In addition, over the long-term record, there has been no obvious decline in species number and Shannon-Weiner index at the potential impact sites relative to the control sites (Figure 13, 14). The results indicate that the outfall discharge was not having detectable adverse effects

on the intertidal reef communities of North Taranaki. 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.

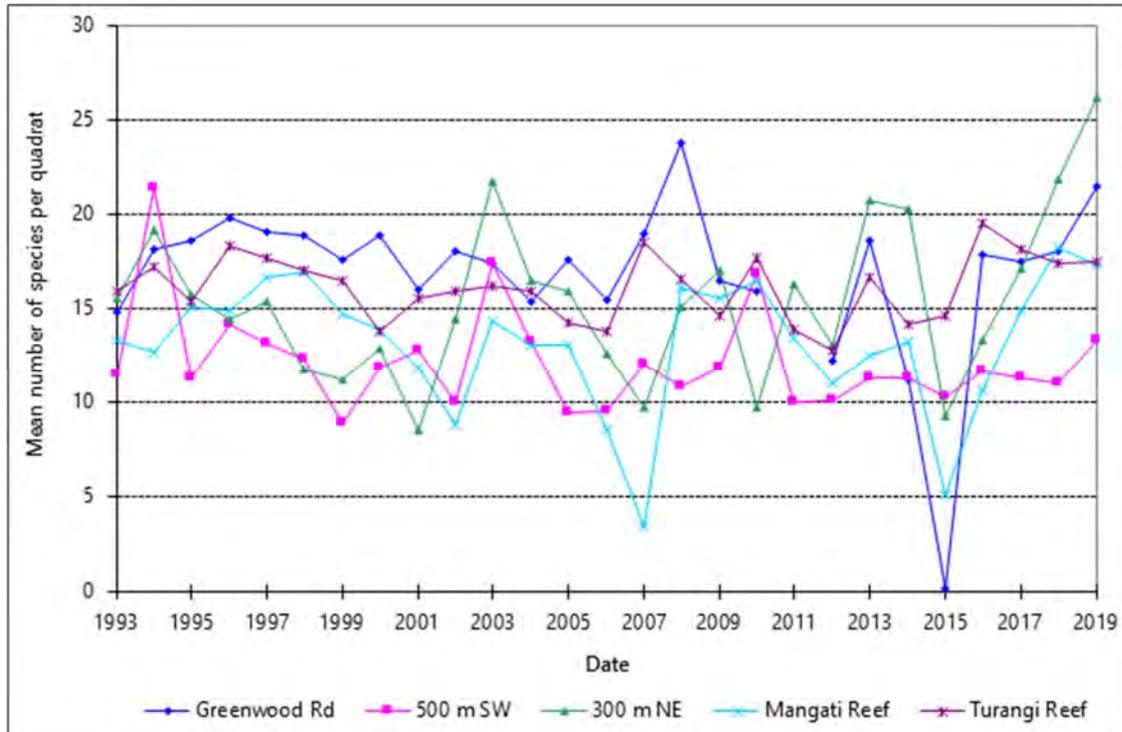


Figure 13 Mean number of species per quadrat from 1993 to 2019

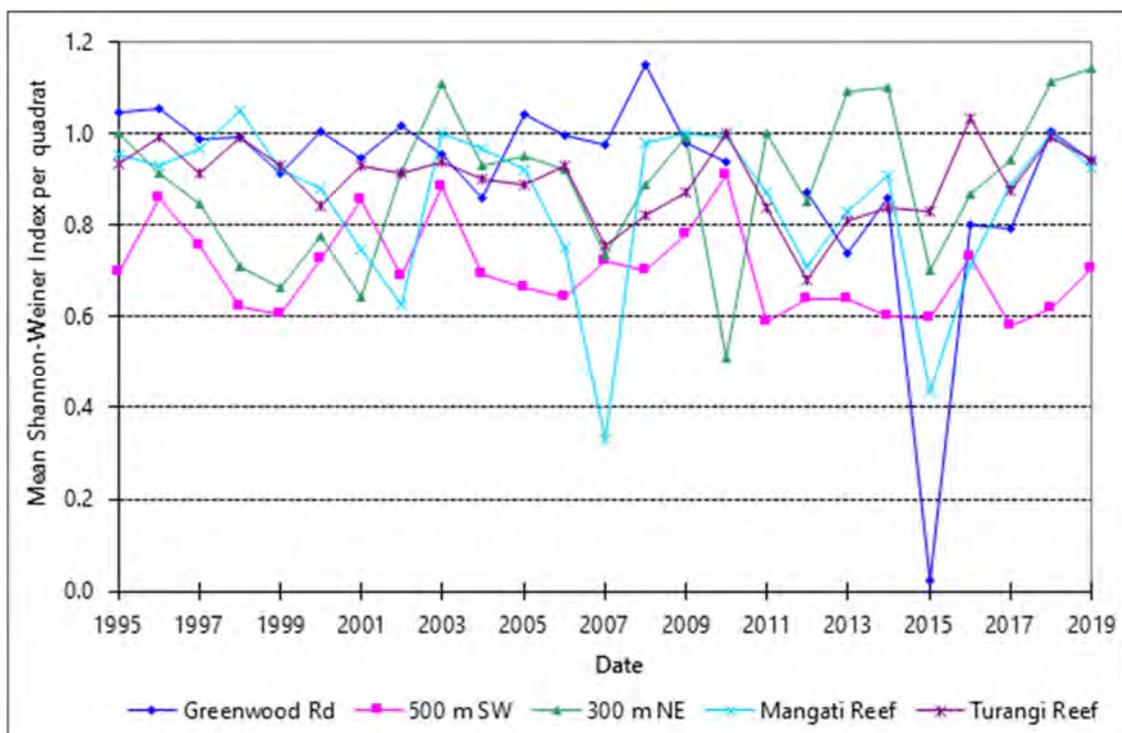


Figure 14 Mean Shannon-Weiner index per quadrat from 1995 to 2019

2.1.5 Shoreline bacteriological survey

Bacteriological water quality was monitored at three coastal sites in the vicinity of the outfall during the summer months of 2018-2019 to assess whether the discharge from the marine outfall was having any adverse effects on coastal bathing water quality. A site on the Waiwhakaiho River was also monitored in order to determine any influence of the river on the coastal waters. Thirteen samples were collected at each site during dry weather conditions and analysed for enterococci or *E. coli*, and conductivity.

During the 2018-2019 summer season, bacteriological water quality was high at the three coastal sites. The median enterococci count was <10 cfu/100 ml for all three sites, and none of the 39 coastal samples exceeded the water quality guidelines. Conversely, water quality was relatively poor at the Waiwhakaiho River sampling site, with all 13 samples exceeding the guideline thresholds. Given the low enterococci counts recorded at the coastal sites, the results of this survey indicate that, under dry conditions, the Waiwhakaiho River had negligible effect on recreational water quality at these beaches during the 2018-2019 summer.

Given the prevailing north-easterly flow, elevated enterococci counts would have been expected at the 300 m NE site if wastewater from the outfall was adversely affecting coastal bathing water quality. The absence of such a pattern and the overall low enterococci counts recorded at all coastal sampling sites in 2018-2019 suggest that the outfall did not adversely affect coastal bathing water quality in the year under review. These results are in alignment with results from the monitoring undertaken at the NPWWTP which showed that faecal coliform numbers in the effluent were significantly reduced following disinfection (as outlined in Section 2.1.2.2).

A full copy of the shoreline bacteriological survey report is available from the Council upon request. For more information on summer bathing water quality at Fitzroy, Waiwhakaiho and various other sites around the Taranaki region, see TRC, 2019a and TRC, 2019b.

2.1.6 Shellfish monitoring

2.1.6.1 Metals in mussel flesh

Mussel samples were not analysed for trace metals during the current monitoring period. Trace metal analyses are carried out on a biennial basis and are next scheduled for 2019-2020.

2.1.6.2 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 infections 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).

Table 6 Mussel flesh norovirus results since the NPWWTP upgrade

Operation	Date	Site	Mussel flesh norovirus	
			GI	GI/II
Normal: Pre-Upgrade	5 Oct 2012	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Negative
		Bell Block	Negative	Low
		Oakura	Negative	Negative
Upgrade: Bypass	20 Aug 2013	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Moderate	Extremely high
		Bell Block	Low	Moderate
		Oakura	Negative	Low
Normal: Post-upgrade	15 Jun 2014	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Low	Negative
		Bell Block	Negative	Low
	20 Apr 2015	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Low
		Bell Block	Negative	Negative
		Oakura	Negative	Negative
	6 Apr 2016	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Negative
		Bell Block	Negative	Negative
	25 May 2017	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Low
		Bell Block	Negative	Negative
	7 Nov 2017	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Low
	16 May 2018	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Low	High
		Bell Block	Negative	Negative
	25 Nov 2018	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Negative	Low
		Bell Block	Negative	Negative
	18 Apr 2019	Waiwhakaiho Reef	Low	Low
Bell Block		Negative	Negative	

Following the completion of the upgrade, norovirus levels in mussel flesh dropped back to low or below detection levels (on 15 June 2014; Table 6). Norovirus was not detected in mussel samples from Bell Block during this monitoring period, whereas norovirus was present in low numbers in mussel samples from Waiwhakaiho Reef (below the limit of quantitation).

2.2 Air

2.2.1 Inspections

Air inspections were undertaken in conjunction with the scheduled site inspections. No odours were noted beyond the plant boundary.

2.3 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

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 courses 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).

In the 2018-2019 period, the Council was required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, and record incidents, in association with NPDC's conditions in resource consents and provisions in Regional Plans. During the year under review, there were a total of nine incidents which resulted in discharges from the wastewater network to waterways. Five of these incidents were related to pipe blockages or breakages, two were related to mechanical or technical failures and two were related to power outages. No unauthorised discharges were caused by high rainfall events during the year under review. The number of incidents has continued to decrease from recent years (40 incidents in the 2014-2015 year, 24 in 2015-2016, 20 in 2016-2017 and 16 in 2017-2018). One of the incidents that occurred during 2018-2019 was an overflow from the Mangati Sewage Pump Station on 21 January 2019 which resulted in significant adverse environmental effects. This incident has resulted in a prosecution which is currently ongoing, therefore only summary details are provided here. The outcome of this investigation and prosecution will be included in the next annual compliance report.

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.

2.3.1 New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant incidents

One incident occurred at the NPWWTP during the 2018-2019 year (Table 7).

Table 7 Summary of incidents at the NPWWTP during the 2018-2019 monitoring year

Date	Incident details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
10/04/2019	Chlorine disinfection system failure caused the chlorine to fall below required limit in the discharged effluent.	N	No. Investigation determined that system failure was due to mechanical failure (statutory defence). No adverse environmental effects were discovered.	Improved processes to manage upgrade projects. Review of maintenance schedule.

2.3.2 Sewage pump station incidents

Three unauthorised discharges from sewage pump stations to surface water occurred during the 2018-2019 monitoring year (Table 8).

Table 8 Summary of pump station overflows during the 2018-2019 year

Date	Details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
14/11/2018	Mangati SPS. A third party power outage caused the pump station to fail leading to untreated sewage discharging into the Mangati Stream for approximately 52 minutes.	N	No. Statutory defence. 14-day letter issued. Explanation was accepted. Inspection and sampling undertaken, no effects discovered. NPDC had complied with their IRP.	New back-up generator scheduled for installation.
1/12/2018	Bell Block SPS. A third party power outage caused the pump station to fail leading to untreated sewage discharging into the Mangati Stream for approximately 74 minutes.	N	No. Statutory defence. Inspection undertaken and no effects were discovered. NPDC had complied with their IRP.	Ongoing monitoring and maintenance.
21/01/2019	Mangati SPS. An electrical fault resulted in equipment failure and lead to untreated sewage discharging into the Mangati Stream for approximately nine hours.	N	Yes. 14-day letters issued to NPDC and CityCare. Abatement notice issued to NPDC. Significant adverse effects discovered within Mangati Stream. Prosecution ongoing.	Improved monitoring and alarms. Documented procedures and instructions for fault finding for SPS's. Back up support for junior staff, staff training and competency. A failure modes and effects analysis. An assessment of engineering options.

2.3.3 Reticulation overflow incidents

Five unauthorised discharges to surface water occurred due to blockages in the reticulation network during the 2018-2019 monitoring period (Table 9).

Table 9 Summary of reticulation overflows during the 2018-2019 year

Date	Details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
9/07/2018	8 Newbury Place, Waitara. Sewer line blockage from fat caused an overflow of wastewater from a manhole.	N	No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage).	Blockage cleared, CCTV inspection undertaken to check likelihood of reoccurrence.

Date	Details	Compliant (Y/N)	Enforcement Action Taken?	Outcome
14/07/2018	229 Parklands Ave, Bell Block. Sewer line blockage from fat caused an overflow of wastewater from a manhole.	N	No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage).	Blockage cleared. Pipe put onto monthly scheduled flushing programme. Investigation of surrounding area undertaken to determine cause of regular fat build up; findings were inconclusive.
1/09/2018	288 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth. Sewer line blockage from tree roots caused an overflow of wastewater from a manhole.	N	No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage).	Blockage cleared. Remedial repairs made to manhole. Continue to monitor.
20/11/2018	22 Harris Street, Waitara. Sewer line blockage from tree roots caused an overflow of wastewater from a manhole.	N	No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage).	Blockage cleared. Continue to monitor.
16/03/2019	168 Parklands Ave, Bell Block. Sewer line blockage from tree roots caused an overflow of wastewater from a manhole.	N	No. Statutory defence (unforeseen blockage).	Blockage cleared. Continue to monitor.

3 Discussion

3.1 Discussion of plant performance

Routine inspections carried out during the year found that the plant was being well managed. No issues were discovered regarding consent compliance.

During the reporting period both Bioreactors were in full service and therefore condition 5 of consent 0882-4 was not exercised.

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 reviewed in early 2017 and included a rerun of the QMRA using data collected since the original QMRA in 2012-2013. The updated monitoring plan was independently peer reviewed by John Crawford and the amended plan was approved by Council on 31 March 2017. The next review is due by 31 March 2022.

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 2018-2019 was provided by NPDC. The report also outlined significant activities that occurred during the year, which included completion of the new inlet works and the commissioning of a new disinfection system. Implementation of the dewatering master plan continued and further work was undertaken on the renewal of the thermal drying facility.

The NPDC Sewer System Emergency Discharge Contingency Plan is incorporated into the IRP. As required by condition 21 of consent 0882-4, the IRP was last reviewed in February 2019 (version 10.5).

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 both New Plymouth and Waitara wastewater treatment plant consents. This meeting was held on 25 September 2018. A number of actions arose from the meeting, regarding clarification around water quality signage and online communications, providing information on emerging contaminants and norovirus, participation in monitoring, and other matters as documented in the meeting minutes. All actions from this meeting have since been completed.

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 2018-2019 monitoring period consisted of both 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. There were no breaches of the SS or BOD limit prescribed by 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. A dosing equipment

failure led to the temporary reduction of chlorine concentrations below the consent limit on a single occasion. However, this issue was corrected in a prompt and effective manner. 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 2018-2019 year.

Monitoring of effects on the receiving environment consisted of an intertidal marine ecological survey, a shoreline bacteriological survey and the analysis of norovirus in green lipped mussel tissue. Neither the ecological survey nor the bacteriological survey found any evidence of adverse effects resulting from the outfall discharge. Norovirus was not detected in green lipped mussels sampled near Bell Block, however, low levels were detected in mussels sampled from Waiwhakaiho Reef. Because this site is close to the outfall discharge, the risk of pathogen contamination in shellfish remains significant. As such, permanent health warning signage remains in place.

3.2.2 Sludge lagoon and 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 2017-2018 monitoring period consisted of monthly testing of groundwater bores and nearby surface water in an open drain by NPDC, and inspections by the Council. An additional targeted drain survey was also undertaken by the Council following a recommendation in the 2017-2018 compliance report.

As per previous years, the routine monitoring found that ongoing seepage was a source of nutrients and microbial contaminants in the groundwater system downgradient of the sludge lagoon. However, an investigation completed in 2017-2018 deemed that the measured concentrations of nutrients and metals are not of significant concern in terms of their environmental impact. Because the groundwater system downgradient of the lagoon is highly reducing in nature, it therefore has significant capacity to attenuate nitrogen species. 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. Ongoing monitoring is necessary to ensure that these effects do not worsen.

Elevated levels of ammoniacal-N and faecal coliforms are regularly detected within the drain downstream of the sludge lagoon. The concentrations of ammoniacal-N have been found to significantly exceed the NPS-FM national bottom line for fish toxicity. An additional targeted drain survey carried out during the monitoring year failed to locate any point source discharges entering the drain. It was concluded that sub-surface groundwater seepage between the two sampling sites was the most likely pathway. Due to the limited environmental impact of this contamination (the drain is only a minor contributor to downstream receptors, i.e. the Waiwhakaiho River), and that NPDC are beginning a process to decommission the lagoon (i.e. removing the pollution source entirely), it was decided that no further action was required. However, as with the groundwater, ongoing monitoring is required to ensure the situation does not worsen.

3.2.3 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 plant boundary on either of the routine inspections.

3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of NPDC's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Tables 10-16.

Table 10 Summary of performance for Consent 0882-4

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, 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 upon suspended solids (SS) and BOD	Samples collected by both Council and consent holder: 95% compliance required, 100% compliance achieved for SS and BOD	Yes
5. Concentration limits upon SS and BOD when aeration basins off-line	No exercised during 2018-2019	N/A
6. Public notification prior to taking aeration basin off-line	No exercised during 2018-2019	N/A
7. Minimum duration off-line to achieve purpose	No exercised during 2018-2019	N/A
8. Notification to Council prior to taking aeration basins off-line	No exercised during 2018-2019	N/A
9. Consent holder to erect signage during off-line periods	No exercised during 2018-2019	N/A
10. Total available chlorine at least 0.3 gm ⁻³ in effluent	Analysis of grab samples collected by NPDC and Council.	No equipment failure caused temporary decrease in chlorine concentration
11. Effluent through 3 mm screen	NPDC annual report, plant operated as per design	Yes
12. Consent holder to undertake monitoring	Monitoring undertaken and results supplied	Yes
13. Consent holder to submit a QMRA	QMRA revised February 2017	Yes
14. Consent holder to submit a monitoring plan	Received June 2013	Yes

Purpose: To discharge wastewater to the Tasman Sea		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
15. Preparation of draft monitoring plan for consultation	Draft issued, consultation undertaken in April and June 2013	Yes
16. Peer review of monitoring plan	Received May 2013	Yes
17. Consent holder to provide comments received during consultation and peer review to Council	Received June 2013	Yes
18. Results of peer review of monitoring programme in 2017, 2022, 2027, 2032 and 2037	Approved March 2017	Yes
19. Provide Technology Report in March 2027 and 2037	Due March 2027	N/A
20. Provide Annual Report by 31 July	Report received in August, as agreed upon by Council	Yes
21. Maintain Contingency Plan	IRP reviewed February 2019	Yes
22. Annual meeting with Council, iwi and others	Meeting held September 2018	Yes
23. Meeting to include future management of wastewater	Next scheduled in 2027	N/A
24. Review of consent	Next scheduled in June 2022	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 11 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	Inspection undertaken on 2 May 2019	Yes
2. Instream maintenance work between November and April	No maintenance required	Yes
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

Purpose: To erect, place and maintain a culvert		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
5. Area and volume of streambed disturbance minimised during maintenance	No maintenance required	N/A
6. No obstruction of fish passage	Inspection undertaken on 2 May 2019	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		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 12 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	No 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		Good
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 13 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 inspection last undertaken in 2014, next scheduled for 2020,	Yes
3. Review of consent conditions	Next scheduled in June 2020	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 14 Summary of performance for Consent 4740-2

Purpose: To discharge contaminants to air		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
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	Plan received (version 8 October 2016)	Yes
6. Plan and notification prior to removal of sludge from No. 2 lagoon	Not yet undertaken	N/A
7. Review of consent	Next scheduled for June 2020 if required	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 15 Summary of performance for Consent 9984-1

Purpose: To discharge contaminants onto and into land and into air on a contingency basis		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Authorised areas for sludge disposal	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
2. No discharge after 1 June 2020	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
3. Specific circumstances under which the discharge may occur	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
4. Best practicable option to prevent or minimise adverse effects	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
5. Consent holder to provide monitoring programme	Monitoring programme version 5 received November 2019 (contained within Management Plan)	Yes
6. Monitoring bore specifications	Bores installed as per requirements	Yes
7. Representative samples taken of waste before discharge event	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
8. Dewatered sludge and dried biosolids monitoring data provided to Council	Data received August 2019	Yes
9. Environmental conditions under which sludge may not be discharged	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
10. Discharge boundaries	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
11. Spreading requirements	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
12. Revegetation requirements	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
13. Soil pH requirements	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
14. Discharge shall not result in objectionable/offensive odour beyond site boundary	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
15. Notification requirements	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
16. Record keeping requirements	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
17. Soil concentration limits for heavy metal	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
18. Management plan	Management Plan version 5 received November 2019	Yes
19. Odour contingency plan provided to Council before consent is exercised	Odour contingency plan not yet received at time of writing this report. Consent not yet exercised.	Yes
20. Provision for the discovery of archaeological remains	Consent not exercised in year under review	N/A
21. Annual stakeholder meeting	Meeting held September 2018	N/A

Purpose: To discharge contaminants onto and into land and into air on a contingency basis		
Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
22. Consent shall lapse on 1 June 2020 unless given effect		N/A
23. Review of consent	No review dates remaining	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

Table 16 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

Year	Consent no	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2010	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	1	-	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	1	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
2011	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	1	-	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	1	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
2012	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	1	-	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	1	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
2014	0882	-	-	-	1
	2982	1	-	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	1	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
2015	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	1	-	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	1	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-

Year	Consent no	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2016	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	-	-	1	-
	4740	-	1	-	-
	4593	-	1	-	-
	1826	-	1	-	-
2017	0882	1	-	-	-
	2982	-	-	1	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	-	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
2018	0882	1	-	-	-
	2982	-	1	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	-	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
	9984	-	-	-	-
2019	0882	-	1	-	-
	2982	-	1	-	-
	4740	1	-	-	-
	4593	-	-	-	-
	1826	1	-	-	-
	9984	-	-	-	-
Totals		28	11	2	1

During the year, NPDC demonstrated an overall high level of environmental and administrative compliance and performance with the NPWWTP resource consents as defined in Section 1.1.4. It should be noted that a number of incidents occurred during the year which resulted in discharges from the wastewater network to waterways, one of which resulted in significant adverse environmental effects and has resulted in a prosecution. However, these incidents were not directly related to the operation of the NPWWTP and as such they have not been considered when assessing NPDC's environmental performance for the year under review.

3.4 Recommendations from the 2017-2018 Annual Report

In the 2017-2018 Annual Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the NPWWTP in the 2018-2019 year continue at the same level as in 2017-2018.
2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2018-2019, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.

3. THAT NPDC liaise with Council to design a targeted drain sampling programme to identify the location of a potential preferential flow path or point source discharge between Drain Sites 2 and 3.
4. THAT the plans for decommissioning and reinstating the sludge lagoon are continued; keeping the Council informed as the project progresses.

These recommendations were implemented during the 2018-2019 monitoring year.

3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2019-2020

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

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

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

It is proposed that for 2019-2020 that the monitoring programme remains the same as that implemented in the 2018-2019 year.

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 2019-2020.

4 Recommendations

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the NPWWTP in the 2019-2020 year continue at the same level as in 2018-2019.
2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2019-2020, 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 ₃ and NH ₄).
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	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 ³	Grams per cubic metre, and equivalent to milligrams per litre (g/m ³). 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 ₂ and NO ₃).
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 *Resource Management Act 1991* and including all subsequent amendments.

SS Suspended solids.

TAC Total available chlorine

For further information on analytical methods, contact a Science Services Manager.

Bibliography and references

- Food Standards Australia New Zealand 2016: New Zealand (Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code) Food Standards 2016. Standard 1.4.1 'Contaminants and natural toxicants'.
- McBride, G. 2012: An assessment of human health effects for a quantitative approach based on Norovirus, prepared for the New Plymouth District Council. NIWA Client Report HAM2012-150.
- New Plymouth District Council 2013: New Plymouth wastewater discharge consent 0882-4 annual report 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.
- New Plymouth District Council 2014: New Plymouth wastewater discharge consent 0882-4 annual report 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1993: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1992/93. TRC Technical Report 93-30.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1994: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1993-94. TRC Technical Report 94-17.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1995: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1994-95. TRC Technical Report 95-42.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1996: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1995-96. TRC Technical Report 96-44.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1997: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1996-97. TRC Technical Report 97-55.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1998: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1997-98. TRC Technical Report 98-23.
- Taranaki Regional Council 1999: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1998-1999. TRC Technical Report 99-67.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2000: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 1999-2000. TRC Technical Report 00-35.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2001: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2000-01. TRC Technical Report 01-62.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2002: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2001-02. TRC Technical Report 02-44.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2003: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2002-2003. TRC Technical Report 03-19.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2004: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2003-2004. TRC Technical Report 04-57.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2005: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2004-2005. TRC Technical Report 05-30.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2006: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2005-2006. TRC Technical Report 2006-62.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2007: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2006-2007. TRC Technical Report 2007-41.

- Taranaki Regional Council 2008: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2007-2008. TRC Technical Report 2008-11.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2009: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2008-2009. TRC Technical Report 2009-19.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2010: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2009-2010. TRC Technical Report 2010-84.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2011: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2010-2011. TRC Technical Report 2011-28.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2012: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon annual report 2011-2012. TRC Technical Report 2012-45.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2014: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant marine outfall and sludge lagoon biennial report 2012-2014. TRC Technical Report 2014-122.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2015: New Plymouth District Council Waitara Waste Water Treatment Plant and Marine Outfall monitoring programme report 2014-2015. TRC Technical Report 2015-70.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2015: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Marine Outfall and Sludge Lagoon Annual Report 2014-2015. TRC Technical Report 15-112.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2016: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Marine Outfall and Sludge Lagoon Annual Report 2015-2016. TRC Technical Report 16-43.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2017: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Marine Outfall and Sludge Lagoon Annual Report 2016-2017. TRC Technical Report 17-80.
- Taranaki Regional Council 2018: New Plymouth District Council New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant Marine Outfall and Sludge Lagoon Annual Report 2017-2018. TRC Technical Report 18-62.
- Taranaki Regional Council, 2019a: Bathing beach recreational water quality. State of the Environment monitoring report 2018-2019. Technical Report 2019-36.
- Taranaki Regional Council, 2019b: Freshwater contact recreational water quality at Taranaki sites. State of the Environment monitoring report 2018-2019. Technical Report 2019-01.

Appendix I

Resource consents held by NPDC

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

Consent number	Purpose	Granted	Review	Expires
0882-4	To discharge of treated municipal wastewater from the NPWWTP through a marine outfall structure into the Tasman Sea.	13 Dec 2011	1 Jun 2022	1 Jun 2041
1826-2	To erect, place and maintain a twin box culvert on the Mangaone Stream for road access purposes.	16 Jan 2002	No further reviews	1 June 2020
2982-4	To discharge of up to 60 m ³ /day of leachate from a sludge stabilisation lagoon to groundwater in the vicinity of the Waiwhakaiho River.	17 Oct 2002	No further reviews	1 Jun 2020
4593-3	To erect, place, maintain and use a marine outfall within the coastal marine area as part of the NPWWTP system.	10 Sep 2014	1 Jun 2020	1 June 2041
4740-2	To discharge contaminants into the air from sludge drying and processing activities at the NPWWTP.	29 May 2008	1 Jun 2020	1 June 2026
9984-1	To discharge contaminants onto and into land and into air at the NPWWTP on a contingency basis	15 Apr 2015	Special condition 23	1 June 2022

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
Private Bag 2025
NEW PLYMOUTH 4342

Decision Date: 15 November 2011

Commencement
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 at or about (NZTM)
1696211E-5679248N

Expiry Date: 1 June 2041

Review Date(s): June 2017, June 2022, June 2027, June 2032, June 2037
and/or within three months of the receipt of the Quantitative
Microbial Risk Assessment required by condition 13

Site Location: Waiwhakaiho Marine Outfall, [approximate 450 metres
offshore]

Catchment: Tasman Sea
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 [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 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.

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

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

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

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:

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

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. Notice shall be given by email to worknotification@trc.govt.nz and 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 3 mm, except that during periods when the milli-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.

Consent 0882-4

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.

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.
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.

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.¹
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.
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 13 December 2011

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

Director-Resource Management

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Decision Date: 23 March 2015

Commencement Date: 15 April 2015

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge contaminants onto and into land and into air at
the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant on a
contingency basis

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Review Date(s): June 2016, June 2018 and in accordance with special
condition 23

Site Location: Rifle Range Road, New Plymouth

Legal Description: Secs 5-6 SO 314271 Pt Sec 224 Hua Dist Blk II Paritutu SD

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1696928E-5678368N

Catchment: 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. This consent only authorises the discharge of dewatered sludge from the New Plymouth Waste Water Treatment Plant on to the areas marked, 'B' and 'C' on Figure 1 (attached).
2. There shall be no discharge of sludge after 1 June 2020.
3. The discharge may occur only in the following circumstances:
 - (a) the Thermal Drying Facility is not operational due to an unforeseen breakdown; or
 - (b) the Thermal Drying Facility is operating as normal but sludge volume exceeds its operational capacity because:
 - of a significant temporary increase in sludge production and no onsite storage is available: or
 - process issues resulting in reduced ability to process sludge.
4. 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 discharge of contaminants from the site.
5. The consent holder shall undertake a programme of sampling and testing that monitors the effects of the exercise of this consent on fresh water, groundwater and soil properties to assess compliance with this consent (the 'Monitoring Programme'). The Monitoring Programme shall be submitted to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council ('the Chief Executive') for approval, acting in a certification capacity, within 60 days of this consent commencing, and shall detail the specific parameters to be analysed pursuant to conditions 7 and 8.
6. The Monitoring Programme shall include sampling of groundwater from bores installed in accordance with NZS 4411:2001. The bores shall be of a depth, location and design determined after consultation with the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
7. The consent holder shall take representative samples of the waste before each discharge event and have it analysed for:
 - (a) Heavy metals;
 - (b) Pathogens; and
 - (c) Nitrogen, potassium and sodium.

8. Before 31 July each year the consent holder shall also forward routine monitoring data of dewatered sludge and dried biosolids for the 12 month period ending on 30 June, or the most recent analysis if this is greater than 12 months:

- a) Heavy metals;
- b) Dioxin;
- c) Organochlorides;
- d) Pathogens; and
- e) Nitrogen, potassium and sodium.

9. No discharge of sludge shall occur at any time when any of the contaminants in the following table exceed the concentration indicated in any groundwater down gradient of the sludge disposal area or in either of the two unnamed tributaries of the Waiwhakaiho River immediately to the north and south of the treatment plant.

Contaminant	Concentration
Ammonia (NH ₃)	10 g/m ³
Oxidised Nitrogen (NO ₃)	50 g/m ³
Faecal Coliforms	1000 per 100 ml

10. No discharge shall occur within:

- (a) 20 metres of a surface water body;
- (b) 10 metres of a neighbouring property; or
- (c) 150 metres of a residential building.

11. Any discharged sludge shall be spread evenly as practicable over the disposal area at a rate not exceeding 1000 tonnes per hectare in any single application and incorporated into the top 150 mm as soon as practicable but no later than midnight on the day of application.

12. As soon as practicable following the discharge of dewatered sludge, areas shall be sown into pasture or crop. The consent holder shall monitor revegetation and if adequate establishment is not achieved within two months of sowing, shall provide a report to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council detailing a programme for stabilising the soil and preventing visible dust from blowing off the disposal area.

13. As soon as practicable after this consent commences the consent holder shall ensure that the pH of the receiving soil is no lower than 5.8, and at all times after that remains higher than 5.8.

Consent 9984-1.0

14. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with discharges to air from other sources on the site of the New Plymouth Waste Water Treatment Plant, shall not cause an odour beyond the boundary of the site that is offensive or objectionable.

Note: For the purposes of this condition:

- (i) The consent holder's site is defined as Secs 5-6 SO 314271 Pt Sec 224 Hua Dist Blk II Paritutu SD; and
 - (ii) Assessment under this condition shall be in accordance with the Good Practice Guide for Assessing and Managing Odour in New Zealand, Air Quality Report 36, Ministry for the Environment, 2003.
15. On each occasion that a discharge occurs the consent holder shall notify the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, at least 2 working days beforehand. Notification shall be emailed to worknotification@trc.govt.nz. Notification shall include the following information:
- (a) the consent number;
 - (b) the expected volume to be discharged;
 - (c) the specific circumstances that have resulted in the need to discharge;
 - (d) the specific area over which the waste will be discharged; and
 - (e) the likely duration of the discharge.

16. The consent holder shall keep records of the following:
- (a) volumes of material disposed;
 - (b) disposal area[s], including a map showing individual disposal areas with GPS co-ordinates;
 - (c) dates of commencement and completion disposal events;
 - (d) results of the sampling required by conditions 7 and 8;
 - (e) dates that sowing disposal areas occurred;
 - (f) details of monitoring, including sampling locations, sampling methods and the results of analysis.

and shall provide the records to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council on request or by 31 August of each year, a report on all records required to be kept in accordance with this condition, for the 12 month period ending on the previous 30 June.

17. The concentration of heavy metals in the soil shall not exceed the values in the following table:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Standard</u> <u>[mg/kg dry weight]</u>
Arsenic	20
Cadmium	1
Chromium	600
Copper	100
Lead	300
Mercury	1
Nickel	60
Zinc	300

Consent 9984-1.0

18. The discharge shall be undertaken in accordance with a 'Management Plan' prepared by the consent holder and approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, acting in a certification capacity. The plan shall detail how the discharge will be managed to achieve compliance with the conditions of this consent and shall include but not be limited to:
- (a) The situations when the consent may be exercised;
 - (b) A detailed map of the discharge site;
 - (c) The process of notifying interested parties;
 - (d) Steps undertaken to prepare the site;
 - (e) Steps to be taken to ensure that the soil pH in the discharge areas are at a minimum of 5.8 and remains above 5.8;
 - (f) Methods to ensure the generation of dust is avoided;
 - (g) How the sludge will be disposed;
 - (h) Details of how the disposal of sludge is to be managed to ensure no over runoff occurs;
 - (i) Details of how records will be kept; and
 - (j) How the site will be reinstated.

The Management Plan shall be submitted to the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council for approval within 90 days of this consent commencing.

19. Before exercising this consent, the consent holder shall prepare and thereafter regularly update a 'Contingency Plan' that details measures and procedures that will be undertaken in the event of odour beyond the boundary of the site that is offensive or objectionable. The plan shall be approved by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, acting in a certification capacity as being adequate to avoid, remedy or mitigate the environmental effects of such an event.
20. In the event that any archaeological remains are discovered as a result of works authorised by this consent, the works shall cease immediately at the affected site and tangata whenua and the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, shall be notified within one working day. Works may recommence at the affected area when advised to do so by the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council. Such advice shall be given after the Chief Executive has considered: tangata whenua interest and values, the consent holder's interests, the interests of the public generally, and any archaeological or scientific evidence. The New Zealand Police, Coroner, and Historic Places Trust shall also be contacted as appropriate, and the work shall not recommence in the affected area until any necessary statutory authorisations or consents have been obtained.

Consent 9984-1.0

21. At least once every year, the consent holder shall convene a meeting with representatives of the Taranaki Regional Council, interested submitters on the application for this consent and adjacent landowners or occupiers. The meetings shall be for the purpose of reporting on and discussing matters relating to the exercise of this consent including, but not limited to:
- (a) Consent monitoring;
 - (b) Consent compliance; and
 - (c) Details of the proposed upgrade to the Thermal Drying Facility, including timing.

This meeting may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting required by condition 22 of coastal permit 0882-4.

22. This consent shall lapse on 1 June 2020, 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.
23. 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:
- (a) 60 days immediately following the date that any discharge event commences; and
 - (b) the months of June 2016 and/or June 2018;

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 15 April 2015

For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council

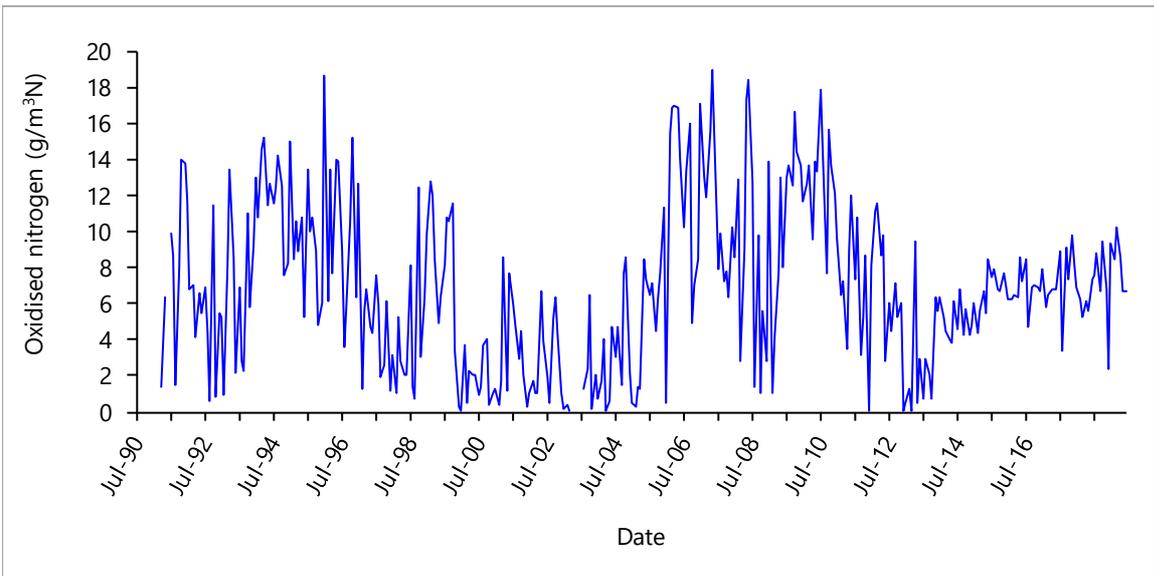
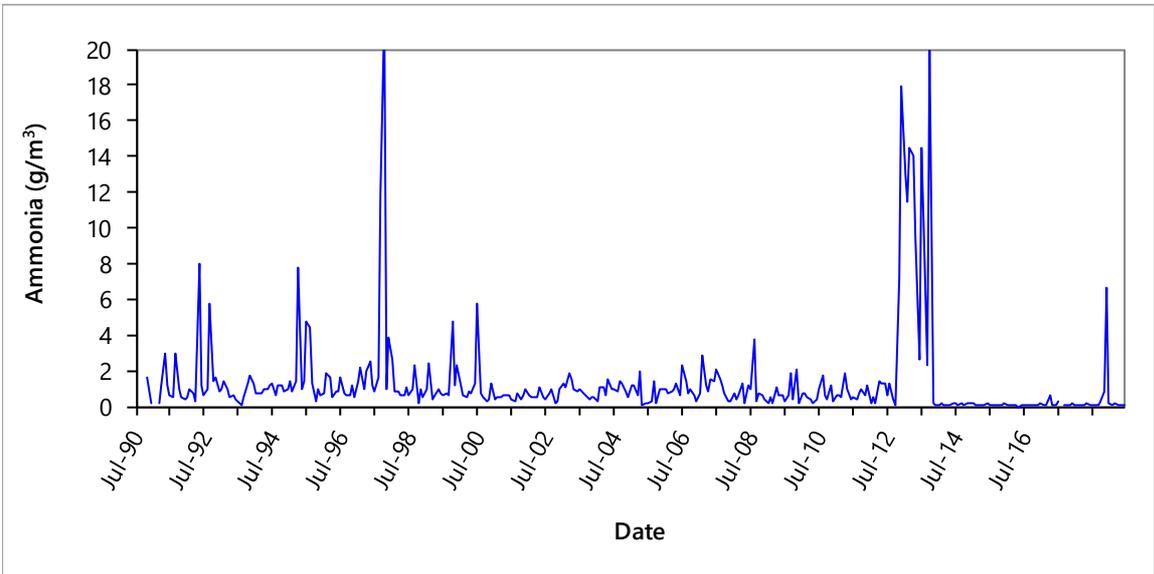
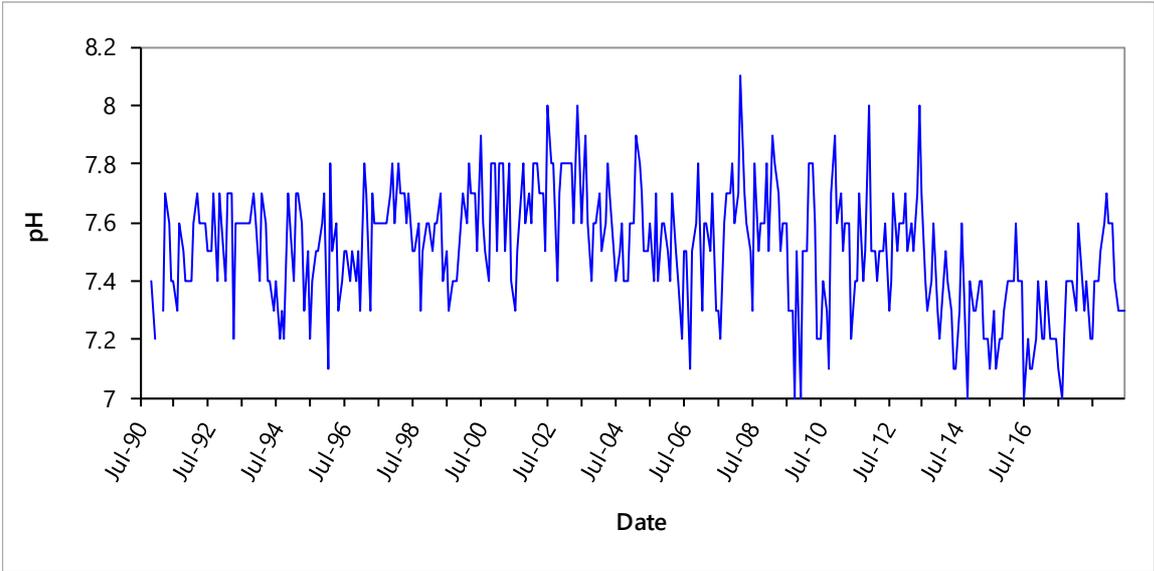
A D McLay
Director - Resource Management

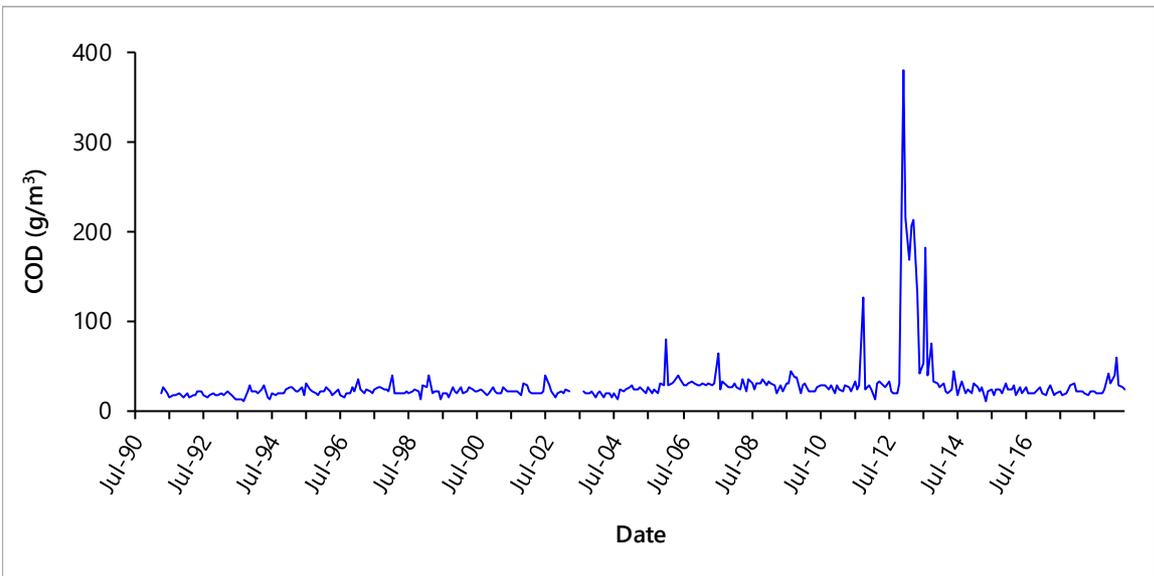
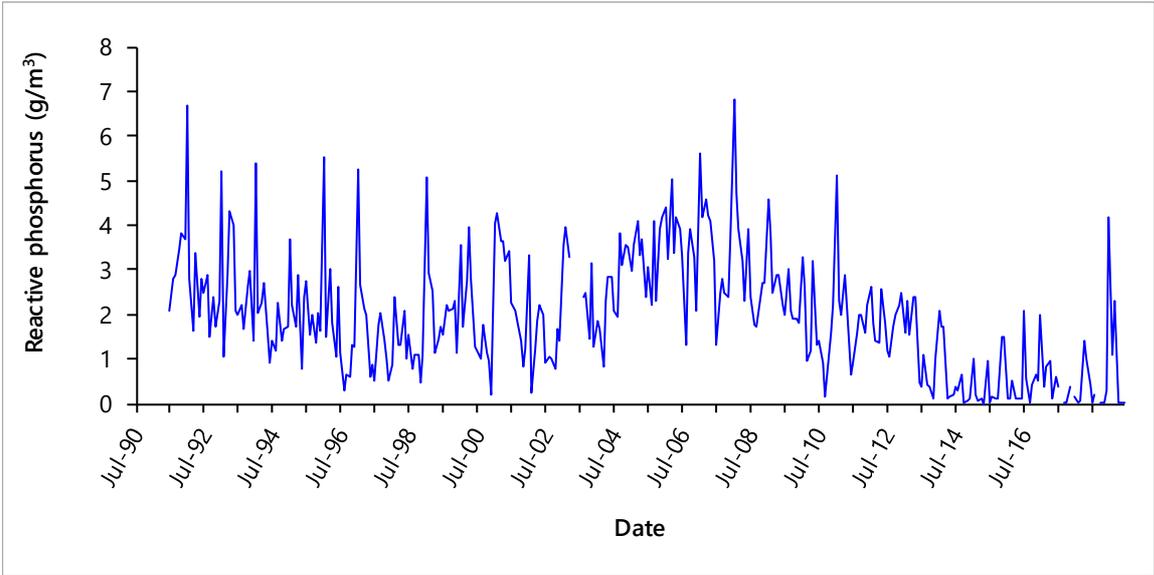


Figure 1: New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant site layout

Appendix II

Graphical results of monthly composite effluent
monitoring 1990-2019





Appendix III

Results of routine sludge lagoon monitoring 2018-2019

Bore 1	Parameter					
	pH	Ammoniacal nitrogen g/m ³	Faecal coliforms cfu/100 ml	DRP g/m ³	Oxidised nitrogen g/m ³	COD g/m ³
Jul-18	5.7	0.27	2.5	0.04	6.8	14
Aug-18	5.5	0.05	2.5	0.04	5.6	12
Sep-18	5.9	0.76	2.5	0.04	0.7	16
Oct-18	6.3	1.6	2.5	0.2	0.1	20
Nov-18	6.4	2.7	10	0.86	0.08	22
Dec-18	6.5	4	2.5	0.82	0.025	21
Jan-19	6.6	4.9	2.5	0.92	0.025	17
Feb-19	6.6	5.9	2.5	1	0.025	22
Mar-19	6.5	6.7	10	0.42	0.025	11
Apr-19	6.6	7.1	10	0.2	0.025	0.5
May-19	5.9	1.4	0.5	0.04	0.025	0.5
Jun-19	6.2	3.4	8	0.04	0.025	0.5
Summary of 2018-2019 results						
Minimum	5.5	0.05	0.5	0.04	0.025	0.5
Maximum	6.6	7.1	10	1	6.8	22
Median	6.35	3.05	2.5	0.2	0.025	15
Historical statistics (1990-2018)						
Number	309	308	306	308	309	308
Minimum	4.9	0.05	1	0.005	0.01	1
Maximum	7.1	100	2300	3.3	28	48
Median	6.2	2.34	5	0.025	0.4	12

Note: Figures in red indicate that the result was below detection limit (the lower limit being twice the value of the red figure). Data has been expressed this way for statistical purposes..

Bore 2	Parameter					
	pH	Ammoniacal nitrogen g/m ³	Faecal coliforms cfu/100 ml	DRP g/m ³	Oxidised nitrogen g/m ³	COD g/m ³
Jul-18	5.8	0.05	5	0.04	0.06	24
Aug-18	5.8	0.05	5	0.04	0.2	22
Sep-18	5.9	0.05	2.5	0.04	0.16	20
Oct-18	6	0.51	2.5	0.04	0.1	27
Nov-18	6	0.64	10	0.04	0.025	29
Dec-18	6.3	3	2.5	0.08	0.025	43
Jan-19	6.2	1.9	325	0.09	0.025	27
Feb-19	6.3	3.3	2.5	0.17	0.025	23
Mar-19	6.3	3.3	5	0.2	0.025	21
Apr-19	6.4	3.4	5	0.05	0.025	-
May-19	5.9	0.05	0.5	0.04	0.2	32
Jun-19	5.6	0.19	2.5	0.04	0.18	17
Summary of 2018-2019 results						
Minimum	5.6	0.05	0.5	0.04	0.025	17
Maximum	6.4	3.4	325	0.2	0.2	43
Median	6	0.575	3.75	0.04	0.0425	24
Historical statistics (1990-2018)						
Number	309	307	307	308	309	308
Minimum	4.9	0.05	0.5	0.005	0.02	6
Maximum	7.4	25	10000	0.36	40	181
Median	6.1	1.8	5	0.025	0.13	17

Bore 3	Parameter					
	pH	Ammoniacal nitrogen g/m ³	Faecal coliforms cfu/100 ml	DRP g/m ³	Oxidised nitrogen g/m ³	COD g/m ³
Jul-18	6.5	0.05	480	0.04	0.1	32
Aug-18	6.8	0.05	1340	0.04	0.2	11
Sep-18	6.4	0.05	60	0.04	0.19	16
Oct-18	6.4	0.32	20	0.04	0.2	28
Nov-18	6.2	0.34	170	0.04	0.24	72
Dec-18	6.2	0.38	10	0.04	0.07	22
Jan-19	6.2	0.6	2.5	0.04	0.025	19
Feb-19	6.3	0.97	2.5	0.04	0.025	27
Mar-19	6.1	0.38	240	0.04	0.1	49
Apr-19	6.2	0.21	780	0.05	0.4	
May-19	6.1	0.05	2660	0.04	0.4	15
Jun-19	6.1	0.05	70	0.04	0.39	15
Summary of 2018-2019 results						
Minimum	6.1	0.05	2.5	0.04	0.025	11
Maximum	6.8	0.97	2660	0.05	0.4	72
Median	6.2	0.265	120	0.04	0.195	22
Historical statistics (1990-2018)						
Number	300	299	300	297	298	299
Minimum	5	0.05	2.5	0.005	0.02	1
Maximum	7.3	198	72000	1	64	740
Median	6.3	0.52	5	0.03	0.21	26

Open Drain	Point 2			Point 3		
	pH	Ammoniacal nitrogen g/m ³	Faecal coliforms cfu/100 ml	pH	Ammoniacal nitrogen g/m ³	Faecal coliforms cfu/100 ml
Jul-18	6.7	0.53	130	6.8	4.3	20
Aug-18	6.7	0.47	90	6.9	3.9	100
Sep-18	6.6	0.51	160	6.7	6.1	130
Oct-18	6.7	0.47	430	6.8	6.9	3100
Nov-18	6.7	0.46	500	6.8	3.4	300
Dec-18	6.7	0.44	310	6.8	2.9	260
Jan-19	6.6	0.5	5400	6.8	4.5	1300
Feb-19	6.7	0.51	640	6.7	9.2	560
Mar-19	6.7	0.46	3300	6.8	2.8	9700
Apr-19	6.7	0.56	290	6.9	2.8	900
May-19	6.7	0.6	500	6.7	3.2	420
Jun-19	6.7	0.46	310	6.7	2.1	980
Summary of 2018-2019 results						
Minimum	6.6	0.51	30	6.7	3.44	140
Maximum	6.7	0.94	1900	6.8	5.6	2430
Median	6.7	0.58	280	6.7	4.2	325
Historical statistics (1990-2018)						
Number	292	292	291	291	292	291
Minimum	6	0.005	5	6.4	0.13	5
Maximum	7	7.5	6960	7.1	27	13280
Median	6.6	0.5	90	6.7	4.75	120