



## Office of Hon Kate Wilkinson

Minister of Labour  
Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister of Immigration  
Associate Minister of Conservation

11 JUN 2009

Anna Petursson  
Administration Officer Resource Use  
Environment Waikato  
PO Box 4010  
Hamilton 3247

Dear Anna

Attached for your information is a copy of the coastal permit that I have recently granted to the Thames Coromandel District Council to discharge treated wastewater and stormwater from the Thames Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Waihou River.

I have made the permit for a ten year duration, and subject to the conditions recommended to me by the Environment Waikato Hearing Committee.

My reasons for the decision are the same as those set forward by the Hearing Committee.

Please note that I have advised the applicant and the appointee on the Hearing Committee, Hamish Rennie, of my decision. I understand you will be notifying other interested parties of my decision in line with the provisions of section 119A(b) and section 114 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kate Wilkinson  
**Associate Minister of Conservation**

## COASTAL PERMIT

Waikato Regional Council - Resource Consent 103270

Pursuant to the provisions of section 119 of the Resource Management Act 1991, I Kate Wilkinson, Associate Minister of Conservation, hereby grant to the Thames Coromandel District Council coastal permit (No. SAR-05-26-15-01) to discharge treated wastewater combined with stormwater to the Waihou River near Thames in circumstances where it passes over land and may enter groundwater, at about NZMS 260 T12: 366-450, for a term of ten years and subject to the attached conditions of consent.

Dated at *Wellington* this *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *June* 2009

*Kate Wilkinson*

Hon Kate Wilkinson  
Associate Minister of Conservation

## Schedule Two

### Resource consent (103270)

**Consent type:** Discharge consent

**Consent subtype:** Discharge to water

**Applicant:** Thames Coromandel District Council  
Private Bag  
THAMES

**Activity authorised:** To discharge treated wastewater combined with stormwater to the Waihou River in circumstances where it passes over land and may enter groundwater.

**Location:** State Highway 25

**Map Reference:** NZMS 260 T12: 366-450

**Consent duration:** 10 years from the date of commencement

#### Conditions:

#### General

- 1 Except as specifically provided by subsequent conditions of this consent and subject to complying with the other conditions of this consent, the activity authorised shall be undertaken in general accordance with the application for this resource consent.

#### Treatment System Upgrades

- 2 Within 24 months of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall ensure that the wastewater treatment system is upgraded so that the effluent discharged complies with the discharge quality parameters specified in condition 9 of this consent. The upgrade works shall include, as a minimum, the following components:
  - (a) A subsurface, baffled outlet in the maturation pond constructed in general accordance with Figure 6b: Elevation of Rock Bed Concept attached to the April 2009 Statement of Evidence of John Milton Crawford.
  - (b) A rock bed filter in the maturation pond constructed in general accordance with Figure 6a: Plan of Rock Bed Concept attached to the April 2009 Statement of Evidence of John Milton Crawford.

**Note:** The complete suite of upgrade measures required to achieve the discharge quality parameters required by condition 9 has not been specified in this condition. The reason for this is to provide the consent holder with some flexibility to proceed with such upgrade measures as will most effectively and efficiently achieve the required discharge quality parameters in light of further monitoring and analysis that the consent holder has undertaken to complete. This condition should be read in conjunction with condition 18.

## Site Management

3. The consent holder shall prepare an Operations and Management Manual for the treatment system. This manual shall be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person and shall detail how the treatment system is to be operated and maintained to ensure compliance with the conditions of this consent and consent 103311. As a minimum the Manual shall provide a description of the entire treatment system and address the following matters:
- (a) Routine maintenance procedures to be undertaken for all plant;
  - (b) Procedures to monitor the sludge depth within the aerated lagoon and the oxidation pond;
  - (c) Monitoring and maintenance of the diffuser structure to ensure optimum dispersion is provided at all times;
  - (d) Procedures for the operation of the inlet screen and grit removal system and the removal of residues to minimise nuisance odours;
  - (e) Measures to deal with high influent flows under wet weather conditions and contingency measures that will be put in place if the system is overloaded;
  - (f) Measures to minimise insect nuisance;
  - (g) Procedures for dealing with complaints including notification of the relevant authorities;
  - (h) General odour control;
  - (i) Wildfowl control;
  - (j) Procedures for improving and/or reviewing the Manual; and
  - (k) Other actions necessary to comply with the provisions of this consent.

Within 3 months of the commencement of this consent, the Manual shall be forwarded to the Waikato Regional Council for written approval (in a certifying capacity).

4. The treatment system shall be operated, maintained and managed by appropriately experienced personnel in accordance with the Operation and Management Manual that has been approved pursuant to condition 3 of this consent.
5. Within 12 months of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall provide a report to the Waikato Regional Council that assesses the feasibility and environmental effects of restricting the discharge to periods outside of slack tide and/or discharging only during periods of falling tide.

**Note:** This condition should be read in conjunction with condition 18.

6. Within 24 months of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall provide a report to the Waikato Regional Council that assesses the extent and causes of infiltration into the sewerage system and the options for reducing the level of infiltration. The report shall identify the timeframe the consent holder considers practicable to undertake any reasonable measures identified to reduce infiltration.

**Note:** This condition should be read in conjunction with condition 18.

7. The consent holder shall ensure that any contractors engaged in relation to operations at the treatment plant are made aware of the conditions of this resource consent and shall ensure compliance with these conditions.

8. The consent holder shall be responsible for any erosion that occurs as a result of the exercise of this consent and for any erosion works that become necessary to preserve the integrity and stability of the bank of the Waihou River.

#### **Discharge Quality Parameters**

9. Within 24 months of the commencement of this consent, the discharge quality shall comply with the following:
- (a) The average ammoniacal nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ ) concentration shall not exceed 22 grams per cubic metre and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration shall not exceed 29 grams per cubic metre;
  - (b) The average five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand ( $\text{cBOD}_5$ ) shall not exceed 25 grams per cubic metre and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration shall not exceed 40 grams per cubic metre;
  - (c) The average suspended solids concentration shall not exceed 75 grams per cubic metre and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration shall not exceed 125 grams per cubic metre;
  - (d) The median concentration of faecal coliforms shall not exceed 1000 cfu/100ml and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration shall not exceed 20,000 cfu/100 ml.

Notwithstanding the stated limits, the consent holder shall make all reasonable and practical efforts to ensure that final wastewater quality is maximised within the capabilities of the treatment system at all times.

For the purposes of this condition, the average  $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{cBOD}_5$ , and suspended solids concentration and the median faecal coliform concentration shall be calculated based on the results of all valid samples taken over a consecutive 12 month period. To determine compliance with the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile limits, no more than one sample in any ten consecutive sampling events shall exceed the specified limit.

#### **Average day inflow volume**

10. Within six (6) months of the date on which the average day inflow to the treatment plant reaches 4,100  $\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ , the consent holder shall submit a report to the Waikato Regional Council in relation to:
- (a) The ability to comply with the discharge standards in condition 9 of this consent; and
  - (b) The actual or potential adverse effects on the environment (if any) of that inflow volume.

**Note:** This condition should be read in conjunction with condition 18.

#### **Waihou River Water Quality**

11. There shall be no conspicuous oil, grease, scums or foams, or floatable materials present in the Waihou River, after reasonable mixing, as a result of the exercise of this consent.
12. There shall be no conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity of the Waihou River, after reasonable mixing, as a result of the exercise of this consent.

**Note:** For the purpose of this consent, reasonable mixing shall be considered to have taken place 100 metres down-current from the discharge point.

## Monitoring

13. From the commencement of these consents until their expiry the consent holder shall undertake monitoring of the wastewater discharge to the Waihou River and the water quality of the Waihou River in the vicinity of the discharge at the frequency and for the parameters set in Table 1:

Location	Frequency	Parameters
Final wastewater discharge	Daily	Discharge volume Daily rainfall
Final wastewater discharge	Monthly	Ammoniacal nitrogen Biochemical oxygen demand Total phosphorus Total Nitrogen Faecal coliform bacteria <i>E Coli</i> Enterococci bacteria Total suspended solids
Within the Waihou River approximately 20 metres up current of the wastewater diffuser	Three monthly	Ammoniacal nitrogen Biochemical oxygen demand Total phosphorus Total Nitrogen Faecal coliform bacteria <i>E Coli</i> Enterococci bacteria Total suspended solids The time of sampling
Within the Waihou River approximately 100 metres down current of the wastewater diffuser	Three monthly	Ammoniacal nitrogen Biochemical oxygen demand Total phosphorus Total Nitrogen Faecal coliform bacteria <i>E Coli</i> Enterococci bacteria Total suspended solids The time of sampling

### Notes:

- To ensure consistency of results, samples from within the Waihou River shall be taken on a falling tide approximately 0.5 hour after high tide and the consent holder shall ensure that the down-current samples are taken from within the wastewater plume and the up current samples at least 3 metres from the waters edge.
  - In terms of the discharge sampling, the consent holder shall provide a readily accessible sampling port to enable independent samples to be taken by the Waikato Regional Council.
14. The consent holder shall forward the results of the monitoring undertaken pursuant to condition 13 to the Waikato Regional Council within one month of receipt of the results by the consent holder.

15. All sample methods of analysis shall be detailed as in the "Standard Methods For the Examination of Water and Waste Water, 1998" 20<sup>th</sup> edition by A.P.H.A and A.W.W.A and W.E.F or any subsequent update or by some other method approved in advance by Waikato Regional Council.
16. The consent holder shall install signage in the general vicinity of the outfall structure advising that wastewater is discharged in the area and that swimming and shellfish gathering are not recommended. Within three months of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall provide a signage plan, which includes details of the locations of the signs, the materials they will be made of, and their size, to the Waikato Regional Council for written approval (in a certifying capacity).

### Reporting

17. The consent holder shall compile an annual monitoring report for the duration of this consent. As a minimum the report shall:
  - (a) include all the monitoring data required by conditions of this consent;
  - (b) critically analyse the monitoring data collected and comment on any emerging trends;
  - (c) make recommendations on changes to the monitoring programme;
  - (d) include any other issue considered relevant by the consent holder.

The report shall be to a standard acceptable to the Waikato Regional Council and shall be forwarded to the Waikato Regional Council by 31 March each year with the results of the monitoring from the previous calendar year.

### Reviews

18. The Waikato Regional Council may, within six months of receiving any report submitted by the consent holder pursuant to condition 5, 6, 10, or 17 of this consent, serve notice on the consent holder under section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991, of its intention to review the conditions of this resource consent for the following purposes:
  - (a) to review the effectiveness of the conditions of this resource consent in avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this resource consent and if necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects by way of further or amended conditions; and/or
  - (b) if necessary and appropriate, to require the holder of this resource consent to ensure the discharge occurs outside periods of slack tide and/or only during periods of falling tide; and/or
  - (c) if necessary and appropriate, to require the holder of this resource consent to provide further improvements to the wastewater treatment system to meet the discharge standards in condition 9, and/or
  - (d) to review the adequacy of the monitoring undertaken; and/or
  - (e) to impose a discharge quality parameter in relation to *Enterococci* indicator bacteria in condition 9; and/or
  - (f) to impose volumetric discharge limits; and/or
  - (g) to amend the conditions of this consent to address any adverse effects of an average day inflow to the treatment plant of 4,100 m<sup>3</sup>/d or more.

**Note:** Costs associated with any review of the conditions of this resource consent will be recovered from the consent holder in accordance with the provisions of section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.