

## E6. Wastewater network management

### E6.1. Background

The following provisions are regional provisions and apply to the management and regulation of discharges of contaminants from wastewater networks via either planned or unplanned discharges of wastewater, including overflows, onto or into land and/or into water pursuant to section 15 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

These rules do not address on-site discharges of wastewater from on-site systems, or discharges of wastewater directly to the coastal marine area. Rules for these matters are addressed in E5 On-site and small scale wastewater treatment and disposal and in F2 Coastal – General Coastal Marine Zone.

### E6.2. Objectives [rp]

The objectives are located in E1 Water quality and integrated management.

### E6.3. Policies [rp]

The policies are located in E1 Water quality and integrated management.

### E6.4. Activity table

Table E6.4.1 Activity table specifies the activity status for the discharge of contaminants from wastewater networks via either planned or unplanned discharges of wastewater, including overflows, onto or into land and/or into water pursuant to section 15 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Table E6.4.1 Activity table**

Activity		Activity status
(A1)	Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a new wastewater network in urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants)	P
(A2)	Discharge of wastewater onto or into land and/or into water from wastewater networks by way of exfiltration	P
(A3)	Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater network in existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants) where the discharge does not comply with Standard E6.6.1 and is not otherwise provided for by another rule in Table E6.4.1	RD
(A4)	Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing separated wastewater network servicing existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants)	C
(A5)	Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing combined sewer network (excluding wastewater treatment plants)	RD
(A6)	Discharge of treated or untreated wastewater onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater treatment plant	D
(A7)	Any other discharge of wastewater onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater network	D

### **E6.5. Notification**

- (1) An application for resource consent for a controlled activity listed in Table E6.4.1 Activity table above will be considered without public or limited notification or the need to obtain written approval from affected parties unless the Council decides that special circumstances exist under section 95A(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (2) Any application for resource consent for an activity listed in Table E6.4.1 Activity table and which is not listed in E6.5(1) will be subject to the normal tests for notification under the relevant sections of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (3) When deciding who is an affected person in relation to any activity for the purposes of section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council will give specific consideration to those persons listed in Rule C1.13(4).

### **E6.6. Standards**

#### **E6.6.1. General standards for all permitted activities, controlled activities and restricted discretionary activities**

Activities listed as permitted, controlled or restricted discretionary in Table E6.4.1 must comply with the following permitted activity standards.

- (1) The discharge must not, after reasonable mixing, give rise to any of the following:
  - (a) conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - (b) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - (c) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - (d) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;  
and
  - (e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

#### **E6.6.2. Permitted activity standards**

All permitted activities in Table E6.4.1 Activity table must comply with the following activity specific standards as well as Standard E6.6.1 above.

##### **E6.6.2.1. Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a new wastewater network in urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants)**

- (1) The network must be designed and constructed so that all of the following are achieved:
  - (a) capacity is provided for at least five times the average dry weather flow from the maximum probable development of the serviced network area at the time the network is constructed;

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- (b) all pump stations must be designed for a minimum of four hours storage, in the pump station or the network; and
  - (c) all pump stations must be continuously monitored by telemetry so that the wastewater network operator is immediately informed of any pump station failure or fault that may result in an overflow.
- (2) The network must be operated to prevent dry weather overflows during normal operation of the network, and the network operator must have an operational and maintenance programme in place that minimises unforeseen dry weather overflows to the environment.
  - (3) A wastewater network operations plan must be prepared, and implemented, which that provides all of the following:
    - (a) a description of the network;
    - (b) maintenance procedures and levels of service for key elements of the network;
    - (c) operational procedures including response to system failures, incidents and overflow events; and
    - (d) monitoring and reporting procedures.
  - (4) Engineered overflow points must be designed and located so that any discharges minimise nuisance, damage, public health risk and ecological effects and do not cause scouring and erosion at the point of discharge.

### **E6.6.2.2. Discharge of wastewater onto or into land and/or into water from wastewater networks by way of exfiltration**

- (1) The discharge must not render any potable water source unsuitable for human consumption, as defined in the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (revised 2008).
- (2) The wastewater network operator must have a programme in place to determine the general extent of exfiltration within the network and identify areas of proportionally high exfiltration.
- (3) The wastewater network operator must implement an operations and maintenance programme aimed at the progressive reduction, where practicable, of wastewater exfiltration.

### **E6.6.3. Controlled activity standards**

All controlled activities in Table E6.4.1 Activity table must comply with the following activity specific standards as well as Standard E6.6.1 above.

**E6.6.3.1. Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing separated wastewater network servicing existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants)**

- (1) A programme must be in place to reduce network overflows to an average of no more than two events per discharge location per annum by 2040.
- (2) Emergency overflow points must be designed and located so that any discharges minimise nuisance, damage, public health risk, and ecological effects and do not cause scouring and erosion at the point of discharge.
- (3) A wastewater network operations plan must be prepared, and implemented, which provides all of the following:
  - (a) a description of the wastewater network;
  - (b) maintenance procedures and levels of service for key elements of the network;
  - (c) operational procedures including response to system failures, incidents and significant overflow events; and
  - (d) monitoring and reporting procedures.
- (4) All pump stations must be continuously monitored by telemetry so that the wastewater network operator is immediately informed of any pump station failure or fault that may result in an overflow.
- (5) The wastewater network must be operated to prevent dry weather overflows during normal operation of the network, and the network operator must have an operational and maintenance programme in place that minimises unforeseen dry weather overflows to the environment.

**E6.6.4. Restricted discretionary activity standards**

All restricted discretionary activities in Table E6.4.1 Activity table must comply with the following activity specific standards as well as Standard E6.6.1 above.

**E6.6.4.1. Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater network in existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants) where the discharge does not comply with Standard E6.6.1 and is not otherwise provided for by another rule in Table E6.4.1**

- (1) A wastewater network operations plan must be prepared, and implemented, which provides all of the following:
  - (a) a description of the wastewater network;
  - (b) maintenance procedures and levels of service for key elements of the network;

- (c) operations procedures including response to system failures and significant overflow events; and
  - (d) monitoring and reporting procedures.
- (2) All pump stations must be continuously monitored by telemetry so that the wastewater network operator is immediately informed of any pump station failure or fault that may result in an overflow.
- (3) The wastewater network must be operated to prevent dry weather overflows during normal operation of the networks and the network operator must have an operations and maintenance programme in place that minimises unforeseen dry weather overflows to the environment.

**E6.6.4.2. Discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing combined sewer network (excluding wastewater treatment plants)**

- (1) The network must be designed and operated so it does not overflow to prevent dry weather overflows during normal operation of the network other than in emergency overflow situations.

**E6.7. Assessment – controlled activities**

**E6.7.1. Matters of control**

The Council will reserve its control to all of the following matters when assessing a controlled activity resource consent application:

- (1) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing separated wastewater network servicing existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants):
- (a) the implementation of the overflow reduction programme;
  - (b) the mitigation of any adverse effects associated with the discharges, including effects on potable water supplies and public health;
  - (c) the implementation of the wastewater network operations plan and the operations and maintenance programme;
  - (d) associated monitoring and reporting; and
  - (e) the duration of the consent and the timing and nature of reviews of consent conditions.

**E6.7.2. Assessment criteria**

The Council will consider the relevant assessment criteria for controlled activities from the list below:

- (1) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing separated wastewater network servicing existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants):
  - (a) the extent to which the overflow reduction programme, the network operations plan and operational and maintenance programme:
    - (i) set out the best practicable option for preventing or minimising adverse effects;
    - (ii) adequately address wastewater discharges generated as a result of potential urban growth, urban redevelopment, and land use intensification within the wastewater catchment, taking into account the growth and intensification provisions of the Plan; and
    - (iii) prevent or minimise adverse effects of wastewater overflows on public health, potable water supplies, freshwater and coastal waters.

## **E6.8. Assessment – restricted discretionary activities**

### **E6.8.1. Matters of discretion**

The Council will restrict its discretion to all of the following matters when assessing a restricted discretionary resource consent application:

- (1) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater network in existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants) where the discharge does not comply with Standard E6.6.1 and is not otherwise provided for by another rule in Table E6.4.1:
  - (a) network design parameters;
  - (b) the location of emergency overflow points;
  - (c) wastewater network operations plan and the operational and maintenance programme;
  - (d) associated monitoring and reporting;
  - (e) the duration of the consent and the timing and nature of reviews of consent conditions; and
  - (f) the effects on Mana Whenua values.
- (2) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing combined sewer network (excluding wastewater treatment plants):
  - (a) the determination and implementation of the best practicable option for preventing or minimising the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges;

- (b) implementation of the wastewater network operations plan and the operational and maintenance programme;
- (c) associated monitoring and reporting;
- (d) the duration of the consent and the timing and nature of reviews of consent conditions; and
- (e) effects on Mana Whenua values.

#### **E6.8.2. Assessment criteria**

The Council will consider the relevant assessment criteria for restricted discretionary activities from the list below:

- (1) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from a wastewater network in existing urban areas (excluding wastewater treatment plants) where the discharge does not comply with Standard E6.6.1 and is not otherwise provided for by another rule in Table E6.4.1:
  - (a) whether the design and operation of the network is in accordance with recognised industry standards and minimises and mitigates adverse effects particularly on public health, safety and amenity, potable water supplies, freshwater systems and coastal waters;
  - (b) whether engineered overflow points manage and mitigate risks;
  - (c) whether the operations and maintenance plans and programmes ensure the effective operation of the public wastewater network and minimise dry weather discharges; and
  - (d) whether the effects on Mana Whenua values have been avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- (2) for the discharge of untreated wastewater overflows onto or into land and/or into water from an existing combined sewer network (excluding wastewater treatment plants):
  - (a) whether the proposed best practicable option:
    - (i) prevents or minimises adverse effects particularly on public health, safety and amenity, potable water supplies, Mana Whenua values, freshwater systems and coastal waters;
    - (ii) addresses wastewater discharges generated as a result of potential urban growth, urban redevelopment, and land use intensification within the wastewater catchment, taking into account the growth and intensification provisions of the Plan; and

(iii) progressively reduces wastewater overflows and associated adverse effects, and the priorities and timeframes for doing so, having particular regard to:

- areas of contact recreation and public use;
- receiving environments that are sensitive to the adverse effects of wastewater overflows; and
- Mana Whenua values.

(iv) takes account of consultation with key stakeholders; and

(v) considers potential impacts on stormwater management.

(b) whether the operations and maintenance plans and programmes ensure the effective operation of the combined sewer network and minimise dry weather discharges; and

(c) whether the response procedures and processes in mitigating the adverse effects of wastewater overflows is effective.

#### **E6.9. Special information requirements**

There are no special information requirements in this section.