



Report 04.419
Date 13 July 2004
File WP/03/08/01

Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
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Review of District Council Sewage Monitoring Conditions

1. Purpose

To obtain Committee endorsement of a proposed review of the monitoring conditions applying to municipal wastewater discharges within the Ruamahanga catchment

2. Background

Currently Masterton, Carterton, Greytown and Martinborough are discharging treated effluent under “new” consents with the Featherston discharge consent close to being finalised.

Although all consents discharge into the Ruamahanga catchment, each consent has different monitoring approaches in terms of how compliance is assessed. This prevents comparison and makes compliance difficult to understand.

In late 2002, NZ Municipal Wastewater Monitoring Guidelines were published by the Ministry for Environment and the NZ Water Environment Research Foundation.

These guidelines promote an approach to compliance monitoring that is readily understandable and simply reported. Regional Councils are increasingly adopting them as a standard approach, as wastewater discharge consents are reviewed and new consents issued.

3. Proposal

It is proposed to simultaneously review the wastewater discharge consent monitoring conditions for Masterton, Carterton, Greytown and Martinborough and determine whether that the approach recommended in the National

Guidelines should be adopted. It will also be applied to the Featherston consent currently being processed.

The advantages of adopting the approach set out in the National Guidelines would be:

- A consistent approach to assessment of compliance applied to all municipal wastewater discharges in the Ruamahanga catchment.
- Adoption of a nationally recommended approach.
- A simply expressed “pass/fail” approach to compliance that will be readily understood by the public.

Current consent conditions provide for such reviews to be made. The timeframes allow for this to occur for each discharge provided notice is given before 30 September 2004.

As Greater Wellington will be initiating this review, and it relates to the whole catchment, it is proposed that costs will be borne by the Region.

4. Communication

The review will follow a formal process of notification as set out in the Resource Management Act. No additional publicity is considered to be required.

5. Recommendation

That the Committee endorses the proposed review of Wairarapa municipal wastewater monitoring conditions with the intention of incorporating the approach recommended in the NZ Wastewater Monitoring Guidelines.

Report prepared by:

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