



Compliance monitoring assessment

Consent No:	WGN980083	Date: 25 September 2020	Monitoring officer: Josie Burrows
Activity:	[496] To occupy and use the coastal marine area with a concrete deflection wall and outfall structures [1536] To discharge contaminants to air from the Porirua City Council Wastewater Treatment Plant [33805] To discharge treated effluent from the Porirua City Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant		

Your compliance rating

This report covers the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The consents have been rated as follows:

[496] [1536]		MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE Condition(s) not met / Action required (see comments below)
[33805]		NON-COMPLIANCE Condition(s) not met / Immediate action required (see comments below)

Overall compliance summary for Porirua Wastewater Treatment Plant:

FAIR 	Overall fair management of site and consents. The consent holder struggled to meet aspects of their consent requirements. There were more than occasional breaches of consent conditions that manage environmental effects and/or issues with meeting administrative related consent conditions.
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Comments

WGN980083 [33805] To discharge treated effluent from the Porirua City Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Quality of effluent discharge

Condition 11 requires the consent holder to take the samples for the specified analyses and compare the results with the consented limits. Table 1 below outlines the sampling requirements and an assessment of the results from the 2019 – 2020 year against those requirements.

Table 1: Assessment of condition 11 requirements

Condition requirements	2019 – 2020 assessment
Daily 24 hour flow proportioned composite – Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) and suspended solids;	There were no exceedances of the consent requirements for BOD5 or suspended solids.

At least 20 grab samples per month – faecal coliform bacteria	There were no exceedances of the consent requirements for faecal coliforms.
Quarterly 24 hour flow proportioned composite – specified metals and other compounds	There were no exceedances of specified metals and other compounds, however the sample results for cadmium, phenol, cyanide and chlorinated hydrocarbons are missing due to the laboratory performing the incorrect sampling profile. WWL submitted a second sample however, this was not analysed due to the end of their contract with the laboratory.

Volume of effluent discharge

Condition 12 requires the consent holder to continuously monitor and record the treatment plant effluent flow. The consent holder provided influent (data from pump stations) and effluent (discharge from plant) volumes. They advised that the flow meter measuring effluent is not fit for purpose, and for reporting purposes, an assumption is made that the influent flow rate is equal to the effluent flow rate. I agree that this is appropriate in this case and I have used the influent data in my assessment below.

The consent authorises the average discharge flow of 24,000m³/day and peak discharge of 92,800m³/day. In line with other metered discharges, GWRC will now consider an average discharge flow of 25,200m³/day to be compliant as it falls within the error of the measuring system (+/- 5% error).

- The annual average discharge flow was 24,688m³/day, which is considered **compliant**, taking into account the tolerable margin of error for the influent flow meters. This annual average is similar to the 2018 - 2019 period (24,132m³/day) and less than the 2017 - 2018 period (26,732m³/day).
- The peak discharge was 91,908m³/day (**compliant**).

As described in the 2018 – 2019 compliance report, the consent holder has advised that the increased effluent volumes is due to improvements throughout the Porirua network and population increase in Porirua. The improvements in the network mean there is more wastewater reaching the plant for treatment, which is a positive outcome for the overall health of the Porirua Harbour.

Bypass and overflow events

During the 2019 – 2020 compliance period, there were 12 bypass/overflow events. This is fewer than the previous year when there was 18 events and a dry weather sludge carryover.

The number of bypass events that occurred during this compliance period was not considered at the time the consent was granted, therefore they were not authorised by this consent and are **non-compliant**.

Outcome of sentencing in relation to 6 October 2018 event

As described in the 2018 – 2019 compliance report, GWRC laid charges against WWL in relation to the dry weather sludge carryover event that occurred on 6 October 2018. WWL were sentenced by Judge Dwyer to pay a fine of \$67,500.

As the discharge which led to this prosecution was assessed in the 2018-2019 compliance monitoring report, and resulted in a major non-compliance rating, this has not been included again in this year's report.

Minimising infiltration and ingress to the sewerage system

Condition 23 requires the consent holder to investigate and implement ways and means of minimising infiltration and stormwater ingress into the sewerage system, and to report annually on the progress made.

During this compliance year, inflow surveys were progressed in Churton Park and Duck Creek/Whitby. A consultant specialising in inflow and infiltration management was engaged to support regional strategic work during the 2019 – 2020 period and is continuing some work into 2020 – 2021.

There are currently 11 wastewater flow and five overflow monitoring sites within the Porirua WWTP catchment, which form part of a long-term monitoring contract. There are eight rain gauges installed and operating to assist WWL in aligning flow monitoring data to understand impacts on inflow and infiltration.

A wastewater model for the catchment that was previously used for an optioneering study has been used to develop a Network Improvement Plan.

CCTV inspections were carried out on 3.4km of the wastewater network during this period.

Community Liaison Group

The consent holder held the annual meeting on 9th November 2019. The group discussed the consent application renewal and received a tour of the treatment plant. Although GWRC were not involved in community liaison group meeting, GWRC are aware of community interest in the compliance of the plant, and the consent application lodged with GWRC to renew the discharges from the plant.

Consent rating:

This consent is rated as *Non-complying (Major)*.

WGN980083 [1536] To discharge contaminants to air from the Porirua City Council Wastewater Treatment Plant

Condition 9 requires the permit holder to keep a record of any complaints received, and forward any complaints to GWRC within 24 hours of receipt. WWL received one complaint of odour during this compliance period in March 2020. The notification was not forwarded to GWRC within 24 hours.

A WWL staff member attended the site and detected an odour. To resolve the situation, Veolia and WWL are investigating the ventilation system at the Porirua WWTP. **Please provide the findings of the ‘odour control survey and ventilation assessment’ to GWRC by 31 December 2020 or a later mutually agreed upon date.**

This consent is rated as *Non-complying (Minor)*.

WGN980083 [496] To occupy and use the coastal marine area with a concrete deflection wall and outfall structures

As described in the 2019 compliance report, previous correspondence indicates that the ‘elbow’ of the outflow pipe was damaged during storm conditions. In the 2019 compliance report, I requested an assessment of the effects of the damage to this structure and an assessment as to whether remediation of the structure is required.

On 12 September 2019, Mr Edward Yong (employed by WWL at that time) stated that Hugh Dixon-Paver (previous GWRC compliance officer) had stated that the effects from the missing elbow were minor, so WWL had listed this project as a low priority. He stated that during the collaborative process for the re-consenting of the WWTP the outfall could be relocated, estimates from their consultant suggests that repairs would be costly and it would not be advisable to spend this money if the outfall is to be relocated, so they opted to hold off undertaking repairs.

I agreed with this approach at that time, however since then GWRC have received the application for resource consent renewals for the discharge to the coast and discharge to air permits associated with the WWTP. The application proposes to leave the outfall in the existing location.

As such, I consider it is now appropriate for WWL to complete an assessment of the effects of the damage to the structure and identify whether remediation of the structure is required. Unless it can be demonstrated that the effects of the discharge from the damaged outfall structure are the same as those originally consented, GWRC is of the view that the pipe should be remediated. **Please provide this assessment to GWRC by 31 December 2020 or a later mutually agreed upon date.**

This consent is rated as *Non-complying (Minor)*.

Obligations

Please note that the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has a responsibility to enforce the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Accordingly, you should take all necessary steps to ensure you comply with your obligations under the RMA, including all conditions of your consent.

On this occasion we have decided not to take any enforcement action because the minor non-compliances were minor in nature (failure to report an odour complaint), and due to a change in course in regard to the outfall structure. However, we may not be so lenient should you be responsible for any further breaches of the Resource Management Act 1991 RMA. Accordingly, you should to take all necessary steps to ensure you comply with your obligations under the RMA, including all conditions of your consent.

Your consent incurs variable compliance monitoring charges at your consent anniversary. These charges are likely to increase to reflect any additional time spent monitoring your consent to due to non-compliance.



GWRC compliance rating system

	<p>COMPLYING – Well done! No further action required – keep complying with your consent conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative conditions assessed are met (e.g. supplying information and/or records) Effects based and best practice conditions assessed are met (e.g. complying with any maximum limits) Some very minor breaches of consent conditions where no explanation or follow up is considered to be required
	<p>MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE – Condition(s) not met / Some action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to supply information and/or keep adequate records. Failure to adequately notify GWRC of works Minor works outside scope of consent issued but within scope of environmental effects considered when consent processed. Minor breach of effects based or best practice consent conditions
	<p>NON-COMPLIANCE – Condition(s) not met / Immediate action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minor non-compliance has not been fixed or corrected Breach of effects based or best practice consent condition with more than minor actual or potential environmental effects Works outside scope of consents with more than minor actual or potential environmental effects

<p>VERY GOOD</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	<p>Overall excellent management of site and consents. The consent holder is proactive in meeting their consent requirements. If issues have arisen concerning consent conditions, the consent holder responds with promptness and effectiveness.</p>
<p>GOOD</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	<p>Overall good management of site and consents. The consent holder is generally on top of meeting their consent requirements. Whilst there are some minor breaches of consent conditions, these have no ongoing environmental effects.</p>
<p>FAIR</p> <p>★★★☆☆</p>	<p>Overall the management of site and consents is considered to be fair. There are occasional breaches of consent conditions and/or lapses in providing information to GWRC.</p>
<p>POOR</p> <p>★★☆☆☆</p>	<p>Overall the management of site and consents is considered to be poor. There are consistent and ongoing breaches of consent conditions. The consent holder is not getting on top of their consent requirements.</p>

Consent monitoring charges

<p>Each consent receives a consent monitoring charge from GWRC.</p> <p>This charge is made up of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <i>customer service charge</i> that covers the administrative cost of your consent(s); A <i>compliance monitoring charge</i> that covers all actual and reasonable time associated with assessing compliance with your consent(s) including the time spent visiting and assessing your site, information and reports you submit, file notes, travel time and reporting to you on compliance with your consent(s); and A <i>State of the Environment (SoE) charge</i> that covers a proportion of the cost of GWRC monitoring the environment that relates to your activity. <p>For further information on consent monitoring charges, please see our <i>Resource Management Charging Policy</i>.</p>
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