

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT DISCHARGE ANIMAL WASTEWATER TO WATER

When submitting your application to the Northland Regional Council “the council” for a Resource Consent to discharge animal, including farm wastewater to water, you need to ensure that sufficient information is supplied in support of your application.

The council has specific forms to help you supply the required information. When applying to discharge farm wastewater to water, please ensure all the relevant questions in AEE 8 are answered fully. Supplying this information will enable council staff to assess your application in terms of the Resource Management Act 1991, and any relevant resource management plans.

If all the necessary information is not supplied with the application, then the council may return your application or request further information (pursuant to Section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991). This will lead to delays in the processing of your application.

If the effects of the proposed discharge are minor, then the council can process your application without notification, provided written approvals are gained from all parties that may be adversely affected by the discharge.

If you are unable to supply the necessary written approvals from affected parties, or if the effects of the discharge are more than minor, then the council must notify the application. This can result in significant delays in processing and results in additional costs.

If you have any doubts as to who you need to provide written approvals from, or what information should be supplied with your application, then you should contact council staff to discuss the matter.

The following information relates to the questions asked in AEE 8 and is provided to assist you with answering the questions.

A – General Details

Answer all the questions between **A.1-A.3.**

B – Description of the Proposed Activity

Provide information on the source of the wastewater. The source of wastewater can influence the type and concentration of contaminants. Tick all the appropriate boxes in **B** and provide details on the maximum number of cows milked during the winter and summer months.

Separate applications are required if the treatment system does not treat all waste sources.

The volume of untreated wastewater produced is based on the number of cows milked and how long they are kept on the yard each day.

Washdown practices vary widely, with 50-70 litres of washdown water typically being used per cow per day. Check the amount of water you use each day.

Question B.7

This relates to the proposed (or existing) treatment system. Tick the appropriate box and provide details of the treatment system by answering the associated questions.

The type of treatment system provides information on the likely quality of the treated wastewater that is discharged into the environment. If your current treatment system is not ponds, wetland, ditch or drains, provide the details of the system including, the dimensions, holding capacity.

Question B.9

This relates to the disposal system. Tick the appropriate box and provide details of the disposal system by answering the associated questions. If your proposed disposal system is not one of the options provided, tick “other” and describe the system in the space provided.

Question B.10

A well designed and effective land application system is the preferred discharge method. If you do not have a land application system, you will need to explain why it is not environmentally, economically or practicably viable to have one.

C – Site Details

Question C.1

The information you supply in this map will enable council staff to understand the layout of your wastewater treatment and disposal system, and to adequately assess any potential adverse effects on neighbouring properties or waterways.

The location of the property, the site and adjacent waterways and property boundaries can be provided on a 1:50,000 topographical map, a legal survey plan or aerial photograph. It is important to ensure that sufficient detail is supplied on the map to identify where your property is located.

D – Assessment of Effects on the Environment

In this section you need to consider what the effects of your proposed discharge will have on the environment. For the purposes of this section, you need to consider the effects of your proposal under the “*worst case scenario*”.

The word “environment” includes the land, air, any adjacent water bodies, groundwater, downstream water users, adjacent landowners and tangata whenua (local iwi and hapū). The information below will help you answer the questions of this section.

Question D.1

This question provides details on what values the receiving surface water may have and the potential effects of the discharge on those values.

Adverse effects can result from discharges into water bodies depending on the quality, quantity of the wastewater discharged, and the sensitivity of the water body. The discharge may greatly reduce the water quality and result in algal growth and health risks to humans, animals and life existing in the water bodies.

The key components in farm dairy wastewater that can result in adverse effect on the quality of the water body are:

- total solids
- ammoniacal nitrogen
- biological oxygen demand
- bacteria (faecal coliforms)
- nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium)
- discoloration

Question D.2

You need to consider whether your proposed discharge will have any adverse effect on any other persons, including neighbours, other water users and tangata whenua..

The final decision on who is an affected person by an activity lies with the council. As an applicant you need to identify if you consider there are any affected persons and if so how can any effects be mitigated. The council can then assess this information to determine if the application needs to be notified or not to these persons.

Question D.3

If you consider there are potentially affected person by your activity, then gaining their written approval allows the council to not consider them when deciding on notification.

To gain written approval from a person, you will need to discuss your activity with them. If the outcome of this discussion is that they do not provide approval, this does not necessarily mean that the application will be notified.

When the council makes its notification decision the mitigating measures that you propose in the application to minimise any adverse effects on a person will be considered along with the reasons why a person is potentially affected by the activity.

Please note that this guide is for discharges of animal wastewater to water. You may have other discharges of contaminants from your farming operation which may also require a resource consent. Separate forms are available on request.

If you have any queries relating to information requirements, please contact a Duty Planner at the Northland Regional Council.

Northland Regional Council offices:

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