

Resource Consent

FILE: 7205
(01 to 04)
Minor Correction

Document Date: 20.08.2026

*Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991, the Northland Regional Council
does hereby grant a Resource Consent to:*

FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

To undertake the following activities associated with the operation of a wastewater treatment system to service Kāeo township alone (excluding any new Whangaroa or Totara North system):

Note: All location co-ordinates in this document refer to Geodetic Datum 2000, New Zealand Traverse Mercator Projection:

AUT.007205.01.04 To discharge treated wastewater to the Kāeo River, at or about location co-ordinates 1669836E 6116423N.

AUT.007205.02.03 To discharge contaminants to land via seepage from the base of the wastewater treatment system on Lot 1 DP 100604, at or about location co-ordinates 1669780E 6115580N.

AUT.007205.03.03 To discharge contaminants (primarily odour) to air on Lot 1 DP 100604, at or about location co-ordinates 1669780E 6115580N.

AUT.007205.06.01 To discharge treated wastewater to land via overflows from an Emergency Storage Pond, at or about location co-ordinates 1669789E 6115627N.

Subject to the following conditions:

AUT.007205.01 and AUT.007205.02 – DISCHARGES TO WATER AND LAND:

- 1 As a minimum, wastewater must be treated and discharged via a system that is of a similar design, size and location as that installed at the date of the commencement of these consents as shown on the **attached** Northland Regional Council Plan Number **5844**.
- 2 The quantity of treated wastewater discharged to the Kāeo River must not exceed 360 cubic metres per day, based on average dry weather flows. For compliance purposes the "average dry weather flow" must be calculated in accordance with Section 1 of Schedule 1 **attached**.
- 3 Notwithstanding Condition 2, the Consent Holder must minimise, as far as practicable, any increase in the quantity of wastewater discharged to the Kāeo River as a result of stormwater inflow and infiltration.
- 4 There must be no discharge of septic tank contents into the treatment system, nor must there be gross solids discharged from the outlet of the treatment system to the Kāeo River, as a result of the exercise of these consents. For the purpose of this condition, "gross solids" is defined as any material (organic or inorganic) within the discharge that is visible to the naked eye.

- 5 The wastewater treatment system must, at all times, be adequately fenced to prevent stock access and restrict access by unauthorised persons.
- 6 The Consent Holder must, within 3-months of the commencement of these consents, install and maintain a legible sign at or about the point of the discharge into the Kāeo River to advise people of the presence of a wastewater outfall structure and discharge at this location. The sign must be:
 - (a) Located on the riverbank, as close as practicable to the outfall structure, and must be positioned to be clearly visible and legible to persons using the river in the immediate vicinity of the discharge point. Location coordinates and details of the inscription on the sign must be provided to the Northland Regional Council prior to installation.
 - (b) Constructed of durable, weather-resistant materials suitable for the riverine environment.
 - (c) Replaced with the same or similar signage if damaged, vandalized, or removed by others as soon as is practicably possible.
- 7 The Consent Holder must, within 12-months of the commencement of these consents, carry out a survey of the manholes within the Wastewater Treatment Plant to determine their levels and make comparison of these in relation to heights of the 1 in 10-year and 1 in 100-year flood levels. A report on the survey results and comparison with flood levels must be provided to the Northland Regional Council within 1 month of the survey being completed.
- 8 If the manhole survey results detailed in Condition 7 above indicate that there is, or will be, backflow from the Kāeo River into the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Consent Holder must:
 - (a) Prepare a backflow prevention plan and provide a copy to the Northland Regional Council within 1 month of completing the backflow prevention design; and
 - (b) Prior to 31 December 2027, provide a commissioning report to the Northland Regional Council confirming that the system has been installed and operates as designed.
- 9 The Consent Holder must ensure that the wastewater treatment system is connected electronically to a 24-hour remote monitoring system. This remote monitoring system must be capable of, and utilised, for immediately notifying the operator when an alarm is activated and continue to notify the operator until the incident/situation has been remedied.
- 10 The Consent Holder must maintain flow meters that have a measurement error of +/- 5% or less to measure the daily and instantaneous rate of:
 - (a) Inflows to the wastewater treatment plant; and
 - (b) Discharge from the wastewater treatment plant (at either the inlet or the outlet of the disinfection system).
- 11 The Consent Holder must validate the accuracy of the flow meters required by Condition 10 at least once every five years. The validation must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person (SQEP). Written verification from the SQEP that the meter accuracy has been validated must be provided to the Northland Regional Council within one month of the validation being completed.

- 12 The Consent Holder must keep records of the daily wastewater inflow and discharge volumes using the flow meters required by Condition 10. A copy of these records must be provided to the Northland Regional Council as required in accordance with Schedule 1 (**attached**), and immediately upon written request by Northland Regional Council.
- 13 The Consent Holder must provide and maintain easy and safe access to Northland Regional Council (NRC) Monitoring Sites 346069, 100052, and 100671, as shown on the **attached** Northland Regional Council Plan number **5844**.
- 14 The Consent Holder must, within 6 months of the commencement date of these consents, prepare an Avian Botulism Management Plan for the Kaeo WWTP and invite Northland Fish and Game Council to input and review the development of this ABMP.

Advice Note: *This condition has been offered by the Consent Holder on an Augier basis. The Northland Regional Council has no statutory responsibility regarding enforcement of the Avian Botulism Management Plan.*

Environmental Performance Standards

- 15 The Consent Holder must, no later than 31 December 2027, upgrade the wastewater treatment system so that the quality of the treated wastewater, as measured immediately after UV treatment (NRC Monitoring Site 346069), meets the following standards:

Parameter	Metric	Median	95 th Percentile	Maximum
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	g/m ³	14	-	24
Nitrate-Nitrogen	g/m ³	58	83	-
Escherichia coli	CFU/100mL	450	5,873	-
5-day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (cBOD ₅)	g/m ³	15	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	g/m ³	43	-	-

- 16 Notwithstanding any other conditions, the exercise of these consents must not cause any of the following effects on the water quality of the Kaeo River, as measured at NRC Monitoring Site 100671 (Kaeo River 15 metres downstream of the discharge point into the river), when compared with the water quality at NRC Monitoring Site 100052 (Kaeo River 10 metres upstream of the discharge point into the river):
 - (a) The natural water temperature to be changed by more than 3° Celsius.
 - (b) The natural pH of the waters to fall outside the range of 7.0 to 8.5.
 - (c) A conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity.
 - (d) The concentration of dissolved oxygen to be reduced below 4.6 milligrams per litre.

- (e) Conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, floatable or suspended materials or emissions of objectionable odour.
- (f) Concentrations of microcystin to exceed 2.3 micrograms per litre (µg/L), expressed as microcystin-LR toxicity equivalents.
- (g) No significant increase in the *Escherichia coli* concentration.
- (h) The concentration of total ammoniacal nitrogen to exceed the following:

pH of Water at the Time Sampling	Ammoniacal Nitrogen [[NH ₃ + NH ₄]-N) (grams per cubic metre)
6.0	2.57
6.1	2.56
6.2	5.54
6.3	2.52
6.4	2.49
6.5	2.46
6.6	2.43
6.7	2.38
6.8	2.33
6.9	2.26
7.0	2.18
7.1	2.09
7.2	1.99
7.3	1.88
7.4	1.75
7.5	1.61
7.6	1.47
7.7	1.32
7.8	1.18
7.9	1.03
8.0	0.90
8.1	0.78
8.2	0.66
8.3	0.56
8.4	0.48
8.5	0.40
8.6	0.34
8.7	0.29
8.8	0.24
8.9	0.21
9.0	0.18

In the event that the background concentration of pH, dissolved oxygen or total ammoniacal nitrogen, as measured at NRC Monitoring Site 100052, exceeds the limits specified above, then the discharge must not result in any measurable adverse change to the limits.

AUT.007205.03 - DISCHARGES TO AIR

- 17 The Consent Holder's operations must not give rise to any discharge of contaminants, including odour, into the air beyond the legal boundary of Lot 1 DP 100604, that is deemed by a Northland Regional Council monitoring officer to be noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable.

AUT.007205.06 - EMERGENCY STORAGE POND OVERFLOWS

- 18 The Consent Holder must notify the Northland Regional Council as soon as practicable, and in any case within 24 hours, of any discharge occurring from the Emergency Storage Pond (ESP) to land or to the Kāeo River (via the overflow valve). This notification must include the estimated start time, duration, and estimated volume of the discharge.
- 19 The Consent Holder must implement monitoring of the ESP contents in accordance with Section 2.1.3.2 of Schedule 1 (**attached**).
- 20 The discharge must be managed to prevent erosion or instability of the land discharge area.
- 21 During normal operating conditions, the Consent Holder must keep the levels in the ESP as low as practicably possible by returning the contents of the ESP back to the maturation pond for full treatment before discharge.
- 22 The Consent Holder must, within 12-months of the commencement of these consents, carry out a survey of the lowest extent of the ESP bund and, if the bund level is below the modelled height of the 1 in 100-year flood, commission a suitably qualified and experienced person (SQEP) to investigate the risk and consequence of the bund level to the receiving environment during such a flood event.
- 23 The Consent Holder must provide a report outlining findings from this investigation required by Condition 22 to the Northland Regional Council within 20-working days of the Consent Holder receiving it from the SQEP and, if the findings of the investigation warrant mitigation measures, then the Consent Holder must include a statement outlining the option adopted from the SQEP's recommendations.
- 23A This consent does not lapse until its expiry.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Operating Regime

- 24 The wastewater treatment system must be maintained so that it works effectively at all times.
- 25 The Consent Holder must keep a written record of maintenance undertaken on the wastewater treatment system. A copy of the written record must be forward to the Northland Regional Council within five working days following a written request by Northland Regional Council.
- 26 The Consent Holder must notify the Northland Regional Council in writing of any proposed changes to the area serviced by the Wastewater Treatment Plant at least one month prior to any proposed change(s) being made.

Advice Note: *If the proposed change(s) may result in non-compliance with the conditions of this consent or adverse effects that are greater than those authorised by this consent, then either a change to the conditions under Section 127 of the Resource Management Act 1991 or a new consent would need to be obtained.*

- 27 The Consent Holder must, on becoming aware of any discharges associated with the Consent Holder's operations that is not authorised by these consents:
- (a) Immediately take such action, or execute such work as may be necessary, to stop and/or contain the discharge; and
 - (b) Immediately notify the Northland Regional Council and a representative of Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa by telephone of the discharge; and
 - (c) Take all reasonable steps to remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment resulting from the discharge; and
 - (d) Report to the Northland Regional Council in writing within one week on the cause of the discharge and the steps taken, or being taken, to effectively control or prevent the discharge.

For telephone notification during the Northland Regional Council's opening hours, the Northland Regional Council's assigned monitoring officer for these consents must be contacted. If that person cannot be spoken to directly, or it is outside of the Northland Regional Council's opening hours, then the Environmental Hotline must be contacted.

Advice Note: *The Environmental Hotline is a 24 hour, seven day a week, service that is free to call on 0800 504 639. For the Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa representative, their contact information will be confirmed as part of the development and implementation of the functions and roles of the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū.*

Monitoring

- 28 The discharges authorised by these consents must be monitored and reported in accordance with Schedule 1 (**attached**). The Consent Holder must invite and allow appropriately authorised representatives of Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa to attend any monitoring of the discharge and receiving environment.

Advice note: *All attendees will need to comply with the Consent Holder's health and safety requirements.*

Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū

- 29 Within six months of the commencement of these consents, the Consent Holder must establish and resource a Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū to meet at least annually for the duration of these consents. The Consent Holder must invite Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa to nominate two representatives to be members of the Rōpū. The Rōpū must also comprise of two suitably qualified representatives of Far North District Council representatives appointed by the Consent Holder.

Advice Note: *Participation in the Rōpū by representatives of Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa is voluntary.*

- 30 The purpose of the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū is to provide a forum:
- (a) To share information about the operation, maintenance, and monitoring and reporting of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its effects on the receiving environment;
 - (b) Make recommendations to the Consent Holder about measures to reduce effects of the Wastewater Treatment Plant operations and discharge on the surrounding environment including the Kāeo River and Whangaroa Harbour.

- 31 The Consent Holder must, through engagement on the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū, establish terms of reference for the Rōpū that address its purpose and confirms the administration, resourcing, and frequency of meeting.
- 32 The Consent Holder must prepare an agenda for each meeting and prepare minutes recording actions. A copy of the minutes must be provided to the meeting invitees within one month following a meeting.
- 33 The Consent Holder must pay a meeting allowance of a prior agreed amount per member of the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū per meeting. For clarity, this sum is to cover the costs of meeting attendance, meeting preparation, mileage to the meetings, and work associated with reporting back to parties each attendee represents. To ensure that the hapū members of the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū are not financially disadvantaged by the work requirements of the Rōpū, the Consent Holder must also provide additional resourcing for each member for any additional agreed work completed outside of the Rōpū meetings.
- 34 In the event that Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa do not respond to the invite to be part of the Rōpū or are not willing to continue to provide representatives to be members of the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū, then Conditions 29 to 32, and 35 cease to have effect.

Reporting

- 35 The Consent Holder must prepare and provide an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) by 1 June each year to the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū, for the preceding 12-month period (1 April – 31 March). The AMR must include as a minimum:
 - (a) A summary of the results from monitoring required in accordance with Schedule 1.
 - (b) A summary of the treatment plant operation and performance.
 - (c) An assessment of compliance with conditions of consent. Where non-compliances have occurred a summary of the investigations undertaken to determine the probable cause of the exceedances and any mitigation actions taken.
 - (d) A copy of any minutes from meetings held by the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū.
- 36 Within six months of the fifth, tenth, and twentieth anniversary of the commencement date of these consents, a Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance and Compliance Report prepared by an independent SQEP must be provided to Northland Regional Council and the Kaitiaki Liaison Rōpū. As a minimum, the report must include:
 - (a) An assessment of ongoing compliance with conditions of consent;
 - (b) A summary of any investigations undertaken to determine the cause of any non-compliance with receiving water quality standards;
 - (c) An assessment of the plant performance over the previous 5 years;
 - (d) An assessment of the actual influent flows compared to the projected population growth rate (as set out in the Assessment of Environmental Effects (FNDC, 2022)) and any updated population forecasts.

Review

- 37 The Northland Regional Council may, in accordance with Section 129 of the RMA, serve notice on the Consent Holder of its intention to review the conditions of these consents. Such notice may be served annually during the month of May. The review may be initiated for any one or more of the following purposes:
- (a) To deal with any adverse effects on the environment that may arise from the exercise of these consents; or
 - (b) To require the adoption of the Best Practicable Option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment.

The Consent Holder must meet all reasonable costs of each review.

EXPIRY DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2051

These consents were granted on 14 August 2026 under delegated authority from the council by Stuart Savill, Consents Manager. Pursuant to Section 133A of the Resource Management Act 1991, minor corrections have been made to the conditions of these consents which have been authorised under delegated authority from the council by Stuart Savill, Consents Manager on 20 August 2026.

SCHEDULE 1 – MONITORING PROGRAM

The Consent Holder must undertake the monitoring specified in this schedule.

1. AVERAGE DRY WEATHER FLOW

The average dry weather flow must be a "rolling" (moving) average based on flow data from the 30 most recent "dry weather flow" days. For the purposes of this calculation, flows from all days that occur after 3 consecutive days without rain (defined as being days where less than 5 millimetres (mm) of rain falls) must be used.

Either Northland Regional Council's closest telemetered rainfall recorder site (currently "Kaeo at Brameleys", NRC site number LOC.531717), or any other Northland Regional Council approved calibrated rainfall recorder site that is closer to or at the site, must be used as the daily rainfall recorder for this consent.

2 MONITORING

2.1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

Composite* wastewater samples must be collected on at least one occasion each calendar month from NRC Monitoring Site 346069 and be analysed for the following determinands:

- (a) Total Suspended Solids
- (b) Ammoniacal Nitrogen
- (c) Nitrate-Nitrite
- (d) 5-day carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (cBOD5)
- (e) Escherichia coli.

Temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen concentration must be recorded in the wastewater sample using an appropriate meter and in accordance with standard procedures.

**A sample made up of equal volumes from three samples taken at least five minutes apart during the same sampling event.*

2.2 Cyanobacteria

During periods when blue cyanobacteria are prominent in the maturation pond, one triplicate sample must be taken fortnightly from NRC Monitoring Site 346069 and analysed for total microcystin concentrations.

2.3 ESP Overflow Events

During each discharge event from the ESP (i.e. being overtopping of the bund or via the overflow valve being opened) when it is safe* to access the site, the Consent Holder must collect a composite sample from the discharge point(s) from the ESP. The sample must be analysed for the following parameters:

- (a) Total Suspended Solids
- (b) Ammoniacal Nitrogen
- (c) Escherichia coli.

Temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen concentration must be recorded in the wastewater sample using an appropriate meter and in accordance with standard procedures.

ESP contents are expected to be highly diluted generally, and more so during overflow events due to rainfall inputs, therefore the purpose of this monitoring is to monitor this key assumption when events do happen.

**it is anticipated that overflow events from the ESP would only occur during or immediately after a flood event and therefore the capability to take a sample will be dependent on being able to safely access the site, including following any Civil Defence instructions and internal Health and Safety procedures.*

2.4 RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

The following sampling and analyses must be undertaken in conjunction with the monitoring required under Section 2.1 and must occur on at least one occasion each calendar month. During the winter months, this sampling must be undertaken during, or immediately after, a rain event on at least three occasions.

Composite* water samples must be collected from the Kāeo River at NRC Monitoring Sites 100052 and 100671 on an outgoing tide between three and seven hours after the high tide has occurred within Whangaroa Harbour:

The composite* water samples must then be analysed for the following determinands:

- (a) Escherichia coli
- (b) Ammoniacal Nitrogen

Temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration are to be measured and recorded in the field using an appropriate meter, and in accordance with standard procedures.

3 COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITION 15

3.1 Median Value

The median value for a parameter must be calculated using the most recent twelve treated wastewater samples collected, including any by the Northland Regional Council.

If the specified median limit is exceeded for the first time in any rolling twelve-sample period, this must be reported as a non-compliance. The same exceedance does not need to be re-reported in subsequent rolling calculations unless there are additional/new exceedances of the specified median value.

3.2 95th Percentile Value

The 95th percentile value for a parameter must be calculated using the most recent twelve treated wastewater samples collected, including any by the Northland Regional Council.

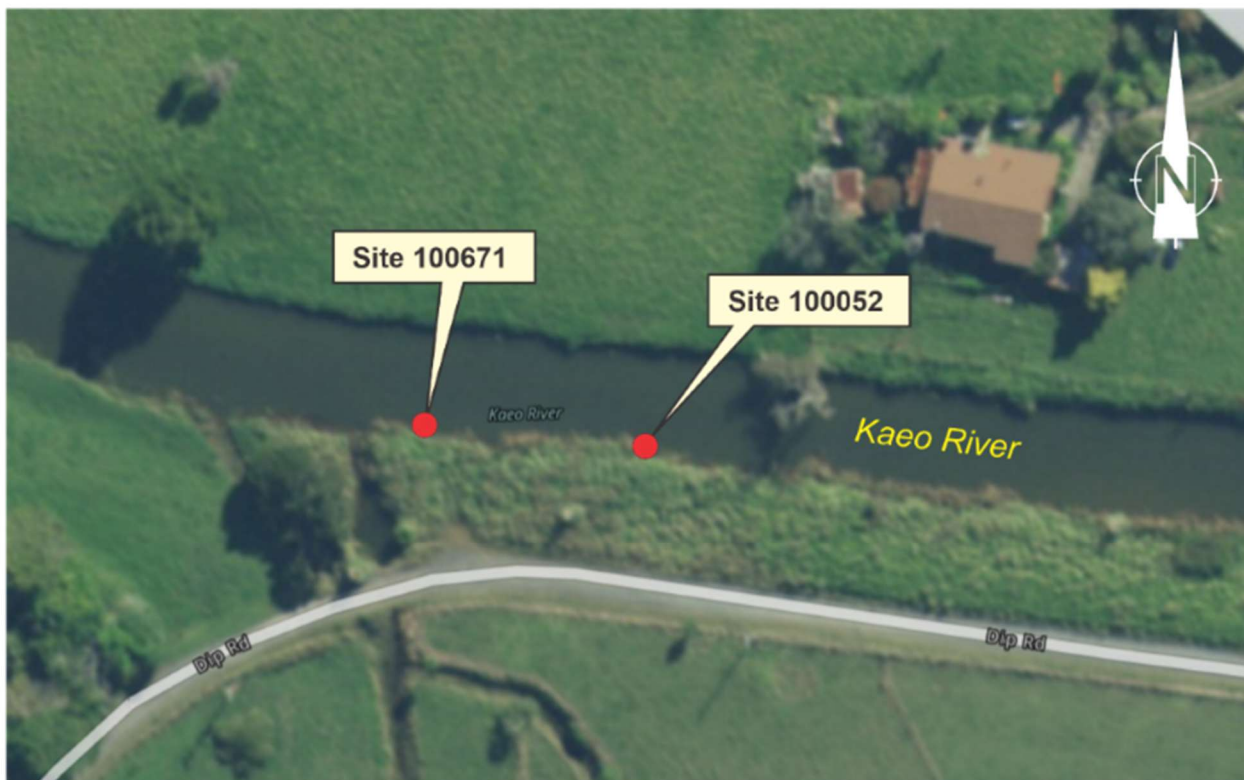
If the specified 95th percentile limit is exceeded for the first time in any rolling twelve-sample period, this must be reported as a non-compliance. The same exceedance does not need to be re-reported in subsequent rolling calculations unless there are additional/new exceedances of the specified 95th percentile limit.

REPORTING

The Consent Holder must provide the results of all monitoring required to be undertaken in accordance with this consent for each calendar month to the Northland Regional Council by the fifteenth (15th) day of the following month.

The monitoring results must be submitted in an agreed electronic format.

The monitoring results must also include the calculation of all medians and percentiles required by the conditions of the consent



Site 100052

Kao River
10m upstream of discharge
1669848E 6116425N

Site 100671

Kao River
15m downstream of discharge
1669824E 6116429N

Site 346067

Wastewater treatment plant
Influent - After primary screening
1669747E 6115477N

Site 346069

Wastewater treatment plant
Effluent - Post UV treatment
1669797E 6115609N