NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Decision of the council, under delegated authority, on a notified application

Applicant: **Far North District Council**

Application Number: **APP.007399.01.03**

Submitters: **None**

(Note: In this decision, the term, "resource consent" means single and/or multiple activities as applicable).

3. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

3.1 Overview

This report is prepared under Section 113 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (Act) and concerns Far North District Council's (FNDC's) application for replacement discharge permits authorising discharge activities associated with the operation of the Hihi WWTP (WWTP). Specifically, to continue discharging up to 250 cubic metres per day (m^3/day; average dry weather flow) of treated municipal wastewater from the WWTP to an unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach ('Hihi Stream') via a constructed wetland system, discharge treated wastewater to land via seepage from the constructed wetland, and discharge contaminants (primarily odour) to air.

The application proposes a 20-year consent term and an adaptive management approach (monitoring and staged upgrades) to improve effluent quality to meet Regional Plan for Northland (RPN) river water quality standards and reduce environmental effects.

FNDC's lodged its application[1] with Northland Regional Council (council) in August 2022 and processing was subsequently suspended until August 2025 pending engagement with tangata whenua on its proposal. NRC requested further information from FNDC about the proposal on 11 September 2025.

The applicant's response addressed upgrades and improvements since 2024, including the additional of two storm flow tanks to assist with attenuating network inflow and filtration (I&I) and improvements to reduce ammoniacal nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in the discharge. Since the 2024 upgrades (which primarily focused on preventing tank collapse), there do not appear to have been any observable improvement in water quality downstream of the WWTP discharge.[2]

[1] Far North District Council. August 2022. Hihi Wastewater Treatment Plant – Assessment of Environmental Effects. 145 pages (including appendices).
[2] Louise Wilson. 14 November 2025. Memorandum: FNDC response to NRC request for further information – Hihi WWTP.

The applicant states that further work to refurbish the constructed wetlands and address network I&I issues is being planned. While long-term upgrades have not been defined or confirmed, and decision-making now sits with a Northland-wide council-controlled organisation ("Northland Water Done Well"), FNDC has planned funding through its Long-Term Plan for plant upgrades.

A decision to publicly notify the application, as requested by the applicant, was made on 19 November 2025. It is noted that the notification decision was made prior the date on which the Resource Management (Wastewater Environment Performance Standards) Regulations came into force (19 December 2025) and FNDC determined to proceed with its application without amending it to comply with the standards.

3.2 Nature of the Activity and Receiving Environment

For brevity, this report summarises FNDC's proposal. Full details are contained in its application lodged under section 88(2) of the RMA and subsequent section 92(1) further information response.

The WWTP is an above-ground activated sludge plant with tertiary treatment (sand filtration and UV disinfection) that discharges through a seven-pond constructed wetland to the Hihi Stream. The WWTP is located at 13 Marchant Road, Hihi, with the constructed wetland situated 800 metres (m) north of the plant. The discharge point is into Hihi Stream, which flows approximately 800 m before entering Doubtless Bay. The stream is a short, small, shaded coastal tributary with limited hydraulic heterogeneity and low baseflows. Monthly compliance monitoring is undertaken upstream and approximately 40 m downstream of the wetland outlet.

The surrounding environment includes residential properties, recreation reserves, and areas of high natural character. Groundwater beneath the wetland is characterised as confined and hydraulically separated from domestic supply bores, which are typically located 150 m or more away and abstract from deeper fractured basalt aquifers. The site is within mapped coastal flood hazard zones but outside coastal erosion zones, and tsunami risk is low over the proposed consent term.

3.3 Compliance and Performance History

On available evidence, the existing discharge has not consistently met consent water-quality standards, particularly for ammoniacal nitrogen, pH, and dissolved oxygen, with non-compliances most evident in warmer months. FNDC implemented an interim upgrade package in 2024 (clip tank, inlet screening, alum dosing, return activated sludge, storm-flow tanks and ancillary safety/site works) to address critical risks and improve nutrient removal potential.[3] FNDC expects these upgrades will reduce ammoniacal nitrogen concentrations.

PDP's 2025 updated Ecological Assessment (provided with the further information) concludes that, despite the 2024 works, no observable improvement is yet evident in downstream water quality. Ammoniacal nitrogen, nitrate (95th percentile) and DRP remain elevated below the discharge. This conclusion is accepted given the monitoring record and short post-upgrade dataset.

[3] Ibid.

FNDC's response to council's further information request confirms LTP funding provision of approximately $3.0 m in financial year 2026 (FY26) and approximately $2.6 m in FY27 for plant upgrades, plus budget for network I&I investigations/reticulation renewals, although no long-term process option has yet been selected and no physical works beyond the interim package are scheduled in the current financial year.

The planned capital funding for future upgrades seeks to manage peak hydraulic loading and improve treated wastewater quality for key parameters (ammoniacal nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, and phosphorus). Notwithstanding this funding, FNDC confirmed that specific WWTP and network upgrades have not yet been decided.

Since FNDC's 2022 application, the water services delivery framework and regulatory settings have changed materially. FNDC's wastewater service functions now sit within Northland Water Done Well, and the Water Services (Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards) Regulations 2025 (WEPS) have taken effect. These changes directly influence the scope, timing, and performance requirements of future upgrades needed to meet expected discharge quality.

It is important to note that while the WEPS do not currently legally apply to FNDC's current application,[4] they will ultimately require compliance with discharge concentration limits (likely for the classification of "small wastewater treatment plants") for biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids (TSS), ammoniacal nitrogen (NH_4-N), and *E. coli*. Based on treated effluent quality results presented in the application, process upgrades are required to meet the Standards' discharge quality limits for NH4-N and TSS.

4. REGIONAL PLAN RULE(S) AFFECTED

Overall, the proposed discharges are a discretionary activity in accordance with Rule C.6.2.2 of the PRPN.

5. NOTIFICATION AND SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

The application was notified on 5 December 2025 pursuant to Section 93 of the Act. No submissions were received.

6. DELEGATION OF DECISION

A hearing of the proposal was not required because there were no submitters**.** Accordingly, the decision on the proposal is delegated to council staff.

7. MAIN FINDINGS OF FACT

Having considered the application material and further information, the following are the main findings of fact. In each case, the opinion reached and the evidential basis relied on is provided.

[4] Because a decision to publicly notify the application was made prior to the date the Wastewater Environmental Standards 2025 took effect (refer Clause 31, Schedule 12 of the RMA.

7.1 Findings on Actual and Potential Effects on the Environment

7.1.1 Effects on water quality and aquatic ecology (Hihi Stream)

The discharge has contributed to the degraded downstream water quality and stream health, with effects most pronounced for ammoniacal nitrogen (pH-adjusted), episodic nitrate peaks, and dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP).

- **Ammoniacal nitrogen:** Downstream pH-adjusted ammonia is consistently higher than upstream, with a five-year downstream median of approximately 0.65 mg/L and frequent exceedances of consent limits and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) bottom lines, particularly over summer. PDP considers ammonia levels are approaching acute risk for sensitive species at times. It is accepted that the effects on ecosystem health are more than minor within, and at the edge, of the reasonable mixing zone.
- **Nitrate:** The downstream 95th percentile exceeds the RPN river water quality standard and ANZG toxicity threshold values, indicating occasional short-term toxic risk at peak loads, notwithstanding typically lower medians. These effects are considered to be more than minor during peak events.
- **DRP:** Downstream DRP concentrations sits in the NPS-FM Attribute Band D (two-band decline from upstream), implying substantial enrichment. While periphyton and macrophyte proliferation has not been observed (likely due to shaded, soft-bottom channel conditions), nutrient concentration is elevated and potentially linked to the depressed macroinvertebrate condition.
- **Dissolved oxygen and temperature:** Spot dissolved oxygen (DO) results do not capture diurnal minima (refer RPN river water quality standard). The 2022 continuous monitoring data provided indicate that the stream is often below the RPN minimum standard in summer, reflecting natural morphology/low heterogeneity. Council Is not convinced that the discharge is the primary driver of low DO, but any added load risks exacerbating already-stressed conditions. Temperature effects are generally within the RPN standard, with occasional short-duration exceedances downstream.
- **Biotic community:** Macroinvertebrate indices (MCI/QMCI) are poorer downstream (below NPS-FM attribute state bottom lines) and dominated by tolerant taxa. It is accepted that a material share of this decline is likely due to nutrient/toxicity stress associated with the discharge.
- ***E.coli*:** Both upstream and downstream bands are poor, with the discharge contributing to higher downstream medians. However, the WWTP normally achieves a high level of bacterial disinfection, indicating that microbiological water quality is affected by other catchment sources.

7.1.2 Effects on groundwater (seepage to land)

On the hydrogeological evidence provided, the wetland sits on low-permeability clay. Leakage is minimal, shallow groundwater is brackish and hydraulically separated from deeper potable aquifers. Effects on groundwater quality and users are less than minor.

7.1.3 Effects on air quality (odour)

Odour observations indicate low frequency/intensity, confined to the site boundary, with no substantiated complaints. With an Odour Management Plan and standard good practice, it is considered that odour effects will be less than minor.

7.1.4 Effects on public health

The Screening Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) report prepared by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR) considers risks to human health from the discharge of wastewater from the WWTP into the Hihi Stream and Hihi Beach area of Doubtless Bay. At the expected 3 $\log_{10}$ viral pathogen removal rate (level of disinfection), the recreational water classification would be excellent at all sites. For shellfish collected from the environments under investigation then consumed raw, at 3 $\log_{10}$ viral removal by the WWTP, the risks of norovirus illness would equate to risk levels in the fair to excellent range.

It is considered that the risks to public health have been appropriately minimised.

7.1.5 Cultural effects

The applicant consulted with Ngāti Kahu (Ruaiti Hapū) and Waitetoki (Waiaua) Marae as part of the application process. Initial feedback indicated concern that the discharge may adversely affect the mauri of the stream and downstream waters. When the application was lodged, the applicant requested that the processing timeframes be extended to allow for a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) to be completed. The council allowed for an extension of more than 3 years for the CIA to be provided before making the decision to proceed with public notification of the application without it. The public notice for the application was served on the hapū and the 3 Marae, including Waitetoki (Waiaua) Marae. No submission was received from any tangata whenua party. Council cannot draw a conclusion on the actual cultural effects of the discharge. However, since no CIA was forthcoming nor any submission was received from hapū or Marae, it is concluded that the actual cultural effects of the applicant's discharge were not significant.

7.1.6 Positive effects

The scheme provides essential public health and sanitation services for the Hihi community. As a centralised system, it avoids diffuse risks from multiple onsite systems and supports community wellbeing.

7.2 Efficacy of Upgrades and Adaptive Management

Short-term works have mitigated structural risk and improved treatment potential (screening, alum for phosphorus, aeration and short-circuiting reduction, stormflow attenuation). However, monitoring to date does not yet show receiving-water improvement. FNDC proposes to progress a long-term upgrade and I&I reduction, funded in the LTP but not yet scoped or contracted.

7.3 Alternative and Best Practicable Option

Discharge to land has been assessed. While practicable sites exist, the applicant cited capital cost (order-of-magnitude $2.85 – $3.02 m excluding land purchase, with a wider range up to $4.5 m) would impose targeted rates that Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) affordability benchmarks identify as exceeding 5% of gross household income for most household types in the service community. On the present record, a full land discharge is not currently economically viable. Continued discharge to water, alongside near-term network I&I mitigation and staged plant upgrades, represents the current best practicable option (BPO).

7.4 Planning Consistency

7.4.1 Regional Plan for Northland

The discharge currently fails to meet RPN ecosystem-health river water-quality standards after reasonable mixing for ammoniacal nitrogen and, intermittently, nitrate. Although receiving-water *E. coli* standards are not met, monitoring indicates this is not attributable to the WWTP discharge, as UV disinfection achieves low *E. coli* concentrations in the treated effluent.

Policy D.4.1 requires compliance with river water quality standards unless the discharge is an existing activity and replacement consent conditions requires the quality of a discharge to be improved over the term of the consent with time-bound steps. It also requires avoidance of acute toxicity effects within the zone or reasonable mixing.

Policy D.4.3 requires discharge to land to be considered. The applicant has demonstrated economic non-viability at present. Policy D.2.4 supports adaptive management where baseline information is adequate, potential adverse effects can be effective monitored, and thresholds can be set to require mitigation action – circumstances that apply here.

The current discharge is not consistent with RPN outcomes unless strengthened conditions are imposed to drive measurable improvement and ensure compliance after the reasonable mixing.

7.4.2 Regional Policy Statement for Northland 2016

The WWTP is regionally significant infrastructure. While enabling this infrastructure supports community wellbeing, the RPS seeks overall improvement in freshwater quality and ecosystem health. That direction is achievable with a consent that requires timely upgrades and demonstrable in-stream improvement.

7.4.3 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (as amended December 2025)

The evidence shows current outcomes in Hihi Stream downstream of the discharge fall below national bottom lines for key attributes (e.g., ammoniacal nitrogen; DRP band D), and attribute bands decline between upstream and downstream. While these national bottom lines do not have regulatory effect, they are reflected in RPN regional water quality standards (for ammonia) and are a relevant consideration. Overall, the proposal is consistent with the policies of the NPS-FM.

8. COMMENTARY ON CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

The applicant's proposed conditions largely reflect the existing consents and provide an appropriate framework to manage actual and potential adverse effects. The following additions are also considered as necessary to minimise adverse effects and meet the relevant policies of the RPN:

- Limit treated wastewater discharged post-UV to no more than 100 m^3/day, calculated as a 30-day rolling average of "dry-weather discharge days" (defined as days with <1 mm of rainfall following three consecutive days each with <1 mm of rainfall). This daily dry-weather limit is revised from 250 m^3/day to reflect dry-weather flow data for the past three years and projected 2050 peak Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF). In light of contemporary discharge flow data, the previous ADWF limit is no longer appropriate.
- Require the Consent Holder to improve WWTP discharge quality to meet the Resource Management (Wastewater Environment Performance Standards) Regulations limits for small wastewater treatment plants[5] by 2031, aligning with the five-year lead-in period for upgrading plants (refer Regulation 54).
- Require installation of signage at appropriate locations warning the public of potential health risks from contact with Hihi Stream downstream of the discharge, to manage residual public health risks by informing users of potential exposure to contaminants. This condition was proposed by the applicant after the application was submitted.

In addition, PDP recommended relocating the downstream compliance site to 50 m (to match RPN mixing-zone direction), undertaking periodic continuous DO/temperature monitoring, and repeating ecological surveys post-upgrades. These have also been accepted as appropriate for consent conditions.

The applicant has reviewed the proposed consent conditions and has agreed to them prior to the issuing of this decision.

9. RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS

9.1 Section 104(1)(a)

In considering the actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activity, the adverse effects on water quality and ecology downstream of the discharge are presently more than minor for ammoniacal nitrogen (chronic toxicity) and DRP (enrichment), with episodic nitrate exceedance. Effects on DO and temperature are context-limited and not clearly discharge-driven.

The requirement to improve the treated wastewater discharge quality within a set period will significantly reduce the adverse effects on water quality of the unamend tributary of the Hihi Stream.

Odour and seepage to land effects are less than minor.

[5] cBOD5 annual median ≤5 mg/L and 75th percentile ≤10 mg/L; TSS annual median ≤5 mg/L and 75th percentile ≤10 mg/L; ammoniacal nitrogen 75th percentile ≤1 mg/L; E. coli 75th percentile ≤130 cfu/100 mL.

While contrary to tikanga Māori, no evidence has been provided to allow council to quantify the actual cultural adverse effects.

9.2 Section 104(1)(b)

In considering the application, regard has been had to the relevant statutory provisions under section 104(1)(b) of the Act. The granting of resource consents is consistent with:

- The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, with specific reference to Policies 2, 5, 12, and 15
- The National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025, with specific reference to Policies 1, 2 and 7.
- The RPS, with specific reference to Objective 3.2 and Policy 4.2.1.
- The RPN, specifically the policies set out in Sections D.1, D.2, D.3, and D.4 of the PRP, as well as with the objectives contained in Section F.

9.3 Section 104(1)(b) – Other Matters

No additional matters have been identified as relevant and reasonably necessary to the determination of this application.

9.4 Section 104(2A) – Value of Investment

In accordance with section 104(2A) of the Act, regard has been had to the value of the applicant's investment in the existing consented activity and associated wastewater infrastructure, estimated at approximately $1.8 million (August 2022; pre-upgrade).

9.5 Sections 105 and 107

The proposed activity contravenes section 15 of the Act. Accordingly, regard has been given to the matters set out in section 105 of the Act, namely the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment, and possible alternative methods of discharge (including discharges to other receiving environments), which are addressed in the application.

Council is also satisfied that, after reasonable mixing in the receiving waters and subject to the consent conditions, the discharge will not give rise to any of the effects listed in section 107(1).

10. DURATION OF THE CONSENT

A period of 20 years was requested by the applicant. Given the present non-compliance with regional water quality standards and the uncertainty around the timing and effectiveness of long-term upgrades, a 20-year term is not appropriate. The consent has been granted for a period of 10 years.

For completeness, in determining duration regard has been had to Policy D.2.14 of the RPN.

DECISION

Pursuant to Section 104B of the Act, the council **GRANTS** resource consent, subject to conditions imposed pursuant to section 108 as follows:

FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

To undertake the following activities associated with the operation of the Hihi Beach wastewater treatment system on Lots 71 78 DP 73991 Blk V Mangonui SD-Rec Res and on Pt Lot 1 DP 37697, Pt Lot 2 DP 86975 Blk V Mangonui SD-sewage disposal marsh-SO 65940:

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

AUT.007399.01.03	**To discharge treated wastewater to an unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach (known locally as Hihi Stream) at or about location co-ordinates 1649634E 6130144N.**
AUT007399.02.03	**To discharge contaminants to ground via seepage from the base of an artificial wetland system at or about location co-ordinates 1649672E 6130197N.**
AUT.007399.03.03	**To discharge contaminants (primarily odour) to air from wastewater treatment facilities located at or about location co-ordinates 1649290E 6129562N, and at or about location co-ordinates 1649672E 6130197N.**

Subject to the following conditions:

AUT.007399.01 and AUT.007399.02 - Discharge to Water and to Land:

1 The volume of treated wastewater discharged from the outlet of the wastewater treatment plant, as measured post-UV disinfection and prior to the constructed wetland, must not exceed a 30-day rolling average dry weather discharge volume of 100 cubic metres per day. For compliance purposes, the "average dry weather discharge volume" must be calculated in accordance with Section 1 of Schedule 1 attached**.**

2 The Consent Holder must maintain in good working order a flow meter on the wastewater treatment plant outlet that has a measurement error of ±5% or less to measure the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant.

3 The Consent Holder must verify that the meter required by Condition 2 is accurate. Verification must be undertaken prior to 30 June:

(a) Following commencement of these consents; and

(b) At least once every five years thereafter.

Verification must be carried out by a suitably qualified person. A verification statement must be provided to the Northland Regional Council within 20 working days of the verification date.

4 The Consent Holder must keep records of the daily volume of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment plant, as measured by the meter required by Condition 2, the local daily rainfall measurement, and the 30 day rolling average dry weather discharge

volume. These records must be recorded in a format agreed to by the Northland Regional Council.

5 The concentration of *E coli* in the treated wastewater at Northland Regional Council Sampling Site 100165 (the outlet of the wastewater treatment plant after UV disinfection) must not exceed 130 cfu per 100 millilitres of wastewater, measured as a 75th percentile.

6 By 28 February 2031, the wastewater treatment system must be upgraded to achieve the following limits, as measured at Northland Regional Council Sampling Site 100165 (the outlet of the wastewater treatment plant after UV disinfection):

(a) The annual median concentration of five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand ($cBOD_5$) must not exceed 5 milligrams per litre of wastewater;

(b) The concentration of $cBOD_5$ must not exceed 10 milligrams per litre of wastewater, measured as a 75th percentile;

(c) The annual median concentration of total suspended solids (TSS) must not exceed 5 milligrams per litre of wastewater;

(d) The concentration of TSS must not exceed 10 milligrams per litre of wastewater, measured as a 75th percentile; and

(e) The concentration of ammoniacal nitrogen must not exceed 1 milligram per litre of wastewater, measured as a 75th percentile.

7 The discharge of treated wastewater must not result in any of the following effects on water quality in the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach, as measured at Northland Regional Council Sampling Site 345138:

(a) Cause the downstream pH to fall outside 6.0–9.0.

(b) Reduce the downstream daily minimum dissolved oxygen concentration below 4 milligrams per litre.

(c) Produce conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials.

(d) Cause a conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity.

(e) Emit an objectionable odour.

8 The Consent Holder must monitor and report the exercise of these consents in accordance with the Monitoring Programme in Schedule 1 (attached).

9 The Consent Holder must provide and maintain easy and safe access to each of the following sampling points:

(a) Northland Regional Council Sampling Site Number 100165 located at the outlet of the wastewater treatment plant after UV disinfection on Lots 71 78 DP 73991 Blk V Mangonui SD-Rec Res.

(b) Northland Regional Council Sampling Site Number 101874 located at the outlet of the last treatment wetland into the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach, at or about location co-ordinates 1649634E 6130144N.

(c) Northland Regional Council Sampling Site Number 101130 located at a point adjacent to the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach located approximately 130 metres upstream of

the point where the treated wastewater enters the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach, at or about location co-ordinates 1649726E 6130228N.

(d) Northland Regional Council Sampling Site Number 345138 located at a point located adjacent to the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach located approximately 50 metres downstream of the point where the treated wastewater enters the unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach) at or about location co-ordinates 1649602E 6130100N.

10 The Consent Holder must install signage at appropriate location(s) warning the public of potential health risks from contact with the Hihi Stream downstream of the discharge.

AUT.007399.03 - Discharge to Air:

11 The Consent Holder's operations must not give rise to any discharge of contaminants to air at or beyond the property boundary that is deemed by a Northland Regional Council monitoring officer to be noxious, dangerous, offensive, or objectionable.

For the purposes of this condition, "property boundary" refers to:

(a) The wastewater treatment plant boundary on Lots 71 78 DP 73991 Blk V Mangonui SD-Rec Res; and

(b) The boundary of the artificial wetland property located on Pt Lot 1 DP 37697 Pt Lot 2 DP 86975 Blk V Mangonui SD-sewage disposal marsh-SO 65940.

12 The Consent Holder must have in place and implement the Odour Management Plan in Schedule 2 (**attached**).

General Conditions:

13 The Consent Holder must have in place, implement, and keep updated an Operations and Maintenance Plan. The Plan must include:

(a) Specification of the design wastewater volume, dimensions, design loading, and expected treatment performance of each component of the treatment system including the constructed wetland.

(b) A schedule of inspection, servicing, and maintenance actions to be carried out on the wastewater treatment system, including the constructed wetland maintenance and desludging requirements.

(c) Contingency measures for unauthorised discharges.

(d) Methods to combat nuisances that may arise in the treatment system, including midges and other insects.

14 A copy of the Operations and Maintenance Plan required by Condition 13 must be provided to the Northland Regional Council by the 30 November 2026. If the Operations and Maintenance Plan is amended, then a copy of the amended plan must be provided to the Northland Regional Council.

15 The Consent Holder must maintain the wastewater treatment system so that it always operates effectively.

16 A written record of maintenance must be kept. A copy of this record must be provided to the Northland Regional Council immediately on request.

17 The Consent Holder must on becoming aware of any discharge 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;

(b) Immediately notify the council by telephone of the discharge;

(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.*

18 The Northland Regional Council may, in accordance with Section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991, serve notice on the Consent Holder of its intention to review the conditions annually during the month of May 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 the consent and which it is appropriate to deal with at a later stage; or

(b) To require the adoption of the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment, including any planned improvements or upgrades identified but not implemented.

The Consent Holder shall meet all reasonable costs of any such review.

EXPIRY DATE: 31 MARCH 2036

SCHEDULE 1: MONITORING PROGRAMME

The Consent Holder (or its authorised agent) must monitor the resource consents in accordance with the following monitoring programme.

1. AVERAGE DRY WEATHER DISCHARGE VOLUME

The average dry weather discharge volume 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 1 millimetres (mm) or less of rain falls) must be used.

Either Northland Regional Council's closest telemetered rainfall recorder site (presently Site 530511, Oruru at Bowling Club), 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. ODOUR MONITORING

During each visit for monitoring purposes, any significant odours at or beyond the property boundary shall be noted and reported to the Northland Regional Council within 24 hours of the visit.

Note: "Property boundary" is defined in the conditions of the discharge to air consent.

3. DISCHARGE AND RECEIVING WATER MONITORING

3.1 Sites

The following sites (shown on Northland Regional Council Plan 5809, attached) shall be monitored.

NRC Monitoring Site Number	Location Description
100165	Hihi Sewage Treatment System @ outlet of Treatment Plant on Lots 71 and 78 DP 73991
101874	Final discharge of treated wastewater from treatment plant to unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach (Hihi Stream).
101130	Unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach (Hihi Stream), approximately 130 metres upstream of NRC monitoring site number 101874.
345138	Unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach (Hihi Stream), approximately 50 metres downstream of the constructed wetland discharge.

3.2 Sampling Procedures, Determinands and Frequency

One grab sample must be collected each month at each monitoring site. All samples must be taken between 0900 and 1700 hours, analysed for the following, and the sample time recorded:

- Temperature(See Note 1)
- pH
- Dissolved oxygen concentration (See Note 1)
- 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand

- Total suspended solids
- Total ammonia nitrogen
- Dissolved inorganic nitrogen
- Total nitrogen
- Dissolved reactive phosphorus
- Total phosphorus
- *Escherichia coli*

Discharge sampling shall be undertaken at the same time as the receiving water sampling.

Notes:

1. Temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration shall be measured in the field using a meter in accordance with standard procedures.

4. SAMPLE COLLECTION, SAMPLE TRANSPORT, AND LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

All samples must be collected using standard procedures and in appropriate laboratory supplied containers.

All samples collected as part of this monitoring programme must be transported in accordance with standard procedures and under chain of custody to the laboratory.

All samples taken must be analysed at a laboratory that is certified by International Accreditation New Zealand, and all analyses are to be undertaken using standard methods, where applicable.

5. Compliance with Medians and 75 percentiles

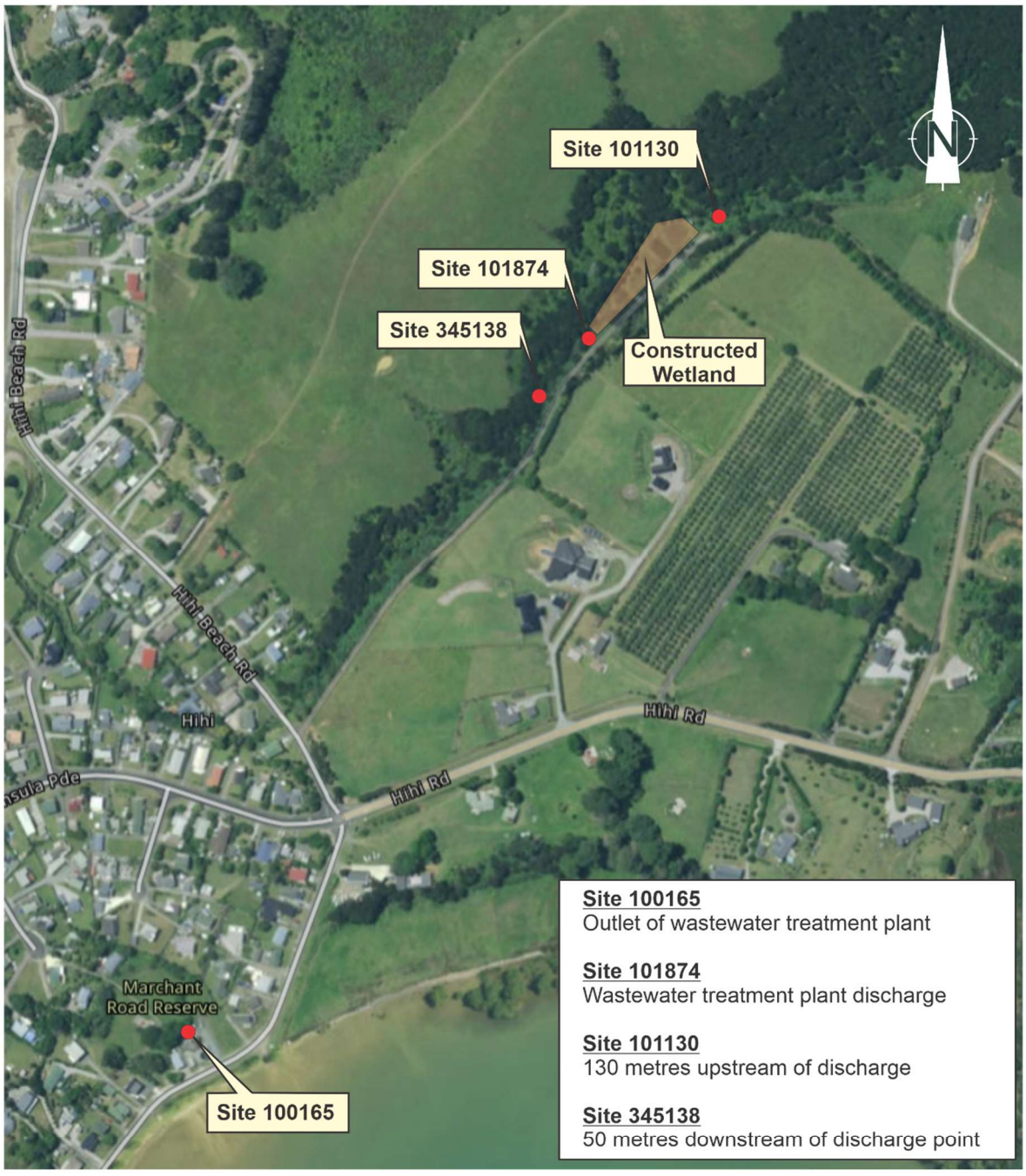
Compliance with median and 75th percentile concentrations must be determined annually using both the monitoring results undertaken in accordance with this schedule and any samples collected by the Northland Regional Council.

6. Reporting

The Consent Holder must prepare monthly reports of all monitoring undertaken in accordance with this schedule. The reports must be in a format agreed with the Northland Regional Council and must be provided by the fifteenth day of the following month.

Each report must include all raw data and the statistics calculated for compliance purposes.

Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau



Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

Location of Facilities and Sampling Sites for Hihi Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges

Scale:	N.T.S.	
Drawn:	KATM	03/26
File:	7399	
Plan Number.	**5809**	

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching this decision, the council has had regard to the matters set out in Part 2 and section 104 of the Act. It determines that:

(1) The adverse effects of granting this resource consent on the environment can be appropriately avoided, remedied and mitigated.

(2) Granting this resource consent is consistent with the relevant statutory planning documents.

(3) Granting this resource consent promotes the purpose of the Act.

Issued this 28 day of May 2026

Stuart Savill
Consents Manager