

8 June 2023

File No: WGN970255

Kapiti Coast District Council

**Attn: Ramesh Pillai <Ramesh.Pillai@kapiticoast.govt.nz>**

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Dear Ramesh

## **Request for an explanation in relation to an investigation into exceedance of wastewater storage pond usage**

The purpose of this letter is to seek your explanation of events around the usage of the wastewater storage basin at the Paraparaumu WWTP that has occurred during the period 21 July 2022 through to 4 May 2023. Resource consent WGN970255 [34837] limits the use of the unlined storage basin to three occasions per year. In the community liaison group meeting held on 23 May 2023 representatives for Kapiti Coast District Council reported that the storage pond had been used on six occasions over the past year. The following table was provided with the meeting minutes on 6 June 2023.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Volume diverted (m3)</b>	<b>Days diverting</b>	<b>Days taken to empty</b>	<b>Rainfall (mm)</b>
21/07/2022	100	1	1	27
19/08/2022	15,060	2	18	76
17/03/2023	179	1	1	39
19/04/2023	1136	1	1	57
24/04/2023	1917	1	1	33
04/05/2023	3790	1	2	68

The use of the unlined storage basin on six occasions contravenes your resource consent, therefore it contravenes section 15(1)(d) of the Resource Management Act. The discharge is not expressly allowed by a national environmental standard, a rule in a regional plan or a resource consent.

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I would like to provide you with the opportunity to clarify the information I hold. You have received this letter because you are the Acting Manager, Water and Wastewater Services for Kapiti Coast District Council, who holds resource consent WGN970255 [34837] for the discharge of wastewater into the unlined basin.

Greater Wellington Regional Council is responsible for responding to and investigating environmental incidents to determine what actions are required to remedy or mitigate the effects as well as determining if enforcement action is appropriate under the circumstances.

### **Information request**

The observations above provide a summary of the information I have. Before we decide on any actions and/or outcomes, I invite you to provide me with a written explanation by Friday 23 June 2023 of the events surrounding this incident and any other information you think is relevant. To assist you with this I have listed some questions below:


1. Why has the storage pond been required to be used on more than three occasions this year?
2. Has there been a significant increase in rainfall during the July 2022-June 2023 period compared to previous years?
3. Are there any known significant illegal inflows into the wastewater network that have not been remediated? If so, what are these?
4. What actions is Kapiti Coast District Council taking to reduce the use of the storage pond usage?

If I have not heard from you by Friday 23 June 2023, I will conclude my enquiries without any further contact with you and a decision in respect of the outcomes, which may include enforcement action will be made. I will advise you of the outcome of my investigation at that time. You should also be aware that the information that you provide may be used in evidence against you.

Please be aware that the Greater Wellington Regional Council has a responsibility to enforce the RMA. Failure to comply with the RMA may result in enforcement action including formal warnings, infringement notices or prosecution. More information on potential penalties is available online at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM239042.html> and <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1999/0359/latest/whole.html#DLM300060>

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at this address or call me on 021 227 6647 of my Team Leader Jo Frances on 0211 94 9391.

Yours sincerely



**Claire McKeivitt**  
Senior Resource Advisor  
For Manager, Environmental Regulation