

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Application number:	DIS60433803 (Section 14 discharge permit)
Applicant:	Watercare Services Limited
Address:	100 Okaroro Drive, Beachlands

Proposal

Watercare Services Limited have submitted to Auckland Council an application for a discharge permit associated with the discharge of treated wastewater to groundwater and an overland flow system, which will then flow into an unnamed tributary of Te Puru Stream, from the continued and expanded operation of the Beachlands Wastewater Treatment Plant (**BWWTP**).

The application seeks to replace existing consent discharge permit DIS60263339 with a new permit for a term of 35 years, which will be implemented in four stages, as summarised below:

Stage 1

The discharge of treated wastewater from the existing BWWTP without any upgrade works, allowing for a maximum discharge volume limit of 4,500m³/day, and an average daily flow of 2,200m³. This will cater for a design population of up to 11,000 people.

Stage 2

The undertaking of short-term upgrade works to cater for a population of up to 18,000 people and a maximum discharge volume limit of 8,700m³/day, and an average daily flow of 3,600m³. The upgrade works will include:

- replacement of the existing inlet screen;
- increasing the aeration capacity of the lagoon and the pipework from the ultra violet (**UV**) treatment area to the overland flow area, including an expansion of the overland flow area;
- installation of a new recycle (A) pumps and pipework, an additional tertiary filter and UV lamps;
- construction of additional sludge drying beds; and
- upgrading to mains power supply and distribution boards.

Stages 3 and 4

The undertaking of long-term upgrades in two stages (stages 3 and 4). The stage 3 works will cater for a population of up to 24,000 people and a maximum discharge volume limit of 28,900m³/day, and an average daily flow of 4,800m³. The stage 4 works will cater for a population

of up to 30,000 people and a maximum discharge volume limit of 36,200m³/day, and an average daily flow of 6,000m³.

These upgrade works will result in the current lagoon being replaced by concrete tanks known as activated sludge reactors, while the current filtration system will be replaced by new ultrafiltration and membrane bioreactors. This will allow for removal of 100% of suspended solids and most micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses etc.), with UV disinfection to be retained and expanded to provide an additional level of treatment. Water will still be discharged into the unnamed tributary of Te Puru Stream via the groundwater and an overland flow system

Implementation

The short-term upgrade works will be implemented as soon as possible, with December 2026 considered a potentially achievable target, but with the latest date for completion proposed as being December 2031 in order to allow for all necessary contingencies. The long-term upgrades are population dependent and will only be implemented once the referenced population numbers are reached.

Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)

The discharge of wastewater onto land and then into surface water and groundwater associated with the operation of the Beachlands Wastewater Treatment Plant, is a **discretionary activity** under Rule E6.4.1(A6).