

<b>Date:</b>	4 August 2020	<b>Application Number:</b>	DW-2020-109732-00 and WD-2020-109733-00
<b>Reporting Planner:</b>	Todd Whittaker	<b>Site Visit on:</b>	30/06/2020

<b>Applicant:</b>	Gisborne District Council
<b>Property Address:</b>	Gisborne urban area.
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Multiple
<b>District Plan:</b>	Te Papa Tipu Taunaki o Te Tairāwhiti – Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (Tairāwhiti Plan)
<b>Plan Designations, Limitations or Overlays:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Coastal Management Area</li> <li>• Gisborne Urban Freshwater Management Unit</li> <li>• Ngā Ariki Kaiputahi Management Plan</li> <li>• Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki Management Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Activity Status:</b>	Non-complying Activity
<b>Proposal:</b>	Gisborne District Council has lodged an application for the discharge of untreated wastewater from the Gisborne wastewater network within the Gisborne Reticulated Services Area in situations where the wastewater network has been inundated with rainwater in heavy rain (wet weather overflows) and also in cases where there is a malfunction or blockage in the network (dry weather overflows).

## Notification Report to Delegated Authority for decision

### SUMMARY

Gisborne District Council (the Applicant) has applied for discharge consent for wet weather and dry weather overflow from the wastewater reticulation network.

Consent is required as a non-complying activity in accordance with the rules of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

The Applicant has undertaken a community engagement and consultation process regarding the nature of the consents, the reasons why this is necessary and how the overflows will be managed. The application also provides background on the measures which the Applicant is undertaking to reduce the number and scope of overflow events. This includes a comprehensive programme to address the inflow and infiltration into the wastewater network.

The application includes a significant amount of technical information regarding the function and capacity of the wastewater network, the forecasted rain fall levels, and modelling and

assessment of the discharge into waterways and also into the Coastal Marine Area (CMA). The assessment of the wastewater discharge includes an assessment of ecological effects and on human health.

The Applicant has requested public notification of the application in accordance with Section 95A(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

That the Consents Manager

- 1. receive the report, and**
- 2. Publicly notify the application in accordance with Section 95A(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991.**



Todd Whittaker  
**Consultant Planner**

*Recommendation Approved:*



Sarah Hunter  
**Consents Manager**

Date: 4 August 2020

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Overview**

The Applicant owns and operates the city wastewater system. The Applicant has lodged a resource consent application, as one is now required under the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan, for the discharge of untreated wastewater from this network. These discharges occur by way of wet weather overflows (when the wastewater network is overloaded by rainwater in heavy rain) and dry weather overflows (which occur when there is a malfunction or blockage in the network). Overflow discharges already occur from time to time and consent is sought on the basis of the DrainWise Programme and other measures to continue to reduce the frequency and volume of overflows and manage adverse effects.

A 20-year consent term is sought, subject to conditions of consent that will:

- Integrate the DrainWise Programme alongside other works and management actions to progressively reduce overflows to a practicable minimum;
- Ensure the system is designed and operated to best practice;
- Continue to respond appropriately to overflows when they occur; and
- Monitor and report performance.

The city wastewater system collects wastewater from houses, businesses and industry, and transports this via a network of pipes and pumping stations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal. The Applicants' wastewater network is designed and operated in accordance with national engineering practice. However, it is only half of the city's wastewater system, the other half is located on private properties and is owned and operated by property-owners and occupiers.

In the past 14 years, wet weather overflows have occurred two to three times per year. Through the consent, the Applicant is aiming to reduce this to once every two years.

Dry weather overflows are another type of overflow. These are unpredictable and can occur anywhere on the network, depending on where the blockage or problem occurs. Blockages often result from people putting foreign objects, wet wipes or material such as fat into the wastewater network. Dry weather overflows are generally small, occur for a short period of time, and are promptly responded to and fixed ensuring most do not reach a waterway.

### **1.2 Description of the Site**

The discharge locations are classified into four categories based on the frequency of use and their strategic location and function within the wastewater reticulation network.

The applicant has provided the following diagram to show the location of the overflow locations (see over page).



Figure1: Location of Discharge Points and reticulation network (Source – Application material)

## 2.0 REASON FOR THE APPLICATION

The Applicant has advised that for the avoidance of doubt, the application relates solely to overflows from the wastewater system that services the Gisborne Reticulated Services Area including any new wastewater network that is constructed within this area. It does not relate to wastewater from other areas, for example Te Karaka (which has its own wastewater system), or the discharge of wastewater from the Gisborne Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In summary the application covers the point source discharge of untreated sewage/wastewater, resulting from overflows from wastewater reticulation, during wet weather to land or freshwater.

The following rules of the Tairāwhiti Plan apply to the proposal;

- Consent for point source discharge of untreated sewage is sought as a **restricted discretionary activity** under Rule 6.2.3(10) of Part C6.
- Consent for point source discharge of untreated sewage/wastewater, resulting from overflows from wastewater reticulation during dry weather, to land or freshwater this activity is sought as a **non-complying activity** under Rule 6.2.3(15) of Part C6.

- Consent for discharge of untreated sewage/wastewater, resulting from overflows from wastewater reticulation in both dry and wet weather, to the coastal marine area (CMA) this activity is sought as a **non-complying activity** under Rule 2.6.2(6).

The application therefore has a Non-complying activity status.

### **3.0 SECTION 95A-G ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOTIFICATION**

Section 95A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) states that the consent authority must follow the steps set out in that section, in the order given, to determine whether to publicly notify an application for resource consent.

Those steps are set out below, in the order provided in the RMA.

#### **3.1 Step 1: Mandatory public notification in certain circumstances – s.95A (2-3)**

The applicant has requested that the application be notified.

#### **3.2 Other notification tests.**

Given the outcome of Step 1 above, no other assessment of the notification threshold for public notification or limited notification is required.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION 95A AND 95C OF THE ACT**

#### **UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to Sections 95A of the Act, the Non-complying application by Gisborne District Council for the discharge of untreated wastewater from the Gisborne wastewater network within the Gisborne Reticulated Services Area in situations where the wastewater network has been inundated with rainwater in heavy rain (wet weather overflows) and also in cases where there is a malfunction or blockage in the network (dry weather overflows) be processed on a public notification basis with service provided to the parties attached in Schedule 1.

Reporting Officer:



Todd Whittaker

Independent Planning Consultant

Date: 1/08/2020

## Schedule 1: Service parties for GDC Overflow Application

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East Region, Fish and Game Council	Eben	Herbert	eherbert@fishandgame.org.nz

Eastland Port	Marty	Bayley	Marty.Bayley@eastland.nz
Department of Conservation	Resource Management Act Central Contact Point		rma@doc.govt.nz
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Midway Surf Club	David	Corrin	david.corrin@glencore.co.nz
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