

ASSOCIATED NOTES

SEWAGE TANK EFFLUENT DISCHARGE

To gain approval as a permitted activity, your application must comply with Environment Canterbury’s Transitional Regional Plan **and** the proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan. Details of the relevant conditions and rules are as follows:

(If your application is for the Kaikoura District, contact Customer Services for a copy of the Nelson Marlborough Region Transitional Regional Plan.)

TRANSITIONAL REGIONAL PLAN

General authorisation for sewage tank effluent disposal

Under Section 22 of the Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967, the Canterbury Regional Council authorises the discharge of sewage tank effluent into the ground, within its region, subject to the following conditions:

1. The discharge shall only be domestic sewage and shall not exceed 2,000 litres per day from one installation. The total discharge on any one property shall not exceed the volumes specified in the following table:

Property Size	Maximum Daily Discharge	Equivalent Domestic Installation
Up to 8 ha	3,000 litres	1.5
8 to 40 ha	4,000 litres	2.0
40 to 200 ha	6,000 litres	3.0
Above 200 ha	10,000 litres	5.0

2. The discharge shall be from a sewage tank installation either in accordance with the New Zealand Standard NZS 4610: Household Septic Tank Systems or with the approval of the appropriate officer of the relevant territorial authority.
3. Where highest groundwater levels can be closer than 30 metres from the ground surface, the discharge shall be treated so that the final discharge contains less than 1,000 faecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml sample (see condition 5).
4. The following separation distances shall be maintained between bores and discharge systems:

	Bore less than 70m deep drawing water from an unconfined aquifer.	Bore greater than 70m deep or drawing water from an artesian aquifer below the aquifer into which the effluent is discharged.
Public Supply Bore abstracting greater than 20m ³ /day of water used for domestic purposes.	1,000m up-gradient. 200m in any other direction.	100m in any direction.
Public Supply Bore abstracting less than 20m ³ /day of water used for domestic purposes.	200m up-gradient. 50m in any other direction.	50m in any direction.
Any Bore not used for Public Supply.	50m up-gradient. 30m in any other direction (see condition 5).	20m in any direction.

5. Where highest groundwater levels are deeper than 30 metres from the ground surface, effluent can be discharged down a soakage hole. The up-gradient separation distance of 50 metres between the disposal system and a bore not used for public water supply as set out in the above table shall be increased to 100 metres.
6. The discharge shall be located further than 20 metres from any surface water resource or from the mean spring high water mark of the sea.
7. Discharges from dwellings resulting from subdivisions approved or proposed after 28 September 1991, are not authorised by this general authorisation unless conditions (1) – (6) are met; and
 - (a) the subdivision creates only one additional lot from which domestic sewage can be discharged; or
 - (b) if as a consequence of the subdivision, the volume and location of existing septic tank effluent discharges do not change; or
 - (c) the minimum lot size of the subdivision is greater than or equal to four hectares.
8. Notwithstanding conditions (1) – (6), existing disposal systems for which Drainage and Plumbing permits have been granted by the relevant territorial authority and which are correctly installed in accordance with requirements on the relevant permit by 28 September 1991 shall be authorised by this General Authorisation. Any modification, repair or extension of existing disposal systems shall not be exempted by this condition, unless the change satisfies condition (3).
9. Disposal systems serving any facility in an area not subject to the issue of a Drainage and Plumbing permit by the relevant territorial authority shall not be authorised by this general authorisation.

PROPOSED CANTERBURY NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN

Rule WQL8 Discharge of contaminants onto or into land from an individual on-site sewage and wastewater treatment and land application system - permitted activity.

ACTIVITY

The discharge of contaminants onto or into land from an individual on-site sewage and wastewater treatment and land application system including effluent from a commercial dog kennel or cattery:

- (a) which exists at the date of notification of this rule, or
- (b) for which consent under the Building Act 1991 has been issued or an application has been accepted; or
- (c) for which consent under the Building Act 1991 is applied for and issued after the date of notification of this rule;

is –

1. a **permitted activity** if the discharge:
 - (a) exists at the date of notification of this rule and the discharge complies with Conditions 1 to 8 of this Rule, or
 - (b) for which consent under the Building Act 1991 has been issued or an application has been accepted and the discharge complies with Conditions 1 to 8 of this Rule; or
 - (c) is from a building for which consent under the Building Act 1991 is applied for and issued after the date of notification of this rule and the discharge complies with all of the conditions of this rule.
2. a **discretionary activity** if the discharge does not comply with any one or more of Conditions 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 12, 14 to 21 or 23 of this Rule, in which case a resource consent under Rule WQL57 is required;
3. a **non-complying activity** if the discharge does not comply with any one or more of Conditions 4, 8 or 22 of this Rule, in which case a resource consent under Rule WQL61 is required;
4. a **prohibited activity** if the discharge does not comply with Condition 13 of this Rule, in which case no resource consent will be granted under Rule WQL15.

CONDITIONS

1. The discharge shall only comprise:
 - (a) domestic sewage effluent; or
 - (b) animal effluent or washdown water from a commercial dog kennel or a cattery.
2. The maximum volume of the discharge from an individual system shall not exceed two cubic metres per day.
3. The sum of all the discharges on a property shall not exceed:

- (a) three cubic metres per day on a property of up to eight hectares; or
 - (b) four cubic metres per day on a property of between eight and forty hectares; or
 - (c) six cubic metres per day on a property of between forty and 200 hectares; or
 - (d) ten cubic metres per day on a property of more than 200 hectares.
4. The discharge shall not result in effluent or washdown water flowing, seeping, or ponding on the surface of the ground.
5. There is no sewage pipeline network available to collect the discharge. A connection shall be made to a sewage pipeline network within six months of a network becoming available. For the purpose of this condition, “available” means:
 - (a) a sewage pipeline network system passes within 30 metres of the property boundary; and
 - (b) the network operator will accept the discharge.
6. A discharge that existed prior to notification of this rule is authorised under this rule provided an effluent filter shall be fitted in accordance with Condition 16 by the third anniversary of the date this rule becomes operative.
7. When there is a change to the nature or volume of the discharge, or any modification to the system, as a result of:
 - (a) an alteration of a building that requires authorisation under the Building Act 1991; or
 - (b) the connection to the system of a new or replacement building, or relocated building; or
 - (c) any alteration to the existing system, excluding routine maintenance of the system or fitting an effluent filter in accordance with Condition 6;the discharge shall comply with Conditions 9 to 21 inclusive of this rule.
8. Where the discharge occurs in a Community Drinking Water Supply Protection Zone for a well listed in Schedule WQL2, the discharge shall comply with Conditions 10 to 21 of this rule:
 - (a) by the fifth anniversary of the date this rule becomes operative; or
 - (b) when there is a change to the nature or volume of the discharge or any modification to the system under Condition 7.
9. The discharge shall not occur:
 - (a) within 20 metres of a river, lake, artificial watercourse, or the Coastal marine area; or
 - (b) at an elevation higher than 1000 metres above sea level; or
 - (c) on land with an average slope greater than 20 degrees; or
 - (d) on land:
 - (i) that is likely to be flooded from a river or lake in an event with an Annual Exceedance Probability of two percent (1 in 50 year event) or more; or
 - (ii) where water is likely to pond in a rainfall event with an Annual Exceedance Probability of two percent (1 in 50 year event) or more; or
 - (e) within 20 metres of the boundary of a wetland;
 - (i) listed in Schedule WTL1: Moderate and higher significance wetlands; or
 - (ii) any other wetland unless the taking, use, damming or diversion of water is permitted under Rule WTL 2 or Rule WTL 3.
10. The discharge shall not occur where the land is located over:
 - (a) an unconfined or semi-confined aquifer, where the highest groundwater level, which can reasonably be expected at the point of discharge based upon relevant and available groundwater data is;
 - (i) less than two metres from the ground surface; and
 - (ii) less than six metres from the ground surface unless the land application system consists of a drip irrigation system as described in Condition 14(b); or
 - (b) the Coastal Confined Gravel Aquifer System, and there is:
 - (i) less than two metres of undisturbed material between the point of discharge and the Aquifer 1; or
 - (ii) less than two metres of unsaturated sediment above any water table overlying Aquifer 1.
11. Separation distances shall be maintained:
 - (a) between a well and a discharge system that occurs outside of a Community Drinking Water Supply Protection Zone, as specified in Part A of Schedule WQL 6 ; and
 - (b) between discharge systems, as specified in Part B of Schedule WQL 6, unless the land application system consists of a drip irrigation system as described in Condition 14(b), and the site in addition to all adjacent properties are either on a reticulated water supply or are one hectare or more in size.
12. The minimum separation distance between the discharge and a property boundary shall be:
 - (a) 50 metres to the down gradient boundary in the direction of groundwater flow at the site and 30 metres to any other property boundary; or
 - (b) two metres to any property boundary if the land application system consists of a drip irrigation system as described in Condition 14(b).
13. There shall be no discharge of sewage effluent directly to surface water or directly into groundwater.
14. The land application system shall consist of either:
 - (a) a treatment trench, bed or mound:

- (i) with media of at least 600 millimetres thick; and
 - (ii) of which the media shall be of a grade that fits within the 2A envelope on the diagram in Schedule WQL8; and
 - (iii) to which the discharge is pumped, or is dosed in fixed quantities, so that the effluent is applied to the treatment trench, bed or mound evenly at a rate of not more than 50 millimetres per day; or
 - (b) a pressure compensating drip irrigation system through which the discharge is applied evenly, and at a rate which shall not exceed the value in Table 4.2A4 in the Australian/New Zealand Standard 1547:2000 On-site domestic wastewater management for the soil type at the site.
15. Where the land application system consists of a treatment trench, bed or mound, as specified in Condition 14(a), there shall be sufficient additional land available on the property to allow a replacement land application system to be installed.
16. The effluent shall pass through a proprietary effluent filter before discharge to the land application system.
17. A copy of the design plan of the treatment and land application system or soakage hole shall be submitted to Environment Canterbury at least twenty working days prior to the installation of the system.
18. When the construction of the treatment and land application system or soakage hole is completed:
- (a) the work shall be certified by a suitably qualified and competent person as having been carried out in accordance with the design plan; and
 - (b) a copy of the certificate shall be forwarded to Environment Canterbury within twenty working days following completion of the work.
19. The treatment and land application system shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the system's design specification for maintenance.
20. The primary treatment tank or chamber shall:
- (a) have an access point or points for inspecting and maintaining the effluent filter, monitoring the accumulation of sludge and desludging the tank or chamber. The access point or points shall be accessible for these purposes at all times; and
 - (b) be inspected at least once a year and the depth of accumulated sludge in the primary treatment tank or chamber measured; and
 - (c) be desludged when the accumulated scum and sludge occupy more than two thirds of the volume of the tank or chamber.
21. The following information shall be recorded, and a copy of these records made available to Environment Canterbury upon request:
- (a) maintenance of the treatment and land application system, including inspection, desludging or remedial work; and
 - (b) date works are undertaken and the name of the company and person undertaking the work.
22. The discharge shall not occur within a Community Drinking Water Supply Protection Zone for a well listed in Schedule WQL 2.
23. The discharge may occur via a soakage hole provided:
- (a) the discharge is from a system for which Building Consent was issued after the date of notification of this rule; and
 - (b) the discharge is located within Zone SM as shown on Map Volume Part 1- Planning Maps; and
 - (c) the discharge also complies with Conditions 1 to 5, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22, of this rule but does not need to comply any other condition this rule;
 - (d) the effluent shall pass through a proprietary effluent filter before discharge; and
 - (e) the depth of the soakage hole does not exceed three metres.

Rule WQL57 Discharge of a contaminant onto or into land - discretionary activity.

ACTIVITY

In relation to the discharge of contaminants from individual on-site land application systems, except where it is a permitted activity under Rule WQL8

The discharge of a contaminant onto or into land; is -

1. a discretionary activity if the discharge complies with the Condition of this Rule;
2. a non-complying activity if the discharge does not comply with the Condition of this Rule, in which case a resource consent under Rule WQL61 is required.

CONDITIONS

1. The discharge shall not occur within a Community Drinking Water Supply Protection Zone for a well listed in Schedule WQL2.