



Completing your Application Form for a Discharge Permit to Discharge Contaminants to Water or Land

A Discharge Permit is issued by Horizons Regional Council (HRC) allowing you to do something that otherwise would contravene restrictions on discharges to land and water under Section 15 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Activities Requiring a Discharge Permit under Section 15 of the RMA

Discharge Permits are required for activities that may pollute the land or water. Depending on their effects, Discharge Permits may be required for:

- Discharge of contaminants into water or into/onto land;
- Discharges from a dairymshed, piggery, oxidation pond, septic tank and industrial sites; and
- Discharge of water into water, surplus irrigation water into streams or rivers.

Completing the Application Form

Your reading and understanding of the information below will assist you in completing Questions 6 - 13 on the application form.

Question 6

You must clearly identify the location of the land where the proposed activity will take place. For example, provide a street address, describe a well-known landmark nearby, or provide the rural number or a dairy supply number.

Questions 7 and 8

The valuation number and legal description of the property. We require the legal description for the relevant land where the discharges will take place, not necessarily the whole property. These can be found on a rates assessment Statements.

Question 9

What is required in a locality and site plan?

- the discharge point(s);
- neighbouring and downstream property boundaries (named);
- any roads (named);
- any existing works;
- any relevant waterbodies (named); and
- catchments contributing to the discharge points.

The above can be shown on a farm plan, surveyor's map or aerial photograph.

Question 10

How do I describe the activity and quantities?

If applying for a dairymshed discharge complete the *Dairymshed Effluent Discharge Application Form* which assists in answering this question.

For a consent to discharge contaminants into water or into/onto land, we require a description of:

- the source of contaminants for example, stock (dairymshed, piggery, poultry - give number of animals involved);
 - septic tanks;
 - stormwater;
 - industrial premise (describe type)

- the nature of the contaminants;
- any alternatives to the discharge;
- where the contaminants are to be discharged;
- how the discharge is to be treated (e.g anaerobic digestion, oxidation pond);
- the method of discharge (eg vacuum tanker, spray irrigation);
- the maximum volume of contaminant/water discharged hourly (m³);
- number of hours per day the discharge will occur;
- whether discharge strength will be constant or seasonal;
- the outlet structure;
- whether the activity may result in a risk of erosion;
- whether the activity involves silt build up;
- the name of the relevant lake, river, or stream (discharge to water only); and
- the soils and subsoils (discharge into/onto land only).

Question 11

Effect of the activity on the environment. This is the most important question that HRC considers when dealing with your application. Under the RMA (Fourth Schedule) you are required to describe how your activity may affect the environment and ways you can avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects. To help you do this, you must:

- Identify and assess any good and bad environmental effects that your activity will have.

This could include such factors as :

- could the discharge affect water or air quality and if so, how;
- could it have any impact on plant and animal life;
- does it involve areas where food is gathered;
- is it near to significant wetlands;
- will the discharge cause noise or odour emission; and
- will the discharge cause any visual effects in receiving waters.

- Whether the effects you have identified are temporary, permanent or seasonal.
- Identify any other people or groups (apart from your neighbours identified in Question 12) that may be affected by your proposal. This could include iwi, special interest or recreation groups. Outline any consultations you have had with these groups and how you have taken any concerns into account.
- Identify any surrounding areas of particular aesthetic or scientific value (eg. waterfalls, rapids, archaeological sites) and the likely effects your proposal will have on these areas.
- Identify any recreational activities carried out in the area (eg. swimming, fishing, boating) and the likely effects your proposal will have on these activities.
- Provide details of a contingency (alternative) plan in the event of a breakdown of the system used for the discharge.
- Provide details of treatment and disposal system maintenance programme.
- Describe how and by whom any environmental effects will be monitored.

Question 12

Which neighbours must I identify?

- each owner/occupier with a property, a lake, a river, or a stream as a common boundary with the property for which you need the consent; and
- any other affected parties, for example, local iwi or the Department of Conservation, or the Fish and Game Council. It is to your advantage to consult with these groups about your proposed activity before you lodge your application.

Question 13

Do I need any further consents? To help answer this question refer to our brochure called Information on Resource Consents.

Horizons Regional Council's Consents Team can be contacted on free phone 0508 800 800 for more information.

