



**WELLINGTON WATER LTD STAGE 2 GLOBAL
STORMWATER DISCHARGE CONSENT:**
Resource Consent Application Summary



1.0 OVERVIEW

Wellington Water Limited (Wellington Water), as a Council Controlled Organisation of Upper Hutt City Council, Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council, is applying for resource consent for the discharge of stormwater, including stormwater occasionally contaminated with wastewater, from the existing and future local authority stormwater networks.

Our application seeks consent for a 35-year period, subject to:

- Progressively reducing the adverse effects of our stormwater discharges
- Collaborating with mana whenua to determine priorities and to review our stormwater management strategy and prepare sub-catchment management plans
- Implementing a community engagement framework for ongoing information sharing over the duration of the consent
- Regular checks on and reporting about how successful the stormwater management strategy and management plans have been.

This document provides a summary of our application. You can find significant further details in the main body of the application.

2.0 STORMWATER DISCHARGES

Stormwater is generated when rainfall runs off the land. The stormwater network serves a critical function in our urban areas by collecting this runoff and conveying it away from roads and urban properties. By doing so the network reduces the risks to people and property from stormwater flooding.

However, the discharges of stormwater from the stormwater network can also cause adverse effects. These adverse effects arise because our paved surfaces and the network pipes concentrate the volume of stormwater and intensify its velocity which can contribute to scouring of waterways and sedimentation. In addition, on its journey across the urban landscape, stormwater collects litter and various contaminants that affect the water quality and aquatic ecosystem health of our waterbodies.

The effects of stormwater discharges from our stormwater network can be grouped into the following general types:

- Changes to the natural flow pattern of our waterbodies
- Channelisation of streams and changes to riparian margins
- Increases in suspended solids and sediments
- Increases in toxic substances
- Changes to the nutrient regime
- Faecal matter and pathogen effects on human health, recreational use and mahinga kai, and
- Litter

3.0 OUR PROPOSAL

We plan to progressively reduce the adverse effects of our stormwater discharges over the next 35 years through three inter-related elements. As shown in Figure 1, these are:

- The Collaborative Committee – this would assist in delivering Te Mana o te Wai, provide oversight to the consent implementation, and set the priorities for the preparation and implementation of Sub-catchment Management Plans
- The Stormwater Management Strategy
- The implementation of workstreams under the Stormwater Management Strategy, including the preparation and implementation of the Sub-catchment Management Plans.



Figure 1: Key components of our approach to the management of our stormwater discharges

At the heart of this approach is our commitment to implement Te Mana o te Wai. Te Mana o te Wai is a concept that refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of water protects the health and well-being of the wider environment and the community.

To implement Te Mana o Te Wai we would seek to achieve three broad objectives:

1. Safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health, biodiversity and mahinga kai
2. Supporting rivers, streams and coastal water that are suitable contact recreation and Māori customary use
3. Supporting sustainable urban growth.

We propose to establish a Collaborative Committee with Mana Whenua to oversee our efforts to reduce the adverse effects of stormwater discharges and with respect to these objectives. We intend to work with Mana Whenua to agree the functions of the Collaborative Committee, and anticipate that the functions of the Committee will likely include oversight of:

- The implementation of the Stormwater Management Strategy
- The regular review and update of the Stormwater Management Strategy
- The preparation and implementation of the of the Sub-catchment Management Plans
- The preparation of the Mātauranga Māori Monitoring Plan

- The preparation of the Annual Report
- The preparation, updating, and implementation of the community engagement plan.

The Committee's decisions would be informed by community groups that will be set up under this consent. We propose to establish a global community group to inform the Collaborative Committee's strategic decision making, as well as local groups to inform decision making in each stormwater sub-catchment.

The Stormwater Management Strategy is included as part of our resource consent application. A single integrated strategy will apply across the Hutt Valley, Wellington and Porirua. It sets our long-term strategy for reducing the effects of our stormwater discharges by identifying our vision, objectives and principles and by detailing the workstreams that we will implement. We propose to review and update the Stormwater Management Strategy every six years, under the oversight of the Collaborative Committee, so that it remains up to date with best practice stormwater management.

Our Stormwater Management Strategy contains two workstreams:

- Workstream 1 is intended to help maintain the status of our existing waterways in response to adverse impacts of stormwater discharges and investigate, characterise, and prioritise our catchments for Workstream 2. To deliver on the intent for workstream 1 the Stormwater Management Strategy sets out universal responses that we will apply to new urban development and five programmes for Wellington Water's investment in the management of the stormwater network (e.g. acute human health risk assessments, high risk site health checks and community awareness campaigns).
- Workstream 2 involves the development of prioritised Sub-catchment Management Plans. The capital delivery programme under these plans will support the design and construction of stormwater treatment devices. This workstream would:
 - Deliver the Sub-catchment Management Plans (in a sequenced priority order to be programmed by the Collaborative Committee and Wellington Water).
 - Deliver new assets such as raingardens or constructed wetlands that achieve multiple benefits for our community and assist to sustain mauri of our waterways, including seeking opportunities to restore our lost urban waterways.
 - Enable innovative trials across the networks to support achieving the objectives of Stormwater Management Strategy.

Under the consent we propose to deliver on these commitments through a series of detailed consent conditions. We have included draft conditions in the Appendices to our application and you can provide formal feedback on these during the submission process that will be run by the Regional Council, which we're expecting will be in the second half of 2024