

Stormwater Facts

Stormwater network discharge consents

Under the Resource Management Act (1991), the Auckland Regional Council is obliged to take action to deal with flooding, erosion or the degradation of water quality as a result of stormwater discharges. These duties are outlined in the Region's relevant planning documents including the Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Air Land and Water (PARPALW) and the Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal (PARPC).

Regional Discharges Project

The Regional Discharges Project (RDP) has been established to provide a framework for the re-authorisation of existing authorities for stormwater discharges that expired 1 October 2001. The ARC is working jointly with the Territorial Local Authorities and the Local Network Operators on this project.

The RDP promotes and implements the integrated assessment and management of catchment stormwater and wastewater overflow discharges. It aims to assess all stormwater and wastewater discharges within a catchment and to develop Integrated Catchment Management Plans so that key environmental problems from discharges are identified, prioritised and fixed.

Under the RDP, the ARC has carried out region-wide monitoring of key contaminants to identify stormwater quality problems (refer to ARC Technical Publication 203). A hydrodynamic harbour model has also been developed to allow the effects of catchment discharges to be integrated.



What is an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP)?

An ICMP is a planning tool which looks at all the stormwater and discharge environmental issues within a catchment, identifies ecologically significant areas, flooding and water quality issues, and sets out how discharges should be managed. The ICMP will consider options, provide objectives, plans and solutions to effectively manage the catchment (from both an environmental and development perspective), and will address the needs of the community. As such, it provides an integrated framework for the management and development of an area on a 'catchment-wide' basis.

Stormwater Network Discharge Consents are then issued to Territorial Authorities in line with the ICMP.

Why have an ICMP?

The PARPALW sets out a more holistic and integrated approach to the management of stormwater and wastewater networks to ensure that their operation is efficient and effective while minimizing the risks to public health and the environment. ICMPs prevent 'piece-meal' development of a catchment which could have negative effects on environmentally sensitive areas, increase flooding or degrade water quality. ICMPs enable growth in line with the required environmental approach.

A number of conditions are attached to stormwater network discharge consents relating to the standards which the ARC has set for stormwater management throughout the Auckland Region. For example, developments usually have to comply with the guidelines laid out in Technical Publication 10 'Stormwater Management Devices: Design Guidelines Manual' (May 2003).

It is important to realize that these network discharge consents relate only to the diversion and discharge of stormwater, and do not usually consent any other activities under the PARPALW, such as Land Use: Sediment Control, Land Use Works in a Watercourse, Coastal Permits, Water Take Permits, etc. Even with an ICMP and stormwater network consent in place, developers or a TLA still need to apply to the ARC for other relevant consents.

Further Information

For further information relating to Stormwater Management please go to the ARC website where relevant publications and fact sheets are posted on the website and can be downloaded. <http://www.arc.govt.nz>

Alternatively, you can contact ENVIROLINE on (09) 366 2000 for more information regarding stormwater consents.



The typical phases of urban development (bush, pasture, subdivision and mature urban) should be managed on a catchment-wide basis.

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