

Policy Assessment Checklist for Wastewater Discharges to Land less than 14,000 Litres Per Day

Important notes to applicant	
<p>Please read these carefully and make an assessment against these policies in your Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE). These policies are available in full within the respective planning documents available on Otago Regional Council's website. Reading the full version of each policy is advised.</p> <p>An Assessment of Environmental Effects is required to support your application. This must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 4 and section 104(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991. This form is intended as a checklist to guide the assessment of objectives and policies required by Schedule 4 and section 104(1)(b).</p> <p>The objectives and policies summarised below are those most commonly applicable to discharges of wastewater to land. This should not be considered an exhaustive list and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that an assessment is made against ALL relevant objectives and policies. Consideration of other objectives and policies will likely be required if the proposed discharge site is located near any river, lake, wetland, coastal margin or site of cultural significance.</p>	
Objective / Policy Summary	Assessment completed in attached AEE? [tick]
Regional Policy Statement for Otago	
Policy 5.5.3(d): Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of activities that have the potential to contaminate soils.	
Policy 5.5.5(c): Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the degradation of freshwater resources caused by the introduction of contaminants resulting from land use activities.	
Policy 6.55(d): Promoting a reduction in adverse effects of contaminant discharges into Otago's water bodies through promoting discharges to land where practicable.	
Policy 7.5.2: Avoiding, remedying or mitigating any discharges which have adverse effects on the air resource, including effects on odour.	
Policy 14.5.5: Monitoring the effects of resource consents and providing for the review of the appropriateness of the issue, terms and conditions of resource consents.	
Proposed and Partially Operative Regional Policy Statements for Otago	
Policy 1.1.1: Providing for the economic wellbeing of Otago's people and communities by enabling sustainable use and development of natural and physical resources.	
Policy 1.1.2: Providing for social and cultural wellbeing and health and safety.	
Policy 1.2.1: Achieve integrated management of Otago's natural and physical resources.	
Policy 2.1.2: Taking the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi into account.	
Policy 2.2.1: Managing the natural environment to support Kāi Tahu wellbeing.	
Policy 2.2.2: Recognising and providing for the protection of sites of cultural significance to Kāi Tahu including the values that contribute to the site being significant.	
Policy 2.2.4: Enable sustainable use of Māori land.	

<p>Policy 3.1.1: Managing for freshwater values including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or enhance ecosystem health in all Otago aquifers, and rivers, lakes, wetlands, and their margins • Maintain good water quality, including in the coastal marine area, or enhance it where it has been degraded • Maintain or enhance the natural functioning of rivers, lakes, and wetlands, their riparian margins, and aquifers • Maintain or enhance the quality and reliability of existing drinking and stock water supplies • Recognise and provide for important recreation values • Maintain or enhance the amenity and landscape values of rivers, lakes, and wetlands • Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of natural hazards, including flooding and erosion • Avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on existing infrastructure that is reliant on fresh water. 	
<p>Policy 5.4.1: Manage discharges that are objectionable or offensive to Kāi Tahu and/or the wider community.</p>	
<p>Regional Plan: Water for Otago (RPW)</p>	
<p>Objective 7.A.1: Maintain water quality in Otago's fresh water, but enhance water quality where it is degraded.</p>	
<p>Objective 7.A.2: Enable the discharge of water or contaminants to water or land, in a way that maintains water quality and supports natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values.</p>	
<p>Objective 7.A.3: To have individuals and communities manage their discharges to reduce adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on water quality.</p>	
<p>Policy 7.B.1: Manage the quality of water in Otago's fresh water by recognising the differences in the effects and management of point and non-point source discharges; describing in Schedule 15 characteristics indicative of good water quality, setting receiving water numerical limits and targets; maintaining good quality water, enhancing water quality where it does not meet Schedule 15 limits, recognising discharge effects on groundwater and promoting the discharge of contaminants to land in preference to water.</p>	
<p>Policy 7.B.2: Avoid objectionable discharges of water or contaminants to maintain the natural and human use values, including Kāi Tahu values, of Otago's fresh water.</p>	
<p>Policy 7.B.3: Allow discharges of water or contaminants to freshwater that have minor effects or that are short term discharges with short term adverse effects.</p>	
<p>Policy 7.B.4: Have regard to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the ability of the land to assimilate the water or contaminants; and b) any potential for soil contamination; and c) any potential for land instability; and d) any potential adverse effects on water quality; and e) any potential adverse effects on use of any proximate coastal marine area for contact recreation and seafood gathering. 	
<p>Policy 7.B.6: Considering the need for and the extent of any zone for physical mixing within which water will not meet the characteristics and limits described in Schedule 15 by taking account of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the sensitivity of the receiving environment; and b) the natural and human use values; and c) the natural character of the water body; and d) the amenity values supported by the water body; and e) the physical processes acting on the area of discharge; and f) the particular discharge including contaminant type, concentration and volume; and g) the provision of cost effective community infrastructure; and h) good water quality as described in Schedule 15. 	
<p>Policy 7.B.8: Encourage adaptive management and innovation that reduce the level of contaminants in discharges.</p>	

Policy 7.C.1: Have regard to opportunities to enhance the existing water quality of the receiving water body where it is degraded.	
Policy 7.C.2: Have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; b) The financial implications, and the effects on the environment of the proposed method of discharge when compared with alternative means; and c) The current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the proposed method of discharge can be successfully applied. 	
Policy 7.C.3: Have regard to any relevant standards and guidelines in imposing conditions on the discharge consent.	
Policy 9.4.1: Ensuring that the suitability of aquifers to support recognised uses of groundwater identified in Schedule 3 is maintained when discharging contaminants.	
Policy 9.4.18(c): Managing the vulnerability of groundwater to leachate contamination by identifying high risk areas.	