

From: [Councillor Support](#)
To: [Russell Lund](#)
Cc: [Council 2022-2025 \(Elected Members\)](#); [Executive Leadership Team \(ELT\)](#); [Scott Campbell](#)
Subject: FW: Information Request - Wastewater Warrington & Waikouaiti
Date: Friday, 29 August 2025 01:38:00 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora Mr Lund,

Below is the response to your information request regarding wastewater systems at Warrington and Waikouaiti.

R Lund question 1: Can DCC advise if the existing wastewater systems at Warrington and Waikouaiti are compliant with current ORC standards, and if not, if the breaches are considered minor or major?

DCC response 1:

1. The DCC owns and operates wastewater treatment and disposal systems at Warrington and Waikouaiti. The DCC holds four discharge consents related to its Warrington and Waikouaiti wastewater systems.
2. The table below summarises the four consents and their compliance status as at the date of the most recent compliance audit completed by the Otago Regional Council (ORC). The ORC uses a four-tier grading system for consent compliance. The four compliance grades are: full compliance; low-risk non-compliance; moderate non-compliance; significant non-compliance.

Consent number	Consent type	Consented activity	2024 ORC compliance audit grade	2024 ORC audit report non-compliance summary
2006.861.V2	Discharge to Land Permit	To discharge treated domestic wastewater to land for the purpose of disposal of wastewater from the Warrington Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System.	Low Risk Non-Compliance	Exceedances of discharge quantity limits in October 2024, attributed to the effects of a wet weather event. Late reporting of monthly discharge and groundwater quality monitoring results in October 2023 and March 2024. Exceedances of the discharge quality limit for Total Nitrogen during the audit period (these were also resolved during the audit period).
2007.014	Discharge to Air Permit	To discharge contaminants to air associated with the ongoing operation of the Warrington wastewater treatment and disposal system.	Full Compliance	N/A
RM12.190.01	Discharge to Air Permit	To discharge to air odour, aerosols and spray drift associated with the Waikouaiti sewage treatment plant and land application systems.	Full Compliance	N/A
RM12.190.02	Discharge to Land permit	To discharge treated municipal wastewater to land from the Waikouaiti sewage treatment plant and land application systems.	Moderate Non-Compliance	Exceedances of discharge quantity limits in August 2023 and July and October 2024. Causes identified as a faulty data transmitter (August 2023) and the effects of wet weather events (July and October 2024). Exceedances of the discharge quality limits for ammoniacal nitrogen and faecal coliforms.

3. The ammoniacal nitrogen limit exceedance at Waikouaiti was the subject of an abatement notice issued by ORC to DCC in June 2022. Following the completion of improvement actions by DCC the ammoniacal nitrogen non-compliance was resolved and the abatement notice cancelled (as of November 2024).
4. The faecal coliforms limit exceedance at Waikouaiti relates to an elevated result in July 2024, which the DCC considers (based on other sampling carried out around the same time) may not be reliable. Faecal coliforms continue to be non-compliant with the relevant discharge quality limit due to the previous elevated result. The consent limit is set as "No sample to exceed (based on 95% upper confidence limits of the past 8 samples collected)." This means the faecal coliforms non-compliance will remain in place until at least mid-2026 due to compliance samples being required quarterly and the statistical calculation the limit is based on. Faecal coliform sample results following July 2024 have so far been below the level needed to achieve compliance in mid-2026.
5. Since the 2024 ORC compliance audits, the following new non-compliances have occurred in relation to the consents held by DCC:
 - a. **consent 2006.861.V2 (Warrington discharge to land):** the discharge quantity limits were exceeded in June 2025. This non-compliance will be assessed and graded by the ORC during the 2025 compliance audit.
 - b. **consent RM12.190.02 (Waikouaiti discharge to land):** the discharge quality limit for Total Suspended Solids was exceeded during the period January to July 2025. This non-compliance, which has now been resolved, will be assessed and graded by the ORC during the 2025 compliance audit.

R Lund question 2: Can DCC confirm if all or part of the wastewater systems at Waikouaiti and Warrington are centralized systems or septic tanks?

DCC response 2:

6. Part, in both cases. The DCC wastewater system at Warrington services properties in the urban parts of Warrington. The DCC wastewater system at Waikouaiti services properties in the urban parts of Waikouaiti and Karitane.

7. The majority of properties in Warrington and Waikouaiti that are outside of the areas serviced by the DCC systems are likely to use private on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (i.e. septic tanks). There are also several privately owned and operated wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems servicing parts of the wider Blueskin Bay and Waikouaiti areas that are subject to ORC discharge consents.

Kā mihi,

Jackie Harrison

Manager Governance

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From: russell@lunds.co.nz

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 8:15 PM

To: dcc@dcc.govt.nz

Subject: Information Request - Wastewater Warrington & Waikouaiti

Can DCC advise if the existing wastewater systems at Warrington and Waikouaiti are compliant with current ORC standards, and if not, if the breaches are considered minor or major.

Can DCC confirm if all or part of the wastewater systems at Waikouaiti and Warrington are centralized systems or septic tanks.

Many thanks

Russell Lund



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