

8 April 2020



Dear 

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act Request

I refer to your e-mail requesting “a list of unconsented discharges – whether to land or water – from the Dunedin City Council Wastewater treatment plant since 1 July 2016, and any advice provided to the Otago Regional Council relating to those discharges.”

The DCC is currently working with ORC staff to clarify which of the following wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) discharges require resource consent, and which are adequately covered by the emergency provisions (section 330) of the RMA:

- **Discharge of primary treated wastewater from the Lawyers Head outfall at Tahuna WWTP:**
Usually, treated wastewater from the Tahuna WWTP is discharged at the Tahuna outfall. The Lawyers Head outfall is utilised when periods of heavy rainfall result in high volumes of wastewater being received at the WWTPs, due to inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the wastewater network. The Tahuna WWTP is designed so that when wastewater volumes are too large for the plant to treat, and to prevent flooding of the plant, wastewater flows over a weir to the Lawyers Head outfall after being screened to remove solids. We have a consent to use this outfall when the Tahuna outfall is under maintenance, however this consent does not cover the use of the Lawyers Head outfall for emergency situations such as periods of heavy rainfall.
- **Discharge of treated/primary treated wastewater from the Mosgiel WWTP to the Silver Stream.**
Usually, treated wastewater from the Mosgiel WWTP is piped to the Green Island WWTP and then discharged via the Waldronville outfall. In periods of heavy rainfall, high volumes of wastewater mean that the flow is too large for the pipeline to Green Island. To prevent flooding of the Mosgiel WWTP, treated/primary treated wastewater is discharged to the Silver Stream.

Since 1 July 2016, unconsented discharges have occurred on the following occasions at these outfalls/plants. All of these discharge events were associated with periods of very high rainfall.

Lawyers Head Outfall

- 1 February 2018

- 19-21 November 2018
- 4 February 2020

Mosgiel WWTP

- 1 February 2018
- 19-21 November 2018

Please find attached notification emails sent to the Otago Regional Council regarding these discharges.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lapham', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Lapham
Governance Support Officer