

# Regionwide Stormwater Network Discharge Consent (NDC)



# Auckland Regionwide Stormwater Network Discharge Consent

The regionwide stormwater Network Discharge Consent (NDC) is a consent that will be held by Auckland Council's Healthy Waters department. The decision to grant the consent was made by an Independent Hearing Panel on 16 April 2019 following public notification under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The appeal period closes on 10 May 2019 and, subject to any appeals or objections, the stormwater network discharge consent will commence on 11 May 2019.

The consent authorises the diversion of stormwater through all of the public stormwater network and discharge of that stormwater into receiving environments. Receiving environments include land, rivers and streams, lakes, groundwater aquifers, and the coastal marine area.

The scope of the NDC covers:

- (a) existing diversions and discharges to and from the public stormwater network
- (b) new or modified diversions and discharges that result from the upgrading of the public network
- (c) future diversions and discharges that result from the extension of the public network to service intensification and greenfield growth.

This consent will be the largest of its kind in New Zealand and is unique in the approach to addressing future diversion and discharge. The consent provides a process for considering how to manage new discharges from the public network by specifying the stormwater management requirements in different scenarios. It will enable the approach to be tailored to specific sites and developments through the preparation of stormwater management plans. This process-based approach will provide both flexibility and certainty for developers.

## 1.1 Relationship to the Auckland Unitary Plan and Auckland Council Stormwater Bylaw

Chapter E8 of the Auckland Unitary Plan provides the rule framework for authorising stormwater diversion and discharges within the region.

The Auckland Unitary Plan permits the diversion of stormwater into the public stormwater network under Rule E8.4.1 (A1) on the basis that Auckland Council would hold a consent for the discharge of stormwater from its network into the receiving environments.

Approvals of new connections and vested assets is still required under the Auckland Stormwater Bylaw and includes meeting the requirements of Schedule 4 of the NDC and the Stormwater Code of Practice. This ensures that discharges into the public stormwater network do not damage the network or compromise the council's ability to comply with any applicable network discharge consent.

## 1.2 Development requirements

The NDC sets out how we will manage our network, that is both existing and future discharges into and from the network. It sets out a range of requirements that new developments looking to be authorised under the NDC need to consider.

This consent will provide for growth and redevelopment, improve performance and reduce existing adverse effects. These cannot be achieved by changes to the public stormwater network alone, a holistic approach that also incorporates management at or near source is required. Accordingly, the NDC specifies stormwater management requirements for developments that are connecting to the public stormwater network.

Greenfield and larger redevelopment sites are required to prepare stormwater management plans to enable stormwater management to be tailored to specific sites to address effects of stormwater. This enables flexibility for a development, while ensuring the requirements of the NDC and for vested assets are met.

An aim of the NDC is to enable sustainable development and redevelopment, as envisaged by the Auckland Unitary Plan. It will also facilitate appropriate stormwater management, connections and the vesting of public stormwater assets through a streamlined process. This requires Healthy Waters to work with the development community to adopt processes that work for both parties. These processes are currently being prepared and further information and guidance will follow in due course.

## 1.3 More information

Once the appeal period has passed and any appeals have been resolved, further information and guidance will be made available through the Auckland Design Manual. This will include:

- Development requirements:
  - Schedule 4 (stormwater management requirements - greenfield, brownfield, thresholds)
  - Quick reference guide to schedule 4 triggers
  - Stormwater management plans (including template and template guidance)
  - Process to get SMP adopted into the NDC
- Brownfields development stormwater management guidance (practice note/engineering guidance)
- Adopted stormwater management plans will be available on Auckland Council GeoMaps GIS Viewer

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