



Hahei WWTP

Annual Report – April 2021 to March 2022
Resource Consent 135636

**RE: HAHEI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
Annual Report – 2021-22
Resource Consents: 135636**

This report covers the compliance of the Hahei WWTP discharge to the Wigmore Stream with the operational resource consent requirements. The time period for this report is 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022.

Please find attached the supporting monitoring data for the daily effluent disposed and the analytical data compliance for the period above as **Appendix A**.

Recommendations

Continue the review the SCADA flow data to provide accurate online figures for the daily influent and effluent discharge volumes to reduce the reliance on field data. Additionally, continuous flow data for the effluent should be made available to TCDC's online data management system for inclusion in the consent reporting.

Individual testing kits for Ammonia, pH and other equipment should also be made available at Hahei WWTP for more accurate data. Currently, the operators are having to take samples to the Whitianga SBR labs for weekly monitoring, which brings into question the validity of the sample due to time and temperature constraints.

Solutions should also be looked into on how to provide food consistently to the ponds to reduce the likelihood of another species outbreak like the daphnia bloom last spring and maintain their health.

Condition 3: *The treatment plant and discharge to the Wigmore Stream shall be managed and operated by an appropriately trained operator.*

This condition is **compliant**.

All site operators hold a level 4 qualification in wastewater treatment at a minimum.

Condition 5: *The maximum volume of treated wastewater discharged to the Wigmore Stream shall not exceed 700 cubic metres in any 24 hour period.*

This condition is **compliant**.

Figure 1 below shows the daily effluent discharge volume for the compliance period. Please note only manual field data can be used for the effluent volumes at Hahei WWTP due to the SCADA data being inaccurate when compared to the on-site flow meter. Therefore, some effluent volumes may have been missed. However, it is believed to be unlikely that the 700 m³/day limit was exceeded. The maximum discharge volume recorded was 457 m³.

Hahei WWTP		
Total Influent Flow	31,024	m ³
Maximum Effluent Flow	457	m ³
Average Effluent Flow	260	m ³
Total Effluent Flow	33,019	m ³

Figure 1 - Summary of Flows at Hahei WWTP for 2021/22

Condition 6: *The maximum discharge rate of treated wastewater to the Wigmore Stream shall not exceed 8.1 litres per second.*

This condition is **non-compliant**.

Instantaneous flow rate data is not available for the site through SCADA at present. It seems to be installed within SCADA, but is not working properly. This issue will be brought up to the IT department soon. Unfortunately, neither is discharge hours data to be able to calculate an average discharge rate.

Condition 7: *The consent holder shall ensure that all waste entering, and treated in, the Hahei wastewater treatment plant, goes through all stages of treatment available at the plant prior to discharge. This includes the micro filtration unit.*

This condition is **compliant**.

There were no periods in the 2021 to 2022 compliance year where flows bypassed the MFU treatment.

Condition 8: *The following limits shall apply to the discharge to the Wigmore Stream from the commencement of this resource consent:*

Parameter	90 percentile, not more than one sample in each preceding 10 samples shall exceed:	Running average, over any consecutive 10 samples shall not exceed:
a) Suspended solids (g/m ³)	20	10
b) Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (cBOD ₅) (g/m ³)	20	10
c) <i>Escherichia coli</i> (cfu/100 mL)	20	10
d) Total ammoniacal nitrogen (g/m ³)	15	10
e) Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (g/m ³)	20	15
f) Total Phosphorus (g/m ³)	20	14

This condition is **non-compliant**.

	90th Percentile	Running Average
Suspended solids (g/m ³)	6.6	3.7
cBOD ₅ (g/m ³)	6.7	4.5
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (cfu/100 mL)	8.3	9.6
Total Ammoniacal nitrogen (g/m ³)	18.0	8.3
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (g/m ³)	20.5	10.3
Total Phosphorus (g/m ³)	11.5	10.1

Figure 2: 90th percentile and Running Average of sampled parameters for Hahei WWTP Effluent Discharge

Ammonia and TKN levels increased over the spring and summer period. By late January, the ammonia levels for the effluent have returned to below 1.0 mg/L, and the TKN levels to below 3.0 mg/L.

The reason for this would be the daphnia flea bloom that the plant experienced around this time (late winter to early summer). The solution to this was to see to the life of the daphnia through. The pond was also aerated to a minimum to hinder the continuous growth of the daphnia. This occurred due to low quality sewage coming through the plant and there were very minimal flows and mostly water. The low quality and volume are most likely due to the COVID-19 restrictions at the time, which meant that the bacteria in the pond did not have enough food to sustain its quality and allowed the daphnia to take over and bloom.

Please see **Appendix A** for the compliance data.

Condition 11: *A flow meter shall be installed to record, on a continuous basis, the quantity of effluent discharged on a daily basis. The device shall have a reliable calibration to water flow and shall be maintained to an accuracy of +/- 5%. Access to the meter shall be made available to the staff and agents of the Waikato Regional Council at all reasonable times.*

This condition is **compliant**.

A flow meter quantifying the effluent discharge is installed on the discharge to the Wigmore Stream. A calibration of the flowmeter was performed in August 2017 and is scheduled for re-calibration in August 2022. The 2017 calibration verification certificate has been received by WRC (WRC Document 16836622).

Condition 14: *Within 3 months of the commencement of this consent the consent holder shall install and monitor a flow recorder which shall, as a minimum, record flow in the Wigmore Stream in litres per second every 15 minutes at a suitable location upstream of the discharge authorised by this consent. The purpose of the flow monitoring is to establish a reliable correlation to flows in the Opitonui River. The datalogger shall be linked by telemetry to the Waikato Regional Council. It shall be cross referenced to the Waikato Regional Council flow recorder on the Opitonui River downstream of Awaroa Stream confluence (Waikato Regional Council site number 660.1, map reference nztm 1832431e 5926826n). The necessity for flow recording may be modified at any time following approval in writing from the Waikato Regional Council following a request in writing from the consent holder to do so. The approval process will consider a written report by the consent holder with data and explanation to show that sufficient flow monitoring of the Wigmore Stream has been obtained to have a scientifically reliable correlation to flows in the Opitonui River, or which demonstrates the inability to obtain a scientifically reliable correlation following the collection of sufficient flow data. The minimum period of flow monitoring shall include a summer/autumn period with a prolonged low flow recession.*

This condition is **compliant**.

A flow monitoring station was installed for periods January to March 2017 and March to October 2018, and removed after October 2018 due to ongoing vandalism. In the Site Compliance Report for Hahei WWTP issued by WRC on 22 July 2022, WRC advised “no further monitoring is required under this condition”.

Condition 15: *In addition to the flow monitoring required by condition 14 of this consent, the consent holder shall undertake manual low-flow gauging in the Wigmore Stream at least once during each calendar year when flows are at a seasonal summer low and the flow recorder site is operational. Where there is a prolonged period of summer low flows, the consent holder will repeat the low-flow gauging to ensure data at lower stream flows are measured. The low-flow gauging shall be undertaken at a suitable location upstream of the discharge authorised by this consent at or near the flow recorder site. The purpose of the low-flow gauging is to verify the flow records measured by the flow recorder. The low-flow gauging shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person. A copy of the results of the gauging(s) shall be forwarded to Waikato Regional*

Council with the written report required in condition 14 and 21 of this consent. The requirement for manual stream flow monitoring under this condition can cease when approval in writing from the Waikato Regional Council under condition 14 has been provided.

This condition is **compliant**.

Low flow gauging within the Wigmore Stream was not conducted during the compliance year as the flow gauging station is not operational (see condition 14).

Condition 16: Discharge and surface water monitoring:

The consent holder shall measure and characterise the quality, quantity and variability of treated effluent being discharged to the Wigmore Stream and the effects of the discharge on the quality and variability of surface water. To this end, the consent holder shall undertake sampling and analysis of the discharge and surface water as follows:

Frequency	Sample type and/or location	Parameter
a) Every 15 minutes	Wigmore Stream Refer to condition 14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water level Instantaneous flow
b) Daily	Treatment Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainfall
c) Daily	Discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume Instantaneous peak flow Average flow
d) Weekly - during the period from the start of the third week of December to the start of the third week of February - monthly otherwise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inlet of MFU Discharge, following all treatment stages and prior to entering the Wigmore Stream Wigmore Stream 50 metres upstream of discharge Wigmore Stream downstream at Pa Road bridge <p>Downstream samples to be collected within the period 1 hour either side of local low tide during daylight hours and while discharge is operating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Ammoniacal Nitrogen <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Conductivity pH Sample date and time Time of low tide occurrence closest to sample time
e) Monthly – to coincide with d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inlet of MFU Discharge, following all treatment stages and prior to entering the Wigmore Stream Wigmore Stream 50 metres upstream of the discharge Wigmore Stream downstream at Pa Road bridge <p>Downstream samples to be collected within the period 1 hour either side of local low tide during daylight hours and while discharge is operating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cBOD₅ Nitrate Nitrogen Suspended solids Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen Soluble Reactive Phosphorus Total Phosphorus by Persulphate Digestion Turbidity Sample date and time Time of low tide occurrence closest to sample time
f) Once per year in January or February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wigmore Stream 50 metres upstream of the discharge Wigmore Stream downstream at Pa Road bridge <p>Refer to condition 19 for sampling and assessment methodology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic Macroinvertebrate assessment Habitat and aquatic plant assessment Sample date and time Time of low tide occurrence closest to assessment time
g) At least once per year – to coincide with summer low flows	Wigmore Stream Additional gauging each summer may be required if low flow conditions are prolonged, to capture a series of low flow records. Refer to condition 15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow (via flow gauging) Sample date and time
h) Once every five years in January or February, commencing 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wigmore Stream 50 metres upstream of the discharge Wigmore Stream downstream at Pa Road bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish populations

This condition is **non-compliant**.

At present, it is understood no flow gauging exists on the Wigmore Stream. This means the low flow gauging was also not conducted. Additionally, instantaneous peak flow data for the effluent discharge is currently not available through TCDCs data management system.

Monthly and peak period sampling from 29 December 2021 to 20 January 2022 occurred as can be seen in **Appendix A**.

The Aquatic Macroinvertebrate and Habitat and aquatic plant assessment are included in the data summary report of the ecology survey conducted in January 2022 which is currently being finalised by our subcontractors, Tonkin & Taylor, and will be submitted once completed.

The fish population survey was not due during the compliance period.

Condition 17: All samples taken in relation to monitoring under this consent shall be collected by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s) with relevant training in the sampling and transporting of water quality samples and in accordance with the monitoring implementation plan titled "Wastewater Sampling at Hahei WWTP and Wigmore Stream" by united water, dated 1-04-2009 (Waikato Regional Council document number 1472702), or any subsequent update. This plan shall detail methods and map locations for how, when and where sampling will take place. An updated monitoring implementation plan shall be provided to the Waikato Regional Council within three months of commencement of this consent, and at two yearly intervals thereafter, or more often if any method or location changes. The Waikato Regional Council shall be provided with an updated copy of the monitoring implementation plan within one month of any update to the plan.

This condition is **compliant**.

An updated Monitoring Plan for Hahei WWTP was produced in December 2020. This is attached as **Appendix B**.

Condition 20: *Periodic reporting*

The consent holder shall provide to the Waikato Regional Council a data report by 1 December each year that this consent is current. This report shall include all data collected under condition 16 of this consent for the period 1 April to 30 September of the current year and shall identify any non-compliance within that period.

This condition is **non-compliant**.

The report covering the period April 2021 to September 2021 was not supplied in December 2021. The data for this report is included along with the annual report as **Appendix A**. Veolia has committed to provided back-dated information by mid-June and reinstating monthly reporting (which will be forwarded to WRC by TCDC) by mid-July 2022.

Condition 21: *The consent holder shall provide to the Waikato Regional Council a written monitoring report by 1 June each year that this consent is current for the 12 month period from 1 April of the preceding year to 31 March of the current year. As a minimum this report shall include the following:*

A. A summary of the monitoring results required by condition 16 of this consent for the 12 month period from 1 April of the preceding year to 31 March of the current year and a critical analysis of the information in terms of compliance and environmental effects;

- B. A comparison of data with previously collected data identifying any emerging trends;*
- C. Comment on compliance, and any reasons for non-compliance or difficulties in achieving compliance, with condition 8 of this consent;*
- D. Comment on any works that have been undertaken, or that are proposed to be undertaken in the upcoming year, to improve the environmental performance of the treatment and/or disposal system;*
- E. Report on and discuss any complaints received regarding the treatment and/or discharge of treated effluent; and*
- F. Any other issues considered important by the consent holder.*

This condition is **compliant**.

Appendix A contains the compliance data for the compliance period. This includes historic trends.

As previously discussed, the high ammonia, TKN and TP average levels have been mainly due to the daphnia bloom that occurred from early September 2021 and lasted to around the last week of December 2021. The daphnia killed the autotrophic bacteria that converts the Ammoniacal nitrogen into nitrate, hence the low nitrate levels around this time. Simultaneously, the bloom created an anaerobic environment which allowed the Phosphorus Accumulating Organisms (PAOs) to release phosphorus. With regards to the environmental effects, the daphnia bloom did not seem to have any negative impacts on Wigmore stream, as the downstream nutrient levels are very similar to the upstream nutrient levels, as can be seen on the 2-yearly Trends tab in **Appendix A**.

Spikes in the effluent nutrient concentrations are seen over the peak period, this includes ammonia, TKN, phosphorus, cBOD, and SS. Over the Christmas and New Year period the pond loading increases due to the population increase in the town. The levels of ammonia and TKN have since decreased to more normal levels.

The results from the Wigmore Stream show that the effluent discharge is mostly not having a negative effect on the environmental nutrient and bacteriological concentrations.

Condition 22: *The consent holder shall provide to the Waikato Regional Council an ecological assessment report by 1 June every two years for the duration of this consent. This report shall be prepared by a suitably qualified person or persons with relevant training in ecological monitoring and assessment. As a minimum this report shall include the following:*

- A. A summary of the ecological monitoring and water quality results required by condition 16 for the preceding two years;*
- B. A comparison of data with previously collected data identifying any emerging trends;*
- C. A critical analysis of the current ecological health of the Wigmore Stream, the potential causes of any degradation of the stream, the effects of the discharge authorised by this consent on the Wigmore Stream and downstream coastal waters;*
- D. Any other issues considered important by the ecologist.*

This condition is **compliant**.

An ecology report for monitoring done on January 2020 and March 2021 was produced in 2021 and is **attached as Appendix C**. A data summary report of the ecology survey conducted in January 2022 is currently being finalised and will be submitted once completed.

Condition 23: Contingency plan

In the event of any bypasses, other extraordinary events or failure of any critical part of the treatment plant, the consent holder shall manage the treatment plant and discharge to the Wigmore Stream in accordance with the contingency plan titled "Hahei wastewater treatment plant contingency plan 2015" by Veolia (Waikato regional council document number 3584298 and 3584310), or any subsequent update. An updated plan shall be provided to the Waikato regional council by 1 June 2018, and at three yearly intervals thereafter. The consent holder shall engage appropriately experienced persons to compile any update to the contingency plan, and it shall identify measures and notification protocols to be undertaken by the consent holder that will take into account any potential adverse effects on the Wigmore Stream and users, including but not limited to ecological effects, downstream recreational use, and the medical officer of health.

This condition is **compliant**.

An updated Hahei WWTP contingency plan was produced in late 2020. This is included as **Appendix D**.

Condition 24: Management plan

The consent holder shall provide the Waikato Regional Council with a management plan which details the procedures that will be implemented to operate in accordance with the conditions of this resource consent and the procedures that will be put into place to maximise wastewater treatment and minimise odour production. This plan shall be lodged with the Waikato Regional Council within 3 months of the commencement of this consent, and shall be reviewed and updated as a minimum annually. The plan shall address, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A. A description of the entire treatment and disposal system facility and how it is operated;*
- B. A description of routine maintenance procedures to be undertaken;*
- C. An outline of the methods to be utilised to monitor the treatment plant in an operational sense including: monitoring of influent waste water and monitoring of treatment performance;*
- D. A description of the methods to be used to ensure that sampling of the discharge as required by condition 16 of this consent is representative of overall discharge quality;*
- E. Specific management procedures for the efficient functioning of the treatment system including micro filtration unit, including measures to ensure compliance with condition 8 of this consent relating to discharge quality parameters;*
- F. Procedures for recording routine maintenance and all repairs that are undertaken;*
- G. Contingency measures in place to deal with unusual events;*
- H. Chain of command and responsibility, including contact details;*
- I. Other actions necessary to comply with the requirements of this resource consent;*
- J. Procedures for improving and/or reviewing the management plan.*

This condition is **compliant**.

The Hahei WWTP Management Plan has been updated in December 2020. **A copy is attached as Appendix E.**

Condition 26: Unauthorised discharge

The consent holder shall notify the Waikato Regional Council as soon as practicable, and as a minimum requirement within 24 hours, of any discharge to Wigmore Stream from a source that has bypassed any part of the treatment system, or any discharge to the redundant disposal beds and/or redundant storage pond. The consent holder shall, within 7 days of the discharge occurring, provide a written report to the Waikato Regional Council, identifying the extent of the discharge, possible causes, steps undertaken to remedy the effects of the discharge and measures that will be undertaken to ensure future compliance with this consent.

This condition is **compliant**.

There has been no discharge to the Wigmore Stream from a source that has bypassed any part of the treatment system during the compliance period. There has also been no discharge to the redundant disposal beds and to the redundant storage pond.

Condition 27: Complaints

The consent holder shall maintain and keep a complaints register for all complaints, including discharge, water quality and odour complaints regarding operations at the site received by the consent holder. The register shall record:

- A. The date, time and duration of the event that has resulted in a complaint,*
- B. Any corrective action undertaken by the consent holder in response to the complaint, including actions taken to prevent similar events in the future.*
- C. The location of the complainant when the event was detected,*
- D. The possible cause of the event, and*
- E. The weather conditions and wind direction at the site when the event allegedly occurred.*

This condition is **compliant**.

TCDC hold the complaints register for Hahei WWTP (Pathway). There were no complaints between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 relating to the Hahei Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Condition 28: *The register outlined in condition 27 shall be available to the Waikato Regional Council at all reasonable times. Waikato regional council shall be informed of complaints received by the consent holder which may infer non-compliance with the conditions of this resource consent to the Waikato Regional Council within 24 hours of the complaint being received. In addition, the consent holder shall provide written information on the incident including all of the details required by (a) to (e) of condition 27 of this consent, which shall be forwarded to the Waikato Regional Council within 5 days of the complaint being received.*

This condition is **compliant**.

TCDC hold the complaints register for Hahei WWTP (Pathway). Veolia is responsible to attending to Requests for Service and escalating to TCDC where a complaint may infer non-compliance with the conditions of this resource consent. There were no complaints between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 relating to the Hahei Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Condition 29: Wigmore Stream mouth

The consent holder shall be responsible for ensuring that the Wigmore Stream, from the treated wastewater discharge point to its mouth, is kept clear of debris and that the stream mouth is not blocked by sand, to the extent that the flow of the Wigmore Stream is unimpeded into the coastal marine area. The consent holder's obligations in respect of this condition are limited to the works that can be undertaken without the need for resource consent under the relevant rule(s) of the Waikato regional coastal plan.

This condition is **compliant**.

Wigmore Stream is cleared whenever there is an RFS (Request for Service) or whenever an operator notices the first signs of a blockage occurring. The Wigmore Stream mouth has been cleared multiple times during the consent period.

Condition 30: *The consent holder shall implement the treatment plant upgrade works detailed in the Technical Memo titled "Hahei WWTP Consent Ammoniacal Nitrogen Reduction" by Harrison Grierson, dated 14 June 2017 (Waikato Regional Council document number 10628287), or equivalent upgrades, to ensure the wastewater discharge limits in condition 8 are met. The works shall include, as a minimum, installation of additional aeration in the Aeration Pond. These works shall be fully implemented within one year of the commencement of this consent.*

This condition is **compliant**.

Additional aeration was installed at the Hahei WWTP in both ponds in 2017.

Condition 31: *The consent holder shall provide a written report on or before the fifth and tenth anniversaries of the commencement of this consent that shall outline:*

A. What investigations have been undertaken to date to identify the long-term strategy for wastewater treatment and disposal options at Hahei upon the expiry of this consent,

B. What investigations have been undertaken or identified in relation to potential effects of disposal options being considered for wastewater at Hahei upon the expiry of this consent,

C. What consultation has been undertaken in relation to potential treatment and disposal options for wastewater at Hahei upon the expiry of this consent.

This condition is **compliant**.

The first of these reports is due in December 2022.

Appendix A. Hahei WWTP Annual Report Compliance Data

Appendix B. Hahei WWTP Monitoring Plan 2020

Appendix C. Ecological monitoring of the Wigmore Stream 2020-2021

Appendix D. Hahei WWTP Contingency Plan 2020

Appendix E. Hahei WWTP Management Plan 2020