

22 June 2018  
Document: 2074263



Phil Pennington  
Radio New Zealand News  
Wellington

[Phil.pennington@radionz.co.nz](mailto:Phil.pennington@radionz.co.nz)

Dear Phil

## IN/36382 - Official Information Request

I refer to your official information request dated 19 June 2018 seeking information regarding water discharge permit No. 1228-4.

Your questions are answered as below:

- Can you please advise us if this permit, which was due to expire on June 1, had allowed Wood Group M & O to discharge any type of treated or untreated firefighting foam residue of any kind, or stormwater that contains this, or wastewater that contains this, into the Oaonui Stream.

*The purpose statement of the consent, renewed in 2000, is for the discharge of wastewater arising from firefighting training. Specific conditions in the consent set out which contaminants were covered. Fire-fighting foams were not explicitly addressed within the consent to either allow or prohibit. The facility has been regularly inspected by the Council, and the inspection record shows that discharges from the firefighting retention ponds to the Oaonui Stream were very rare- of the order of a couple of events per year. In November 2016 the Council issued an abatement notice prohibiting the discharge of aqueous firefighting foams to land or water at the facility, following observation of some foaming in the stream during an inspection. The abatement notice remains in effect. Follow-up inspections confirmed actions by the Company to remove all fire-fighting foams from the facility.*

- Please specify if this permission was for the duration of the permit (1975-2018).  
*See above*
- Please advise the current status of the permit and what is in place since June 1, 2018 e.g. has it been renewed, and if so please advise re the questions above on foam whether the renewed permit covers this or not.

*An application for renewal of the consent has been received. The assessment of the application is on hold, pending the outcome of the current regulatory investigation by EPA and the Ministry for the Environment into the use and effects of PFAS-based firefighting foams.*

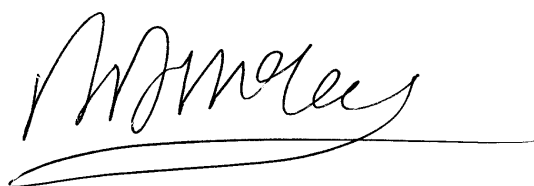
- Has TRC given written approval for the AFFF firefighting foam of any type to be discharged into the stream or any other water body at any time?
  - If so, for what period(s)?
  - And with what if any conditions?

*See above*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Fred McLay on 06 765 7126 or [fred.mclay@trc.govt.nz](mailto:fred.mclay@trc.govt.nz)

Yours faithfully  
B G Chamberlain  
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred McLay', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

per: A D McLay  
Director - Resource Management