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***Appendix 11***

***Relevant Statutory Plans –  
Objectives and Policies***

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## **Appendix 8 – Relevant Statutory Plans – Objectives and Policies**

This appendix contains the relevant objectives and policies from the statutory plans that are of relevance to the discharge permit being sought by Christchurch City Council for the discharge of stormwater to land and water from the South-West Christchurch stormwater management area.

Although the discharge of stormwater from South-West Christchurch's is not into the coastal marine area, waterbodies to which the discharges occur flow into coastal waters. For this reason, objectives and policies relating to coastal water quality are also considered relevant to the proposal and have also been identified below.

### **Canterbury Regional Policy Statement**

The objectives and policies of relevance are:

#### ***“Chapter 6 – Provision for the Relationship of Tangata Whenua with Resources***

*Obj 1 – To enable the Tangata Whenua to exercise their relationship, their culture and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga and to take into account the Treaty principles of partnership and active protection of Tangata Whenua in the use of their lands and water to the fullest extent practicable.*

*Pol 3 – Specific aspects of the relationship of Tangata Whenua, their culture and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga should be recognised and provided for through resource management and planning including provisions in plans, decisions on resource consents and monitoring the state of the environment.*

#### **Chapter 7 – Soils and Land Use**

*Obj 1(a) – Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of soil by maintaining or restoring where appropriate, soil quality factors including: soil depth, soil structure, water holding capacity, organic matter, soil fertility and soil fauna.*

*Pol 1 – Land use activities that actually or potentially have significant adverse effects on the following soil quality factors: soil structure, organic content, soil fauna, water holding capacity, and soil fertility, should be avoided, or those effects remedied or mitigated.*

*Significant adverse effects on any of these factors include:*

- (a) any deleterious change in a soil quality factor which would persist for 25 years or more, or would be impracticable to remedy;*
- (b) a change in soil quality factor that increases the rate of runoff and/or nutrient contribution to waterbodies.*

*Obj 3 – Protection of the environment from on-site and off-site adverse effects:*

- (a) resulting from land that has become contaminated;*
- (b) by prevention of land contamination.*

*Pol 7 – Any use of activity that has the potential to result in contamination of land should not be established or continued unless effective precautions have been taken to avoid significant adverse effects on the environment.*

#### **Chapter 8 – Landscape, Ecology and Heritage**

*Obj 3 – Protection or enhancement of:*

- (i) Indigenous biodiversity, (including the survival or threatened species, communities and habitats, and species, biological communities and habitats unusual in, or characteristic of Canterbury);*
- (ii) Indigenous ecosystem functioning; and*
- (iii) Indigenous vegetation and habitats which contribute to the region's natural character.*

#### **Chapter 9 – Water**

*Obj 3 – Enable present and future generations to gain cultural, social, recreational, economic, health and other benefits from the water quality in Canterbury’s water bodies and coastal waters, while:*

- (a) safeguarding the existing value of water bodies for efficiently providing sources of drinking water for people;*
- (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the water, including its associated: aquatic ecosystems, significant habitats of indigenous fauna and areas of significant indigenous vegetation;*
- (c) safeguarding their existing value for providing mahinga kai for Tangata Whenua;*
- (d) protecting wahi tapu and other wahi taonga of value to Tangata Whenua;*
- (e) preserving the natural character of lakes and rivers and protecting them from inappropriate use and development;*
- (f) protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development;*
- (g) protecting the significant habitat of trout and salmon; and*
- (h) maintaining, and where appropriate, enhancing amenity values.*

*Pol 9 – To manage point and non-point source discharge and set water quality conditions and standards and terms in plans, and conditions on resource consents, that achieve (a) to (h) of Objective 3. Adverse effects of discharges on existing water quality should be avoided, remedied or mitigated, and where appropriate, degraded water quality should be enhanced.*

*Pol 10(b) – Progressively improve degraded water bodies and degraded coastal waters. To achieve this, water quality standards should be established where needed to resolve competing demands for Canterbury’s water bodies and coastal waters. Over the next ten years priority for standard setting should be given to the following water resources:*

...

- *Christchurch – West Melton Groundwater.*

...

- *Partially enclosed degraded coastal waters and coastal waters where there is high water contact recreation.*

*Pol 11 – Promote land use practices which maintain and where appropriate enhance water quality.*

*Pol 12 – Activities which could result in a release of hazardous substances should not be located in areas where water resources are vulnerable to contamination unless adequate precautionary measures are implemented to avoid that contamination.*

*Pol 13 – Where numerical or narrative water quality standards for a contaminant have not been specified for water body of coastal water, the granting of a consent for point source discharges of contaminant into the water body or the coastal water should not preclude existing reasonable uses of the water body of the coastal water.*

## **Chapter 12 – Settlement and the Built Environment**

*Obj 1 – Enable urban development and the physical expansion of settlements and the use and provision of network utilities to occur while avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects on the environment, including in particular effects on:*

- (a) uses and values associated with water quality of water bodies.*
- (b) flow and level regimes of water bodies, including the flow regimes of spring-fed streams.*
- ...
- (d) natural character of coastal environments, wetlands, lakes and river margins that meet the criteria of sub-chapter 20.4*

....

*Pol 2 – The use of land for urban development and the physical expansion of settlements should be discouraged and the adverse effects of network utility use and provision minimised where such use would:*

- (a) result in the contamination of sources of drinking water.*
- (b) have an adverse effect on flows and level regimes of water bodies, including flow regimes of spring-fed streams.*

- (c) adversely affect the natural character of coastal environments, wetlands, lake and river margins, natural features and landscapes, and recreational, amenity and heritage values that meet criteria of sub-chapter 20.4, and significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna including those that meet the criteria of sub-chapter 20.4.
- (d) adversely affect ancestral land, water and sites, including prevention of the maintenance and, as may be appropriate, the enhancement of mahinga kai, and the protection of wahi tapu and wahi taonga.

#### **Chapter 16 – Natural Hazards**

*Obj 1 – Avoid or mitigate the actual or potential costs of loss or damage to life, property, or other parts of the environment from natural hazards.*

*Pol 1 – In managing natural hazards, highest priority should be given to the combination of measures which delivers the greatest net benefit.*

#### **Chapter 17 – Hazardous Substances**

*Obj 1 – Prevent or mitigate the adverse effects on the environment from the storage, use, disposal and transportation of hazardous substances.*

*Pol 2 – Promote hazardous substances management practices that prevent or mitigate adverse effects on the environment including practices that reduce the use of hazardous substances.*

*Pol 3 – Ensure that the adverse effects on the environment of unintended releases of hazardous substances from the storage, use, disposal or transportation of such substances are prevented or mitigated as far as practicable.”*

### **Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan**

The objectives and policies contained in Chapter 4 (Water Quality) of relevance are:

#### “Obj WQL1.1 – Rivers.

- (1) *Where the river water quality or the physical and chemical characteristics of the riverbed substrate are:*
  - ...
  - (b) *not in a natural state, as a result of point source or non-point source discharges, the water quality and the riverbed substrates are maintained or improved so that:*
    - (i) *they are suitable for contact recreation in those reaches that are valued for this purpose;*
    - (ii) *water is suitable for stock drinking water;*
    - (iii) *they are suitable habitat for indigenous species or salmonids;*
    - (iv) *they provide for amenity values;*
    - (v) *they provide for Ngai Tahu cultural values, including mahinga kai.*
- (2) *In addition, where the water quality, or the physical and chemical characteristics of the riverbed substrate:*
  - (a) *equals or is better than the numerical outcomes for indicators of nutrient status and sedimentation of riverbed substrate for the river type, specified in Table WQL5<sup>1</sup>, the water quality and substrate are maintained in that condition; and*
  - (b) *does not meet the outcomes in Table WQL.5, the water quality or the characteristics of the substrate are improved so that:*
    - (i) *the outcomes of Table WQL5 are achieved; and*
    - (ii) *there are no visible heterotrophic slime growths in the river.*

#### Pol WQL1 – Point source discharges to surface water.

<sup>1</sup> Table WQL5 (Numerical outcomes for nutrient indicators and riverbed sedimentation in rivers that are not in natural states) provides for both Lowland and Urban Rivers as follows – emergent macrophytes not to exceed 50 percent coverage of wetted river channel; algae mats greater than three millimetres thick not to exceed 60 percent coverage of wetted river channel; filamentous algae longer than two centimetres not to exceed 30 percent coverage of the wetted river channel; periphyton of 200 milligrams Chlorophyll a per square metres; and, sedimentation of riverbed substrate not exceed 40 percent of embeddedness.

- (1) *Before allowing a point source discharge of:*
  - (a) *a contaminant, excluding those contaminants specified in Policy WQL2, into surface water or onto land where a contaminant may enter surface water, ensure that:*
    - (i) *measures are or will be applied to avoid the production of the contaminant, or to reuse, recover, or recycle materials to minimise the volume and concentration of the contaminant in the discharge, and*
    - (ii) *the discharge to an existing treatment and discharge system or network is not a practical alternative, and a discharge into or onto land cannot be undertaken in accordance with Policy WQL6.*
- (2) *If the requirements of Policy WQL1(1) are satisfied and a discharge of a contaminant or water into water in a river or lake is necessary:*
  - (a) *the following matters shall apply when determining the zone of a Zone of Non-Compliance, where the water quality standards for the river or lake may not be achieved:*
    - (i) *the discharge of a contaminant shall be into water and the Zone shall be as small as practicable, and either along, or in combination with other Zones of Non-Compliance shall not occupy a significant proportion of the receiving water body; and*
    - (ii) *take into account the assimilative capacity of the receiving water under low flow conditions for the river, or low lake levels for a lake, or the equivalent flow or level where the flow has been modified by any take, use, dam, diversion or discharge; and*
    - (iii) *the Zone shall not create a barrier to fish migration or limit contact recreation in areas where support high levels of use; and*
    - (iv) *the Zone shall not result in a significant impact on Ngai Tahu cultural values; and*
    - (v) *the discharge shall not result in the accumulation of persistent compounds in aquatic ecosystem or in sediment within the Zone of Non-Compliance; and*
  - (b) *the water quality, outside of the Zone of Non-Compliance in a river or lake shall meet the standards specified for that river or lake either in Schedule WQL1 or in a relevant water conservation order.*
- (3) *Where the existing surface water quality does not meet the water quality standard for the water body specified in Schedule WQL1, the discharge shall not be allowed unless it can be demonstrated that the adverse effects of the discharge on the receiving water quality, outside of the Zone of Non-Compliance, are not likely to result in water quality which is less than the water quality standards set for the receiving water.*

*Pol WQL2 – Prevent the discharge of certain contaminants to surface water.*

*Avoid significant adverse effects on water quality, and associated ecological, amenity and cultural values of surface water, by:*

...

- (4) *prohibiting the discharge of a hazardous substance to surface water, or onto land where a hazardous substance may enter surface water, except where the discharge is necessary to control vegetation or animal pests, or it is required for the installation and maintenance of structures in a river or lake bed, ...*
- (5) *minimising the risk of an accidental discharge of a hazardous substance into surface water.*

....

*Obj WQL2 – Water quality outcomes for groundwater and contaminated land.*

- (3) *In semi-confined, unconfined, and other confined aquifers or parts of these aquifers, where:*
  - (a) *the water quality is unaffected or largely unaffected by human activities, as reported in 2004, maintain the water quality in that state.*
  - (b) *The water quality is affected by human activities, the groundwater quality shall meet the following values:*
    - (i) *for nitrate-nitrogen, the maximum concentration shall not increase by more than two milligrams per litre above the maximum concentration measured between*

- 1996 and 2001, and reported in 2002, and the maximum concentration shall not exceed 11.3 milligrams per litre;
- (ii) the water quality shall remain within the Guideline Value for any aesthetic determinand listed in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2000, except for natural exceedances of the Guidelines Value. If the water quality does not meet the Guideline Value, as a result of human activities, the water quality shall be improved so that the Guidelines Value is achieved.
  - (iii) the median concentration of *Escherichia coli* shall be less than one organism per 100 millilitres of water; and
  - (iv) any other inorganic or organic determinand of health significance or pesticide (excluding nitrate-nitrogen, or *Escherichia coli*.) listed in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2000 shall not be detected at a concentration greater than one tenth of the Maximum Acceptable Value for that determinand.
- (c) On land, where the concentration of a contaminant exceeds the naturally occurring background level and this concentration poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, the land is managed in a way that reduces this risk, and the risk from any discharge from the land to groundwater, to a level that is acceptable for human health or the environment.

Pol WQL.6 – Point source discharges onto or into land which affect soil or groundwater quality.

- (3) Avoid adverse effects on water quality from the cumulative effects of discharges into land from individual onsite or small-scale community sewage effluent, stormwater or wastewater treatment and disposal systems by requiring:
- (a) the installation of a network and treatment system for sewage effluent, stormwater or wastewater, where:
    - (i) the density of existing or proposed systems, are or are likely to:
      1. adversely effect the quality of water in wells used for drinking water supply or other purposes;
      2. be significant sources of contaminants to groundwater in the proximity of a settlement, or in an area where the quality of the groundwater does not meet Objective WQL2(2)(b), or does not meet the requirements of Policy 7.1 or 7.2 of the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan; or
    - (ii) there is insufficient distance between individual discharges, other discharges, wells or groundwater;
      1. to allow for the natural decay or attenuation of pathogenic micro-organisms in the contaminant plumes; or
      2. to prevent the elevation of groundwater levels to an extent that drainage is impeded, limiting land uses or the infiltration of the discharge or any other discharge onto or into land; or
    - (iii) the soil or subsurface material has inadequate infiltration capacity and this is likely to result in discharges ponding on the ground or flowing into surface water; or...

Pol WQL9 – Non-point source discharges to land that may affect groundwater.

- (1) Minimise the leaching of nutrients, chemical and microbiological contaminants to groundwater by requiring:
- (a) the use of best management practices to:
    - ...
    - (ii) prevent the accumulation of mineral nitrogen or other contaminants in the soil which have a high potential for leaching.
- (2) In areas where groundwater quality has declined because of non-point source discharges and the concentration of determinands in groundwater do not meet Objective WQL2, implement measures to reduce the concentration of determinands in groundwater ...
- (3) Where groundwater enters rivers or lakes, the contaminant concentrations in the groundwater shall not result in the surface water being reduced below the values of; Objective WQL2, or any relevant water quality standard set in this plan or by a water conservation order.

Obj WQL3 – Water quality of community drinking water sources.

The source water for a community drinking water supply is suitable for use as a water supply, by ensuring that:

...

- (2) in the Christchurch Groundwater Recharge Zone, the quality of unconfined and semi-confined groundwater is maintained or improved so that:
  - (a) the groundwater entering the Coastal Confined Gravel Aquifer System meets Objective WQL2(1); and
  - (b) the groundwater quality in Zone 1 and in the unconfined aquifer in Zone 2 meets Objective WQL2(2)(b), except that the maximum concentration of nitrate-nitrogen shall not increase by more than one milligram per litre, and the maximum concentration shall not exceed 5.6 milligrams per litre.

Pol WQL12 – Avoid the potential for contamination of community drinking water sources.

- (1) Within a Community Drinking Water Supply Protection Zone, the Christchurch Groundwater Recharge Zone, or upstream of a community water supply intake:
  - (a) where a change in land use in these zones, or an activity in the bed of a river or lake upstream or in the vicinity of a community water supply intake, requires authorisation under either a district plan or a regional plan, any decision to authorise the land use activity or activity shall recognise and provide for the protection of the quality of the source water for community drinking water supply;
  - ...
  - (d) if as a result of a discharge or a land use, or the cumulative effects of these activities, the water quality within a Zone of the source water at an intake, does not meet Objective WQL3, implement measures to achieve the water quality outcomes of Objective WQL3. If it is not practicable to achieve the water quality outcomes of the Objective, the measures shall at least prevent any further decline in the water quality.
- (2) In addition to Policy WQL12(1), within Zone 1 of the Christchurch Groundwater Recharge Zone:
  - ...
  - (b) in all other areas of Zone 1, protect water quality from contamination by:
    - (i) prohibiting after July 2004:
      - ...
      2. the subdivision of land for residential, commercial or industrial purposes.
      - ...

## **Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu – Freshwater Policy**

The objectives and policies of relevance are:

*“Objective 6.1 – To afford total protection to waters that are of particular spiritual significance to Ngai Tahu.*

*Pol 6.1.1 – Identify sites for immediate protection because of their significance as wahi tapu.*

*Pol 6.1.2 – Agree with resource management agencies objectives, policies and methods that protect the sites identified by Papatipu Runanga*

*Obj 6.2 – Restore, maintain and protect the mauri of freshwater resources.*

*Pol 6.2.1 – Identify freshwater resources where:*

- ...
- mauri is adversely affected, and the activities that cause such effects.

*Pol 6.2.2 – Accord priority to ensuring the availability of sufficient quantities of water of appropriate water quality to restore, maintain and protect the mauri of a waterbody, in particular priority is to be accorded when developing water allocation regimes.*

*Obj 6.3 – To maintain vital, healthy mahinga kai populations and habitats capable of sustaining harvesting activity.*

*Pol 6.3.1 – Protect critical mahinga kai habitats and identified representative areas.*

*Pol 6.3.2 – Restore and enhance the mahinga kai values of lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries and riparian margins.*

*Obj 6.4 – To promote collaborative management initiatives that enable the active participation of Ngai Tahu in freshwater management.*

*Pol 6.4.1 – Ensure Ngai Tahu has access to information about the status of resources and the activities of resource users so that it is able to anticipate the effects of activities on customary values and uses.*

*Pol 6.4.3 – Facilitate effective Ngai Tahu participation in:*

- Policy formulation;*
- Decision making;*
- Operational management activities; and*
- Monitoring activities.*

*Pol 6.4.4 – Improve the integration of western science and traditional local knowledge in order to develop a better understanding of all water use planning related matters.*

*Pol 6.4.5 – Increase the ability of Papatipu Runanga to understand and participate in all aspects of research and to influence the setting of research priorities.”*

## **New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement**

The policies of relevance are:

*“Pol 1.1.4 – It is a national priority for the preservation of natural character of the coastal environment to protect the integrity, functioning, and resilience of the coastal environment in terms of:*

*...*

*(d) natural water and air quality;*

*...*

*(f) intrinsic values of ecosystems.*

*Pol 1.1.5 – It is a national priority to restore and rehabilitate the natural character of the coastal environment where appropriate.*

*Pol 3.2.7 – Policy statements and plans should identify any practicable ways whereby the quality of water in the coastal environment can be improved by altered land management practices, and should encourage the adoption of those practises.*

*Pol 5.1.1 – Rule should be made as soon as possible with the object of enhancing water quality in the coastal environment (including aquifers) where that is desirable to assist in achieving the purpose of the Act, and in particular where:*

- (a) there is a high public interest in, or use of the water;*
- (b) there is a particular tangata whenua interest in the water;*
- (c) there is a particular value to be maintained or enhanced; or...*

*Pol 5.1.3 – Those rules should also provide that, after reasonable mixing, no discharge (either by itself or in combination with other discharges) may give rise to any significant adverse effects on habitats, feeding grounds or ecosystems.*

*Pol 5.1.7 – Consideration should be given to reducing the contamination of natural water in the coastal environment from non-point sources.”*

## **Regional Coastal Environmental Plan for the Canterbury Region**

The objectives and policies of relevance are:

## **“Chapter 7 – Coastal Water Quality**

*Obj 7.1 – Enable present and future generations to gain cultural, social, recreational, economic, health and other benefits from the quality of the water in the Coastal Marine Area, while:*

- (i) maintaining the overall existing high natural water quality of coastal waters;*
- (ii) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the water, including its associated: aquatic ecosystems, significant habitats of indigenous fauna and areas of significant indigenous vegetation;*
- (iii) safeguarding, and where appropriate, enhancing its value for providing mahinga kai for Tangata Whenua;*
- (iv) protecting wahi tapu and wahi taonga of value to Tangata Whenua;*
- (v) preserving natural character and protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes, where water quality is an aspect of their value, from reductions in water quality;*
- (vi) maintaining, and where appropriate enhancing, amenity values; and*
- (vii) recognising the intrinsic values of ecosystems and any finite characteristics of the coastal environment.*

*Pol 7.2 – Establish water quality classes, set water quality standards and control the discharge of contaminants and water within parts of the Coastal Marine Area defined in Schedule 5 that contain areas of degraded water quality or which need classifications to reflect existing or potential uses of the area:*

- (a) The water quality in the following areas will be classified as water managed for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems, and the water quality maintained and where necessary improved for this purpose:*

*...*

- (ii) The Heathcote River Mouth...*

- (b) The water quality in the following areas will be classified as water managed for contact recreation and for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems, and the water quality maintained and where necessary improved for these purposes:*

*...*

- (iv) The parts of the Estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers/Ihutai not included in a(i) and a(ii) above; ...*

- (c) ...*

*Pol 7.10 – Promote measures that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of point and non-point source discharges of contaminants outside of the Coastal Marine Area where the discharge can adversely affect the quality of water in the Coastal Marine Area.”*