

# **Review of the Wastewater Drainage Policy and Wastewater Drainage Bylaw 2016**

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 04 November 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Mark Schreurs, Policy Analyst

## **Purpose/Ngā whāinga**

To introduce the statutory review of the Wastewater Drainage Policy and Wastewater Drainage Bylaw 2016.

## **Context/Horopaki**

The public wastewater treatment systems in the District are valuable community assets and Council requires powers to protect them from damage and from discharges that undermine their performance.

In addition, many properties in the district rely on onsite wastewater treatment systems (often called septic tanks). In some cases, these are in relatively high density living environments and/or sensitive receiving environments. There is a need to ensure that onsite wastewater treatment systems are properly designed, constructed and maintained and that powers are in place to require inadequately operating systems to be rectified.

The Kaipara District Wastewater Drainage Policy (the Policy) and Wastewater Drainage Bylaw 2016 (the Bylaw) address these issues by protecting Council's wastewater infrastructure from damage and improper use, including setting restrictions on building over or near to sewerage pipes, and restrictions on what can be disposed of down the drain.

Since 2016, the Policy and Bylaw also includes an inspection and maintenance regime for onsite wastewater disposal systems (Warrant of Fitness - WOF). This ensures any failing systems are identified and therefore impacts on the environment and public health are minimised and addressed proactively.

The WOF system currently applies to all systems located in areas zoned Residential or properties within 300m of a coast (east/west coasts) or within 300m of a harbour (Mangawhai Harbour and Kaipara Harbour) or within 300m of the Kai Iwi Lakes.

## **Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero**

The Policy and Bylaw were made operative in November 2016 and replaced the previous 2009 Wastewater Bylaw. As per the requirements of section 158 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), this new Bylaw must be reviewed within 5 years. The review is therefore due by 1 November 2021.

During the development of the 2016 Bylaw, it was envisaged that the 5-year review would include consideration of extending the WOF system to cover more areas of the District, or even the whole District. The review work to be undertaken will include consideration of this matter.

## **Next steps/E whaiake nei**

Subject to the direction received at this meeting, staff will finalise the review work programme and commence the review process. Due to the indicated hold on all policy consultation matters regarding the LTP process, a draft proposed Bylaw is scheduled to be presented to Council at the April 2021 Briefing for discussion, with a view to consultation commencing after June 2021. As mentioned in the Policy programme item presented at this meeting, it is envisaged that the review programme of both the Stormwater and Wastewater Drainage Bylaws will be aligned for consultation and the associated schedules for hearings, deliberations and decisions.