



Submission of Watercare Services Limited to Proposed National Environmental Standard Discussion Document for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil.

Watercare's Interest

Watercare provides the bulk water and wastewater services and facilities to most of the urban areas of the Auckland region. Its facilities, operations and works that may be subject to the national Environmental Standard include it's:

- water and wastewater treatment plants
- mono fills for the deposit of silt, which may include additives from the water treatment system
- the laying of pipelines in land that may have contaminated soil
- the development and use of coastal land owned by Watercare for public access and recreation
- the future use of harbour bed for recreational purposes

Watercare's Response to the consultation Document

Watercare supports the option of an NES to manage the effects of contaminants in soils

Watercare also supports the approach adopted in the document as graphically shown in section 7.3 pg 52 of the Discussion Document and considers that a reasonable balance will be achieved with respect to providing for peoples health and safety while also providing an administratively efficient system for identifying and managing contaminated sites.

Watercare supports the approach of considering the status of a proposal through criteria for determining whether a use, development or subdivision comes within the permitted activity category and if it clearly does then it can proceed without the need for further investigation.

If land is identified as being potentially affected then it is appropriate to undertake preliminary investigation through a qualified practitioner and to assess the affects against SGVs. If a proposal fails to meets either of these then a restricted discretionary activity application is appropriate.

With respect to appendix 4 of the Discussion Document, Watercare seeks a definition of Clause 27 landfill sites and supports the intent of clause 49 with regards to the use of biosolids as conditioners.

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