

Wastewater systems

Information sheet

August 2018

Under the Building Act 2004, if there is a Council reticulated sewage system adjacent or within reasonable proximity to your property, then you must connect to it.

If there is no reticulated sewage, then the owner is required to provide for on-site disposal of wastewater via a septic tank and an effluent disposal field.

Any discharge to ground is under the authority of the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (known as Horizons Regional Council) and is set out in Chapter 14 'Discharges to Land and Water' of the One Plan. This is available on their website.

As this rule is reasonably complex, it will require the owner to engage the services of a registered drainlayer conversant with the requirements of the One Plan, or a registered drainage engineer, who will conduct a full assessment of the site, the proposed dwelling, the numbers of occupants and the projected volumes of wastewater to be produced.

This qualified, registered person will provide a report and their design of the system utilising the documentation or accepted format provided by Horizons. Depending on a number of factors, the report may achieve an acceptable solution under the One Plan, in which case the assessment can be processed via a building consent application to Tararua District Council either separately or in conjunction with a dwelling.

If the report indicates that the proposal cannot achieve an acceptable solution under the One Plan, then the application for the system must be processed by Horizons Regional Council as a land-use or resource consent.

Some basic rules that would determine the requirement to have the application processed by Horizons:

- The size of the property – less than 2,500m² requires processing by Horizons.
- The type of system – a property less than 4 hectares will require a secondary treatment system, such as an aerated wastewater plant.
- Projected volumes exceeding 2,000 litres in total per day.
- Projected volumes exceeding 165–180 litres per person per day.
- Discharges to ground exceeding 3 litres per square meter per day.

Your drainage engineer or other suitably qualified professional will be able to advise you further.