Regulating the way urban activities affect water quality

Outline

- Who to regulate?
- How to regulate?
- How does this fit with discharge limits?



Who to regulate?

- Sources of contaminants in urban environment
 - Stormwater networks = TA owned, operated by WWL
 - Wastewater networks = TA owned, operated by WWL
 - Other networks:
 - State highways = NZTA
 - Railways = KiwiRail
 - Discharges from new development wastewater and stormwater
 - High risk activity = Landowner
 - Low risk activity = Landowner



How to regulate?

- How do the contaminants reach water?
 - Generated by a land use
 - Discharge to a stream or the coast, or
 - Discharge to a network and then to a stream or the coast
- The tools GWRC has:
 - RMA section 15 = control discharges
 - RMA section 9 = control land use







Networks

- TA/WWL stormwater and wastewater networks
- Other networks:
 - NZTA highways
 - Railway corridor
- Discharges from new development



How to regulate land use?





High risk activities

- Tend to be 'industrial and trade' activities
 - Industrial and trade ≠ farms
- Also car parks
- Stormwater contamination risk because of activities on the site
- Used elsewhere as a standard approach



How does this fit with discharge limits?



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How does this fit with discharge limits?

- Old discharges = continue or legalise now, improve in time
- New discharges = limits apply now
 - Subdivision allocated piece of limit?
 - Prohibited activity if can't meet limit
 - Consent to new developers, then vested to TA/WWL when complete







How does this fit with discharge limits?

- Activities need to meet limits, therefore regulation:
 - Networks: consents to discharge, must follow load reduction pathway and times
 - New discharges: good management practice immediately
 - High risk activities: land use consent
 - Low risk activities: permitted activity with discharge standards

