

19 May 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-39000

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2025-127

I refer to your request for information dated 16 April 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 16 April 2025. You have requested the following:

“Hi GWRC,

I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Details of the Request: *I am seeking the following information:*

- *copy of both the consent application and consent decision for all application sites that have had the plan change 1 consent issued within the last 12 months,*
- *Application document to also include any supporting technical reports, plans and the parent AEE application thank you,*

Preferred Format: *I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format.*

Please confirm receipt of this request and inform me of any charges that may apply.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,

Prior to the official information request you have requested consent documentation that has a robust stormwater impact assessment, which we have attached below. We do not have a link for hearing stream four as yet as it will be held on 12 August. Please see this link to the schedule for your reference <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/updating-our-regional-policy-statement-and-natural-resources-plan/natural-resources-plan-2023-changes/nrp-pc-1-hearings/>. On this page you will also have quick access to the hearing link once it is live.

Greater Wellington's response follows:

For clarity, regarding comments around 'Hydrological control', this is a term to describe interventions which intentionally collect the initial portion/depth of rainwater from a site's impervious surfaces and retain it within the site so that it does not contribute to surface runoff. This mimics the portion of rainfall that would naturally be 'lost' to evapotranspiration or enter the ground as infiltration on an undeveloped site. Hydrological control in practice therefore requires stormwater retention to mitigate adverse ecological impacts from development by mimicking as much as feasible the natural undeveloped water

balance through targeted reuse or soakage. Stormwater retention is essentially the management of stormwater through the controlled collection of runoffs with some form of 'disposal' to reduce the volume of stormwater that is discharged from the site during frequent small to moderate rainfall events. Collected stormwater can be 'disposed of' through infiltration/soakage, evaporation or reuse.

We acknowledge that this is not always feasible, and, in these circumstances, it is important to provide the appropriate level of information in a consent application as to why hydrological control cannot be provided for (this could include low demand for reuse/low soakage/infiltration rates/contaminated land for example).

We would like to highlight that there are a significant number of instances where stormwater consents are not required as the applicants have designed their stormwater management system to provide hydrological control in the first instance, e.g., they have designed to provide for rainwater harvesting and reuse, therefore the total area of "impervious area" is significantly decreased and often permitted activity requirements can be met.

We acknowledge that guidance is required to illustrate exactly what the standard is for hydrological control to be achieved. While this is unavailable now, the following measures are examples of what may be used to contribute to and/or achieve the requirements for hydrological control:

- Installation of rainwater harvesting tanks with pumped supply for internal non potable reuse.
- Raingardens with appropriately sized internal water storage and soakage enabled from the base. (Privately owned raingardens must be maintained and managed to ensure long term functionality. For communal raingardens, this may require a formal body corporate or similar arrangement).
- Infiltration to ground via a soakage system. Note that this does not need to be full soakage of primary flows but rather just infiltration of the initial rainfall volume. Also, where soakage is being used as the primary drainage mechanism from the site (in accordance with Wellington Water requirements), hydrological control is considered achieved for all connected areas which discharge to the soakage system.
- Centralised stormwater harvesting where a larger sub catchment scale strategy has adopted a comprehensive integrated water management strategy.

Attached are copies of resource consent applications we have received where no/or minimal RFI's have been issued in relation to stormwater.

- WGN2 001 : This is an example of where an applicant chose to use discharge to land solutions, therefore no discharges to freshwater and permitted activity requirements were met.
- WGN2 0032: This is an example of where hydrological control was met as the applicant proposed to retain stormwater on site via re-use (permanently plumbed). Consequently, resource consent was only needed for the discharge of stormwater from the hardstand and driveway.
- WGN250151: This is an example where an applicant chose to design for frequent flow rainfall events to be captured and discharged to land to provide for hydrological control, while discharging larger events to the network.
- WGN240238: This is an example where the applicant has proposed to primarily discharge to ground with excess flows directed to an open channel.

We want to highlight that the definition of impervious areas excludes a number of surfaces which will not contribute to the total area of impervious area and therefore by including these surfaces within design, can significantly reduce the total impervious area across the site and consequentially additional consent requirements. In the first instance, it is important to assess the total impervious surface area.

<u>Impervious surfaces</u>	<p><u>Surfaces that prevent or significantly impede the infiltration of stormwater into soil or the ground, includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>roofs</u> • <u>paved areas (including sealed/compacted metal) such as roads, driveways, parking areas, sidewalks/foot paths or patios,</u> <p><u>and excludes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>grassed areas, gardens and other vegetated areas</u> • <u>porous or permeable paving</u> • <u>slatted decks which allow water to drain through to a permeable surface</u> • <u>porous or permeable paving and living roofs</u> • <u>roof areas with rainwater collection and reuse</u> • <u>any impervious surfaces directed to a rain tank utilised for grey water reuse (permanently plumbed)</u>
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Once again, we highly encourage applicants to reach out for pre-application meetings if they are new to these provisions.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 2(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher
Kaiwhakahaere Māua Rūpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment