



11 August 2022

File Ref: 5-IM-2

Mr [REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Local Government Official Information Request**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA), relating to wastewater and the impact of contamination in the Rangitikei River, received on 13 July 2022. Our response to your question is below:

1. Has there been any recent wastewater sewage discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater to any streams or waterways that feed the Rangitikei River following the recent heavy rain event?

The context for my query is that I work for [REDACTED] who commercially fish for shellfish off the coast and we want to understand what the potential risk is to the shellfish, and therefore what steps we need to do (i.e., not harvesting for a certain period) to manage any potential contamination of the shellfish beds.

**Response:**

The majority of our towns and communities, across the district, contribute stormwater runoff to the Rangitikei River.

All wastewater systems are designed to contain wastewater for an agreed level of service, but there will always be some events that will exceed the design capacities somewhere across the networks.

During times of prolonged heavy rain events, as experienced during July this year, the likelihood of wastewater surcharging from the wastewater network increases.

Water sampling of the environment, where the shellfish is harvested, would be the only way to determine the risks related to harvesting.

Council does not track discharges or water quality into the river; however it is likely with periods of high rain, that there may be discharge.

We have been in contact with Horizons Regional Council to ask whether they monitor water quality of the Rangitikei River and when we receive their response, we will provide this to you.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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 at <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/about/contact-us/official-information> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Kezia Spence on 06 327 0099.

Yours sincerely



**Carol Gordon**

*Making this place home.*

**Group Manager Democracy & Planning**



*Making this place home.*



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