Review of the Water Related Services Bylaw 2020

Introduction

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this (still) a problem, and is it working in the current form	
Purpose			
The purpose of this bylaw is to provide safe and efficient public water supply, wastewater, stormwater and land drainage systems.	The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the Rangitīkei community has access to safe drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and land drainage system.	Council has a responsibility through legislation to make sure everyone has access to safe water to drink, and that wastewater, stormwater, and land drainage systems work adequately. As this is a requirement, this purpose needs to remain the same, although it could be reworded to be clearer and more concise.	
This bylaw does not regulate matters provided for in the Horizons One Plan or in legislation. Notes that the bylaw does not bar people from performing an activity they have permission for through other means.	This aims to clarify the hierarchy of controls that are in place to manage the activities that the bylaw addresses.	It is important that there is a clear hierarchy of regulation for both the community and enforcers of the bylaw to ensure there are no disputes about what the bylaw can and cannot regulate. However, this clause would still serve its purpose as a note. This note could be expanded on to remove the need for notes throughout the bylaw explaining that the bylaw does not negate the need for consent from Horizons.	
Term	Definition	Is it working in its current form	
	Interpr	etation	
There is no definition of extraordinary users but this term is used in the Bylaw as a trigger for certain requirements.	This would clarify what triggers a property being classified as an extraordinary user.	This would reduce ambiguity, and would provide property owners with clarity. A definition of an extraordinary user is provided in Council's Fees and Charges to define who will be charged for water. Using the same definition on this bylaw would align these documents.	

Chief Executive as defined in the Local Government Act 2002.	This aims to provide clarity on who the Chief Executive is.	While the responsibilities of a Chief Executive is set out in the referenced legislation, a definition is not provided in the interpretation of the LGA. A definition of the Chief Executive is considered to be unnecessary as it is a role within Council that has one staff member attributed to it. If a Chief Executive definition was included, it should clarify that it means the Chief Executive of the Rangitīkei District Council, not of the WSA.
Council as defined in the District Plan	Council means the Rangitikei District Council or any Committee, Subcommittee, Commissioner or person to whom the Council's powers, duties and discretions under this District Plan have been lawfully delegated pursuant to the provisions of the Resource Management Act.	This definition is not well used in this bylaw as it refers to powers and duties given to someone relevant to the District Plan. The District Plan will not exist in its current form following the reform of the Resource Management Act. A new definition should be used if a definition of Council is considered to be needed. A definition could be taken from other bylaws 'COUNCIL means Rangitīkei District Council' for consistency across all bylaws.
Backflow	means the reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and contaminants into the public water supply.	This definition should be refined along the lines of: <i>means the</i> <u>unplanned</u> reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and contaminants into the public water supply.
Common Private Drain	means a drain which passes through or serves separately owned premises but excludes land held under strata titles, company share block titles, cross lease titles, and unit titles.	This definition does not differentiate between stormwater and wastewater. This definition also does not provide the clarity a definition should, to help differentiate between a 'common private drain' and a 'private drain'.

Condensing Water	means any water used in any trade, industry, or commercial process or operation in such a manner that it does not materially change its chemical or physical state.	Condensing of water is the change of state from vapor to liquid. The current definition does not accurately aid the reader in understanding the intent of the bylaw.
Connection	means the valve, meter, and associated fittings installed and maintained by the Council at a location convenient to the Council on the service pipe at the point of supply.	This definition could be improved to provide the reader a more accurate understanding of what is classed as a connection.
Drain	means wastewater drain or stormwater drain; and drainage has a corresponding meaning.	This definition does not aid in understanding the bylaw. It would be more appropriate if each use of the word drain clarified if it was referring to a stormwater drain or a wastewater drain.
Drainage Works	includes all lands, drains, pipes, treatment works, buildings, machinery, and appliances and other things of any kind vested in the Council or acquired or constructed or operated by or under the control of the Council for or relating to the purpose of drainage, whether within or outside the district.	Drainage Network would be a more appropriate term to use throughout the bylaw.
Effluent	means the discharge from any primary treatment tank or process.	This definition does not provide an accurate understanding of effluent. The word effluent is only used once within the bylaw, and this definition does not contribute to understanding the context it is used in. This definition could be removed.

Fire service supply	means a supply of water to premises solely for the purpose of being used in the event of fire.	The SNZ PAS 4509:2008 uses the term 'Alternative firefighting water source' with the accompanying definition 'a non-reticulated supply available for firefighting.' Our definition should better align with this code of practice.
Harmful materials	means products or wastes containing corrosive, toxic, biocidal, radioactive, flammable or explosive materials; likely to generate toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive materials in quantities likely to be hazardous when mixed with the wastewater stream; likely to be deleterious to the health and safety of the Council's staff, approved contractors and the public, or be harmful to the wastewater system.	If the suggested removal of identifying harmful materials within the body of the bylaw is followed through, this definition will need to be refined.
Consumer	means the person, or the authorised agent, who uses, or has the right to use, water supplied by the WSA, drainage and stormwater systems.	Consumer, customer, landowner, Owner and Occupier are all used interchangeably throughout the bylaw. One term should be used for consistency unless a clear distinction is made between the use of consumer and occupier.
Occupier	means any person, including the owner, who for the time being, is in control of any premises	This definition does not align with the use of 'Owner(s) or Occupier(s)' used throughout the bylaw. The terms customer, and landowner is also used in the bylaw. One term should be chosen for consistency.
Point of Supply	means the point where the service pipe meets the road boundary.	The current definition is no longer appropriate. The Point of Supply is the point on the service pipe which marks the boundary of responsibility between the individual customer and the Council, irrespective of property boundaries.

Private Drain	means a drain that serves one or more lots where the lots are in common ownership or used for common activity.	This definition does not aid in understanding the difference between a 'private drain' and a 'common private drain'. If this definition is kept in the bylaw, it would incorporate common private drains which may be appropriate.
Private Drainage System	means the system of pipes and fittings installed on the premises (including a private drain and a private common drain) to convey the wastewater or stormwater of the premises to the public wastewater or stormwater system and where a public system is not available includes any approved disposal systems within or outside the confines of the premises.	This definition is repetitive with the above definitions for private drains and common private drains. Refining of the bylaw might end up remove one or more of these definitions.
Private Water Supply	means the water supply system installed within the premises to provide the piped supply of hot and cold water to the sanitary fixtures and appliances fitted within the premises.	This definition is no longer appropriate and requires further consideration.
Water Supply Authority	means the operational unit of Council responsible for the supply of water, including its authorised agents.	Remove reference to WSA from the bylaw and changed it to Council. There are no benefits for referring to the operational unit for water separately. Maintaining the use of WSA may also cause confusion with the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai. This will also improve consistence through the bylaw as Council is also used within the bylaw.
Water Works	means the same as the definition in the Local Government Act 2002.	In legislation waterworks is one word, this should be updated for consistency.

All definitions not identified	tified	
above in this table are		
considered to be adequate	uate	
although some may require	quire	
minor amendment to improve	mprove	
clarity.		

Part 1: Public Water Supply

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this still a problem, and is it working in the current form	
	Objectives		
Ensure the appropriate and responsible use of potable water by consumers in the Rangitīkei District	This objective is to make sure all Rangitīkei residents and visitors have access to drinking water.	Council has a requirement in under the Water Services Act 2021 to ensure an adequate supply of potable water is available to the district. This bylaw aims to ensure that residents use this water in an appropriate manner.	
Prescribe the conditions which shall apply to any connection to the public water supply	This objective is to safeguard the public water supply.	Council is required to supply safe drinking water under the Water Services Act 2021. To be able to ensure the drinking water is safe, and that every property which has access to a reticulated water supply can connect to it, and that Council is able to control how it is connected to properties.	
Safeguard the public water supply from contamination so as to ensure a good supply of potable water and to prevent waste	This objective is to meet Councils requirement to provide safe drinking water and in a sustainable way.	The Water Services Act 2021 requires Council to ensure drinking water is safe and reduce the instances of this water being wasted. Therefore, Council needs to be able to regulate any point in the network where contamination or wastage could occur.	

	Application for connection and supply			
Requirement for all new water connections to be applied for with any requested information.	The requirement for all new water connections, any work to a connection, and access to a temporary water supply to be applied for is to meet the objective to protect the water supply.	Council must comply with the Water Services Act 2021, and is responsible for ensuring that new connections do not compromise drinking water safety. Requiring applications ensures new connections are assessed against national and local regulations. We have standardised drawings that specify how each connection must be completed, ensuring all connections use the same products. This promotes consistency, simplifies maintenance, and provides greater reliability. Possible risks if not managed correctly include backflow contaminating the water supply and water could be wasted if a connection is defective or damaged. There has been a history of farmers connecting to the water supply without permission by the WSA. This led to excessive use of water until the connections were identified and disconnected. Without knowing where water is being taken from, Officers are not able to accurately identify and issues with the water network such as leaks, and makes it difficult to monitor and estimate use of water when there is a risk water shortages. It is considered appropriate to retain the need to apply for new connections within this bylaw.		

Approval of applications for connectivity and supply

The WSA will choose to approve the application and determine if the supply will be classed as ordinary or extraordinary. An application can also lapse if not taken up. This gives the WSA the ability to not approve an application if deemed appropriate. This also provides the WSA the ability to decline an application. If an application was approved, but not actioned within 6 months the approval will lapse, noting the applicant can have an opportunity to extend the timeline if appropriate.

It is important that Council has the ability to access all applications, and choose to decline them if Council deems it appropriate. There are a number of reasons that may Council decline an application such as asking for a second connection where is it not required, if a commercial or industrial site applies for a connection that does not meet our standards, or if there is not enough capacity within the water supply network to service the connection.

Any new connection requires inspections to ensure it is installed correctly and not a possible point of contamination or water loss. Once the connection is complete it will be recorded as an asset. To be able to keep records accurate and ensure that inspections are undertaken when necessary, Council must be aware of all possible connections. If new connections are not installed within a timely manner, it becomes difficult to ensure that inspections are undertaken when required and that the status of the connection is updated in Councils database.

Acceptance of Supply Constitutes Agreement

If an application for a connection is approved, the acceptance of the supply is taken as an agreement that the consumer will comply with this bylaw.

Where there is a change of consumer, the acceptance by a new consumer of an existing supply constitutes an agreement to comply with the bylaw.

The application for a new connection being accepted will be taken as the applicant agreeing to comply with this bylaw, and any new person's use of an existing connection automatically agrees to comply with the bylaw.

It is not necessary to include this in the bylaw, everyone is already required to comply with any Council bylaw. If this was to remain in the bylaw, the wording should be improved for clarity.

Any change in use of commercial or industrial premises that may effect backflow prevention measures requires written notification in order to assess that suitability of backflow prevention, even if notification is not required by the Building Act.

The WSA must be notified of any change in the use of a commercial or industrial premises to assess if any backflow prevention measures already on site are satisfactory for the new use.

This is important in principle, however, should be moved within the bylaw as it does not fit within this section. It would fit better under the heading 'prevention of backflow.' If a change in use of a commercial or industrial premises resulted in a failure of the backflow protection, the water supply network could be contaminated putting public health and safety at risk.

Responsibility for work performed

Any consumer shall be responsible for ensuring any work done on its private water supply complies with the bylaw and legislation, and shall not allow any connection to be in disrepair or defective so that water is wasted or contaminated.

The consumer must make sure that any work they do directly, or commissioned by them does not damage the water infrastructure as it may result in water being wasted through leaks or could contaminate the supply.

This provision is to protect the water supply network, as its reliability could be threatened by excessive wastage or by being contaminated. In this case it makes sense that the landowner is responsible for ensuring any work they do, or that is done by a contractor, does not result in contamination or water being wasted.

Existing Pipes and Fittings

Any existing supply pipes, distributing pipes or fittings may be connected to the public water supply after the commencement of this bylaw, with the approval of the Council.

Provides permission for existing connections to be connected to the system.

This clause may have been appropriate at the time of introducing a bylaw on water supply, however this type of clause is no longer required.

	One point of	supply
The Council may require one Point of Supply to each parcel of land for which a separate certificate of title is held, or to each dwelling or premises on that parcel of land. Lots held in contiguous ownership shall be treated as one parcel of land.	Council can choose to require one point of supply for each parcel of land or dwelling or premises.	In most cases there is no need for a property to have more than one connection. If there is no valid reason for a property to have multiple connections, Council can require only one point of supply for any parcel of land. This makes it easier for Council to better keep record of connections to the supply. This clause is considered to be appropriate.
	Continuity of	supply
No allowance or compensation will be made or allowed by the Council if the water supply is restricted or interrupted, whether for the purpose of laying mains, effecting repairs, attaching new services, or for any other purpose.	Council will not provide any compensation, monetary or otherwise if water is restricted or stopped for any reason.	A range of planned and unplanned events such as maintenance or burst pipes, could result in the water supply either being restricted or stopped altogether. During planned everts such as maintenance Council needs the ability to turn off water or to limit supply to stop water wastage, and also allow the work to be completed to ensure the network remains fit for purpose. During unplanned events Council needs the ability to respond quickly to an event, which may require the water supply being limited or turned off to be able to carry out the required work and limit the potential for significant waste or contamination. It is appropriate for this clause to remain in the bylaw.
All Consumers who, for the purpose of continuing a business or process, or for any other reason, are dependent upon a constant supply of water must provide their own water storage of a minimum capacity as required for their circumstances.	As Council cannot always guarantee a continuous supply, anyone who relies on it must have an alternative supply for circumstances where water supply is limited or stopped.	As explained above, there are a number of circumstances where the water supply may be restricted or stopped. If any property requires uninterrupted access to water, they need to be aware that it will be their responsibility to ensure they have a secondary supply for such circumstances where the WSA cannot supply adequately. It is appropriate for this clause to remain in the bylaw.

Pressure

The Council does not guarantee any specified maximum or minimum pressure in the Public Water Supply and no allowance or compensation will be made or allowed on account of a change of pressure in the supply.

Council cannot promise that there will not be any changes in water pressure, and will not compensate any property owner if they experience a change in their water pressure. Council aims to have a satisfactory water pressure, however cannot guarantee that there will be no changes in pressure. There are a number of reasons why water pressure can change temporarily including maintenance of pipes around town which may require streets to be turned off, affecting how water flows round town, high demand, and maintenance at the treatment plant. This clause remains appropriate for this bylaw.

Damage

The Council will not be held responsible for any damage from any cause that may arise by the bursting or overflow of any pipes, fittings, valves or appliances connected to a private water supply.

Council will not be liable for any damage to a private property caused by any part of the water network within the boundary of a private property.

If a supply system is within the boundary of a private property, Council does not have any ability to, nor is responsible for any maintenance or improvements. It is important that property owners are aware of their responsibilities in relation to maintaining the system within their boundary. This clause may benefit from an update specifying that this applies to the private portion of the public water supply, if the updated definition does not improve understanding of this clause.

Prohibition or restriction of supply in special circumstances

If at any time the Chief Executive considers that because of drought or for any other reason an adequate supply of drinking water may be at imminent risk and that extraordinary measures are necessary in order to conserve the available water supply, the Chief Executive may, by notice, restrict or prohibit the use of water for any specified purpose or for any specified period. This may apply to the whole or part of the District.

If there is a risk of a shortage in water supply, the CE has the ability to order that water must be conserved.

The amount of water that is available for Council's supplies is affected by rainfall and particularly dry periods can result in a shortage in part, or across the entire district. It is important that Council has the ability to require water to be conserved to ensure that an essential supply of potable water remains. This clause should remain in the bylaw.

If a customer has a particular requirement for an uninterrupted level of service (flow, pressure, or quality), it shall be the responsibility of that customer to provide any storage, back-up facilities, or equipment necessary to provide that level of service.	Council cannot guarantee that there will not be times where water supply is interrupted, therefore private property that relies on interrupted supply must have a back up supply that meets their needs.	This clause is trying to achieve a similar, but expanded, outcome as the clause under the heading continuity of supply. This clause would be better suited under that heading, with minor updates to better align these clauses and remove crossover.
No person may use any water, or allow any water to be used in contravention of any restriction or prohibition made under this clause.	If any type of restriction is in place, every consumer must comply with the restriction.	It is important for continuity of supply, that any restrictions are complied with, otherwise there is a risk that the water supply could be compromised.
The Chief Executive may delegate to any other officer of the Council the Chief Executive's powers under clause 10.1.	The CE can delegate their powers to order water to be conserved.	It could be appropriate for the CE to delegate any powers they are given within this bylaw. A similar clause would be better suited within the administration section of this bylaw.
	Supply from standpip	pes or hydrants
No person may take water from standpipes or hydrants or any other part of the public water supply without the prior approval of the WSA. Fire and Emergency New Zealand are exempt from this restriction whilst undertaking their legal responsibility.	Hydrants may only be used by Fire and Emergency NZ unless given permission by the WSA.	This clause was originally included to minimise the possibility of hydrants being damaged. We have also experienced instances where contractors have taken water from hydrants without permission. This puts the towns water supply at risk if they do not use adequate backflow prevention. It can also put pressure on Council's supply during drier months. Council needs to retain the ability to manage who has the ability to use hydrants.

	Protection of waterworks			
No person may enter onto any land owned or occupied by the WSA and used for public water supply without first obtaining the written permission of the WSA.	No one can enter anywhere owned or occupied by the WSA for water supply purposes without permission.	It is important for the protection of the public's health and safety, as well as ensuring Councils assets are protected from unnecessary damage, that members of the public do not access any land owned or operated for the purpose of water supply without consent from Council, therefore this clause is appropriate within this bylaw.		
	Protection of su	pply pipes		
No supply pipe or fitting may be laid or fixed through, in, or into any drain, sink, ash pit, or manure pit, nor through, or in, contaminated land or near any place where the public water supply may become contaminated, without the prior written consent of the WSA and on such terms and conditions as the WSA considers appropriate.	No pipes should be places in an area deemed not appropriate without permission from the WSA.	This would allow Council to consider if the area the pipe is proposed to be installed in could contaminate the water supply and to put in place any necessary restrictions/controls to address and contamination potential. This continues to be appropriate and should remain as written.		
Any person proposing to carry out excavation work shall view the 'as built' information held by the WSA, which records the location of its buried services. At least five working days' notice in writing must be given to the WSA in the event that excavation will occur in the vicinity of its services.	Before carrying out work, the information held on the water supply network must be reviewed, and the WSA notified if work is to be undertaken in the surrounding area of any services.	This clause requires anyone carrying out any excavation work that has the potential to damage Council owned infrastructure, to ensure both Council and the person carrying out the work is aware of any potential risks. This is an appropriate inclusion.		

	Damag	e
Any damage which occurs to a WSA service shall be reported to the WSA immediately. The person causing the damage shall reimburse the WSA with all costs associated with repairing the damaged service, and any other costs the WSA incurs as a result of the incident.	If any damage to WSA infrastructure is known, it must be reported, and if the body responsible for the damage is known, they must cover any costs.	This clause is appropriate but it would make more sense to combine it with above section on damage.
	Drawn water not to	be returned
No person shall return to any part of the public water supply, any water drawn from any part of the public water supply or from any other source, except with the consent of the WSA.	No water can be returned to the water supply without permission from the WSA.	If contaminated water enters the public water supply, it could contaminate the entire supply for the town, therefore it is appropriate that this requirement remains in the bylaw.
	Prevention of I	Backflow
Consumers requiring a new connection to the public water supply (including any connection that was previously disconnected) must install a backflow prevention system that complies with the relevant provisions of the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007.	Any new or reinstatement connection must have a backflow prevention system installed.	This is important to ensure that the water supply is not contaminated by water returning to the water supply system. If contaminated water enters the public water supply, it could contaminate the entire supply for the town, therefore it is appropriate that this requirement remains in the bylaw, although it could be combined with other provisions to make the bylaw more succinct.

Consumers with existing connections that do not have a backflow prevention system shall be required by the WSA to install appropriate devices if required by the WSA to prevent an unsanitary situation.	The WSA can require an existing connection to have a backflow prevention installed.	This is important to ensure that the water supply is not contaminated by water returning to the water supply system. If contaminated water enters the public water supply, it could contaminate the entire supply for the town, therefore it is appropriate that this requirement remains in the bylaw.
	Notice when supply	not required
When any premises supplied with water by the WSA becomes unoccupied or for any other reason a supply of water is no longer required, the consumer must immediately give notice in writing to the WSA.	If a connection is not being used, the owner must notify the WSA.	There is no definition of when a property becomes unoccupied e.g. if a premises is left empty for 2 weeks is it an unoccupied property? It is recommended that this is defined to provide clarity for the consumer. This clause should be further considered, while it is appropriate for Council to take action if a disused connection is compromising the network, Council does not need to take immediate action if a connection is not being utilised.
If the water supply connection has not been used for a period of 12 months or it is left in a condition that could be detrimental to the public water supply, the WSA has the right to remove that water supply connection. Reinstallation of the connection must be paid by the consumer.	If a connection has not been used for an extended period of time or is not in a safe condition the WSA may remove the connection, and the owner must pay to reinstall it if required.	It is appropriate to ensure that the water supply is not compromised as Water can become stagnant if it sits in the pipes for too long. It primarily affects the homeowner, and the issue can usually be resolved by running the taps for about 10 minutes to flush out any stale water, therefore should be considered further. This clause could also be combined with the above clause.

	Metering			
The WSA reserves the right to fit a water meter and charge where it considers water use is excessive, or for a meter to be fitted at the customer's request. Where the extraordinary use is for fire protection only, this supply shall not normally be metered.	Any property considered to be an excessive user may have a water meter installed. Anyone can request that a water meter be installed on their property. If fire protection causes a property to be identified as an extraordinary user, the supply may not be metred.	The WSA needs the ability to monitor the use of water to ensure that all water use is accounted for and used appropriately to monitor how extraordinary users may impact the continuity of supply, therefore this clause is considered to be appropriate. Council may want to consider providing for water meters to be installed more broadly at the land development stage. These meters would not be used for charging (unless there was an extraordinary water use) but it would help us better understand water use across our supply.		
Where meters are installed, the consumer shall pay all charges as determined by the WSA. The WSA may use its discretion to reduce any such charges in extraordinary circumstances.	If a property is metered, the WSA may choose to charge for water use. If excessive charges are charged, the WSA may choose to reduce the charge.	These charges are set out in Council's fees and charges and are reviewed regularly. If a property is found to have an uncommonly high bill it usually indicates that there is a leak in the network past the water meter. Council often will reduce the bill if the property owner can provide proof that the leak has been fixed. It is appropriate that Council charges for extraordinary use of water to ensure potable water is used responsibly and that leaks are fixed in a timely manner.		
Any customer who disputes the accuracy of a meter or restrictor may apply to the WSA for it to be tested (provided that it is not within three months of the last test). If the test shows noncompliance with the accuracy above, the customer shall not be charged for the test. If the test shows compliance, the customer shall pay a fee in accordance with the WSA current fees and charges.	If an occupier does not believe that their meter is recording accurate information the WSA will test it, however if it is found to be accurate the occupier must pay for the testing.	This is appropriate as Council is willing to test water meters when it appears to be a genuine problem, however, Council does not have the resources to regularly test a large number of water meters.		

In the event water used for fighting a fire passes through a water meter, the consumer will estimate the quantity of water used for the purpose of extinguishing the fire/s and apply to Council to have this quantity credited.

The WSA will deduct the quantity of water used for the purpose of extinguishing a fire as estimated by the occupier, and remove this amount from the water bill.

It is considered to be appropriate that any changes for the use of water for firefighting purposes is removed from a bill due to the nature of this use of water.

Part 2 Wastewater and Stormwater

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this still a problem, and is it working in the current form	
	Objectives		
The objective of this part of the bylaw is to define the Council's requirements and provide for the protection of the land, structures, and infrastructure associated with wastewater drainage and stormwater drainage.	To identify the WSA's responsibilities and protect land, structures, and infrastructure associated with wastewater and stormwater drainage.	This objective remains relevant for this bylaw.	
	Protection of the dr	rainage works	
Unless authorised by the Council no person may: a) Cause or allow the entry into any drain or fitting any earth, stones, sand, silt, refuse, human effluent, or material except such matter as is normally discharged through a house drain.	In short, no person shall interfere with or allow any material to enter the drainage system that may damage or contaminate the drainage system. No one can build any structures or install any infrastructure in or near the drainage system.	This section requires further consideration. It is recommended that stormwater drains and wastewater drains are separated to clarify what provisions relate to each type of drain. The stormwater drainage system is not designed to handle materials such as human effluent or other waste. Any water that enters the drainage system does not get treated at the wastewater treatment plants and therefore will contaminate the environment.	

- b) Enter any drain, pumping station building or related accessory, or any wastewater treatment area.
- c) Operate, remove, cover or interfere with any cover of any manhole, inlet or other equipment associated with any drain.
- d) Erect any structure over, or within a distance of one metre from the side of any public drain. This provision does not apply to boundary fences erected across drains.
- e) Lay any public or private utility service or private drain:
- i) Along the line of an existing public drain; or
- ii) Within a parallel distance of one meter from the nearest part of any public drain.

If unauthorised people tamper or otherwise interfere with the drainage system, including pumping stations and treatment plants, there is a risk that they could damage the equipment, while risking their health and safety.

There have also been cases where people attempted to build structures over council drains. For example, in Taihape a few years ago, someone wanted to construct a private bridge. Without the bylaw in place, they might have proceeded without consulting the council for approval.

Our current bylaw allows structures to be built as close as 1m from an open drain. This raises a major concern about how this drain will be effectively maintained. With only 1m of clearance, it is impossible to operate a digger or even drive a ute alongside for spraying. In contrast, both Horizons and Manawatū District Council require a 10m setback. Council should consider increasing this setback requirement.

As currently written, boundary fences do not need approval from the WSA to be erected over a drain. Fences can also make maintenance of drains difficult, and can restrict access to drains. A way to address this would be to require approval for any boundary fences within 10 meters of a drain, to align it with a suggested requirement for any other structure.

This clause would benefit from restructuring to clarify what clauses relate to stormwater drains and what ones are applicable to wastewater drains to avoid conflict/confusion e.g. human effluent cannot enter stormwater drains, however toilets are connected to wastewater drains.

Wastewater drains

Unless authorised by the Council no person may:

- a) Cause or allow any water from a water pipe, artesian well, ram or other hydraulic appliance or any surface water, subsoil drainage, roof water or condensing water to enter a wastewater drain or a drain connected with a wastewater drain.
- b) Cause or allow any water which may contain fat, sediment or other extraneous matter to be discharged from a butcher's shop, fish shop, restaurant or other premises (except a standalone dwelling used for residential purposes) where food is prepared, processed or served, directly to a wastewater drain or a drain connected to a wastewater drain.
- c) Use any waste disposal unit connected to any drainage works other than for the purpose of disposing of ordinary domestic household waste.
- d) Cause or allow any steam, or any other matter (solid or liquid) at a temperature higher than 40°C to pass into any wastewater drain.

This section identifies a number of differently types of contaminated water that cannot enter the wastewater drainage system without prior approval form the WSA.

This section requires further consideration.

Stormwater infiltration into wastewater systems is an ongoing issue in Taihape, Hunterville, and Marton. There have been instances where property owners have directed downpipes and other stormwater drainage into their wastewater connections, which significantly increases the amount of wastewater needing treated at our plants, and has contributed to some of our plants going over the consented discharge requirements. Therefore, it is appropriate that the types of water that can enter the wastewater drain remains restricted.

Water contaminated by materials such as fat and sediment when in large quantities from non residential properties causes significant issues for the drainage system, such as causing large blockages of pipes, so it is appropriate to restrict these materials.

When there is a large quantity of water from one source (such as a meatworks) water can maintain its temperature as it goes through the drainage system. Hot water can upset the bacterial environment within drains. Therefore, it is appropriate to restrict the temperature of water in the bylaw. However, this clause should be revised to confirm that it applies to commercial/industrial discharges and not residential properties using hot water for domestic purposes.

Protection of stormwater system			
Landowners shall at all times maintain waterways in a manner that allows free unimpeded water flow. Note: Any such activity may require resource consent from Horizons Regional Council, depending on the nature of the water body, its location and the methods used.	Landowners are responsible for ensuring stormwater drains on their property do not get blocked.	Occasionally, we receive reports of landowners obstructing stormwater drains, whether intentionally or unintentionally, which can cause flooding for neighbouring properties. There have been instances where people have blocked drains by either dumping rubbish or filling in an open drain. It is important that Council has the ability to require landowners to maintain waterway on their property in a way that does not impact other properties. Further consideration is needed to clarify when it is Council's responsibility to maintain public drains on private land. Council may want to better specify that landowners are required to remedy any damage to a drain.	
Unless authorised by the Council no person may: a) Conduct surface water or subsoil water into a stormwater drain, except through a master trap or silt traps, or similar devices, situated in an approved position within the premises; b) Allow a private drain to remain in use where silt or solids are likely to enter a stormwater drain through such drain; or c) Cause or allow any steam, or any other matter (solid or liquid) at a temperature of more than 3 degrees variance to the receiving water temperature to pass into any stormwater drain.	Landowners must ensure that they do not cause anything to enter a drain that could damage or block the drain.	This clause aims to protect the stormwater drain from being blocked by silt and similar materials building up over time. Water that it too hot or too cold, when compared to the temperature of the stormwater drain it is entering can significantly impact the wildlife and plants living within the stormwater drain. This clause is considered to be appropriate. This section could be rewritten to improve clarity.	

Protection of waterways

Unless authorised by the Council no person may:

- a) Sweep, rake, place, throw, or discharge any matter or thing including any dust, earth, rubbish, refuse, grass clippings or animals into any system that discharges into a reticulated system, that obstructs or will be likely to obstruct the free flow of water in the reticulated system.
- b) Erect a structure, place any material or thing, or plant trees, hedges or other plants within the setback areas as required in the district plans where it will obstruct or be likely to obstruct the free passage along the banks of the water body of machinery or apparatus used for the purpose of improving, cleaning or maintaining the waterway. If any structure is erected, material or thing is placed, or any tree, hedge or other plant is planted or allowed to grow in breach of this sub-clause, the Council may by notice in writing require the owner or occupant of the land on which the breach has occurred to remove such structure, material, thing, tree, hedge or other plant.

No one can cause materials to enter any water system that discharges into a reticulated system, or allow anything to obstruct access to a waterway for the purposes of maintaining the waterway or similar activity. Further exploration needs to be undertaken on the difference between a waterbody and waterway, and what should be used in this context, to make sure it is aligned with Horizons One Plan, currently waterway and waterbody is used interchangeably. While this clause should be further considered, it should remain in principle to protect the waterways and the wider reticulated system. This entire section should be amended to provide better clarity to the reader.

Removal of obstructions and risks in the water body			
The Council may require the removal, poisoning, cutting, or treating (whether with or without the removal of the poisoned, cut or treated portions) of trees, plants, weeds, or growths that obstruct or will be likely to obstruct the free flow of water in any water body. Consent may be required from Horizons Regional Council in order to carry out any such works.	Council may require any plant material bocking a water body to be removed.	It is important that Council has the ability to require a waterbody to be cleared if it is obstructed. If a waterbody remains obstructed it can exacerbate flooding during periods of high rainfall. The need for Horizons consent does not need to be included in our bylaw, and may be better suited as a note if it is to be included.	

Part 3 Private drains and watercourses

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this still a problem, and is it working in the current form		
	Objectives			
Ensure the maintenance of private drains and watercourses to avoid the increase of surface water runoff onto any other property or road.	Private drains need to be maintained to allow them to continue to operate as they are intended.	It is important that private drains are maintained to ensure they continue to work as they should, and not affect other properties by increasing the amount of water other properties have to manage.		
Ensure the avoidance of contamination of any drain or water body.	To mitigate possible contamination of drains and waterbodies.	This objective should remain as it is there to protect the waterbodies and the plants and wildlife living within them.		

Private drain to serve land held under the same title				
A private drain may pass only through land held under the same title it is intended to serve, and may not pass through adjacent land without the written approval of the Council. Consent may also be required from Horizons Regional Council.	A private drain cannot enter an adjacent property without approval from Council.	A private drain is owned and maintained by the owner of that property. It is reasonable to expect the private drain to stay on the property of the owner if it does not also serve other properties, however this clause will need to be amended if the definition of private drains is amended as suggested. The need for Horizons consent would continue to serve its purpose as a note.		
	Common private drains			
The installation of a common private drain must be approved in writing by the Council and that approval shall be subject to any conditions that the Council considers appropriate.	Before common private drains can be installed, permission must be given by Council.	It is appropriate that Council is able to consider the installation of any drains to ensure they will not exacerbate any potential flooding risks, and that it will operate as it is intended.		
No approval will be issued for a common private drain which has to traverse any land other than that which it is intended to serve to reach an approved outfall unless the Council is satisfied that the drain is of sufficient capacity to serve the total development possible on that land.	Common private drains must not enter properties not services by the drain without Councils permission.	If a common private drain crosses other properties that the drain is not intended to service, there is a risk that the drain will not be designed to handle the amount of water they may end up in the drain. If the drain goes through land that has further potential to be developed, this risk will be significantly greater, therefore Council should have the ability to limit the path of common private drains.		

	Maintenance of private drainage systems and water bodies		
Council records are maintained at www.intramaps.co.nz to identify where the responsibility for maintaining private drains resides. The maintenance and effective operation of a private drainage system is the responsibility of the owner(s) or occupier(s) of the premises that the private drainage system serves unless Council contribute stormwater to a private drain in the urban boundary and that drain then forms part of the stormwater network, Council will be responsible for the maintenance of that drain.	Ongoing maintenance and operation of a common private drain is not the responsibility of Council, it is the responsibility of the owners of the land it is on. If Council makes use of a private drain, Council will be responsible for the maintenance of that drain.	The purpose of this clause is to provide clarity on who is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of a private drain. It is important that this is clearly set out to avoid confusion or any challenges in the future, and ensure that the maintenance is not neglected due to confusion around where responsibility lays. This clause should be reworded to more generically reference that Council maintains records.	
Where the private drainage system does not connect to the reticulated system, consent may be required from Horizons Regional Council for the discharge of wastewater or stormwater.	A Horizons Consent may be needed for a private drain.	This is better suited as a note as it is enforced by Horizons, not Council.	
A private drainage system must be protected in an approved manner where it could be damaged by vehicular traffic, impact or tree root penetration, or any other source.	All drains must have an approve protection method.	It is appropriate to provide Council with confidence that any private drain is protected from obvious sources of damage to ensure it will be able to continue to operate, however this would benefit from refining.	

Where any private drainage system becomes blocked the owner(s) or occupier(s) of the premises served by the private drainage system must have it cleared immediately. If immediate arrangements are not made to clear the blocked system, the Council may serve notice on all owners or occupiers of the premises the private drainage system serves to have the blockage cleared within twenty four (24) hours of the issue of that notice.	Owners of a private drain must make sure that any blocked drains are cleared immediately. If not, Council will give notice that it must be cleared.	It is important for the integrity of the drainage network, that all drains are able to operate as they are intended at all times. If a drain is blocked during a period of high water flow within the area, it could cause significant flooding causing damage to the property as well as neighbouring properties. Refinement of who is responsible (e.g. the owner of the property) is recommended.
Where there is failure to comply with a notice the Council may cause a blocked private drainage system to be cleared, and whether this action is taken or not, may recover the cost of the work from the owner(s) or occupier(s) of the premises served with the notice.	If a notice to clear a private drain is not complied with, Council may do the work and pass on the cost to the occupier.	As it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain their private drain, Council should not be liable to cover the cost if the landowner does not follow through with their responsibilities. However, it is appropriate that Council has a pathway to clear these drains and recover costs, if this work is not undertaken it could have detrimental effects on the wider drainage network, causing flooding and damage to the property and surrounding properties. This would benefit from further refining to clarify when Council will seek to recover costs.
If, in clearing a blockage, it becomes clear that the blockage is within the drainage works and the blockage has not been caused by misuse by the owner or occupier of the premises, the Council will reimburse the owner or occupier for the reasonable costs incurred in clearing the blockage.	If an owner of a drain is not found to be the cause of a block within a drain, Council will cover reasonable costs for clearing that drain.	This clause is no longer appropriate, and does not align with the above clauses that state that landowners are responsible for maintaining private drains.

Maintenance of common private drains

Council records are maintained at www.intramaps.co.nz to identify where the responsibility for maintaining common private drains resides. This is usually with the owner(s) or occupier(s) of the property. In certain circumstances this may not be the case, where Council contribute stormwater to a common private drain in the urban boundary and that drain then forms part of the stormwater network, Council will be responsible for the maintenance of that drain. Council will amend its records upon notification of errors in its records maintained at www.intramaps.co.nz that are confirmed upon investigation.

Those who are responsible for maintaining a common private drain can be found on Councils mapping system.

It is important that all parties who have possession of a common private drain are aware of their responsibilities for the drain.

While Council needs to be able to amend any records if information is incorrect, it does not need to be specified in this way. If this is to stay in the bylaw it could be made a note.

Disused drains

The owner of any premises within which there is a disused part of any private drainage system shall arrange for it to be disconnected and sealed in an approved manner.

If a private drain or any part, must be disconnected and sealed if it is no longer in use. This clause would benefit from refinement. A better focus would be to require redundant private stormwater systems to be removed or decommissioned if they have cause or are likely to cause damage to the public stormwater network. In many cases Council will not be aware of disused private drains if they are not causing any issues for the public system.

Part 4 Trade Wastes

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this still a problem, and is it working in the current form		
	Objectives			
Prescribe the conditions which shall apply to any commercial or industrial trade waste discharges to Council's wastewater system;	This part specifies conditions that must be met to allow producers of trade water to use the wastewater system.	It is important that producers of trade waste have clear guidelines and rules when discharging to Council's wastewater system to protect the system.		
Prescribe the correct storage of materials in order to protect the wastewater system from spillage	The bylaw directs how people can store materials for the purpose of protecting the wastewater system.	This objective could be amended to improve clarity.		
	Control of dis	scharge		
No person shall: a) Discharge, or allow to be discharged, any trade waste to the wastewater system except in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw; or b) Discharge, or allow to be discharged, a prohibited waste into the wastewater system; or	Trade waste can only be discharged to Council's wastewater system it complies with this bylaw, and does not contain any banned materials or other types of water.	These provisions are intended to protect the wastewater system network from a build up of materials than can block the system. It also prevents the bacterial ecosystem of the wastewater network being compromised and reducing the ability of the network to function, including the wastewater treatment plant. This bylaw could also better clarify what is classed as a prohibited waste. It is important that Council has the ability to prevent those who produce trade waste from discharging to the wastewater.		
c) Add or permit the addition of condensing or cooling water to any trade waste which discharges into		produce trade waste from discharging to the wastewater system if they do not comply with the bylaw, otherwise there is a risk to Councils wastewater system.		
the wastewater system unless specific approval is given in a written consent; or		The last point requiring anyone to also comply with other legislation is not required to be in the bylaw, and is better suited as a note if it is to be included in the bylaw.		
d) Add or permit the addition of stormwater to any trade waste which discharges into the				

wastewater system unless specific approval is given in a written consent.		
In the event of failure to comply with 32.1 (A)-(D), the Council may physically prevent discharge into the wastewater system if a reasonable alternative action cannot be established with the discharging party or parties		
Any person discharging to the Council's wastewater system shall also comply with the requirements of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).		
	Interceptor	traps
An approved interceptor trap must be installed in any property where, in the opinion of the Council, any contaminant is likely to enter any drain or sewer or where any nuisance is created.	Council can require the installation of an interceptor trap where deemed appropriate.	It is appropriate that Council has the ability to require interceptor traps to prevent unwanted materials from entering the wastewater system, preventing blockages and destruction of the wastewater network, including the wastewater treatment plant. This section may benefit from for specific specifications.
Storage, transport, handling and use of hazardous or harmful materials		
All persons in trade premises shall take all reasonable steps to prevent the accidental or intended entry of any harmful materials.	Trade premises must take all feasible steps to prevent harmful materials from the wastewater system.	This clause should specify that it refers to prohibiting the entry of these materials into the wastewater system. A definition of harmful materials is found in the interpretation section, and does not need to be included as a note as it currently is.

No person shall store, transport, handle or use, or cause to be stored, transported, handled or used any substance as defined by HSNO or any other harmful materials in a manner that may cause the material to enter the wastewater system and cause harmful effects.	No one can allow any harmful material to enter the wastewater system at any point.	This could be rewritten to improve clarity. This clause should refer to the definition of harmful materials within this bylaw, which reflects the intent of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, rather than providing an additional definition here.
	Tankered w	vastes
Council may accept tankered wastes for discharge at an approved location, in accordance with the criteria in the Rangitīkei District Council Trade Waste Operational Guidelines.	Council may provide a location for tankered wate to be disposed of.	Tankered waste could be detrimental to the wastewater system if not disposed of appropriately, and could overwhelm the system with the sudden influx of waste, therefore this clause is appropriate.
Tankered wastes shall not be discharged into Council's wastewater system by any person without the written consent of Council.	Council will give permission for people to dispose of tinkered waste into the wastewater system if it is appropriate.	Council needs to be aware of any possible contaminants and the quantity of what is being discharge to the wastewater system to ensure the wastewater system can handle it.
Any person illegally disposing of, or causing to be disposed, tankered wastes either by incorrect disclosure of contents (quantity or nature of materials) or dumping into the Council's wastewater or stormwater systems at other than the prescribed locations will be in breach of this bylaw.	Anyone undertaking a prohibited activity within this bylaw in breach of this bylaw.	This clause is not required to be included in the bylaw as this bylaw clearly states what is and what is not allowed. If any clause within the bylaw is breached Council has a pathway to enforce it.

Application for consent to discharge		
An application shall be made to Council by any person wishing to discharge any trade waste into Council's wastewater system. The Council shall approve or decline the application (with or without conditions) after consideration of the Rangitīkei District Council Trade Waste Operational Guidelines	Council will consider any application to discharge trade waste into the wastewater system.	This clearly specifies that any person wishing to dispose trade waste into Council's wastewater system must have permission from Council, while also specifying that Council does not have to accept the application. It is appropriate that Council can choose not to accept an application to protect the wastewater system if their proposed measures are not considered to be adequate to protect the wastewater system.
Council is not obliged to approve any application. Council shall acknowledge the application in writing within 10 working days of receipt of the application. Within 20 working days of receipt of the application, Council shall inform the applicant via an appropriate written notice that their application has been: a) Granted as a permitted trade waste; b) Granted as a conditional trade waste, and give notice of the conditions imposed on the discharge; or c) Declined, and give a statement of reasons for the refusal.	This sets out the timeframes for considering an application, while reiterating that Council may or may not approve an application.	While the application process could remain within the bylaw, it is better suited to be included in a supporting guidelines, or even just made available on Councils website. The clause above this one also specifies that Council may or may not approve the application. This repetition is unnecessary.

Council shall advise the duration of any granted consent, and reserves the right to require reassessment of any consent if it is considered that the quantity and/or nature of the discharge has significantly changed from that provided for under any existing consent.	Council can specify how long the consent is valid for, and can require the consent to be reviewed if the consent holder appears to not be complying with the consent specifications.	This clause is included to make sure consent holders are aware of the process that Council will follow if there is reason to believe the consent is not being adhered to. This administrative clause remains appropriate, but may require amendment to better align with other changes suggested.
	Monitori	ing
Council is entitled to monitor or audit any trade waste discharge for compliance.	Council can keep track of any trade waste discharge to ensure it is compliant.	It is important the Council has the ability to make sure any producers of trade waste are complying with the bylaw and any consent they may have. Council needs to ability to monitor this to ensure compliance, and address any issues that may arise.
Council shall determine the most appropriate method of monitoring in accordance with the Rangitīkei District Council Trade Waste Operational Guidelines.	The guidelines specify how Council will monitor the disposal of trade waste.	This clause referring to the operational guidelines is suitable in its current form, but would likely be suited as a note.
All costs for monitoring shall be met by the discharger.	The person disposing of trade waste will be responsible for covering the costs Council incurs for monitoring their disposal of trade waste.	This clause specifies that the cost of ensuring that what they dispose of does not damage the wastewater system should fall on the producer of the hazardous wastewater, not the ratepayer, which could be seen to still be appropriate.
Suspension or cancellation of any consent to discharge		
Council may suspend or cancel any consent to discharge at any time, following 20 working days' notice and consultation with the consent holder or person discharging any trade waste.	Council can give notice that a consent to discharge is being suspended or cancelled.	This clause gives Council the ability to cancel the consent which should be considered to be appropriate. This is typically only done if a consent holder does not comply with any conditions on the consent.

Matters that shall be taken into	Matters contributing to the	This would continue to serve its purpose as a note. The
account for the suspension or	decision to cancel or suspend a	guidelines should also be reviewed prior to this bylaw being
cancellation of any consent are	consent are available in the	adopted.
outlined in the Rangitīkei District	guidelines.	
Council Trade Waste Operational		
Guidelines.		

Part 5 Miscellaneous

Summary of Current Bylaw	What it is trying to achieve	Is this still a problem, and is it working in the current form
Fees		
Where this bylaw provides for the Council or WSA to issue a certificate, permit, or consent, or give its authority for anything, or carry out an inspection or disconnection of any services, the Council may require the payment of a fee. Any such fee shall be prescribed by the Council under Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002, and included in Council's annual schedule of fees and charges.	Any fees or changes associated with this bylaw are prescribed in Councils Schedule of Fees and Charges.	It is appropriate that any fees or changes associated with this bylaw are specified in the schedule of fees and charges as it allows Council to regularly review them, rather than being required to wait until this bylaw is reviewed.
Any person receiving an invoice for cost recovery shall be provided with any information or calculations used to determine the extent of any charges and/or fees due.	Anytime Council recovers costs under this bylaw, Council will include an explanation of the total cost.	This is a step that should reasonably be expected of Council when requiring payment.

Breaches	and	infringements	
Dicaciics			

Every person or consent holder or owner or occupier of a trade premises who:

- a) Fails to comply with or acts in contravention of any provision of this bylaw; or
- b) Breaches the conditions of any consent granted pursuant to this bylaw; or
- c) Fails to comply with a notice served under this bylaw,

Commits an offence under section 239 of the Local Government Act 2002, and is liable to a fine as specified in section 242 of the Local Government Act 2002, or the issue of an infringement notice under section 245 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In all cases, Council may recover any costs associated with the damage to the Council water supply, wastewater or stormwater systems, and/or the breach of bylaw in accordance with sections 175 and 176 of the Local Government Act 2002 respectively. This specifies what is considered to be an offence under this bylaw, and describes the actions Council can take under the Local Government Act.

While this bylaw must state what legislation Council is acting under when enforcing this bylaw, there is no requirement to specify what powers Council has under the Act, therefore this section could be summarised.

In some cases, an offence under this bylaw may also constitute breach of the Horizons One Plan, which may result in enforcement action by Horizons Regional Council.	Any activity must also comply with Horizons One Plan, enforced by Horizons.	The intent of this clause would be achieved if it was a note, it is not directly relating to actions Rangitīkei District Council can take.	
	Review of decisions		
If any person is dissatisfied with any decision made by a Council officer under this bylaw, that person may, by notice delivered to the Rangitīkei District Council Chief Executive not later than 20 working days after the decision by the officer is served upon that person, request that the Chief Executive review any such decision. This decision shall be final. Nothing in this clause shall affect any right of appeal under the Local Government Act 2002.	This clause sets out the process for a person to challenge any decision made under this bylaw.	This clause can be considered to be appropriate in its current form.	