

10 February 2020

Alister Lynn  
[alastairlynn@mediaworks.co.nz](mailto:alastairlynn@mediaworks.co.nz)

Dear Mr Lynn,

## Waterways

Further to your request received on 3 October 2019 regarding Waterways, please find below our response to your queries.

1. *Request for any water testing that has been conducted by the Hamilton City Council in its waterways (including the Waikato River and Hamilton lake) where pollution levels have been deemed higher than safe from January 1 2016 until today. Could I please have this displayed in a table detailing when and where the test took place, the pollution level recorded, and how long the area was deemed unsafe.*

Hamilton City Council undertakes a variety of routine monitoring programmes on waterways within the city including the Waikato River and Lake Rotoroa. Each programme is designed with a specific objective so a wide range of parameters are monitored.

Many of the parameters monitored as part of these programmes do not have any applicable national guidelines to indicate a level of being safe or unsafe. The only parameters we routinely monitor for with recognised recreational guideline levels specifically targeting public health safety in freshwater are E. coli (<550 MPN/100mL) and Algae biovolumes (<1.8 mm<sup>3</sup>/L of potentially toxic cyanobacteria). The relevant guidelines for these parameters are published by the Ministry for the Environment:

- [Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater](#)
- [New Zealand Guidelines for Cyanobacteria in Recreational Fresh Waters \(interim guidelines\)](#)

The attached spreadsheet contains E.coli monitoring results that Hamilton City Council has obtained as part of routine monitoring programmes. Details are shown where monitoring have exceeded the guideline E.coli level of 550 MPN/100mL during the period of 1 January 2016 until 3 October 2019. Where the spreadsheet is blank and carries no data, the result was below the guideline E.coli level. Where monitoring has exceeded the guideline, the area is deemed unsafe until monitoring indicates a safe level.

There have been no Algal biovolume monitoring results of samples taken from the Waikato River or Lake Rotoroa by Hamilton City Council since 1 January 2016 that have exceeded the Algae biovolume guideline level of 1.8 mm<sup>3</sup>/L.

2. *Request for any records of when waste water has spilled into the Waikato River and Hamilton Lake from January 1 2016 until now. Can I please have this information in a table marking when and where these spills took place, the reason for the spill, and how much wastewater was discharged.*

The table below summarises the details of any events in which untreated wastewater has been discharged directly to the Waikato River between 1 January 2016 and 3 October 2019.

<b>Direct Discharges of Untreated Wastewater to Waikato River (1 January 2016 – 3 October 2019)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Estimated Volume</b>
22 June 2019	Wellington St	Wastewater main blockage resulting from fat, rags and a piece of metal.	9 – 42 m <sup>3</sup>
5 March 2018	Malcolm St	Broken wastewater rising main.	*NA
20 Feb 2018	Anzac Pde	Control failure of the Bridge St Wastewater Pumping station.	1782 m <sup>3</sup>
12 Nov 2016	Hillsborough Tce	Damage to infrastructure caused by directional drilling.	*NA
13 July 2016	Cook St	Broken wastewater service connection.	*NA

*\*NA - No estimation of volume available for these discharge events*

There have been no discharges of untreated wastewater directly to Lake Rotoroa during the period 1 January 2016 to 3 October 2019.

Yours sincerely,

**Michelle van Straalen**  
Official Information Advisor  
Legal Services  
Hamilton City Council



**Hamilton City Council**  
**Waikato River and Lake Rotoroa Routine Monitoring – Where Pollution Levels are Deemed Higher than safe as per the**  
[Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater](#)  
[New Zealand Guidelines for Cyanobacteria in Recreational Fresh Waters \(interim guidelines\)](#)

**E.coli (MPN/100mL)**  
**1 January 2016 - 3 October 2019**

Sampling Location	Waiora Water Treatment Plant Intake	Malcolm St (site A)	Malcolm St (Site B)	Hamilton Gardens	Wellington St	Grantham St (site A)	Grantham St (site B)	Ann St	River Rd	Arcus St	River Oaks	Hamilton Yacht Club	Lake Rotoroa Playground	Lake Rotoroa Café	Lake Rotoroa Scooter Bay	Duck Feeding Area
Waterway	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa
8/01/2016										2909						
17/02/2016								630	1220	2410						
3/03/2016						697										
30/03/2016							703		906							
27/05/2016							839									
8/09/2016														1120		
23/08/2016	605															
29/09/2016														1187		
8/12/2016												>2419		>2419	1733	
13/12/2016														1203		
23/02/2017															663	556
4/04/2017	605													24191	6131	19863
22/06/2017														638		
25/07/2017	2282															
26/07/2017												631				
28/08/2017		1210	1145	987	880	684	794	906	663	594						
31/08/2017															576	
12/09/2017	820															
14/09/2017															932	
19/09/2017	1050															
3/10/2017	605															
19/10/2017													663			
7/11/2017	1670															
8/11/2017				613	564			759	809	794	959		4611			
21/11/2017			<10										1450			
6/12/2017												754	2187			
14/12/2017													833			
21/12/2017													1299			
17/01/2018													754			
23/01/2018													2481		860	
30/01/2018													1467			
7/02/2018													563			
9/02/2018															1313	
13/02/2018	1236	1396	1081	1317	1850	1670	2014	1850	1460	1670	1664	933	2613			

**Hamilton City Council**  
**Waikato River and Lake Rotoroa Routine Monitoring – Where Pollution Levels are Deemed Higher than safe as per the**  
[Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater](#)  
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**E.coli (MPN/100mL)**  
**1 January 2016 - 3 October 2019**

Sampling Location	Waiora Water Treatment Plant Intake	Malcolm St (site A)	Malcolm St (Site B)	Hamilton Gardens	Wellington St	Grantham St (site A)	Grantham St (site B)	Ann St	River Rd	Arcus St	River Oaks	Hamilton Yacht Club	Lake Rotoroa Playground	Lake Rotoroa Café	Lake Rotoroa Scooter Bay	Duck Feeding Area
Waterway	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Waikato River	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa	Lake Rotoroa
22/02/2018						703						1019				
27/02/2018													1726			
7/03/2018													1198			
15/03/2018													586			
21/03/2018													3654			
28/03/2018													1112			
8/04/2018															3076	
18/04/2018																19863
1/05/2018	556															
24/05/2018		1607				789	605	932	712	932	933					
5/06/2018	984															
7/09/2018															3784	
21/11/2018													3255			
28/11/2018													6867			
3/12/2018							959		1723				1169			
12/12/2018													583			
31/01/2019												591				
5/02/2019													1986			
7/02/2019										624						
26/02/2019														754	2014	
28/02/2019				695												
6/03/2019															1187	
7/03/2019		1274														
13/03/2019												2247		2310		
17/04/2019												908	959			
6/06/2019															4106	
2/10/2019															866	

## Michelle van Straalen

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**From:** Michelle van Straalen  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 November 2019 14:46  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** official information  
**Subject:** FW: LGOIMA 19295: Waterways  
**Attachments:** LGOIMA 19295 Waterways response .docx; LGOIMA 19295 - Waterways - E.coli Monitoring Data - October 2019.XLSX

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request for information of 3 October 2019 in respect of waterways.

Please find attached Hamilton City Council's response to your request.

Kind regards,

**Michelle van Straalen**

Official Information Advisor | Legal Services | Governance Unit

DDI: 07 974 0589 | [Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz)



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**From:** official information

**Sent:** Thursday, 3 October 2019 3:09 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** official information <officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz>

**Subject:** LGOIMA 19295: Waterways

Kia ora

I write to acknowledge your information request of 3 October 2019 in respect of waterways.

Please be advised that your request has been passed on to the relevant team within Council and you will be informed of the outcome.

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requires that we advise you of our decision on whether the Council will provide the requested information or not "as soon as reasonably practicable", no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. We will respond to you no later than 1 November 2019.

Ngaa mihi,

**Amy Viggers**

On behalf of the Privacy Officer

DDI: 07 8386727 | Email: [amy.viggers@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:amy.viggers@hcc.govt.nz)



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**From:** Hamilton City Council <[do.not.reply@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:do.not.reply@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 3 October 2019 1:51 PM

**To:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** HCC Website - Official Information Request ref: HCC-QF-191003-81GVK-VF

## HCC Website - Official Information Request

**Reference:** HCC-QF-191003-81GVK-VF

**Attachment:** not attached

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email address:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

### Detailed Description of Request

Good afternoon,

I wish to make a request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. As per the act, if I could have a response to the questions in 20 working days that would be greatly appreciated.

Requested information as follows:

- Any water testing that has been conducted by the Hamilton City Council in its waterways (including the Waikato River and Hamilton lake) where pollution levels have been deemed higher than safe from January 1 2016 until today. Could I please have this displayed in a table detailing when and where the test took place, the pollution level recorded, and how long the area was deemed unsafe.

- Any records of when waste water has spilled into the Waikato River and Hamilton Lake from January 1 2016 until now. Can I please have this information in a table marking when and where these spills took place, the reason for the spill, and how much wastewater was discharged.

**Organisation:** [REDACTED]