



Notice of Requirement - Okato Water Treatment Plant (NPDC-76)

New Plymouth District Council gives notice of its requirement for the following designations for a public work (or in respect of any land, water, subsoil, or airspace where a restriction is necessary for the safe or efficient functioning or operation of a public work) under **Sections 168A, 181(4)** and **Form 20** of the Resource Management Act 1991.

New designations	Yes
Lapsed designations requiring a new designation	N/A

1. Introduction

The New Plymouth District Council (as Requiring Authority) is seeking to designate existing water supply infrastructure on Council owned land in order to increase public awareness of the asset, streamline any future work in accordance with the designated purpose, being 'Water treatment plant' and effectively provide for the long term protection of the asset.

The Okato Water Treatment Plant has a capacity to treat up to a maximum of 900m³/day. At the treatment plant a multi-barrier process occurs including two stage microfiltration, ultra-violet sterilisation unit, and addition of lime and chlorine before being transferred to the adjoining reservoir which has a water holding capacity of 1.2 million litres. The supply zone for the reservoir extends from Oxford and Saunders Roads to Hampton and Brophy Roads and includes the township of Okato.

There are currently 50 metered connections on the supply. 14 of these are farm connections while 36 are residential properties. The rural properties supplied are either metered or have a restricted flow connection.

2. The sites to which the requirement applies are as follows:

Reference	Site Name	Location	Legal Description
NPDC-76	Okato Water Treatment Plant	Oxford Road, Okato	Sec 1 SO 308144

3. The nature of the proposed work is:

The New Plymouth District Council seeks to designate land which contains existing water supply infrastructure. The designation of the site is for the purpose of providing for the long-term protection of this existing infrastructure and to increase its visibility within the District Plan.



4. The nature of the proposed conditions that would apply is:

No conditions are deemed necessary given the nature of the designations as the infrastructure has already been established on the site.

5. The effects that the public work will have on the environment, and the ways in which any adverse effects will be mitigated, are:



Figure 1: Proposed designation boundaries of the Okato Water Treatment Plant

The site to which the proposed designation relates is located within the Rural Environment Area and Volcanic Hazard area in the Operative District Plan. The Operative District Plan maps



indicate that energy use pipelines traverse the site. The site has an area of 1012m² and contains the Okato Water Treatment Plant and reservoir which were established in 2003.

The untreated water source is the Mangatete Stream and the reservoir capacity is 50,000L/hr. Water from the Mangatete Stream is drawn through an infiltration gallery under the riverbank and flows by gravity to the treatment plant where a multi-barrier treatment process occurs.

Visual Effects



Figure 2: Okato Water Treatment Plant as viewed from Oxford Road facing south (Google Maps)



Figure 3: Okato water treatment plant as viewed from Oxford Road facing west (Google Maps)



The water treatment plant building and reservoir are set back approximately 7m from Oxford Road. Landscaping within the site largely screens the structures from view when approaching the site from the north. The water treatment plant and reservoir are visible when approaching the site from the south, however they do not detract from the surrounding rural area given they are similar in scale to the onsite landscaping and their nondescript colour.

As the infrastructure already exists the designation of the site will not give rise to any adverse effects on character and amenity.

Noise

The water treatment plant is located within a Rural Environment and is approximately 120m from the closest residential dwelling. The water treatment plant does not generate unreasonable noise effects beyond the boundary of the proposed designated site. Any noise generated achieves compliance with the requirements of the Operative District Plan.

As the infrastructure already exists the designation of the site will not result in an increase in noise from the site or a change to the nature of the site.

Traffic and Parking

Access to the site is gained via an existing driveway from Oxford Road. Vehicle movements to the site are limited to a light vehicle which visits the site daily for maintenance purposes.

The designation of the site will not generate additional vehicle movements, adversely impact parking or result in a change to the existing access arrangement.

District Plan Objectives and Policies

The proposal will not be inconsistent with the National, NZ Coastal or Regional Policy Statements, Proposed Regional Policy Statements, District Plan or Proposed District Plan.

The following objectives and policies of the Operative District Plan are considered of relevance in regard to the proposed designation:

Character and Amenity

- *Objective 1: To ensure activities do not adversely affect the environmental and amenity values of areas within the district or adversely affect existing activities.*
- *Policy 1.1: Activities should be located in areas where their effects are compatible with the character of the area.*
- *Policy 1.2: Activities within an area should not have adverse effects that diminish the amenity of neighbouring areas, having regard to the character of the receiving environment and cumulative effects.*



Network Utilities

- *Objective 3: To ensure public works and network utilities do not adversely affect the health and safety of the community.*
- *Policy 3.1: The establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading of public works and network utilities should not compromise public health or safety.*

As outlined above, the proposed designation relates to a site within which infrastructure has already been established. Given this, the designation of the site will not result in adverse effects on the character or amenity of the surrounding area and compliance with objective 1 and policies 1.1 and 1.2 will be achieved.

Designation of the site would provide for the formal protection of the Okato Water Treatment Plant and will not result in adverse effects on the health and safety of the community in line with objective 3 and policy 3.1 of the District Plan. The protection of this existing asset through designation will ensure the continuance of a reliable and sustainable supply of fresh water to residents of Okato resulting in positive health and safety benefits for the community.

6. Alternative sites, routes, and methods have been considered to the following extent:

No alternative sites, routes or methods have been considered as the proposed designations relate to sites containing existing infrastructure.

7. The public work and designation (or alteration) are reasonably necessary for achieving the objectives of the territorial authority because:

Consideration must be given as to whether the work and designations are reasonably necessary for achieving the objectives of the requiring authority.

The public work is essential to the New Plymouth District Council meeting its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 which specifies Council's obligations and restrictions relating to the provision of water supply services.

The 2018-2028 Long Term Plan for the New Plymouth District identifies the key priority in managing infrastructure as looking after the assets the Council currently owns. The designation will provide for the long-term protection of this existing infrastructure and will be in line with the Long Term Plan for New Plymouth District Council.

For the following reasons it was considered appropriate to pursue a designation:

- A designation will enable flexibility to modify infrastructure at later stages as may be required due to changing requirements or new technology;
- A designation will allow land required for the works to be clearly identified in the District Plan, clearly indicating the intended use of the land and;
- A designation will prevent land uses and/or development that may hinder or prevent the works.



The designation will safeguard the site for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Okato Water Treatment Plant. As a result, this infrastructure will continue to supply drinking water to the Okato community and will assist in meeting the objectives of this territorial authority.

8. The following resource consents are needed for the proposed activity and have been applied for:

The New Plymouth District Council holds a resource consent relating to the Okato Water Treatment Plant in order to abstract water from the Mangatete Stream (0026-3). Discharging water from the treatment process into an unnamed tributary of the Kaihihi Stream is a permitted activity under the Certification of Compliance issued by the Taranaki Regional Council (10745-1.0).

9. The following consultation (or No consultation) has been undertaken with parties that are likely to be affected:

The site that the proposed designation relates to is owned by the New Plymouth District Council and contains existing infrastructure. Given this, no parties are deemed to be affected by the inclusion of this designation within the District Plan. The proposed designation will be consulted on during public notification of the Proposed District Plan.

10. The New Plymouth District Council attaches the following information required to be included in this notice by the district plan, regional plan, or any regulations made under the [Resource Management Act 1991](#).

N/A

Authorised by

David Langford (Infrastructure Manager)
on behalf of New Plymouth District Council

Date

5/8/19.