

# Submarine Pipeline Protection Application Frequently Asked Questions

## What goes out in the pipelines?

Hastings District and Napier City Council are authorised to discharge treated wastewater from their respective treatment plants via wastewater pipelines.

Pan Pac is authorised to discharge treated wastewater from the manufacture of wood pulp and lumber at the Whirinaki Mill. There are no pathogens derived from humans in the treated wastewater, as human waste is treated separately by Pan Pac and disposed of by spray irrigation into forest.

## Why do the pipelines need protection?

The pipelines are critical assets to both Councils and Pan Pac. The pipelines are expensive to own and maintain. They are regionally significant assets which provide an important service to community and local industry.

Note that Māori customary fishing rights and the ability to gather kaimoana are unaffected by pipeline protection status.

## Have the pipelines been damaged in the past?

Both councils and Pan Pac have experienced damage to their outfall pipes over the last decade. Past damage has been caused by a mix of fishing activities and weather events..

These events have highlighted the need for all parties to take steps to minimise the risk of future disruption due to fishing vessels or equipment.

## What does the damage cost?

The cost ranges from thousands to millions of dollars.

There can also be environmental impacts from unauthorised flows of wastewater on our coastal waters.

## Why is Napier City Council applying for a bigger protection zone than Hastings District Council and Pan Pac?

Napier City Council is planning to build a new submarine pipeline near its existing pipeline in a few years. The slightly wider protection area allows for this new pipeline ahead of construction.

## Will I be fined if I am in the pipeline protection zone?

No, you won't. We don't want to stop recreational fishers enjoying our beautiful coastal waters.

However, if you are undertaking a commercial fishing practice that involves fishing equipment on the seabed then this has the potential to damage the pipelines. We want to prevent this occurring and therefore we wish to establish a 'zone' that stops this practice happening.

If the pipeline is damaged and the offender is prosecuted, then a fine of up to \$250,000 is possible.

**Let us know what you think by  
8 March 2022 at [sayitnapier.nz](http://sayitnapier.nz)**