

Submarine Pipeline Protection Application Frequently Asked Questions

What goes out in the pipelines?

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

Pan Pac is authorised to discharge treated process 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 derived 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 and as regionally significant assets they provide an important community and industry service.

Have the pipelines been damaged in the past?

The Hastings District Council experienced an incident in July 2016, where fishing equipment was allegedly dragged across the pipeline. This resulted in damage midway along the pipeline and an unauthorised leak.

Pan Pac experienced pipeline damage due to a storm and high seas in September 2018. This damage highlighted to Pan Pac the need to take steps to avoid any future disruption if a vessel or equipment were to damage the pipeline.

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 is a practice that has the potential to damage the pipelines on the seabed. 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 up to \$250,000 is possible.

**Let us know what you think by
16 July 2020 at sayitnapier.nz**