



Water New Zealand

Resource Consent Consistency Workshop

23rd August 2013





Discharge Consents

Consistent or Inconsistent Practices?






Background

- **Paper to the Board about inconsistent practices in Water Industry late 2012**
 - Cause of frustration from private business
 - Wasted time and effort
- **One of these areas was consent conditions (others include bylaws, data collection standards)**






My Perception

- **Consent conditions imposed that are not appropriate for the risks offered by the consented activity for the receiving body**
 - **Consent conditions don't reflect current knowledge and practice about environmental effects**
 - **Lack of adequate specification for sampling and testing methodologies**
 - **Reference to inappropriate standards and specifications for monitoring**
 - **Lack of access to historical data and poor data management practices**
 - **Ability to demonstrate compliance impacted by lack of skills in sampling, measuring and interpreting monitoring results, and lack of experience in consent officer personnel**
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Purpose of Forum

- To find out if perception is reality
 - To nail the issues to the mast
 - To identify potential improvements
 - To chart a collaborative work programme
 - Ideally with Regional Council support
 - To show leadership by Water NZ as a technically credible members' organisation
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Role of Water NZ

- This is not about policy - its about implementation
- **Its only the start**
- We want to state the problems and identify options for solution
- No suggestion is a silly suggestion
- We will probably want further commitment and engagement





My Commitment

- I have committed to running with this issue
- I will work with Nick to develop a work programme and create practical solutions.





The Process for Today

- **Some stories will be told by willing and well known volunteers**
 - We are indebted to these people for their thinking and their time
- **We will then get into workshop groups**
(Nick will explain what happens)

