

# WASTEWATER DRAINAGE BYLAW

**2018**

Pursuant to Section 145 of the  
Local Government Act 2002  
and every other enabling  
power and authority.

|                     |  |
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| To come into force: | 1 July 2018  |
| For the purpose of: | a) Controlling wastewater discharges into the public sewer;<br>b) Protecting the public sewer from damage, misuse and interference; and<br>c) Protecting the environment and the health of people in the District. |
| To be reviewed by:  | 2027   |
| Document Number:    | A2054375   |

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## 1 Interpretation

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For the purposes of this Bylaw the following definitions shall apply:

**ACCEPTABLE DISCHARGE** means wastewater with physical and chemical characteristics which does not require a trade waste consent under the Trade Waste Bylaw.

**APPROVAL** means approved in writing by the Far North District Council, either by resolution of the Council or by an officer of the Far North District Council authorised for that purpose.

**BUILDING** has the same meaning as in the Building Act 2004.

**BURIED SERVICES** means all public sewers, rising mains, trunk sewers, and other underground utilities under the responsibility of the Far North District Council.

**CERTIFICATE OF TITLE** means a certificate registering the freehold ownership of land available to any owner(s) under the Land Transfer Act 1952.

**COUNCIL** means the Far North District Council, including its authorised agents responsible for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater.

**CUSTOMER** means a person who either discharges or has obtained a consent to discharge or direct the manner of discharge of wastewater from any premises to the public sewer of the Far North District Council.

**DISCONNECTION** means the physical cutting and sealing of the drain from a premise.

**DOMESTIC WASTEWATER** means either wastewater which is discharged from premises used solely for residential activities or wastes of the same character discharged from other premises, provided that the characteristics of the wastewater are an acceptable discharge. Such activities shall include the draining of domestic swimming and spa pools subject to 3.1.

**DRAIN** means wastewater drain or stormwater drain; and drainage has a corresponding meaning.

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES** means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any substance with 1 or more of the following intrinsic properties:

- a) explosiveness;
- b) flammability;
- c) a capacity to oxidise;
- d) corrosiveness;

- e) toxicity (including chronic toxicity);
- f) radioactivity; or
- g) ecotoxicity, with or without bioaccumulation;

or which, on contact with air or water (other than air or water where the temperature or pressure has been artificially increased or decreased), generates a substance with any 1 or more of the properties specified above.

**INFILTRATION** means water entering a public sewer or private drain from groundwater through defects such as poor joints and cracks in pipes or manholes. It does not include inflow.

**INFLOW** means water discharged into a private drain from non-complying connections or other drainlaying faults. It includes stormwater entering through illegal downpipe connections or from low gullytraps.

**PERSON** includes a corporation sole and also a body of persons whether corporate or incorporate.

**POINT OF DISCHARGE** means either:

- a) The connection to the public sewer; or
- b) The point where the wastewater pipe exits the particular private property (see Schedule 2 for examples).

**PREMISES** means either:

- a) A property or allotment which is held under a separate certificate of title or for which a separate certificate of title may be issued and in respect to which a building consent has been or may be issued; or
- b) A building that has been defined as an individual unit by a cross-lease, unit title, or company lease and for which a certificate of title is available; or
- c) Land held in public ownership (e.g. reserve) for a particular purpose; or
- d) Individual units in buildings which are separately leased or separately occupied.

**PRIVATE DRAIN** means that section of drain between the Premises and the point of discharge. Private Drains are owned and maintained by the property owner.

**PUBLIC SEWER** means the main public sewer pipe, lateral connections, and associated structures that carry wastewater away from the point of discharge. The public sewer is owned and maintained by the Far North District Council.

**RISING MAIN** means a sewer through which wastewater is pumped.

**SERVICE OPENING** means a manhole or similar means for gaining access for inspection, cleaning, or maintenance of a public sewer.

**SEWER** means the same as Public Sewer.

**STORMWATER** means all surface water run-off resulting from rainfall.

**TRADE PREMISES** means:

- a) Any Premises used or intended to be used for any industrial or trade purpose; or
- b) Any Premises used or intended to be used for the storage, transfer, treatment, or disposal of waste materials or for other waste management purposes, or used for composting organic materials; or
- c) Any other Premises from which a contaminant, as defined by the Resource Management Act, is discharged in connection with any industrial or trade process; or
- d) Any other Premises discharging other than Domestic Sewage; and includes any land or Premises wholly or mainly used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

**TRADE WASTE** means any liquid, with or without matter in suspension or solution, that is or may be discharged from a trade premises in the course of any trade or industrial process or operation, or in the course of any activity or operation of a like nature, but does not include condensing water, stormwater, or domestic wastewater. Condensing or cooling waters and stormwater which cannot practically be separated from wastewater may be included subject to specific approval.

**TRADE WASTE BYLAW** means the bylaw of the Far North District Council regulating wastewater discharges from trade premises to a sewer.

**TRUNK MAIN** means a sewer, generally greater than 150mm nominal diameter, which forms a part of the Council's wastewater drainage system.

**UNACCEPTABLE DISCHARGE** means any discharge or waste likely to interfere with the free flow of wastewater in the public sewer or damage any part of the public sewer, and includes wet wipes, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, nappies, cotton buds, condoms, clothing, toys, towels, and cloths.

**WASTEWATER** means water or other liquid, including waste matter in solution or suspension, discharged from a premise to a sewer.

**ZONE OF INFLUENCE** means a section of ground surrounding a public sewer where activities are restricted. Refer to Schedule 1 for schematic diagrams showing the extent of the zone of influence.

## 2 Approval to Connect

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- 2.1 No person other than licenced drainlayers or authorised agents of the Council shall, without approval, make any connection to or otherwise interfere with any part of the Council's wastewater drainage system.
- 2.2 The acceptance of trade wastes is the subject of the Trade Waste Bylaw.

## 3 Premises and Flow

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- 3.1 The maximum instantaneous flow rate discharged from a domestic premise, including swimming pools, spa pools, and the like, shall not exceed 2.0 litres/sec.
- 3.2 The maximum daily flow rate discharged from a domestic premise shall not exceed  $2\text{m}^3/\text{day}$  without prior approval of the Council.
- 3.3 No person shall allow unacceptable discharge to enter the public sewer.
- 3.4 The customer shall prevent any stormwater or groundwater entering the wastewater drainage system. This includes roof downpipes, surface water run-off, overland flow, and sub-surface drainage.
- 3.5 Stormwater shall be excluded from a sewerage system by ensuring that:
  - a) There is no connection of any stormwater pipe or drain to the sewerage system;
  - b) Gully trap surrounds are set above stormwater ponding levels, or secondary overland flow path flood levels; and
  - c) Inspection covers are in place and are appropriately sealed.
- 3.6 For trade premises where stormwater cannot be separated from wastewater, refer to the Trade Waste Bylaw.
- 3.7 Authorisation for entry to premises is given under the Local Government Act 2002 and entry shall be in compliance with the health and safety policies of that particular site.

## 4 Disconnection

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- 4.1 A customer shall give 7 working days notice in writing of his or her intention to demolish or remove a building connected to the sewer. The demolition or removal shall not commence until the property has been disconnected from the sewer by the Council.
- 4.2 A customer shall give 2 working days notice in writing to the Council of his or her requirement for disconnection of the lateral connections if relaying of the private drain is required.

## 5 Building, Loading and Excavation around Public Sewers

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- 5.1 No building shall be constructed over a public sewer, whether on public or private land, without the prior written approval of Council and subject to any conditions of that approval.
- 5.2 No building shall be constructed within the zone of influence without the prior written approval of Council and subject to any conditions of that approval.
- 5.3 Subject to written approval, a building developer may divert the public sewer (including any manholes) in accordance with Council standards and shall meet the cost of doing so
- 5.4 Unless otherwise approved, no person shall:
- Cause the crushing load imposed on a public sewer to exceed that which would arise from the soil overburden plus an HN-HO-72 wheel or axle load (as defined by New Zealand Transport Agency Bridge Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2013).
  - Place any additional material over or near a public sewer;
  - Change the elevation of the land above a public sewer ;
  - Cover service openings in any way. Removal of any covering material or adjustment of the opening shall be at the property owner's expense.
- 5.5 No person shall excavate or carry out piling or similar work closer than:
- 5 metres from the centre line of any rising main or trunk sewer; or
  - 2 metres from the centre line of any public sewer;
- without approval and subject to any conditions associated with that approval.

## 6 Storage of Hazardous Substances

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- 6.1 No person shall store raw material, products, or wastes containing hazardous substances or any material which, when mixed with the wastewater stream, is likely to generate hazardous substances, or any other material likely to be deleterious to the Council wastewater system or the health and safety of Council staff and the public, without taking all reasonable steps to prevent entry into the Council sewer from leakage, spillage, or other mishap.

## 7 Emergency

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- 7.1 Natural hazards (such as floods or earthquakes) or accidents beyond the control of Council which disrupt the ability of Council to receive wastewater via the public sewer will be deemed an emergency.
- 7.2 During an emergency, Council may restrict or prohibit the discharge of wastewater for any specified purpose, for any specified period, and for any or all of its customers. Such restrictions shall be publicly notified. The decision to make and lift restrictions and to enact additional penalties shall be made by Council or the officer of Council authorised for that purpose.

## 8 Offences

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- 8.1 Every person who breaches this Bylaw commits an offence under section 239 of the *Local Government Act 2002* and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.00 under section 242(2) of the *Local Government Act 2002*.
- 8.2 The Council may apply to the District Court under section 162 of the *Local Government Act 2002* for an injunction restraining a person from committing a breach of this Bylaw.

## Schedule 1 – Zone of Influence

The zone of Influence is that section of the ground along the alignment of a buried pipeline, extending both horizontally and vertically where:

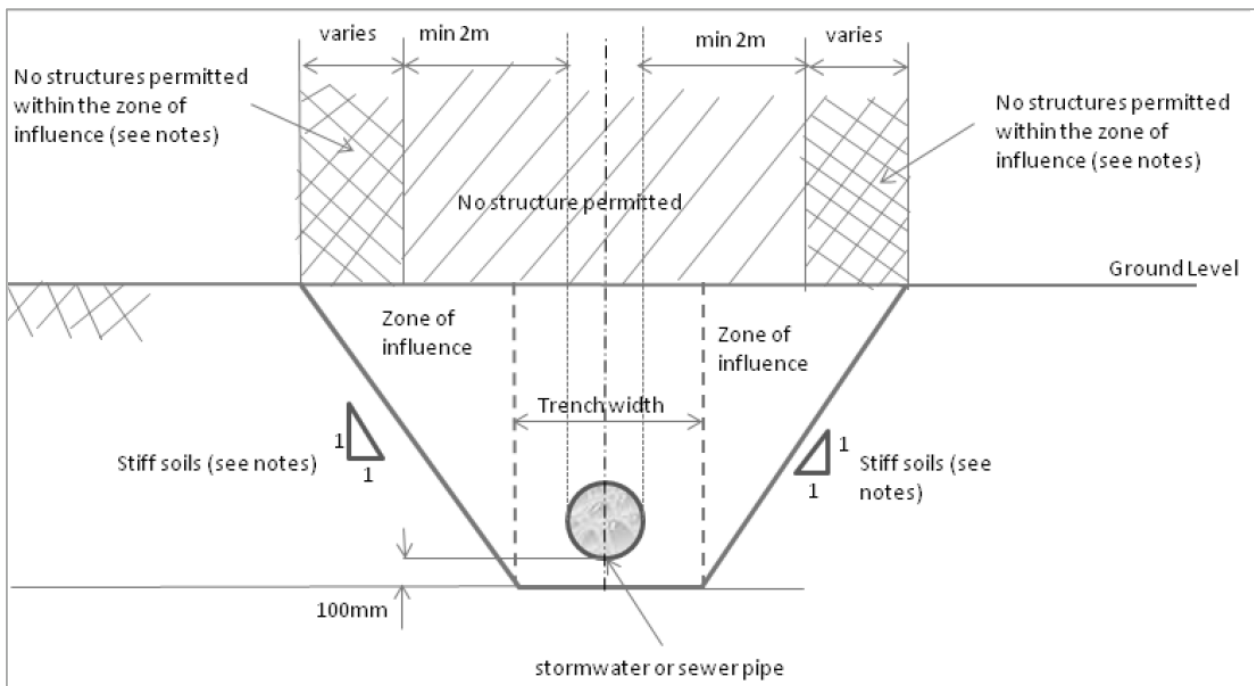
1. Settlement or disturbance of the ground surrounding the pipe may cause damage to buildings on the surface above.
2. Loads from buildings on the surface could be transmitted to the sewer.

The boundary of the Zone of Influence coincides with the angle of repose of the soil encountered. The zone of influence is a minimum of 2m from the outside of a pipe and varies depending on the depth of the pipe and soils surrounding the pipe.

Common practice shows that the angle of repose in stiff soils (clay etc.) is 1 horizontal:1 vertical. The angle of repose in sand, filled ground, loam, etc. is 2 horizontal:1 vertical.

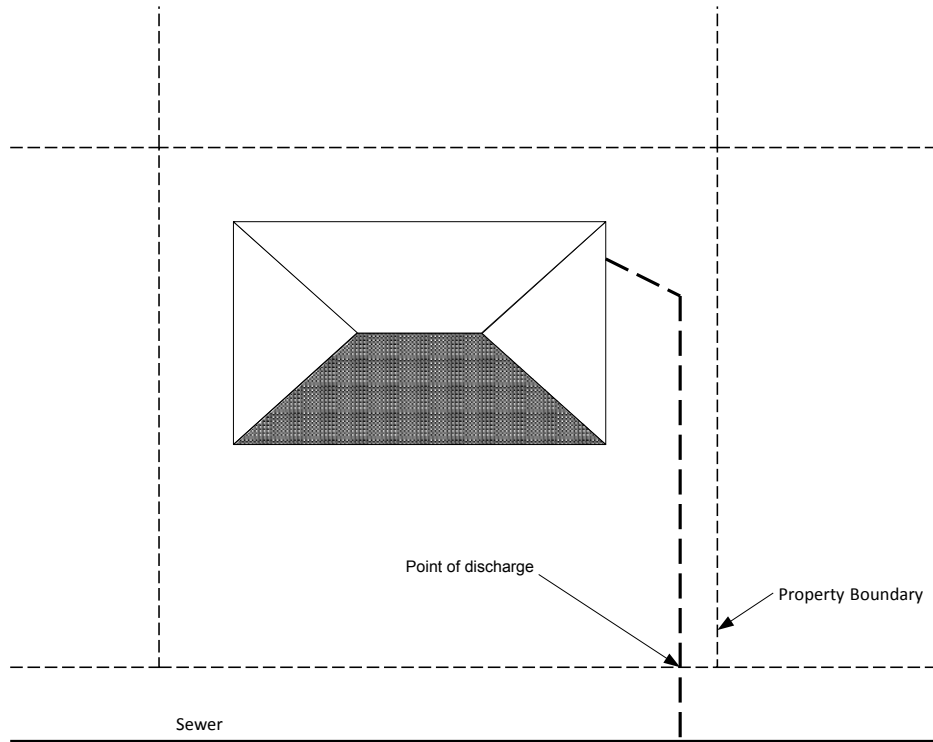
The zone of influence shall be determined by extending a line at an angle of repose to the surface, starting from a point 100mm below the invert of the pipe and half of the trench width measured horizontally from the pipes centreline (see below).

**Figure 1 - Zone of influence around the public sewer**



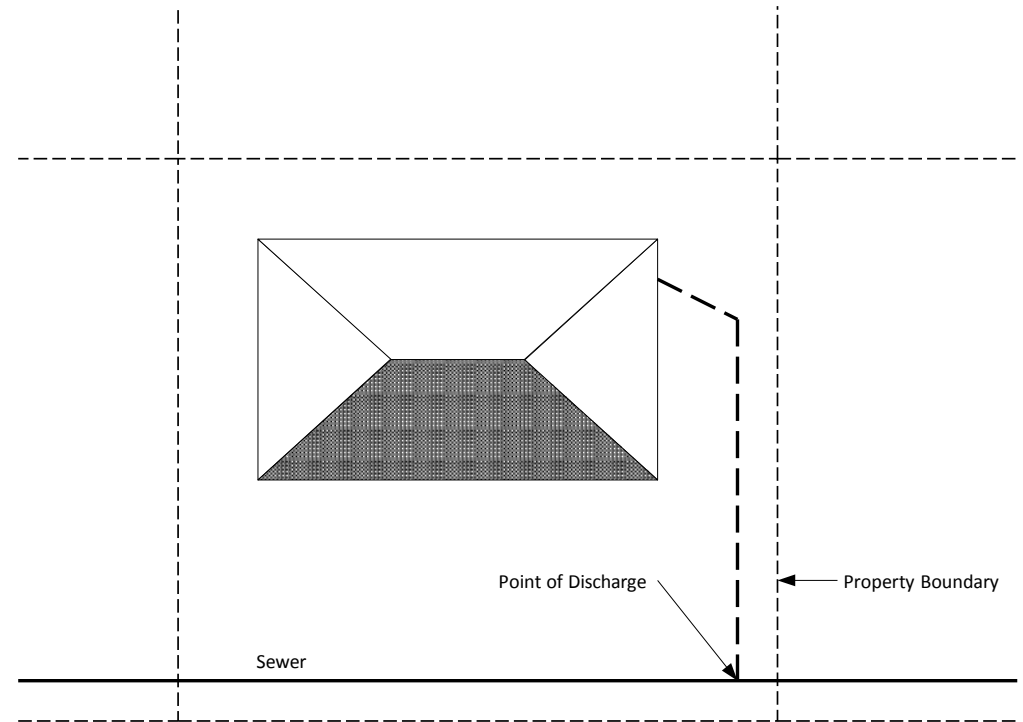
## Schedule 2 - Point Of Discharge Locations

### Traditional Gravity Sewer



Single Dwelling with Road Frontage

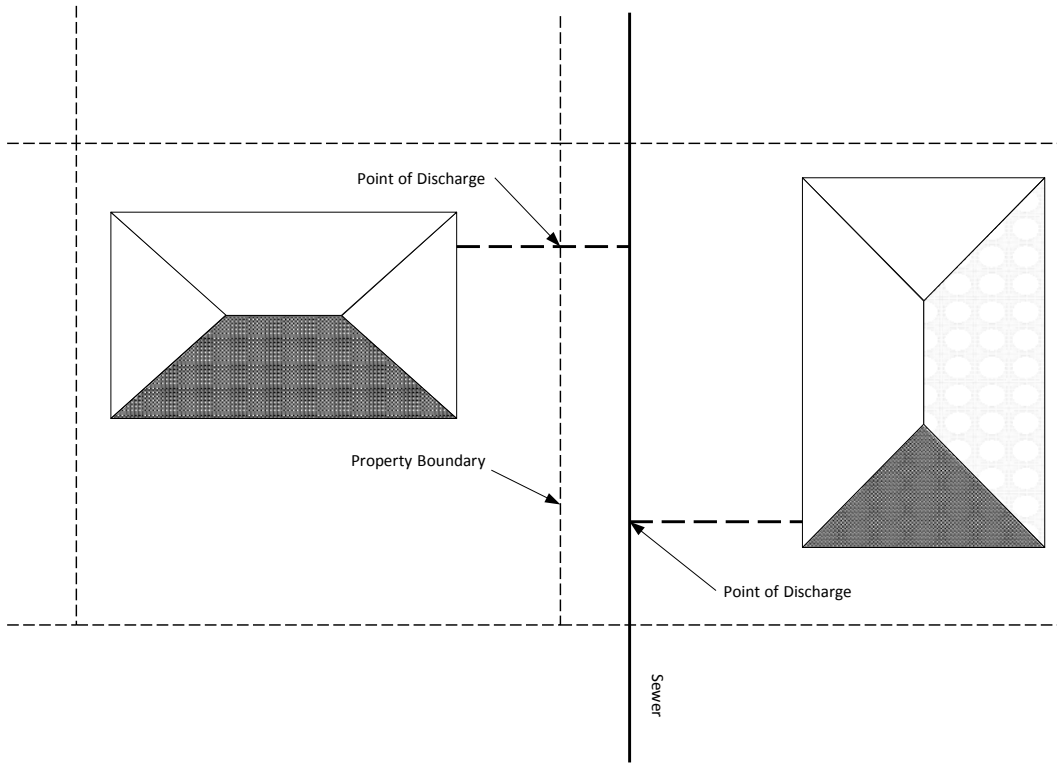
Figure 2 - Point of Discharge for a Single Dwelling with Road Frontage



Sewer on Private Land

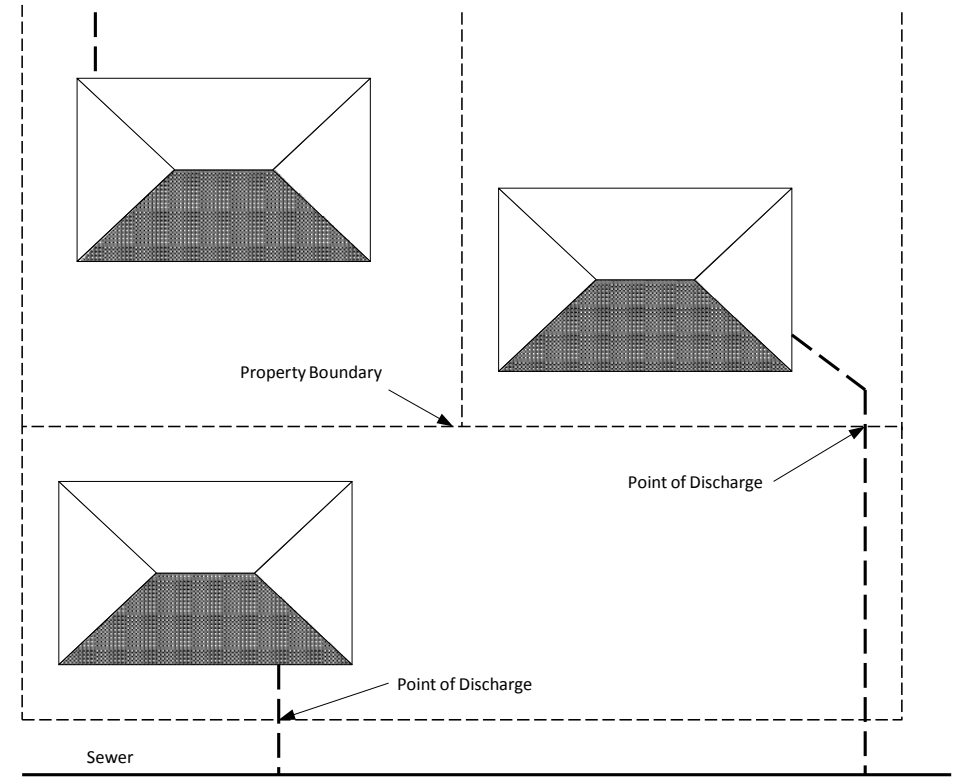
Figure 3 - Point of Discharge for a Single Dwelling with a Sewer on their Private Land





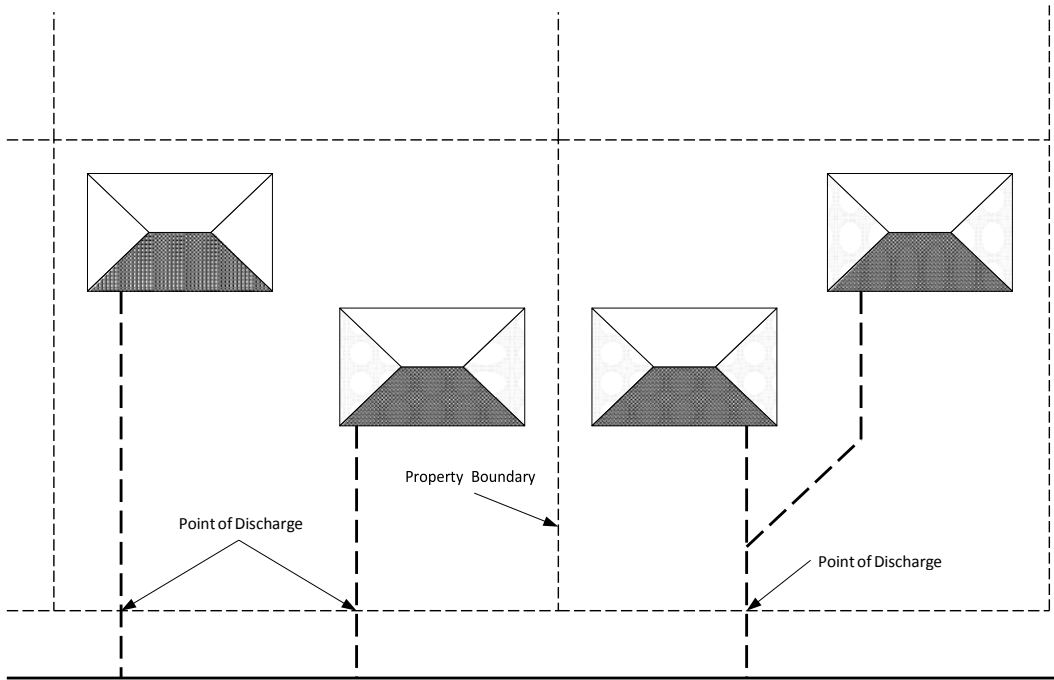
Sewer on Private Land

Figure 4 - Point of Discharge for a Dwelling with the Sewer on Neighbouring Private Land



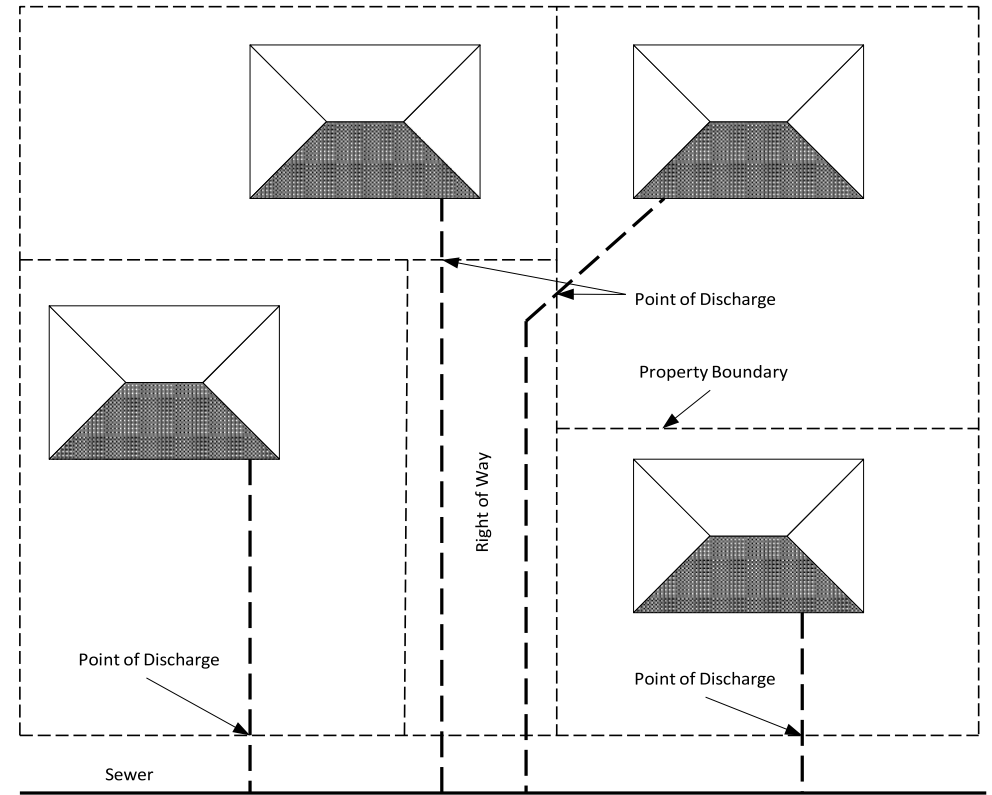
Lateral on Private Land

Figure 5 - Point of Discharge for a Lateral Crossing Neighbouring Private Land



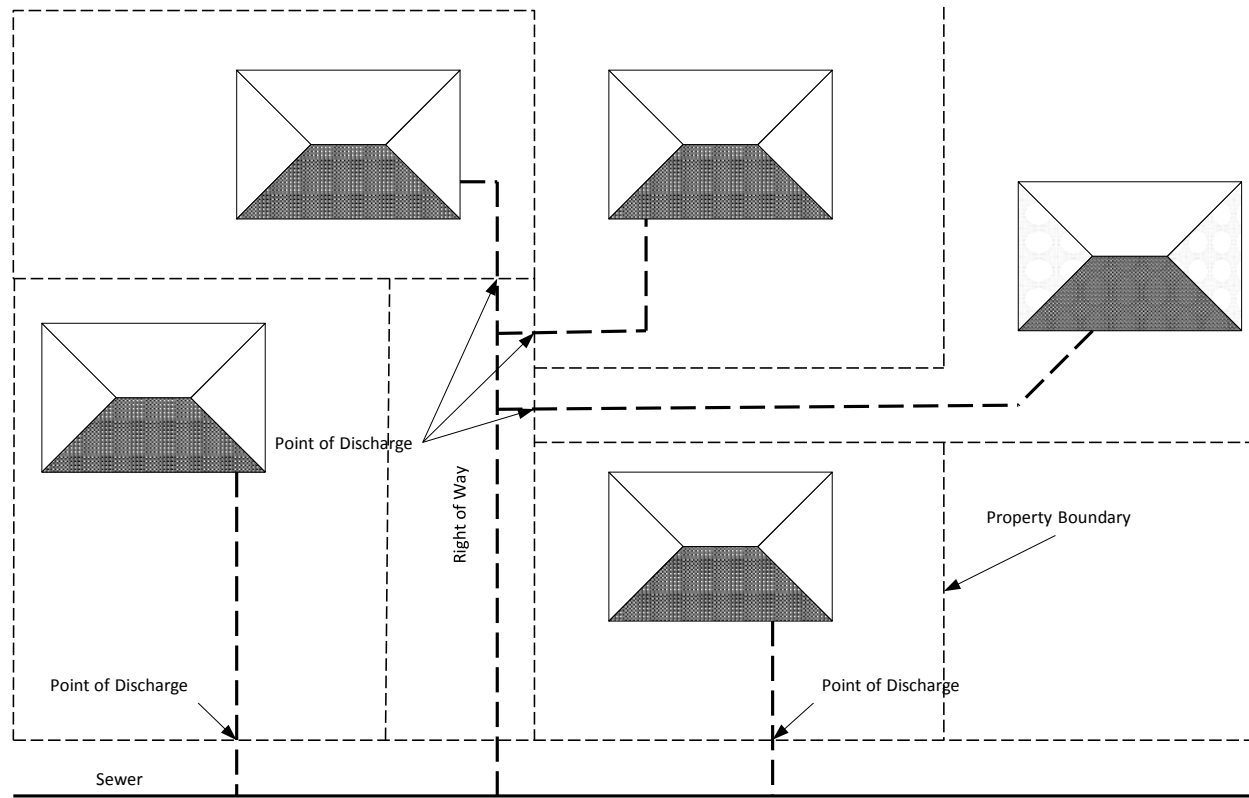
Cross-Lease or Unit Title

Figure 6 - Point of Discharge for Cross Lease or Unit Title



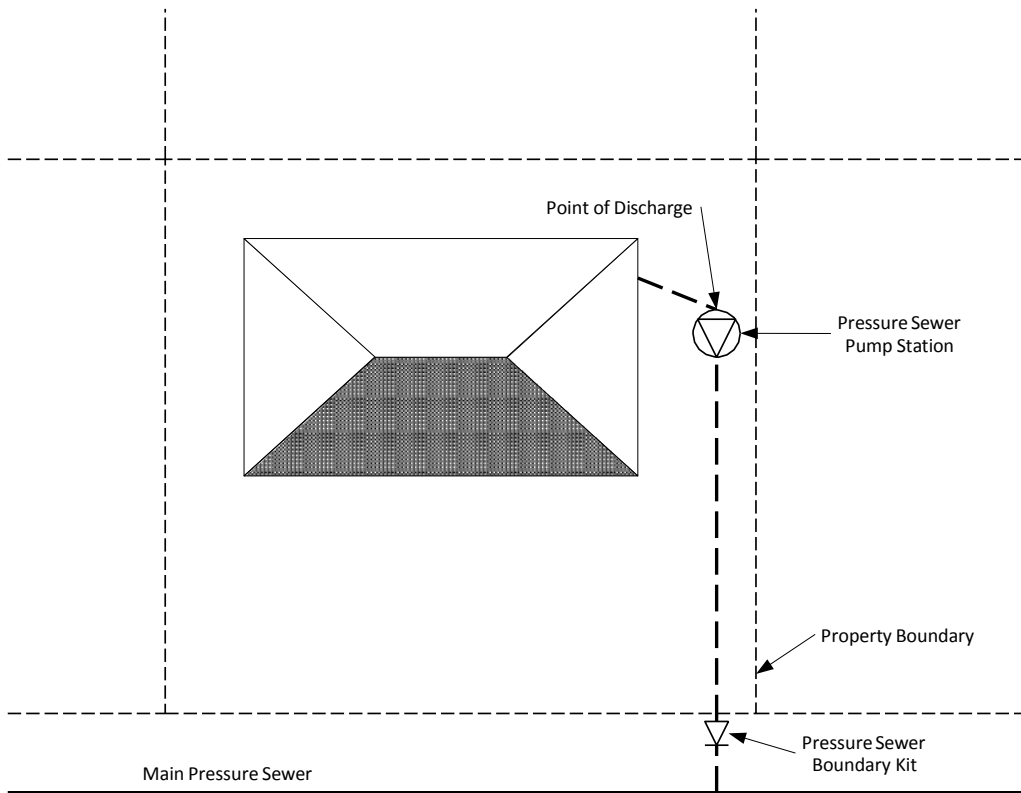
Rear Lots on a Right of Way

Figure 7 - Point of Discharge for Rear Lots of a Right of Way (1)



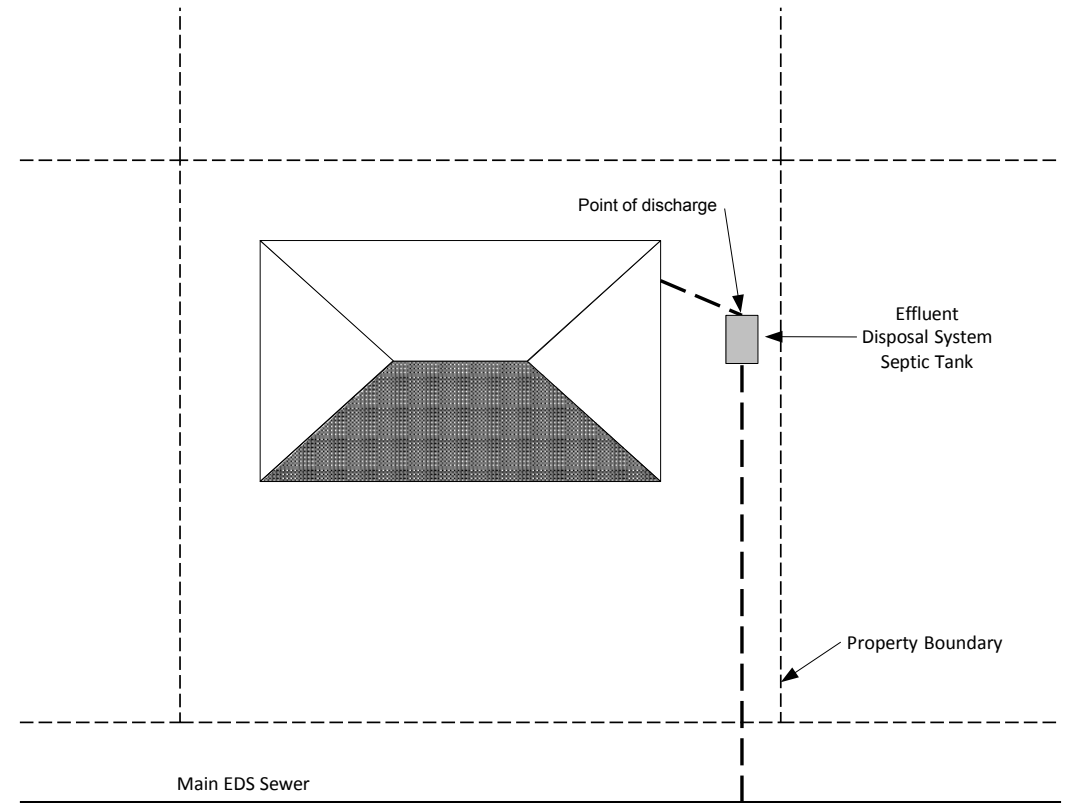
Rear Lots on a Right of Way

Figure 8 - Point of Discharge for Rear Lots of a Right of Way (2)



Pressure Sewer

Figure 9 - Point of Discharge for Property Serviced by Council's Low Pressure Sewer Network

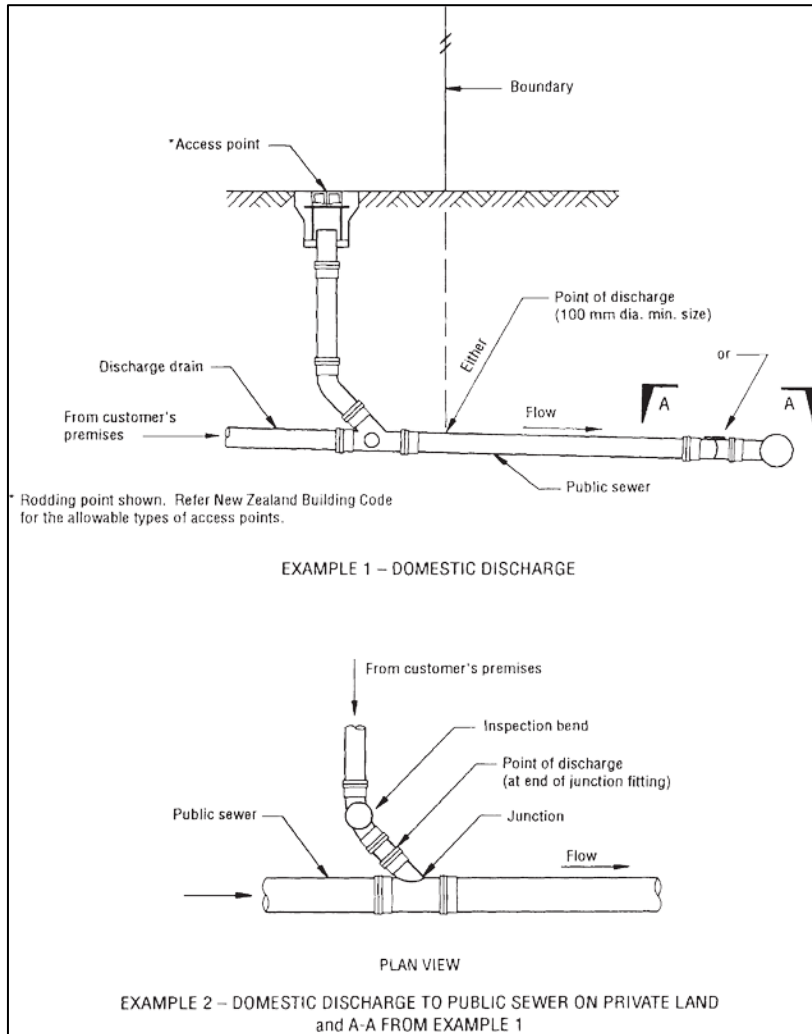


Effluent Disposal System (EDS) Sewer

Figure 10 - Point of Discharge for a Property Serviced by Council's Effluent Disposal System (EDS) Sewer Network

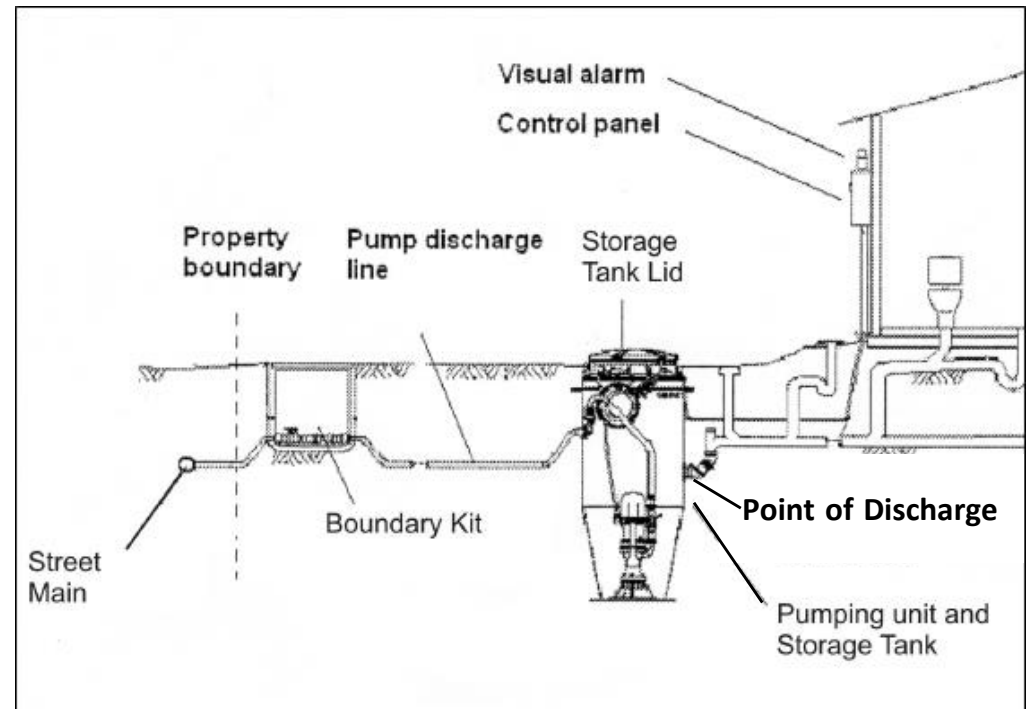
**Schedule 3 - Layout at Point of Discharge**

**Traditional Gravity Sewer**



**Figure 11 – Layout at Point of Discharge for a Traditional Gravity Sewer**

**Low Pressure Sewer**



**Figure 12 – Layout at Point of Discharge for a Property Serviced by Council**