

3 November 2020

Phil Pennington  
Journalist  
Radio NZ  
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REF: OIA-7233

Dear Phil

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 7 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*... all Annual Reports for AHB related to the Auckland Council EMP, as referred to by NZTA in its 2 Oct 2020 letter to Northcote residents.*

The following documents fall within scope of your request and are attached:

- **Attachment 1:** Maintenance Discharge Consent Annual Report: Jan-Dec 2015 (dated 29 January 2016)
- **Attachment 2:** Maintenance Discharge Consent Annual Report: Jan-Dec 2016 (dated 31 January 2017)
- **Attachment 3:** Maintenance Discharge Consent Annual Report: Jan-Dec 2017 (dated 19 January 2018)
- **Attachment 4:** Maintenance Discharge Consent Annual Report: Jan-Dec 2018 (dated 21 January 2019)
- **Attachment 5:** Maintenance Discharge Consent Annual Report: Jan-Dec 2019 (dated 5 February 2020).

Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency most recently renewed its consents for bridge maintenance activities in 2015. As part of the conditions of the consents, maintenance works undertaken on the

bridge are required to comply with an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) approved by Auckland Council. Annual Reports are provided, summarising monitoring data, and showing compliance with the discharge thresholds in the consent and mitigation.

The annual reports for each year (2015 to 2019) show that all bridge maintenance works have been undertaken in compliance with the consent conditions and the requirements of the approved EMP.

The measured discharges of garnet particulates (used in sandblasting) and discharges of paint and zinc from paint removal and application have been consistently well below the thresholds permitted.

- Actual discharge of garnet has ranged from 34% to 59% of the permitted thresholds for each year.
- Actual discharge of paint has ranged from 5% to 23% of the permitted thresholds for each year.
- Actual discharge of zinc has ranged from 3% to 14% of the permitted thresholds for each year.

These relatively low volumes of discharge demonstrate the effectiveness of the progressive improvements adopted by Waka Kotahi since 2011 to reduce the amount of abrasive and paint particulates discharged to the harbour and land during bridge maintenance activities. Improvements have included reducing our re-painting activities through a more focused risk-based approach and containment of particulates/abrasives over land. These innovative environmental management solutions were recognised with the Auckland Harbour Bridge project winning the 2015 New Zealand Planning Institute Award, Best Practice Award for Integrated Planning and Assessment.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



**Wayne Oldfield**  
Senior Manager System Management