

30 April 2026

Feebee Newlands

By E-mail Only: fyi-request-34255-7adc5d26@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Feebee,

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST: GOODMAN LEDGER PARK WASTEWATER PUMP STATION

We refer to your official information request pertaining to the air quality, odour and emissions associated with the wastewater pump station servicing the Goodman Ledger Park area in Motueka which was formally transferred to us by the Environmental Protection Authority on 31 March 2026. Our response is set out **below**:

1. Legal standards and limits

- a. What are the legal standards, limits, or guidelines for odour emissions applicable to this facility and surrounding area?
- b. Are there specific limits for gases such as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S)?
- c. How are these limits applied in sensitive environments such as playgrounds and community spaces?

In response to part 1 a-c. New Zealand does not have a National Environmental Standard for H₂S. Instead, councils rely on the [Ministry for the Environment \(MfE\) Ambient air quality guidelines](#), which are odour based, not health based.

MfE Ambient Air Quality Guideline for H₂S

1-hour average: 5 ppb

(≈ 7 µg/m³)

This guideline is explicitly based on preventing nuisance odour, not toxicity. There is no single enforceable public ambient limit.

Health effects of H₂S are effectivity controlled by WorkSafe and the 8-hour average is 5ppm or about 7mg/m³. This is 1,000 times higher than the ambient guideline.

Tasman District Council

Email info@tasman.govt.nz
Website www.tasman.govt.nz
24 hour assistance

Richmond

189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
New Zealand
Phone 03 543 8400

Murchison

92 Fairfax Street
Murchison 7007
New Zealand
Phone 03 523 1013

Motueka

7 Hickmott Place
PO Box 123
Motueka 7143
New Zealand
Phone 03 528 2022

Tākaka

78 Commercial Street
PO Box 74
Tākaka 7142
New Zealand
Phone 03 525 9972

Sensitive receivers, we aim to manage concentrations to avoid an odour effect.

Where there has been justifiable complaints, odour control is installed. It should be noted that the Ledger-Goodman pump station has had odour control for some time. An odour filter was installed at the Ledger-Goodman pump station in 2019.

2. Definition & Assessment Of Odour

- a. How is "offensive or objectionable odour" defined under the Resource Management Act 1991 and relevant regional air quality rules?
- b. What criteria or assessment methods are used to determine when odour becomes unacceptable or in breach?

In response to part 2 a-b. The key rule in the [Tasman Resource Management Plan \(TRMP\)](#) is 36.3.2.1:

36.3.2.1 Discharge of Any Contaminant to Air

NOTE: Rule 36.3.2.1 is subject to the regulations of the National Environmental Standards Plantation Forests 2017 (NES-PF). The NES-PF regulations for activities in relation to plantation forestry (as defined within the NES-PF) prevail unless specifically stated otherwise in advice notes below.

The discharge of any contaminant to air is a permitted activity and may be carried out without a resource consent, if it complies with the following conditions:

- (a) The discharge is not regulated or prohibited by any other applicable rule in Chapter 36.
- (b) The discharge does not result in any noxious or dangerous level of any contaminant beyond the property boundary.
- (c) The opacity of any smoke measured at the point of discharge does not exceed 20 percent except for a period not exceeding two minutes in any hour of operation.
- (d) Except as provided for in (b) and except for water vapour, the discharge is not visible beyond the property boundary.
- (e) The discharge does not create any offensive or objectionable odour beyond the property boundary.
- (f) The discharge does not result in any objectionable deposition of particulate matter on any structure or land beyond the property boundary.

There is a useful odour guidance document published by MfE titled '[Good Practice Guide for Odour](#)'. This is the second version of the guide, which was updated in 2016. This document provides a good analysis of how odour is managed and examines "offensive or objectionable odour"

3. Resource Consent

- a. Please provide a full copy of the current resource consent(s) for the wastewater pump station/plant servicing the Goodman Ledger Park area.

- b. What consent conditions relate specifically to:**
- i. Odour**
 - ii. Air emissions**
 - iii. Community impact and amenity**

In response to part 3 a-b. The wastewater pump station/plant servicing the Goodman Ledger Park area does not hold a resource consent as it operates under the permitted activity rule 36.3.2.1, therefore a resource consent is not required.

4. Monitoring & Measurement

- a. What monitoring systems are currently in place at or near this site (e.g. fixed sensors, portable monitoring, field officers, or complaint-based logging)**
- b. Where are these monitoring devices located?**
- c. How frequently is monitoring conducted?**
- d. Are gases such as hydrogen sulphide measured directly? If so, how and how often?**

5. Data & Compliance

- a. Please provide all available air quality and odour monitoring data for the past 2–5 years.**
- b. How many times have:**
 - i. Any legal limits (if defined) been exceeded?**
 - ii. Conditions been assessed as “offensive or objectionable”?**

6. Compliance Status

- a. Based on the above data, is the facility currently considered to be in compliance with:**
 - iii. Resource consent conditions**
 - iv. Regional air quality rules**
 - v. The Resource Management Act 1991**
- b. If not, please provide details of any identified breaches and actions taken.**

In response to part 4–6, the Council does not operate any fixed or portable odour or air quality monitoring equipment at or near this site, and no direct monitoring of gases is undertaken. As a result, no routine monitoring is conducted, and no air quality or odour monitoring data is held for the past 2–5 years. Odour effects are assessed reactively through service requests and officer investigation.

There is a hydrogen sulphide sensor located on the filter unit, which allows us to intermittently check to determine if the filter media is due for replacement. This data is not recorded.

The following work has been undertaken at the Ledger-Goodman Pumpstation this year:

- A stilling tube was installed and the level sensor was relocated into it

- level setpoints were adjusted to allow capture of the odours from the upstream pipe.
- Replaced the activated carbon media in the odour scrubber.
- Replaced perished rubber seals around wetwell lids.
- Replaced plastic sealing rings in manholes in the road.

If you are unsatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely
Legal Services Officer

Released under LGOIMA