

4 August 2006

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Source Control Progress and Issues

As you may be aware, the ARC and Territorial Authorities have become increasingly aware of the importance of source control in any successful aquatic resource protection strategy. Building materials, roading materials and some everyday materials that people use may contribute a significant contaminant load to our receiving systems.

File Ref

An initial document that had significant influence on our recognition of building materials was "A Study of Roof Runoff Quality in Auckland New Zealand, Implications for Stormwater Management" by Kingett Mitchell (2003). This document became an ARC Technical Publication (TP 213) and laid the foundation for consideration of building materials in subsequent studies including the Upper Waitemata Harbour study and the current Central Waitemata Harbour study.

Based on the roof runoff study, the ARC wrote up a draft document "Policy Implications from Roof Runoff Study" that has been circulated around the Region. That document was never finalised for various reasons and is now being superseded by a joint effort between the ARC and the TAs. This joint effort includes a "Management of Stormwater Contaminants at Source Issues and Options Scoping Project". This project includes the following components:

1. Contaminants of concern
2. Sources of contaminants of concern
3. Robust scientific justification for the control of contaminants at source
4. Consideration of new and existing development
5. Range of potential methods for implementing source control (regulatory, incentives, education, etc.)
6. Recommending a preferred combination of methods
7. Necessary and likely timeframes for implementation
8. Changes required to existing ARC or TA RMA or LGA policy documents
9. Consideration of Building Act and Building Code review process
10. Illustrative regulatory provisions
11. Estimate of costs for ARC, TAs, LNOs, and building sectors

The final product will be an issues and options paper which will hopefully provide a way forward on the source control issue. The time frame for this paper being finalised will be approximately 29 September, 2006. At that point a decision will be made on progressing the source control issue further.

As a result of this effort, we wanted to advise you of the above project that is ongoing at this time to determine whether a source control variation to the ALW Plan is appropriate. We are also advising you that the draft document "Policy Implications from Roof Runoff Study" should not be used to inform decision making while this scoping and possible variation is occurring. That document was never finalised and the current approach will provide a much more robust process for addressing source control.

We feel that the current approach provides the best opportunity to make significant progress on consideration of source control as an essential component of overall stormwater management.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Earl Shaver
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