



National Headquarters

Level 12
80 The Terrace
PO Box 2133
Wellington
New Zealand

Phone +64 4 496 3600

16 December 2020

Bryan Stralow

By email: fyi-request-14179-849278a2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Stralow

Information Request – Illegal Dumping of Liquid

I refer to your request dated 22 November 2020 for Fire and Emergency New Zealand to confirm whether it is legal to empty the contents of a fire truck into a waterway or more specifically, a marine reserve.

Fire and Emergency appliances carry only water in their tanks and need to discharge all or some of that for several reasons.

The discharge of water into waterways is regulated through various mechanisms, including the Resource Management Act 1991, rules in regional plans and resource consents. Regional plans are prepared and administered by regional councils and vary across the regions. These are public documents and can be accessed on the website of the regional councils.

Marine reserves are set up and managed under the Marine Reserves Act. Further information about marine reserve rules and regulations can be found on the Department of Conservation website at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/marine/type-1-marine-protected-areas-marine-reserves/rules-and-regulations/>. It is an offence to discharge toxic substances and pollutants that are injurious to marine life into a marine reserve.

The answer to your question as to whether discharge of water into a waterway is legal is therefore dependant on the specific facts, including location. If you wish Fire and Emergency to look into a specific complaint about discharge of water, please provide further details at <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/contact-us/complaints/>.

Yours sincerely



Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive

