

9 May 2025



LG25-0087 - Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Readings

Dear ,

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFOMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 7 April 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

1. Can you supply all of the daily effluent readings for last week please

2. Also, the exact time and place for your (zero) March 31st data.

QLDC RESPONSE

Release of information

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Property and Infrastructure Team.

1. Can you supply all of the daily effluent readings for last week please

The team advised that the effluent readings for the week commencing 31 March 2025 through until 6 April 2025 are publicly available on the <u>QLDC Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant webpage</u>. The webpage now also includes results up to 30 April 2025.

The cadence of water sampling/testing is divided into four categories: operational monitoring (via onsite lab), operational monitoring (via external lab), consent compliance monitoring, and environmental monitoring. These monitoring categories are discussed in further detail below.

For the purpose of this request, we have interpreted that the parameter of interest is Escherichia coli (E. coli.).

Sampling/ Testing		
i.	Operational Monitoring (on-site lab)	The plant operators collect samples from a
		number of locations at various stages of the
		treatment process (influent, MLE clarifier
		effluent (pre-UV), pond effluent (pre-UV), final
		effluent (post UV). Parameters tested for include
		Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total

(NH3-N), Nitrate-Nitrogen (NO3-N), and Tota Nitrogen (TN). These samples are collected and tested five days a week.
Nitrogen (TN). These samples are collected and tested five days a week.
The samples are taken from a number of
The samples are taken from a number of
The samples are taken from a fumber of
autosamplers at each process step. The autosamplers automatically collect samples
across the day to provide a composite sample
representative of the preceding 24-hour period.
The results from the on-site lab are available
almost immediately, and as such are important to inform operational monitoring decision
making.
The onsite lab does not undertake tests for E
coli levels.
ii. Operational Monitoring (external lab) To assist with validating the results from the on-
site lab, samples are also sent to an external and
are taken from the same locations and tested for
an expanded list of parameters compared to the
include E. coli.
laboratory Eurofins may take up to 10 days to
complete, and the final certificate of testing wil
be issued afterward. This timeline is determined
by the specific parameters being tested.
iii. Consent Compliance Monitoring Consent compliance monitoring water samples
The majority of the parameters tested are
collected from a sample from the autosample
located downstream of the UV disinfection
from the plant (providing a sample
representative of the plant's performance over
the previous 24 hours). The exception is the sample tested for E coli which is collected as a
'grab' sample.
iv. Environmental Monitoring The environmental monitoring regime for river
water sampling was established when the
Council reverted to a direct discharge to the Shotover River under emergency works

Sampling is now being conducted weekly at multiple locations along the Shotover and Kawarau Rivers—both upstream and downstream of the discharge point.
Please note that prior to March 2025, a reduced scope of environmental monitoring was also being carried out monthly in the Shotover and Kawarau rivers.

2. Also, the exact time and place for your (zero) March 31st data.

The sample collected at 9:00 AM on 31 March 2025 corresponds to the 'EFF Final Discharge' location shown on the enclosed <u>map</u>. The sample was obtained from the plant's refrigerated autosampler, which gathers treated wastewater discharged from the plant throughout the day to form a composite sample. This approach ensures the sample represents the treatment performance over the preceding 24 hours. The E. coli result from this time was tested from a grab sample taken at the same time.

The sample was received at the Invercargill lab at 8:30 AM the day after sampling and the test commenced within 24 hours of the sample being collected.

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 8 June 2025, 2:30 PM.

We trust the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

Democracy Services Team Corporate Services | Queenstown Lakes District Council P: +64 3 441 0499 E: <u>information.request@qldc.govt.nz</u>