

PRE-HEARING REPORT

AFFCO New Zealand Limited

APP-1994001032.01

Discharge of treated wastewater to the Oroua River

Discharge of treated wastewater onto and into land that may enter groundwater

Discharge of odour and aerosols into air

Construct a discharge structure in the bank of the Oroua River and a bed level control structure in the Otoku Stream

Prepared pursuant to section 99(5) of the Resource Management Act 1991 by Andrew Bashford, pre-hearing meeting facilitator.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. A pre-hearing meeting was called with regard to the resource consent application by AFFCO New Zealand Limited (APP-1994001032.01) for wastewater discharges and the construction of ancillary structures at AFFCO's Feilding plant.
2. The meeting was held on Wednesday 23 September 2015 at the NZ Performance Beef Breeders Association, 75 South Street, Feilding, commencing at 9:00am.

B. MEETING HELD WITHOUT PREJUDICE

3. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 99(5) of the Resource Management Act 1991, which is set out below:

The chairperson of the meeting must, before the hearing, prepare a report that—

- (a) does not include anything communicated or made available at the meeting on a without prejudice basis; and*
- (b) for the parties who attended the meeting,—*
 - (i) sets out the issues that were agreed; and*
 - (ii) sets out the issues that are outstanding; and*
- (c) for all the parties,—*
 - (i) may set out the nature of the evidence that the parties are to call at the hearing; and*
 - (ii) may set out the order in which the parties are to call the evidence at the hearing; and*
 - (iii) may set out a proposed timetable for the hearing.*

4. At the commencement of the meeting all parties agreed that discussions would be held on a "without prejudice" basis.

C. FORMAT OF MEETING AND CIRCULATED DOCUMENTS

5. Pre-hearing documentation prepared by Horizons Regional Council officers were circulated at the meeting. The documentation included the following:
 - a. Meeting agenda
 - b. List of submitters
 - c. Summary of submissions
 - d. List of suggested discussion points and issues raised in submissions
6. The meeting commenced at 9:30am and largely followed the pre-set agenda, which is attached as Appendix A.

D. ATTENDEES

7. The attendees at the meeting are listed below:

Facilitator: Andrew Bashford

Administrator: Yvette Stewart

Attendees for Horizons Regional Council

Tabitha Manderson - Consultant Planner

Logan Brown - Senior Environmental Scientist: Water Quality

Jon Bell - Senior Design Engineer (arrived 10:30am)

Dr David Horne - Consultant Soil Scientist (arrived 1:10pm)

Neil Thomas - Consultant Groundwater Scientist (arrived 10:30am)

Gemma Hayes - Consents Planner (observing only)

Attendees for Applicant

Ann Nuku - Plant Manager - AFFCO

Larry O'Fee - Services Engineer - AFFCO

Jenny Hazeleger-Randall - Compliance Manager - AFFCO

Graeme Malone (Legal Counsel)

Hamish Lowe - Lowe Environmental Impact

Peter Hill - Lowe Environmental Impact

Olivier Ausseil - Aquanet Ltd

Submitters

Mike Smith, for the Water and Environmental Care Association (Submitter 15)

Christina Paton (Submitter 3)

Jonathon de Wiele (Submitter 2)

John Bent (Submitter 18)

Jim Wilson (Submitter 17)

Corny Andrews (Submitter 7)

Adrian Hurunui, for Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere (Submitter 14)

Peter Harawani, for Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere (Submitter 14)

Stacy Tahere, for Fish and Game New Zealand (Submitter 5)

Kelvin Lane, for himself and Manawatu Estuary Trust (Submitters 12 & 11) (arrived 11:15am)

Hamish Waugh, for Manawatu District Council (Submitter 9)

E. APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

8. The applicant provided a brief presentation that outlined the key elements of its proposal.

F. ISSUES

9. The following issues were identified and discussed during the course of the meeting:

- River water quality
 - Cumulative effects
 - Discharges at high flows and effects on downstream users
 - Discharge volumes
 - Dilution rates
 - Monitoring
 - Site of Significance – Cultural
 - Manawatu Estuary

- Groundwater
 - Monitoring

- River Engineering
 - Design of discharge structure

- Land Discharge
 - Storage capacity
 - Land area
 - Feasibility of full land based discharge

- Cultural effects
 - Rahui
 - Mauri

G. AGREEMENTS

10. The following agreements were reached and disagreements noted.

Points of Agreement

- a. The use of the word “emergency” in Table 2.3 of the application should be removed.
- b. It was agreed that the applicant would provide further clarification on the following matters in approximately four weeks (23 October):
 - i. Dilution rates in respect of the proposed discharge to the Oroua River, specifically how the “3,800 times” in the AEE is derived.
 - ii. The volume of additional storage and/or land area required reduce the discharge to the river relative to the number of days the discharge would reduce, including a scenario to reduce the river discharge only to times when the river is in excess of 20th Flow Exceedance Percentile.
 - iii. The inconsistency between the executive summary and section 4.3 of the application with regard to days of storage currently available and proposed.

Points of Disagreement

- c. Despite the applicant agreeing to provide further information in relation to additional storage to reduce the discharge to the Oroua River, there is still general disagreement as to whether it is appropriate for a river discharge to exist at all. A number of submitters are opposed to any river discharge, whereas the river discharge is still an integral component of the applicant's proposal.
- d. It was "agreed to disagree" on an issue about the use of pasture to store to store water. Mr Lane considers that pasture cover would increase storage capacity, whilst Horizons expert, Dr Horne did not agree that the length of pasture cover would add to irrigation application capacity.

H. CONCLUSIONS

- 11. The need for a further pre-hearing meeting was briefly discussed. It was agreed that a decision on this would be made after the further clarifications (referred to in Paragraph 10(b) above) were provided by the applicant.
- 12. The facilitator informed attendees that a copy of this report would be circulated with Horizons Regional Council S42A reports.
- 13. The facilitator thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at approximately 3:15pm.

Andrew Bashford
Pre-hearing Meeting Facilitator

30 September 2015