

IN THE MATTER OF

The Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

Applications made to Manawatu-Wanganui
(Horizons) Regional Council (MWRC)

(Consent Authority)

BY

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

(the Applicant)

For the hearing of **APP-2005011178.01** and **APP-2018201909.00** for resource consents associated with the operation of the Eketāhuna Wastewater Treatment Plant, including construction of a wetland, diversion of water, construction of a bund, a discharge into the Makakahi River, a discharge to air (principally odour), a discharge to land via pond and wetland seepage, Bridge Street, Eketāhuna

MEMORANDUM 8 OF THE HEARING PANEL

Directions

19 October 2018

BACKGROUND

- 1 The initial hearing of the application by Tararua District Council (the Applicant) to discharge treated wastewater from the Eketāhuna Wastewater Treatment Plant (“the WWTP”) to the Makakahi River commenced on Wednesday 5 April 2017 and was adjourned on Friday 7 April.
- 2 At that initial hearing the Applicant presented a proposal to provide additional treatment to the present wastewater discharge. This included a clarifier and UV treatment of the discharge. They sought a term of seven years: one year to collect further information to characterise the

discharge, three years to design, build and optimise the proposed treatment, and three years to monitor the effects of the upgraded discharge on the receiving environment of the Makakahi River.

3 The Applicant continues to propose to install the package treatment plant to provide significant additional treatment of the discharge of wastewater to the Makakahi River. The effects of that discharge were thoroughly canvassed at the original hearing of that application.

4 The hearing was reconvened on 23 May 2017, when the Applicant sought additional time to investigate additional treatment of the wastewater, likely via a wetland located close to the river on land owned by the local golf club. This was primarily to endeavour to meet cultural concerns about the discharge, and to enable consistency with Policy 5.11 of the One Plan.

5 We granted that request, and at the request of the Applicant, we have subsequently twice extended the time by which any new applications must be lodged.

6 On 29 June 2018 a new suite of applications to construct the proposed wetland, to discharge seepage from the wetland to the Makakahi River, and to build a bund to divert flood flows away from the wetland were lodged with Horizons Regional Council. The application had been prepared by Opus Environmental Consultants, and was accompanied by a memorandum from legal counsel as well as a comprehensive Cultural Values Assessment prepared on behalf of Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-a-rua.

7 We determined that the new application should be considered under the limited notification provisions of the Act, with the following parties directly served a copy:

(a) Rangitāne o Tamaki-Nui-A-Rua (Rangitāne)

(b) Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-a-rua; and

(c) Eketāhuna Golf Club

8 Following the close of submissions, one submission had been received from Rangitāne.

9 We will reconvene the hearing to hear first from the applicant, and then the submitter on but only on this additional application for the proposed wetland (**APP-2018201909.00**). The Panel will determine the outcome of the primary application (**APP-2005011178.01**) in conjunction with the additional application after the close of the hearing.

HEARING TIMETABLE

- 10 The hearing of application is scheduled for one day commencing **9.30am on Tuesday 27 November 2018.**
- 11 The hearing will be held in the Stadium Function Lounge, Bush Park Trust Stadium, 56 Huxley Street, Pahiatua.
- 12 The formal closing of the hearing will not occur until after the Applicant's right of reply and/or further information or evidence requested by the Commissioners at the hearing is provided by the party from whom it has been requested.
- 13 The remainder of this memorandum gives directions to enable the pre-circulation of all expert evidence prior to the hearing, and outlines the hearing procedure.

TIMETABLE

- 14 The Commissioners have decided the following timetable to ensure all relevant technical evidence is circulated to all parties prior to the hearing.

Due Date	Action	Explanation
Monday, 5 November 2018.	Council s42A report, and any supporting reports, completed and forwarded	This report will enable the applicant and submitters to assess and comment on the council reports when preparing their submissions for the hearing
Monday, 12 November 2018.	All expert evidence from the applicant is to be filed with Horizons Regional Council	This will enable the applicant's expert evidence to be read and assimilated by all parties to the hearing.
Monday, 19 November 2018	Any expert evidence to be called on behalf of submitters is to be filed with Horizons Regional Council	This will enable any expert evidence called by submitters to be read and assimilated by all parties to the hearing

DIRECTIONS

- 15 The following directions are to achieve the timetable outlined above.
- 16 All the pre-circulated material is to be supplied to Carina Hickey at Horizons Regional Council by **12pm** on the dates specified. She will then arrange for this material to be circulated to all the parties involved in the hearing. Her email address is carina.hickey@horizons.govt.nz or she can be contacted on 06 952 2827.

Regulatory Authority Evidence

- 17 Pursuant to section 42 A (3) of the Resource Management Act, any report prepared by or on behalf of Horizons Regional Council must be supplied to Carina Hickey, Horizons Regional Council by **12pm on Monday, 5 November 2018**.

Applicant Expert Evidence

- 18 Pursuant to section 41B of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA), any expert evidence to be called by the applicant must be supplied to Carina Hickey, Horizons Regional Council by **12pm on Monday, 12 November 2018**.

Submitter Expert Evidence

- 19 Pursuant to section 41B of the RMA, should Rangitāne call expert evidence, a copy of any statement of expert evidence must be supplied to Carina Hickey, Horizons Regional Council, by **12pm on Monday, 19 November 2018**.

SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS

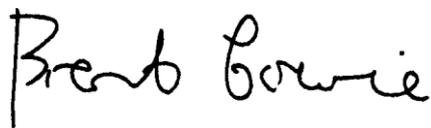
- 20 The applicant and submitters should supply copies of their evidence in electronic pdf format (or, alternatively, one printed copy) to Carina Hickey by the deadlines stipulated above.
- 21 Horizons Regional Council will circulate copies of all evidence by e-mail as soon as practicable after it is received. Copies of all material received will also be uploaded onto the Council website:

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/consent-hearings/tararua-district-council-pahiatua-eketahuna-wastew/eketahuna-wastewater-treatment-plant>

- 22 Any questions about this memorandum or the directions given should be directed to Carina Hickey at Horizons Regional Council. She will confer with the Commissioners as necessary.

HEARING PROCEDURE

- 23 The hearing will commence with the applicant's case. We will next hear from the one submitter to application **APP-2018201909.00**, and then from the reporting officer (whose report will be taken as read) before the applicant's right of reply.
- 24 Pre-circulated expert evidence will be taken as read. We would however ask experts to prepare a short presentation summarising their evidence (such as via Power Point). This presentation should not take more than 20 minutes.
- 25 All legal submissions and planning reports by the applicant and Rangitāne, and lay evidence, can be read in full at the hearing.
- 26 With the exception of Rangitāne and only in relation to **APP-2018201909.00**, no evidence or further information is required from submitters involved in the hearing of **APP-2005011178.01**.



Signed by Brent Cowie (Chair)
on behalf of the Hearing Panel

19 October 2018