

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of applications for consents (APP-2005011178.01) by the TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL to the HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL for resource consents associated with the operation of the Eketahuna Wastewater Treatment Plant, including a discharge into the Makahi River, a discharge to air, and a discharge to land via pond seepage, Bridge St, Eketahuna

STATEMENT OF PETER ROBERT THOMAS WOOD ON BEHALF OF MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

4 April 2017

Introduction

1. My name is Peter Robert Thomas Wood.
2. I am employed as a Health Protection Officer and Drinking-water Assessor employed by MidCentral Public Health Services of MidCentral District Health Board. I have held the role of Health Protection Officer for 26 years, and the role of Drinking-water Assessor since the role was officially created in July 2008.
3. MidCentral District Health Board is responsible for promoting the reduction of adverse environmental effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant to the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
4. MidCentral Public Health Service advocates for the management of environmental effects consistent with the definition of sustainable management under section 5 of the Resource Management Act where there is specific reference to social, economic, and cultural well-being and health and safety.

Summary of the Submission

5. In the original submission the MidCentral Public Health Services opposed the granting of consent. This opposition has not been withdrawn.
6. MidCentral Public Health Services submission was that Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) did not describe the degree of human interaction with the environment and did not identify any drinking water abstractions from downstream of the discharge point.
7. I did note, however, that on page 5 of the AEE that the site specific values for the main stem of the Makakahi River identified drinking water. The Makakahi River is a tributary of the Mangatainoka River, and is identified in the OnePlan as being upstream of the abstraction point for the Pahiatua Water Supply. I have also noted that in paragraph 17 of the Section 42a Report of Logan Arthur Brown that the water supply value has been identified in the Makakahi River in the vicinity of the proposed discharge point.

8. I was therefore surprised to see in paragraph 73 of the Section 42a Report of Fiona Morton that the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007 was deemed not to apply, and that in the paragraph 6.1 of the Statement of Evidence of Tabitha Manderson, the applicant agrees with this. I note that the applicant is the drinking water supplier for Pahiatua.
9. We believe that the consent application should be critically assessed to ensure that Regulations 6-8 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (NESDW) are appropriately satisfied. We also believe that It is appropriate to consider whether any conditions need to be attached to any consent to satisfy Regulation 12 of the NESDW.
10. We therefore reinforce the statement of our original submission, that the degree of human interaction has been very poorly addressed in this application, and continues to be poorly addressed throughout this Resource Management Act process.
11. Many of the other values ascribed to the Makakahi River in the OnePlan are relevant to the MidCentral Public Health Services. The nature of human interaction with the River is important. What is the River used for? How do people use the river? Where do people access the river? None of these questions have been adequately addressed to date.
12. We acknowledge that the Eketahuna Wastewater System is vital infrastructure. However there continues to be an absence of good information about the use of the Makakahi River. Added to that the appropriate protections in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 appear to have been dismissed as irrelevant without any critical analysis.
13. We continue to oppose the granting of consent at this time.