BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of application **APP-1993001253.02** by Tararua District Council to Horizons Regional Council for resource consents associated with the operation of the Pahiatua Wastewater Treatment Plant, including earthworks, a discharge of treated wastewater into Town Creek (initially), then to the Mangatainoka River, a discharge to air (principally odour), and discharge to land via seepage, Julia Street, Pahiatua

---

REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS

DR BRENT COWIE (CHAIR), MR REGINALD PROFFIT AND MR PETER CALLANDER

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF FIONA MORTON - PLANNING

---

25 May 2017

CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

Qualification and Experience

1. My name is Fiona Janet Morton.

2. I am contracted to the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Regional Council) in the position of Senior Consents Planner.

3. I prepared the s42A report on planning matters, which has been pre-circulated and I understand will be taken as read.

4. My qualifications are stated in my previous s42A evidence to the Commissioners dated 21st April 2017.

5. This supplementary report has been prepared to expand on matters that have arisen during through expert evidence and submitters.

6. As per my previous evidence I confirm that I have read the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note (2014) and I agree to comply with it.

Map

7. Attached to this document as appendix 1 is an updated map, which shows the location of the:

    a. Up (1) and downgradient bores (2)

    b. The mixing zone (approx. 200m);

    c. The proposed point of discharge; and

    d. The upstream and downstream monitoring locations

8. From this you will see that all three bores are either located on land owned by TDC or on land currently owned by Mr Morrison.

Additional consents

9. At this point I am unclear what form the final discharge may take (i.e. structure). The Mangatainoka River has a Schedule B value for Flood Control and Drainage. Any structure located on the bed or banks of the River will require a discretionary activity consent pursuant to Rule 17-15.

Flooding

10. I have spoken to the River Management Group. Jon Bell, Manager, Investigations and Design, has confirmed that from a flood and drainage point of view, they hold no concerns regarding the proposed wetland location.

Wetland monitoring, maintenance, efficacy

11. I'm very sure that the Panel has identified some gaps in the conditions around the lack of ongoing wetland monitoring and maintenance in order to ensure the efficacy of the wetland is sustained. I also note Mr MacGibbon was very clear that on-going maintenance would be required. Therefore this gap in the conditions does require addressing. As does a condition which would require reinstatement of the wetland should it be destroyed/rendered useless by a flood event.

Compliance monitoring point

12. I have had a discussion with the Team Leader Compliance monitoring on this point. His view was that as the wetland forms part of the treatment system, the compliance monitoring point should be taken at the end of the wetland. However *E. coli* monitoring should still be undertaken prior to the discharge entering the wetland.

S107 Effects

13. Mr Patterson has provided some comment regarding s107 effects. As I understand it he holds some residual concerns regarding DO, and the possible adverse effects of this on aquatic life.

14. Located upstream of the WWTP discharge, is the Fonterra discharge of condensate permit. This discharge requires the removal of the discharge from

the River when DO falls below 80% for a sustained period of time. While removal of the discharge is not possible currently in the case of the Pahiatua WWTP, it is my view that some form of DO threshold and/or trigger should be developed, which at the very least would require further investigations to be undertaken by the applicant to address the effects of DO.

Consent dates

15. The table below provides a snapshot of the seven WWTP consents or applications within the Tararua District Council. Of the four current consents, only one (Norsewood) was granted using the operative One Plan. The Norsewood consent is an intensive monitoring consent, with the intention that that information gathered will inform the next application.

Application	WWTP	Lodged	Granted	Expiry	Duration	Common catchment
102885	Pongaroa (Water)	November 2003	May 2009	April 2019	10 years	1 July 2016
104163	Ormondville (Water)	September 2007	August 2009	1 July 2026	17 years	1 July 2011
100979	Dannevirke (Water)	December 1999	January 2003	9 December 2027	24 years	1 July 2011
107120 APP-2014016620.00	Norsewood (Water)	May 2014	May 2016	1 July 2018	2 years	1 July 2011
105483 106991	Woodville (Water)	October 2010 January 2014	In progress			1 July 2013

APP-1993001253.02 (1995-2005)	Pahiatua	December 2014	In progress			1 July 2010
APP-2005011178.01 (2013-2015)	Eketahuna	April 2015	In progress			1 July 2010

Term

16. The starting point for the consideration of an appropriate duration should be the one sought by the Applicant, which as stated is 15 years. It is then necessary to consider if there are any 'resource management' reasons why a lesser duration should be imposed.

17. The Regional Council employs the use of common catchment expiry dates as the resource management approach to enable cumulative effects to be assessed in an integrated manner, and to assist with resource allocation issues.

18. While the current TDC WWTP consents identified in the table above do not align to the Common Catchment dates, this is largely because they pre-date the One Plan. However I can advise that in the case of intensive farming landuse consents, dairyshed discharges, and water takes within the Water Management Zone they are located in do now, for the main, align with the common catchment expiry dates. The exception to this being structures within riverbeds or another reason for a shorter term consent – such as the case with Norsewood.

19. This approach has been taken specifically to enable cumulative effects to be assessed as future applications are sought. I have extracted some raw data from the IRIS consents database. Since 2010, there have been at least 139 consents granted with the common catchment expiry date of 1 July 2030. These are a mix of discharges, intensive landuse, and water takes from WMZ with the common catchment expiry of 1 July 2010.

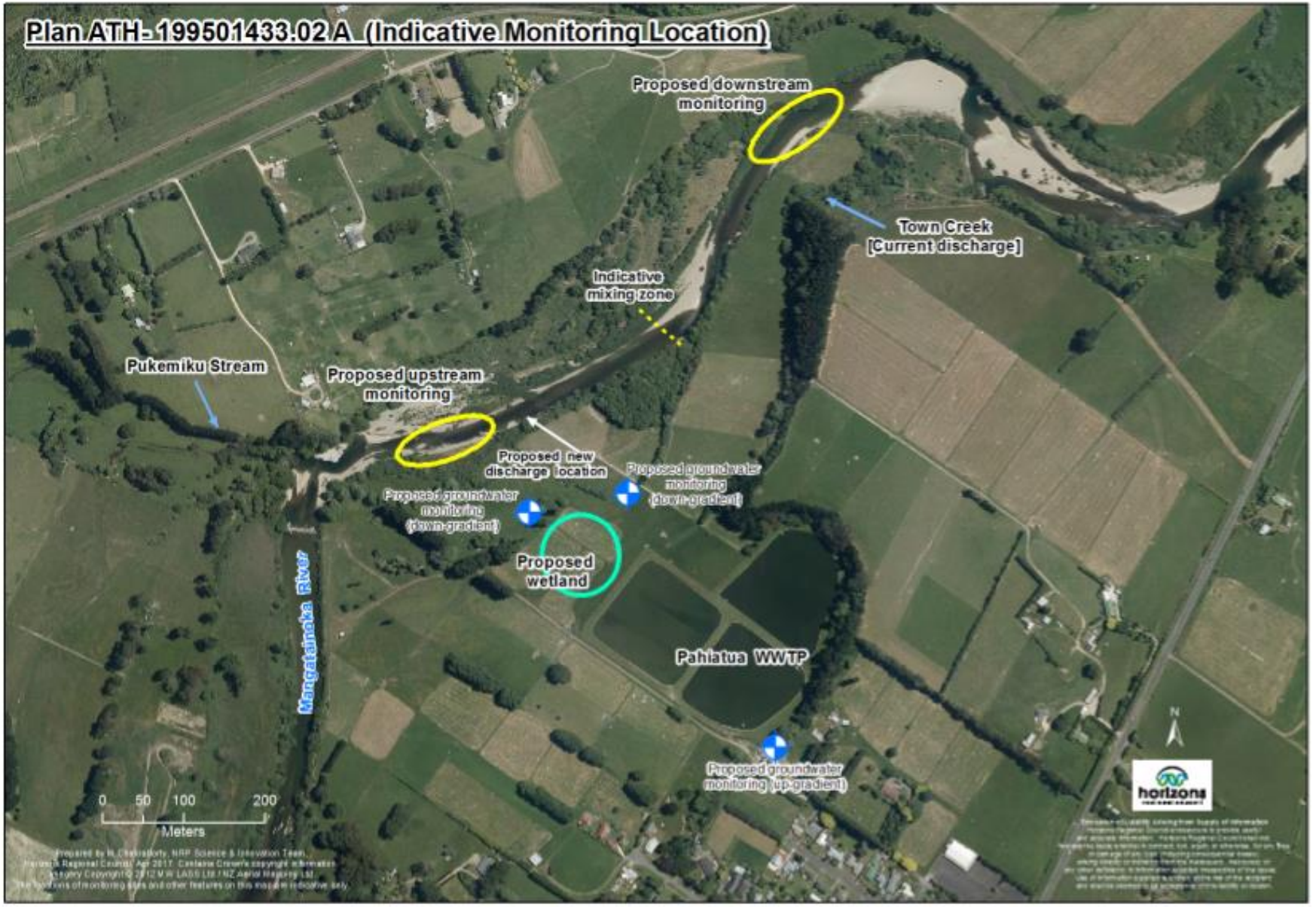
20. My s42A report recommended a term of 10 years. Over the course of the hearing, I consider that there has been enough information to refine this view and extend the term so that the consent expiry date aligns with the common

catchment expiry date plus ten years. Given the concerns regarding cumulative effects from the submitters, and given that the common catchment expiry has been designed specifically to address this issue, I now recommend that APP-1993001253.01 expire on 1 July 2030.

21. I am going to comment here that since the last application expired in 2005 and we are only now approaching a point where a decision could be made, the total time that will have been 'available' to the applicant by July 2030 will in fact be closer to 25 years.

22. In respect of the wetland construction/earthworks consent, I think it is best to think about that not in terms of 'years' but in terms of construction seasons – which is 1 October-1 April. It is my view that as long as the consent duration allows for two construction seasons, no further time is required.

Appendix one


Plan ATH-199501433.02 A (Indicative Monitoring Location)
Proposed downstream monitoring
Town Creek [Current discharge]
Indicative mixing zone
Pukemiku Stream
Proposed upstream monitoring
Proposed new discharge location
Proposed groundwater monitoring (down-gradient)
Proposed groundwater monitoring (down-gradient)
Proposed wetland
Mangatainoka River
Pahiatua WWTP
Proposed groundwater monitoring (up-gradient)
0 50 100 200
Meters
N
horizons