



25 August 2016

Ross McLeod  
Chief Executive  
Hastings District Council  
Civic Administration Building  
207 Lyndon Road East  
**HASTINGS 4122**

Dear Ross

#### **HAVELOCK WATER CONTAMINATION - BROOKVALE BORES**

- 1 We are writing to notify you that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council ('**HBRC**') is undertaking an investigation of the Brookvale Bores to determine whether they comply with the relevant resource consents and conditions granted by the HBRC.
- 2 The HBRC is very concerned that the Hastings District Council has withheld the **attached** as Appendix 1 is information from GNS Science dated 18 August 2016, which was last Thursday, that indicates that the Brookvale Bores may be in breach of consents and conditions. The HBRC is also concerned about other information it has gathered supporting possible breaches.
- 3 As you will be aware, HBRC has granted Hastings District Council the following consents in respect of the Brookvale Bores:
  - (a) Bore consent: Consent LU980110B, Use 1: Public water supply, Use 2: Water
  - (b) Ground-water consent: Consent WP070080Tb, Use 1: Public water supply, Use 2: Potable Supply
- 4 The above resource consents are subject to various conditions, in particular, the standard condition in the HBRC's Regional Resource Management Plan that:

The bore shall be cased and sealed to prevent aquifer cross connection, and leakage from the ground surface into ground water
- 5 The ground-water consent (consent WP070080Tb) also provides:

To minimise the risk of contaminants entering groundwater, well headworks are required to be constructed to ensure that there are no openings through which contaminants might enter the well. This would include ensuring that there are no gaps around pipework and cables at the wellhead.

#### **Havelock North Water Contamination**

- 6 On 12 August 2016, Hastings District Council and the Hawke's Bay District Health Board became aware of a widespread situation of gastroenteritis in Havelock North. Analysis of water from the Brookvale Bores has confirmed the presence of E. coli, and sample testing through the health

system led Council and District Health Board staff to suspect that Campylobacter was the primary infectious agent.

- 7 There are (as at 21 August) 168 confirmed cases and 355 suspected cases of campylobacteriosis, with current estimates suggesting that approximately 4,500 people have been affected by this contamination. Tests results have also confirmed that an elderly person, who died shortly after the contamination, had contracted the bacterial infection. An investigation has been opened by the Coroner to try to determine whether the infection contributed to the person's death.

#### **Proposed action**

- 8 The HBRC has specifically authorised Wayne Wright, Manager of Resource Use, to access the Brookvale Bores to undertake an investigation to ensure that it is compliant with the relevant resource consents and conditions, under the Resource Management Act.

#### **Timeframe**

- 9 The HBRC commenced this investigation at 9.30am this morning.
- 10 The Hastings District Council has confirmed that it will turn off the Brookvale Bores, and that a connection will be opened between Havelock North and Hastings to ensure any contaminated water cannot get into the Hastings pipes. We request urgently your timeframe for shutting down the Brookvale Bores so we can coordinate that with the HBRC's investigation.

#### **Information**

- 11 We immediately request any information that the Hastings District Council has in relation to the compliance of the Brookvale Bores with its consents and conditions, and including the information in Appendix 2, **attached**.
- 12 If there is any other information you would like to provide us with relevant to this investigation, could you please provide this to the HBRC as soon as possible.

#### **Further actions**

- 13 If it is the intention of the Hastings District Council to decommission the Brookvale Bores, we stress that this must only occur after the HBRC's investigation.
- 14 The HBRC's Resource Management Plan Regional Rules require that this be done in accordance with the following conditions (Rule 6.3.1(4)):
- (a) Decommissioned bores shall be backfilled and sealed at the surface to prevent contamination of groundwater.
  - (b) Decommissioned holes and bores intersecting groundwater shall be sealed to prevent the vertical movement of groundwater, and to permanently confine the groundwater to the specific zone (or zones) in which it originally occurred.
  - (c) Backfill materials, where used between permanent seals, shall consist of clean sand, coarse stone, clay or drill cuttings. The material shall be non toxic.
  - (d) Decommissioning shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified person.

(e) The HBRC shall be advised of any bores that are decommissioned.

Yours sincerely

*L. A. Lambert*

**LIZ LAMBERT**  
**INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
Phone: (06) 835 9214  
Email: [liz@hbrc.govt.nz](mailto:liz@hbrc.govt.nz)

**Liz Lambert**

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**Subject:** RE: initial drinking water security assesment

From: Uwe Morgenstern/GNS  
To: [REDACTED]@hdc.govt.nz  
Cc: Rob van der Raaij/GNS@GNS, Stewart Cameron/GNS@GNS, Neal Wai Poi/GNS@GNS, Chris Daughney/GNS@GNS  
Date: 18/08/2016 15:35  
Subject: initial drinking water security assesment

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Hi [REDACTED]

confirming what we just talked on the phone:

The Hastings District drinking water well samples that were collected in May 2016 have not yet completed analysis. Some of the tritium samples have started counting only last week and will need another 3.5 weeks of counting to achieve full accuracy. However, due to the contamination incident in Havelock North, I have made an initial assessment using the data that we have so far.

This 2016 data shows that three wells do not meet the secure drinking water criterion as they could potentially contain fractions of water that is younger than one year. These wells are:

- Brookvale No.1
- Wilson Rd
- Portsmouth Rd

On the other hand, the initial tritium counts that we have so far do allow for the conclusion that all the other wells do have secure drinking water status (no fraction of water younger than one year).

The final report will be prepared by Rob in four weeks when the analysis results are complete.

Best regards  
Uwe Morgenstern

Dr Uwe Morgenstern  
Team Leader Water Dating Lab  
GNS Science - Te Pu Ao  
1 Fairway Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt, NZ 5010  
P O Box 30368, Lower Hutt 5040  
DDI: +64-4-5704652 | Mobile +64-21-1959051  
Ph: +64-4+5701444 | Fax +644 5704600  
Email: [U.Morgenstern@gns.cri.nz](mailto:U.Morgenstern@gns.cri.nz)  
[www.gns.cri.nz](http://www.gns.cri.nz)

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## **Appendix 2 – Further information**

The HBRC is requesting from the HDC all documents held by the Hastings District Council and produced since 1991 in relation to the Brookvale Road Bores, of the following:

1. All records of water testing from each bore
2. Repairs and maintenance work programmes and schedules, names of both individuals and companies who have undertaken this work
3. Photographs or video held of the bores site, in and around the well head and down within the bores
4. Reports internally produced or externally provided, particularly in relation to the bore and well head state and performance
5. Drawings and design data and specifications of the bores and well heads, as well as, as built plans
6. Public Health Risk Management Plan and/or Water Safety Plans
7. Records of actions taken under the Public Health Risk Management Plan and/or Water Safety Plans
8. Bore logs and bore completion reports
9. Hazard and risk assessments in relation to the bores
10. Council policy and decision documents that relate to repairs and maintenance of the bores
11. Invoices for work undertaken on the bores
12. Emails, letters and correspondence related to the bores
13. Names of staff members that have worked on each of these bores

