

22nd August 2022

Hawke's Bay Regional Council
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Attention: Sven Exeter

Dear Sven,

PŌRANGAHAU AND TE PAERAHI WASTEWATER DISCHARGE CONSENT WETLAND ASSESSMENT

This letter and supporting documents are to provide a response to one of the outstanding matters following the review of Central Hawke's Bay District Council's (CHBDC) Section 92 response dated 25 March 2022. This matter related to the need to reassess Site 8 using methodology consistent with Sites 1-4 to distinguish whether natural wetland characteristics are present and determine if the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NES-F) applies with regards to discharge activities.

P:D.66c Wetland Assessment Outcomes

A site visit was undertaken on the 5th of August 2022 by Beca Limited to reassess Site 8. A report has been produced (attached) that concludes that Site 8 is considered an ephemeral wetland and therefore the NES-F applies.

A total of 13 plots were examined within the wetland area with 10 of these satisfying wetland classification characteristics. It should be noted that in the two weeks prior to this visit, 16.8 mm of rainfall fell (albeit none in the seven days prior), with 109.8 mm occurring across the month of July, significantly greater than typical rainfall volumes for the Pōrangahau region at this time of year. The landowner of the property also noted that in 70 years he has never seen the volume of standing water present at Site 8 at the time of the visit, further signifying the abnormally wet winter.

At the time of the previous site visit being the 23rd of June 2021, this site did not contain obvious wetland characteristics. This is due to the wetland being considered ephemeral, thus in periods of drier climate, such as June 2021 following a drier summer and autumn period, wetland characteristics were absent.

With Site 8 now containing characteristics of a natural wetland, and therefore falling under the rules of the NES-F, a 100 m buffer shall be applied to Site 8 whereby no wastewater irrigation shall occur. An updated buffer map showing the dischargeable area has been attached as Annex B. Additionally, consent conditions have been updated (Annex C), with the removal of the wetland buffer requirement (Condition 54(a)) as the necessary setback is now provided for within the buffer figure. Using this approach, no wastewater irrigation shall occur within 100 m of any identified wetlands therefore complying with the requirements of the NES-F and no consent under NES-F is required.



Please contact myself or Hamish Lowe at Lowe Environmental Impact (phone 06 359 3099 or email hamish@lei.co.nz) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Clark', with a small dot at the end.

Fiona Clark
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Annexures

- » Annex A Wetland Assessment (Beca, 2022:P:D.66c)
- » Annex B Updated Buffer Map
- » Annex C Updated Consent Conditions (Version 5)