

6 April 2020

Dear landowner/leasee

### **Update - Tukituki Catchment Plan (PC6) Drought and Covid-19 Response**

Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) acknowledges COVID-19 is having a major impact on New Zealanders and especially our rural community, which is already under major pressure from prolonged drought conditions.

Presently it is not possible for landowners to have service providers physically on farm, and hold sub-catchment meetings, and this may be the situation for some weeks or months to come. HBRC also acknowledges the extreme challenges placed on landowners by the declared drought, which has affected the upper Tukituki area more significantly than any other part of Hawke's Bay, and is having a significant impact on farmer welfare.

#### **What about the deadlines in the Tukituki Plan?**

The Tukituki Plan contains deadlines for submitting consent applications. These deadlines are a legal requirement, but we know it will be difficult for some people to meet them in the current circumstances.

HBRC cannot change the dates quickly or easily in the Tukituki Plan so the **31 May 2020** deadline for consents still stands. HBRC is working with central government on options to manage upcoming consent timeframes (among other things) during New Zealand's COVID-19 Level 4 Alert lock down period. In the case of the Tukituki consents we are seeking a legislative solution, but this is not guaranteed, as it will require an Act of Parliament.

Our end goal is to ensure that we collectively meet the deadline in the Plan in the most straightforward way possible recognising that some of you are further along in your consent application process than others. We have developed an option that still relies on your meeting the 31 May 2020 deadline with a minimum amount of information on an application form, as a placeholder for completing the resource consent application in a few months' time.

#### **What is required now.**

- 1. If you have a completed application, please submit this to HBRC by the 31 May deadline.**
- 2. If you do not have a completed application please fill in, sign and return 'Form A',** along with as much additional information as you have available in **"Appendix Administration Form 'A' Tukituki Production Land Use Activities"**. by the **31 May deadline**. This shows you intend to apply for a resource consent once you are able, and also gives HBRC up-to-date contact information.
- 3. No deposit is required for the pre application** but a deposit will be required once a completed application is lodged.

The completed Form A and Appendix A, will be received by Council as a **'pre application'**. HBRC will use your completed Form A as demonstration that you have started the process and are intending to obtain a production land use activity resource consent.

As part of the pre application process, we need you to tell us whether you have a Nutrient budget prepared using Overseer FM, and provide access details (a reference number). If you have been unable to have a nutrient budget prepared yet, we need you to tell us how and when you will be able to provide one.

### **Moving forward**

We want you to keep in contact with us, having an open dialogue will help all parties.

We expect that there will be criticism of both HBRC and your community if the 31 May 2020 deadline is not achieved, even given the current circumstances. We believe that the approach we have outlined above will allow us collectively to demonstrate the intent to meet the rules in the Tukituki Plan while acknowledging the exceptional circumstances facing all of us. Enforcement is always a last resort and we won't penalise farmers when people are making a genuine effort to comply but are unable to meet deadlines.

If you have any questions please contact your FEMP provider, industry representative or farm consultant in the first instance. If you require advice from the Council please contact **Kate Proctor, Senior Regulatory Advisor** at [kate.proctor@hbrc.govt.nz](mailto:kate.proctor@hbrc.govt.nz) or **027 201 9698**. Information is also available on the HBRC web site (search #Tukituki).

These are challenging times but if we work together, we will be able to navigate our way through. Further communication will be forthcoming once we have a clearer picture of how events will unfold or if the situation changes.

Yours sincerely



**Liz Lambert**  
**Group Manager Regulation**

Email: [liz@hbrc.govt.nz](mailto:liz@hbrc.govt.nz)