

Eastern Bays Shared Path

Memorandum 2 - Responses to Further Information Request received on 29 May 2019 under s 92(1) RMA

This Memorandum 2 is the second of two memoranda submitted by Stantec, on behalf of Hutt City Council, to respond to the further information request received from Greater Wellington Regional Council on 29 May 2019. This Memorandum 2 particularly responds to sections 2 (Avifauna), 4-5 (Little Penguins) and 8 (Seagrass), which were not addressed in the first memorandum submitted on 17 July 2019.

1 Terrestrial ecology and avifauna: Avifauna and Little Penguins

Dr John Cockrem of Kororā Ornithology Ltd has prepared a report on Avifauna and Little Penguins, which responds to the questions from Greater Wellington Regional Council's further information request under sections 2 (Avifauna), 4 and 5 (Little Penguins) (refer to **Annexure 1**).

2 Marine (sub and intertidal ecology): Seagrass

Please carry out an evaluation of the effects of the proposal on seagrass and how these effects are intended to be managed in accordance with the full effects management hierarchy, as required by Policies P32 and P41 (and Schedule G) of the PNRP. In particular, please break down the effects management package for seagrass into the relevant categories (avoid, remedy, mitigate) and describe which measures/actions have been taken to:

- i. avoid seagrass habitat (Schedule F5 areas); then*
- ii. avoid more than minor adverse effects on seagrass habitat; then*
- iii. remedy any more than minor adverse effects on seagrass habitat; then*
- iv. mitigate any more than minor adverse effects on seagrass habitat; then*
- v. offset any residual effects on seagrass habitat*

Only once the effects management hierarchy has been followed and all other avenues exhausted is it appropriate to offer an offset to address the residual adverse effects on seagrass habitat.

Response:

In order to respond to section 8(a) of the further information request, Dr Fleur Matheson (NIWA) has prepared a more detailed evaluation of the effects of the project on seagrass. Her findings are contained in **Annexure 2** of this memorandum.

The effects management hierarchy on seagrass is summarised in the following table:

Effects	Assessment
Avoiding more than minor adverse effects	There will be no physical encroachment on the seagrass meadows. The proposed works will avoid areas of seagrass.
Where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedying them	The risk of turbidity resulting from the beach nourishment exceeding ambient conditions during wave conditions or Hutt River floods is negligible-low (refer to Coastal Physical Processes Report, Appendix E of resource consent application).
Where more than minor adverse effects cannot be remedied, mitigating them	Mitigation measures have been outlined in the following reports and summarised in Dr Matheson's Report in Annexure 2 . Further measures will be included which include the marking of the location of seagrass beds; and monitoring of the seagrass beds as recommended in Dr Matheson's Report. It is

	noted that seagrass is hardy and can regenerate relatively quickly after minor/moderate physical disturbance provided growing conditions are suitable.
Where residual adverse effects remain it is appropriate to consider the use of biodiversity offsets	If monitoring of seagrass indicates that losses are substantial and natural recovery does not seem to be occurring then assisted restoration using small scale transplantation will be attempted.

Please confirm the extent of encroachment on any seagrass habitat as a result of beach re-nourishment at Lowry Bay.

Response:

The assessment in the Vegetation and Avifauna AEE (Appendix C-1 of the resource consent application) was based on the preliminary design (and hand drawn beach profiles from the T&T report) that show indicative areas of seagrass habitat (see particularly Figure 5-1). Given the sensitivity of this seagrass habitat, the final detailed design will be undertaken to ensure that there is **no** encroachment on seagrass habitat.

The beach nourishment final design will **avoid** all seagrass habitat. The final detailed design will be subject to a consent condition and must be approved by GWRC.

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Rev. No.	Date	Description	Prepared By	Checked By	Reviewed By	Approved By
1	13/8/19	Internal draft	CvH	JP	JP	JP
2	19/8/19	Legal review	CvH	JP	JP	JP

**ANNEXURE 1: Report on Avifauna and Little Penguins – Dr John
Cockrem**

ANNEXURE 2: Report on Seagrass – Dr Fleur Matheson, NIWA