

# Non-notified resource consent application report and decision

## Summary of decision

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Activity:</b>            | To take and use groundwater from an existing bore located in the Upper Hutt Groundwater Zone for bottling and retail purposes.   |
| <b>File Reference:</b>      | WGN130085  |
| <b>Date Granted:</b>        | 13 February 2013   |
| <b>Commencement date:</b>   | 13 February 2013   |
| <b>Applicant:</b>           | Heretaunga Water Limited<br>41 Edgecumbe Road<br>Tauranga 3110   |
|                             | <b>For: John Cronin</b>  |
| <b>Address for service:</b> | Heretaunga Water Limited<br>C/- Beca<br>PO Box 3942<br>Wellington 6140   |
|                             | <b>For: Nathan Baker</b>   |
| <b>Decision made under:</b> | Sections 104B and 108 of the Resource Management Act 1991  |
| <b>Consent Granted:</b>     | <b>[31970]: Discretionary Activity</b><br>Water permit to take and use groundwater from an existing bore (R27/6978) located in the Upper Hutt Groundwater Zone for bottling and retail purposes. |
| <b>Location:</b>            | 1-5 Refreshment Place, Upper Hutt  |
| <b>Map Reference:</b>       | At or about map reference NZTM: 1772080.5444732  |
| <b>Legal Description:</b>   | Lot 2 DP 31196   |
| <b>Duration of Consent:</b> | [31970]: 10 years  |

**Subject to conditions:** Attachment 1

|                            |                 |  |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Decision recommended by:   | Malory Osmond   | Senior Resource Advisor,<br>Environmental Regulation |  |
| Decision peer reviewed by: | Jude Weggery    | Resource Advisor,<br>Environmental Regulation        |  |
| Decision approved by:      | Jeremy Rusbatch | Team Leader,<br>Environmental Regulation             |  |

# Reasons for decision: resource consent WGN130085 [31970]

## 1. Background and proposal

### 1.1 Background

Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Limited has applied on behalf of Heretaunga Water Limited (the applicant) to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to take and use water from an existing bore (R27/6978) located at 1-5 Refreshment Place, Upper Hutt.

Historically the site was owned by Coca-Cola Bottlers (Wellington) Limited and used as a bottling plant until its closure several years ago. A water take from this bore was consented under WGN040019 [22914] and owned by Piccadilly Investments Limited; however, this consent lapsed in August 2008.

This is therefore an application for a new water take. The applicant plans to bottle the water for retail sale.

### 1.2 Proposal

The bore is located within the Upper Hutt Groundwater Zone (UHGZ), near the south western boundary of Lot 2 DP 31196. The applicant has applied to take up to 576m<sup>3</sup>/day at a maximum pumping rate of 10 litres/second (for 16 hours/day), six days per week (Monday to Saturday), 52 weeks per year. This equates to an annual volume of 179,712m<sup>3</sup>/year

## 2. Resource consents required

### 2.1 Resource Management Act 1991

Section 14 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act) outlines requirements that the taking of water requires a resource consent unless permitted by a National Environment Standard (NES), a rule in a regional plan<sup>1</sup> as well as a rule in a proposed regional plan for the same region (if there is one) or a resource consent. As the proposed take is not permitted by any of these pathways, a resource consent is required.

### 2.2 Regional Freshwater Plan Rules

Rule 16 of the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region (RFP) states that the taking of water that does not meet the permitted activity standards in Rule 7 requires a resource consent<sup>2</sup>. The proposed water take does not meet the standards and conditions of Rule 7, and therefore is considered a **discretionary activity** under Rule 16 of the RFP and resource consent is required.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 14 allows for the taking of water for an individual's domestic needs, stock water, and fire fighting water.

<sup>2</sup> Rule 7 allows for up to 20,000 litres per day to be taken without a resource consent subject to four conditions.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **3.1 Iwi**

In accordance with GWRC's agreement with tangata whenua regarding consultation on non-notified consents, Te Runanganui O Taranaki Whanui Ki Te Upoko O Te Ika a Maui, Wellington Tenth Trust and Ngati Toa Rangatira provided with a copy of the application. Both the Wellington Tenth Trust and Ngati Toa Rangatira chose not to comment on the application.

Teri Puketapu responded on behalf of Te Runanganui O Taranaki Whanui Ki Te Upoko O Te Ika a Maui. On 1 November 2012, Mr Puketapu sent GWRC a letter requesting the application be publically notified, to provide the public and their iwi representation to be provided with the opportunity to object to the application. The letter correctly noted that the instantaneous rate applied for is 10 l/s which is greater than the 2.5 l/s permitted by the RFP, and as such the application was considered as a discretionary activity under Rule 16.

During several discussions with Mr Puketapu, he advised that he had concerns with a Tauranga company taking water from the Upper Hutt aquifer and selling it for a profit. He noted the pressures on the groundwater resource generally, the connection of the Upper Hutt aquifer to the Hutt River and that the public were being asked to comply with water restrictions over the summer months. Overall, Mr Puketapu considered the application should be notified 'on principal' and that members of the Upper Hutt community should be provided with the opportunity to submit.

Following an assessment of the application against section 95 of the Act, GWRC considered that the application did not trigger any of the public notification pathways provided in section 95 and there were no special circumstances where by the application should be notified. The decision was made that the application be processed on a non-notified basis and a letter was sent to Mr Puketapu on 12 December 2012 outlining this decision and the reasons for it.

#### **3.2 GWRC Groundwater Scientist**

I have consulted with and sought advice from Dr Doug Mzila, Senior Groundwater Scientist – Hydrology at GWRC. Dr Mzila undertook a review of the pumping test results and analysis provided with the application and provided comments on the assessment of environmental effects.

Mr Mzila considered that the pumping test and their analysis had been conducted in a professional manner; however, his main concerns was that the aquifer had only been tested at a constant rate of 4 l/s for an application to abstract water at 10 l/s.

GWRC requested that the applicant conduct another pumping test at or above 10 l/s, in order to confirm that the proposed take will not result in more than minor effects on neighbouring wells. The applicant provided an argument that even though the pumping test was conducted at a low rate, the derived aquifer parameters from this test could be used to model what the effects would have

been if the well was pumped at 10 l/s, and they had provided this modelling information in the application, which concluded there would be no more than minor effects.

Dr Mzila reanalysed the pumping test results provided using similar tools and the results were consistent with those provided in the application. Therefore, he agrees with the applicant's calculated drawdown at the proposed rate at 10 l/s. Dr Mzila agrees with the applicant that it is unlikely that a 10 l/s abstraction from the bore will result in a significant drawdown in neighbouring wells. However, as this higher rate has not been tested, he has recommended a condition of consent that requires the consent holder to monitor the water levels in the bore. If pumping of the bore results in a drawdown greater than that modelled by the applicant, and that is below the naturally occurring low water levels, then the applicant will be required to reduce their pumping rate.

Following consultation with the applicant, Dr Mzila agreed that it would be more appropriate to monitor the water levels in a nearby bore, rather than the applicant's bore. The Blockhouse Lane bore (wells number R27/7149), was selected.

I consider that this condition proposed by Dr Mzila is important to verify the applicant's assessment that there will be no effects on neighbouring wells. This condition is discussed further in Section 6.4 of this report.

Dr Mzila considered the proposed take could result in interception of groundwater discharge to springs that feed the Mawaihakona Stream and another unnamed small stream that flows into the Hutt River. He therefore recommended the applicant undertake a stream depletion assessment. The applicant provided a stream depletion assessment on 18 December 2012 and the results of this assessment are discussed in Section 6.5 of this report.

Overall, Dr Mzila considers that provided the recommended monitoring conditions are complied with, the application will have a no more than minor effect on the environment.

#### **4. Notification decision**

Section 95D provides the consent authority with a framework under which I have assessed this application. I consider the proposed take will have adverse effects that will be, or are likely to be no more than minor. Given this, I consider that public notification is not required under section 95A(1).

However, under section 95B a consent authority must decide under sections 95E and 95F if there are any affected persons or affected order holders in relation to the proposed take. These are discussed in the following sections.

#### **5. Determination of affected persons and order holders**

Under section 95E(1) a consent authority must decide whether a person is affected by a proposed take, if the adverse effects on the person are minor or more than minor (but are not less than minor).

Under section 95E(2)(a) a consent authority may disregard an adverse effect of the activity on a person if a rule or national environmental standard permits an activity with that effect and/or the person has given written approval to the take under section 95E(3)(a).

I consider there are no affected persons to this application.

Under section 95F a consent authority must decide if a person is an affected order holder in relation to the proposed take. Currently there are no affected order holders under section 17A(2) in the Wellington region.

## **6. Environmental effects**

### **6.1 Existing environment**

The bore R27/6978 is approximately 30m deep and screens the unconfined/semi-confined aquifer of the UHGZ.

The Hutt River is the primary surface water feature in the UHGZ flowing along the base of the Western Hutt Hills (approximately 1.3km from the site). A number of spring-fed streams emerge along the margins of the Hutt River including the Mawaihakona Stream which is located 1.3km south of the bore and an unnamed tributary of the Hutt River approximately 600m south west of the bore. There are no significant wetland areas recorded in the UHGZ reflecting the largely urbanised nature of land use in the area.

The subsurface geology of the UHGZ in this area consists of alluvial gravel and sands containing variable proportions of silt over the upper 50 metres of the stratigraphic column. These deposits are inferred to represent materials deposited and reworked by the Hutt River during the late stages of the Otarian glaciation (approximately 10,000 to 25,000 years BP) and subsequent interglacial period. Bore logs from the few bores penetrating deeper levels of the Upper Hutt basin record a variable sequence of relatively weathered silty gravels containing frequent layers of fine sand and organic sediments.

The underlying factors influencing the environmental effects of groundwater abstraction are the type of aquifer and the rate of take from it. Environmental effects may include interference with adjacent bores and flow depletion effects on nearby water courses. Potential effects are discussed in the following sections.

### **6.2 Pumping test**

The applicant's bore R27/6978 is approximately 30m deep with a 150m internal diameter. In November 2010 the bore was pump tested at a rate between 4.0-4.23 l/s by Griffiths Drilling Limited. There is no bore log data for bore R27/6978.

Given there are no records of well construction Mark Utting (Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Limited) recommended in his assessment (Appendix B of the consent application document) that a down-hole video survey be conducted to verify well construction details and well condition before pump installation.

Following consultation with Dr Mzila, I have not recommended a CTV survey as a condition of consent; however, the applicant may choose to undertake this study to determine the condition of the bore to provide more certainty on well loss.

The bore was pump tested at a constant rate of 4 l/s for 72 hours and maximum drawdown during this period was 0.35m. Drawdown over 150 days (pumping at the proposed abstraction rate of 10 l/s) was calculated to cause a drawdown of 1.2m, and with a well loss of approximately 0.3m, total drawdown was proposed by the applicant at 1.5m.

### **6.3 Aquifer allocation - UHGZ**

The RFP identifies safe yield for the UHGZ as 26.9 million m<sup>3</sup>/year. There are currently five consented takes in the UHGZ. Given that this application is for a new groundwater take, the allocation in the aquifer will increase slightly (by 0.7%) and total allocation, including the applicant's take, is now 9.1% of the aquifer's annual safe yield. I consider that there are no more than minor effects on allocation as a result of granting the applicant's groundwater take.

### **6.4 Effects on other bores (Interference effects)**

The abstraction of groundwater from any bore has the potential to create an effect on nearby bores if the bore is located in the same aquifer as other bores, or if the aquifers are hydraulically connected.

The closest bores are R27/7148 located approximately 300m north and R27/7146 located about 500m of the site. These bores do not have water permits associated with them. The drawdown interference for these wells was estimated at 240mm for R27/7148 and 210mm for R27/7146 based on 150 days of pumping. The effect of the drawdown on neighbouring wells with water permits was also modelled by the applicant. The location of these wells ranged from 1,035m to 4,290m from R27/6978 and drawdown after 150 days of pumping was >100mm to 185mm.

The applicant concluded in their assessment that the above drawdown interferences are very small and are unlikely to be noticed by any consented groundwater users and permitted activity wells. Therefore, they consider the proposed take is consistent with Policy 6.2.8 of the RFP regarding avoiding excessive reduction in other bores from the water take. Dr Mzila agreed with the applicant that it is unlikely that a 10 l/s abstraction from the bore will result in a significant drawdown in neighbouring wells. However, as the bore has not been tested at the applied for rate of 10 l/s, Dr Mzila considered it to be important that the water levels in the aquifer are monitored to verify the conclusions drawn in the applicant's assessment. Following consultation with the applicant, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to monitor water levels in a nearby bore and the Blockhouse Lane bore (wells number R27/7149) was selected, being located approximately 153m away from the applicant's bore. If the water levels in the Blockhouse Lane drop below the predicted drawdown, then the consent holder should then be required to reduce their pumping rate to ensure adverse effects on neighbouring wells are avoided.

I concur with Dr Mzila, and have recommended a condition of consent that requires the consent holder to install water level monitoring equipment in the Blockhouse Lane bore and provide records of the water levels to GWRC on a monthly basis. The frequency of the submission of records may be reviewed after receipt of the first 12 months of records.

GWRC has been monitoring the water levels in the applicant's bore since 2006. Monitoring from August 2006 to October 2012, has recorded a minimum natural water level in the bore as 45.60m above mean sea level (MSL). The minimum natural water level in the Blockhouse Lane bore (R27/7149) is assumed to be the same, as it is located only 153m away.

The applicant has proposed a trigger level (water level) in the Blockhouse Lane bore of 44.57m above MSL. This is based on the assumed water level of 45.60m above MSL, minus the predicted worse-case, 1-year, average pumping rate (5.7 l/s) interference drawdown of 0.45m, minus the predicted worst-case, 16 hour peak pumping rate (10 l/s) interference drawdown of 0.08m, minus 0.5m for climatic variation. Dr Mzila has reviewed the proposed trigger level and confirmed it is appropriate.

I have therefore recommended a condition of consent that requires the consent holder to maintain a water level in the bore of at least 44.57m above MSL. If the water level drops below this point, the consent holder will be required to reduce their pumping rate immediately and to a point whereby the water level recovers and is maintained at or above 44.06m above MSL. Additionally, the applicant will be required to investigate the cause of the decline in water level and provide a report to GWRC. The trigger level may be reviewed by GWRC upon an assessment of this report.

I consider that these monitoring conditions will ensure adverse drawdown effects on neighbouring bores are avoided.

## **6.5 Flow depletion effects on surrounding streams**

According to the GWRC document "*Application of Proposed Framework for Conjunctive Water Management: Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast (June 2011)*" the proposed groundwater take is located in a Category A area. Category A areas are sites with direct hydraulic connection with surface water where stream depletion effects may be mitigated by application of minimum flow or level cut-offs.

To assess potential stream depletion the applicant ran a model using three sets of assumed possible values for aquifer transmissivity, aquifer storativity, stream bed hydraulic conductivity and stream bed thickness. The analysis showed that pumping the bore for 2hrs/day at 10 l/s would cause a depletion of flow in the Hutt River and the Mawaihakona Stream. Depletion from the Mawaihakona Stream was assessed at <1-5% of its recorded flow while the depletion of the Hutt River would be less than 0.2% of its 1-Day Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF).

Dr Mzila considered the applicant has done adequate work in assessing the stream depletion effects, and that the effects are less than minor taking into

consideration the water allocation status of the aquifer and the proposed consent conditions. I agree with Dr Mzila that abstraction at the proposed rate from the applicant's bore R27/6978 will have no more than minor effects on nearby streams.

## **7. Statutory assessment**

### **7.1 Resource Management Act 1991**

Part II (section 5) of the Act defines its purpose as the promotion of the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Sections 6, 7 and 8 of Part II define the matters a consent authority shall consider when achieving this purpose.

Section 104(1)(b) of the Act outlines the matters a consent authority must have regard to. These matters include any actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activity, relevant National Environmental Standards, other regulations, relevant objectives, policies and rules of a Regional Plan, the Regional Policy Statement and proposed Regional Policy Statement<sup>3</sup>, and any other matter considered relevant and reasonably necessary to determine the application.

### **7.2 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011**

The National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 12 May 2011.

Policy B5: Every regional council will ensure that no decision will likely result in future over-allocation – including managing fresh water so that the aggregate of all amounts of fresh water in a water body that are authorised to be taken, used, dammed or diverted – does not over-allocate the water in the water body.

Policy B7: This policy shall be applied until regional councils amend their plans under Schedule 1 to give effect to Policy B1 (allocation limits), Policy B2 (allocation), and Policy B6 (over-allocation) and these changes have become operative.

I have assessed the proposal against the NPS, in particular policies B5 and B7 and I consider that the proposed water take is consistent with these policies.

### **7.3 National Environmental Standard**

The Resource Management (Measuring and Reporting Water Takes) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) came into effect on 10 November 2010 which require all water takes of 5 l/s or more to be metered, get the meters verified on a regular basis and record daily meter readings. The regulations apply to this water take so I have recommended conditions of consent requiring a water meter to be installed as close as practicable to the point of take, verified, recorded daily and records submitted to GWRC on a monthly basis.

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<sup>3</sup> The proposed RPS was notified on 21 March 2009

## **7.4 Regional Policy Statement and Proposed Regional Policy Statement**

The Operative Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (RPS) contains several objectives and policies aimed at maintaining the quality of the freshwater environment. These objectives and policies are intended to provide for the current and reasonably foreseeable needs of current and future generations. The relevant chapter of the RPS are Chapter 5 (Freshwater) and Chapter 9 (Ecosystems). I consider that the proposed activity outlined in the application is consistent with the objectives and policies of these chapters.

The proposed RPS was notified in March 2009. The decision was released and notified in May 2010. Following this, eight appeals were received. Since 2010, mediation has been ongoing to resolve these appeals. The mediation was successful and all parties agreed to changes with consent orders being sought from the Court to confirm these agreements. On 7th December 2012, the final consent order was received from the Court. Given this, significant weight can be placed on the policies of the proposed RPS. Full weighting will follow when the proposed RPS becomes 'fully' operative following public notification in early 2013.

The provisions in the proposed RPS must be considered pursuant to section 104(1)(b)(v) of the Act. Section 4.2 of the proposed RPS contains the relevant regulatory policies to be given particular regard when assessing and deciding on resource consent applications. I consider that, with the application of the recommended conditions of consent, the proposed activity is consistent with the policies in section 4.2 of the proposed RPS.

## **7.5 Regional Plans**

The RFP has a number of objectives and policies that relate to the proposed activity. The most relevant objectives and policies to consider when assessing this application are listed below:

- Policy 6.2.1: Management of the allocation of water and flows in the parts of rivers as detailed in Table 6.1 of the RFP.
- Policy 6.2.3: Management of aquifers in groundwater zones using allocation limits.
- Policy 6.2.8: Effects on surface water and other bores.
- Policy 6.2.18: Water conservation and efficient use of water resources.
- Policy 6.2.19: To encourage water conservation, particularly in water short areas.

I have assessed the proposal against these policies and I consider that the proposal is consistent with these policies as detailed in Section 6 of this report.

## 8. Main findings

There will be no more than minor effects on the environment as a result of granting the application described above. The effects on water allocation of the UHGZ and potential effects on other users will be no more than minor.

- The proposed activity is consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the Act
- The proposed activity is consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the RPS, the Proposed RPS, the RFP, the NPS and the Resource Management (Measurements and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010
- The actual or potential adverse effects of the proposed activity on the environment will be or are likely to be no more than minor
- Conditions of the consent will ensure that the adverse effects of the activity on the environment will be appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated

### 8.1 Duration of consent

The applicant has requested a duration of 30 years for consent WGN130085 [31970]. A duration of 10 years is typically provided for groundwater take consents in the Wellington Region. There have been few exceptions to this whereby GWRC has considered a slightly longer duration has been warranted.

In this case, as the bore has not been tested at the applied for rate of 10 l/s, I do not consider enough information has been provided for this application to be one of the exceptions that warrants a longer than 10 year duration.

The recommended monitoring conditions will ensure information is obtained regarding the effects pumping the bore at 10 l/s has on aquifer water levels and surrounding bore owners. Once 10 years of monitoring information has been gathered, if the information confirms the applicant's assessment that the effects of the take are no more than minor, a longer duration such as 15 years may be considered by GWRC for any future renewal consent.

I therefore consider a duration of 10 years is appropriate for water permit WGN130085 [31970] as this is consistent with the consent duration for groundwater abstractions in the Wellington region and will allow any adverse effects to be reassessed in a relatively short time frame.

## 9. Monitoring

The consent holder is required to install a water meter and record daily abstraction (m<sup>3</sup>) and submit these records to GWRC on a monthly basis. In addition the consent holder is required to monitor water levels in a nearby bore and submit records to GWRC on a monthly basis.

The water take will be inspected in the first year of the consent being granted. Following this, provided the applicant is fully complying with their consent, the water take will be inspected on a three-yearly basis to check primarily whether the water meter is operating and check the rate of abstraction. Where there is non-compliance (e.g. incorrect water meter operation or no water usage data submitted or recorded) inspections will be undertaken on an annual basis until such time that a good compliance history has been established. Annual charges will be applied in accordance with the *Resource Management Charging Policy (2011)*. Charges relating to inspections are outlined in the cover letter enclosed with this report.

|   |                 |   |          |
|---|-----------------|---|----------|
| <b>Application lodged:</b>                      | 23/10/12        | <b>Application officially received:</b>   | 23/10/12 |
| <b>Application stopped:</b>                     | 05/11/12        | <b>Application started:</b>               | 18/12/12 |
| <b>Section 37 extension from:</b>               | 28/01/13        | <b>To:</b>                                | 13/02/13 |
| <b>Applicant to be notified of decision by:</b> | 13/02/13        | <b>Applicant notified of decision on:</b> | 13/02/13 |
| <b>Time taken to process application:</b>       | 32 working days |   |          |

## 10. Attachment 1 WGN130085 [31970]

Water permit to take and use groundwater from an existing bore (R27/6978) located in the Upper Hutt Groundwater Zone, for bottling and retail purposes.

### General condition

1. The location, design, implementation and operation of the take shall be in general accordance with the consent application and its associated plans and documents lodged with the Wellington Regional Council on 23 October 2012 and further information received on:

- 23 November 2012 (email)
- 18 December 2012 (stream depletion assessment), and
- 8 February 2012 (email with revised water level ‘trigger’ level)

Where there may be contradiction or inconsistencies between the application and further information provided by the applicant, the most recent information applies. In addition, where there may be inconsistencies between information provided by the applicant and conditions of the consent, the conditions apply.

*Note: Any change from the location, design concepts and parameters, implementation and/or operation may require a new resource consent or a change of consent conditions pursuant to section 127 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

### Rate and point of take

2. The rate at which water is taken from bore R27/6978 at or about approximate map reference NZTM: 1772082.5444731 shall not exceed 179,712m<sup>3</sup>/year, at 576m<sup>3</sup>/day at a maximum pumping rate of 10 litres/second.

*Note: This equates to 16 hours/day and 312 days/year based on the maximum pumping rate.*

### Commencement of take

3. The consent holder shall notify the Manager, Environmental Regulation within 48 hours of the commencement of the take, as authorised by this consent.

### Water measuring device/system

4. The consent holder shall install and maintain a sealed and tamper-proof water measuring device (water meter) as close as practicable to the point of take (Wells number R27/6978) **prior to the commencement of the take**. The water meter shall measure both cumulative water abstraction and the instantaneous rate of take, and be

capable of providing data in a form suitable for electronic storage. The water meter shall be calibrated to ensure that the error does not exceed +/- 5%. The water meter shall be installed and maintained by a suitably qualified person in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and industry best practice guidelines, and to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.

### **Water level monitoring**

5. The consent holder shall install and commission water level recording equipment in the Blockhouse Lane bore (wells number R27/7149) that records continuous data at no greater than 60 minute intervals, **prior to the commencement of the take.**

The consent holder shall notify the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, at least seven days prior to the equipment being installed, so that the current Wellington Regional Council monitoring equipment can be removed from the bore.

The water level recording equipment shall be installed and maintained by a suitably qualified person in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, for the duration of the consent.

*Note 1: The consent holder can contact the Environmental Science department, Wellington Regional Council for advice about the water level recording equipment, monitoring and reporting.*

*Note 2: The consent holder may choose to install a dedicated tube for manual measurements of water level in the bore using a dip meter to check the accuracy of the electronic measuring system.*

### **Water level triggers and response**

6. A water level ("trigger level") in the Blockhouse Lane bore (wells number R27/7149) of at least 44.57 m above MSL shall be maintained at all times, as measured by the water level recording equipment required by condition 5.

If the water level in the Blockhouse Lane bore drops below 44.57m above MSL, the consent holder shall reduce the instantaneous pumping rate immediately and to a point whereby the water level in the bore recovers to or above 44.57m above MSL, and is maintained at or above 44.57m above MSL, and notify the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, as soon as practicable or by the next working day.

Within **one month** of the above occurring, the consent holder shall submit a report to the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, which analyses the cause of the water level declining. The analysis shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person and be to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.

*Note: Following an assessment of this report, the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council may review the “trigger level” in this condition.*

### **Verification of the water measuring device/system**

7. The consent holder shall verify the accuracy of the water measuring device/system required under condition 3 by **30 June in the year the take is commenced** to determine if the actual volume of water taken and water levels recorded are within +/- 5%.

After the initial verification, the consent holder shall verify the accuracy of the water measuring device/system required under condition 3 a second time by **30 June five years after the initial verification**. In the event that there are reasonable grounds established which highlight that the water measuring device/system may be inaccurate, the consent holder shall undertake further verification as directed by the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council to determine if the actual volume of water taken is within +/- 5%.

Any verification of the water meter under this condition must be performed by a suitably qualified person, that is to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.

### **Verification certificate**

8. Within one month of any verification being undertaken on the water meter as required by condition 6, the consent holder shall submit to the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, a copy of verification certificate/and or evidence documenting the calibration as completed by the person who undertook the verification.

### **Keeping and submission of records**

9. The consent holder shall record **daily readings** (in m<sup>3</sup>) of the water measuring device (water meter). These records shall be submitted to the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council in a suitable electronic format on a **monthly basis** by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the next month for the duration of this consent.

*Note: In the event of non-compliance with the rate of take and/or monitoring/reporting requirements of this consent, the consent holder shall submit records at a greater frequency as directed by the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.*

10. The consent holder shall provide the water level data recorded in accordance with condition 5. The data shall be reported relative to MSL in 60 minute intervals and be submitted to the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council in a suitable electronic format on a **monthly basis** by the 10<sup>th</sup> day for the first 12 months of this consent.

Following an assessment of the first 12 months of records, the frequency of submission of records may be increased or decreased at the direction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.

### **Monitoring**

11. If so requested by the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, the consent holder shall make their bore available for the monitoring of water quality.

### **Pumping test**

12. If so requested by the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council, the consent holder shall undertake a pumping test on the bore (wells number R27/6978) at a rate of 10 litres/second or greater.

The consent holder shall submit a pumping test methodology to the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council at least 15 working days prior to undertaking the test. No works shall begin on the pumping test until the consent holder has received notice from the Wellington Regional Council that the methodology is acceptable.

The pumping test shall be undertaken by a suitable qualified professional and be in accordance with the Wellington Regional Council's *Aquifer Test Guidelines for the Wellington Region, August 2011*.

*Note: The requirement to undertake a pumping test shall only be requested following the installation of a permanent pump in the bore.*

### **Review conditions**

13. The Wellington Regional Council may review any or all conditions of this consent by giving notice of its intention to do so pursuant to section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991, at any time within

three months of the 30 June each year for the duration of this consent, for the purpose of:

- Reviewing seasonal groundwater allocation requirements; and/or
- Dealing with any adverse effects on the environment which may arise from the exercise of this consent, and which is appropriate to deal with at a later stage; and/or
- To review the adequacy of and/or alter any monitoring requirements so as to incorporate into the consent any monitoring or other requirements which may become necessary to clarify or deal with any adverse effect on the environment of arising from this activity; and /or
- Enabling consistency with the relevant Regional Plan(s)

**Important notes relating to measuring and reporting of your water take:**

1. The Resource Management (Measuring and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 came into effect on 10 November 2010.

The standards for water measuring devices are specified in Regulation 6(6). If a water meter cannot be installed on the point of take, approval is required from Wellington Regional Council in accordance with Regulation 10.

The Regulations require that daily records of water use are kept unless approval is provided from Wellington Regional Council to keep weekly records in accordance with Regulation 9. If you are not using your water permit, you must still keep and send Wellington Regional Council daily records specifying 'zero' when no water is taken.

2. A suitably qualified person is an individual/company that is registered with the Water Measurement and Reporting Industry Accreditation Program or can demonstrate an appropriate standard of installation or verification to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.
3. Where industry best practice guidelines differ from manufacturer's specifications, the more stringent standard applies, unless special circumstances apply to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council. Therefore, verification of the water measuring device/system can only be achieved when the most stringent standard (either industry best practice or manufacturer's specifications) for installation has been achieved.
4. A suitable electronic format for supplying records is one which is compatible with Wellington Regional Council's Water Use Data Management System, unless special circumstances apply to the satisfaction of the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council.

5. Records and can be sent to [notifications@gw.govt.nz](mailto:notifications@gw.govt.nz). Please include the consent reference WGN130085 and the name and phone number of a contact person for the take. If it is not possible to provide results in an electronic spreadsheet format please contact Wellington Regional Council prior to the irrigation season to make alternative arrangements.
6. The annual take volume shall be assessed for the period 1 July to 30 June the following year.

**General notes:**

- a) This resource consent does not guarantee that quantity or quality of water will be maintained or available.
- b) Please contact the Wellington Regional Council, Environmental Regulation, if you plan to make any modifications to the bore, pump, or irrigation system. Any significant modifications may require you to apply for a change of consent conditions.
- c) A resource management charge, set in accordance with section 36(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 shall be paid to the Regional Council for the carrying out of its functions in relation to the administration, monitoring, and supervision of resource consents and for the carrying out of its functions under section 35 (duty to gather information, monitor, and keep records) of the Act.
- d) The Wellington Regional Council shall be entitled to recover from the consent holder the costs of any review, calculated in accordance with and limited to the Council's scale of charges in force and applicable at that time pursuant to section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- e) In the event of undue interference with other bores/wells in the area and/or a long term sustained decline in groundwater levels becomes apparent through groundwater level monitoring undertaken in the aquifer where bore R27/6978 is located, the consent holder may be requested to reduce or stop pumping as maybe directed by the Manager, Environmental Regulation, Wellington Regional Council. Undue interference is defined as drawdown in neighbouring bores/wells that was not evaluated at the time the resource consent was processed.