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Report to Environment Committee
from Annette McGovern, Resource Advisor

Application for Resource Consent by The Hutt City Council for the Discharge of Sewage Overflows to the Black Stream, Wainuiomata

1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on an application from The Hutt City Council for a Discharge to Water Permit for sewage overflows to the Black Stream, Wainuiomata.

2. Background

The Hutt City Council has applied for a discharge permit to discharge sewage overflows to the Black Stream, Wainuiomata.

The application was publicly notified and submissions called for. Four submissions were received with three in opposition and one neither supporting nor opposing the application. A pre-hearing meeting was held and all submitters consequently agreed to the draft conditions and withdrew their right to be heard.

Details of the proposal and my assessment are outlined in attachment 1.

Attachment 1 outlines the likely environmental effects of this application. As can be seen from section 17 of Attachment 1, I consider that the application should be granted as per my recommendation below.

3. Communications

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

4. Recommendation

That the Committee, under the delegated authority of the Wellington Regional Council, in accordance with sections 104, 105, 108, of the Resource Management Act 1991, grant discharge to Water Permit with conditions as follows:

1. *The location, implementation, design and operation of the discharge shall be in accordance with the resource consent application lodged with the Wellington Regional Council on 16 November 2000 and in accordance with the further information lodged with the Wellington Regional Council on 11 December 2000.*

Note: Any change from the location, design, implementation and/or operation of the discharge may require a change in permit conditions pursuant to section 127 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

2. *No overflows shall discharge into the Black Stream during dry weather flow.*
3. *The permit holder shall notify the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council, and the Medical Officer of Health, Regional Public Health, within 24 hours of any overflow occurring.*
4. *The discharge shall remain the responsibility of the permit holder and shall be operated and maintained to the satisfaction of the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council.*
5. *The permit holder shall design and install a course screen at the upstream end of the overflow discharge pipe to the satisfaction of the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council. The screen shall be designed and installed in such a way to minimise overtopping of the screen as a result of blocking or binding during an overflow event.*
6. *The permit holder shall place and maintain signs on the banks of the Black Stream identifying and outlining details of the discharge. The signs shall:*
 - (a) *Provide clear identification of the location and nature of the discharge and the risk to public health from contact with the stream and/or collecting food in the vicinity of the discharge;*
 - (b) *Be visible to the public visiting the area; and*
 - (c) *Conform generally to the wording contained in the Response Manual For Sewage Discharges prepared by the Public Health Service, Wellington Region (Regional Public Health).*

The wording, placement and maintenance of the signs shall be to the satisfaction of the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council. The signs shall be placed within one month of the date of commencement of this permit.

7. *The permit holder shall undertake monitoring to determine the time, duration and approximate volume of each overflow event. The permit holder shall report the results of this monitoring to the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council, within six months of the date of commencement of this permit, and six monthly thereafter, or on request.*
8. *The permit holder shall appropriately maintain the Black Stream for the purposes of reducing the risk of property flooding adjacent to the stream during an overflow event. The permit holder shall monitor the Black Stream from bank to bank, from the discharge point to the confluence with the Wainuiomata River at least twice a year, to the satisfaction of the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council. The maintenance of the stream shall include but is not limited to, clearing the stream of obstacles and maintaining a clear flow path.*
9. *The permit holder shall prepare and submit an Overflow Contingency Plan outlining procedures that will be adopted during an overflow event. The plan shall be developed in consultation with Regional Public Health. The plan shall be prepared to the satisfaction of the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council and shall be submitted within six months of the date of commencement of this permit.*

The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following considerations:

- (a) *Procedures the permit holder will adopt during and following an overflow event to ensure that the potential adverse effects of the discharge minimised as much as practicable;*
- (b) *Procedures for the notification of potentially affected parties and regulatory authorities in the event that any overflows present a potential risk to human health;*
- (c) *Procedures for recording and reporting the time, duration and approximate volume of each overflow event as required under condition 7; and*
- (d) *Procedures to ensure that the conditions of this permit are complied with at all times during and following overflow event.*

The permit holder shall operate in accordance with this plan once prepared and submitted to the Wellington Regional Council.

10. *The permit holder shall take all reasonable steps to investigate and implement ways and means of minimising infiltration and stormwater ingress into the sewerage system. In particular, the permit holder shall complete work by 2007 to reduce stormwater inflow in the Wainuiomata Catchment. The permit holder shall also provide the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council with an annual report detailing what progress has been made to reduce infiltration and stormwater ingress. The report shall be submitted to*

the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council within six months of the date of commencement of this permit, and annually thereafter.

11. *The permit holder shall provide the Wellington Tenth Trust and Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui with a report on the overflows entering the Black Stream. The report shall include, but is not limited to, details of the flow rates and duration of overflows and the measures to minimise infiltration and stormwater ingress recorded and reported under conditions 7 and 10 respectively. The report shall be forwarded to both groups within six months of the date of commencement of this permit, and annually thereafter.*
12. *The permit holder shall keep a record of any complaints that are received. The record shall contain at least the following details, where practical:*
 - (a) *Name and address of the complainant;*
 - (b) *Identification of the nature of the complaint;*
 - (c) *Date and time of the complaint and of the alleged event; and*
 - (d) *Weather conditions at the time of the complaint.*

The permit holder shall notify the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council of any complaints relating to the exercise of this permit, within twenty-four hours of being received by the permit holder or the next working day. The permit holder shall forward to the Manager, Consents Management, Wellington Regional Council a copy of any complaints recorded on request.

13. *The Wellington Regional Council may review any or all the conditions of this permit by giving notice of its intention to do so pursuant to section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991, within six months of the first, third, fifth, tenth, and fifteenth anniversary of the date of commencement of this permit for the following reasons:*
 - (a) *To deal with any adverse effects on the environment which may arise from the exercise of this permit.*
 - (b) *To review the adequacy of the reporting and/or monitoring requirements, so as to incorporate into this permit any modifications to the reporting requirements and/or addition of further monitoring requirements that may be necessary to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the discharge.*
14. *The permit holder may apply, at any time, pursuant to section 127 of the Resource Management Act 1991, for the change or cancellation of any condition of this permit, other than any condition relating to the term of this permit.*

15. *In terms of section 123(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the period for which this permit is granted is limited to 18 years from date of commencement of this permit.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachments: 4