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Report 02.393

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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Paula Pickford, Section Leader, Consents & Compliance

**Objection to Consent Condition – Discharge to Land Consent –
Camp Anderson, Riversdale**

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of an objection received under Section 357 of the Resource Management Act 1991 on a decision made under delegated authority for a non-notified consent application.

To obtain a Committee decision on the objection.

2. Background

2.1 An investigation was undertaken in the Riversdale area to identify which large activities would require consent for disposal of human sewage to land. Camp Anderson (Live and Learn Ministry) was identified as one of the parties that required consent for their existing discharge.

2.2 Camp Anderson duly applied for and received a non-renewable resource consent for their existing discharge. The consent was granted on 2 May 2002 (Attachment 1).

2.3 They have objected to Condition 2 of their resource consent, which requires further work to be undertaken to minimise the risk of overflows of sewage occurring from their pump sump. The objection was received on 23 May 2002 (Attachment 2).

3. Comment

3.1 Condition 2 states:

The location, design, implementation and operation of the treatment and disposal system shall be in accordance with the consent application and its associated plans and documents lodged with the Wellington Regional Council on 9 November 2000 and subsequent amendments. Specifically that the following provisions are installed by 1 July 2002:

- *an emergency wastewater storage facility of no less than 20m³ capacity, and*
- *a high level warning light positioned in a communal part of the camp.*

3.2 Graham Howard (Director of the Trust, Camp Anderson) has written requesting that Condition 2 be changed.

The first objection is to the timeframe by which they have to undertake the work (1 July 2002). Graham has requested that this timeframe be extended to October which is the start of their camping season. They have very few camps during the winter months. Graham also pointed out that there has not been any sewage overflows since they took over the running of the camp in 1995. As the Camp is reliant on charity and working bees to get improvements made, they have requested a longer timeframe.

3.3 Officer comment: This is considered to be a reasonable request given the circumstances. Graham has undertaken to do the work, and staff do not believe that there will be any additional risk to the environment by giving them the time extension.

3.4 The second objection is to the capacity of the emergency wastewater storage facility (20m³). Graham points out practical problems with being able to install a storage facility of such a large size, such as not being able to fit it on the site without major engineering problems, and requests that the 20m³ capacity be reduced to 3m³.

3.5 The 20m³ capacity was placed on the consent as this gives an approximate storage time of 2 days based on full occupancy of the camp. Graham has said that they have a spare pump on site to cater for mechanical breakdowns. The installation of a warning light in the communal area of the camp will enable immediate action if there is a malfunction.

3.6 Should there be a power cut, the pump that supplies water to the camp will not operate, therefore there will be no additional water able to enter the sewage system. The Camp will also utilise a vacuum tanker to empty the emergency storage facility if such breakdowns or failures

occur to ensure there is always sufficient capacity in the system for breakdowns/failures.

- 3.7 Officer comment: Taking all of these factors into account, staff consider it reasonable for the size of the emergency storage facility to be downsized from 20m³ to the 3m³ suggested in their objection letter.

4. **Communications**

That the decision on this objection be communicated to Graham Howard.

5. **Recommendation**

That the Committee uphold the objection to condition 2 on resource consent WAR 010348 and substitute the new condition 2 below:

“The location, design, implementation and operation of the treatment and disposal system shall be in accordance with the consent application and its associated plans and documents lodged with the Wellington Regional Council on 9 November 2000 and subsequent amendments. Specifically that the following provisions are installed by 1 October 2002:

- *an emergency wastewater storage facility of no less than 3m³ capacity, and*
- *a high level warning light positioned in a communal part of the camp”.*

Report prepared by:

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