

MEMO

TO All Councillors  
FROM Shaun Andrewartha, Team Leader, Environmental Regulation  
DATE 20 November 2014  
FILE NUMBER ENV/01/08/04

---

**Decisions on non-notified resource consents applications**

**1. Purpose**

To report on decisions made under delegated authority on non-notified resource consent applications. This report covers the period from 30 September 2014 to 14 November 2014.

**2. Applications processed**

A total of 61 resource consents were received during the period, with 47 being approved in the period. This compares with 56 consents that were approved for the same period last year. Two applications were returned as incomplete under section 88.

The consents approved are summarised in the table below:

	Coastal permit	Discharge permit	Land use consent	Water permit
CDC	0	2	2	6
HCC	0	0	3	0
KCDC	0	0	4	1
MDC	0	1	6	0
PCC	1	0	0	0
SWDC	1	1	1	3
UHCC	0	2	0	0
WCC	4	4	3	1
TDC	0	0	0	0
Whole region	0	1	0	0
Total	6	11	19	11

### 3. Consent trends

There were no significant trends over this period.

### 4. Non-notified consents of interest

**Carterton District Council (CDC)** – discharge treated effluent to land from the Carterton wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

CDC was granted a short term (2 year) consent to irrigate approximately 20 hectares (ha) of CDC land with the treated effluent using a low pressure, low profile, central pivot irrigator, and a sub-surface dripline along the eastern shelter belt of the property. The existing discharge permits allow the discharge of treated wastewater from the WWTP to a tributary of the Mangatarere Stream and by irrigation to a small area of land within the WWTP site. CDC's long term vision is to discharge all treated wastewater to land. Until sufficient land can be acquired however, a dual discharge wastewater management system is anticipated involving a combination of discharge to land and discharge to the stream. This consent is the first major step toward that dual system.

Actual irrigator application rates will be determined by site specific conditions monitored on a continuous basis by soil moisture probes linked to an on-site weather station and control centre and will be calculated relative to actual soil moisture conditions so as to achieve optimum crop growth. Irrigation may occur at any time of the year that soil moisture and wind conditions allow, but will predominantly be over the period December to March. Furthermore, irrigation will be controlled so as to restrict irrigation to periods to when the crop is actively growing. During periods of high wind, the sprinklers will be turned off and all treated wastewater be diverted to the storage area within the existing WWTP, discharge to the existing land disposal area, or surface water discharge in accordance with the current discharge permits.

The irrigation will also help to irrigate a new native shelter belt. Irrigation in this regard is to be by pressure compensated dripline. The dripline is proposed to be sub-surface (surface laid with a minimum of 100mm of mulch covering it) and can occur at any time of the year when required (as indicated by soil moisture probes), but will be predominantly over the period December to March in order to increase survival rates of boundary plantings.

**The Department of Conservation Tararua (DOC)** – aerial application of 1080 in the Pukaha Mount Bruce Reserve

The reserve is a geographic and ecological extension of the Tararua Forest Park and is 936 hectares (ha). It falls within the jurisdiction of both GWRC and Horizons Regional Council. It is proposed to treat the area through a mix of ground based bait stations (88.13ha) and the aerial application of 1080 (767.88ha). The area within the jurisdiction of GWRC will solely be treated by the aerial application of 1080.

The applicant's reason for applying 1080 in this area is to protect the health and integrity of the forest bird communities in the reserve by controlling the number of rats prior to bird

nesting season. The reserve contains DOC's national centre for the captive breeding and research into threatened endemic species including kokako, kiwi and kaka.

Conditional approval was granted which included measures to reduce the actual and potential effects of this proposal such as:

- Extensive consultation and notification with affected and interested persons
- The use of highly skilled and experienced pilots and pest control staff
- Employment of a navigational guidance system to ensure application rates and target areas are adhered to
- The use of high quality bait to minimise non target species poisoning; and
- Public notice of the application via appropriate signage at access points.

**New Zealand Diving and Salvage Limited** – The disturbance of the coastal marine area and seabed associated with the placement and dumping of the fishing vessel *Southern Prospector*; the discharge of contaminants to water resulting from the slow degradation of the fishing vessel structure and the occupation of the coastal marine area with the dumped fishing vessel structure

The proposal was to dump the derelict fishing vessel *Southern Prospector* in the CMA within the Cook Strait explosive dumping ground south of Palliser Bay at a depth of 1,200m. Five other derelict vessels have already been removed from Wellington harbour ports and scuttled due to safety and environmental risks. The fishing vessel *Southern Prospector* is the sole remaining derelict vessel. The *Southern Prospector* has been tied up alongside Glasgow Wharf for a number of years. Harbours considered the vessel to be a 'ticking time bomb' and had already been involved with works to ensure it did not sink at its berth and cause environmental impacts when its engine rooms flooded. The vessel was also involved in an incident which resulted in a hole being torn in the side of a Cook Strait ferry.

In most cases such an activity requires a dumping permit from Maritime NZ; however, the selected dump site was within the seaward limit of the CMA, so consent was required from GWRC. Harbours supported the granting of consent as in the past the cost of disposing of derelict hulks has had to be covered by GWRC.

Consent conditions were imposed that will ensure the *Southern Prospector* is suitably prepared and cleaned of all contaminants and floatables before being towed to a site where it will be scuttled and sink to the seabed and therefore the risk of contamination of the CMA from discharges is significantly reduced.