

Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

**Addendum to Right of Reply: Beds of Lakes and
Rivers**

For Hearing Stream 5

Tabled 16 July 2018

Topic: Beds of Lakes and Rivers

Prepared by:

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On behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council

1. Addendum to paragraph 283

1. In my and Ms Guests Right of Reply: Beds of Lakes and Rivers my paragraph 283 is incomplete. I provide the complete paragraph here.
2. 283. Mr Falloon gave the example of a farm culvert and noted that a lay person is not able to determine if a culvert meets clause (h)(v) and condition (k) in relation to the 5% annual exceedance probability flood event. In the operative Freshwater Plan, all culverts placed in permanently flowing rivers require resource consent. Consequently, this culvert sizing information is required for these types of consent applications, and the applicant may obtain technical advice from a civil engineer or hydrologist. These technical advisers provide the calculations used to determine an appropriate culvert size, and that information is then checked by the Council's engineers. Where no flow data exists for a particular river, various methods are employed to estimate flow and a corresponding culvert size. This is likely to be the case for most areas where a small culvert is to be placed within a stream. The Ministry for the Environment has produced guidelines on culvert and bridge construction¹ which provide information on culvert sizes in relation to the 5% annual exceedance probability flood event. This is included as a good management practice guide on the Council's website. The S32 report: Beds of lakes and rivers states that Rule R115 is more focused and effective than the catchment area approach adopted in the RFP, and I agree. These technical conditions (h) and (k) are required to ensure the effects of culverts are managed appropriately, and by having this provided for as a permitted activity, rather than through a resource consent process, is more efficient in my view. Therefore, I recommend no changes to these conditions of Rule R115.

¹ <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/land/culvert-and-bridge-construction-guidelines-farmers>