



Report **03.670**
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File WAR 010203 & WAR 010204

Committee **Rural Services and Wairarapa**
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Applications for Resource Consent for the Continued Operation and Maintenance of the Opaki and Te Ore Ore Water Races, Masterton

1. Purpose

To seek approval from the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee for resource consent applications from the Masterton District Council under the Resource Management Act 1991, for the continued operation of the Opaki and Te Ore Ore water races.

2. Summary

In June 2001, the Masterton District Council applied for resource consents for the continued operation of the Opaki and Te Ore Ore water races. Four resource consents for each water race have been applied for. The applications for each race include two water permits to take and divert water, one discharge permit to discharge water, and one land use consent to disturb a river bed. The applicant submitted two 'Assessment of Environmental Effects' (AEE) reports with their resource consent applications.

The processing of the applications was placed on hold as further information on various aspects of the AEE reports was requested. Following the provision of this information, the applications were notified in December 2002 in accordance with section 93 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Following the close of submissions, 12 submissions were received on the Opaki water race and 11 submissions were received on the Te Ore Ore water race, both supporting and opposing the applications. Through assessment of the application and consideration of the submissions received, consent conditions were proposed to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment. A formal hearing is not required to determine the applications, as the applicant and those submitters who wished to be heard at a hearing have withdrawn their right to be heard through providing written approval to the proposed consent conditions.

It is recommended to grant the applications for the Opaki water race for a 15 year term and the applications for the Te Ore Ore water race for a 10 year term subject to a number of consent conditions that will avoid, remedy, or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment. The recommendation is consistent with relevant statutory documents including the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991, Regional Policy Statement (RPS), and Regional Freshwater Plan (RFP) and the non-statutory Upper Ruamahanga River Water Allocation Plan (May 2000).

Further information on the assessment of the applications is provided in separate attachments to this report.

3. Recommendation

That the Committee, under delegated authority by the Wellington Regional Council pursuant to sections 105 and 108 of the Resource Management Act 1991, grant the resource consents relating to the operation of the Opaki and Te Ore Ore water races applied for by the Masterton District Council, subject to the proposed consent conditions outlined in Attachments 1 and 2.

In recommending the above decision including the proposed consent conditions, I believe that the matters identified in section 104(1) (refer to assessment in separate attachment) and 107 of the RMA and all submissions have been appropriately considered and addressed, particularly:

- Sustainable management of the resources in the Waipoua River catchment will be achieved as specified in Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- All objectives and policies in the Regional Policy Statement have been appropriately considered and addressed by way of consent conditions.
- All policies in the Regional Freshwater Plan have been appropriately considered and addressed by way of consent conditions.

Report prepared by:

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