

Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Steve Blakemore, Acting Divisional Manager, Wairarapa

Resource Consent Application WAR 990026 – Gravel Extraction from the Ruamahanga River System

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the current status of resource consent application WAR 990026.

2. Background

The Operations Department applied to extract gravel from the Ruamahanga River earlier in 1999. Following a hearing a resource consent was issued on 31 May 1999.

3. Appeals

At the time the appeal period had closed two parties had appealed the resource consent –

- Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- Operations Department, Wairarapa Division

Copies of the appeals are attached to this report.

4. Comment

- 4.1 The effect of these appeals, at best, places the consent decision on hold. At worst a new hearing may be held by the Court. The Consents Section are currently reviewing how resource consents will be handled in the short to medium term. There are clearly significant hurdles to get over in progressing this issue.
- 4.2 The Consents Section has engaged a solicitor to develop a response to the Environment Court. This reply has to be lodged within 20 working days of the appeals.
- 4.3 Depending on the outcomes of any mediation or directions of the Environment Court, at this stage it is envisaged that resolution in this matter may take up to 2 years.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

Steve Blakemore
Acting Divisional Manager, Wairarapa