



Report 07.500
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Committee Ara Tahi
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Review of Consents Process Iwi

1. Purpose

To advise Ara Tahi members of inconsistent practices regarding consent issues with iwi and how these can be mitigated.

2. Background

Greater Wellington has had in place for a number of years an agreement with iwi to consult with them on non-notified consents that the Council applies for and processes.

Over this period a number of factors, including the geographic division of consent processing under the former Greater Wellington organisational structure, have led to there being differences in dealings with iwi on consent matters.

In 2006, Greater Wellington reviewed its contractual arrangement with iwi to agree a standard contract across the region.

Council is now looking to gain consistency across the region in how non-notified consents are processed.

3. Comment

3.1 Identified inconsistencies

3.1.1 Wairarapa – non referral of bore consents

In 2002, Greater Wellington negotiated with both Wairarapa iwi to cease sending bore consents to iwi. Council had sent hundreds of bore consents to iwi with no issues being raised. It was agreed that removing these consents from consideration would alleviate a lot of the paperwork for iwi.

3.1.2 Wairarapa – Global Consent (Gravel Extraction) – Ruamahanga River Catchment

In 2001 Greater Wellington was granted a global consent to issue licences for gravel extraction. Wairarapa iwi then participated in a newly established group – Gravel Guardians - which monitored the implementation of the consent. This in turn reduced considerably the number of consents sent to Wairarapa iwi.

3.1.3 Wairarapa – retention of controlled activity consents

The Wairarapa office had an agreement with the iwi to not send controlled activity consents.

3.1.4 Sending scanned emails to iwi

Our Wellington office recently upgraded their IT to now be able to send scanned copies of non-notified consents to iwi. This has led to a marked decrease in paperwork, better efficiency and convenience.

3.2 Proposed processes

3.2.1 Weekly Consents Schedule

Greater Wellington consents staff produce a weekly schedule showing non-notified consents received each week. This is seen as an ideal tool in which to keep all iwi abreast of consents in the region. This also removes the need, in some cases, for iwi to view paper copies of non-notified consents and enables them to identify and access through our staff, consents they have a key interest in.

We have already begun to send this to iwi and will monitor its effectiveness.

3.2.2 Bore Consents

We have spoken with Ngāti Raukawa and Atiawa ki Whakarongotai representatives about this issue given that they are most affected by applications for bore consents and both have expressed an interest in investigating this initiative further.

We are aware that iwi see the key issue as monitoring the accumulative effects of bore usage on the aquifer. Therefore, Greater Wellington is better placed to meet their concerns by sharing information gained through the monitoring of water levels and test bores.

Removing the need to process hundreds of consents will alleviate some of the work pressures for iwi and enable them to focus on key environmental issues in their rohe. As a safeguard we will still send the weekly schedule so that they can identify consents on or nearby significant sites.

3.2.3 Gravel extraction

There is little opportunity at this point to expand global consents to other parts of the region.

3.2.4 Controlled Activities

All iwi now receive the same contract. Consequently, Wairarapa iwi are now sent controlled activities.

3.2.5 Scanned non-notified consents

The Wairarapa office will soon upgrade its IT equipment to enable it to scan consents and send these through to the iwi. This will bring it inline with the processes applied in the Wellington office.

4. Communication

There are no matters that require further communication.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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