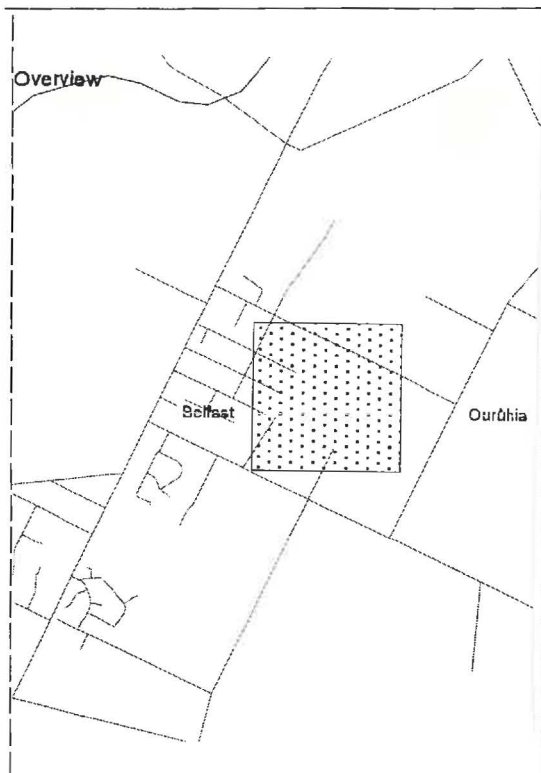


INVESTIGATING OFFICERS REPORT



Applicant: KAPUTONE WOOLSCOUR (1994) LIMITED
Client No: KAP07857
Address: P O Box 3
BELFAST

Location: BELFAST
Date To IO: 06-NOV-1996
Consent Number: CRC971084 File: CO6C-05164
Previous Consent: Change Y/N:

Consent Type: WATER PERMIT
Activity Type: NON-COMPLYING
Other CRC consents required Applied ?

Runanga: Tuahiwi
City/District Council: Christchurch City Council
Other Statutory Parties:
Report Due: 13-NOV-1996

Application Details

Grid Reference: M35:808-510

to take groundwater from bore M35/1294 (depth: 33.1m, diameter: 200mm) at a rate of 50 litres per second and a maximum volume of 4320 cubic metres per day for industrial use

Property Map



BACKGROUND

This report details a resource consent application (CRC971084) submitted by Kaputone Woolscour (1994) Limited, who wish to abstract groundwater for wool scour processes. The applicants are proposing to take water at a maximum rate of 50 litres per second, and a maximum volume of 4320 cubic metres, for 24 hours per day from bore M35/1294 (depth: 31.1m, diameter: 203mm).

The present resource consent application will replace an existing consent (NCY880175) for the same rate and volume which expires on 30 April 1997.

THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT AND THE TRANSITIONAL REGIONAL PLAN

The Resource Management Act (1991) states that no person may take, use, dam, or divert any water unless it is expressly allowed by a rule in a regional plan [and in any relevant proposed regional plan] or a resource consent, or for an individuals reasonable domestic needs, or the reasonable needs of an individuals animals for drinking water.

Under the Transitional Regional Plan the abstraction of groundwater is a permitted activity if the following conditions are adhered to: the volume of water abstracted shall not exceed 20 cubic metres per day on a property less than 20 hectares in size, and the abstraction bore shall be further than 50m from any bore on a neighbouring property or any surface water resource. The proposed abstraction is 4320 cubic metres per day on a property approximately 2.5 hectares in size, thus a resource consent is required to undertake the activity.

ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ALLOWING THIS ACTIVITY

An assessment of the actual and potential effects associated with a groundwater abstraction requires the investigation of three issues. In particular the effect of the proposed abstraction on water levels in neighbouring bores, the effect of long term water levels and the effect on any nearby surface water resources must be determined. This assessment is considered in the context of the geological setting, and in conjunction with information provided by the applicant.

The applicants have commissioned Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd to undertake an assessment of environmental effects resulting from the proposed activity. They have provided a description of the geological characteristics, noting that the bore abstracts water from the first confined aquifer below ground level. The aquifer is confined by a clay and sandy layer which has been recorded to produce water pressures above ground level.

Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd. also assessed the potential adverse effects on neighbouring bores. The closest bore is approximately 70m away and is 23 metres deep (M35/1223). The assessment was based on a transmissivity 0.07m²/s, a confined storage co-efficient of 0.00001, and a pump rate of 0.046m³/sec over a 100 day period. This information was taken from historical data and pump tests carried out as part of the assessment. Water level information dating back to 1969 was taken from bore M35/1205, which recorded a lowest level of -3 metres,

The assessment estimated the drawdown effect in the neighbouring well to be 1.2 metres. An additional drawdown of approximately 1.4 metres results from the neighbours pumping their well. Therefore the cumulative effect of these drawdowns and the lowest water level would leave an estimated 13 metres remaining in the neighbouring bore M35/1223 (depth: 23 metres). They conclude that the proposed pumping will have no significant adverse effect on the nearest well, or wells at a greater distance.

The bore is located approximately 320 metres from the Kaputone Stream. In relation to adverse effects on nearby water courses, the Investigating Officer considers that stream depletion effects will not be significant due to the relevant aquifer being confined and thus an absence of hydraulic

connection with the surface water courses. The geology description above supports this statement.

This assessment given above shows the effects on the environment and neighbouring bores to be minor after investigation of the geological setting and aquifer characteristics. The Investigation Officer concurs with the information provided by the Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd on behalf of the applicant.

WATER CONSERVATION ORDERS

There are no relevant water conservation orders that relate to this application.

THE PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

Part II, Section 9 of the proposed Regional Policy Statement describes the issues, objectives and policies relating to water management in the Canterbury region. Three policies are of direct relevance to the present consent application.

Policy 3 promotes the efficient use of water. In this context "efficiency" refers to both technical efficiency (avoidance of waste) and allocative efficiency (using water where it has greatest value).

Technical efficiency can be assessed by considering the volume of the total abstraction in conjunction with the desired activity. In this case, it is assumed that the applicants have applied for only the rate and volume of water necessary for the intended use. Furthermore, this consent is to replace existing consents for the same activity. Therefore, based on this prior use the application is believed to be an efficient use of water.

The assessment of allocative efficiency involves decisions regarding the relative value of the water resource. Such decisions are generally only made during times of water restrictions, and are difficult to assess due to their subjective nature. However, given the current knowledge of the groundwater resource in this area, the proposed consent is not inconsistent with the policy promoting the efficient allocative use of water.

Prevention of adverse effects upon existing users of the water resource is encompassed by Policy 5. It states that taking, use, damming or diversion of water should not preclude the reasonable exercise of an existing resource consent except with the agreement of the holder of the existing consent. The effects of the proposed activity on neighbouring wells and streams was examined in a proceeding section.

Finally, Policy 6 states that a permit to abstract water should specify maximum permitted water usage and maximum abstraction rates; be based on actual and reasonable water needs; as far as practicable to provide for existing water permit holders to have priority for the term of their permits; specify the priority to be given to the permit in the event of restrictions; and provide mechanisms to reduce or suspend abstractions during periods of low water flows or levels.

If the conditions imposed are adhered to, it is considered that the proposed abstraction does not conflict with these policies.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The purpose of the Act is to "promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources". This activity is considered to be consistent with this purpose as defined in Section 5. Investigation of the aquifer characteristics show the proposed groundwater abstraction will not adversely affect the present or future groundwater resource. In addition, the drawdown assessment indicates the effect on nearby bores and streams is minor.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

"Te Whakatau Kaupapa" has been referred to in the first instance - the proposed water abstraction does not occur in a silent file area nor in an area of identified historical significance. The Kaikoura Runanga were contacted regarding this application and have expressed no concerns about the abstraction.

MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Act outlines a number of "Matters of National Importance" in sections 6 and "Other Matters" in section 7. Council is required to recognise and provide for section 6, and have particular regard to these matters given in section 7. In particular, the proposed activity is likely to be consistent with section 7(b) which states that particular regard should be given to the efficient useof natural and physical resources.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS

Consents for groundwater abstraction for industrial purposes have previously been granted by the Council where the use does not conflict with the purpose of the Act.

The investigating officer is not aware of any relevant Environment Court decisions relating to the abstraction of groundwater in the area.

RECOMMENDATION TO NOTIFY OR NON-NOTIFY

Pursuant to Section 94(2) a discretionary or non-complying activity need not be notified if: (a) the consent authority is satisfied that the adverse effect on the environment of the activity will be minor; and (b) written approval has been obtained from every person whom the consent authority is satisfied may be adversely affected, unless it is unreasonable to require obtaining of such approval.

In this case, the adverse effects on the environment will be minor and it is not considered that there are any adversely affected persons.

Therefore, I recommend that the application should proceed as non-notified, and be granted with the following recommended conditions.

REFERENCES

Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd (1997) *Assessment of Environmental Effects Arising from Groundwater Abstraction by Kaputone Wool Scour Ltd.*

Investigating Officers Report

Report Prepared By

F. Young
(Fiona Young)

Date: 22-APR-1997

Is additional information required? : N

RECOMMENDATION: NON-NOTIFY

DECISION TO NON-NOTIFY MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

JBO Brien

DATE

24/6/97

To grant KAPUTONE WOOLSCOUR (1994) LIMITED a WATER PERMIT to take groundwater at or about map reference M35:808-510 for industrial use

Reasons for Recommendation to Grant

<1>

Any adverse effects on the environment as a result of the proposed activity will be minor.

<2>

The abstraction is an efficient use of the water resource.

Recommended Conditions:

<1>

The rate at which water is taken from bore M35/1294, 200 millimetres diameter and 33.1 metres deep, shall not exceed 50 litres per second, with a volume not exceeding 4320 cubic metres per day.

<2>

When requested in writing by the Canterbury Regional Council, the hours and rate at which water is taken shall be recorded to within an accuracy of 10 percent. A copy of the records shall be provided to the Canterbury Regional Council when requested.

<3>

The Canterbury Regional Council may annually, on the last working day of June, serve notice of its intention to review the conditions of this consent for the purposes of:

(a) dealing with any adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of the consent and which is appropriate to deal with at a later stage; or

(b) complying with the requirements of a relevant rule in an operative regional plan.

<4>

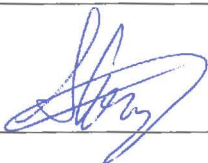
Charges, set in accordance with section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991, shall be paid to the Regional Council for the carrying out of its functions in relation to the administration, monitoring and supervision of

resource consents and for the carrying out of its functions under section 35 of the Act.

Recommended Duration: 35 Years Months Recommended Expiry Date:
Recommended Monitoring Code: LWX1

Specify non-standard programme:

Bring-up Date:



Monitoring Officer: Wayne Daglish

Reviewed

Please send copy of consent granted to following parties:

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