

1.0 Application Details

The Terrace Martinborough lodged a resource consent application (WAR 040001) to take groundwater from a bore on 5th January 2004. The application is a revised application that is updated from an original application lodged on 25th June 2003. The application is for the taking of up to 3 litres/sec, for 12 hours per day, 7 days per week, October to April inclusive, for irrigation purposes. Water is proposed to be taken from a bore close to Puruatanga Rd in Martinborough. The location of the proposed take is shown in Map 1.0.

Map 1.0: Location Map



The applicant proposes to irrigate up to 7 hectares of vineyard. Water demand is based on approximately 26,000 vines with a maximum water application rate of 10 litres/vine every second day. The applicant has also proposed to distribute some water to Burnt Spur Martinborough if the pumping of the applicant's bore results in a measurable reduction in the yield of the Burnt Spur irrigation bore. The applicant has applied for a consent for 3 years.

The applicant has submitted an 'Assessment of Environmental Effects' (AEE) report to support the resource consent application.

The revised application replaces the existing original application lodged by the applicant on 29th June 2003. The applicant has stated that the older application will be withdrawn if this application is approved.

The original application was placed on hold under section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Further information was sought on a number of matters and an independent review of the AEE report provided with the application was commissioned.

Following the receipt of further information, Greater Wellington advised the applicant on 21st August 2003 that if the Council were to process the application, it would recommend declining the application as it did not believe that proposed groundwater take was sustainable. It therefore couldn't meet the statutory requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991. Following this advice, meetings were held with the applicant, and the Council advised that if certain issues were addressed by the applicant and the application was appropriately amended, then the Council may be in the position to reconsider its recommendation.

The applicant lodged a revised application on 5th January 2004. A number of key changes were made to the original application including:

- Reducing the volume of water requested by 50%.
- Proposing a minimum static groundwater level where any taking of groundwater would cease.
- Mitigating the potential adverse effects on a neighbouring bore by proposing to augment this bore water supply if adverse effects on that bore occurred.

Given the changes made in the revised application as summarised above, Greater Wellington were now in the position to reconsider the application and continue processing of the application.

2.0 Statutory Reasons for Consent Requirements

Section 14 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) states the **restrictions relating to water:**

*“(1) No person may take, use, dam, or divert any.....
....(a) Water unless the taking, use, damming, or diversion is allowed by subsection (3).....*

....(3) (a) The taking, use, damming, or diversion is expressly allowed by a rule in a regional plan (and in any relevant proposed regional plan) or a resource consent;”

The current operative plan is the Regional Freshwater Plan (RFP). The relevant parts of **Rule 7** of the RFP state:

*“The taking or use of less than 20,000 litres per day of fresh water (including fresh water from any aquifer) ... is a **permitted activity**, provided that it complies with the conditions specified below.*

- (1) *The water shall be taken at a rate of no more than 2.5 litres per second.*
- (2) *In the case of groundwater, there are no adverse effects on the take from adjacent bores.*
- (3) *There shall be no more than one abstraction point serving the land described in a particular certificate of title....”*

The proposed activity does not meet the permitted activity requirements of Rule 7, hence the relevant rule to consider is **Rule 16** of the RFP which states:

“The taking, use, damming, or diversion of any fresh water, or the transfer to another site of any water permit to take or use water:

- *that is not specifically provided for in any other rules in this Plan; and*
 - *which cannot meet the requirements of those rules; and ...*
- ... is a **discretionary activity**”*

As the proposed activity is a discretionary activity under Rule 16 of the RFP, a resource consent is required to authorise the taking of water in accordance with Section 14 of the RMA.

3.0 Resource Consent Process

3.1 Sections 93 and 94 of Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

The revised resource consent application was received following the enactment of recent amendments to the RMA as previously mentioned. These amendments have fundamentally altered the procedures for processing resource consent applications.

Under section 93 of the RMA, a consent authority must notify an application for a resource consent unless the application is for a controlled activity or if the consent authority is satisfied that the adverse effects of the activity on the environment will be minor. Following initial assessment of the revised application, I considered that the adverse effects of the proposed activity on the environment were minor. (Further reasons for this are provided in sections 5 and 6 of this report.)

Section 94 of the RMA then specifies procedures when public notification of any consent application is not required. This section states that the consent authority must serve notice of the application on all persons who may be adversely affected by the activity unless all those persons identified have provided their written approval to the activity.

In this case the applicant could not gain the written approval of Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd, the only identified affected party. Hence the consent authority was required to serve notice on Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. They were served notice of the application on 13th January 2004 and were invited to make a submission on the resource consent application. The period for lodging submissions closed on 11th February 2004.

Local iwi authorities were not considered affected parties to the application hence they were not formally served notice and invited to make a submission. Nevertheless they were consulted about the application. Rangitaane o Wairarapa expressed no concerns with the application whilst Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa did not respond to consultation.

3.2 Submission

A submission was received from Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. The submission opposed the application for the following reasons:

- Insufficient information has been supplied in the resource consent application.
- No assessment of the potential effects on the Burnt Spur irrigation bore beyond a 30 day period was provided.
- There is considerable uncertainty about the hydrogeology of the area.
- The current yield of the Burnt Spur irrigation bore could be compromised.

In their submission Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd expressed that they wished to be heard at a hearing in support of the their submission, however they were happy to participate in a pre-hearing meeting to try and work through the issues. A full copy of their submission is available on request.

3.3 Pre-Hearing Meeting

A pre-hearing meeting was held on Thursday 19th February to discuss issues raised in the submission by Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. The meeting was constructive in progressing issues. The outcome of the meeting was that Greater Wellington would assess the application further and if appropriate, provide draft consent conditions to both parties.

3.4 Agreement to Proposed Consent Conditions

Following assessment of the application (see sections 5-7 of this report), draft consent conditions were distributed to the applicant and submitter. Both parties agreed in principle to the draft consent conditions. Some minor changes were made to the conditions based on feedback received on the draft consent conditions. A set of final proposed consent conditions was then distributed to the applicant and submitter. Both of those parties provided written approval to the proposed consent conditions and withdrew their right to be heard at a formal hearing.

Hence the application can now be determined under delegated authority by the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. A copy of the written approval to the proposed consent conditions by the applicant and submitter is available on request.

4.0 Matters To Be Considered

4.1 Decisions on Resource Consent Applications (Sections 104-108 of RMA)

Section 104(1) of the RMA outlines the matters that a consent authority is to have regard to when considering any resource consent application and any submissions received. This section is subject to Part II (Sections 5-8) of the RMA – the purpose and principles. A summary of Part II is outlined below:

Section 5 of the RMA sets on the purpose of the Act, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Section 5 defines sustainable management as:

“managing the use development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well being and for their health and safety while:

- (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and*
- (c) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.”*

Section 6 concerns matters of national importance including the natural character of and public access to the margins of waterbodies, protecting outstanding features, significant indigenous vegetation and fauna, and the relationship of the tangata whenua with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

Section 7 addresses other matters, such as kaitiakitanga, efficient use and development of natural and physical resources and their finite characteristics, amenity values and ecosystems, heritage values, quality of the environment, and the habitat of trout and salmon.

Section 8 requires that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi be taken into account.

Under **Section 104(1)**, the relevant matters in considering these applications are:

- *Any actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activity; (This is discussed further in section 5 of this report.)*
- *Any relevant regional policy statement; (The Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region is operative and discussed in section 4.2 of this report.)*
- *Any relevant regional plan; (The Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region is operative and is discussed in section 4.3 of this report.)*
- *Any relevant district plan; (There are no matters in the South Wairarapa District Plan that are not covered in the RPS or RFP.)*
- *Any other matters the consent authority considers relevant and reasonably necessary to determine the application.*

Under Section 104B of the RMA, the consent authority may grant or refuse a consent application for a discretionary activity (which the proposed activity is in this case) and (if granted) may impose conditions under Section 108 of the RMA.

4.2 Relevant Provisions of the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) contains three objectives relating to fresh water in the Region

- (1) The *quantity* of fresh water meets the range of uses and values for which it is required, safeguards its life supporting capacity, and has the potential to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

- (2) The *quality* of fresh water meets the range of uses and values for which it is required, safeguards its life supporting capacity, and has the potential to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.
- (3) Freshwater resources of significance or of high value for cultural, spiritual, scenic, ecosystem, natural, recreational, or other amenity reasons are protected or enhanced.

Sixteen policies were developed, in line with the objectives, and from part of the RPS. The relevant policies that need to be taken into consideration when assessing this application are summarised below:

- Policy 1 - Manage fresh water quantity for a wide range of uses and values.
- Policy 2 - Promote the conservation and efficient use of fresh water.
- Policy 3 – Control the use and allocation of groundwater so that it is not depleted in the long-term.

The full relevant policies for the RPS identified above are available on request.

4.3 Relevant Provisions in the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region

The Regional Freshwater Plan (RFP) has identified issues, objectives, policies, rules, and methods for managing freshwater resources in the Wellington Region.

Section four of the RFP outlines general provisions for the use and development of fresh water resources. These general provisions are grouped into tangata whenua values, natural values, amenity values, and use and development. There are certain policies that are pertinent to this application:

- Policy 4.2.23 - Have regard to benefits arising from the proposal.
- Policy 4.2.24 - Have regard to effects on other established activities.
- Policy 4.2.26 – Adopt a precautionary approach where information is incomplete or limited.
- Policy 4.2.31 - Ensure that the process for making decisions is fair and transparent.
- Policy 4.2.33 – Provide for activities which have no more than minor adverse effects on the environment.
- Policy 4.3.34 – Avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects through consent conditions

Section six of the RFP outlines issues, objectives, policies, and methods for water quantity and the taking of fresh water. Relevant policies in this section are:

- Policy 6.2.3 – Manage aquifers in groundwater zones using safe yields
- Policy 6.2.6 – Allocate water for irrigation purposes up to a maximum rate of 350 m³/hectare/week.
- Policy 6.2.7 – Encourage users to take groundwater as an alternative to surface water resources.
- Policy 6.2.8 – Consider excessive reductions (including interference drawdowns) in nearby bore yields and avoid significant adverse effects on surface water bodies.
- Policy 6.2.18 – To have regard to whether the amount of water required is reasonable given the intended use.
- Policy 6.2.19 – Encourage water conservation, particularly in water short areas.

The full relevant policies for the RFP identified above are available on request.

The Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee is required to have regard to these policies in both the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Freshwater Plan when considering this application.

5.0 Assessment of Environmental Effects

As stated earlier, the applicant submitted an 'Assessment of Environmental Effects' (AEE) report with their application. The assessment completed in this section evaluates information provided in the AEE report and issues raised in submissions on the application.

Greater Wellington commissioned an independent report to review the original AEE report supplied by the applicant. Comments provided in this review are inserted into the assessment below, which is broken down into the following categories:

1. Background– location setting including bores and hydrogeology of the area, pump test, and bore yield.
2. Safe yield of Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone.
3. Effects on adjacent bores/wells
4. Water conservation and efficiency.

5.1 Background– Location Setting Including Bores and Hydrogeology of the Area, Pump Test, and Bore Yield

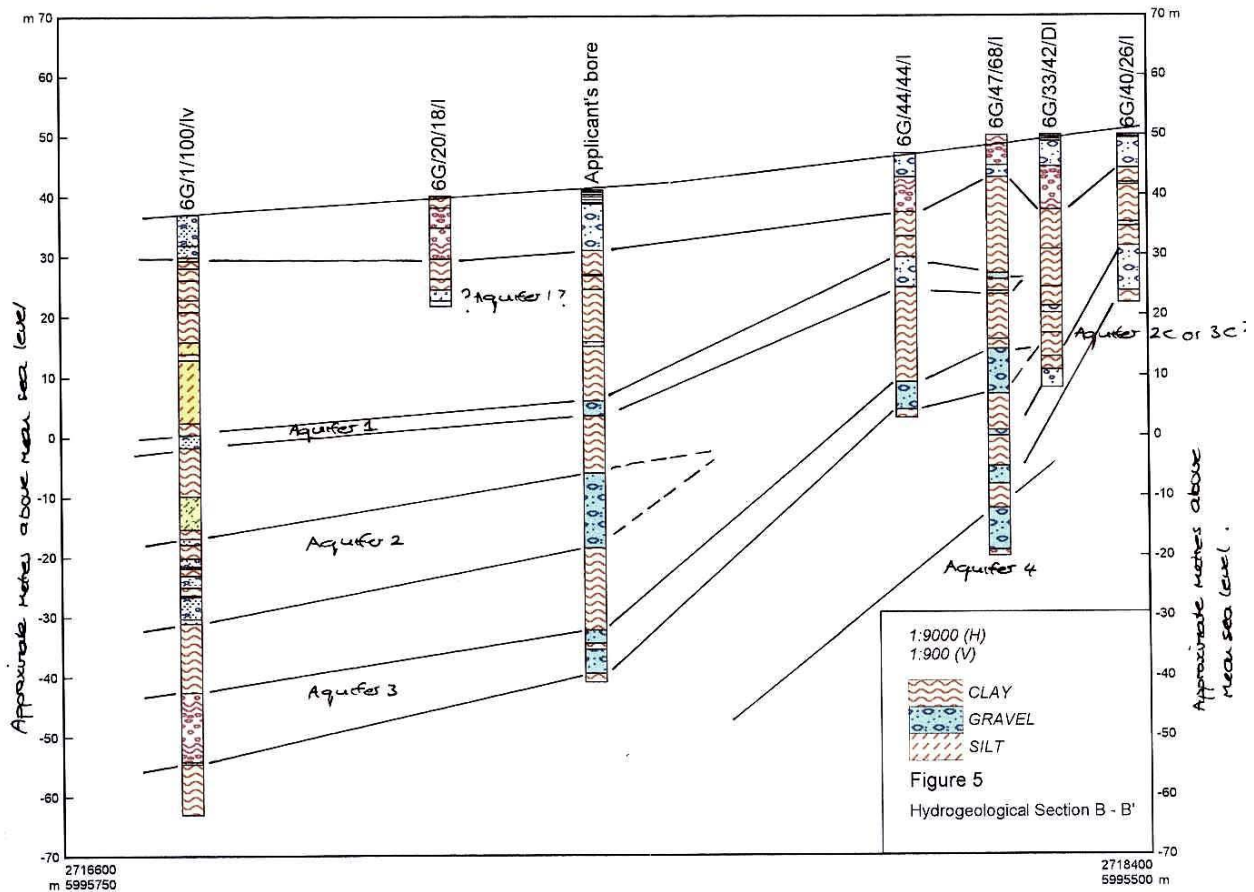
The applicant's bore is located adjacent to Puruatanga Rd, Martinborough, in a confined aquifer in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone. The location of the applicant's bore and a number of other bores in the immediate vicinity are identified in Map 1.0 earlier in this report.

As a result of drilling the irrigation bore, four aquifers have been identified. In the applicant's bore, three aquifers were encountered at the following approximate depths:

- Aquifer 1 – 15 to 40 metres
- Aquifer 2 – 47 to 59.5 metres
- Aquifer 3 – 73.2 to 80.5 metres

A deeper aquifer 4 exists in this area. It is understood that the Riverside Trust (Te Kairanga Wines) irrigation bore (6G/47/68/I) is screened in this aquifer. Aquifers 2 and 3 in the applicant's bore dip steeply in a westerly direction, which results in aquifer 3 actually being deeper than the Te Kairanga Wines irrigation bore located in aquifer 4. A hydrogeological section of the aquifer system is presented in Figure 1 on the following page:

Figure 1: Hydrogeological Cross Section of Martinborough Eastern Terraces Groundwater Zone from West (left side) to East (right side)



The independent review commissioned by Greater Wellington evaluated the categorisation of aquifers defined above in the AEE report. The hydrogeological sections presented in the AEE report were considered to be reasonable representation of the groundwater environment¹. Nevertheless it was recommended in the review, that further water quality analysis be completed to try and gather a clearer hydrogeological picture of the aquifer system in the area.

Further information on groundwater quality was provided by the applicant. This was assessed in conjunction with additional groundwater quality information gained by Greater Wellington on other bores in the area. Brief analysis by the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences raised more questions and answers about the hydrogeology of the area. Based on groundwater chemistry, water in the applicant's was of a different composition to the Burnt Spur Martinborough bore.

At the time the original application was lodged, Greater Wellington had a moratorium on any new or increased takes from the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone (aquifers 1 and 2). This moratorium was put in place in December 2001 as a response to a significant decline in groundwater levels in the Martinborough Golf Club bore which Greater Wellington has monitored since 1983. The moratorium was extended to all aquifers within the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone in September 2003 due to concerns that

¹ Technical Review of Water Permit Application – The Terrace Martinborough, Phreatos Groundwater Research & Consulting, 11th June 2003.

recent deeper bores drilled since the moratorium were showing some similar trends in groundwater levels. Also the questions raised by groundwater chemistry information collected led Greater Wellington to believe that there were many hydrogeological uncertainties about the all aquifers in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone. This issue is discussed further in section 6.1 of this report.

The applicant completed a brief pump test on the bore during drilling when aquifer 2 was encountered. The aquifer transmissivity was calculated to be 332 m²/day which is consistent with the aquifer transmissivity from other pump tests on bores located in aquifer 2. Also groundwater levels were monitored for a ten day period in March 2003. This showed sensitivity to pumping cycles from other bores located in aquifer 2. Due to the moratorium mentioned above the applicant drilled deeper until aquifer 3 was encountered.

A two day pump test was completed on the applicant's bore. Groundwater levels in the pumped bore and six surrounding bores were monitored. The aquifer transmissivity from the pumped bore was 37 m²/day, which indicates that the aquifer has a poor ability to transmit groundwater. Despite the poor aquifer transmissivity the bore should obtain the required yield of 3 litres/sec due to the large available drawdown present in the bore. The independent review concluded that the testing and monitoring programme carried out was considered to be adequate².

5.2 Safe Yield of Martinborough Eastern Terraces Groundwater Zone

Current water permits (including this application) in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone are listed below in Table 1:

Table 1: Current Water Permits – Martinborough Eastern Terraces Groundwater Zone

Consent No.	Consent holder	Aquifer	Take (l/sec)	Vol/day (m ³)	Vol/year (m ³)	Bore No.
WAR 980071	Alexander & Finucane Vineyards Ltd	2b?	2	129.6	30845	7G/15/34/DI
WAR 000419	Amapur Securities Ltd.	2c	1.5	97.2	20412	6G/40/26/I
WAR 010321	Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd	2c	1	86.4	5250	6G/44/44/I
WAR 980073	Crook P E & A M	2	0.5	43.2	10282	7G/14/32/DS
WAR 980094	Martinborough Estate Ltd	2	2	108.0	22680	7G/18/32/I
WAR 020138	Martinborough Golf Club	2	1.2	51.8	10878	7G/5/32/I
WAR 020086	Palliser Estate Wines	2	6	518.4	108864	6G/32/35/I
WAR 000307	Paul Collins Family Trust	2b?	3	205.2	43092	7G/24/39/I
WAR 020139	White Steven L	2	4	288.0	60480	7G/9/39/I
WAR 020072	Riverside Trust	3	4.5	388.8	81648	6G/47/69/I
WAR 030084	The Terrace Martinborough	4	3	259.2	54432	

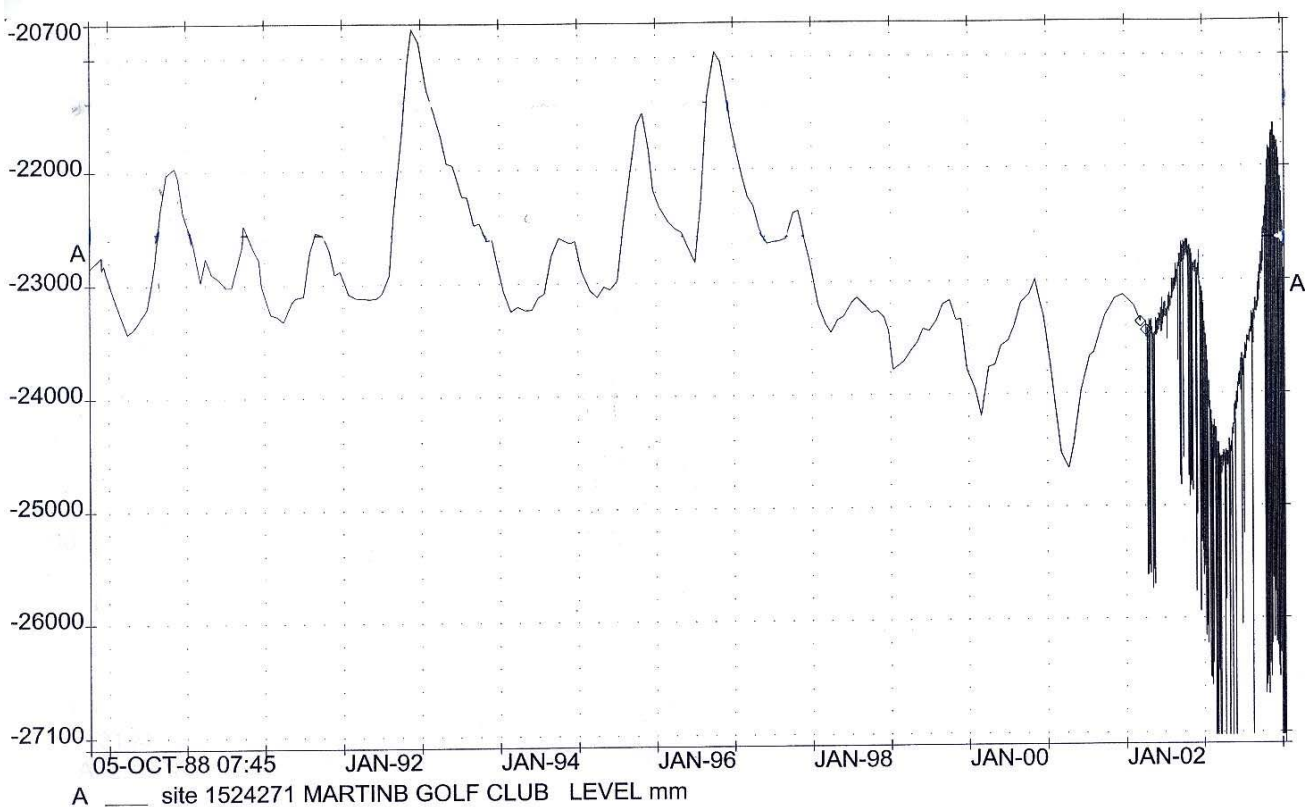
The current annual safe yield in the RFP is for the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone. A report on the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone was commissioned in 2000, and completed in October 2001. This report recommended splitting the zone into two – western terraces and eastern terraces. Annual safe yields were determined for each of these two new

² Technical Review of Water Permit Application – The Terrace Martinborough, Phreatos Groundwater Research & Consulting, 11th June 2003.

zones. The annual safe yield for the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone was 0.31 million m³/year. At present 0.35 million m³/year is allocated i.e. it is fully allocated. At the time this report was produced, only aquifers 1 and 2 were identified.

The revised safe yield for the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone was sparked by a decline in groundwater levels in the Martinborough Golf Club monitoring bore as shown in [Figure 2](#) below:

[Figure 2](#): Monitoring Records of Groundwater Levels in Martinborough Golf Club Bore



Monitoring records show that there has been a decline in the seasonal low groundwater level of approximately 1.3 metres since 1998. This equates to an average annual decline of approximately 0.25 metres. More recently, in the past six months there has been significant recovery of groundwater levels.

In the AEE report, it is stated that there is no safe yield for aquifer 3, however given that the aquifer transmissivity in aquifer 3 was lower than aquifer 2, any safe yield should be correspondingly lower. The total amount of groundwater applied for represents 11% of the safe yield of aquifer 2. The AEE report stated that given that the aquifer transmissivity in aquifer 3 was approximately 10% of aquifer transmissivity of aquifer 2, then the amount of groundwater applied for is fair and reasonable.

I consider that the annual safe yield in policy 6.2.3 of the RFP is somewhat irrelevant given the new estimates of the annual safe yield provided in October 2001. I am satisfied that the proposed take can be considered outside of the annual safe yield determined for the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone in October 2001 which was intended for aquifers 1 and 2 which were the only known identified aquifers. I would agree with the

assessment provided in the AEE report that the proposed take is fair and reasonable when comparing the aquifer characteristics of aquifers 2 and 3.

5.3 Effects on Adjacent Bores/Wells

Six bores were monitored during the pump test including Greater Wellington’s monitoring bore at the Martinborough Golf Club. The interference drawdowns recorded are shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Pump Test Monitoring of Adjacent Bores/Wells

Bore No.	Name	Aquifer	Distance from applicants well	Interference drawdown recorded
6G/44/44/I	Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd	3	525 metres	0.359 metres
6G/47/68/I	Riverside Trust (Te Kairanga)	4	720 metres	0
6G/33/42/DI	Wall	2c or 3c	720 metres	0
7G/5/32/I	Martinborough Golf Club	2a	1035 metres	0
7G/24/39/I	Collins	2b or 3b	1025 metres	0
6G/24/46/I	Atarangi Vineyard	2	700 metres	0

Based on the pump test results, the AEE report assessed the potential long term interference effects on adjacent bores/wells. The long term (30 day) interference effects at a distance of 500 metres is estimated to be 1.0 metres. This is based on the following aquifer parameters:

- Transmissivity = 45 m²/day
- Storage co-efficient = 0.00034
- One boundary condition
- Average daily pumping rate of 1.5 litres/sec

The AEE report identified that the only known bore to be screened in the same aquifer is bore 6G/44/44/I (Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd). The potential effect on this bore was assessed in the AEE report to be 1.0 metres. It was stated in the AEE report for the Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd bore that in assessing the sustainable yield of this bore, 4 metres of interference was taken into account. Hence the applicant’s AEE report stated that the applicant’s bore is unlikely to have an adverse effect on bore 6G/44/44/I.

The independent review identified that bores 6G/33/42/DI (Wall) and 6G/40/26/I (Amapur Securities) may also lie in aquifer 3. I do not consider the Wall bore to be adversely affected by this application, as a consent for this bore has now lapsed and the bore is not used for any purpose. I also do not consider the Amapur Securities bore to be adversely affected as there is sufficient available drawdown in this bore. Also it is uncertain whether this bore will be affected given that no interference effects were noted during the pump test. Nevertheless I advised the applicant to consult Amapur Securities as an interested party to the application. As far as I am aware, no concerns were expressed about the application about the potential effects on this bore.

The independent review also stated that there could be potentially another four bores in the immediate vicinity which could be classified as being linked to aquifer 3. These bores were not specified in the independent review. I am satisfied that there is sufficient available drawdown in surrounding bores if in the worst case there were interference effects as a result of the applicant’s proposed activity.

I am largely satisfied with the assessment of effects on other bores provided in the AEE report. In my opinion it is still unclear as to whether there will be an adverse effect on the Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd bore. This is discussed further in section 6 of this report.

5.4 Water Conservation and Efficiency

Water will be irrigated using a trickle irrigation system. The maximum irrigation application rate equates to 129.6 m³/hectare/week. This is significantly less than the maximum irrigation application rate of 350 m³/hectare/week that is specified in policy 6.2.6 of the Regional Freshwater Plan. This is to be expected however given the intended application method. The water application rate is based on 10 litres/vine every second day. I am satisfied that the amount of water requested is reasonable given the intended use.

6.0 Discussion

The two key issues arising from the above assessment is the sustainability of the proposed groundwater take particularly given that the location of the proposed take is currently subject to a moratorium, and the potential effects on the Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd bore.

6.1 Sustainability of Proposed Groundwater Take

As previously noted, Greater Wellington has previously advised the applicant that the original application could not be granted as it was felt that the original application as it stood was unsustainable. As a result the applicant revised their application and included a minimum sustainable groundwater level as a mitigation measure in the revised AEE report.

The proposed minimum static groundwater level (i.e. the level after at least 12 hours recovery from a pump cycle) is 19 metres below ground level. The sustainable groundwater level of 19 metres is approximately 4.5 to 5 metres below the current minimum groundwater level. In May 2003 when the pump test was completed the groundwater level was 14.52 metres below measuring point or approximately 14 metres below ground level. The groundwater level at the same time in the Martinborough Golf Club was approximately 24.5 metres which is fractionally above the minimum groundwater level recorded in this bore.

I have reviewed the minimum sustainable groundwater level in conjunction with other Greater Wellington staff and am satisfied that the groundwater level proposed by the applicant will ensure the sustainable management of the groundwater resource in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater based on current information.

If approved, this groundwater take will be the last take to be approved as the previous moratorium on aquifers 1 and 2 has now been extended to all aquifers. I am satisfied that this application can be processed as the original application was lodged prior to the endorsement of the extended moratorium.

6.2 Potential Effects on the Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd Bore

It was identified through the assessment in section 5.3, that it was unclear what interference effects would result in an adverse effect on the Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd bore. As part of the application, the applicant has proposed to augment any affected bore water supply with

water from their own bore. Given the uncertainties with the nature of interference effects, I consider this to be a reasonable mitigation measure in the circumstances. The amount of water to be augmented is to be determined between the applicant and Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. Although Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd originally objected to the application, they have now agreed to proposed consent conditions if the application were granted.

7.0 Recommendation & Final Comments

Given that the above key issues outlined in section 6 have been resolved, I am satisfied that the effects on the environment are minor, and that all policy requirements in the Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region, and the Regional Freshwater Plan have been appropriately considered. Therefore I believe that the application can be granted subject to a number of consent conditions that will avoid, remedy, or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment. Specific reasons why the policy requirements in section 4 of this report have been met are outlined in Report 04.120 to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee.

7.1 Consent Term

It is recommended that the resource consent application be granted until 30 September 2007. A three year consent was applied for by the applicant. I consider a short term consent of three years to be the most appropriate term, given the sensitive nature of groundwater resource management issues in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone.

It is clearly noted that if there are concerns over the sustainability of the groundwater take both during and at the end of the consent term, there is no guarantee of groundwater being available for abstraction. Hence it is strongly recommended that the applicant develop alternative plans in the event that groundwater is no longer available for abstraction.

7.2 Consent Conditions

There are a number of standard and non-standard consent conditions that are proposed to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment.

The rate of abstraction proposed in the resource consent application has been specifically identified as a maximum rate under a consent condition.

A number of standard conditions of consent have been recommended including the following:

- The activity be carried out in accordance with the resource consent application.
- The consent holder is required to supply irrigation plans and designs.
- In the event of undue interference with other bores/wells and/or a long term sustained decline in groundwater levels becomes apparent, then the water take shall be reduced or stopped.
- The bore is available for monitoring of water levels and water quality.
- The irrigation system is designed and maintained so that excess water is not run to waste.
- Review conditions and ability to recover costs of any review.
- Resource management charges

A consent condition is recommended that sets a minimum static groundwater level where the water take is to cease. This has been discussed in section 6.1 of this report.

There are a number of non-standard conditions relating to monitoring this groundwater take. These conditions include:

- That the static groundwater level (following 12 hours recovery) be monitored when the groundwater level falls 18 metres (below ground level).
- The consent holder is to install a water meter on the irrigation bore and pipe delivering water to Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. A data logger and pressure transducer is also required to be installed on the irrigation. This monitoring equipment is set to appropriate standards and to the Council's satisfaction.
- Groundwater can only be taken if the monitoring equipment mentioned above is fully operational.
- An annual report outlining monitoring information collected is to be submitted to the Council.

The aim of installing water meters, a data logger, and pressure transducer is two-fold. The first reason is to monitor water usage (including time related data) from both the applicant's bore and the amount of water delivered to Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd. It is important to know exactly how much water is being taken and when. The second reason is to monitor groundwater levels in the applicant's bore. This is particularly critical to ensure compliance with the sustainable groundwater level proposed by the applicant.

It is strongly recommended that the consent holder liaise closely with the Resource Investigations Section of Greater Wellington during installation of the monitoring equipment as there may be areas where Greater Wellington can assist in information collection.

Finally the remaining non-standard condition relates to the consent holder requiring to submit a management plan which includes information of alternative available water supplies in the event that groundwater levels fall below the sustainable groundwater level. This is considered vital to ensure the sustainability of the irrigation proposal as a whole.