

Monday, September 28, 2020

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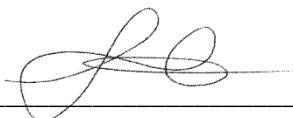
Attn: Stuart Savill

### Aupōuri Aquifer Water User Group (AAWUG) Expert Conferencing

Item 5 of Direction #3 (issued 16 September 2020) required the preparation of a task list/methodology and timeframe for addressing wetland identification, analysis and potential monitoring requirements agreed by relevant experts for the Applicant, Northland Regional Council (NRC) and the Department of Conservation (DoC). Mr Hughes has provided a joint statement that details the work undertaken thus far to identify and map relevant features, and which sets out the next steps in refining those features to agree on where additional wetland/.surface water monitoring may be required to determine the potential adverse effects of the proposed water abstractions.

As required by Item 5(b) of Direction #3, Ms Letica and I have reviewed the joint statement and discussed whether the proposed next steps provide a sufficient pathway for resolving outstanding issues around wetlands, and particularly whether the plan/methodology could be incorporated into proposed conditions and/or Groundwater Management and Contingency Plans (GMCPs). Both Ms Letica and I agree with the proposed next steps for identifying and refining potentially affected surface water bodies. However; given that the work undertaken to date comprises a long list of sites that will likely be narrowed to a short list, we do not consider it appropriate at this time to incorporate that refinement into the proposed conditions of GMCPs. Rather, once a short list has been established and agreed upon, conditions and measures in the GMCPs can then be developed to formalise specific monitoring requirements and adaptive management responses.

It is understood that the technical experts have a review meeting tentatively scheduled for 30 September 2020, out of which we expect a map/list of identified sensitive features will be produced. Once this is made available, we anticipate that a revised set of proposed conditions (reviewed by the Applicant, NRC and DoC) could be provided within a two-week period.



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**Stephanie Kane**  
(NRC Consultant Planner)



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**Martell Letica**  
(Applicants' Planner)