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WAR 040001  
**Committee** Rural Services and Wairarapa  
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## **Decision on Resource Consent Application - The Terrace, Martinborough**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek approval from the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee for a resource consent application from The Terrace Martinborough under the Resource Management Act 1991, for the taking of groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes.

### **2. Summary**

In June 2003, The Terrace Martinborough lodged a resource consent application to take groundwater from a bore near Puruatanga Rd, Martinborough. The applicant's bore is screened in a deep aquifer of the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone (aquifer 3).

The application was placed on hold under section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991, as further information was requested on a number of matters, including an independent review of the 'Assessment of Environmental Effects' (AEE) report provided with the application.

Following the receipt of further information in August 2003, Greater Wellington advised the applicant that the Council was not in the position to proceed with the processing the application made, as it did not believe that the proposed groundwater take was sustainable. Following a number of discussions with the applicant, a revised application was lodged in January 2004 and various issues raised by Greater Wellington were addressed in an updated AEE report. The key changes made in the revised application included:

- Reducing the volume of water requested by 50%.
- Proposing a minimum static groundwater level at which any taking of groundwater will cease.

- Mitigating the potential adverse effect on a neighbouring bore by proposing to augment this bore water supply if adverse effects on that bore occurred.

The above changes made to the resource consent application were sufficient for the Council to proceed with processing the application.

The applicant could not gain the written approval of one neighbouring affected party (Burnt Spur Martinborough Ltd). Hence notice of the application was served on the affected party under the new 'limited notification' procedures in the recent amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991. The affected party opposed the resource consent application in a submission.

Following assessment of the application, a pre-hearing meeting, and the distribution of draft consent conditions, agreement was reached on consent conditions. This resulted in both the applicant and submitter withdrawing their right to be heard at a hearing, subject to the agreed proposed consent conditions that are outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. Recommendation**

*That the Committee, under delegated authority by the Wellington Regional Council pursuant to sections 105 and 108 of the Resource Management Act 1991, grant resource consent application WAR 040001 from The Terrace Martinborough, subject to the proposed consent conditions outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.*

In recommending the above decision including the proposed consent conditions, I believe that the matters identified in section 104 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (consideration of applications) and the submission opposing the application have been appropriately considered and addressed as outlined below:

- Sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone will be achieved as required in Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991. It is noted that although a moratorium is now in place on all aquifers in the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone (including aquifer 3), the application was lodged prior to the endorsement of the extended moratorium by the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee in September 2003<sup>1</sup>. The minimum static groundwater level set for this resource consent will ensure that the groundwater resources in aquifer 3 are managed in a sustainable manner. This is especially important given that at present no annual safe yield for this aquifer has been set to date.
- All objectives and policies in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) have been appropriately considered and addressed by way of consent conditions. In particular Policy 3 of the RPS requires that the control and use of

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to this time, the moratorium endorsed by the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee in December 2001 only covered bores drilled and screened in aquifers 1 and 2 of the Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater zone.

groundwater is not depleted in the long-term. In the absence of a safe yield for the particular aquifer in which the bore is screened, a minimum static groundwater level ensures that this policy is satisfied.

- All policies in the Regional Freshwater Plan (RFP) have been appropriately considered and addressed by way of consent conditions. In particular the amount of water requested is consistent with Policies 6.2.6 and 6.2.18 of the RFP, and significant adverse effects on neighbouring bores have been avoided through the provision to augment the neighbouring bore water supply if adverse effects occur, as required under Policy 6.2.8 of the RFP.

Further information on the assessment of the application and the recommendation noted above is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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