



Recommendation and decision on notification of resource consent application(s) under sections 95-95G of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Summary

Under s95A (2) (a) an application **must** be publicly notified if requested by the applicant. In this instance the applicant has requested that the application be publicly notified, and therefore no determination is required to be made at this stage as to the significance of adverse effects of the proposed activities.

The application

Particulars

Applicant:	Fawna Farms Limited
Application reference:	APP-20222565 APP-20202016-V1
Site address or location:	1620 Ohai Clifden Highway
New consent(s) for new activity(ies) (s88)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New consent(s) for existing activity(ies) (s88)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change to conditions of existing consent(s) (s127)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposal

Fawna Farms Ltd (the applicant) owns and operates a 370.9 ha dairy farm situated at 1620 Ohai Clifden Highway, with consent to discharge dairy shed effluent to land from 900 cows (AUTH-20146434-01-V2) and to take and use 140,000 l/d of groundwater from five bores for the purpose of stockwater and dairy shed use (AUTH-20202016).

The applicant is in the process of purchasing a 165.9 ha block of land from a neighbouring and adjoining 454.6 ha property which was recently acquired by IFS Growth – a forestry management and investment company, and is currently being used for dairy support, sheep, and beef grazing. The applicant is proposing to incorporate this 165.9 ha block into their existing 370.9 ha property, and to increase the peak number of cows milked from 900 to 1,200 cows. The balance land of 288.7 ha on the IFS Growth property, which consists of steeper contour land, will be retired from pastoral farming, and is to be planted in *Pinus radiata*, by IFS Growth Ltd as a contaminant loss offset for the proposed dairy expansion by the applicant. According to the application the new forest will be entered into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) under the ‘averaging scheme’ and contribute to meeting New Zealand’s climate change obligations. IFS Growth will be able to claim Carbon Credits for the first 16 years of the forests life and thereafter the forest will continue to accrue credits and will be managed as a pure production forest for log and wood fibre. I’ve undertaken a site visit to both of the properties on 14th September 2022.

Note that this application only relates to the proposed dairy expansion activities by the applicant on a new total area of 536.8 ha after the 165.9 ha block has been acquired from IFS Growth Ltd. However, as outlined above the proposed retirement of the 288.7 ha of land on the IFS Growth property and the planting of that land in forestry are closely linked with the proposed dairy expansion activities by the applicant as this arrangement is proposed as a direct mitigation for the proposed dairy expansion activities by the applicant.

In summary, consent is sought under this application for the following:

Replacement consents sought with changes:

- AUTH-20146434-01-V2 - to discharge dairy shed effluent to land from a proposed 1,200 cows and increase the effluent disposal area by approximately 23 ha (less normal buffers e.g., distances from water bodies, property boundaries, etc).
- AUTH-20202016 - to take and use groundwater for the proposed dairy operation and stock drinking water for 1,200 cows (slight increase).

New consents sought:

- To use land for dairy farming that did not exist as of May 2016 and to increase cow numbers (Rule 20 pSWLP);
- To convert land on farm to dairy farmland that was not used as dairy farmland prior to 2 September 2020 (Regulation 19 NES-F); and
- To discharge contaminants associated to the use of land for dairy farming (Regulation 24 NES-F).

Overall, the application is a **discretionary** activity.

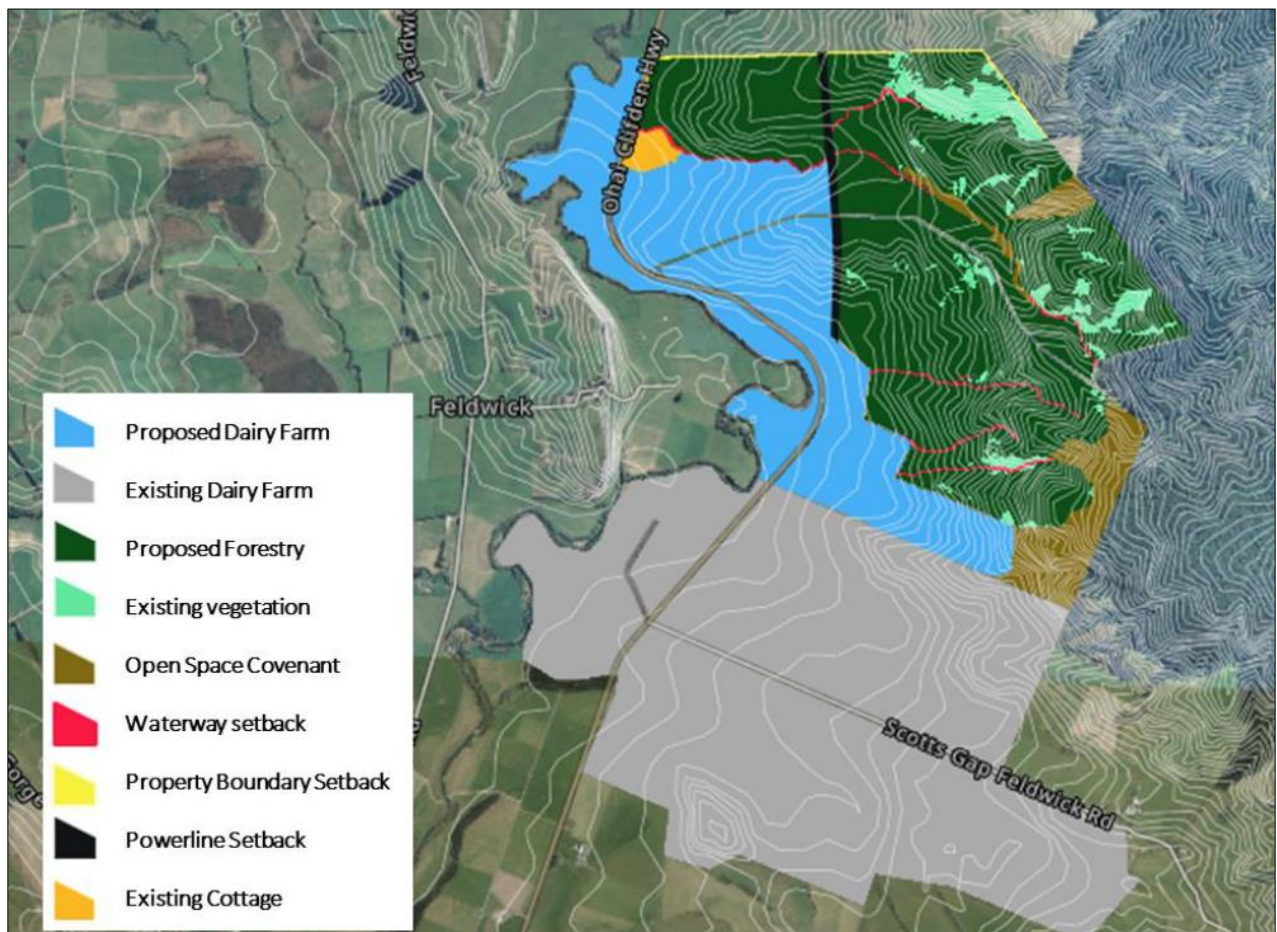


Figure 1: Location of existing dairy farm (grey) and the new 165.9 ha of flatter contour land to be added to the dairy platform (blue) and remaining 288.7 ha planted in trees (dark green).

Public notification consideration

1. Is notification mandatory?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 Has the applicant requested that the application be publicly notified? (s95(3)(a)) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | Application must be publicly notified. Go to 10.2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Go to 1.2 |

Public notification

Under s95A (2) (a) the application **must** be publicly notified as requested by the applicant.

10.2 Public notification is required



George Gericke
Senior Consents Officer

Date: 7 November 2022

Decision under Delegated Authority

11.3 The application will be publicly notified



This decision is made under delegated authority by:



Bruce Halligan
Consents Manager

Date: 8 November 2022