

14 November 2017

Miraka Farms Ltd
C/-Civil Tech Ltd
PO Box 1558
Invercargill 9840

IRIS ID: APP-20171594

Dear Murray

Request for further information under Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 - Application for Resource Consent – Miraka Farms Ltd

Thank you for lodging an application to discharge dairy shed effluent to land from 750 cows, to take 90,000 litres of groundwater per day, construct a pond and to expand an existing dairy farm at Boyle Road, Heddon Bush.

I require further information before a determination on notification can be made on your application.

Please provide¹, in accordance with Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act, the following information:

Effluent storage facilities:

- confirmation of what the effluent storage system will consist of and if the existing pond will be used and for how long;
- an explanation of what, if any, management practices will be implemented to address additional effluent from an increase in cow numbers, until the new effluent pond is constructed ;
- details regarding when the existing storage facilities were constructed, and confirmation of structural soundness of each storage facility by a Chartered Professional Engineer as set out in Rule 35(b) (iii) of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP);
- confirmation that the existing effluent pond meets the relevant pond drop level set out in Rule 35(b) (iii) and appendix P of the PSWLP;
- confirmation of the length of the milking season for the property, and if effluent will be disposed of year round.
- Provide calculations and pond plans for required storage for milking 25 July – 31 May (Heifers) and 8 July – 31 May (Cows) as described in the

¹ Under Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) the Council may, at any time before the hearing of an application, or if no hearing is to be held, before the decision to grant or refuse the application is made, request in writing that the applicant provide further information relating to the application

description of proposed activity. This description appears to contradict the dates provided in the pond calculation report for the proposed activity.

This information from the above points is required to identify which rule the activity falls under in the pSWLP and therefore what the activity status of the activities are:

Discharge to land and land use for increase of cow numbers:

- confirmation of whether or not the property has any silage storage facilities, and if so, how the silage leachate is managed from these facilities.
- details regarding how odour and spray drift will be mitigated from applying effluent to land adjacent to the property at 262 Boyle Road, and confirmation of the buffer areas that will be applied to this property. The map that was provided appears to show effluent will be applied up to the boundary.
- Outline possible effects of discharging contaminants to the Central Plains physiographic zone in dry conditions, and how, if at all, these effects will be mitigated to ensure no further degradation of groundwater occurs.
- Outline possible effects of the greenwash system with regard to increased concentration of nitrogen and phosphorus. Demonstrate the nitrogen loading will not exceed 21kg of nitrogen per hectare per year.
- Confirmation of how many ha. will be intensively winter grazed each winter, and by how many cows.
- Explain how the increase in phosphorus losses will be mitigated, if at all.
- Details regarding the previous land use activities, and nutrient losses, for the land proposed for expansion.

Groundwater consent:

- Details of the proposed other water source at the stream at the foot of the hills.
- Confirmation on what measures, if any, will be taken to minimise wastage of water.
- Outline possible adverse effects that an increased take could have on groundwater quality and quantity.

I require this information in order to clarify matters which are unclear in the application and to fully determine the extent of the activity and its effects.

Determination of your application is postponed until receipt of this information.

Under Section 92A of the RMA you have until 15 working days from the date of this request, which we calculate to be, to either provide the information, tell

the Council, in writing, whether you agree to provide the information, or that you refuse to provide the information.

If you refuse to provide the information requested, or if you do not respond to this request, the Council may decline the application on the grounds that it has inadequate information to determine the application.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Yours sincerely

Aurora Grant
Team Leader – Consents

cc- Miraka Farms Ltd 162 Boyle Road, Heddon Bush, 9783