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## File Note

**From:** Emily Allan, Consents Officer  
**Date:** 23 April 2018  
**File Reference:** APP-20181247  
**Subject:** *Site Visit – Friday 20 April 2018*

### Site visit attended by:

Aurora Grant – ES Acting Consent Manager

Emily Allan – ES Consent Processing Officer

Quinton Scandrett – Consultant acting on behalf of White Waters for the resource consent process.

Alastair Gibson – Farm consultant (bank appointed)

Hans Vernooij – Representative of White Waters Ltd

**Time:** Met at the dairy shed at 11am on Friday 20 April 2018

Meeting started with all parties sitting around the dining room table and discussing the consent application to highlight the current concerns. The areas highlighted are:

- High rate irrigation – which is inconsistent with policy;
- Sensitive location – hill country/bedrock, and Upuk is natural state waters catchment with the whitestone also sensitive (although not natural state waters);
- Previous consents expired – therefore not part of the existing environment;
- Not enough storage currently on site with brief discussion of DESC, with regards to volumes irrigated and hours in the shed. Quinton indicated that this DESC will be redone.

We also discussed the possibility of public notification, and what this would mean with regards to timeframes and what the next steps are for notification.

Alastair also raised the possible variation application to discharge White Waters effluent to the neighbouring property. I explained that I had not seen the variation application as it has not been written yet so couldn't provide much guidance but we discussed the possibility generally. Aurora highlighted the issue of nature and scale for it to be a variation or if a new consent would be required.

Alastair highlighted that the immediate concern for White Waters was getting the discharge lawfully consented so that Fonterra could resume picking up the milk.

We then went out to have a look at the farm effluent system.

We first walked through the shed to see the sandtrap and little sump on either side of the dairy shed yard. We then walked over the paddock to see the pump sump. There was some discussion here regarding the pump, and if this was sized appropriately and what mitigations were in place. Hans said that there was no level alarm for this sump. We also looked back up to the shed and talked about the sewage and effluent from the calving barn. Hans said that there was porter loos in place until the new septic tank system is operational, and no human sewage goes into the pond. Alastair also asked about grey water, and Quinton responded by saying that this would be better treated through the septic tank system, rather than the pond. The calving pad effluent does go into the effluent pond system, so needs to be accounted for in the DESC.

We then got into cars and drove up to the effluent tank. The tank was approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, with a well-established sludge crust on top. At the tank we looked over the nearest paddocks and discussed the topography and the discharge methodology. Quinton mentioned that they could discharge the sludge from the top of the pond as a permitted activity under Rule 38, although Aurora raised concerns over this due to the abatement notice in place. Aurora also asked how they would dry the sludges before discharge to ensure consistency with the permitted activity rule. Aurora suggested that they discuss this with the compliance team prior to discharge to ensure that they do not breach the abatement notice and highlighted how risky discharging this sludge could be. We looked at the site where the new klip tank would go, and I mentioned that they could pull this activity out of the application to be processed separately if they wanted to keep this moving. We asked about the timeframes discussed in the application for building the new tank (application stated that the new tank will be operational by Aug 2018) and Quinton was confident they could meet this timeframe. Quinton also mentioned the possibility of building a earth pond, rather than a tank but said if they built a pond they would not be able to meet the Aug 2018 deadline. Alastair raised concerns about

pulling out this activity as this would result in spending money on building the tank before they knew if they could discharge from it. Emily and Aurora walked around the outside of the tank, and could see no holes, cracks or defects although there did look like some historic overflow near the effluent entry point. Hans also pointed out the high level alarm.

We then got back into the cars and drove to the boundary of the property to see more of the topography and to overlook the neighbouring sheep farm, which is likely the area proposed in the variation application. Due to the saturated ground and rolling topography, care was needed when driving to make sure the vehicles did not become stuck in the mud.

At the conclusion of the site visit we discussed next step. I said that I would hopefully have a s92(1) further information request out to Quinton either Tuesday or Thursday next week (by 26 April 2018 at latest) and Quinton would hopefully have a variation application to me by Thursday next week. Arrived back in the office by 3.30pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Allan', written in a cursive style.

Emily Allan

23 April 2018