



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

Notification

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

As the applicant has requested the application be publicly notified, no determination is required to be made as to the significance of adverse effects of the proposed activities.

The application

Particulars

Applicant:	Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Limited
Application reference:	APP-20222295
Site address or location:	729 Woodlands Morton Mains Road, Edendale
New consent(s) for new activity(ies) (s88)	<input type="checkbox"/>
New consent(s) for existing activity(ies) (s88)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change to conditions of existing consent(s) (s127)	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposal

Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Limited (BSM) operates an existing meat works processing plant located at 729 Woodlands Morton Mains Road, Edendale. The proposal seeks to replace expiring consents associated with the ongoing operation of the existing meat works processing plant. The application was lodged on 30 June 2022 which is more than 6 months before the expiry of the Applicant's consents. Section 124 of the Resource Management Act 1991 enables the Consent Holder to continue operating under the now expired consents until a decision is made on this consent application and any appeals are determined.

From 2019, BSM constructed substantial upgrades to the onsite wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which was commissioned in January 2020 where refinements continued into January 2021. The upgrade enabled the Plant to properly operate at full capacity, and to reduce nitrogen loading to the land treatment area.

The upgraded WWTP includes primary treatment via a covered anaerobic lagoon and secondary treatment via biological nitrogen removal in a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment plant. This treatment process provides for substantial removal of organic matter (including fats, oils and greases) as biogas via a flare, and substantial removal of nitrogen as inert nitrogen gas.

The upgraded WWTP included the following components:

- screening to remove larger solids,
- wastewater storage to provide consistent flows into the treatment plant,
- a covered anaerobic lagoon to convert organic nitrogen into mineralisable ammoniacal nitrogen,
- the combustion of biogas via a biogas flare unit with a contingency biofilter,

- A biological nitrogen remover (BNR) activated sludge system operated as an SBR. The SBR consists of mechanical aeration supply and assists with reduction of ammoniacal nitrogen generated from the anaerobic treatment processes; and
- Discharge of SBR decant (wastewater) into a dedicated irrigation holding lagoon that provides storage of up to 15,000m³ (approximately 10 days storage) of treated wastewater for land treatment.

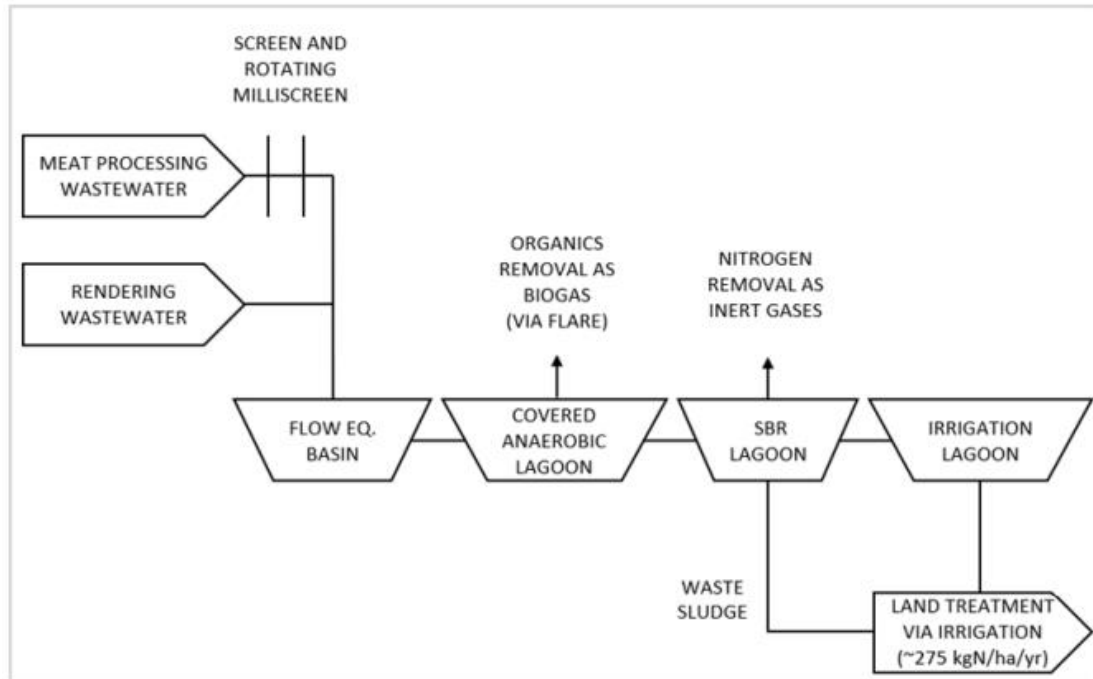


Figure 1 WWTP process diagram

BSM state that the upgrades have resulted in a significant improvement in the removal of contaminants from the wastewater on site, with table 1 below highlighting the improvements for the following key contaminants:

Table 1 Pre and Post-2019 Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Performance

Parameter	Pre-WWTP Upgrade	Post WWTP Upgrade	Percent Removal
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	6,200	62	99%
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	320	86	73%
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (mg/L)	145	10	93%
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	36	24	33%
Fats, Oils and Grease (mg/L)	625	12	98%

Having conducted extensive upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and processing capacity during 2019-2021, the applicant seeks to extend the meat processing season from a 10 month season (prior to the upgrades), to eventually being able to process meat year round. They are proposing to replace seven of the current nine permits as described in table 2 below:

Table 2 BSM consents

AUTH-201192	To discharge contaminants to the ground through the operation of offal pits	Expires 31 December 2022 To be discontinued
AUTH-201191-V1	To discharge up to 1000 cubic metres per day of meat processing and rendering plant wastewater to land at Morton mains via a spray irrigator	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent

AUTH-201190-V1	To take groundwater for a meat processing plant and rendering and blood drying plant	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent
AUTH-201193-V5	To discharge contaminants to air from a meat processing plant, rendering and blood drying plant and associated boilers	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent (combining air permits)
AUTH-20181937-01	To construct, maintain, and use two non-agricultural effluent storage ponds, and to reconstruct, maintain and use a non-agricultural effluent storage pond, for the treatment and storage of meat works effluent.	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent
AUTH-20181937-02	To take and use groundwater for the purpose of dewatering a wastewater treatment and storage pond site	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent
AUTH-20181937-03	To discharge land drainage water and stormwater to water	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent
AUTH-20181937-04	To discharge contaminants to air from a wastewater treatment plant	Expires 31 December 2022 Applying for a new consent (combining air permits)
AUTH-20202379	To install seven bores for the purpose of monitoring	Expires 1 October 2023

The application is for the following resource consents to authorise the proposed activities at the existing meat works processing plant:

- **Discharge permit** for the discharge of up to 1,506 cubic metres per day of treated wastewater, bio-solids, stockyard solids, paunch, sand and grit onto land via K Line pods and a muck spreader.
- **Water permit** for the abstraction of 1,500,000 litres per day (increasing from 1,200,000L/day) and 7,000,000 litres per week (staying the same) from three bores for a meat processing plant and a rendering and blood drying plant.
- **Air discharge permit** to discharge contaminants to air from a meat processing plant, rendering and blood drying plant and associated boilers, the bio-filter, the salting shed, the wastewater treatment plant including the biogas flare, and the application of treated wastewater, bio-solids, stockyard solids and paunch to land.
- **Land use permit** for the use of land for the maintenance and use of three non-agricultural effluent storage ponds for the treatment and storage of meat works effluent.
- **Water permit** to take and use groundwater for the purpose of dewatering a wastewater treatment and storage pond site.
- **Discharge permit** to discharge land drainage water and stormwater to water.

Discharge permit	For the discharge of treated wastewater, bio-solids, stockyard solids, paunch, sand and grit onto land
Relevant rule(s)	Rule 34(a) pSWLP – Discretionary
Maximum volume of effluent discharged per day	1,500m ³ /day of WWTP wastewater and bio-solids; and 6m ³ /day of stockyard solids, paunch and grit.
Maximum volume of effluent discharged per year	157,100m ³ /year of treated wastewater, 57,797m ³ /year of bio-solids (Wastewater and waste activated sludge (WAS)), and

	208m ³ /year of stockyard solids, grit and paunch.
Discharge season	Year round on BSM owned land. 1 October to 31 March on third-party owned land.
Type of effluent?	Treated wastewater, bio-solids, stockyard solids, and paunch
Effluent disposal area (ha)	BSM-owned Land: 77ha (of the 130ha BSM-owned land) Third party land: 101ha (of the 122ha third-party owned land)
Legal description of discharge area:	BSM-owned land Lot 1 DP 14802, Part Lot 7 DP 159, Part Lot 8 DP 159, Lot 1 DP 595 and Lot DP 14802 Third party - owned land Lot 9 DP 159, Lot 12 DP 159, Lot 13 DP 159, Lot 292 DP 155, Lot 293 DP 155 (L. Ward, Deveron Trustees Limited); Lot 1 DP 12194 (D. Burnett, G. Ward, L. Ward, P. Ward, Deveron Trustees Limited); and Lot 1 DP 8287 (G. Ward, V. Ward).
Irrigation method	Low rate K-Line pods
Application rate and depth	Low-rate irrigation system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low rate K Line pods at a 35mm depth and 6mm rate per hour from 1 October to 31 March. • Low rate K Line pods at a 15mm depth and 6mm rate per hour from 1 April to 30 September.
Storage available (m ³)	15,000m ³
Monitoring proposed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per consent conditions
Water permit	For the abstraction of groundwater for a meat processing plant and a rendering and blood drying plant.
Relevant rule(s)	Rule 54(e) pSWLP - Discretionary Rule 23(d) RWP –Discretionary
Source of water (bore or watercourse)	F46/0517 F46/0561 F46/1128
Groundwater zone	Waihopai
Aquifer type (for groundwater takes)	Confined aquifer (Tertiary aquifer zone: Middle Gore Lignite Measures)
Rate of take (L/s)	40L/s
Freshwater storage onsite? How much?	334m ³
Daily volume (L/day)	1,500,000L (Increasing from 1,200,000L)
Discretionary allocation (m ³ /year)	75% of the 3,630m ³ to 9,770m ³ estimated throughflow
Amount currently allocated to other users (m ³ /year and % of discretionary allocation)	Total take of 246m ³ estimated as 2.5 - 6.8% of the throughflow

% of allocation from the Applicant	Total take of 1,500m ³ estimated as 15-41% of the throughflow
Air discharge permit	
Relevant rule(s)	To discharge contaminants to air RAP: Rule 5.5.2(2) Stage 2 – Discretionary RAP: Rule 5.5.2(4) Stage 2 – Discretionary RAP: Rule 5.5.2(16) Stage 2 - Discretionary
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of heat release exceeds 5 MW • Application of heat to animal matter • Foulwater treatment processes
Discharges to air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine particulate matter (PM₁₀), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) from coal-fired boilers • Odour from rendering and skin salting • Odour from wastewater treatment plant • Odour from treated wastewater being discharged to land
Land use consent	
Relevant rule(s)	Non-agricultural effluent storage ponds Rule 32C(a) (pSWLP) – Restricted Discretionary
Pond Designer	Pattle Delamore Partners Limited
Site location (NZTM2000)	1264980E, 4857640N
Drawings from engineer supplied?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Method of sealing pond	synthetic liner
Storage available (m ³)	5,000m ³ covered anaerobic lagoon (CAL) 6,000m ³ aerobic lagoon (sequencing batch reactor (SBR)) 800m ³ Flow equalisation basin
Leak detection system?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Operational Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Water permit – Dewatering	
Relevant rule(s)	To take groundwater for the purpose of dewatering a wastewater treatment and storage pond site RWP: Rule 23(d)(iv) - Discretionary pSWLP: Rule 54(d) - Discretionary
Source of water	Groundwater around the perimeter of the WWTP lagoons
Groundwater zone/name of watercourse	Waihopai
Aquifer type (for groundwater takes)	Lowland
Catchment	Waihopai River
FMU	Oreti
Rate of take (L/s)	6L/s
Discretionary allocation (m ³ /year)	54,100,000 m ³ /year under RWP 44,500,000 m ³ /year under pSWLP
Amount currently allocated (m ³ /year)	3,642,140 m ³ /year under RWP (7%) 2,629,689 m ³ /year under pSWLP (5.9%)

Discharge permit – Dewatered groundwater to surface water	To discharge land drainage water and stormwater to surface water
Relevant rule(s)	RWP: Rule 3 - Discretionary pSWLP: Rule 5 - Discretionary
Discharge type	Dewatered groundwater and stormwater to surface water
Rate of discharge (L/s)	6L/s 24hours/day
Receiving waters	Artificial watercourse, that flows to a tributary of the Waihopai River
Discharge location description	Open drain
Discharge point map reference (NZTM 2000)	1265121E 4857701N

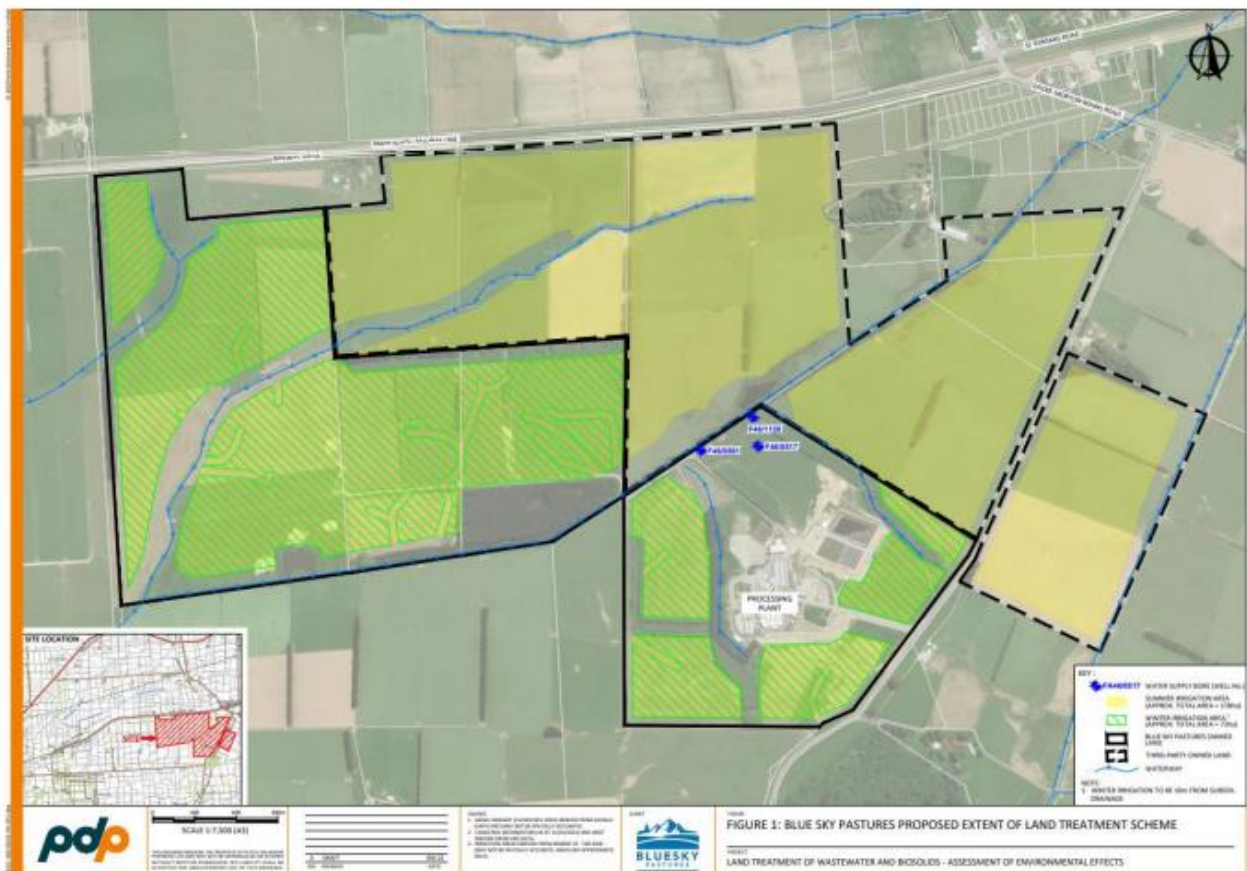


Figure 2: Location of the BSM site and proposed discharge area

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

Effects and Issues

The application is for multiple meat works processing activities. Associated with these activities there are a number of environmental effects. These include;

- *The proposed discharge to land;*
- *The proposed discharge to water from dewatering groundwater around the wastewater treatment facilities;*

- *The adverse effects on the receiving environment of the discharge of treated wastewater to land; with specific regard to levels of nitrogen, ammonia and microbial contaminants;*
- *The effects of the proposed water abstraction on the allocation of a confined aquifer;*
- *The effects on human and animal health;*
- *The effects on cultural values; and*
- *The proposed consent term.*

The Assessment of Environmental Effects is supported by various technical assessments, and lists of proposed conditions in the application and supporting appendices.

Public Notification

Under s95A(3)(a) the application **must** be publicly notified as requested by the applicant. The applicant has corresponded with Environment Southland that the basis of lodgement is that the Council will publicly notify the application.

BSM hosted a half day consultation meeting and site visit on 26 January 2021 to discuss the plant, current and future proposed processes, and the consent replacements. Potentially interested parties were invited to the meeting, including:

- Te Ao Marama Inc. (TAMI)
- Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Fish and Game
- Public Health South (PHS)
- Southland District Council (SDC)
- Hokonui Runanga
- Environment Southland

The majority of interested parties attended with the exception of Te Ao Marama Inc. who put in an apology, Hokonui Runanga because they determined the site is outside their Takiwa, and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu who did not respond to the invite. Southland District Council acknowledged the invitation but declined to join due to limited interest in a regional council consenting process. A similar session was also held for surrounding neighbours. Te Ao Marama Inc. visited the site on 13 April 2022 and undertook a tour of the site.

In early May 2022 a summary AEE was prepared and circulated to the potentially interested parties who were invited to provide feedback. Prior to lodging the application for resource consent, feedback was received from some of the potentially affected parties. A neighbour, Public Health South, and Fish and Game Southland provided feedback where some of their concerns were able to be addressed in the application prior to lodgement but not all. These concerns are explained in the application.



Ryan Hodgson
Senior Consents Officer

Date: 12 January 2023

Delegated Authority Sign Off

The application will be publicly notified



This decision is made under delegated authority by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Halligan', with a small dot at the end.

Bruce Halligan
Consents Manager

Date: 12 January 2023