

Bell Block Land Holdings Limited
Monitoring Programme
Annual Report
2013-2014

Technical Report 2014-101

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Taranaki Regional Council
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March 2015

Executive summary

Bell Block Land Holdings Ltd and AJ Cowley Ltd (the Company) operated a cleanfill located on the closed quarry site on Manutahi Rd, Bell Block. The site is in the Waiongana catchment and was previously quarried by Winstone Aggregates but operations ceased at the site in 2003. The large site has now in part; been backfilled with cleanfill material. This report for the period July 2013-June 2014 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess each consent holder's environmental performance during the period under review, and the results and environmental effects of their activities.

During the monitoring period Bell Block Land Holdings and AJ Cowley demonstrated an overall high level of environmental performance.

The Company held one resource consent, which includes a total of eight conditions setting out the requirements that the consent holders must satisfy regarding the discharge of cleanfill onto and into land.

The Council's monitoring programme for the period under review included two inspections focusing on dust/odour control, waste acceptance, site management and reinstatement and two water samples.

During this monitoring period, the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance. During the period, extensive reinstatement activities were undertaken at the site and there was only a very small active face consisting of inert clean fill material. In June 2014 the consent expired and the quarry site continues to be reinstated under a riparian planting plan held with Council's land management department.

The Council received no complaints about the site and no incidents were logged between July 2013 and June 2014.

This report includes recommendations for the 2014-2015 year.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

1.1.1 Introduction

This report is the Annual Report for the period July 2013-June 2014 by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) describing the monitoring programme associated with the resource consent held by Bell Block Land Holdings and AJ Cowley Ltd (the Company). The Company operated a cleanfill situated on Manutahi Road, Bell Block, in the Waiongana catchment.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consents held by the Company that relates to the discharge of cleanfill to land in the Waiongana catchment. This is the 8th Annual Report to be prepared by the Council to cover the Company's discharges and their effects.

1.1.2 Structure of this report

Section 1 of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about compliance monitoring under the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) and the Council's obligations and general approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes, the resource consents held by the Company, the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review, and a description of the activities and operations conducted in the Company's site/catchment.

Section 2 presents the results of monitoring during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

Section 3 discusses the results, their interpretations, and their significance for the environment.

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2014-2015 monitoring year.

A glossary of common abbreviations and scientific terms, and a bibliography, are presented at the end of the report.

1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

The *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) primarily addresses environmental 'effects' which are defined as positive or adverse, temporary or permanent, past, present or future, or cumulative. Effects may arise in relation to:

- (a) the neighbourhood or the wider community around an activity, and may include cultural and social-economic effects;
- (b) physical effects on the locality, including landscape, amenity and visual effects;
- (c) ecosystems, including effects on plants, animals, or habitats, whether aquatic or terrestrial;

- (d) natural and physical resources having special significance (for example recreational, cultural, or aesthetic);
- (e) risks to the neighbourhood or environment.

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each activity. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the obligations of the RMA to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with section 35 of the RMA, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans, and maintains an overview of the performance of resource users and consent holders. Compliance monitoring, including both activity and impact monitoring, enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods and considered responsible resource utilisation, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental and administrative performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the consent holder/s during the period under review, this report also assigns a rating as to the Company's environmental and administrative performance.

Environmental performance is concerned with actual or likely effects on the receiving environment from the activities during the monitoring year. **Administrative performance** is concerned with the Company's approach to demonstrating consent compliance in site operations and management including the timely provision of information to Council (such as contingency plans and water take data) in accordance with consent conditions.

Events that were beyond the control of the consent holder and unforeseeable (that is a defence under the provisions of the RMA can be established) may be excluded with regard to the performance rating applied. For example loss of data due to a flood destroying deployed field equipment.

The categories used by the Council for this monitoring period, and their interpretation, are as follows:

Environmental Performance

- **High** No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving significant environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.
- **Good** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports, but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been

dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects; however abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur.

For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
 - Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.
- **Improvement required** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.
 - **Poor** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

Administrative performance

- **High** The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.
- **Good** Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.
- **Improvement required** Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.
- **Poor** Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.

For reference, in the 2013-2014 year, 60% of consent holders in Taranaki monitored through tailored compliance monitoring programmes achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 29% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents.

1.2 Process description

Several companies have operated on the site in the past, carrying out different activities. A more comprehensive overview of the site's history is presented in the Taranaki Regional Council, Technical Report 2004-82 (Taranaki Regional Council, 2004).

Currently the site on Manutahi Road, Bell Block is a closed quarry, which is currently being backfilled with cleanfill material. The consent to discharge cleanfill is held by Bell Block Land Holdings Limited & AJ Cowley Limited.

Cleanfilling operations have ceased and the site has undergone extensive reinstatement and planting.

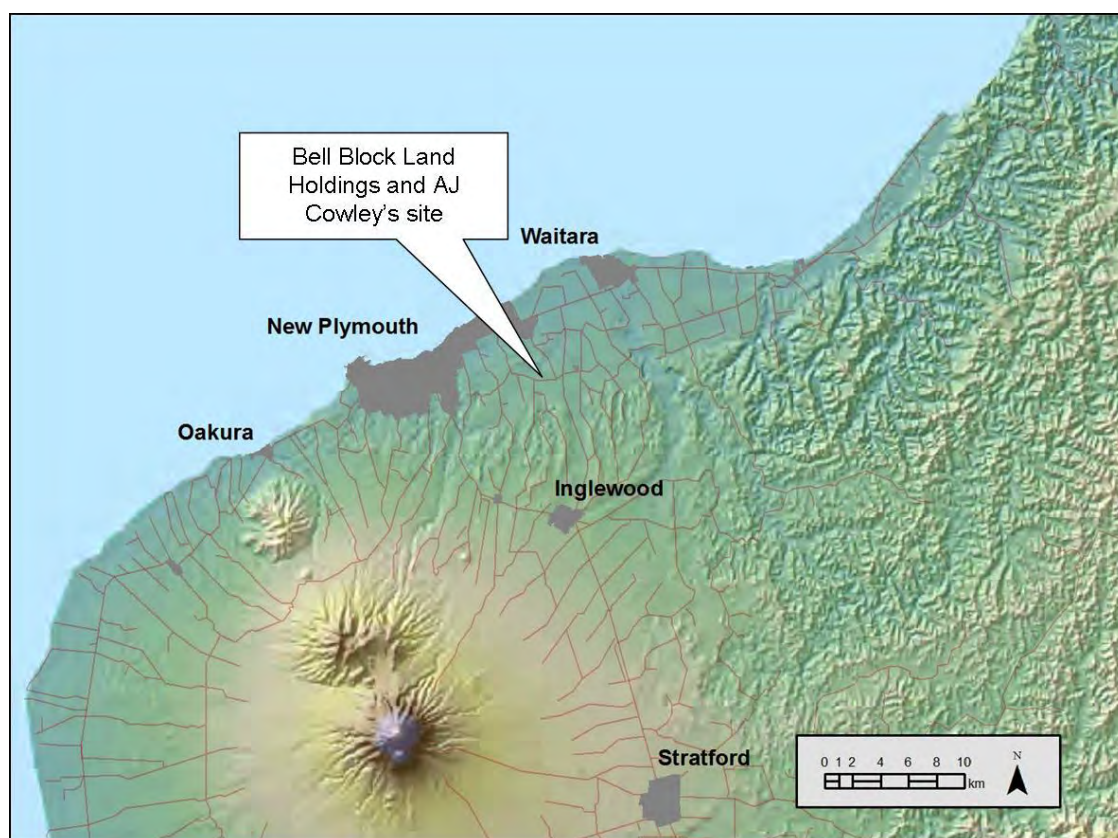


Figure 1 Location of cleanfill site

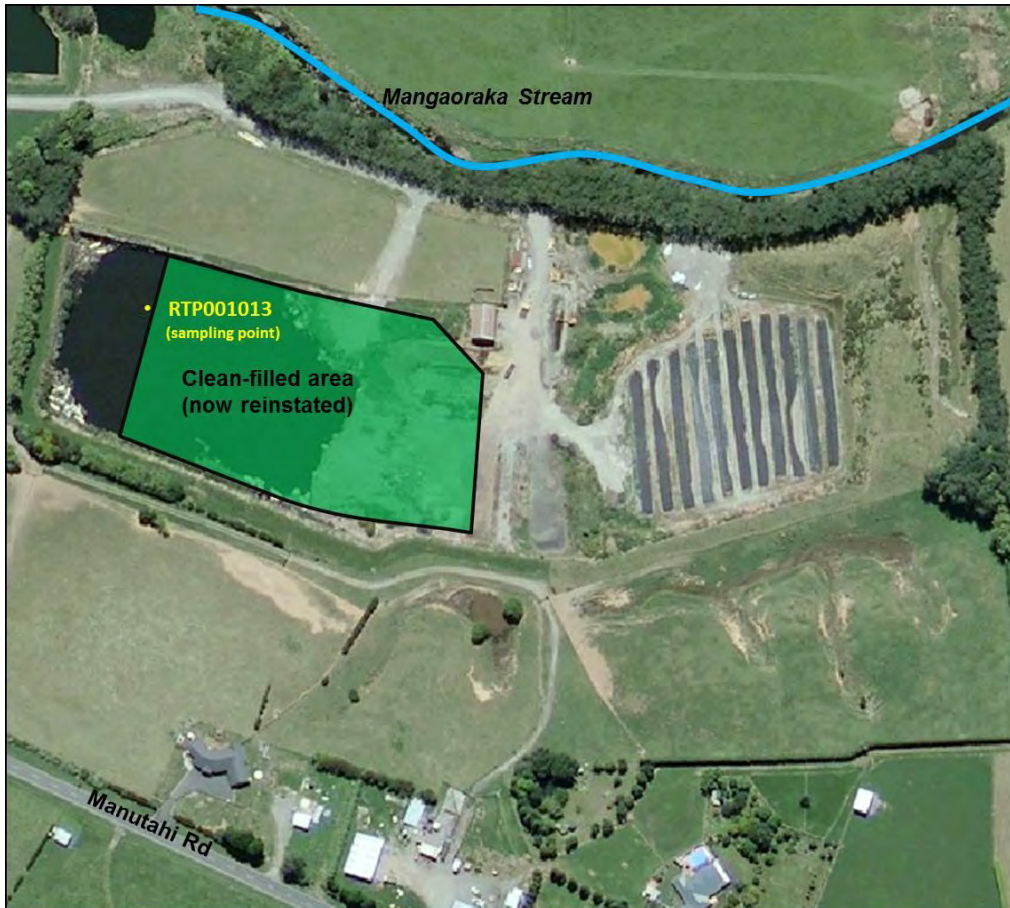


Figure 2 Aerial view of site

1.3 Resource consent

1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

The Company hold discharge permit **5606-1** to cover the discharge of cleanfill material onto and into land for quarry reinstatement purposes. This permit was issued by the Council on 14 March 2000 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It was reviewed on 21 November 2002 and expired on 1 June 2014.

This consent was also transferred to Rockvale Deer Stud and AJ Cowley in June 2004 and reviewed in June 2008. However as a result of a procedural anomaly in processing the transfer of the consent, the transfer and the review were deemed invalid and the original consent issued to Bell Block Holdings Limited and AJ Cowley Limited remains in force.

The consent has eight special conditions.

Special condition 1 requires the consent to be exercised in accordance with the information provided with the consent application and limits the discharge of cleanfill to the site.

Special conditions 2 and 3 specify the types of materials that can and cannot be discharged to the cleanfill, while special condition 4 requires approval from the Council to discharge any materials not specified in conditions 2 or 3.

Special condition 5 prohibits any contamination from the discharge entering surface water, while special condition 6 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practical option to prevent or minimise adverse environmental effects from the discharge.

Special condition 7 refers to site reinstatement, while special condition 8 is a review provision.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix 1.

1.4 Monitoring programme

1.4.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the RMA sets out obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor, and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents, and the effects arising, within the Taranaki region and report upon these.

The Council may therefore make and record measurements of physical and chemical parameters, take samples for analysis, carry out surveys and inspections, conduct investigations, and seek information from consent holders.

The monitoring programme for the Company's site consisted of three primary components.

1.4.2 Programme liaison and management

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Council in:

- ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application;
- in discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any reviews;
- renewals;
- new consents;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans and;
- consultation on associated matters.

1.4.3 Site inspections

The cleanfill site was visited two times during the monitoring period. The main points of interest were the materials being accepted for filling and site reinstatement.

1.4.4 Chemical sampling

The Council undertook sampling of the lake adjacent the cleanfill site on two occasions.

1.5 Results

1.5.1 Inspections

2 October 2013

The cleanfill area looked good and not much material had been discharged. The majority of the site has been re-instated and re-grassed. A sample was collected out of the lake for analysis. There was no compost on-site and the site was clean and tidy.

18 March 2014

The cleanfill area looked good and there appeared to have been very little activity. The majority of the site has been re-instated and re-grassed. A sample was collected out of the lake for analysis.

1.5.2 Results of discharge monitoring

Two samples from the lake were taken immediately adjacent to the eastern bank which was once the tip face. The results are shown in Table 1. The location of the sampling point is shown in Figure 1 in section 1.2

Table 1 Results of analysis from site RTP001013 (and summary of previous analyses)

Parameter	Unit	2 Oct 2013	18 Mar 2014	Min	Max	Median	N
Ammoniacal nitrogen	g/m ³	0.406	0.062	0.077	2.98	0.802	3
Biochemical oxygen demand	g/m ³	1.8	2.5	4	78	10	3
pH	pH	7.9	8.0	6.6	8	6.4	4
Suspended solids	g/m ³	4	-	4	39	24	4
Temperature	Deg C	14.7	20.2	15.3	23	19.8	4
Turbidity	NTU	2.7	2.9	2.6	25	12	3
Un-ionised ammonia.	g/m ³	0.01020	0.00290	0.00068	0.03962	0.00340	4

The sampling shows that the water quality in the lake continues to show the marked improvement observed since the bulk of the tipface was closed. On one occasion unionized ammonia was slightly elevated, however the level was still well below the 0.025 g/m³ guideline value. Subsequent sampling showed un-ionised ammonia to be at far lower levels. Biochemical oxygen demand was also the lowest recorded levels and within acceptable ranges. When taken into account that the samples are taken just from the lake whilst standing on the tipface (now reinstated bank) these levels would be expected to be far lower after reasonable mixing occurs.

1.6 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

The monitoring programme for the year was based on what was considered to be an appropriate level of monitoring, review of data, and liaison with the consent holder. During the year matters may arise which require additional activity by the Council, for example provision of advice and information, or investigation of potential or actual courses of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach that in the first instance avoids issues occurring is favoured.

The Council operates and maintains a register of all complaints or reported and discovered excursions from acceptable limits and practices, including non-compliance with consents, which may damage the environment. The Unauthorised Incident Register (UIR) includes events where the Company concerned has itself notified the Council. The register contains details of any investigation and corrective action taken.

Complaints may be alleged to be associated with a particular site. If there is potentially an issue of legal liability, the Council must be able to prove by investigation that the identified company is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

In the 2013-2014 period, the Council *was not* required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with the Company's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans.

2. Discussion

2.1 Discussion of site performance

The reinstatement of the site has been successful overall it has been well managed. The consent ceased to accept cleanfill prior to 1 June 2014 and the consent holder opted to let consent 5606 expire. A very small section of tipface still hadn't been planted out, however a riparian plan was in place and plants purchased from Council were on site for this purpose. The monitoring of this last section of reinstatement was undertaken by Council land management department which reports that the works had been completed and that further plantings had been undertaken at various places around the site. A copy of the riparian plan map is attached as Appendix II.

Overall the site was managed well and the extensive quarry reinstatement plantings have continued.

2.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

The lake water quality appears to be good and no adverse environmental effects were observed during the monitoring period.

On the basis of the information collected during the period under review, the site is not likely to have any significant adverse effect on the environment.

2.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of performance for consent 5606-1 to discharge cleanfill material onto and into land for quarry reinstatement purposes

Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Comply with information submitted in support of application	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management and inspections	Yes
2. Only discharge cleanfill and/or inert materials	Site specific monitoring programme – inspections	Yes
3. No discharge of materials detailed in this consent condition	Site specific monitoring programme – inspections	Yes
4. If the acceptability of a substance is uncertain, obtain approval from the Council	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management and inspections	Yes
5. Discharge to land shall not result in contamination of surface water	Site specific monitoring programme – water quality sampling	Yes
6. The consent holder shall adopt the best practicable option when exercising the consent	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management	Yes
7. Upon completion the discharge site shall be stabilised and grassed	Site specific monitoring programme – programme management	Yes

Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
8. Optional review provision	No review option in 2014	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		High
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

During the monitoring period the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance in regards to the cleanfill operation. The Company has undertaken a significant amount of reinstatement works at the site and has enhanced what was once one of the largest quarry sites in Taranaki.

2.4 Recommendation from the 2012-2013 Annual Report

THAT for 2013-2014, the monitoring of discharges at the Company's site continues at the same level as in the 2012-2013 period.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

2.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2014-2015

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account the extent of information made available by previous authorities, its relevance under the RMA the obligations of the Act in terms of monitoring emissions/ discharges and effects, and subsequently reporting to the regional community. The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki emitting to the atmosphere/ discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that for 2013-2014, the monitoring of discharges at the Company's site be discontinued as the operations have been discontinued and consent has expired.

3. Recommendation

That for 2013-2014, the monitoring of discharges at the Company's site be discontinued as the operations have been discontinued and consent has expired.

Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms may be used within this report:

BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand. A measure of the presence of degradable organic matter, taking into account the biological conversion of ammonia to nitrate.
Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
NH ₄	Ammonium, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NH ₃	Unionised ammonia, normally expressed in terms of the mass of nitrogen (N).
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the turbidity of water.
pH	A numerical system for measuring acidity in solutions, with 7 as neutral. Numbers lower than 7 are increasingly acidic and higher than 7 are increasingly alkaline. The scale is logarithmic i.e. a change of 1 represents a ten-fold change in strength. For example, a pH of 4 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 5.
Resource consent	Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).
RMA	<i>Resource Management Act</i> 1991 and including all subsequent amendments.
SS	Suspended solids.
Temp	Temperature, measured in °C (degrees Celsius).
Turbidity	Turbidity, expressed in NTU.
UI	Unauthorised Incident.
UIR	Unauthorised Incident Register – contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan.

For further information on analytical methods, contact the Council's laboratory.

Bibliography and references

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Appendix I

**Resource consents held by
Bell Block Holdings and AJ Cowley Ltd**

5606-1



EXPIRED

1/6/2014)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE
PRIVATE BAG 713
47 CLOTEN ROAD
STRATFORD
NEW ZEALAND
PHONE 06-765 7127
FAX 06-765 5097

Please quote our file number
on all correspondence

Discharge Permit
Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991
a resource consent is hereby granted by the
Taranaki Regional Council

Name of Consent Holder: Bell Block Land Holdings Limited and A J Cowley Limited
P O Box 230
NEW PLYMOUTH



Review Completed Date: 21 November 2002 [Granted: 14 March 2000]

Conditions of Consent

Consent Granted: To discharge cleanfill onto and into land in the vicinity of an unnamed tributary of the Mangaoraka Stream in the Waiongana catchment for quarry reinstatement purposes at or about GR: Q19:107-375

Expiry Date: 1 June 2014

Review Date(s): June 2002, June 2008

Site Location: Manutahi Road, Bell Block

Legal Description: Pt Secs 4 & 7 Tarurutangi Dist Blk VI Paritutu SD

Catchment: Waiongana

Tributary: Mangaoraka

*For General, Standard and Special conditions
pertaining to this consent please see reverse side of this document*

www.trc.govt.nz

EXPIRED

General conditions

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council (hereinafter the Chief Executive), the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
 - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
 - ii) charges authorised by regulations.



Special conditions

- 1. The exercise of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with the information submitted in support of the application and be limited to two sites. Discharges to other areas at the site shall only occur after written approval is obtained from the Consents Manager, Taranaki Regional Council.
- 2. The contaminants to be discharged shall be limited to cleanfill and/or inert materials. For the purposes of this condition, "clean fill and inert materials" are defined as materials consisting of any concrete, cement or cement wastes, bricks, mortar, tiles (clay, ceramic or concrete), non-tanalised timber, porcelain, glass, gravels, boulders, shingles, fibreglass, plastics, sand, soils and clays, and/or tree stumps and roots, whether singly or in combination or mixture, or any other material that when placed onto and into land will not render that land or any vegetation grown on that land toxic to vegetation or animals consuming vegetation.
- 3. The discharge of the following contaminants shall not occur: food wastes, paper and cardboard, grass clippings, garden wastes containing more than 5% green vegetation by weight, textiles, steel, galvanised metals, construction materials containing paint or fillers or sealers or their containers, oils or greases or any liquids or sludges or their containers, any industrial process by-products other than as permitted under condition 2, any poisons or solvents or their containers, batteries, general domestic refuse not otherwise described, or any wastes with the potential to render land or any vegetation grown on the land toxic to vegetation or to animals consuming such vegetation.
- 4. If the consent holder is uncertain as to the acceptability or not of a certain material the consent holder shall obtain written approval from the Consents Manager, Taranaki Regional Council, prior to its discharge.
- 5. The discharge to land shall not result in any contaminant entering surface water.
- 6. Notwithstanding any conditions within this consent, the consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option or options [as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991] to prevent or minimise any actual or potential effect on the environment arising from any discharge at the site.
- 7. Upon completion of the works associated with the exercise of this consent, the discharge site covered by this consent shall be stabilised and revegetated to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.

EXPIRED

Consent 5606-1

8. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2008, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Signed at Stratford on 21 November 2002

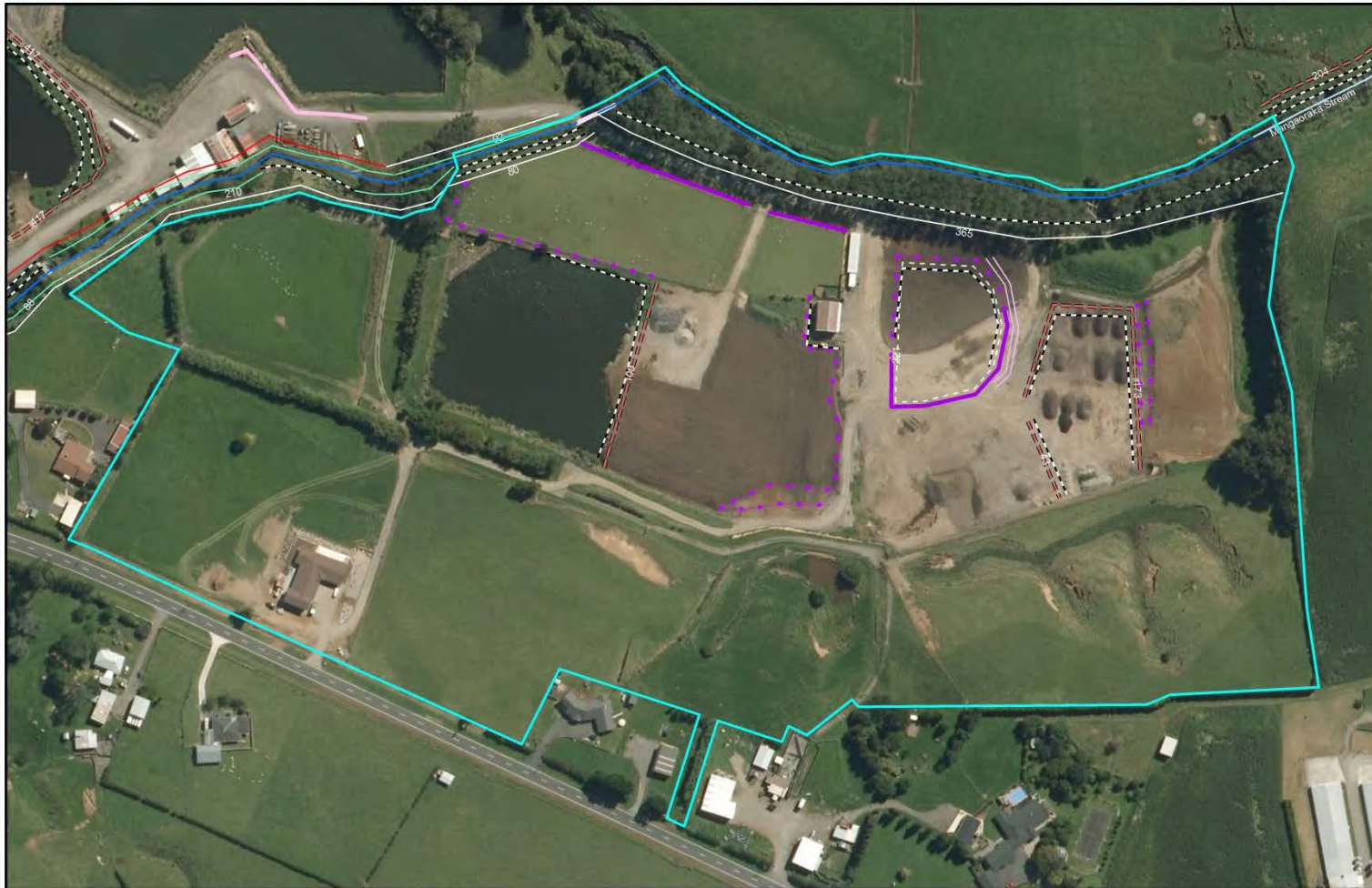
For and on behalf of
Taranaki Regional Council



Director-Resource Management

Appendix II
Riparian Planting Plan

902397 - Neil & Jeannette Cowley, Neil Cowley -119 Manutahi Road - PH: 06-7550750 - LMO: Robertson, C



- LEGEND**
- Farm Boundary
 - Stream
 - Fonterra Waterway
 - Existing fencing
 - - - Proposed fencing
 - - - Proposed fencing completed
 - Existing vegetation
 - Proposed Zone C Native
 - Proposed Zone B Native
 - Proposed Zone B and C Native
 - Proposed Zone C Exotic
 - Proposed Zone B Exotic
 - - - Proposed planting completed
 - - - Proposed Shelterbelt
 - - - Proposed Shelterbelt completed
 - Race
 - Road
 - Natural barrier
 - Existing bridge
 - Proposed bridge
 - Existing culvert
 - Proposed culvert
 - Piping

SCALE 1:1,901

0 30 60 120 Meters

DATE: Dec 16, 2014



FARM PLAN 902397	EXISTING FENCE WITH						PROPOSED FENCE WITH						LENGTH OF STREAM BANK WITH		
	NO VEG	PROP VEG	EXIST VEG	NO VEG	PROP VEG	EXIST VEG	BANK	PROTECTED	PROPOSED						
ORIGINAL (28/05/2012)	15m	3%	420m	97%	0m	0%	0m	0%	0m	0%	435m	15m	3%	420m	97%
CURRENT (16/12/2014)	15m	3%	0m	0%	420m	97%	0m	0%	0m	0%	435m	435m	100%	0m	0%
WORK DONE: (m) (%)	FENCING: 0m		0% of recommended work				PLANTING: 420m		100% of recommended work						