

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

HEARING OF RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION BY THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTE #5 OF THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS

Introduction

1. The hearing for the application lodged by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**the Applicant**) to discharge untreated wastewater to various receiving environments via overflows from wastewater infrastructure throughout the Queenstown Lakes District was held between Monday 4 November and Thursday 7 November 2019.
2. On Friday 8 November 2019 we undertook our site visit. We visited many of the sites (most of which were pump stations) which formed the basis of the ecological risk assessment and that Dr Olsen recommended we visit. However, we also visited other sites which were not on Dr Olsen's recommendation list.
3. During our site visit we looked at the potential overflow locations and their proximity to receiving waterbodies. We also referred to the descriptors and distances to water outlined in Table 6 of Dr Olsen's statement of evidence – all references to Dr Olsen's 'table' in this Minute refers to Table 6 of his evidence.
4. This Minute requests some points of clarification from the Applicant on matters that we observed during our site visit. We request that responses to this Minute be included in the Applicant's written Right of Reply which is due on 6 December 2019 (refer to Minute #4 which outlines the timetable for provision of the Right of Reply).

Site Number 6 – Pump Station on Dungarvon Street, Wanaka

5. Dr Olsen's table identifies the distance to water from any overflow from Site Number 6 as 71 m, which appears to be the distance from the pump station to Bullock Creek. However, it would appear that any wastewater overflow from the pump station would flow over land for a short distance, then across the road before flowing down the kerb and channel of Dungarvon Street to a stormwater catch-pit. There appears to be a white PVC pipe from the catch-pit that emerges on the banks of Bullock Creek. If this arrangement is correct, then we question whether the 'distance to water' should, in fact, be the distance between the PVC pipe and Bullock Creek, being in the order of 1 to 2 m, as the end of the PVC pipe would be the effective 'point of discharge' of any overflows from this pump station. We note in this situation that the Applicant would have full control of the overflow discharge from the pump station until control is lost at the end of the PVC pipe.

Site Number 27 – Pump Station beside Park Street, Queenstown

6. Like the pump station at Dungarvon Street, Wanaka, discussed above, any overflow from the pump station beside Park Street, Queenstown, would appear to flow into a stormwater catch pit that has a pipe which discharges very close to the edge of Lake Wakatipu. However, Dr Olsen's table identifies the distance as being 25 m, which appears to be the distance from the pump station to the lake edge, rather than the distance from the end of the pipe to the lake edge.

Site Number 25 – Pump Station at Frankton Beach

7. Dr Olsen's table states the distance to water for any overflows from Site Number 25 (Frankton Beach Pump Station) as being 60 m. However, we question this distance as 60 m from the lake edge would appear to be quite some distance up the grass bank adjacent to the pump station. It would appear to us that the actual distance is much smaller, in the order of 15 m (refer photograph below).



8. If any party wishes to seek further clarification in relation to this Minute please contact Ms Rebecca Jackson of the ORC in the first instance, email: rebecca.jackson@orc.govt.nz or phone 0800 474 082.

DATED 11 November 2019

Dr Rob Loeffering
On behalf of the Commissioners