

31 July 2020

Waikato Regional Council  
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Dear Sir/Madam

**APP139736 - Fonterra Cooperative Group Limited – Hautapu site – Resource Consent Applications**

Thank you for giving Hamilton City Council (HCC) the opportunity to provide a staff submission on the application of Fonterra Group - Hautapu to discharge dairy wastewater to the Waikato river. It is noted that the applications relate to land and air discharges, dairy processing water discharge to the Waikato River, groundwater takes for irrigation line flushing and shed cleaning, and the maintenance and use of a diffuser structure in the bed of Waikato River.

HCC notes that the Hautapu site falls within the Mangaonua catchment, some of which falls within Hamilton City Council responsibility but with no discharges to tributaries of the Mangaonua. HCC's primary interest in this application therefore relates to the discharge of dairy processing water discharge to the Waikato River.

Hamilton City Council supports the following provisions of the application: Recognition of Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato for its discharges; Water use minimisation; Management of stock to minimise leaching; Riparian improvements to Mangaone stream; Stormwater infrastructure and treatment improvements; and the incorporation of the use of maatauranga Maaori methodologies to evaluate environmental effects on surface water.

HCC has not completed further scientific analysis to assess the likely impacts of the discharges on the river and specifically our drinking water intake, however HCC notes that there are potentially high discharges of E.coli and that there may be potential to decrease the assimilation capacity of the Waikato River.

HCC is also mindful of city residents who use the river recreationally. HCC needs parties upstream of the city to be cognisant of their responsibilities under the National Environment Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water.

Hamilton City Council is part of a subregion that is committed to giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato (Vision and Strategy).

In this regard, it is expected that Fonterra Group apply best practice management including communication and response plans for its discharges. It is also expected that conditions are placed on relevant resource consents that require notification of drinking water suppliers and downstream river users if significant unintended events occur that may adversely affect sources of human drinking water and recreational use. Our expectation is that Hamilton City Council will be part of any established and/or developed notification framework and distribution list.

HCC also seeks that resource consent conditions are aligned with giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato.

Hamilton City Council does wish to be heard.

Yours sincerely



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