

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information			
Project Name:	Gravel Liaison Committee Annual Meeting		
Meeting Date:	13 th December 2021	Location:	Environment Canterbury, Tuam Street and via TEAMS
Attended By:	George Kelcher (South Canterbury Industry Rep), Brett Swain (Waimakariri Industry Rep.), Richard Egden (North Industry Rep.), Angela Christensen (Central South Island Fish and Game), Lyndon Slater (North Fish and Game), Mary-Anne Baxter (DOC), Environment Canterbury – Councillor Elizabeth McKenzie, Councillor Ian Mackenzie, Tumu Taiao Cranwell, Leigh Griffiths, Sarah Worthington, Stephanie Symns, Matthew Surman, Tia Matchitt, Jolene Irvine, Verity Kirstein		
Apologies:	David Rowlands (Central Industry Rep)		

1 Introductions

Verity Kirstein started the meeting on Teams. Tumu Taiao Cranwell gave a karakia and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting, Matters arising

Previous meeting was held 09 December 2020. A motion was introduced by Verity Kirstein that the committee endorse that the minutes from the previous meeting are a true and correct record and that the group adopts the minutes of the meeting held on 09 December 2020. This was accepted by George Kelcher.

3 Meeting Notes, Issues, Decisions

Actions from last meeting:

- 1. Information regarding small permitted activity gravel takes**
UPDATE: Done, enclosed with last minutes
- 2. Information re expected timeline of 5 year LiDAR programme**
UPDATE: to be presented in this meeting
- 3. Update Canterbury Maps Availability data**
UPDATE: Done – new round of updates pending
- 4. Clarification NES/NPS changes**
UPDATE: Done – provided in newsletter. More information to be presented
- 5. Numbers relating to average cost of consent process for gravel take and air discharge**
UPDATE: to be presented
- 6. Review terms of reference**
UPDATE: to be discussed
- 7. Call for industry representative nominations**
UPDATE: Done
- 8. Amendments to the Code of Practice**
UPDATE: Done – to be sent with minutes

4 Gravel Resources Update

1. Extraction summary

Matthew Surman gave an overview of gravel extraction in Canterbury for the last 10 years in relation to the estimated supply (2008 Regional Gravel Report). The summary gave an overview of the 28 highest demand rivers, where 93 % of the extraction occurs. In summary, demand is higher than supply in 21 of the 28 listed rivers. Some available gravel remains, however, overall, rivers are reaching their extraction limits.

- Northern area: the graph shows an increase in demand above the estimated supply rate following the Kaikoura earthquake
- Waimakariri area: demand exceeds supply and extraction will need to cut back soon to reach a sustainable level. So far, extraction has done a good job at maintaining flood carrying capacity.
- Central area: For a long time there has been a struggle to remove enough gravel to match the supply (e.g. North Branch Ashburton). We have seen an increase in demand post-2019.
- Southern area: Demand has exceeded supply for a number of years now. In these areas, we need to move to land-based extraction in the long run.

The presentation slides are enclosed separately for reference.

2. Consented/ Authorised Volumes

Verity Kirstein provided a summary of currently authorised/ consented volumes per management area. Note that the Ashley and tributaries have been included in the summary for the Waimakariri management area. This area also includes a large consented volume for the Lake Hood Trust and therefore isn't fully representative of purely river extraction.

5 Gravel Team Update

There has been a large increase in enquiries this year, particularly since the May 2021 floods. The Rivers team has fallen behind in responding to these enquiries but is on its way to resolve the backlog.

Katie Nagy's role has not yet been replaced but she will be back next year from maternity leave. Also a reminder that Gravel Authorisations are now processed by the Consents Team and not the Rivers Team at Environment Canterbury. The assistance from the Consents Team has been much appreciated.

Question from Councillor McKenzie: Is there enough budget for the Gravel Officer Role or does it need to be included in the annual plan? Answer: There is enough budget but the issue has been finding a suitable person during the recruitment process. The role has been advertised three times.

6 Works Programme

1. Finances

The fluvial monitoring budget is made up of \$713,000 region wide for 2021. This comes from general rates and from the gravel management fee. Currently, we are spending under budget but expenditures will increase with a big programme of works still to be spent, particularly on the analysis of LiDAR work.

2. Plan for the next 12 months

Plan for next 12 months

Survey

- Waimakariri – routine blocks - **confirmed**
- Kowhai - Blandswood survey – **completed**
- Hinds River - **underway**
- Te Nga Wai and Otaio survey in 2022 – **confirmed**

Analysis

- LiDAR post-flood – **under contract**
- Bed level change assessments – Ashley, Orari - **underway**, Ashburton **next**
- Upper Opihi design bed level report – new staff or external - **confirmed**
- Waipara mean bed level setting

GMS & CoP review - **confirmed**

3. LiDAR Programme

- Northern area: Almost all rivers have had LiDAR at least once in the last three years. We also have new data on a lot of the rivers but the data has not yet been processed. Post flood LiDAR is also available for selected rivers and will need to be included in existing analyses.
- Southern area: Programmed LiDAR isn't planned for another couple of years for most rivers. We have received some post-flood LiDAR for analysis though.

Question from the online chat: Is the gravel from the Ashburton River usable for most applications? Matthew Surman directed the question at the industry representatives. Answer from George Kelcher: is suitable for most uses but the distance to market has to be considered.

Question from Councillor McKenzie: Is ECan working closely with Ashburton District Council to find uses for the gravel from the North Ashburton? Answer from Matt Surman: Most gravel goes to local roading projects and a little goes to farms, depending on demand. There is no specific work plan with ADC.

Question: Have ECan discussed with KiwiRail and NZTA what the transportation costs would be on bulk gravel? Answer from Matt Surman: Not recently. It is up to the industry to decide the best location for gravel closest to market.

Comment from Councillor McKenzie: Erosion bends or river reasserting behaviour? We need to need to consider what vegetation clearance we need to do to give the river sufficient flow capacity. It's only at the extreme events the river would end the way it's shown in the picture.

7 Planning and Consents Update

Saskia Wilson gave an update on current planning and consenting matters.

1. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020

Information was sent out earlier this year in the newsletter. As part of the Essential Freshwater package, the consents section needs to see an assessment against the NPS in every gravel application. One of the main issues is 'copy and paste' of assessments in applications and a lack of specific analyses for the site.

2. National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020

We have received recent clarification from MfE regarding the use of temporary culverts. The installation of temporary culverts requires an assessment against the NES. Note that the limits are different to those in the Land and Water Regional Plan. Additionally, assessments need to also review Plan Change 7 of the LWRP.

Question: How will river engineering change with increasing flood hazards and NPS? Answer: Large flood events are an opportunity to reassess how much room we give the river. With most smaller flooding events and cases it makes sense to repair to the level that we had. The GMS review is also an opportunity to discuss this question.

3. GAs vs. consents

Sarah Worthington showed an overview of % consents issued vs. authorisations issued. The reinforcement of stricter criteria for GAs has not resulted in a marked increase of consent applications. However, there has been a steady decrease for both, GA and consent applications last year.

4. Costs

The deposit fee structure changed as of 1 July 2021 for gravel applications. Additionally, Saskia showed the average cost for processing gravel consents.

- To decrease costs, it is helpful to develop a strong relationship with rūnanga
- Provide a complete application, which includes a reasonable needs assessment.
- While not yet needed for all sites, a site rehabilitation plan can also be helpful.

5. Land access permits

If access via a Regional Park is required, you will need to apply for a land access permit from ECan. Land access permits for ECan owned land are only needed if you are proposing to set up a permanent operation/ processing yard. Please contact your consents planner to clarify any concerns.

6. LINZ licenses

LINZ are obligated to authorise activities on Crown owned land. They are starting to identify where unauthorised activities have occurred. If you haven't applied for a s165 license before, it is likely that you'll be asked to have applied for it during the consenting process.

Question from Councillor Mackenzie: Is large-scale gravel removal from a river like the Ashburton with dangerously excess gravel included in the ECan flood protection budget? Or does ECan rely on

private operators to remove excess gravel? Answer: We have removed the extraction fee already to encourage activity. Not so much about contracting out the removal, more about encouraging the local business to take some gravel out. The river rating district has allocated some money for the removal of gravel but mostly this budget is for stockpiling etc.

8 General Business

- Newsletter subscription link is available on the website.
- Multiple staff have been recruited to fill in Katie's role in the interim.
- Terms of Reference update is required, and the team is working on the best approach. It was proposed that ECan could review and then send out an updated version for comment and input from the Committee.
- Jolene Irvine provided a brief update on minor changes in the Code of Practice. These included updates to the H&S section (responsibility of the operator), gravel management fee, reference to the regional plan (critical habitats), diversions and temporary structures, bird conditions, and new attachments added.

Question from George Kelcher: Wouldn't it be easier if we put all the items for review together for review at once. Answer: These changes to the CoP aren't drastic for anyone so will be circulated in the new year. Larger scale changes are anticipated with the review of the Gravel Management Strategy.

Question: What causes the delay in Terms of Reference update? Answer: With Katie on maternity leave, this item has dropped off. It is largely driven by ECan so draft needs to come from the Rivers team. Leigh Griffiths commented via the chat function that it will need to go to the Catchment Committee for endorsement (or otherwise).

- Anna Ivanova is the project manager assigned to the review of the Gravel Management Strategy. She gave a brief update on the project plan. This review will be out opportunity to revisit the Gravel Management Strategy but it needs to be within statutory requirements and limits.

George Kelcher commented: Workshops for the GMS review should be held in person, not via teams. The whole strategy needs to be very different. It needs to account for climate change, increased adverse weather events and how rivers are designed to accommodate them. Bed levels need to be reviewed to account for higher capacity flows. George also commented on the cost of consenting, additional consultation requirements and ECan staff shortages that are affecting business.

Comments from Angela Christensen and Lyndon Slater: Fish and Game are keen to be part of the review and any workshops that will be set up.

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Councillor Mackenzie commented that it may be a good idea to combine workshops with both committees (Gravel committee and sub-catchment committees), BRR project. He proposed a site visit to capture current extraction process.

Tumu Taiao Cranwell commented: bring in rūnanga to site, bring the rūnanga in early in the discussion for proposed activities as they have past identity to rivers, knowledge of rivers and biodiversity.

Verity Kirstein commented that there is no rūnanga representative in the current meeting. This is because ECan are working with the Tuia team to see how rūnanga are best represented in the Gravel Liaison Committee meetings in the future.

Anna Ivanova commented that the GMS review requires a complex engagement plan to enable everyone's opinions getting heard. Plan to have everyone included.

Mary-Anne Baxter commented: DOC is keen to be involved and having a look at rivers.

Tumu Taiao Cranwell closed the meeting with a karakia at 11.55am.

9 Action Items and Responsibilities

Item	Description	Action & Responsibility	Due Date
1	Circulate date options for workshops	Project Manager	tbc
2	Circulate draft Terms of Reference update	Rivers Team	tbc

10 Next Meeting

Date:	Approx. Dec 2022	Time:	TBA	Venue:	Environment Canterbury, Tuam Street office
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11 Attachments

	Copy of meeting presentation
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Actions from Last Meeting

Item	Description	Action & Responsibility	Due Date	Status
1	Information regarding areas permitted activity gravel zones	Rubble Hays	Included with minutes	Done
2	Information re expected timeline of 5 year LGMN programme	Simon McClelland	Next meeting	To be presented
3	Update Canterbury maps/availability data	Rubble Hays	Next meeting	Done - new round of updates pending
4	Clarification on floodplain changes	Rubble Hays	Other information becomes available	Done - provided in newsletter. More info to be presented.
5	Numbers relating to average cost of consent process for gravel use and air discharge	Rubble Hays	Next meeting	To be presented
6	Review terms of reference	Gravel Liaison Committee	Next meeting	To be discussed
7	Call for industry representative nominations	Rubble Hays	With first newsletter	Done
8	Recommendations to the Lords of Practice	James Irvine	Next meeting	Done - to be sent with minutes

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Gravel Team Update

- We have seen a large increase in gravel availability enquiries, particularly since the May 2021 flood
- We fell behind in responding to these enquiries (delays ~1 month common) but are now back on top of the work
- We do not have a dedicated Gravel Officer however Katie is due back mid 2022
- Reminder that the processing of Gravel Authorisations is now with our Consents Teams, not Rivers

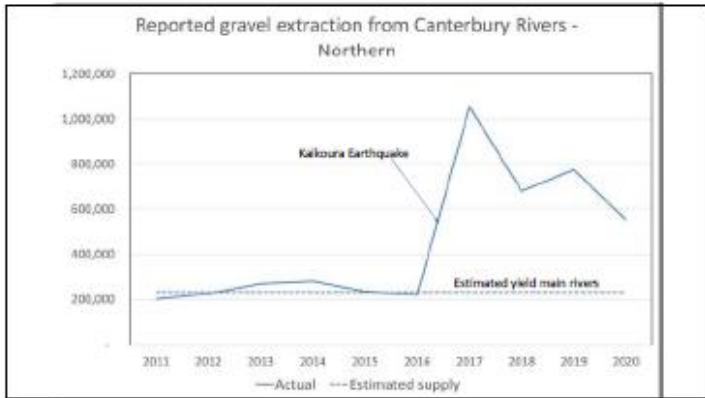
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Extraction summary

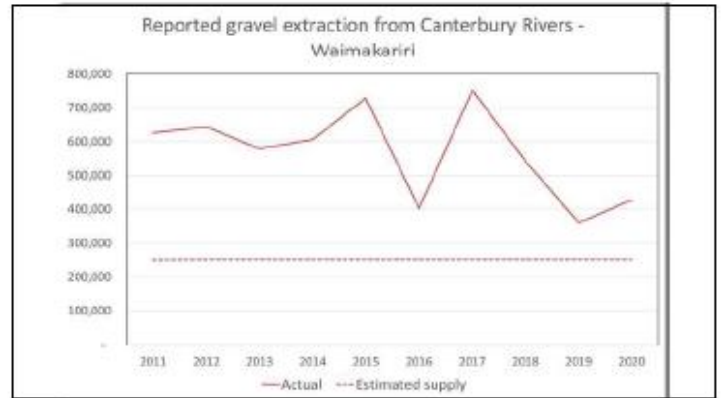
10 years of returns from 28 high demand rivers/areas:
(93% of Canterbury extraction)

	Demand>supply	Demand (like)supply	Supply>demand
Too much gravel	Clarence Selwyn		Too much gravel North Branch Ashburton
Reaching limits	Waimakariri Oreti Kowhai Ashley Dun Hae Hae Te Moana Tengawai Pareora Otaro Makikihi Waikato Lower Waitaki	Hopu Mason Waipara Maberleri Okuku Eyre Sealy Taitamakihi Upper Waitaki tributaries	No significant capacity problem Waio Reteke Rangitata Lower Waitaki Tributaries

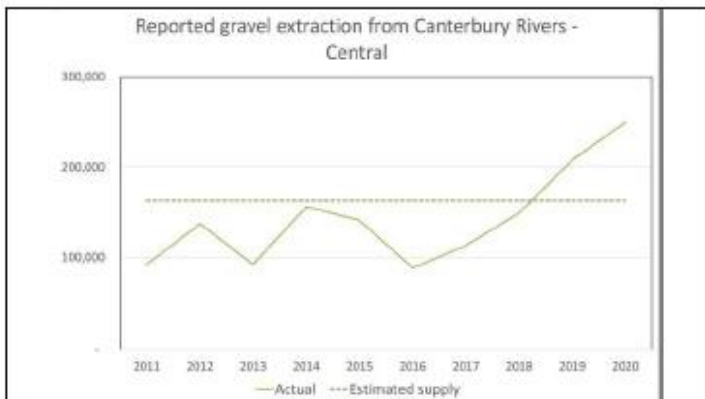
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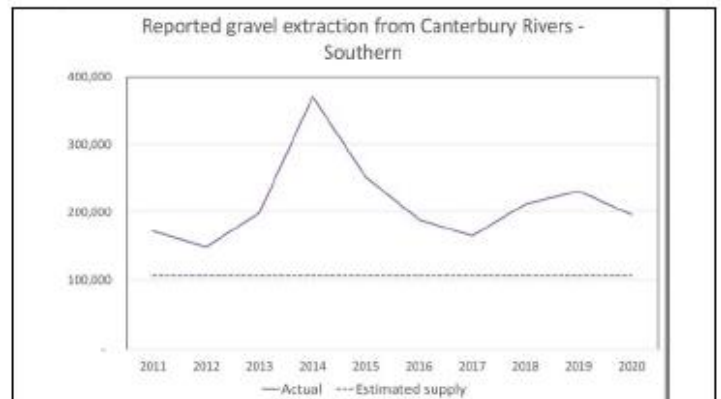
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Current Consented/Authorised Volumes


	VOLUME ALLOCATED	GRAVEL AUTHORISATION	RESOURCE CONSENT
NORTHERN	1,474,100	8	23
WAIMAKARIRI	12,055,540	4	45
CENTRAL	7,796,600	23	16
SOUTHERN	1,641,291	29	27

NOTE: Waimakariri includes Ashley and tributaries

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Canterbury Maps - Gravel Availability

- Updated as of May 2021
- Orari and Pareora to be added to maps



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May 2021 Flood Update

The May 2021 flood event has deposited gravel in:

- Orari River – in patches throughout the system, including Silverton
- Waihi River – upstream Woodbury, Geraldine township and other areas
- Ashburton Rivers
- Selwyn River

There will be ongoing flood repair works in the rivers, which will get priority for gravel if required (for GAs).*

*does not preclude RC applications under the RMA

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Finances

- Fluvial Monitoring budget is \$713,000 (region wide)
 - \$282,198 from general rates
 - \$430,846 from gravel management fee (estimate)
- Current expenditure - \$163,515 (Nov)
 - Mostly availability advice
 - Survey and analysis to increase in 2022

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Plan for next 12 months

Survey

- Waimakariri – routine blocks - **confirmed**
- Kowhai - Blandswood survey – **completed**
- Hinds River - **underway**
- Te Nga Wai and Otaio survey in 2022 – **confirmed**

Analysis

- LIDAR post-flood – **under contract**
- Bed level change assessments – Ashley, Orari - **underway**, Ashburton **next**
- Upper Opihi design bed level report – new staff or external - **confirmed** MSD
- Waipara mean bed level setting

GMS & CoP review - **confirmed**

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LiDAR Programme - Northern half

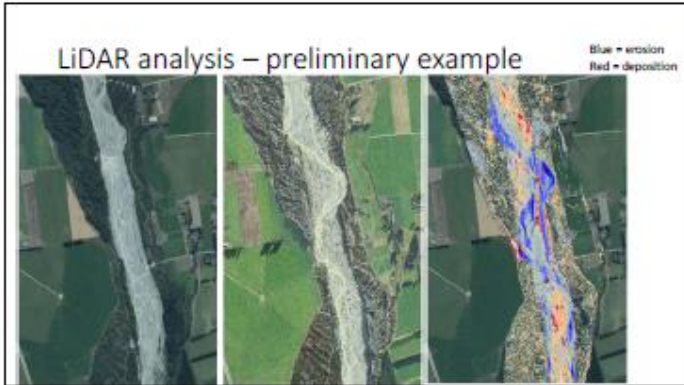
River/area	Last lidar	Next lidar due	Post flood lidar
Clarence	2017	2022	
Hapuku	2017	2022	
Kowhai	2017	2022	
Waiou	2013	flow not yet processed	
Mason	2017	flow not yet processed	
Waipara	2012	flow not yet processed	contracted
Ashley	2019	flow not yet processed	received
Makerikeri	2019	flow not yet processed	
Okuku	2019	flow not yet processed	received
Waimakariri	2018/19	flow not yet processed	
Eyre	2014	flow not yet processed	contracted
Bealey	n/a	2024?	

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LiDAR Programme - Southern half

River/area	Last lidar	Next lidar due	Post flood lidar
Selwyn	2015	2023/24	contracted
Rakala	2015	2023/24	
Ashburton	2018	2023/24	flow
Rangitata	2010	2023/24	
Orari	2018	2023/24	received
Opihi	2018	2023/24	contracted
Hae Hae Te Moana	2018	2023/24	
Tengawai	2018	2023/24	contracted
Tairarakihi	2010	not programmed	
Pareora	2018/19	flow not yet processed	
Otaio	part 2018/19	part flow not yet processed	
Makikihi	2018/19	not programmed	
Waihao	2018/19	not programmed	
Lower Waitaki	part 2018/19	not programmed	
Upper Waitaki tributaries	2017	2023/24	
Lower Waitaki Tributaries	n/a	2023/24	

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National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020

- The Government's Essential Freshwater package aims to arrest the ongoing loss of riverbed habitat and values by ensuring that:
 - Activities that may result in these losses are avoided if at all possible; but
 - Where there is a functional need for an activity to occur, there is a clear management hierarchy that must be followed to address effects of that activity.
- The NPS needs to be assessed for every resource consent application. Clause 3.24 of the NPS needs to be addressed for any resource consent that may result in a loss of river extent or value.

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Assessing the NPS-FM in Gravel Consent Applications

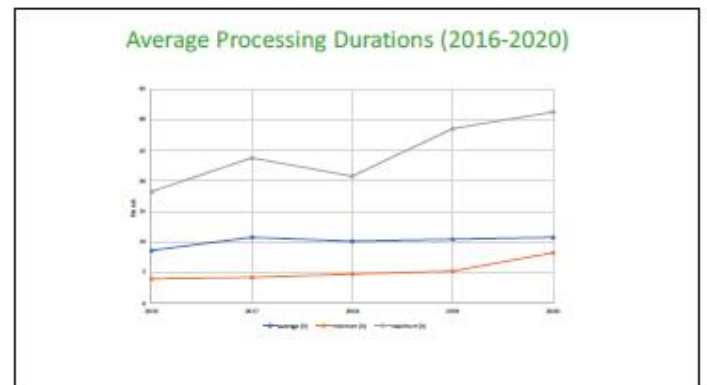
<p>Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the relevant objective and policies contained in the NPS-FM Assess whether there will be a 'loss of river extent and values' (Clause 3.24) Assess all potential adverse effects Explain how these will be avoided or remedied 	<p>Don't</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State there is no 'loss of river extent and values' without any evidence or further discussion.
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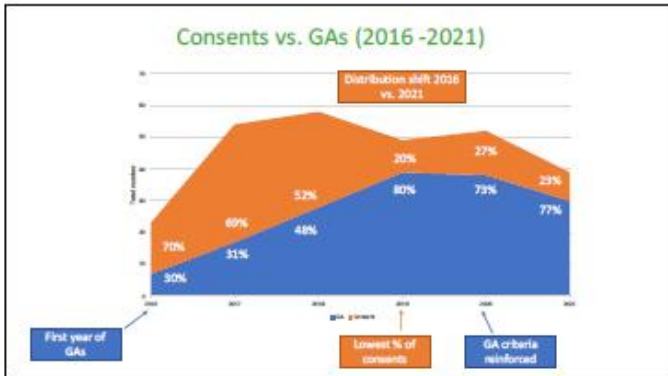
National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020

- Includes regulations regarding the installation of culverts. Recent clarification from MfE states that these rules apply to temporary culverts.
- Permitted Activity Rule for Culverts in the NES-F – These limits differ from the limits set in the regional plan.
- The Rivers Team are working on additional resources on how to comply with these regulations as they relate to fish passage.

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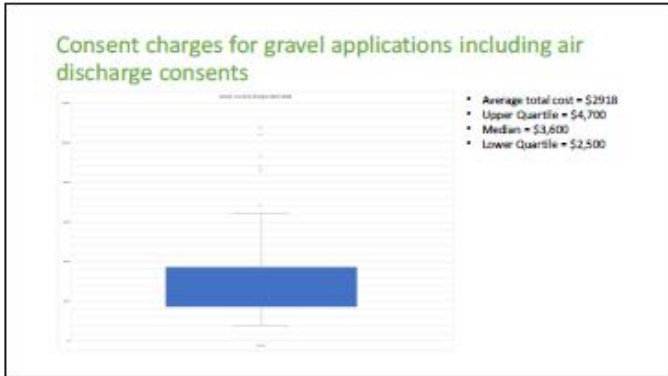
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Costs – as of 1 July 2021

Table 11: Risk-based total fees table

Consent type	Risk level	Risk based fee (per 2021)				Risk reduction available
		High	Medium	Low	Very Low	
Gravel	High	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	75%
	Medium	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$625	75%
Water	High	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	75%
	Medium	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$625	75%
Other	High	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	75%
	Medium	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$625	75%

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- ### What can you do that will help in a consent process?
- Develop a relationship with local rūnanga.
 - Provide a complete application that reflects exactly what will happen on the site.
 - Provide a 'reasonable need' assessment – this needs to include evidence (i.e., contracts, emails with suppliers etc.) to support the need for the material.
 - Cumulative effects if there are other consents in process that are 'ahead' in the queue and are being processed at the same time.
 - Site Remediation Plan.

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- ### Land Access Permits
- Land access via Regional Park
 - Land access permit required
 - Land Access through other ECan owned land
 - Only relevant if you are setting up a more permanent operation/ processing yard
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- ### LINZ
- LINZ are obligated under s165 of the Land Act 1948 to authorise any activity on their land
 - GAs exempt for the duration of the GA
 - Does not authorise long term stockpiling or commercial activity/ yard!
 - LINZ do not require s165 licence as part of consent process UNLESS it has been identified that this has not been applied for as required in the past
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General Business

- Newsletter → subscription link on website
- Request for gravel availability must be sent to gravel inbox
- Staff updates
- Review of Terms of Reference for Gravel Liaison Committee
- Code of Practice Update

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Gravel Management Strategy review

- Commitment in LTP for FY 2021/22 kick-off and completion FY 2022/23 – being initiated now, workshop to come
- Requires consultation with several parties, incl. industry
- Opportunity to revisit but remaining within Statutory Planning Requirements
- Need to update to accommodate new legislation (NPS FW, NES FW)
- Any particular aspects for us to focus on?

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