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WELLINGTON REGIONAL
COUNCIL

16 OCT 2002

RECEIVED

14 October 2002

Mr Grant Kneebone
Wellington Regional Council
P O Box 41
Masterton

Dear Mr Kneebone

I reply to your letter of 10 October. Obviously I have no control over the time you spend on a consent application. I must question however, the necessity of the time you claim to have spent.

I did explain to you at the outset of this exercise that this particular bore is forty years old and I have no data on it, but I am quite sure it was drilled with the required permits at the time and I would have thought there should be data for it on file with your Council. I also explained that it is impossible to conduct a pump draw down test because the well is sealed and the suction intake to the pump is directly from the top of the casing so the whole casing operates under vacuum. The casing is old and suspect so any disturbance is likely to jeopardise it. I told you that I expected the casing to eventually fail and anticipated that I would then have to drill a new bore, but I consider it unreasonable to try and force me to drill another bore before it is strictly necessary.

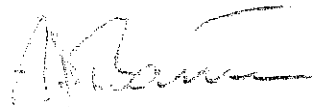
It was my understanding that the pump test you claim I requested deferment for was merely a monitoring process of the water level in another farm well which I thought we agreed was all that it would be possible to do. This was not done in October 2001 because it was an unusually wet season and we were not irrigating.

I sought clarification of your requirements and you wrote to me on 25 September 2002 with a detailed explanation of your required pump draw down test, despite my prior explanation to you of the impossibility of conducting such a test on the existing well.

You also claim to have spent two hours reviewing bore logs and data from the Tawaha groundwater zone whereas our bore is at Hikinui road in the Pihautea district.

I did point out to you that although there appears to be no available data for our well, it has been operating without causing any problem for forty years and is therefore very unlikely to cause any problem in the future. I suggested that the commonsense approach would be to let me continue using it as it has always been used until such time as it needs to be replaced, and I note that under Section 123 of the Resource Management Act it should have been possible to grant my initial consent for up to 35 years. It was your decision to spend extra time on my consent renewal although you may well have been directed to do so, but I cannot see that it has served any useful purpose so it appears that your time has been wasted. I object to being charged any additional fees and you may take this as an objection under Section 357 of the Resource Management Act.

Yours faithfully



A J Barton