

Guidance Note for Groundwater Take Applications outside a coastal environment



Completing the application form to take and use groundwater?
Please supply more information about your proposed water take.

Please provide an appropriate level of information relative to the scale of your activity. If your proposed take is small, i.e. 500 m³ per week, in an area without any allocation issues and unlikely to affect nearby groundwater users, your description might fit on Form B - you can probably do it yourself.

However, if you seek consent for 10,000 m³ per week and your point of take is close to a stream and/or close to other wells, you will need to engage a technical consultant to help you¹. Writing 'Not Applicable' is not enough. You need to add some comment, such as: 'My proposed water complies with Policy 32 because in determining the amount of water I have applied for, I have taken into account actual crop water requirements, rainfall, evapotranspiration rates, and the soil type on my property'.

Only particularly relevant parts of policies and objectives are shown here. Full text, relevant objectives and policies are available at: <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/policies-plans-strategies/rmp/>

1. Sustainable management (RMA, Part 2)

The purpose of the Resource Management Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Your proposed activity must use natural and physical resources in a way or at a rate, to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, and for their health and safety. Your proposed activity must also:

- sustain the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the needs of future generations; and
- safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Please explain why you think your proposed groundwater take is sustainable

2. Relevant legislation (Section 104(1)(b))

Regional Policy Statement

Objective 24: any significant adverse effects of water takes on the operation of existing lawful efficient groundwater takes² must be avoided or remedied. Policy 28: applicants for new consents must avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of their taking on existing lawfully established efficient

¹ Refer to www.hbrc.govt.nz, keyword search: #consents - for more info on who could assist you.

² For the purposes of this Plan "efficient taking" of groundwater means abstraction by a bore which penetrates the aquifer where water is being drawn at a depth sufficient to enable water to be drawn all year (i.e. the bore depth is below the range of seasonal fluctuations in groundwater level), with the bore being adequately maintained, of sufficient diameter and is screened to minimise drawdown, with a pump capable of drawing water from the base of the bore to the land surface.

groundwater takes of groundwater for an individual's reasonable domestic needs³ or the reasonable needs of an individual's animals for drinking water or takes for firefighting.

Policy 24: the taking of groundwater must be managed where adverse effects of that take may be more than minor. The cumulative adverse effects of small takes must be managed where concerns exist that demand may put pressure on the groundwater resource.

Policy 29: any significant reduction in the groundwater level of piezometric pressure in aquifers must be avoided, including any landward movement of the seawater/ groundwater interface, as a result of groundwater takes.

Policy 32: no more than the crop water requirements for a one in ten year drought can be allocated to irrigation takes. Allocation assessment will take into account crop type, rainfall, potential evapotranspiration rates, and best irrigation management practices. Allocation assessment may also factor in soil type and moisture holding capacity.

Objective 23: any significant adverse effects of water takes on the long-term quantity of groundwater in aquifers must be avoided. Any significant adverse effects of water takes on surface water resources should also be avoided.

Policy 33 and Policy 44 state that the abstraction of shallow groundwater within 400 m of a river, lake or wetland (as measured from the edge of the bed) will be treated as if it were a direct take unless the extent to which the groundwater will deplete water in the surface water body has been assessed using an appropriate scientific procedure in which case the effects on surface water will be assessed on that basis. If shallow groundwater more than 400 m away from a surface water body is to be abstracted an assessment of effects of the take on the river, lake or wetland may be required if the scale of the take, the groundwater flow direction, or the transmissivity and storativity characteristics of the aquifer indicate interaction is likely to occur.

Objectives 34-37 and Policies 64-66 in the RPS give a framework to recognise matters of significance to iwi/ hapū and actions to take concerning resource consent applications. This includes avoiding significant adverse effects on waahi tapu (sacred places), tauranga waka (landings for waka), taonga raranga (plants used for weaving and resources used for traditional crafts), mahinga kai (food cultivation areas) and the policy requires recognition of the importance of the relationship of Māori with coastal, lake, wetland and river environments.

Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP)

Policy 77: environmental guidelines apply to Hawke's Bay to manage groundwater quantity. This policy requires groundwater takes to be managed so that:

- abstraction does not exceed the recharge rate
- supply of groundwater is of good quality
- existing efficient groundwater takes⁴ are not disadvantaged by new takes
- abstraction does not have an adverse effect on rivers, lakes, springs or wetlands.

³ "Reasonable domestic needs" are needs associated with occupying a dwelling/ house. An individual's reasonable domestic needs means the take/ use of up to 15m³ over any 7 day period per dwelling/ house.

⁴ For the purposes of this Plan "efficient taking" of groundwater means abstraction by a bore which penetrates the aquifer from which water is being drawn at a depth sufficient to enable water to be drawn all year (i.e. the bore depth is below the range of seasonal fluctuations in groundwater level), with the bore being adequately maintained, of sufficient diameter and is screened to minimise drawdown, with a pump capable of drawing water from the base of the bore to the land surface.

Issue	Guideline
Demand	The safe yield identified for an aquifer should not be exceeded.
Effects of takes on water quality	Takes should not contribute to the intrusion of salt water into fresh water aquifers
Effects of takes on levels of rivers, lakes, springs and wetlands	Takes should not cause a reduction in the flow of rivers, levels of springs or lakes or ecologically significant wetlands
Effects of new takes on existing authorised users	The take should not adversely impact on existing efficient groundwater or surface water takes unless written approval from affected persons is obtained.

Policy 78A gives effect to interim provisions of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (Freshwater NPS). The policy requires Council to consider:

- to what degree the application would adversely affect safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of fresh water and of any associated ecosystem
- the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water and any associated ecosystem resulting from the change would be avoided.

3. Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

Please try and add a sentence or two about each of these points

- The actual or potential effects of your proposed groundwater take on the environment? You can comment on positive effects, as well as possible adverse/negative effects.

Have a think about:

- The groundwater resource in your area - What is the water level in your well? Does your well free flow, i.e. flow without pumping? Does the water level vary with pumping, and/or across the year? Have you ever had to lower your pump to get better access to water?
 - People living near you - Do you know where the closest well is that is not located on your property? What is it used for? Are you aware of any problems in the area with people accessing water in their wells?
 - Nearby surface water bodies –how far away are they? Is it permanent or does it only flow some of the time? If permanent, how does the water level vary across a year? If it only flows some of the time, when does it normally flow? What do you call it? Does your groundwater take seem to affect the amount of water/flow in nearby surface water bodies?
 - Will your groundwater take impact amenity, social, recreational and cultural values in the surrounding area?
 - Are there any waahi tapu or other significant cultural sites at or near your proposed take point? Will your proposed take impact the values associated with those sites?
- How have you calculated the amount of water you require?

- Where is the closest public water supply to your proposed point of take?
- Information about anything you intend to do to try and reduce the effect that your take may have on the environment.
- Details of anyone you have talked to about your proposed water take because you think the activity might affect them.

If you have questions about what to provide, or want to arrange a meeting to discuss your application before you formally lodge it with HBRC contact the Consents Advisor on 06 833 8090.