



C/- Fish and Game Otago,
PO Box 76,
Dunedin 9054
New Zealand

Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142
Attn. Greg Campbell, Chief Executive

3 November 2019

Dear Mr Campbell

Re – Formal Complaint Under the RMA Regarding GW Forestry Operations

This constitutes a formal complaint on behalf of the citizens and rate-payers of New Zealand regarding Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GW's) failure to comply with lawful obligations while operating a forestry operation, and subsequent failure as an enforcement body to ensure ecological impacts by one division of GW are rectified.

The complaint should not be new to you, since you must be aware it has been raised over many years - yet GW persistently refuse to undertake their lawful obligations. Meanwhile the ecological impacts continue to compound to the point where things could now be described as an ecological disaster created and compounded by GW's actions and lack of remedial action.

In particular, during late 2014, GW as plantation forest owners and managers clear-felled an area of the Puketiro Forest contained within that area known generally as the Akatarawa Forest. The particular contractor engaged (Tukky) allowed many full-grown pines and much slash to fall across the pristine Wainui Stream – and area much valued as a recreational asset.

GW obtained some Forestry Harvesting Notices from Upper Hutt City Council in 2011, but the manner of these seems very haphazard and UHCC have been unable to produce definitive FHN's that would prove GW actually had lawful permission to undertake the cutting they did.

Nonetheless, their standard FHN contains many provisions and it seems GW were responsible for breaking most of these impositions. Ie paying scant regard to process and responsibilities.

It is also noteworthy that legal roads run alongside the Wainui Stream and the operation not only blocked these roads, but they remain blocked to this day.

By e-mail dated 28 April 2015, Wayne O'Donnell indicated the matter would be resolved later that year. Here we are 4 years later and all that has happened is repeated false

promises and an area of once pristine valley now completely blocked by accumulating debris and slash now render the area a veritable cesspit. Shame on GW for allowing this “on their watch”

Similar complaints directly to Mayor Guppy of UHCC, appearances before sub-committees and full committees of UHCC have failed to elicit any response.

Likewise similar presentations to GW sub-committees and full committees go unheeded.

Since we are aware of many examples of GW ruthlessly pursuing individuals into the Courts for even the most trivial infractions of the RMA, it seems incredulous that GW cannot sort itself out.

Since GW seem reluctant to deal with the matter on their own, this matter is also being referred to the Ministry for the Environment, the relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers for their attention.

I look forward to an urgent response to resolving the situation.

Copies of documents, e-mails, FHNs etc are all available if required.

For and on behalf of

Public Access New Zealand Inc

Andi Cockroft
Trustee