

Report No:	RMCB11-12-08
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<b><i>Decision required</i></b>	

**Report to:** Motueka Community Board  
**Meeting Date:** 13 December 2011  
**Report Author:** David Ogilvie  
**Subject:** **Gravel Extraction of Alluvial Gravels – RMCB11-12-08**

<b>1. Gravel Extraction of Alluvial Gravels from land adjacent to the Motueka River; Backfilling requirements</b>
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Resource Consent Holders are:  
C J Industries NN020167  
M T Johnston RM031206  
Concrete and Metals RM100107

At the Community Board's meeting on 11 October 2011, serious concerns were raised by the Motueka Residents Association (Dave Le Long, Arthur Walker, Fred Te Miha) about the toxic material being dumped at a pit off Douglas Road.

Dave Le Long undertook to get an affidavit signed by a person who had seen what had gone into the pit. Dave indicated that waste oil drums, tyres, fridges and similar materials had been dumped.

Arthur Walker supplied photos and rushed glass to the Board.

Fred Te Miha (Ngati Tama, kaitiaki of the Motueka River and a Director of Tiakina Te Taiao) requested to see all monitoring papers and data from the Council.

I had been advised of the public concern and obtained a copy of the C J Industries resource consent. Council staff had said that monitoring was regularly carried out and there was no evidence that it was a toxic site.

The Community Board acknowledged the seriousness of the claims and suggested they be formally presented to the District Council, once evidence (through the affidavit) was available.

Wednesday 12 October 2011 – Fred Te Miha (as kaitiaki) inspected the gravel pits of T J Johnston and C J Industries. Terry Johnston was present and showed us all the reports that he had filed of Council monitoring. The state of the Johnston pit was very good; that of C J Industries definitely not to the same standard. Fred however, seemed satisfied although we noted the polystyrene blocks at the pit.

Later, I visited the C J Industries office in Hau Road and spoke with Rod Markham and Des Corrie-Johnston re the matter. Their records were not as extensive as Terry Johnston's.

I also e-mailed the Council with details of the Board's meeting and the inspections with Fred Te Miha.

A further email was sent on 19 October 2011 (to Rob Smith, Acting E&P Manager) with a reply that Carl Cheeseman was collating the information.

Carl Cheeseman (27 October 2011) replied that because "of the considerable amount of stored information including photographic essays" it would be more effective and useful for Warren Galbraith (Monitoring Officer) to meet at the Motueka Office.

Monday 7 November 2011 - Warren Galbraith, Cr Eileen Wilkins, Fred Te Miha, Dave Le Long, Arthur Walker and myself met at the Motueka Office.

Warren explained his monitoring programme (since his appointment in 2007) and his responses to various complaints. A number of infringements and consequent abatement notices had been issued but no evidence of serious toxic materials or contamination. Monitoring of the water quality in the river and in local groundwater had indicated nothing of concern.

Fred enquired whether continuous monitoring was possible; he expressed concern over hop vines being dumped and he had been informed of an oil seepage the previous day.

Arthur mentioned household rubbish being dumped and his worry that a flood on the river would destroy the pits, show the backfill materials and have a serious effect.

Dave pointed out that an affidavit was unlikely but he would ask the person concerned to get in touch with Warren. Warren said he would require any toxic materials to be removed once he was confident they were there. Dave expressed his earlier concern that the town's water supply could be affected. Warren explained that tests by Cawthron and Council, which were ongoing, had revealed nothing. The water quality in the river and the groundwater was consistently very good.

Warren said he would inspect the sites the next day because of the oil seepage report.

The meeting (approximately 1 hour) saw a good exchange of views in a helpful, polite atmosphere.

Tuesday 8 November 2011 – Cr Wilkins and I accompanied Warren Galbraith to the Johnston and C J Industries sites. The Johnston site was very good; CJI was acceptable. There was no oil seepage, or something similar, that Fred Te Miha had mentioned.

Overnight, Warren had not heard from either Fred or Dave Le Long, regarding the person who could verify the location where toxic materials were dumped.

Monday 28 November 2011 – Warren Galbraith responded to my email that he had not received any further information from Dave Le Long, despite two request. He had not heard from Fred Te Miha, whom he had tried to contact via Tiakina te Taiao.

### **Summary**

At the time of writing, there has been no evidence presented of toxic materials being dumped at the sites mentioned.

The Council's monitoring and investigations have not indicated any contamination of the River or of the groundwater.

The Community Board and the District Council, regard as very serious, anything which could impact on the health of the River or the groundwater which provides Motueka's domestic water supply.

The Council's monitoring programme is not absolutely "fool-proof" but public suggestions of wrongful dumping and likely contamination must be supported with evidence.

### **Note:**

Copies of the C J Industries Resource Consent, and the various notes and emails are available.

### **Recommendation:**

**That the Motueka Community Board receives the Gravel Extraction of Alluvial Gravels report (RMCB11-12-08).**