

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT - PROPOSED CONDITIONS FOR THE THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL LAND USE CONSENTS

[Note – the ‘comment’ column has been provided for guidance and interpretation purposes only, and is not proposed to form part of the consent conditions]

Condition		Comment
	Portable Drill Rig Locations	
1	This consent authorises drilling, utilising portable rigs, at two locations only.	
2	The utilisation of portable rigs must adopt best practice and minimise associated impacts on the environment to the extent practicable.	
3	At least 10 working days prior to drilling at any location, the Consent Holder must provide Thames Coromandel District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and the Department of Conservation the GPS information and/or NZTM co-ordinates of the location.	
	Kauri Dieback Management	
4	All activities authorised by this consent must be undertaken in accordance with the Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan.	
5	The objectives of the Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan are to ensure that in exercising this consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the risk of <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> spread is reduced to the extent practicable; and b. activities are undertaken in a way that is consistent with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and associated regulations. 	
6	The Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan must be submitted to the Thames Coromandel District Council for certification, at least 30 working days prior to the works commencing.	
7	The Consent Holder must ensure that a printed copy of the Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan, including any certified amendments, is kept onsite at all times and that each copy is updated within 5 working days of any amendments being certified	
8	a. The Consent Holder may make amendments to the Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan at any time.	



	Condition	Comment
	<p>b. The Consent Holder must submit, in writing, any proposed amendment to the Consent Authority at least 10 working days before any works associated with the amendment are to be implemented.</p> <p>c. Any amendment to the Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan must be certified by the Consent Authority and any works associated with the amendment must not commence until certification has occurred.</p>	
	Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Portable Drill Rig Locations	
9	Vegetation clearance at each drill rig location must not exceed 32 m ² and ground disturbance and vegetation clearance must be limited only to that necessary to accommodate the required equipment.	Portable rig investigations do not require tree clearance, but will require clearance of groundcovers, wood debris and forest duff which provide habitat for native species over an area of 32 m ² each
10	Vegetation clearance must not involve felling of any trees.	Portable rig investigations do not require tree clearance, but will require clearance of groundcovers, wood debris and forest duff which provide habitat for native species over an area of 32 m ² each
	Management of “At Risk” and/or ‘Threatened Flora Associated with Portable Drill Rig Locations	
11	<p>Disturbance of <i>Pterostylis puberula</i>, <i>Pterostylis tasmanica</i> and king fern <i>Ptisana salicina</i> must be avoided.</p> <p><i>Advice note: If any of these species are present on a prospective portable drill rig location, an alternative site shall be found.</i></p>	If any of these species are present on a prospective portable drill rig location, an alternative site shall be found.
	Management of ‘At Risk’ and/or ‘Threatened’ Herpetofauna during vegetation clearance associated with Portable Drill Rig Locations.	

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12	A suitably qualified and experienced ecologist must be present onsite during any vegetation clearance to survey habitat refugia for native lizards and frogs.
13	Any Coromandel striped gecko (<i>Toropuku</i> “Coromandel”) or ‘At Risk’ or ‘Threatened’ frogs, or ‘At Risk’ or ‘Threatened’ lizards found during vegetation clearance must be salvaged immediately and moved to suitable habitat at least 100 metres from the drilling location, as recommended by the onsite ecologist.
14	The Consent Holder must adhere to the national Frog Hygiene Protocol annexed as Attachment 1 to this consent, or any future updates thereof.
15	The Consent Holder must provide notice to the Thames Coromandel District Council and Department of Conservation of any Coromandel striped gecko (<i>Toropuku</i> “Coromandel”) and any other ‘At Risk’ or ‘Threatened’ frogs or lizards found and relocated and the NZTM coordinates of the release site(s) within 20 working days.
16	The Consent Holder must minimise trampling and disturbance of herpetofauna and their habitat by using the same marked access routes for access to the sites.
	Management of Terrestrial Invertebrates Associated with Portable Drill Rig Locations
17	Any Paua slug (<i>Schizoglossa novoseelandica</i>) and/or ‘At Risk’ or ‘Threatened’ invertebrates listed in the Department of Conservation’s Threat Classification Lists (http://www.doc.govt.nz/nztcs) found during any vegetation clearance, must be salvaged immediately and released into similar habitat at least 50 metres beyond the location, as recommended by the onsite ecologist.
	General Conditions
18	The Consent Holder must ensure that all equipment to be used for drilling activities authorised by this consent are clean and free of any exotic weed and seed material prior to entry to the drill site.
19	All fuel must be stored in safe, secure containers / tanks that have secondary containment. Note that this does not cover the use of portable jerry cans which are necessary for refuelling in emergency situations.
20	A spill kit must be held at each working area at all times and used immediately should a fuel or lubricant spill occur.

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21	Any fuel or lubricant spill above ground which is greater than 20 litres must be reported to the Thames Coromandel District Council and Department of Conservation at the earliest opportunity, including the amount spilled, remedial action undertaken, and any further actions required to fully remediate the site.
22	A fire extinguisher must be kept on site during drilling activities.
23	All waste must be removed and disposed of at an appropriate facility during and upon the completion of drilling activities.
	Accidental Discovery Protocol
24	<p>In the event that any unidentified archaeological site is located when exercising this consent, the following procedures must be undertaken by the Consent Holder:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All work must cease, and machinery within 20 m of the discovery shut down. b. The Consent Holder must notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist; c. If the site appears to be of Māori origin, the Consent Holder must also notify the tangata whenua entities listed in d. of the discovery and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken (as long as all statutory requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and the Protected Objects Act 1975 have been met); d. The tangata whenua entities referred to in c. are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Hako • Ngāti Maru • Ngāti Puu • Ngāti Tamaterā • Ngāti Tara Tokanui / Ngāti Koi • Ngaati Whanaunga e. If human remains (koiwi tangata) are discovered, the Consent Holder must also advise the New Zealand Police; and f. Works affecting the discovery must not recommence until Heritage New Zealand provides written approval or an archaeological authority has been obtained. Such authorisations must be provided to the Councils. <p>Except insofar as it relates to koiwi, this condition only applies to those areas not subject to an archaeological authority obtained under the</p>

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	<p>Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 or Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.</p> <p><i>Advice Note: The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 provides for the recording, protection, and preservation of archaeological sites whether registered or not. As such, any land use activity likely to damage, modify or destroy any pre-1900 archaeological site (whether recorded or unrecorded) will require an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand for the work to lawfully proceed. This applies to all sites, regardless of whether a building or resource consent has been granted or not.</i></p>



Attachment 1: Frog Hygiene Protocol

Native frog hygiene and handling protocols



Background

Over the past 25 years' amphibian populations have declined throughout the world and disease is considered to play a major role. One disease we have in New Zealand which is thought to be a major threat to frogs is the amphibian chytrid fungus. Given the transmission risk of the fungus and other diseases, strict hygiene and handling protocols are required to ensure the safety of our native frog populations. This document provides information on how to:

- Minimise any possible spread of the amphibian chytrid fungus and other pathogens.
- Avoid artificially increasing contact between frogs.
- Achieve the highest level of hygiene protocol that is effective and practical in the field.
- Safely handle frogs for research purposes.

Principles

- Transmission risk can be managed/reduced through good hygiene practices.
- New or disinfected equipment /footwear should be used at every new site.
- New or disinfected equipment should be used for each frog, where practicable.

What should I do before entering known frog habitat?

Before you enter known frog habitat ensure all your foot wear, gaiters and equipment are clean, e.g. free of dirt/mud and dry. Foot wear, gaiters and equipment will also be disinfected. You can ensure that your clothing and equipment is safe to take into frog areas by following simple hygiene protocols.

Site hygiene

- Remove all dirt/mud from footwear, gaiters and field equipment. Pay particular attention to field gear likely to come in contact with amphibians, soil/ground, freshwater, and/or that is already dirty e.g. boot soles.
- Disinfect all field gear. Mud/dirt etc. will be cleaned off first before disinfecting.
- Wash and dry everything. ***Important*** Chytrid fungus cannot survive drying out so it is very important that cleaned items are dried.
- Store gear in a clean dry area away from soil to avoid recontamination.
- ***Important*** If you have been to an area infected with the amphibian chytrid fungus you will clean and disinfect all your gear. Gear will also be cleaned between each field trip into the same native frog area, regardless of whether you are going in the same way or not.

Tips

- Clean ahead to allow time for drying and consider having multiple sets of high use items if no time is available to clean between field trips.
- Wear different footwear when driving between areas and change into clean footwear at the point of entry into frog habitat.

These hygiene protocols are subject to change in the event of new amphibian diseases emerging in New Zealand. Always check with your local Department of Conservation office for the most up to date hygiene information.

What disinfectant should I use and how much?

Purpose	Disinfectant	Concentration	Time	Rinse
Disinfecting footwear/gaiters	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)	1%	1min	Yes
	Hot Wash	4%	15 mins	Yes
Disinfecting collection equipment, instruments and containers	Trigene/ SteriGene F1●	1%	1min	Yes
		1%	1min	Yes
	Virkon (NB: corrosive)	1:100	10 mins	Yes
	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)	1%	1min	Yes
	Virkon (NB: corrosive)	4%	15 mins	Yes
	Trigene	1%	1min	Yes
	F1●	1%	1min	Yes
	Ethanol	70%	1min	Air dry
	Complete drying		3+ hrs	No
	Heat	37°C	4 hours	No
	Heat	60°C or greater	15 mins	No
	Sterilising UV light		1min	No

Trigene/SteriGene and Virkon and can be purchased from your local vet clinic.

Frog handling hygiene

- A new plastic bag or new powder-free nitrile gloves will be used for each frog when they are caught or handled. Within a local area (deemed as a continuous population) the same gloves may be used for searching for frogs and need to be changed if they come into contact with a frog. It is important to ensure that new gloves are used when moving between areas. Also if a frog displays signs of ill health or looks compromised in some way please ensure a separate glove is used to handle these individuals.
- Each frog should be housed in a separate plastic bag.
- For researchers working in native frog habitat - please ensure all frog handling/measuring equipment that comes into direct contact with the frog is disinfected prior to use, between frogs and between sites.
- Each frog will be weighed and measured in the plastic bag to reduce unnecessary contact.
- Ensure the frogs are kept cool at all times; avoid keeping frogs in the cupped hand if possible to allow proper thermoregulation.
- Minimise handling times to reduce stress and to avoid the side effects of stress.
- Sick or dead frogs should be collected and held separately from all other frogs until delivered to the appropriate recipient. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Although hind-leg handling is a common technique used while measuring and weighing other species of frogs this technique will **never** be used with any native frog (*Leiopelma*) species.

If you find a sick or dead frog please take it to or contact your local Department of Conservation office.