

KM & MG Holdings Limited

PO Box 47153 Trentham

Upper Hutt 5143

c/o Scope Planning

Attention: Stephanie Blick

Dear Stephanie,

Re: Plimmerton Farm Fast Track Referral: RFI on ecology matters

KM & MG Holdings Limited as recently applied to the Ministry for the Environment for consideration of its Stage 1 housing development under the COVID-19 (Fast Track consenting) Act 2020.

A request for further information has been received from the Ministry (letter dated 28 February 2023).

One of the matters on which further information is requested concerns ecology.

The FRI query is listed below in italics, with our response following.

Query

5. Provide further assessment and/or a statement of opinion from the ecologist to confirm that the proposed 6.8ha flood detention zone (detailed in the Infrastructure Memo) can function as a natural wetland and provide the level of wetland offset recommended within the Ecological Assessment.

Response

Yes - the 6.8 ha flood detention zone can function as a natural wetland. It was historically wetland and retains much of the character of wetland despite being severely degraded by pasture improvement over many decades. Returning hydrological processes by way of using it as a flood detention basin will re-introduce periodic flooding and support wetland plant communities and habitat.

Stormwater from the proposed development areas will be pre-treated within each development area prior to discharge into natural or restored wetlands – therefore the 6.8 ha detention basin area will not require maintenance/ disturbance for stormwater detention purposes and will be able to function as a natural wetland.

The 6.8 ha flood detention wetland area will provide part of the wetland offset required to address the residual effects of the Stage 1 development. Other wetland offset areas required to achieve the overall no-net-loss outcome for wetlands are shown in the ecology referral report.

The level of enhancement that is possible for the currently degraded proposed 6.8 ha detention wetland will result in improvements to wetland plant communities, habitat for wetland wildlife, wetland hydrology, and associated wetland functions to a very high level.

Those expectations are built into the anticipated offset benefit ratio that can be obtained for this 6.8 ha detention wetland, and are in keeping with the level of enhancement that has occurred in other degraded wetlands in the local area where active restoration has been undertaken.

We trust that this information meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Ussher

Principal Ecologist

RMA Ecology Ltd

1-Mar-23

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