
Form 13: Submission on application concerning resource consent

Resource Management Act 1991

To: West Coast Regional Council

Name of submitter: Director-General of Conservation (the **Director-General**)

This is a submission on an application from Von Ah Contracting Limited (the **Applicant**) for a resource consent.

Description of activity: The Applicant seeks resource consents for the establishment and operation of a composting facility at 1047 Kaniere-Kowhitirangi Road, Kokatahi RD 1, Hokitika 7881. The activity involves: discharge of contaminants to land; discharge of compost leachate to land where contaminants may enter water; and discharge of contaminants (including dust and odour) to air.

Trade competition: I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

My submission relates to: The whole application.

My submission is: I seek that appropriate conditions are applied to the consent, to minimise the risk of contaminants entering water bodies and to ensure that effects are monitored.

The Director-General's interest in the Application

1. The Director-General of Conservation (the **Director-General**) has all the powers reasonably necessary to enable the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) to perform its functions.¹ The Conservation Act 1987 (the **CA**) sets out DOC's functions which include (amongst other things) management of land and natural and historic resources for conservation purposes,

¹ Refer section 53 Conservation Act 1987

preservation so far as is practicable of all indigenous freshwater fisheries, protection of recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats and advocacy for the conservation of natural resources and historic heritage.² Section 2 of the CA defines 'conservation' to mean *'the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generation'*.

Reasons for the Director-General's submission

2. DOC's records indicate that water bodies close to the proposed site of the composting activity provides habitat for a range of aquatic fauna species, including species that are classified as at-risk or threatened in the New Zealand Threat Classification System. Specifically, the following species have been recorded in Duck Creek, which runs close to the north-western boundary of the site:
 - Species that are not threatened: freshwater shrimp, redfin bully, common bully, Kaharoa bully, freshwater crayfish/kōura (*Paranephrops planifrons*) and shortfin eel
 - At risk - declining species: dwarf galaxias (West Coast), inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*), giant kokopu and longfin eel
 - Threatened - nationally vulnerable species: shortjaw kokopu.
3. These species may also be present in the tributary of Duck Creek that flows through the site.
4. To protect these species and their habitat, it is important that appropriate conditions are put in place to minimise the risk of contaminants from the activity entering water bodies, either via leachate or stormwater runoff. Water bodies in this area are already impacted by intensive dairying. This increases the importance of taking a robust approach to mitigation and monitoring for this activity, to manage potential cumulative effects.
5. In relation to specific mitigation measures proposed in the Application, it is noted that section 3.1.3 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects states that, following rain events, runoff and leachate will be collected in a leachate collection pond, and this pond will be regularly pumped out and irrigated to land. This irrigation will take place primarily within Duck Creek Farm, however *"von Ah Contracting has multiple other land areas that can be used to apply leachate on, as a contingency if Duck Creek becomes saturated. These areas are located within*

² Conservation Act 1987, section 6.

20km of Duck Creek.³ DOC considers that the Applicant should provide the exact location of the other land areas referred to here, so that potential effects on any nearby water bodies can be appropriately managed.

6. In addition, DOC recommends that water testing is undertaken, to monitor freshwater effects, and that appropriate water quality limits for relevant parameters should be provided.

Decision sought

7. I seek the following decision from the Council:
 - a) If the consent authority is minded to grant the application, that it imposes suitable conditions to minimise the risk of contaminants entering water bodies, and to ensure that freshwater effects are appropriately monitored.
8. I also seek such alternative and/or additional relief as may be necessary and appropriate to address my concerns.

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.



Tony Thrupp

Acting Operations Manager Hokitika

Western South Island Region

Acting pursuant to delegated authority on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation.

Date: 14 November 2025

Note: A copy of the Instrument of Delegation may be inspected at the Director-General's office at Conservation House Whare Kaupapa Atawhai, 18/32 Manners Street, Wellington 6011.

Address for service:

Attn: Jane Macleod, Senior Resource Management Planner

jmacleod@doc.govt.nz and cc to: RMA@doc.govt.nz

³ [Von Ah Composting Proposal Updated 29.08.25.pdf](#), page 16.

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