

BEFORE THE BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application under section 88 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to discharge stormwater to land where it may enter water at Jellicoe Street, Te Puke

APPLICANT Pukepine Sawmills (1998) Limited

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JEFF TANNER

1. My Name is Jeff Tanner. I am General Manager, a director, and shareholder of Pukepine Sawmills (1998) Ltd (**Pukepine**).
2. Pukepine is a family-owned company, owned by my dad, my brother, and I. My grandfather first started sawmilling and when we sold out of his original company in 1997, we purchased Pukepine from the Hooper family in 1998.
3. Pukepine is one of the largest permanent employers in Te Puke, employing 160 people. Many of our staff have worked for the company for more than 10 years, and we offer jobs to a variety of people from the more simple laboring jobs through to a number of trades requiring high skill levels. We try to retain a family culture, and as owners and managers we engage with staff at all levels on a daily basis.
4. When we purchased the sawmill in 1998, we quickly moved to investing in wood waste burners for heat for the kilns, dropping natural gas supply and looking for greener ways to operate. We have been working hard on utilising and eliminating waste. As a family, we care about the environment and my dad has always been an organic gardener and operates a certified organic Avocado orchard.
5. We have been working on improving our stormwater discharge quality for some years. We have sought expert advice, and tried various methods to achieve better results. This has included:
 - a. metal catch pits,
 - b. settlement sumps in culverts,
 - c. putting concrete in strategic high use areas, and
 - d. reducing dust on site by improving handling of waste products such as sawdust and shavings.
6. One of the issues that we have had is the time that it takes to make a change, measure that change, and then work out what other methods could be used to get the right results.
7. When reviewing our site, we identified that the storage of treated timber on the site was an issue in respect of stormwater quality. In order to help reduce this, we purchased land at Kerepehi in 2016 (having started negotiations to acquire the site in 2014). Our Kerepehi site includes warehouse buildings and a treatment plant.
8. This means that we have been able to reduce the amount of treated timber stored on the Te Puke site, and we have reduced the amount of timber going through the Te Puke treatment plant.

9. In addition, in 2017 we completed the construction of two settling ponds.
10. Prior to installing these ponds, we had approached our downstream neighbor to with a view to buying some of his land where we could establish a wetland and settling ponds. Those negotiations were unsuccessful, which led to the design and construction of two on-site ponds.
11. Recent water quality test results show that we are now meeting the requirements of the Council's recommended consent conditions.
12. We are continuing to look for ways to improve our water quality and are in discussions with engineering consultants about finding ways to filter, store and use our storm water for some of our onsite processes.
13. We have committed resources as quickly as possible to the improvement of water quality, and we are continuing to look for ways to improve our on-site water management.

Jeff Tanner

9 August 2019