**Resource consent application:**

**Extract gravel from the Whakatane River**

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| **Application ID:**  | RM19-0257 |
| **Applicant:** | Central Freightlines (trading as CFL Contracting) |
| **Application:** | Extract 20,000 m3 gravel per year from the Whakatāne Riverbed (200,000 m3 over 10 years) |
| **Location of activity:** | Whakatāne Riverbed from Opawa Stream tributary downstream to near Ohotū Road, Rūātoki North |

# Summary of the proposal

CFL Contracting has applied for consent to extract gravel from the bed of the Whakatane River from where the Opawa Stream flows into the Whakatāne River downstream to near Ohotū Road in Ruatoki North. Gravel will be extracted from the dry riverbed in two reaches (Figures 1 & 2). Extraction locations are likely to change over the consent term as the river meanders migrate.

The application is to continue a similar operation as consent 63476, which expired 30th June 2017. This application is to extract up to 20,000 m3 per year, or 200,000 m3 over ten years.

Resource consent is required under section 13(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Rule 4 of the Regional River Gravel Management Plan to undertake a **discretionary activity** to extract gravel from the bed of the Whakatane River.

**Operation Details**

Gravel will be removed by an excavator, which will load truck and trailer units. Trucks carry approximately 16 m3 of gravel. Gravel will be extracted only from the dry bed of the river, no closer than 5 metres (m) from the water and to a depth of no more than 300 millimetres below the water level in the adjoining river at the time of extraction. There may be some requirement for vegetation removal on the flat beaches where vegetation (exotic weed species) is established.

Temporary stockpiles of gravel may need to be formed on the river edge above the 20 year flood level; stockpiles would be in place for no more than three days. There may also be a requirement to temporarily stockpile material on land adjacent to extraction sites.

The excavator will need to cross the river at pre-approved locations; trucks will not cross the river. No river crossing will occur during the main fish spawning period from 1 May to 30 September each year.

During the native bird breeding season (1 August to 31 January inclusive), a suitably qualified and experienced person will survey for protected native birds (such as banded dotterel, pied stilt and black-fronted dotterel) before the start of any gravel extraction. If protected native birds are identified at gravel extraction sites during the native bird nesting season, mitigation measures include:

1. Extract gravel from an alternative site, where practicable;
2. Clearly identify bird nesting sites and delineate a 30 metre buffer zone around all identified bird nesting sites;
3. Avoid gravel extraction and associated activities within the 30 metre buffer zone around all identified nesting sites;
4. Extract gravel from any one site continuously until completed during the bird nesting season;
5. Extract gravel at a minimum number of extraction beaches at any one time; and
6. Confine machinery movements to a single set of tracks to and from the active gravel extraction site.

There will need to be refuelling on site, as well as filter and oil changes; these will occur no closer than 20 m from the water body. Fuel will be brought on site daily and will not be stored on the riverbed overnight.

Hours of operation: 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 8 am to 12 pm on Saturdays.

The application is for a ten year consent term.

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