



**To: The Marlborough Environment Plan Hearings Panel**  
**From: Nicola Foran, Trustpower**  
**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
**Subject: Response to Minute 12**

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The Hearings Panel have asked for further details as to the consented activities undertaken by Trustpower upstream of the Branch Weir.

Trustpower currently holds Resource Consent U990161 which authorises several activities, including to use, alter, extend or maintain the existing intake structure and weir in the bed of the Branch River. These activities can or may occur on the upstream side of the structure, as the structure does extend upstream of the portion that is typically visible above water. (Please refer to the attached intake schematic which illustrates this.)

As the Branch River has a primarily gravel substrate, Trustpower is required to sluice the gravel from behind the intake weir and pass it through the sluice gates downstream. This activity results in noticeable visual differences in the character of the river after the sluicing is completed.

In addition, in Trustpower's experience that often works are required in the bed of the river to shift gravels around, or to dig gravels out to facilitate maintenance works on the intake structure or to ensure that sufficient water is flowing into the intake gates. These activities are usually focused immediately upstream of the weir, but due to the braided nature of the river, could extend as far as 150m upstream from the weir.

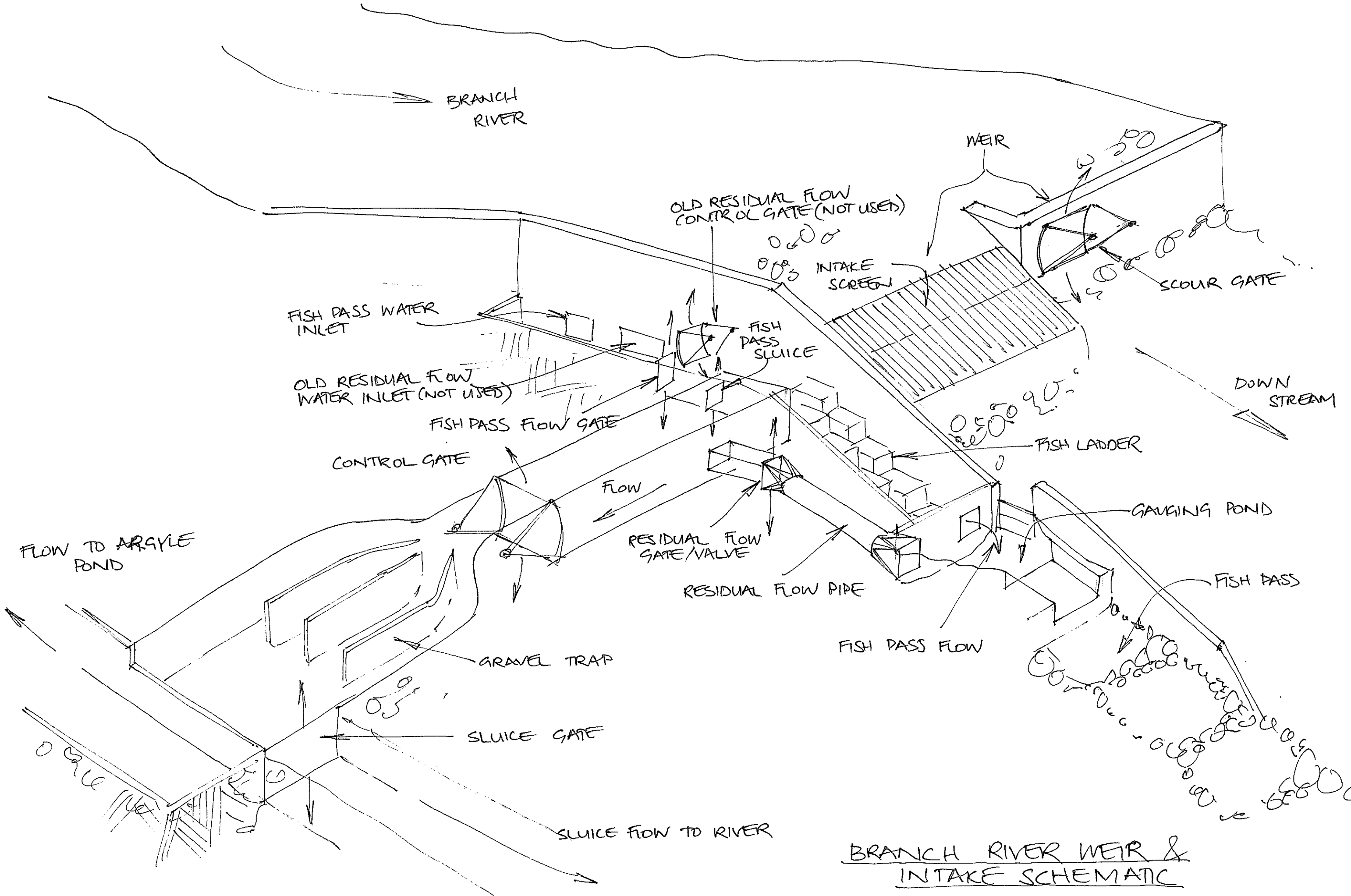
Trustpower previously held Resource Consent U061186 to reconstruct a diversion groyne located approximately 70m upstream of the weir, and to fill in scour holes downstream of the intake grill. This consent expired in March 2017, and at the time it was assessed this activity could be permitted under the proposed MEP. If this activity needs to be undertaken again, either a resource consent will need to be obtained (dependent on the status of the proposed MEP), or this activity may be permitted if the notified version of the permitted activity rule (Rule 2.7.1) becomes operative.

In Trustpower's experience, it is these types of maintenance activities that occur immediately on the upstream side of the intake weir that often get caught by overlays such as these and their associated rules.

I have also included a couple of photos of the intake weir showing the sluice gate in action and the buildup of gravel behind the weir. I trust that these are useful to the Hearings Panel.

Enclosed:

- Branch River intake schematic
- IMG\_1364: shows the sluice gate in action, looking from behind (upstream) of the intake weir. Note the buildup of gravel material behind the weir.
- IMG\_0643: shows buildup of gravel material behind the intake weir.



BRANCH RIVER WEIR & INTAKE SCHEMATIC



