

## 8. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR CWTP WASTEWATER EFFLUENT DISCHARGE PROJECT

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Council regarding what procurement of professional services is being undertaken in relation to the wastewater outfall.

### BACKGROUND

The Council resolved in October 2002 to proceed with preparation of an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) for an ocean outfall for the City's wastewater. This is a large and significant project for the City of Christchurch which could require a budget in the order of \$70m. Because of this, it is essential that the Council receives good advice in a timely manner, and that this advice is reliable and robust.

In order to ensure these aims are achieved, the following professional services have been engaged to ensure the Council can have confidence in the information being prepared for the AEE and reports requiring decisions by the Council.

### PREPARATION OF AEE

URS New Zealand Ltd has been engaged as the lead consultant for the preparation of the AEE for an ocean outfall. URS was selected after competitive tendering processes at the time the Council commenced investigations into wastewater outfall options. URS has performed well in this respect and has now accumulated significant background knowledge to continue the process to fruition in an expeditious manner efficiently and to the benefit of the Council. URS will also be engaging on behalf of the Council ancillary professional services from providers such as NIWA, and the University of New South Wales Water Research Laboratory, to undertake tasks such as ecology baseline studies, pipe route evaluations, and ocean current modelling for inclusion within the AEE.

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

OCTA Associates Ltd have been engaged in their role as project managers. OCTA is well known to the Council on projects such as the Christchurch Convention Centre, and the Westpac Sport and Entertainment Centre. Their principal, Dave McLernon, has significant experience with ocean pipeline construction, consenting processes, and is also a Resource Consent Commissioner. OCTA will prepare a detailed strategy programme for the outfall project. They will also report on progress against this programme and prepare a financial model for the project and report variations against this model. Their role also includes peer review of aspects of work being undertaken by URS to ensure a robust system for decision making, capable of withstanding external scrutiny is achieved. It is expected that the preparation of the detailed strategy programme will identify the need for, and the critical timing for further engineering studies. This will include an analysis of the type of contract the Council should consider for the construction of the pipeline to the ocean (eg design then tender, design build, build own operate transfer (BOOT), or partnering arrangement). The relative benefits and dis-benefits of each option will need serious consideration by Council (see competitive pricing below).

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Gay Pavelka has been engaged to provide independent consultation advice and facilitation. This is so that reliable information can be brought back to the Council regarding the views of the community with respect to the outcomes the community would prefer regarding an ocean outfall and the pipe route. Gay lead the Working Party through the previous consultation process and achieved respect within the community for providing independent facilitation so that the community felt their views were taken into account.

### CONSULTATION WITH MAORI

A process involving consultation with TRONT and Tuihuriri plus other groups will be undertaken through engagement of key people as necessary. The Council's Maori Liaison Officer will be assisting with the process.

## **LEGAL ADVICE**

John Fogarty QC has been appointed to provide legal advice for this project after the untimely passing of Tony Hearn QC. John Fogarty has significant experience in the consenting process and specifically outfall pipelines.

## **WAY FORWARD/COMPETITIVE PRICING**

As the pipeline project develops, various elements will need to be subjected to competitive pricing. The most significant of these will be:

- Professional services for pipeline design, UV (if required), green edge design, tendering and construction project management.
- Construction contracts (note this is not a 'professional service' but is included for clarity).
- There may be others.

## **SUMMARY**

This report outlines what professional services have already been engaged for the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant wastewater effluent discharge project and what more will be needed.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Committee approves the process outlined in the report.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.