

25. CHRISTCHURCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE CONSENT

RR 8682

The Committee was advised of progress with obtaining a consent to discharge treated wastewater from the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant.

BACKGROUND

In August 1996 the Council authorised a programme of work to obtain a resource consent to discharge treated effluent from the CWTP. The effluent presently discharges to the Estuary, but the consent for this expires in 2001. After an extensive programme of consultation and investigation, the Council in August 1998 resolved to “favourably consider” the possibility of an ocean outfall, subject to a range of conditions. If finally adopted this project would cost about \$50 million, on top of the \$30 million being spent already on the capacity upgrade of the treatment plant.

RECENT WORK

Since the August 1998 resolution, the Council has let a contract to consulting engineers and planners, Woodward-Clyde Ltd, to do a detailed assessment of environmental effects (AEE) of the ocean outfall and two other short-listed Estuary-discharge options. This contract is programmed for completion in May 1999.

It was **resolved**:

1. That, in view of the importance of this project and its potential impact on the city’s environment and budgets, a sub-committee of Councillors be appointed to work with staff and the public in the on-going programme of obtaining a discharge consent for the CWTP.
2. That Councillors O’Rourke, Close and Wright be appointed as the Wastewater Discharge Consent Sub-Committee.