

10. AKAROA HARBOUR WASTEWATER CONSENT APPLICATIONS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report, and the accompanying report on land purchase in the public excluded agenda to this meeting, is to present a recommendation from the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board to the Council with regard to a preferred option for the future management of Akaroa's wastewater. The recommendation includes lodging a new resource consent application by 1 January 2013 for continuing the current discharge, and then lodging a new resource consent application for the new discharge site considered in this report so as to align the consent timeframes with the construction timeframe for the preferred option as programmed in the current LTP. It should be noted that the construction timeframes may be subject to change as the 2013 to 2015 Long Term Plan reviews are undertaken.
2. This report further implements the Council's resolution of 8 December 2011, which was

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AKAROA / WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD: MEETING OF 16 NOVEMBER 2011

Pam Richardson, Chairperson, joined the table for discussion of this item.

1. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF AKAROA HARBOUR WASTEWATER

*It was **resolved** unanimously on the motion of Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Corbett, that:*

- (a) The Akaroa Wastewater Working Party be thanked for its valuable work over the last three years.*
- (b) A replacement wastewater treatment plant for Akaroa be located away from Takapuneke Reserve, and that staff discuss siting options with the Ōnuku Rūnanga and community, and report back to the Council within six months on suitable potential sites.*
- (c) The outfall for the treatment plant be re-located to the middle of the Akaroa Harbour and that consideration be given to measures to address cultural concerns, in consultation with Ngāi Tahu.*
- (d) The new treatment plant be designed to produce wastewater that achieves the best quality wastewater available at the time.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. The Akaroa wastewater treatment plant discharges treated wastewater into the Akaroa harbour, and is operating well in terms of meeting its resource consent conditions. The current consent is a short term one. It was granted by Environment Canterbury (Ecan) with the aim that the Council consult with the community to decide on the future long term management of Akaroa wastewater. Apart from the standard monitoring conditions, the consent (which expires in July 2013) required that a community working party be established in 2008 to make a recommendation to the Council with regard to a long term wastewater treatment option for the Akaroa area. This would allow the Council to then apply for a new long term consent for wastewater discharges in line with the preferred option, prior to the expiry of the current discharge consent in July 2013.
4. It is not now possible for the Council to lodge a new application for a new discharge before expiry of the current consent. A short term extension of the consent in order to construct a new plant will be necessary. Discharge could continue under the current consent, providing a new application to continue that discharge for a short term period is lodged six months before expiry of the current consent.

5. Any discharge consent for a new plant will include conditions for a higher level of wastewater treatment for harbour discharge, in particular in the reduction of nutrients.
6. Capital and operating cost provisions have been made for this project in the 09-19 LTCCP. These provisions and timings will be reviewed as part of the 2013/22 LTP.
7. Staff have, as directed by the Council on 8 December 2011, discussed site options for a future wastewater treatment plant with the Ōnuku Rūnanga. Those options, and the officers' recommended site, are described in the report on land purchase in the public excluded agenda for this meeting.
8. Council officers attended three hui with Onuku Runanga to discuss the options and implications of each option. At the final hui on 22 July 2012 the Runanga:
 - (a) Expressed strong support for moving the treatment plan off Takapuneke, and:
 - (b) Gave full support for the new discharge consent application for the new site (described in the report on land purchase in the public excluded agenda for this meeting) to provide for upgrading of the wastewater treatment, and:
 - (c) Supported the new site, provided that there is to be progress towards the long term aim of reducing discharge of treated wastewater to the harbour. These conditions can be embodied in the conditions for the new treatment plant consent and discharge consent.
 - (d) Sought further discussion with Council officers regarding developing the Onuku site and some Council input into options for "on site" treatment of wastewater at Onuku.
9. The construction of the wastewater treatment plant on the portion of land to be acquired by Council will require Christchurch City Council resource consents and building consent, as well as discharge consents from Ecan. These consents will be applied for at the appropriate point in the project. The land use consent application will propose significant landscaping to ensure the visual impact of the new plant and associated structures is minimised. A new pumping station in Akaroa will be required to service the new treatment plant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Funding of \$23.1 million was available in the 2009-19 LTCCP for this project. An additional \$3.4 m will be requested as part of the new LTP 2013-22. The current concept design estimates are considered sufficient to determine the LTCCP requirements.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

11. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. There are no land issues arising other than the purchase of land described in the public excluded report.
13. Consents - whichever long term option is decided upon, the current discharge consent expires on 1 July 2013. A notified consent application to continue the current operation will be required, possibly up to 2018. That application must be lodged by 1 January 2013.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

14. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

15. This report supports the wastewater treatment and collection activity management plan recommended level of service, that no major or persistent breaches of resource consents for treatment plants and associated discharges occur.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

16. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

17. A draft wastewater strategy is shortly to be presented to Council. Once formally approved this strategy document will be subject to public consultation.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. The current resource consent conditions named specific parties who were to be invited to participate in the community working party, as well as possible volunteers. A number of NGO's, individuals and elected members joined the Working Party. Numbers attending meetings reduced over the three years with a core of five members (excluding CCC, Ecan and Department of Conservation attendees) completing the working party work in 2011.
20. At Ōnuku Rūnanga's request it was consulted separately. This process included some representatives attending some Working Party meetings, as well as a formal hui at Ōnuku Marae.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Note that Council officers will apply for a new resource consent for the current discharge for up to seven years while the new application is being prepared, and:
- (b) Authorise the new long term resource consent applications for the new site being for discharge being located in the mid harbour and to include provision for land irrigation trials in accordance with the 8 December 2011 Council resolutions, and:
- (c) Request Council officers to continue to discuss with the Rūnanga the possible future servicing options for the Onuku Marae.