

29. WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT SEWAGE

Officer responsible City Water & Waste Manager	Author Mike Stockwell, City Water & Waste Manager, DDI 371 1332
Corporate Plan Output: Liquid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to confirm discussion between the Waimakariri District Council and this Council concerning Waimakariri sewage.

BACKGROUND

Waimakariri Council is currently investigating options for the treatment and disposal of their sewage. One of these options is to pipe it to Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal via our own discharge point into the estuary. Following some preliminary discussion between officers, Mayor Janice Skurr wrote to Mayor Garry Moore (refer attachment) seeking further discussion about the merits of this possibility.

OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION

At a meeting on Monday 2 April between the Mayors of both Councils, Chairman of City Services, and various Council officers, the reasons why it is considered inappropriate for Christchurch City to accept Waimakariri District sewage was explained to their representatives. These reasons are:

- (a) The proposal will considerably reduce the capacity of the current Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade which caters for a population increase of 112,000 people to 2026. Over this period the population of Waimakariri District is projected to increase by 39,000 using up 35% of the capacity increase.
- (b) A strong message was received from Christchurch residents during our recent Resource Consent renewal public consultation process. This message was that the public do not want Christchurch City Council to accept or be responsible for over the border sewage. In this regard the Waimakariri River forms a naturally defining boundary.
- (c) Our Christchurch City Resource Consent Application is for a 15 year period whereas the Resource Consent for Waimakariri is for 25 years. These periods are mismatched.
- (d) From a disaster management point of view, it is not considered prudent to keep increasing the population base inputting into the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our proposed future (long term) Wastewater Management Plan will consider satellite treatment plants as a possible method of reducing this risk and clearly Waimakariri District forms such a natural satellite area.

Whilst the tenure of the above discussion could be viewed as negative this was not the case and following positives were noted.

- Waimakariri District Council was grateful to get up front answers so as to enable them to move on with their alternative options for treatment and disposal.
- It was agreed that the two Councils always wish to co-operate and that there will be much merit in sharing technical information as each of our respective sewer treatment projects moves forward into the future.

SUMMARY

The discussions achieved positive outcomes in terms of giving Waimakariri District Council a clear answer and reaching agreement to share technology in the future.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Christchurch City Council does not accept Waimakariri District Council sewage for treatment or disposal.
 2. That the Christchurch City Council and Waimakariri District Council assist each other by sharing sewerage technology as each of their projects move into the future.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.