

12. CHRISTCHURCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSENTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Liquid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of progress with processing the resource consents for the wastewater treatment plant.

BACKGROUND

In December 2000 the Council formally adopted its preferred option for development of the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant and for associated resource consents.

Since then staff, consultants, the wastewater subcommittee and peer reviewers have completed the Assessment of Environment Effects as required by the Resource Management Act, and have lodged a suite of nine consent applications. Six of these applications went to Environment Canterbury for coastal permits and discharge permits, and three to the Council's Environmental Services Unit for land use changes.

NEXT STEPS

The process from here on is governed by the Resource Management Act. Key steps are:

1. The applications are expected to be notified in May for public submissions.
2. The applications will be open for submissions for four weeks from the date of notification, and during that time anyone may make a submission.
3. The consent authorities will arrange joint hearings, but the timetable for these will not be clear until we have seen the submissions.

Note that further appeals are possible to the Environment Court after the two authorities reach their decisions.

SUMMARY

Progress on the new resource consent application is satisfactory.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Council note that the matter is now in a quasi-judicial statutory process and it would be inappropriate to express personal opinions or enter into public debate, particularly as the Council is both applicant and a consenting authority.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.