

7. WASTEWATER STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee of the progress made to date in the preparation of the Wastewater Strategic Management Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The Wastewater Strategic Management Plan is the document that will articulate the key social, technological and ecological visions for the next fifty years in the management of Christchurch wastewater and biosolids. Preparation commenced in May of this year with an introductory workshop to bring the issues before Councillors and place the Wastewater Strategic Management Plan in its context with the other key Council planning documents and the law. The second workshop on 8 August 2002 presented a range of options under the following headings for the future directions of Christchurch wastewater management and gained the endorsement of Councillors for research into their viability:

- Reduction,
- Reuse/Recycle,
- Recovery of Nutrients from Water,
- Biosolids,
- Centralisation/Decentralisation,
- Education and Acceptance of Strategic Planning Initiatives.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Within the scope of the above, work in train before and since that workshop includes:

1. Staff Research Into Alternative Strategies

Information on wastewater management strategies from a wide variety of local and international sources (eg technical papers, conferences, professional networks and the internet) is being analysed for its applicability to the particular environmental, technological, economic, social and cultural context of Christchurch.

2. Public Opinion Research

A moderate programme of opinion research (by Market Truths Limited) is to be conducted over October and November 2002. One of its objectives is to explore and measure public views on alternatives to the existing conventional centralised wastewater system. (The other aims are to gain levels of service information for the Asset Management Plan and a draft Customer Charter).

More specifically the groups to be surveyed include:

- General public,
- Maori,
- Commercial and trade waste customers,
- Customers experiencing odour problems from the reticulation and pumping systems, and the Treatment Plants.

Results from this research are expected by the end of December 2002.

3. **Alternative Strategies Case Study**

A brief has been prepared for concurrent desktop studies into integrated waste management hierarchy based strategies for treatment and reticulation (including decentralisation) and their feasibility for future adoption by the city. The south and west of the City/Halswell and Belfast, have been chosen as the case study areas. Two approaches will be undertaken. One will investigate more traditional options while the other will look at what could be termed low technology solutions. From these studies we hope to be able to present to councillors:

- A package of solutions with net present value costings that are sound technologically, environmentally and economically, as well as culturally acceptable to Maori and the general public.
- Recommendations for further study.

Results are anticipated by the end of February 2002.

4. **Preparation of a Draft Document suitable for Public Notification**

Work has begun on preparing an outline of the draft document using the main headings of the 8 August 2002 workshop as Chapters. This should be ready for Councillors' consideration by the end of March 2003 with adoption by the Council of a completed Strategic Wastewater Management Plan by the end of May 2003.

The timeline through to the adoption of the Wastewater Strategic Management Plan is appended.

Staff

Recommendation: That the programme of work discussed in this report be adopted.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.