

## 9. CWTP OCEAN OUTFALL PIPELINE: WATER QUALITY AND BEACH STANDARDS

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Water and Waste Manager	<b>Author</b> John Moore Senior Projects Co-ordinator
--	--

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the process being followed for consultation on Water Quality and Beach Standards in relation to the proposed Ocean Outfall pipeline. A date is also being sought from the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee to hear verbal submissions on this matter and a separate date for a seminar to present the results of the consultation on water quality, in conjunction with the ocean outfall contracting options.

### INTRODUCTION

The following principal milestones are required to be achieved so that the Ocean Outfall pipeline for the discharge from the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant can be completed:

- Consultation on water quality and beach standards completed,
- Confirm water quality from treatment plant upgrade,
- Ocean current modelling completed,
- Decision made on pipe length and uv treatment (derived from information from above milestones),
- Decision regarding tendering and contracting options,
- Apply for resource consent, consultation process and possible appeals,
- Resource consent issued,
- Tender for construction of pipeline,
- Construct pipeline,
- Commission pipeline.

Consultation regarding water quality and beach standards for the ocean outfall pipeline with respect to the first bullet point above is presently underway. This involves informing the community about the outfall, and undertaking two significant surveys over the early 2004 summer months. The main thrust of this consultation is to find out the community's views regarding four configurations of the outfall with respect to pipe length and uv disinfection.

Feedback has also been received regarding the outcomes the community expects from the outfall pipeline regarding water quality and beach standards through the Council's web site and the pipe route consultation undertaken last year. Written submissions regarding water quality and beach standards close on 31 March 2004.

### PROCESS

#### Survey One (Deliberative Survey)

A further 800 copies of the information booklet have been prepared without the tear out survey form at the back, for use by Opinions market research company to undertake a more detailed survey with 600 participants. Quotas have been placed on the demographics for participants in this survey in order to ensure the sample is representative in the following respects:

- Age,
- Gender,
- Working status,
- Location (ward areas).

The maximum margin of error at a 95% confidence level for a sample of 600 is +/- 4%. Participants will be recruited by phone followed by a 15 minute phone survey. The booklet will then be posted to participants and a time arranged to phone participants back for a further 15 minute survey after they have read the information in the booklet. This methodology is called a deliberative survey and will give the Council confidence that the views of a balanced section of the community will be heard. This survey is being undertaken by Opinions market research company commencing mid January and finishing late February 2004.

## **Survey Two (Wider Community)**

Just over four thousand copies of a consultation/information booklet has been prepared providing information about what changes can be expected to beach standards and water quality resulting from the construction of an ocean outfall for the discharge of wastewater. Included in the booklet is a tear out survey for the wider community to give their views on four configurations of the outfall with respect to pipe length and uv disinfection. The booklet is available from libraries and service centres, and has been posted to key wastewater discharge interest stakeholders as listed in attachment 1. The booklet will also be posted to those that phone or write requesting a copy. The community has been made aware of the availability of the booklet through a targeted media campaign. The survey form at the back of the booklet is also available on-line on the Councils web site.

### **VERBAL SUBMISSIONS**

The wider community and those participating in the survey, are also invited to make a verbal submission to the Council. It is not known, at this stage the numbers that may wish to take advantage of this offer, however, it is suggested that two days be set aside to hear those submissions. If there are insufficient submissions to warrant two days then one of those days may be cancelled. It is more likely, however, that more than two days may be required, and the Committee has the option of setting a further date or hearing the submissions over extended hours on the days set.

After written submissions close for the water quality and beach standards consultation, verbal submissions could be heard two weeks later, to provide time to mail out submission hearing appointments to submitters after 31 March 2004. This would allow time for submitters to make arrangements to attend. If dates for submissions are set now, an initial mailout can advise those wishing to make submissions what dates these are likely to be heard.

### **SEMINAR**

After verbal submissions have been heard, the information will be incorporated into a report on water quality and beach standard consultation. This report will be available for a seminar to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee with all Councillors invited to be held later in the year. The seminar will present the outcomes of the consultation, explain the four options being consulted on, and advise the results of extended ocean current modelling and improvements to water quality from the treatment plant upgrade. Information on possible contracting methods for the pipeline will also be presented.

It is expected the Committee will then be in a position to make a clear recommendation to Council at a subsequent meeting regarding configuration of an outfall to meet acceptable outcomes with regard to water quality and beach standards and the type of contract the Council should develop for the actual construction of the pipe line.

### **TIMELINE**

A timeline for the Council to achieve a decision about the option for the Ocean Outfall pipeline is shown in Attachment 2. This timeline has of necessity needed to finish before the pending Council elections (later in 2004).

### **SUMMARY**

Consultation is proceeding regarding water quality and beach standards in relation to the proposed ocean outfall wastewater discharge. As part of this consultation there is a need to set a date to hear verbal submissions.

Subsequent to this, it is intended to hold a seminar for the Committee to hear:

- Outcomes of water quality and beach standard consultation,
- Initial results of water quality from the pond upgrade,
- Results of the ocean current modelling,
- Options for tendering and contracting.

It is intended that this will provide sufficient information for a recommendation to be made to the Council on the pipeline configuration with respect to pipe length and any further uv disinfection as well as contracting options.

**Staff****Recommendation:**

1. That the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee set dates for two full days between 20 April and 7 May 2004 to hear verbal submissions regarding water quality and beach standards.
2. A date for a full half-day between 13 and 24 July 2004 is set for a seminar for the Committee with all Councillors invited, to hear the outcomes of water quality and beach standard consultation and receive other relevant information in order to make a recommendation to the Council on pipe length, any further disinfection, and tendering and contracting options for the ocean outfall pipeline.
3. That a report be prepared for the 10 August 2004 Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee meeting reflecting the discussions from the seminar and making recommendations regarding pipeline length, uv, and tendering and contracting options for the ocean pipeline.

**Chairman's****Recommendation:**

1. That a meeting of the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee be held on Wednesday 28 April and Thursday 29 April 2004 to hear and consider submissions regarding water quality and beach standards.
2. That a half day seminar be held for the Committee on Thursday 22 July 2004, which all Councillors are invited, for the purpose as outlined above.