



# **MINUTES**

**Wastewater Management Review  
Committee meeting  
Wednesday, 31 May 2023**

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening karakia</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public forum</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Acceptance of late items</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confidential business to be transferred into the open</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Change to order of business</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes</b> .....	<b>3</b>
	7.1 Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 31 August 2022.....	3
<b>8</b>	<b>Declaration of conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Business</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	9.1 Wastewater Programme Business Case .....	4
	9.2 Wastewater Management Review Committee Activity Report .....	5
<b>10</b>	<b>Discussion of late items</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Closing karakia</b> .....	<b>7</b>

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 1, 306 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 2023 AT 1 PM**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Bill Wasley (Deputy Chairperson who chaired the meeting as per terms of reference), Ms Lara Burkhardt (Chairperson), Commissioner Stephen Selwood, Mr Des Heke, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Mr Spencer Webster

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Nic Johansson (General Manager: Infrastructure), Jane Groves (Stormwater Programme Leader), , Radleigh Cairns (Manager: Drainage Services), Jim Summers (Consents Officer), Claudia Hellberg (Team Leader: City Waters Planning), Keren Paekau (Team Leader: Pou Takawaenga) Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services) and Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor)

Nicola Houlding (Canopy Consulting)

## **1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Mr Des Heke opened the meeting with a karakia.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

## **4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

## **5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**

Nil

## **6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Nil

## **7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 31 August 2022**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW1/23/1**

Moved: Mr Whitiora McLeod

Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 31 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

## 9 BUSINESS

### 9.1 Wastewater Programme Business Case

**Staff** Nic Johansson, General Manager: Infrastructure Services  
Jane Groves, Stormwater Programme Leader

**External** Nicola Houlding (Canopy Consulting)

#### Key points

- The project team had been working on the Programme Business Case (PBC) for some time to provide a way forward for future investment in the wastewater scheme including investment in the water treatment plants and the wastewater network as a whole.
- The initial focus was for the future plans of the marine outfall because of the connection between the marine outfall, the wastewater network and the water treatment plant.
- The key issues found were set out in Attachment 1 of the report.
- There was a broad range of responses to implement, both infrastructure and non infrastructure including educational and policy initiatives.
- Looking at the new water services entity and how the wastewater system may service a broader region and any areas where consenting may be compromised.
- Checking with the level of comfort held by the Committee, aside from the four matters which would be discussed further, to enable staff to move on with subsequent stages of the PBC to embed the foundational aspects and to start looking at what potential responses could be targeted to meet the investment objectives.
- Staff had learnt a lot from the process, including the level of detail early in the stages with all of the parties coming together providing a joint understanding of the matters and issues.

#### In response to questions

- The shortlist stage would be provided to Council in draft before the end of the year and the drafting of the business case would be in early 2024. There would be a gap in having the options in the long list identified and the studies and investigations that needed to take place.
- The shortlist was a way forward, and once Council had approved that, it would be turned into a road map with the detail and tranches of work and details in the short and long term. The road map would not be started until staff were aware of which high priority shortlist options to take forward.
- It was noted that there were some high targets set for levels of service for the impact of water on all of the wastewater services within the network. Staff were working collaboratively with all partners to get the best outcomes for the city.
- Once the PBC was decided, the Council would report to the Department of Internal Affairs.
- Staff were looking for consensus on everything, but there were several items of wording where consensus had not been able to be achieved.
- The possibility of developing a Terms of Reference around the decision making process was discussed, especially when a consensus was not reached or a Hui te Marama – to work through the options, drawing on everyone's knowledge and experience to try to reach consensus.
- It was agreed to return the issues back to the project team for additional input as appropriate, including possible legal advice, to work through and resolve the four matters and then the project team was asked to report back to the Committee for consideration.
- In relation to the pathway forward, it was noted that there was concern with words such as 'avoid' as the meaning under the Resource Management Act (RMA) statutory definition could have significant implications in a PBC. Other matters included the phrase 'must not disturb

urupa or waahi tapu sites' and what that meant, whether there was alternate routes and the implications of that.

- It was noted that the wider application of hapū and iwi management plans, the number and dating of those, could be a significant workload and matters of strategic level might still achieve the same outcome.

### Discussion points raised

- Commissioners noted that there was a need to understand the view of tangata whenua and whether they were open to these options, a pathway forward and having those conversations to achieve a better outcome.
- Concern was expressed that the report was from Council staff with a Council perspective and tangata whenua had not had any input into the document or had an opportunity to present a separate written report for the Committee to consider. Therefore there was the inability to reach agreement as the Committee had not been advised of the tangata whenua perspective. It was agreed that the opportunity be given for tangata whenua to provide a written report to the Committee.
- The use of the wording, "avoid" or "seek to avoid", unless it was in a regional plan, it did not mean anything but did change the meaning. It was considered that the phrases sat in the business case, but was being treated as if they were in an RMA document. "Seek to avoid" was different to "avoid" and gave the Council flexibility. It was suggested that legal advice be sought around these terms to give comfort to the Committee on how they might be used. The project team needed to have this discussion to ensure it had not misdirected itself in terms of what the implications might be of using these terms.
- The Committee referred the original recommendations back to staff and the project team for further consideration at a subsequent meeting to be held on 12 July 2023.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW1/23/2

Moved: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Refers the Wastewater Programme Business Case Report back to the Project Team with a request that the views of tangata whenua on any areas that required clarification be expressed in writing.
- (b) Requests the Project Team to hold a subsequent meeting after receipt of the written views from Tangata Whenua with a view to resolving any outstanding matters.
- (c) Holds a further committee meeting to receive the update from the Project Team.

**CARRIED**

At 2.02pm the meeting adjourned.

At 2.05pm the meeting reconvened.

## 9.2 Wastewater Management Review Committee Activity Report

**Staff** Nic Johansson, General Manager: Infrastructure Services  
Jim Summers, Consents Officer

### Key points

- Desludging commenced in August 2022.
- There had been no new odour complaints at the Chapel Street or Te Maunga Treatment Plants.

- Two notices for discharge consents were due to the heavy rain fall in March 2023. Chapel Street was pushed to its limits and resulted in a discharge of non UV treated wastewater due to a software failure.
- The May 2023 event was a heavier and localised rainfall which resulted in the peak flows exceeding the Chapel Street's ability to discharge to the Te Maunga pipeline, resulting in the plant discharging for approximately 90 minutes into the harbour. It was noted that the UV Plant was fully operational and no emergency discharge was recorded at the Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- It was noted that from August 2022 to May 2023 there were 112 wastewater blockages - 81 of those did not leave the network and were contained to land; 12 were contained within the stormwater network or on land; 19 overflows potentially made the receiving environment and were notified to Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Toi Te Ora and local iwi/ hapū and signage placed in the relevant areas.
- The implementation of the Inflow and Infiltration Strategy helped to take the pressure off the network in huge weather events.
- The previous biosolidstes strategy from 2016 would be provided to Members.
- Desludging of pond 1 and the decommissioning would be reported at each committee meeting.
- The construction of Te Maunga bioreactor two was progressing with the ground improvement work scheduled to be completed in December 2023. The above ground works commenced in January 2023 and would last for approximately 15 months.
- The landward outfall project was now completed.
- Works on the marine section of the outfall were underway with 400m cleared of debris and further work would continue when the weather permits.
- Clarifier Number 3 piling trials were completed in September 2022.

### In response to questions

- The main cause of blockages was fats and wipes. Staff looked at catchment areas in an attempt to pin point blockage areas, cracks, slumps or dips within the network.
- Modelling had been carried out within the wastewater network around the city. Storm and ground water were not monitored but staff were aware there was more ground water across the country at present due to the weather.
- The current rate of progress for desludging enabled disposal of 6,000 – 7,000 dry tonnes in the first stage of the project and there may still be more sludge in the pond. There was an option on the table for removing any further sludging material if there was a need to continue past the current consents.

### Discussion points raised

- Mr Whitiora McLeod and Ms Te Rangimarie Williams were the current Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Members however as Ms Williams was no longer a Member of this Committee, she needed to be replaced.
- The Chairperson, Members and staff thanked Te Rangimarie Williams for her service to the Committee.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW1/23/3

Moved: Mr Des Heke

Seconded: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report " Wastewater Management Review Committee Activity Report".
- (b) Replaces Te Rangimarie Williams on the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Panel with Lara Burkhardt.

**CARRIED**

### Attachments

- 1 Presentation - Matapihi Southern Pipeline Advisory Group

**10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**11 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Mr Des Heke closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 2:42pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 11 October 2023.**

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**