



# **AGENDA**

## **Late Reports**

### **Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting**

### **Wednesday, 18 June 2025**

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 June 2025

**Time:** 1pm

**Location:** Tauranga City Council Chambers  
Level 1 - 90 Devonport Road  
Tauranga

*Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed and the recording will be publicly available on Tauranga City Council's website: [www.tauranga.govt.nz](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz).*

**Marty Grenfell**  
**Chief Executive**



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## 8 BUSINESS

### 8.3 Wastewater Activity Report

**File Number:** A18278447

**Author:** Jim Summers, Environmental Programme Leader

**Authoriser:** Wally Potts, Acting General Manager: Infrastructure

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information not the Wastewater Management Review Committee (WWMRC) on the status of the wastewater networks and associated projects.

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Wastewater Activity Report".
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#### DISCUSSION

##### Wastewater Resource Consents

2. Monitoring results for Councils wastewater consents are all within consent requirements. This includes discharges from the outfall at Te Maunga.
3. Council is currently preparing the Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR) as a requirement of consent (RC62878). A workshop is in the process of being organised for mid-July to present a draft of the MUTR to the committee. Staff will then present the final report at the following WWMRC meeting prior to formal submitting to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

##### Wastewater Overflows

4. Since the previous committee meeting there have been 126 blockages that have been notified to council. 88 did not leave the network and were contained to land. 4 discharged to the stormwater system, and 34 potentially made the receiving environment. These were all notified to BoPRC, Toi Te Ora and local hapu/iwi RMA reps. Water quality sampling was undertaken, and warning signage placed in the relevant areas until results indicated no further impacts on water quality.
5. Blockages can be due to a variety of reasons; however, the majority since the last committee meeting continue to be caused by fats, oils and grease (FOGs) as well as rags/wipes in the wastewater network. Following wastewater overflows, the Waterline Team and Pollution Prevention Team conduct leaflet drops to raise awareness in those catchments affected about what should not be flushed or discharged to the network. Work also continues on the wet wipes campaign and other forms of education as well as early detection of blockages within the city.

##### RC62722 & RC62723 - Te Maunga & Chapel Street Odour

6. No odour complaints received for Te Maunga or Chapel Street since the last committee meeting. Council are in the process of commissioning a new odour scrubber at Te Maunga WWTP to replace the current biofilter. This has enabled a significant reduction in footprint freeing up land for the new Te Maunga inlet works once this project is ready to go ahead.

**Clarifier 3**

7. The clarifier mechanism is scheduled for installation during June 25 and commissioning during July 25. The clarifier is dependent on the completion of Bioreactor 2 and so will not be fully operational and part of the treatment process until this is also commissioned (Last quarter of 2026).

**Bioreactor 2**

8. Ground Improvement works were completed just prior to Easter. Since then HEB have been establishing on site to commence construction of the above ground works Commissioning is due to start in the last quarter of 2026.
9. Once Bioreactor 2 is commissioned, Bioreactor 1 will be taken offline for maintenance and renewals. This will mean that operational staff do not expect to have both bioreactors operational until the middle of 2027.

**New Inlet Works (NIW)**

10. Currently in preliminary design phase. This infrastructure will be required to be resilient, able to manage the future flows to the plant and allow for efficient operation and maintenance. Delivery is currently sitting in financial year 2028.

**Wastewater Network - Operation**

11. Since the last committee meeting the Wastewater Renewals team have completed a significant wastewater pipe relining package of works at the Mount. Further relining works are located around Tauranga Central and Judea/Brookfield. Relining is an efficient and cost-effective solution extending the life of pipes while reducing the impact on the community of replacing.
12. A liner was also used to repair the damaged wastewater pipe that created a tomo on Golden Sands Drive. At the beginning of May a five meter deep tomo was discovered opposite Golden Sands school. After some significant ground works to stabilise the tomo and prevent any further damage to the property the pipeline was uncovered to find that the roof of a 1.5m section of the pipe had collapsed due to erosion by H<sub>2</sub>S gas. The damage was just prior to the pump station and so at significant depth creating stabilisation and ground water issues that required dewatering, sheet piling and over-pumping of flows for a number of days. A liner was installed in the damaged section followed by a concrete patch to seal the pipe and enable flows back through the pipe. A custom liner has now been ordered for the entire section which will be installed in August.

**Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund**

13. Council's wastewater discharge consent requires TCC to establish the fund for the purpose of funding and facilitating measures and initiatives (particularly in the upper Tauranga Harbour) to:
  - (a) Avoid, remedy or mitigate the actual or potential effects of the Wastewater Scheme (in its broadest sense); or
  - (b) Acknowledge and provide mitigation by way of environmental compensation for ongoing adverse environmental effects (including by way of offence to tangata whenua cultural and spiritual values) associated with the wastewater scheme.

The guidelines for administering the fund were reviewed by tangata whenua members of the committee and approved by the committee in 2020. A further purpose was added to the guidelines at this time:

- (c) To enhance the environment which has been adversely affected by the Wastewater scheme

14. Staff met with tangata whenua members of the committee to progress the administration of the fund in 2024 where a preference to revisit the guidelines and the mechanisms for engaging the fund was expressed. This process was to be led by the tangata whenua members of the committee and staff are ready to support this as required. The fund currently sits at approximately \$850,000

### **Programme Business Case (PBC)**

15. The Wastewater Programme Business Case (PBC) was initiated to define future investment in the marine outfall but was subsequently broadened in scope to consider investment in the treatment plant and wider network. A project team (including Iwi representatives) has been established for some time and have been working through the PBC (utilising Treasury's Better Business Case framework). The PBC process involves defining key matters to be addressed with the wastewater scheme, the development of future investment and proposes possible options or responses which could be implemented to address to these issues.
16. Following WWMRC endorsement of initial-stage outputs in early 2024, and long list identification workshops with the Project Team in May and June 2024, work has been underway to identify those studies required to inform the assessment of a long list. Key to this has been understanding in more detail the Growth and Development Servicing KSR (geographic areas/populations) which includes consideration of servicing within the Western Bay of Plenty District where it makes sense to do so. In essence, this work comprises modelling of a range of growth servicing options (considering population growth to 2100) utilising the two existing wastewater treatment plants and also and the addition of one or more wastewater treatment plants in other fringe areas of the City. These scenarios consider growth, the location of this growth, network constraints, and outfall system capacity. This current tranche of work is nearing completion, at which time programme options will be compiled. Subsequent stages of the PBC from this point forward would entail the assessment of these programme options by the Project Team and/or Committee to compile a short-list for further investigation.
17. The delivery of 3 Waters is under review and a decision on the way forward will be identified at Council meeting 14 July 2025. it is prudent to gain clarity on the scale of the future water CCO. The present proposal is a CCO for 3 waters with TCC, WBOPDC and Thames Coromandel DC. Therefore, it is considered appropriate at this time the new CCO Board consider the outcomes of the PBC thus far and inform any next steps.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Nil**