

9 July 2024

OIA IRO-695



Tēnā koe 

### Request for information – Whitehouse Road Sewer Renewal

Thank you for your request dated 28 May 2024 to Porirua City Council (the Council). The Council transferred your request under section 12 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act to Wellington Water on 29 May 2024 to answer the following:

2. On the 27th of February after giving my presentation I requested through the Official Information Act information regarding the Whitehouse Road Sewer Renewal. I asked Regarding the Whitehouse Road Sewer Pipe renewal plans: (1) Has there been an update. (2) I would like to see any plans / concept design for taking the new sewer line down Toms Road to the beachfront and along the paper road outside 7 Toms Road to join up with existing sewer pipes outside 4 Bothamley Lane and to flow onto the wastewater treatment plant. Wellington Water staff did not have the courtesy to mention my request in their reply dated 17th April or speak to any of the residents concerned. Instead they deferred the project again to the long term plan for the 2026-27 financial year. What happened to the money allocated for this project in 2022-23? Was this project deferred to the too hard basket?

} respond please.

In response to your two questions:

1. *What happened to the money allocated for this project in 2022-2023*

In the 2022/23 year funding was allocated and used for investigations and concept design, which are important early steps in any pipe replacement project. This project is now on hold until further funding is available through Porirua City Council's Long Term Plan.

1. *Was this project deferred to the too hard basket?*

The concept design report highlights the challenging nature and cost of the two alternative routes considered. It is recommended that options for the existing route be investigated in greater detail before the overall preferred option for the project is determined.

This section of the sewer main has been inspected with CCTV in 2015, 2017 and 2021. The 2021 assessment concluded that failure was unlikely to be imminent and the operational risk could be managed. There is no evidence to suggest the pipe is leaking.

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This means that, while there is a continued risk of sudden failure due to settlement of the existing pipe, it is possible to defer this project with acceptance of that risk.

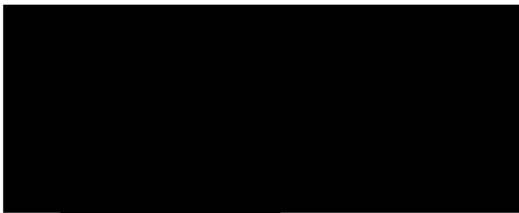
The decision to defer was based on a detailed assessment of priorities across Porirua, given constraints on funding.

Comprehensive information regarding the Whitehouse Road Sewer Renewal project is enclosed in the following appendix.

Please note that it is our policy to publicly release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/about-us/official-requests/official-information-act-responses/> with your personal information removed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



**Group Manager**  
**Network Development and Delivery**

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## APPENDIX:

# Whitehouse Road Sewer Renewal – Project Update June 2024

## Summary

The concept design report for the renewal of section 3 and 4 of the Whitehouse Road Wastewater Main recommends further work before final decisions are made.

To date the preferred conceptual option is to re-route the pipe along Toms Road, subject to further consideration in the next, detailed design phase, including considering using Crown land as an alternative to private property at the end of Toms Road.

The concept design report highlights the challenging nature and cost of the two alternative routes considered. It is recommended that options for the existing route be investigated in greater detail before the overall preferred option for the project is determined.

This project is now on hold until further funding is available.

## Project Background

The Whitehouse Road Wastewater Main is situated in Titahi Bay, Porirua, Wellington, and at present services the Titahi Bay catchment. The existing 685mm wide x 1000mm high U-shaped wastewater main, is typically located within private property and to a less extent in road and recreation reserves. This wastewater main was identified to be in very poor condition, requiring renewal or replacement in the 2014 Strategic Sewer investigations Wastewater Renewals Plan.

As part of the renewal programme, the main was split into numerous stages. A summary of the project sections is shown in Figure 1 below.

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**Figure 1: Catchment overview including Sections 1-4**

In 2017, Sections 1 and 2 (approximately 320m in length) were relined using the trenchless technology ‘Cured in Place Pipe’ (CIPP) lining. Sections 3 and 4 (approximately 195m in length) were not renewed during 2017 due to budget constraints.

From CCTV footage, Section 3 was known to have a significant dip in its vertical alignment. Prior to planned renewal of Sections 3 and 4 in 2019, investigations identified that the dip in vertical alignment was due to the presence of an organic (soft) layer beneath the existing pipe. The relining of Sections 3 and 4 was halted until a preferred sewer renewal option was confirmed to accommodate this dip.

An updated CCTV survey of Section 3, in particular the previously identified dipped section, was undertaken in 2021. This survey was assessed and compared with previous CCTV surveys from 2017 and 2015 to understand the rate of deterioration of the pipeline. The 2021 assessment concluded that failure was unlikely to be imminent and the operational risk could be managed, provided that ongoing regular inspections were planned to monitor pipe condition. As a result, the 2021 assessment also concluded that the renewal of the pipeline could be deferred to later in the 10-year period to allow sufficient time for some actions that could optimise the pipe size for the planned renewal.

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## Long Term Plan

This project was included in the 2021 LTP Pipeline Renewal Programme and funding was allocated in back end of the 10-year programme. The project was brought forward by WWL following a request from Council to optimise the capital spend within the renewals programme. Following this request, funding was allocated in 2022/23 to continue with the design elements of the project.

## Preferred Option

A concept design was completed in early 2023 which assessed two offline (that is, on a different alignment to the existing) pipeline options to mitigate the known risks relating to the organic layer of the current alignment.

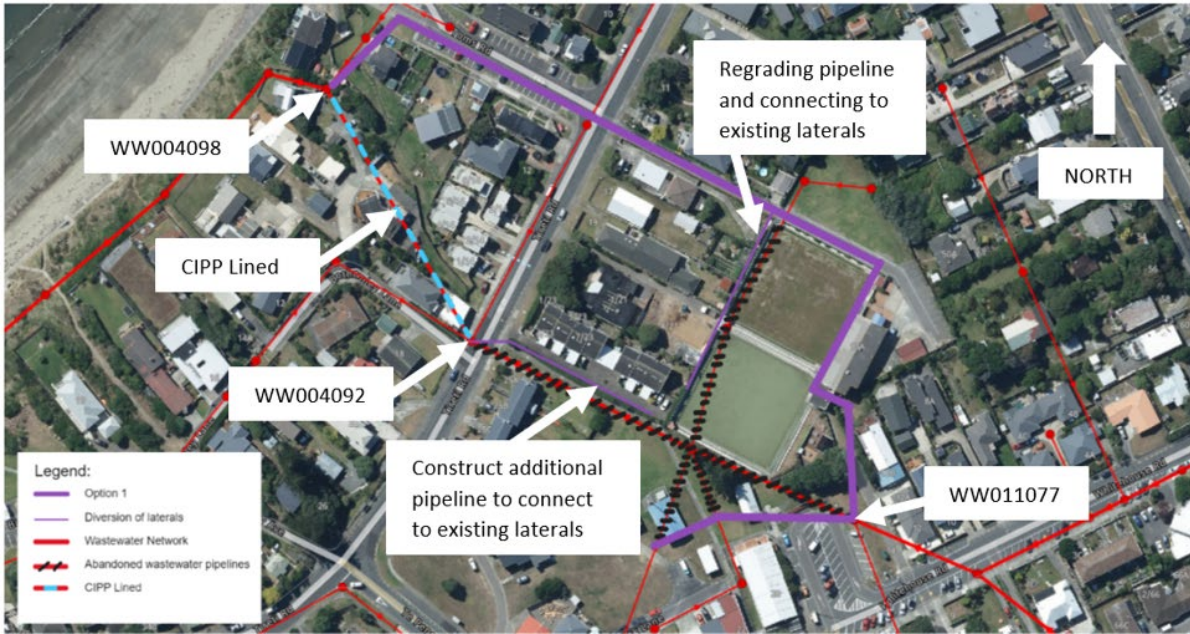
Of the two options assessed, the preferred offline option is to divert the new wastewater main through the Titahi Bay Bowling Club, along Toms Road, and under private property. A summary of the preferred option is shown in Figure 2 below. If this option is to be progressed, then in the detailed design phase further consideration should be given to minimising the risks and impact, including:

- To minimise risks associated with land subsidence to private properties due to dewatering excavations, options for trenchless technology (such as micro tunnelling) should be considered for certain sections of the route.
- Further assessment of the option of routing the pipe under Crown land adjacent to Toms Road, to minimise the interface with private residents. To date, challenges associated with constructing through this Crown land prevented this solution being considered in detail during the concept design. If this offline solution is to be progressed into detailed design, solutions within the crown land will be re-investigated.

An alternative offline option was also considered during concept design to divert the pipeline further south of the existing alignment (along Niblick Lane and Windley Avenue). This option was dismissed due to significant challenges with deep excavations being required to construct the pipeline.

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**Figure 2: Preferred offline renewal option**

## Alternative Online Options

The concept design for the Whitehouse Road Wastewater Main Renewal highlighted the challenging nature and costs of the offline options. Options for renewing the pipeline on the existing alignment (online) were not considered in full during the concept design in 2023, primarily due to the presence of the organic/soft material.

Now that there is a conceptual solution including an indication of possible costs of around \$9.9 million, it is recommended that online options be investigated in greater detail before the overall preferred option for the project is determined.

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## Programme

The project is currently on hold and the timing for the next stage of the project is to be agreed with Porirua City Council. There are several steps to be completed before any alignment can be determined for the Whitehouse Road Wastewater Main Renewal. A summary of next steps and estimated timeframes are shown below (minimum times, assumes sequential):

Phase	Timeframe Estimate	Comment
Online Assessment	3 months	To determine whether the offline solutions covered within the concept design, or a new online solution, is preferred.
Investigations	4-8 months	Additional investigations to inform any detailed design solution (i.e. geotechnical investigations, additional CCTV to monitor ongoing pipe condition)
Preliminary Design	3 months	If required. Progression straight to Detailed Design may be possible if preferred solution has been determined.
Detailed Design	4-6 months	To commence once an online or offline solution has been preferred.
Construction	6-18 months	Dependent on alignment and methodology.

**Table 1: Estimated timeframes for the Whitehouse Road Wastewater Main Renewal**

It should be noted that none of the above steps can occur until funding is available for this project. It should also be noted that consultation and negotiation with landowners for any renewal route (online or offline) would be required due to the built environment. While this would occur during the shown phasing, if consultation and negotiation become protracted, then this will add to any estimated timeframes mentioned above.

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