

Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent

Project Report

31 May 2024



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Approved by: Featherston WWTP Consent Project Governance Group



Te Horopaki Background

The Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been operating under a historic resource consent since 2012, when the existing consent expired. Subsequently South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) lodged a new consent application to continue to discharge treated wastewater into Donald’s Creek. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) had concerns about the discharge, and that application is currently on hold.

In 2017, SWDC lodged a new consent application to transition to a land-based discharge. This application was subsequently withdrawn in 2019 and SWDC moved to work with Wellington Water.

In 2020, SWDC commissioned Wellington Water to work towards achieving a new resource consent for the WWTP. Since then, we have been working through a process with key stakeholders, mana whenua and the South Wairarapa community in 2020 to source ideas, define objectives and criteria and develop options.

Ngā hoaketanga Project Objectives

1. To obtain consent approval for upgrading the Featherston wastewater treatment plant to improve effects on the existing receiving environment, and
2. To determine the suitability of a transition to a land-based wastewater disposal system in the future.

He Whakarāpopoto Project Summary



Reporting period 1 April to 31 May 2024

Since the last report in March:

- All further work required to inform the final s.92 (Section 92, request for information) was completed.
- All reviews of the revised s.92 were completed and the final response was issued to GWRC on 4 June 2024.

Hauora o te Taiao Health, safety, environment & quality



General Health & Safety Status

No incidents to report.

General Environmental Status

The treatment plant is continuing to discharge as permitted.

General Quality

Reviews of the s.92 documentation were undertaken by Wellington Water, SWDC and Legal support.

Ngā Kaupapa mahi o Paengawhāwhā – Haratua

April – May project activity



Communications

Iwi engagement continued to be a focus, however limited progress was made in April and May with heightened focus on the s.92 response. The next hui has been booked for early July.

Consent

All supporting reports and assessments for the final s.92 response were completed and reviewed.

The final s.92 response was issued to GWRC one working day late on 4 June, the extra day was required to address some final feedback from SWDC's Pou Māori.

Design

Support and inputs for the final s.92 response.

Environmental

Support and inputs for the final s.92 response.

Hei tērā marama

Next month

Communications

- Hui with ngā iwi booked for 2 July,
- Revise communications and engagement plan for next phase – public notification of the consent application

Consent

- GWRC will review the s.92 response
- Preparations for public notification.

Design

- No design activity planned.

Environmental

- No environmental activity planned.

Raupapa Kaiwhaipānga

Stakeholder Management



Stakeholder	Relationship	Issues
GWRC Environmental Regulation	Ongoing meetings to collaborate on the preferred options. This report: Final s.92 response was provided 4 June.	
Māori Standing Committee	No update this month	
Tangata Whenua	Open working relationship continues with ngā iwi This report: limited progress, next hui booked for 2 July.	
SWDC Councillors	No update this month	
SWDC officers	Governance Group meetings and Project Steering Group meetings have recommenced.	
Featherston Community Board	No update this month	
Te Whatu Ora	No update this month	
Fish and Game	No update this month	
Department of Conservation	No update this month	
Adjacent landowners	No update this month	
Featherston Community	Project update in May issue of Featherston Phoenix (page 15) Update on social media, including the DAF trial - Facebook	

Te Hōtaka Wā

Programme timeline



We are now working through the Resource Management Act (RMA) consenting process. The process for this is driven by the RMA and GWRC as the regulator.

Following lodgement and providing the additional information regarding the increased flows at the WWTP the next steps include:

- ✓ Section 92 request for information from GWRC.
- ✓ Part one response of S.92 request
- ✓ Part two response of S.92 request
- ✓ DAF trial completion (New)
- ✓ Part three response of S.92 request
- Public notification of the application – **timing TBC**, indicative timelines provided
- Hearing to allow submissions to be heard – **timing TBC**, indicative timelines provided
- Decision on the application – **timing TBC**



Ngā Mahi Matua

Key activities

Key Activity Status	Due Date	Progress	Expected/Actual Completion
Lodge short term consent	23/01/2023	100%	1/05/2023
Update GWRC on flow data	19/06/2023	100%	19/06/2023
GWRC further information request (Section92)	11/07/2023	100%	11/07/2023
Part one response for section 92 request	30/08/2023	100%	30/08/2023
Part 2 response for section 92 request	30/10/2023	100%	16/10/2023
Part 3 response for section 92 request	31/05/2024	100%	04/06/2024
Indicative - Public Notification **	TBC	0%	July / August 2024
Indicative – Submission deadline**	TBC	0%	20 working days after public notification starts
Indicative - Hearing commencement **	TBC	0%	November / December 2024
Indicative -Consent application indicative decision**	TBC	0%	15 working days after the hearing closes

** These dates are indicative only and are subject to change as the resource consent process continues.

More information about the resource consent process can be found [here](#).

Whakapaunga utu

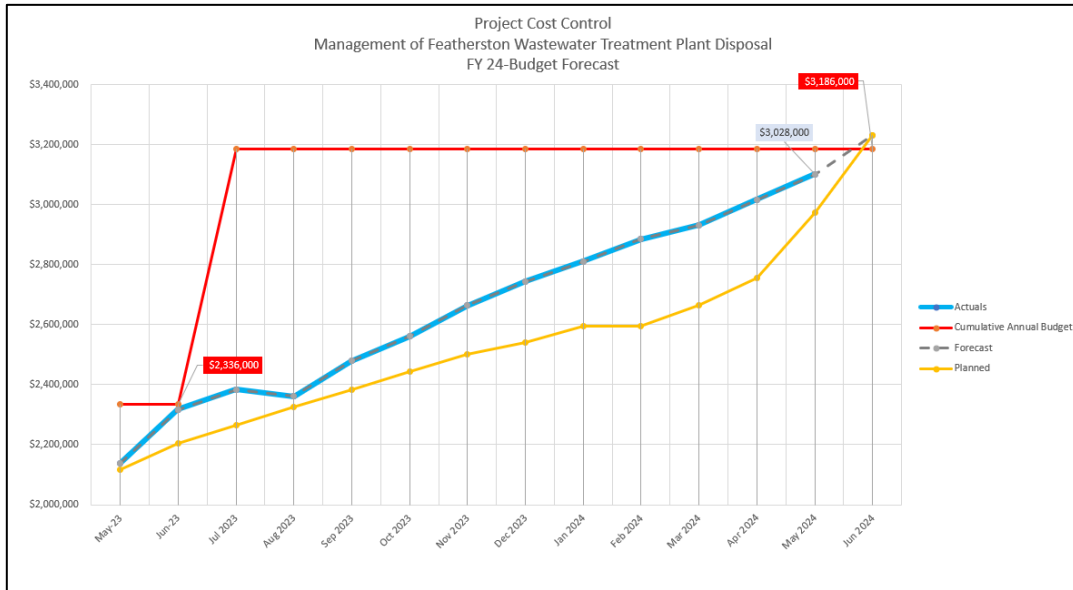
Project Expenditure



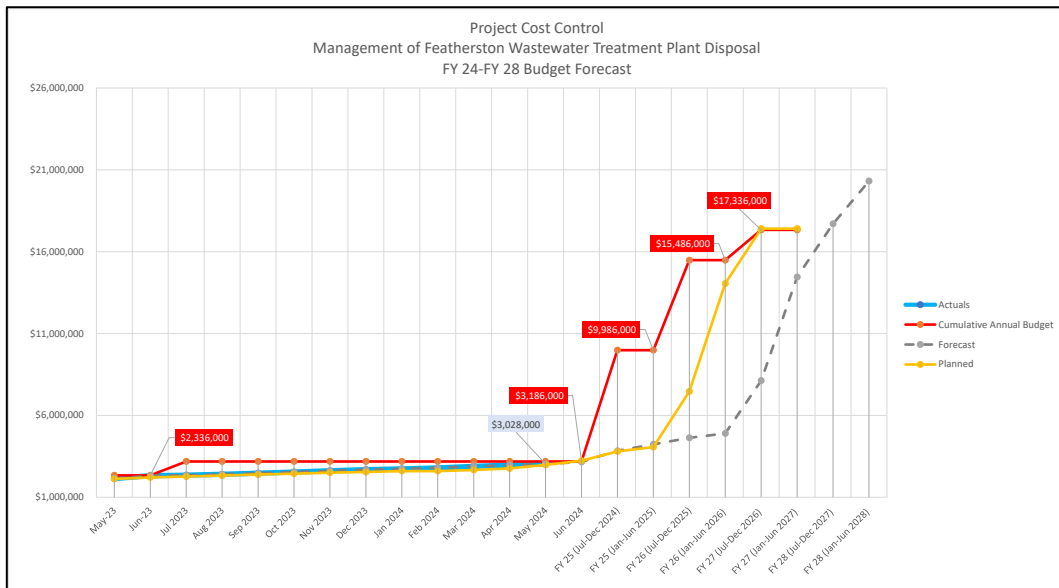
The 2023/24 Financial Year budget is \$850k.

The project is forecasting an overspend of approximately \$50,000 - \$70,000 this financial year, however does not impact the over-all project estimate or budget.

Forecast for 2023/24 FY:



Full project forecast:



Note, budgets are based on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan

Pūtea āpiti Contingency

As outlined in the section above, the current financial year funding does not allow for budgeted contingency.

He Panonitanga

Scope change



There is no scope change to report this month.

The project management plan has been approved and an updated one for FY 24/25 is being prepared.

He Whakahaere Raru

Risk Management



Current top 5 risks

Risk Description & Consequence	Initial Rating	Mitigation	Rating
There is a risk that the budget limitations / affordability are not sufficient to deliver a consentable solution (high inflow & infiltration (I&I) adds to this risk).	High	The cost estimate for this project has been revised as part of the concept design gateway process, the revised value has been put forward to SWDC to inform the enhanced annual plan and long term plan processes– risk of additional costs remains	High
There is a risk that if partners or stakeholders have a significant objection to the project or specific detail of the project, then additional work may be required to understand and resolve these issues or risk a shorter consent duration.	High	Regular meetings with key stakeholders via the Project Governance. Community engagement on-going Cultural impact assessment received from both iwi groups and collaboration workshops being held	Med
There is a risk that if engagement and collaboration with mana whenua is not progressed before the consent is lodged, there may be unresolved concerns or objections to the proposed upgrades	High	Cultural impact assessment received from both iwi groups focus on improving engagement, next hui 2 July 2024	Med
There is a risk that the conditions imposed on the consent when its granted are not able to be met	Med	Regular conditions assessment workshops undertaken with internal stakeholders and legal to highlight any concerns.	Med
There is a risk that there are additional domestic bores downstream of the WWTP and land treatment area that the project team have not yet identified	Med	Bore survey's to identify bores not captured by GWRC records, ground water flow analysis undertaken to build understanding of likely impact areas. We will also utilise public notification of the consent application to identify any remaining domestic bores in the area.	Med

Ngā Take Issues



Escalation Issue	Action	Action party	Date Required	Ranking (Low, Med, High)	Status
On-going Iwi engagement in progressing the design of the treatment plant improvements	Continue to seek engagement on collaborative design with ngā iwi	WWL, SWDC to support	On-going	Med	Open
I&I impact to design feasibility, the increase of inflow to the WWTP means that we need to increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows	Project governance group have approved a decision in principal to increase the size of the DAF, the details of this will be confirmed at the detailed design stage	WWL	Detailed design phase	Low	On-hold Details about the impact of this risk will be understood once the detailed design confirms the DAF size requirements

Ngā Whakatūpato Early Warnings

- Materials and Labour shortages and costs
 - There is a national shortage of people and materials estimated to be up to 30% in the construction sector. As we move into construction phase we are expecting the costs estimates to increase.