

# Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent

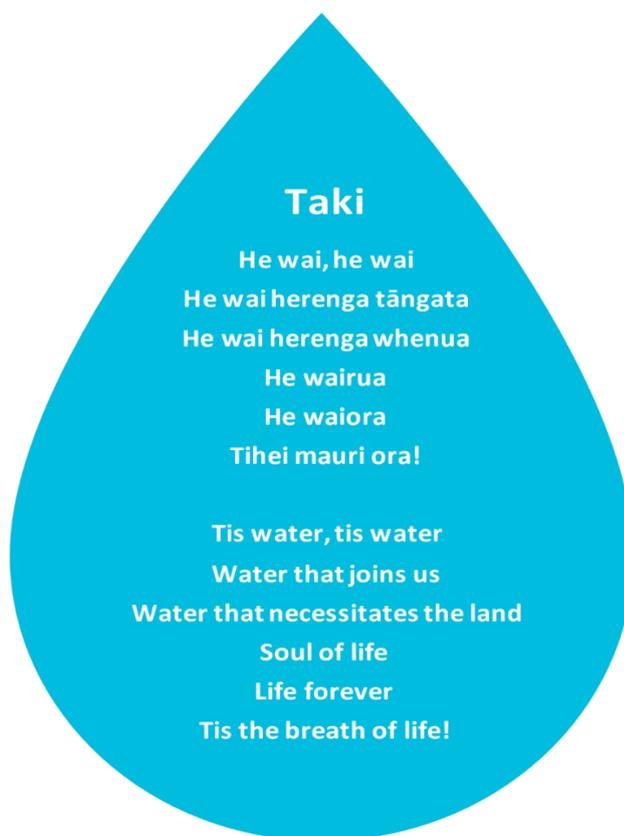
## MONTHLY REPORT

31 July 2023



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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 This application was subsequently withdrawn in 2019 and SWDC moved to work with Wellington Water.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 July to 31 July 2023

Since the last report in June:

- The project team received the formal section 92 further information request from GWRC,
- Work commenced on other deliverables for the Wellington Water concept phase requirements.

## Hauora o te Taiao Health, safety, environment & quality



### General Health & Safety Status

No incidents to report this month.

### General Environmental Status

The treatment plant is continuing to discharge as permitted.

### General Quality

Wellington Water, South Wairarapa District Council and legal reviews of the technical addendum were completed.

## Ngā Kaupapa mahi o Hōngongoi

### July project activity



#### Communications

Nothing new to report this month, we continue to seek hui with iwi.

#### Consent

The section 92 request for information was received from GWRC. This request contains a variety of themes and varying levels of effort required to respond to it. A response was prepared to acknowledge the request and outline our plan to address questions. We plan to respond in two parts, an initial response in late August with a comprehensive response in October.

#### Design

Review of the section 92 and contribution to response works.

Initial work on a procurement strategy commenced as part of the Wellington Water concept design phase delivery requirements.

#### Environmental

Review of the section 92 and contribution to response works. No site investigations were undertaken this month.

## Hei tērā marama

### Next month

#### Communications

- Contribute to section 92 response.
- Continue to seek iwi engagement

#### Consent

- Section 92 response.

#### Design

- Section 92 response
- Progress procurement strategy

#### Environmental

- Section 92 response – includes a site visit to download latest ground water data.

## Raupapa Kaiwhaipānga

### Stakeholder Management



Stakeholder	Relationship	Issues
GWRC Environmental Regulation	Ongoing meetings to collaborate on the preferred options. This month: s92. received	
Māori Standing Committee	This month: Narida Hooper attended project Governance Group.	
Tangata Whenua	Open working relationship continues This month: Contact made with Ngati Kahungunu, hui planned but did not eventuate – effort on-going.	We continue to be unable to meet with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
SWDC Councillors	This month: no update this month	
SWDC officers	Monthly Governance Group meetings and Project Steering Group meetings as required.	
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	No update this month	

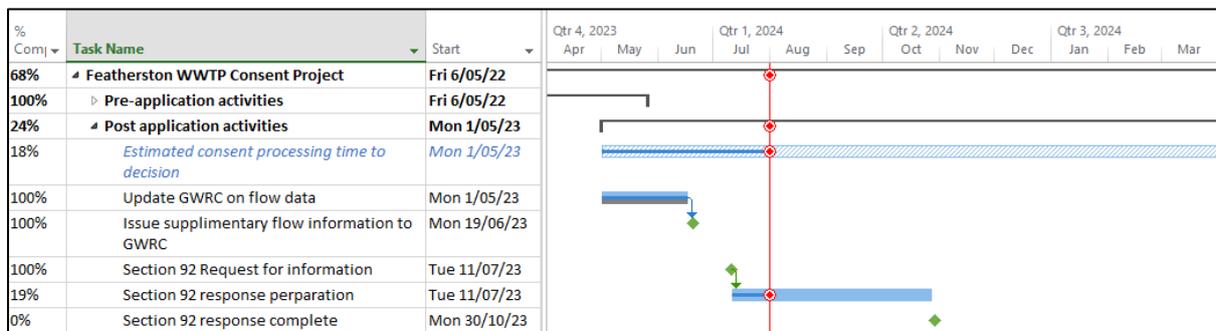
## Te Hōtaka Wā Programme timeline



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.
- Response to information request – the timeline for this will be staged, with a final response in October
- Public notification of the application – timing TBC
- Hearing to allow submissions to be heard – timing TBC
- 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
Response for section 92 request	30/10/2023	19%	October
Public Notification	TBC	0%	
Hearing commencement	TBC	0%	
Consent application decision	TBC	0%	

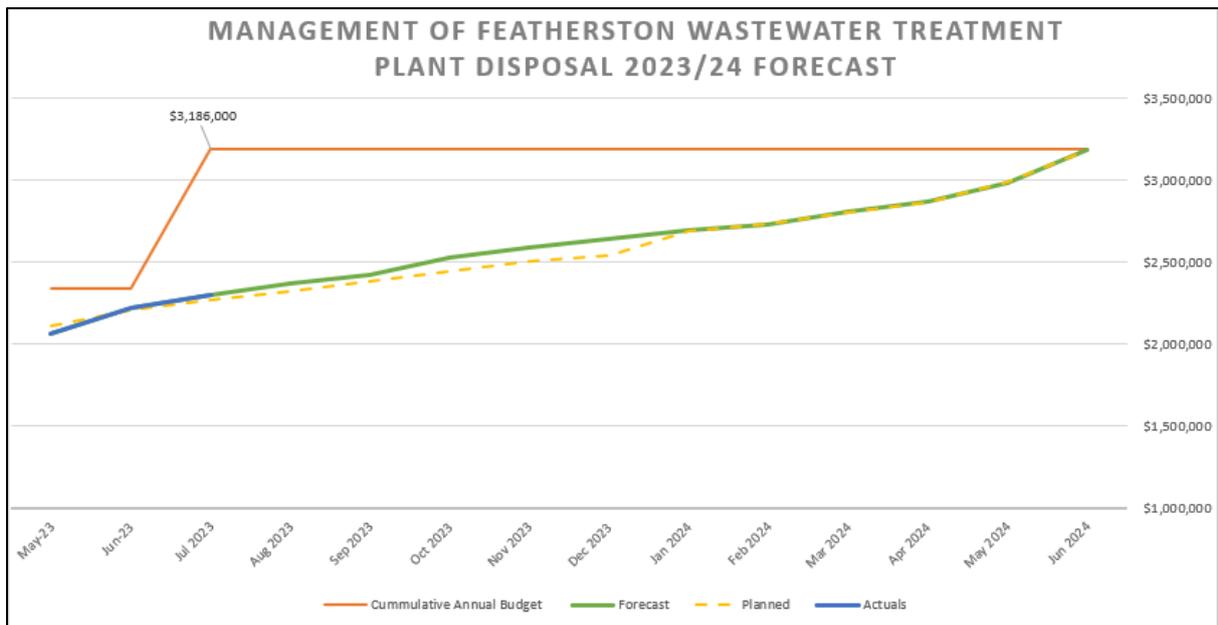
# Whakapaunga utu Project Expenditure



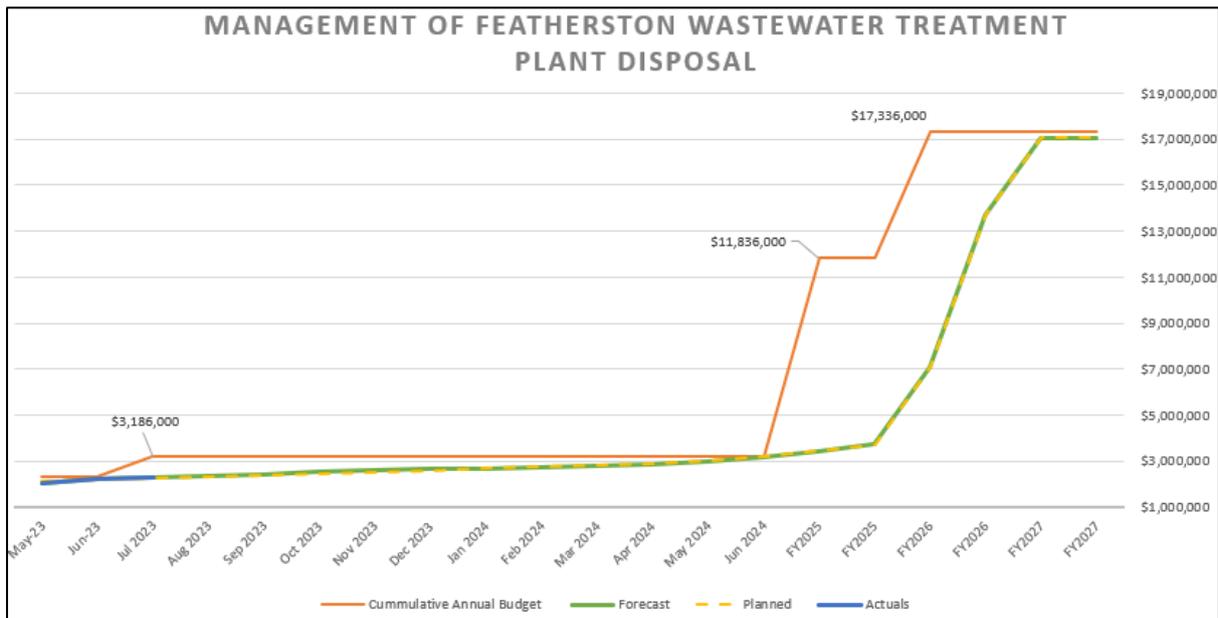
The 2023/24 FY budget is \$850k.

A revised work plan for the financial year has been developed. While this plan ensures the budget is maintained there is risk that the consenting process may bring forward effort or increase costs which could result in additional funding being required. This will be closely monitored.

**Forecast for 2023/24 FY:**



**Full project forecast:**



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

## Pūtea āpiti

### Contingency

There is a \$300,000 contingency for this phase of work.

No further contingency funding was utilized in July.

The remaining contingency is approximately \$30,000

## He Panonitanga

### Scope change

There is no scope change to report this month.



## 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 continues to indicate alignment with budget. Additional investment in plant upgrades or reducing I&I will be required as a result of the increased inflow to the WWTP – direction requested from project governance	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 sought	Medium
Regulatory / RMA changes	High	Legal and planning teams staying up to date with future changes. Consent strategy developed with future RMA changes considered.	Medium
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 and collaboration workshops being sought. risk remains particularly with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa as we have not had recent engagement with them.	Medium
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.	Medium

## Ngā Take Issues



Escalation Issue	Action	Action party	Date Required	Ranking (Low, Med, High)	Status
Iwi engagement in collaborative design. To date we have not been able to undertake this work, the deadline to lodge the consent application means this work may not be completed prior to lodgement.	Continue to seek engagement on collaborative design with iwi	WWL  SWDC to support	ASAP	High	Open
Flow data from the WWTP has shown an increase of inflow. This means that we need to either increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows or make network improvements to reduce the volume of wastewater coming to the WWTP	Direction is being sought from the project governance group, will be escalated to SWDC if additional funding is required	Project governance	ASAP	High	Open

## Ngā Whakatūpato Early Warnings

- I&I impact to design feasibility
  - This has been realised (see issues section above). The increase of inflow to the WWTP means that we need to either increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows or make network improvements to reduce the volume of wastewater coming to the WWTP.
- 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.