

# Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent

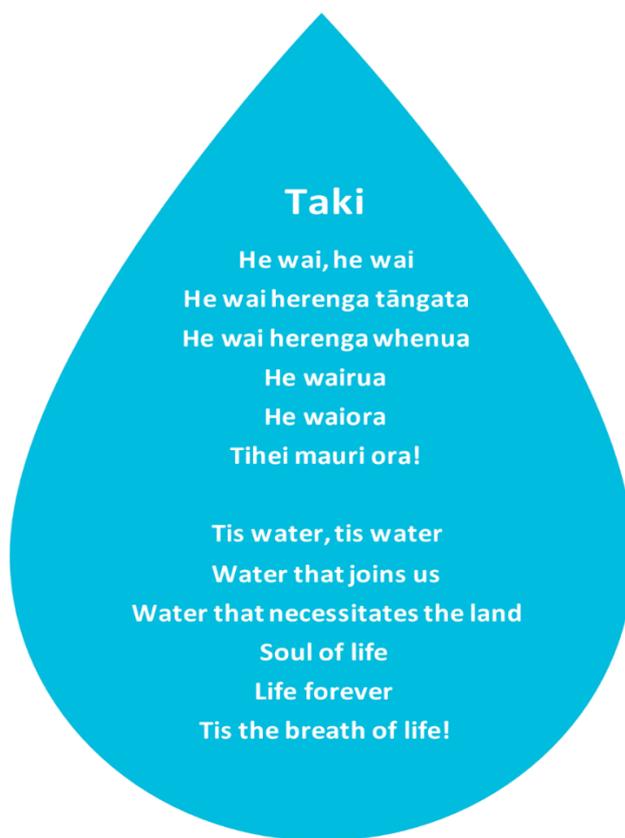
## MONTHLY REPORT

30 June 2022



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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 This application was subsequently withdrawn in 2019 and SWDC moved to work with Wellington Water.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 June to 30 June 2023

Since the last report in May:

- The investigation into the increased flows at the WWTP was completed, and a technical addendum issued to GWRC on the matter,
- The project management plan was reviewed and planning undertaken for the 23/24 financial year.

## 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 Pipiri

### June project activity



#### Communications

We continue to seek hui with iwi. Nothing further to report this month.

#### Consent

A technical addendum was provided to GWRC which discusses the outcome of the flow data investigation. This addressed the high wastewater flow rates, an updated water quality assessment, and implications of these to environmental effects. The investigation concluded that if the water quality leaving the WWTP remained consistent with the previous assumptions (i.e. is still treated to the same level) the proposal still meets the Discretionary Activity status as in the submitted resource consent application.

We also provided the final responses to the draft AEE feedback.

#### Design

The design team contributed to the above-mentioned technical addendum and to the planning of activities for the financial year.

#### Environmental

The environmental team also contributed to the above-mentioned technical addendum and to the planning of activities for the financial year.

## Hei tērā marama

### Next month

#### Communications

- Continue to seek on-going engagement with iwi.
- Update key stakeholders (including iwi) on the increased flow and implications.

#### Consent

- The s92 Request for Further Information may be issued by GWRC

#### Design

- Progress work to meet WWL “Concept Design” phase requirements

#### Environmental Investigations

- No investigations planned.

## Raupapa Kaiwhaipānga

### Stakeholder Management



Stakeholder	Relationship	Issues
GWRC Environmental Regulation	Ongoing meetings to collaborate on the preferred options. This month, technical addendum issued	
Māori Standing Committee	This month: Narida Hooper attended project Governance Group.	
Tangata Whenua	Open working relationship continues This month: No progress	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 bi-weekly Project Steering Group meetings.	
Featherston Community Board	This month: 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	

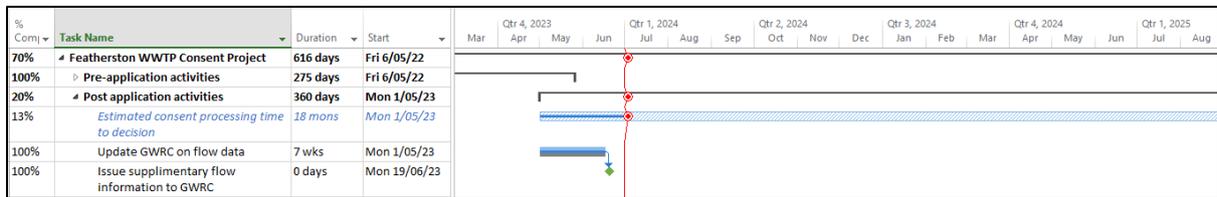
## Te Hōtaka Wā Programme timeline



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 depend on the information requested.
- Public notification of the application
- Hearing to allow submissions to be heard
- Decision on the application



## Ngā Mahi Matua Key activities

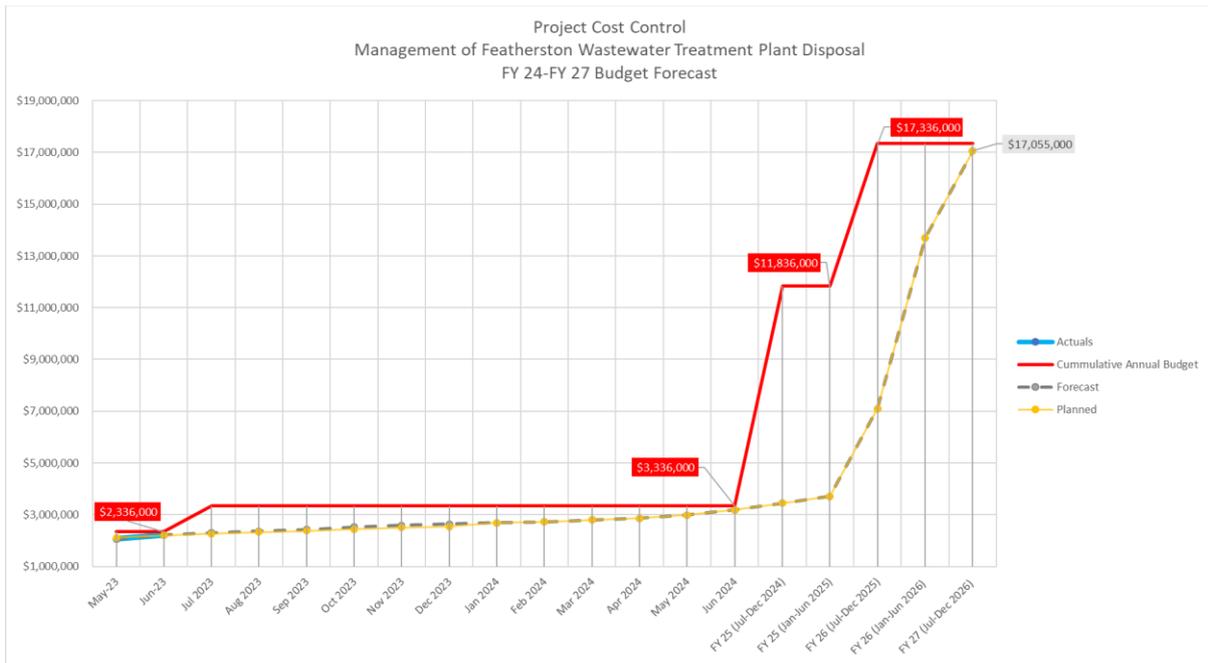
Key Activity Status	Due Date	Progress	Expected/Actual Completion
Lodge short term consent	23/01/2023	100%	1/05/2023
Update GWRC on flow data	19/06/2023	100%	19/06/2023
GWRC further information request (Section92)	TBC	0%	
Response for section 92 request	TBC	0%	
Public Notification	TBC	0%	
Hearing commencement	TBC	0%	
Consent application decision	TBC	0%	

## Whakapaunga utu Project Expenditure



The 2022/23 actual spend was \$1.46m against a budget of \$1.3m.

The financial year overspend was forecasted but does not impact on the over-all project estimate. The 23/24 FY budget has not been finalised at the time of this report, but we understand this is likely to be \$850k, the reduction from \$1m is due to this year’s overspend.



## Pūtea āpiti Contingency

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

Additional costs incurred as part of the environmental investigations were incurred following the site visit with GWRC - \$27k, this has been funded by the contingency allowance.

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. <a href="#">Additional investment in plant upgrades or reducing I&amp;I will be required as a result of the increased inflow to the WWTP – direction requested from project governance</a>	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 workshop being sought. <a href="#">risk remains particularly with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.</a>	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.