

# Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent

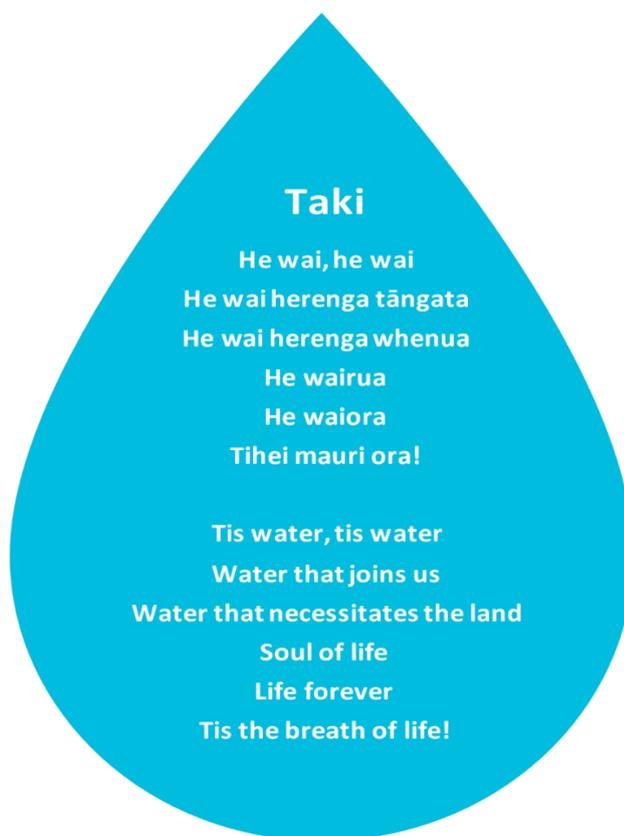
## MONTHLY REPORT

30 November 2023



**Prepared by:** Linda Fairbrother

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 This application was subsequently withdrawn in 2019 and SWDC moved to work with Wellington Water.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

Since the last report in August:

- The project team provided part two of the section 92 response to GWRC,
- Further engagement with GWRC established that further monitoring and modelling work is required to fully satisfy the entire section 92 request. This work is now underway and the third part of our section 92 response is due in May 2024.
- The concept design was peer reviewed and information prepared to pass the Wellington Water concept design gateway process.

## 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

The concept design was peer reviewed by a third party, this is part of the Wellington Water assurance process.

## Ngā Kaupapa mahi o Mauhuru – Whiringa-ā-rangi

### September - November project activity



#### Communications

Some SWDC councillors visited the treatment plant as part of a tour of water assets. There was good discussion about the challenges this project (and others) are looking to address.

There has been some contact from the community seeking information on progress. This was responded to but additional community updates will be published in December.

#### Consent

The second part of the section 92 request was issued to GWRC in October as agreed. Engagement with them and their technical advisors resulted in additional information being requested. This includes more detailed modelling and summer / low flow monitoring (this was not possible last summer due to the weather).

This additional information request was endorsed by the project steering group and work has commenced.

#### Design

The concept design is complete and has been peer reviewed as part of the standard Wellington Water process.

#### Environmental

Additional monitoring is being planned to commence in December and continue into the new year.

## Hei tērā marama

### Next month

#### Communications

- Continue to progress engagement with mana whenua.
- Community update on the project to be prepared and published.

#### Consent

- Progress the additional modelling and monitoring work required to inform the Section 92 request for information.

#### Design

- Progress through the Wellington Water concept design gateway process.
- Plan the installation of a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) trial at the WWTP. This work has been brought forward due to the additional monitoring that is being undertaken. The company supplying the trial unit have successfully delivered DAF systems in Pahiatua, Waipawa, Waipukurau and Danneverike.

**Environmental**

- Commence additional monitoring (this is dependent on other works planned for Donalds Creek outside of this project).

**Raupapa Kaiwhaipānga**

## Stakeholder Management



Stakeholder	Relationship	Issues
GWRC Environmental Regulation	Ongoing meetings to collaborate on the preferred options. This report: Second part of S.92. response issued, third part agreed.	
Māori Standing Committee	This month: no update this month	
Tangata Whenua	Open working relationship continues with ngā iwi This report: no update	
SWDC Councillors	This report: Tour of the WWTP	
SWDC officers	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	Some contact seeking additional information about project progress	Community update required in December.

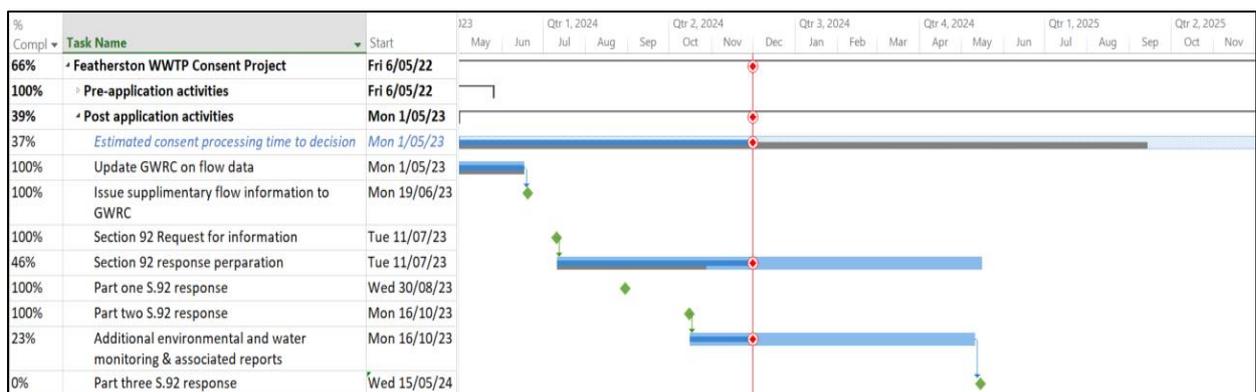
## Te Hōtaka Wā Programme timeline



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
- Part three response of S.92 request (new)
- 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
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	15/05/2024	23%	15/05/2024
Public Notification	TBC	0%	
Hearing commencement	TBC	0%	
Consent application decision	TBC	0%	

# Whakapaunga utu Project Expenditure

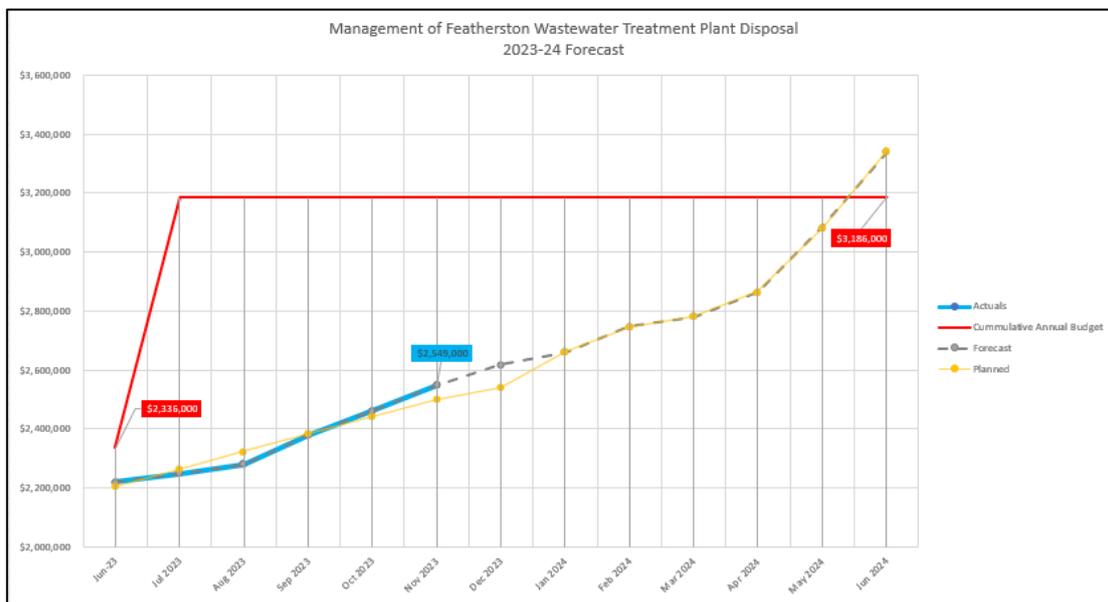


The 2023/24 Financial Year budget is \$850k.

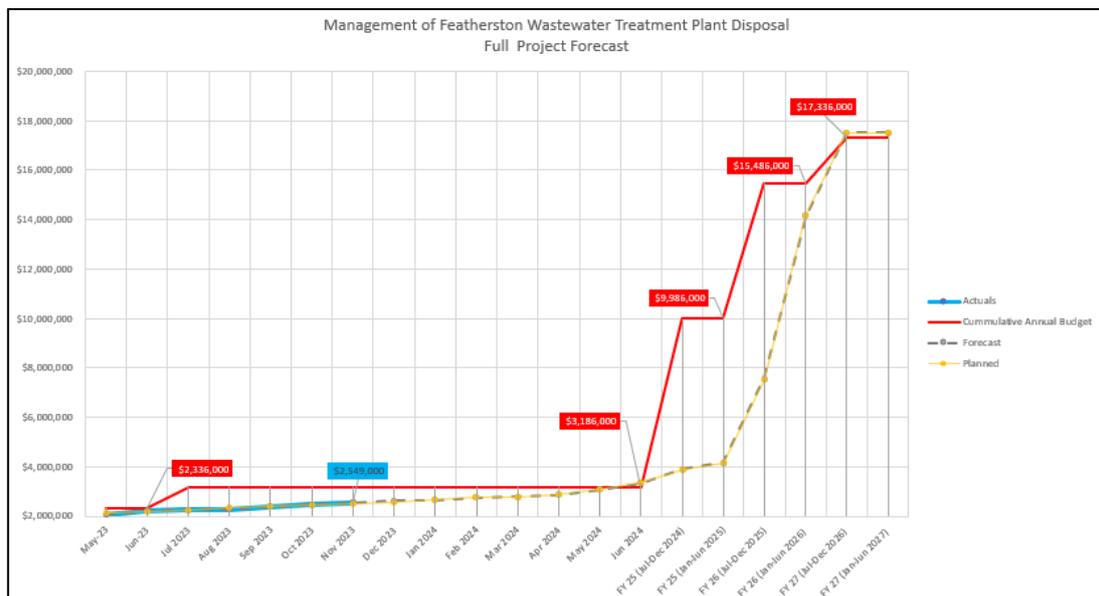
The project is currently forecasting an overspend this financial year, however this forecast includes contingency allowance for further un-planned work. If this contingency is not required we expect the project to meet the financial year budget.

As this is a forecast no formal change process has been undertaken at this point and we will continue to monitor progress against the budget.

### Forecast for 2023/24 FY:



### Full project forecast:



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

## Pūtea āpiti

### Contingency

The project management plan is being revised to reflect post lodgment consent activities. When this is finalised a revised contingency allowance will be confirmed.

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 is being revised, this is expected to be finalised early in the new year.

## 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, at the time of this report this was not yet finalised – 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 sought	Medium
Regulatory / RMA changes	High	The incoming government have suggested the new legislation will be repealed – although our consent is already in the system we are maintaining visibility to assess any impact this may have.	Medium

Risk Description & Consequence	Initial Rating	Mitigation	Rating
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. <a href="#">Continue to seek further engagement with ngā iwi.</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
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	High	Open

## Ngā Whakatūpato

### Early Warnings

- I&I impact to design feasibility
  - This has been realised. The increase of inflow to the WWTP means that we need to increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows. The additional capacity requirement may result in additional funding being required.
- 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.