

## Regional Wastewater Services MEETING MINUTES

Date:	<b>21 March 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Customer Liaison Group meeting – Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>
Time:	<b>17:30pm</b>
Location:	<b>Pelorus Sports House, Lower Hutt</b>
Attendees:	<b>Facilitator</b> – Andrew Freeman <b>GWRC</b> – Amanda O’Brien, Cari Kuske, Nikki Fenn <b>HCC</b> – Brady Dyer <b>Veolia</b> - Alex Phelan, Nico Robins <b>WWL</b> - Jeremy McKibbin, Blair Johnson, Joemar Cacnio, Janice Rodenburg, Steve Hutchison, Linda Fairbrother, Craig Shuttleworth (mins) <b>RPH</b> – Tina Hong <b>Community members and Mana Whenua</b>
Apologies:	Bruce Hodgins (HCC)

Welcome & Introduction by WWL	Action	Due
<p>Andrew opened with a Karakia welcoming everyone to the meeting advising Health and Safety instructions and emergency evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Before introducing Joemar to start with his presentation Andrew reminded attendees of the importance of respect and read out the agenda advising that questions would be answered in the later stages of the meeting.</p> <p>Andrew gave brief introductions to the Wellington Water representatives who would be carrying out presentations and acknowledged Mana Whenua’s presence.</p>		
Odour Treatment – Project update	Action	Due
<p>Jeremy began by acknowledging the impact that the odour has had on the local community. An update on the biofilter renewal was provided and the plans to renew the plenum pipework underneath the structure in the winter 2024 hopefully improving things further.</p> <p>Steve gave a presentation taking the audience through a stage-by-stage process of the plant and how wastewater is treated, identifying the potential sources of odour at each stage that has potential to create odour.</p> <p>Linda then presented her slides talking through the plans of the major renewals ahead to address the odour treatment at the plant and the timelines involved for completing the works.</p>		
Questions/Feedback from the Community	Action	Due
<p>Andrew invited members of the community to come forward with any questions they may have about the odour presentation or the plant itself. The following matters were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current location of the odour blaster on site? – Blair showed its location using the site map on the presentation confirming it being relocated to the sludge processing area.</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Odour scouting program, is it only carried out after complaints are lodged? – It is proactive, not reliant on complaints coming, scouts assess the wind direction/speed as well as noting other odours not associated with the plant e.g., bakery smell.</li> <li>• Ratepayers option of using expert overseas consultants to inform the project work? – Not needed as suitable fully-qualified professionals already established in NZ and engaged in the project.</li> <li>• Funding concerns, will the designated amount be sufficient? – High confidence that the allocated funding will make an impact to the odour issues, no signs of de-scoping the project.</li> <li>• Communication concerns – WWL acknowledged the proactive communication avenues could have been better and there is endeavour to address this moving forward.</li> <li>• Designs and technology with WWTP upgrades, how does it compare to the rest of NZ? – Assurances made that most suitable designs will be chosen and fast tracked. Seaview WWTP has the standard technology compared to rest of the country with odour treatment. Confirmed that covers for aeration and clarifiers components are very unusual.</li> <li>• Population growth, is the plant prepared? – Study done in 2021 identified areas within plant that was at capacity, equipment that needed upsizing, the dryer upgrade project is a result of this. Plant has more land to expand on to increase size of biofilter if needed in future. No contingency plans currently to relocate the plant.</li> <li>• Preventative Maintenance with Biofilter – Assurances made that the plenum upgrade will improve the cell isolation which will help improve the preventative maintenance moving forward.</li> <li>• Mana Whenua frustration/anger at what has been endured over last 5 years – WWL acknowledges the frustration and endeavours to improve the issues at the WWTP</li> <li>• Queries around possible App for reporting issues and complaints being developed – HCC is in advanced stages of development of App, to be released later in 2024, will make it easier to record issues to council - will automatically know GPS location. <b><u>ACTION – Brady to check if App will include a field to select odour complaints, if not have it included.</u></b></li> <li>• Can WWL share the peer reviews of designs for odour treatment upgrades? <b><u>ACTION – WWL will make peer reviews available for viewing as and when they are received.</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>HCC (Brady)</p> <p>WWL</p>	<p>May 24</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>WWTP Consent Compliance and Performance update FY2022/23 &amp; Current year</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Due</p>
<p>Joemar gave a presentation on the plant performance relating to consent compliance for the previous financial year (2022-23) and the current year-to-date (ending June 30, 2024).</p> <p>Amanda was invited to explain the GWRC report and how the rating of Poor was given, providing background around the abatement notices and infringements issued.</p>		
<p>Questions/Feedback from the Community</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Due</p>
<p>Andrew invited members of the community to come forward with any questions they may have about the consent presentation or the plant itself. The following matters were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiwhetu discharge point and proximity to fishing off the Port (Waione Street) Bridge; should there be signage in place on the bridge.. <b><u>ACTION – Review the advice provided on signage as part of the consent and propose actions (if any).</u></b> Mana Whenua concerns about plant performance and WWL plan to improve matters at the plant to move the plant back into compliance – WWL acknowledges poor performance, recent effluent results are encouraging and plant on right track to achieve compliance.</li> <li>• Stormwater capture initiative by HCC, was it pie in the sky? – This is a good initiative by the council to slow stormwater ingress to the wastewater network. Increased pumping capacity in network has increased flow to the plant. There is more focus on it being treated at the plant rather than overflowing via the network (manholes etc) where raw untreated sewage conveys to streams/Coastal Marine Area (CMA).</li> </ul>	<p>WWL</p>	<p>May 24</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns over current non-compliance with Faecal Coliforms still discharging – Recent sampling trends show improvement and on right track to achieving results within compliant limits. Faecal levels entering plant around 5 million fcu/m<sup>3</sup> and currently treated to low thousands so still a huge reduction.</li> <li>Tradewaste, are there serial offenders in local community? – HCC are responsible for these network investigations; their approach is to educate rather than prosecute. WWL work closely with HCC Tradewaste when there are issues.</li> <li>Are WWL still disputing the recent infringements? – Not disputing the odour but are disputing the abatement infringements and process used by the regulator, WWL has a duty to the ratepayer to hold the regulator to account when required.</li> <li>as residential intensification impacted the growth forecast and planning for plant capacity. The population growth estimates are updated annually and move around a bit. The increase in population has been offset by a reduction in industrial activity and industrial discharge. The plant has capacity for some decades to come based on the current forecast.</li> <li>Odour cannon, why is it anti-bacterial not odour neutralizing? – Confirmation from Veolia that it is a neutralizing spray, not a disinfectant and is supplied in 20 litre bottles. The solution is a 500:1 dilution. <b><u>ACTION – Supply the amount used (roughly) on a weekly basis.</u></b></li> <li>WWL webpage is not user friendly – Plans already in place for webpage to be updated, example being most recent information is currently displayed at the bottom of the webpage, makes sense to put more recent information at the top.</li> <li>Further questions after tonight can be emailed to <a href="mailto:community@wellingtonwater.co.nz">community@wellingtonwater.co.nz</a></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Veolia (Nico)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 24</b></p>
<p>Other Capital Projects presentation &amp; Questions/Feedback from Community</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Due</p>
<p>Steve gave a presentation detailing future capital projects proposed for the Seaview WWTP, including the proposed options for the replacement of the Outfall Pipeline that conveys treated effluent to Pencarrow.</p> <p>Andrew invited members of the community to come forward with any questions they may have about the presentation. The following matters were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What Iwi, Mana Whenua were consulted? – Taranaki Whānui, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Hikoikoi Management, Wellington Tenth's Trust</li> <li>Progress on the new consent for the discharge to the Waiwhetu stream? – The application was lodged in 2017 with a range of options reviewed shortly after. Slower than preferred but the consenting process has been reactivated and is being progressed. . Still legally operating under old consent.</li> <li>Discussion around the councils proposed LTP and WWL's recommendation. Deliverability is heavily reliant on resource; the rest of NZ faces same challenge.</li> <li>Has reusing the sludge by-product as fertiliser been considered as seen around other parts of the world? – It has been considered, and done in the past, however, consenting makes it difficult. Sludge often has a high heavy metals content which is the main problem.</li> <li>Concern over lack of awareness of meeting/issues for those who do not have social media etc. Other additional communication channels should be considered.</li> </ul>		
<p>Jeremy thanked everyone for attending and their shared concern with the performance of the treatment plant and its compliance along with the odour issues. Jeremy acknowledged HCC for their pro-active approach to funding to address the issues at the plant and encouraged the community members to give their feedback to the LTP due in April.</p> <p>Jeremy closed the meeting with a Karakia.</p>		
<p>Attachments: Wellington Water Presentation</p>		

