**Seaview community meeting**

**30 July 2024**

**Wellington Water offices**

Attended by

* Residents and local businesses
* Representatives of Wellington Water and contractors Connect Water and Veolia, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

**Presentation**

Wellington Water staff outlined plans for work at the plant over coming months to improve odour management and plant performance. (see presentation). They advised there may be a short-term increase in odour while this work is underway.

**Discussion**

It was noted that Stage 2 of the odour treatment renewal project is timed for late 2024 or early 2025, which is the busy season for the Top 10 Holiday Park. Hutt City Council and Wellington Water confirmed they would sequence work to minimise the risk of odour over the height of summer.

The design team noted that consideration had been given to the sequence of the Stage 2 works including installing the new treatment of the building air first, this minimises the risk of odours escaping the building whilst the odour collection ducts and fans are upgraded.

Wellington Water noted that it is working on one of four primary sedimentation tanks and wanted to upgrade a second tank before the start of summer. This will be scheduled to avoid the busy season at the Holiday Park. The other two tanks will be upgraded next year.

During the upcoming work, the same process should be followed for reporting odours from the plant.

Questions were asked about how long works would take and when the plant would return to consent compliance (no objectionable and offensive odours outside the plant boundary).

The odour treatment renewal project is due to be completed before the end of 2025. Wellington Water expects this investment to improve odour control. There are no guarantees because there is always the risk of equipment or process failure.

Questions were asked about cost and budgeting. There is $13.2 million budgeted for the odour treatment renewal project, the current estimate is around $12 million. There is also budget for other improvements to the plant over the next six to 10 years. Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council have funded 100% of what Wellington Water asked for, for both capital and ongoing operations and maintenance.

There is a long-term plan and budget for replacement and preventative maintenance.

There was a request for copy of a report from Veolia to Wellington Water on what’s required to return the plant to compliance. Wellington Water noted that this report on the treatment process is one part of the ‘back to compliance’ planning alongside planned renewal work and maintenance work are also part of the ‘back to compliance’ plan. Wellington Water will follow up.

There were questions about odour scouting and whether this is recording the impact of the odour neutraliser. The purpose of odour scouting is to create a long-term dataset about odour levels at different locations and in different weather conditions, understand different types of odours, and help correlate what’s out in community with what’s happening in the plant.

The odour neutraliser sprays a safe chemical that oxidises the odour-causing molecules. We cannot measure exactly how effective it is in reducing odour unless we turn it off and measure the odour when it’s not running. Turning the odour neutraliser off would result in more odour reaching the community, we just don’t know how much more. We’re not prepared to make the situation worse while we find out.

The odour neutraliser will be running continuously as part of efforts to reduce impact from the work over the next two to three months.

ENDS