### Summary of Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant Community Meeting - 21 March 2024

### WEBSITE USE

*In attendance with residents, Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui, Waiwhetu marae and Wellington Tenths Trust/Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust. On behalf of Hutt City Council Brady Dyer attended with Wellington Water staff and representatives from Veolia (plant operator), Regional Public Health and Greater Wellington Regional Council.*

Wellington Water GM Network Management Jeremy McKibbin opened the meeting acknowledging the ongoing odour issues associated with the plant and the impacts on the community.

Mr McKibbin provided an update on the biofilter media replacement and the plans to renew the plenum pipework underneath the structure this winter, as the next stage of works to improve the odour issue.

He acknowledged Council for their proactive approach to addressing issues at the plant through funding and encouraged the community to give their feedback to the Council LTP in April.

Steve Hutchison, Chief Advisor Wastewater, took the audience through a stage-by-stage process of the plant and how wastewater is treated. This discussion included reference to potential sources of odour during the plant’s treatment process.

The meeting was then introduced to Linda Fairbrother who is leading the odour management project. During this segment, the audience were informed of future planned upgrades and renewals for the plant and its current aging assets. These works are expected to address not only odour management but also help improve the plant’s overall performance.

Joemar Cacnio (Wellington Water) completed the presentations with an annual overview of the plant’s performance relating to consent compliance. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Amanda O Brien) followed, discussing the regional council’s reporting of the plant and poor rating, providing background around the abatement notices and infringements issued.

During the Q&A session, there was discussion about the odour scouting programme. It was confirmed that this is a proactive activity (not undertaken due to complaints). Regarding the plenum upgrade [biofilter media structure], once completed a preventative maintenance programme will be adopted to ensure the health and condition of the biofilter media.

The audience was reassured that the upcoming project work at the Seaview plant is being undertaken by professionals who are recognised in New Zealand as being subject matter experts. There was also high confidence that the allocated council funding for odour management will make a difference.

There was also assurance that the planned upgrades and technologies being proposed are particularly suitable for the Seaview plant and will be fast-tracked. Mr Hutchison also mentioned that covering aeration and clarifier tanks was not common in New Zealand or overseas and that the Seaview plant followed standard design.

Blair Johnson (Wellington Water) advised the meeting that the plant’s odour blaster had been moved to the sludge processing area to help minimise odour levels. Veolia meanwhile confirmed that the odour blaster was a neutralising spray (not disinfectant).

The plant’s capacity to handle future population growth was raised. Wellington Water commissioned a report in 2021 that identified equipment/assets that needed upsizing, and the proposed sludge dryer replacement project is a result of this. Otherwise, based on current forecasts, the plant has capacity for future decades.

During this session, Wellington Water acknowledged that communication about the plant can be better, and they are focused on addressing this moving forward.

Mana Whenua iwi expressed frustration at the current state of the plant. Wellington Water accepted the criticism and frustration and reasserted their aims to improve the plant’s performance. Recent effluent results are encouraging and show the plant is on track to achieving compliance. Improved pumping capacity at the plant was recognised in helping to slow stormwater ingress to the wastewater network.

Finally, there was questions about whether an App for reporting issues and complaints could be developed. Hutt City Councillor Brady Dyer advised that Council were in advanced stages towards developing an App. It is expected to be ready later this year. This will have built in GPS functionality and enable the community to record issues with Council more easily.

**Actions to be undertaken following feedback from the meeting.**

1. The presentation and FAQs are on the Wellington Water website [[here](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wellingtonwater.co.nz%2Fprojects%2Fseaviewwwtp%2F%3Ftab%3D2%26fbclid%3DIwAR2vz_ky9cAlnUoKznk78NnmSQJs8dpTmqVM4RQe-OR-hbnwxMejLmNxopQ%26update%3D227&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Donnachie%40wellingtonwater.co.nz%7C74435d6203e441900e4908dbfb878a9c%7C7ada94a2255d414ea98ba7ef6453451a%7C0%7C0%7C638380331781423782%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OOZvaEURzapdrxT%2BbolO6xe5PF1RffvbpTFbMaypnuY%3D&reserved=0).](https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/seaviewwwtp/)
2. Councillor Brady Dyer to check if a new Council App will include a field to select odour complaints, if not have it included.
3. Wellington Water to make available peer reviews of designs for odour treatment upgrades
4. Review the advice provided on signage near Waiwhetu discharge point and proximity to Waione Bridge for fishers - as part of the consent and propose actions (if any).
5. Plant odour cannon- Wellington Water to provide the amount of neutralising spray that is used on a weekly basis.