

MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Councillors Bill Burdett (Chair), Shannon Dowsing, Amber Dunn, Larry Foster.
Tangata whenua members Pene Brown, Ronald Nepe, LeRoy Pardoe, Tutekawa Wyllie.

MINUTES of the WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on 18 October 2018 at 9am.

PRESENT:

Councillors Bill Burdett (Chair), Shannon Dowsing, Amber Dunn, Larry Foster.
Tangata Whenua representatives Pene Brown, Ronald Nepe, Angus Ngarangione, LeRoy Pardoe.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Team Leader Storm and Waste Water Wolfgang Kanz, Wastewater Treatment and Compliance Officer Tracey Panton, Democracy Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Helen Barbier.

The meeting opened at 9am with karakia from Pene Brown.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Wastewater Management Committee - 30 August 2018

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by LeRoy Pardoe

That the Minutes of 30 August 2018 be accepted.

CARRIED

Action Sheet

Noted.

Governance Work Plan

It was requested that development of the Alternative Use and Disposal Terms of Reference be included in the work plan.

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

6. Public input and petitions

There was no public input or petitions.

7. Extraordinary business

There was no extraordinary business.

8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

9. Adjourned business

There was no adjourned business.

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and staff

DECISION Reports

Secretarial Note: Reports 18–422 Consent Review Group Progress Report and 18–424 Independent Review Panel were originally noting reports but now include recommendations. They have been kept in the order of business for ease of reading.

INFORMATION Reports

10.2 18–422 Consent Review Group Progress Report

Discussion included:

- The recommendations of the Consent Review Group confirm the views of the Wastewater Management Committee regarding removal of mortuary waste from the wastewater system, Alternative Use and Disposal options and completion dates for implementation of disinfection.
- The recommendations are a mandate for Council to make progress in the briefest timeframes possible.
- Staff will need time to study the final recommendations from both the Consent Review Group and the Independent Review Panel.
- The Consent Review Group and Independent Review Panel reports will be presented to Council. Staff need to receive direction from Council concerning the recommendations as they are outside the mandate of both staff and of the Wastewater Management Committee.
- A change in timeframes for implementing clarification and UV disinfection has implications on finances, processes, feasibility of designs, availability of equipment and on the Long Term Plan.
- The Wastewater Management Options project team members are: Director Lifelines David Wilson, 4 Waters Infrastructure Manager Neville West, 4 Waters Operations Manager Neil Daykin, Team Leader Storm and Waste Water Wolfgang Kanz and Wastewater Treatment and Compliance Officer Tracey Panton.
- Wastewater infrastructure is significant for the health of our community and our ocean. Variations and delays have now become embarrassing.

- If human resources are required for the Alternative Use & Disposal Working Group, existing groups such as the KIWA¹ group could be called on.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Dunn

That the Committee

1. Notes the contents of this report.
2. Endorses the outcomes of engagement with the Consent Review Group.
3. Recommends to Council that:
 - a) A variation to the discharge consent be opposed.
 - b) The Long Term Plan budget phasing of the implementation of disinfection (completion in 2023/24) be considered unacceptable.
 - c) Significant commitment to completing the necessary upgrades to install wastewater disinfection be made immediately.
 - d) Alternative Use and Disposal investigations continue, with a focus on the practical implementation of Alternative Use and Disposal including identifying uses for treated wastewater.
 - e) Mortuary waste be removed from the domestic wastewater system.

CARRIED

10.3 18–424 Independent Review Panel

Discussion included:

- Reference on page 70 to the exceedance of future consent limits of enterococci and suspended solids concerns industry wastewater, not Council's.
- Legal advice has been commissioned but is not yet complete. Tangata whenua are in support of this step.
- Tangata whenua expressed concern that the panel recommendations and legal advice would not be brought to the Wastewater Management Committee before being presented to Council.
- Other tangata whenua concerns were that:
 - the concessions by tangata whenua were not sufficiently noted
 - there was little mention of mauri
 - there was no reference to Te Aitanga a Mahaki Environmental Plan
 - the section dealing with KIWA could have been more developed.
- The Community Lifelines Hub is the branch of Council that is in effect the consent holder. It is separate to the regulatory branch of Council responsible for enforcing consent compliance.
- The report submitted by the Independent Review Panel is still a draft. Once the final version has been received and staff have investigated how to implement the recommendations, the report will come back to the Wastewater Management Committee.

¹ The KIWA Group had a mandate to work on the Turanganui a Kiwa Water Enhancement Project

- Recommendations from the draft report will be presented to Council at its 15 November 2018 meeting.
- The Independent Review Panel recommendations will also be shared with Council's regulatory team to inform their monitoring and advice processes.
- Councillors who are members of the Wastewater Management Committee are a minority within Council. This makes it challenging for them to influence decisions relating to wastewater projects.
- Council has received additional funding through the Provincial Growth Fund for roading. As a result the Long Term Plan spending should be reviewed so priorities can be changed. Governance needs to be adaptable and flexible to meet the needs of the community and deliver on the outcomes laid out in the consent.
- Council's Long Term Plan process is a statutory requirement. For the plan to be changed, the community must be consulted again, either within the Annual Plan process or in an ad hoc consultation.
- Financial modelling shows that bringing approximately \$20m of unplanned spending forward by two years would impact interest payments leading to a 4% rates increase. Other funding options are being looked at to assess methods for funding debt without impacting rates.
- Tangata whenua felt that the high level of engagement on their behalf had not led to results in Council decisions.
- The Chairman noted that iwi were respected and their participation was highly valued.

MOVED by Cr Dunn, seconded by Cr Dowsing

That the Committee

1. Notes the contents of this report – and in particular:
 - a) the report from the Independent Review Panel.
2. Endorses the Independent Review Panel interim recommendations and requires an extraordinary meeting of the Wastewater Management Committee to be held if any major changes are contained in the final Independent Review Panel report.

CARRIED

10.4 18–425 Internal Consent Compliance Review Progress Report

Discussion included:

- To this point, the review has covered operational matters.
- As certain conditions in the consent are dependent on ultraviolet clarification being carried out, there is currently no testing for compliance in relation to these conditions.
- The heaviest flow of wastewater to the treatment plant is during the day, with peaks from 9-11am and 3-7pm. Industry flow is also predominantly during the day.
- Flushing of the biological trickling filter is currently taking place during the day.

- There has been a great improvement in industry compliance as a result of the change to Council's approach. Industries now must have waste management plans and prove they are compliant rather than waiting for Council to monitor.

MOVED by Cr Dunn, seconded by Cr Dowsing

That the Committee

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.05am with karakia from Pene Brown.

Bill Burdett
Chairperson