

Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade

MINUTES for the Meeting held on **TUESDAY, 05 December 2023.**

Start time 10:00 am

End time 11:00 am

Attending:

Keith Martin – 3 Waters Manager WDC
Richard Bax – Resource Consent Project Manager WDC
Hazel Coalter - Infrastructure Development Manager WDC
Garrett Hall - Technical Director - Environments Beca
Isaac McIntyre – Planner Watercare (new)

Apologies

Hori Awa – CEO Waahi Whaanui Trust
Glen Tupuhi – Secretary Ngaa Muka Development Trust
Tawera Nikau
Richard Pullar - Infrastructure Delivery Manager Watercare
Kelvin Tupuhi - Ngaa Muka Development Trust
Nghina Armstrong-Nield – Iwi and Community Partnership Advisor WDC (has left WDC)
Kahurimu Flavell - Oranga – Project Advisor, Taiao Waikato Tainui (on maternity leave)
Mathew Telfer- Contract Manager Watercare

Agenda

- Opening
- Introductions
- Review of Minutes
- Action List
- Mātauranga Māori updates
- General matters
- Closing

Purpose

A general review of the Rāhui Pōkeka wastewater treatment plant was provided. The consent for the plant expires in 2029 and the LTP has funding to upgrade the WWTP within the same time.

The resource consent for the Sleepyhead Development in Ohinewai requires wastewater to be discharged to a plant that is compliant. The WWTP requires updating sooner to support the development as it is currently non-compliant. The non-compliance exists in the 90th percentile for ammoniacal nitrogen. To support the Sleepyhead development and improve environmental compliance, Council would like to have the early design and resource consent requirements agreed by June 2024 (was 2023) and the plant upgrade completed within the 2026 financial year.

With mana whenua insight and in the spirit of te ture whaimana, te tiriti o te waitangi and te mana o te wai and te mana o te awa, Council would like to continue the partnership to ensure that the future of the Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade respects and considers mātauranga māori as we look to renew the resource consent and develop the concept design of the WWTP.

This group will come together regularly to discuss all aspects of the Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade to enable alignment of views and the appropriate outcomes for all parties to be achieved. To enable this, Council has had funding bought forward and approved. \$2.1 million has been allocated towards concept design and resource consent.

Minutes

Review of last minutes provided and accepted.

Discussion

In respect to plans for the WWTP.

- Upgrade existing plant to enable resource consent compliance (Nitrogen). An update on the side stream upgrade was provided with it now being put on hold because of the high cost vs. benefit. Instead a trial will be run using a test rig from Watercare Auckland. The plant is compliant for Nitrogen for the 95 percentile.
- A new budget for upgrading the power supply to the site, upgrade to the inlet works and the discharge pump station was recommended last week by the Water Governance Board to council.
- Develop design for new WWTP to enable plant to be upgraded for 2026 -2028. The imminent Long Term Plan will give some further certainty to what is budgeted to be done, subject to consultation.
- Initiate resource consent planning.
 - Discussion was held on the linked consents for Rāhui Pōkeka and Ngaruawahia WWTPs. This means Ngaruawahia WWTP needs to be upgraded also. This however needs to consider the strategic plan and the budget to convey its wastewater (treated or not) to Hamilton City's WWTP in Pukete. This is planned for early in the 2030s.

- Keith wants consideration given to making consent conditions more generic so that any upgrades and new technology aren't hampered by specific consent conditions. Te Kauwhata WWTP resource consent renewal was potentially an opportunity to do that first.
- The restoration works for the Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP was discussed and it was hoped that Waahi Whaanui Trust and Ngaa Muka Development Trust would take a lead role in this.

Wastewater as a resource or reuse. Looking at opportunity and options that Iwi/Hapu may have in respect to water reuse for the plant upgrade.

It is proposed to change the hui to bi-monthly to better reflect the current rate of change with scope to increase the frequency as required.

It was also proposed to include Ngaruawaahia WWTP into this hui as the two plants are linked via some of the resource consent conditions. These look at combined total nutrient loadings in the discharge to try and maximise the value of specialist plant at the Ngaruawaahia WWTP site.

Actions

Action	Who	Status
Set up regular bi-monthly update hui with an update to the invitees reflecting recent changes.	Keith	to do
Resource Consent Compliance	Watercare	Project plan to be provided to assist understanding of temporary plant upgrade to enable compliance with current consent
Tuna as a Taonga. Look at impact on Tuna (Eels) from the WWTP and what could be adopted by WDC to ensure this taonga is protected	Garrett Hall	Garrett to advise on work previously undertaken by other TLA and how this can be incorporated into this project
Catch and release programme	Waikato Tainui	Talk to Fish and Game about tuna and the proposal. Seek their previous experience and learning.
Tuna protected from being caught in the system and from pumps and outfall within the WWTP upgrade concept.	Richard Pullar	To consider in the design of the upgrade
Explore how the Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade programme can assist in improving the health and wellbeing of tuna within the Awa.	Waikato Tainui	To consider in the design of the upgrade
Reuse of treated wastewater from the plant upgrade to be considered	Waikato Tainui	Look at future opportunities with Waikato Tainui to determine if treated wastewater could be used as a resource within tribal business activity. The

		nursery at Ngaruawaahia was discussed as a potential option
Proposal for Restoration fund to be developed	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual funding contribution from Council 2. \$xx for the restoration of XX metres by planting per annum 3. Determine appropriate funding body to manage restoration programme, such as existing programmes. There are some marae ones and also Norm Hill has a project for the mines. 4. Develop supporting agreement. 5. Waahi Whaanui Trust and Ngaa Muka Development Trust to take a lead
Project Plan	Richard Bax	some feedback received and incorporated into the plan but to be updated in February.

ATTACHMENTS

NIL