

## **Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade**

**MINUTES** for the Meeting held on **TUESDAY, 07 November 2023.**

Start time 10:00 am

End time 11:00 am

### **Attending:**

Mathew Telfer- Contract Manager Watercare  
Kahurimu Flavell - Oranga – Project Advisor, Taiao  
Keith Martin – 3 Waters Manager WDC  
Richard Bax – Resource Consent Project Manager WDC  
Hazel Coalter - Infrastructure Development Manager  
Garrett Hall - Technical Director - Environments – Beca  
Ngahina Armstrong-Nield – Iwi and Community Partnership Advisor WDC

### **Apologies**

Hori Awa – CEO Waahi Whaanui Trust  
Glen Tupuhi - Chair Ngaa Muka Development Trust  
Tawera Nikau  
Richard Pullar - Infrastructure Delivery Manager -Watercare  
Kelvin Tupuhi - Ngaa Muka Development Trust

### **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 90<sup>th</sup> 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 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 an update that a new budget was approved.
- Develop design for new WWTP to enable plant to be upgraded for 2028/2029
- 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 budget to take its wastewater 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.

## Actions

| Action  | Who            | Status  |
|---|----------------|---|
| Set up regular monthly update meetings  | Keith          | Completed   |
| 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 Ngaruawahia was discussed as a potential option   |
| Proposal for Restoration fund to be developed   | All            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual funding contribution from Council</li> <li>2. \$xx for the restoration of XX metres by planting per annum</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Develop supporting agreement.</li> <li>5. Waahi Whaanui Trust and Ngaa Muka Development Trust to take a lead</li> </ol> |
| Project Plan  | Richard Bax    | some feedback received and incorporated into the plan.  |

## ATTACHMENTS

NIL

Unconfirmed