

## **Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade**

**MINUTES** for the Meeting held on **TUESDAY, 24 January 2023.**

Start time 10:00 am

End time 10:30 am

### **Attending:**

Keith Martin – 3 Waters Manager WDC

Mathew Telfer- Contract Manager Watercare

Taroi Rawiri - Environment Manager Waikato Tainui

Stephen Howard - Senior Consenting and Strategic Planner Watercare

Karlene Rhind - Senior Community Engagement Advisor WDC

### **APOLOGIES**

Hori Awa – CEO Waahi Whaanui Trust

Hazel Coalter - Infrastructure Development Manager

Glen Tupuhi - Chair Ngā Muka

### **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.

With the Sleepyhead Development in Ohinewai requiring wastewater to be sent to a compliant plant, the WWTP requires updating sooner to support the development. The WWTP is currently non-compliant. The noncompliance 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 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

Opening by Karlene Rhind.

Review of last minutes provided and accepted.

Given the size of investment for the WWTP Council will consider reapplying for the consent early to enable the design and treatment outcome to be certain beyond the current expiry of 2029.

It was confirmed that Taroi was the best person to take the lead and represent Iwi/hapu. Taroi confirmed his requirement was for the best quality of water to be returned to the Awa and for the betterment of the Awa and environment as part of the project.

Within Mātauranga Māori, an area of concern is with the Tuna (eel). There is concern that Tuna are put at risk with the WWTP system. Tuna are trapped within the current ponds and there is concern that tuna are put at risk by being exposed to pumps and the outfall.

Waikato Tainui have been transferred the authority to issue permits for tuna fishing and fish transfer authority. Waikato Tainui have a Tuna catch and transfer program to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Tuna.

It was suggested that the impact of the WWTP on the Whenua could be addressed to two ways.

- I. Council contributing to a restoration fund, with funding used for riverbank restoration. Commitment of iwi to restore, through planting XX metres per year of river bank

through the lifetime of WWTP and consent. Funding to be inflation linked and rolled over into future years if restoration efforts unable to be fully completed.

2. Tuna in the WWTP ponds need to be returned to the Awa. Before a catch and release program can be completed, the tuna need to be cleansed. It is proposed that the tuna living in the WWTP ponds are trapped and placed into the flooded old east mine pit for a period of 12 months

Watercare advise the concept design may be ready for the next meeting on 8 February.

## Actions

Action	Who	Status
Set up regular fortnightly update meetings	Keith	Completed
Waikato Tainui to advise on resource requirements to complete Mātauranga Māori engagement and consultation with TDC	Taroi	Action still to be completed
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	Taroi	Explore possibility with land owner about relocating tuna from WWTP to the flooded old east mine pit
Catch and release program		Talk to fish and game about Tuna and the proposal. Seek their previous experience and learning.
Mathew Telfer to ask a member of Watercare SLT to contact Glen Tupuhi to enable confirmation of the resource negotiation that was finalised in respect to Auckland water take	Mathew	Subsequent to meeting Mathew advises that the agreement with Watercare Auckland and Waikato Tainui was the annual payment of \$2 million to the Waikato River Clean-up Trust
Tuna protected from being caught in the system and from pumps and outfall within the WWTP upgrade concept.	Richard Pullar	
Explore how the Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade program can assist in improving the health and wellbeing of Tuna within the Awa.	Taroi	
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 meters plant per annum</li> <li>3. Determine appropriate funding body to manage restoration program</li> <li>4. Develop supporting agreement.</li> </ol>
Concept Design Presented	Watercare	Currently being developed

**ATTACHMENTS**

Unconfirmed