

Te Kauwhata Wastewater Discharge Optioneering Meeting Minutes – 14 August 2024

Meeting Purpose	To provide the opportunity to discuss the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Plant shortlisted discharge options at an Optioneering Meeting with key partners and stakeholders.
Location	WDC Committee Rooms 1 and 2
Date & Time	14 th August 2024, 10.43am to 11.43am
Invitees	<p>Waikato District Council Richard Bax (RB), Keith Martin (KM), James Baldwin (JB), Li Xu (LX), Sarah Bult (SB), Prvinn Mwene (PM), Hazel Coalter (HC), Cr. Eugene Patterson (EP), Cr. Marlene Raumati (MR)</p> <p>Watercare Richard Pullar (RP)</p> <p>BECA Garrett Hall (GH), Stephanie Dean (SD)</p> <p>Lake Waikare Care Group Jenny Kelly (JK), Joe Lloyd (JL)</p> <p>Department of Conservation Andrew Styche (AS)</p> <p>Nga Muka Development Trust Estelle Jonathan (EJ), K Tupuhi (KT), TWN Tukiri (TT), Robert Tukiri (RT)</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council Edward Prince (WRC) - online</p> <p>Fish and Game David Klee (DK) - online</p> <p>TK Community Committee John Cunningham (JC) - online</p> <p>Waikato -Tainui Taysha Sangster (TS), Kahurimu Flavell (KF), David Mapu (DM)</p>
Apologies	<p>Mat Telfer – Watercare</p> <p>Linda Tomoli – Horahora Marae</p> <p>Kawekura Nikora</p> <p>Haydn Solomon – Nga Muka Development Trust</p>

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion
1.	Meeting opened by Keith Martin (WDC) at 10.43am
2.	Opening karakia performed Keith Martin (WDC)
3.	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes Resolved: (Keith Martin)</p> <p>That the minutes for the meeting of the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Consultation Group held on 12 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.</p>
4.	<p>Powerpoint Presentation Shortlisted Discharge Options presented by Garrett Hall (BECA)</p> <p>Water hub C – Garrett spoke about the location and described how to get the discharge to site. Challenges to consider are SH1, the stop bank and the river discharge location. Need to be aware of a nearby (irrigation) water intake structure. Restoration opportunities for the area, replanting native wetland species. Cost breakout of the option. Upper range P15 contains contingency funds. Pro v Cons</p>

Will still have the same peak flow discharge to the ponds (and then to the lake); noted that the river side location was crown-owned land (administered by WRC). Very low levels of solids, nutrients etc would enter the lake as it has all been passed through the MBR plant.
Challenges in consenting as a new discharge consent would be required.

Lake Waikere DOC Wetland Discharge -

The pipe will cross private land, stream etc. and is estimated to be 6km long which has its engineering challenges.
Questions around the soil and constructability raised.
Boundary fences were pointed out on the slide.
Very boggy and access is not great.
Concept to include replanting, the many willows provide a restoration opportunity, and the creation of a flow channel to the lake.
Pros v Cons
Challenges as is in a wetland which is Ecologically sensitive site also sitting within a flood management zone.

Existing Discharge Location –

Would require upgrading to the discharge channel and wetland restoration.
No pipeline required as it's an existing discharge site.
Cost – majority would be in the replanting and wetland restorations.
Pros v Cons
Will still discharge into the lake.

Garrett reviewed all the costs involved with each option.

Asked for any feedback on the options.

KM – commented that the pathway has been a small group and asked if we needed to talk to the boarder community, Thoughts on how to do this.

KT – Asked for introduction to the online attendees as we weren't able to see them while the powerpoint presentation was running. Online attendees - Edward Prince , David Klee and John Cunningham

DK – Was confused on the scope of the options. He understood the DOC land is actually Waikato -Tainui land. It's an ecologically significant site and wanted details on how the short listing decisions were made. On Water Hub C – pond

RB – Options were suggested by Haydn and more work to understand the land transfer would be needed. If not an option, the area was still one that was identified to council.

JC – Discharge into the lake needs verifying/endorsing by Tainui. If this ends up as a targeted rate. The lowest cost option is the best option.

KT – Nothing goes into the lake. It is "Tapu and Mauri". Needs to go into river Ngaa Muka are clear on this!

KM – All options are being considered Mauri of the Wai is key. This is optioneering and all options need to be considered again. Feedback is clear – we will go back and clarify agreement.

JC - made a point on broader community comms - will look at.

KM - Targeted rate will be looked at in more detail but 14,000 rate payers will have to pay – not just TK residents. Downside is of the 40,000 residents in the Waikato only 14,000 are connected to the wastewater network. So affordability is the major issue – potentially rising to \$8k per annum for WW.

RT - Tainui to Tainui staff – What's the view of the corporate? – Not supportive of direct discharge. Support of Mana whenua positions. For 30 years we have been in the same place – still discharging into the lake.

KM – Thank you, Openness and transparency has been part of the messaging. We still have more conversations. We are not dictating. We will fully explore conversations to reach an agreement.

DK – Transparency and decision making. Last document had standout options A + B and now there is option C – Do these have mana whenua support? – how have the shifts and decisions been made?

JS – Lake Waikerie Care Group – no one thought the lake is the right place. 12 -14 years attending meetings. Things moved slowly. Commended Watercare for bringing the Tech. But negative to put into the river as used as drinking. Growth/ lake are real issues, and everything is getting worse.

JL – Transferring from lake to river to WWTP to lake to river using pipes already there. Revisit the whole flood control scheme. When the water flushed the lake, quality was good. But the cut off has had terrible consequences. If we try to sort out the flood control scheme now the RMA wouldn't allow it. We need to open up the Ohinewai bank to allow the lake to flush. That would decrease nutrients by 50%, Then waste from the plant wouldn't be a problem. It would need a canal under the road.

Tainui – River used to flood through stream and flush but since it has been closed off at Onetea. It would cost millions to restore.

RT - Corrections and development will increase WW Ngaa Muku is responding to their development concerns about proposed service centre/ car wash.
Waikato Tainui College – re oxygenating study going on at the moment.

KM – The Flood scheme impact is outside of this meetings mandate. This sits with WRC. Can we ask at the next meeting that a WRC representative be available to talk.
Car wash policy – we have no specialised policy, but we do have a trade waste agreement with business that looks at the discharge – measuring and monitoring to ensure compliance, so no detrimental impact. Wet industries would not get consent in the areas.

AS – Council has obviously not addressed the issues with hapu and until they do, there is no point in discussing matters further.

Cr EP – Apologies for being late. Councillors' perspective this has been going on for a long time. Needs to address the issues – affordability etc.

KM – Lake option still considered not appropriate. Water hub C was given by iwi as an alternative location. Need to give reasons for removal of any option. More conversations required. Desire to revisit flood control option.

Cr MR – Issue around growth in Wayside Road etc. Received a recommendation to adopt a future proof strategy. Crs have little influence in this Government approach.

JC – Optioneering is clearly a hurdle and no point in discussing no options.

KM – Agree need alignment and share the same view.

JC – Endorse cheaper option for the rate payers.

Meeting Close: 11.43