

Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP Upgrade

MINUTES for the Meeting held on **TUESDAY, 6 December 2022.**

Start time 9:57:23 am

End time 10:45:38 am

Attending:

Wirihana Huaki

Keith Martin – 3 Waters Manager WDC

Mathew Telfer- Contract Manager Watercare

Hazel Coalter - Infrastructure Development Manager

Carole Nutt- Waters Contract Relationship Manager WDC

Taroi Rawiri - Environment Manager Waikato Tainui

Stephen Howard - Senior Consenting and Strategic Planner Watercare

Glen Tupuhi - Chair Ngā Muka

Karlene Rhind - Senior Community Engagement Advisor WDC

APOLOGIES

Hori Awa – CEO Waahi Whaanui Trust

Agenda

- Karakia
- Introductions
- Rāhui Pōkeka WWTP upgrade rationale
- Rāhui Pōkeka location, geographical context
- Mātauranga Māori engagement
- General matters
- Closing Karakia

Minutes

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 90th percentile for ammoniacal nitrogen. 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.

A flyover of the WWTP was provided along with environmental hazards that will need to be considered and mitigated as part of the upgrade. Council has had funding bought forward and approved. \$2.1 million has been allocated towards concept design and resource consent.

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.

Council would like to ensure that any future upgrade adequately incorporates Mātauranga Māori perspectives. Glen discussed the hierarchical nature of Maoridom and confirmed that Taroi was the best person to take the lead and represent Iwi/hapu.

Taroi indicated that this engagement, whilst welcomed, was another action on Waikato Tainui and would need to be resourced. Taroi is to provide the indicate costs for Waikato Tainui to provide resource to support this consultation and engagement.

Glen raised the historical discussion with Watercare Auckland in respect to the water take and the promised resources that form part of that discussion. Council advised that we only have authority to discuss projects within the WDC boundary belonging to WDC. Watercare attendees represent Watercare Waikato in their capacity stipulated within WDC's O&M contract. Mathew Telfer will ask senior Watercare ELT members to contact Glen to discuss his concerns directly.

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/

Te mana o te wai and Te mana o te Awa need to be included as guiding principles within the concept design. To ensure ongoing and early discussions, Mana Whenua welcome the opportunity to be involved in the conversations relating to WWTP upgrade discussions and decision making. To assist, a regular fortnightly meeting is to be established to bring the parties up to date and to work through issues.

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	
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	
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	

ATTACHMENTS

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