

**Raglan WWTP Discharge Consenting Process
Stakeholder Meeting 26 June 2019
V3: Minutes of Meeting (distributed 5/7/2019)**

Present:

Surboard Club	Maioha Kelly
Waikato District Council Councillor	Lisa Thompson
Hapu Māhanga	Taruke Thompson
Xtreme Zero Waste	Rick Thorpe
Raglan Community Board/	Bob McLeod Gabrielle Parson (& Raglan Naturally) Tony Oosten
Whaingaroa Environmental	John Lawson, Stacey Hill
Raglan Sports Fishing Club	Ken Berry, Sheryl Hart
Whaingaroa Harbour Care	Fred Lichtwark
Chamber of Commerce	Charlie Young
Waikato District Council	Rodger MacCulloch – <i>Acting General Manager Service Delivery</i> Karl Pavlovich – <i>Waters Manager</i> Stephen Howard – <i>Senior Planner</i> Richard Pullar – <i>Asset Manager Team Leader - Waters</i> Sam Toka – <i>Iwi and Community Partnership Manager</i>
Beca Ltd	Garrett Hall Nicola Marvin Steph Dean

Date/Location/Time: 26th June 2019, Raglan Community Hall (Supper room), 7:45pm-9:30pm.

Apologies: Fiona McNabb – Xtreme Zero Waste/ Morgan Coster –Kite Surf Rep

Item	Amended Note
<p style="text-align: center;">Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Progress with the project so far, investigations underway, long-listed options and the process to get to resource consent application lodgement in November was presented (presentation attached to minutes). ■ Dates for the July drop-in sessions were also presented. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p>	
<p>2.1 Rick Thorpe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include in long list option – prevention, minimisation and the management of wastewater at-source. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing volume of flow, low flush toilets, compost toilets, improved stormwater network. ■ Quality of wastewater important – nutrients, pharmaceuticals and hormones in our water. ■ What is the criteria for land discharge investigations? Absorption rate important, option of vigorous planting, for example hemp crops have a high rate of uptake of nutrients, we need plants with intensive uptake of water and nutrients. Will assessments of plant uptake of nutrients and water be undertaken? ■ Utilising existing assets in the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for holding ponds for example in the winter. ■ Contour ponds with storage sites at the bottom of the hill. 	
<p>2.2 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Rick Thorpe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ WDC won't look at a totally unique option for proven reliability reasons, needs to be a proven solution. We can use other examples and learn from them. ■ Wastewater management will be considered as part of the network discharge consenting process 	<p>Upon distributed - WDC would not be moving to a solution that would abandon existing infrastructure. That is, WDC will continue to use the WWTP.</p>
<p>2.3 Sheryl Hart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maui Dolphin advocate - toxoplasmosis cysts have been found to cause fatalities in Maui dolphins (and TB). The cysts are spread by cat faeces entering the wastewater (WW) system, the WW treatment cannot remove the cysts and they are able to enter the ocean via the harbour discharge. Land disposal would help this issue. The WW needs to be held for 100 days for the toxoplasmosis cysts to die. 	<p>Upon distributed - Sheryl Hart highlighted Raglan Sports Fishing representatives said no to any sea discharge and were in favor of land discharge.</p>
<p>2.4 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Sheryl Hart)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ WW discharge effects on marine life will be assessed. 	
<p>2.5 Ken Barry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The land is currently saturated for 3-4 months a year. Trickle feed discharge could be an option over the saturation period. 	

2.6 Maioha Kelly

- Surfers are immersed in the seawater. The ocean is used and enjoyed every day for recreation and food gathering. The community use the marine environment every day.
- Heart breaking to see signs about shellfish danger.
- Surfboard club in support of Iwi views on no WW discharge to the ocean.

2.7 Taruke Thompson

- No discharge to the ocean – all tribal groups would say no. An ocean discharge is the opposite of Kaitiakitanga. We need land-based options.
- A Raglan community discussion is needed on what we put in our wastewater.
- Climate change issues means water is becoming more and more important.
- Water re-use needs to happen, and human behavior needs to change.
- No one has done anything about the WW discharge in the last 15 years.

2.8 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Ken, Maioha, Taruke)

- We are looking at the land disposal option. We do have challenges with land suitability over the wetter periods. Summer only land disposal is being investigated. We need the community to balance all options.

2.9 Gabrielle Parson

- No ocean discharge is the common opinion amongst the community.
- Who makes the final decision on the discharge option? How much time and resources do we put in as a community to influence decision making?
- There is a lack of trust with WDC, is the disposal option already decided?

2.9 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Gabrielle)

- WDC approves the decision that is brought to Councillors in a functional sense. Councillors will make the final decision.
- WDC want to engage with the community more than they previously have. Going off a genuine trust model.
- There are limitations in discharge options.
- Technical advice is being gathered that the community needs to take into consideration.

2.10 Fred Lichtwark

- A cost benefit analysis on pollutants going into the harbour needs to be considered.
- We need to consider the contaminants entering the harbour water from land use runoff and stormwater. Is this the bigger pollutant?
- Treated WW flows into the harbour account for approximately 3% of the pollutant issue but use approximately 80% of the allocated budget. This is high quality treated WW. Is this the biggest risk in this catchment?
- Harbour Care projects to clean up the whole harbour catchment.
- The agricultural sector also disposes of pharmaceuticals that enter the harbour through land use runoff.
- In relation to the toxoplasmosis cysts issue, cat faeces enters the stormwater system un-treated.
- Hemp crops are a good idea. Working towards a carbon neutral town.

2.11 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Fred)

- Assess all options on balance to find the preferred solution.
- The WDC Long-Term Plan has \$15.6 million budgeted for an 'ocean outfall' as the money had to be connected to a project.

2.12 Rodger MacCulloch

- Working with communities – Liveable, thriving communities.
- Raglan Naturally provides guidance.
- Our job to report back to councillors on community feedback. Get the right info in front of the decision makers. Councilors then make the final decision.

2.13 Rick Thorpe

- There are other funding streams available.
- Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) money, GST, funds from local government, tourism tax coming.

2.14 Roger MacCulloch/Karl Pavlovich (in response to Rick)

- WDC has team looking at funding streams available
- Carbon neutrality is a Watercare target
- The preferred solution will go to Council to make a decision on. If the community votes overwhelming for a particular option, this would also be tabled.

2.15 Bob McLeod

- The decision will affect rate payers so needs to be cost effective. Look at innovative solutions.

2.16 John Lawson

- Why did the ocean outfall fail the first time? Learn from the previous consent info on ocean dynamics and what will work.
- Will the current models provide a different answer to previously?

2.17 Karl Pavlovich (in response to John)

- New technologies since the last ocean outfall consent. Learning from previous mistakes.

2.18 Garrett Hall (in response to John)

- Fundamental challenges in high energy ocean environment to construct either an extension to the existing outfall or a new outfall.
- New technology such as modelling will provide information. 3-D imaging of current flows from sensors in the harbour area is being used.
- Models being used now are better than those used previously – more input data, faster processing

2.19 Fred Lichtwark

- Stakeholder consensus that the deep bore long list option can be excluded.

2.20 Charley Young

- How far along are WDC in finding potential land?
 - What's available
 - What's possible
- What about Wainui Reserve? This is undergoing a reserve management plan review at the moment.

2.21 Karl Pavlovich (in response to Charley)

- We are aware of some land parcels from previous discussions and are following up on these. Subconsultants LEI have done some land suitability studies to understand what land areas are suitable based on a number of criteria.
- The land discharge study will be available on the website page. A key will be added.
- Who is interested in offering land?

2.22 Garrett Hall (in response to Charley)

- WDC preference would be to buy the land for long-term security. Once treated WW is discharged to land that land is considered contaminated under New Zealand law.

2.23 Fred Lichtwark

- Wainui reserve currently very wet and ground unstable. It's iron pan. There is a recreation area on Wainui and Pa sites.
- Over the other side of the harbour is a burial ground.
- Koning property could be a suitable option – could have continuous cropping eg hemp, jute, flax. It's in the same catchment as the WWTP.
- Hybrid model where peak time flows are discharged into harbour, land disposal when land condition suitable. Revisit total land disposal for next consent. Infiltration beds – land area in footprint of WWTP. (It was noted that this would provide a passage through land only, not further treatment).

2.24 Tony Oosten

- What about a concrete-lined wetland for tertiary treatment?

2.25 Gabrielle Parson

- The application needs to be lodged in November. What if there is further work?
- Can we spend longer looking eg if there's innovative ideas
- Won't the consents tighten?

2.25 Garrett Hall (in response to Gabrielle)

- We have to lodge a consent that meets the Section 88 requirements of the Resource Management Act three months prior to the expiry of the current consent.
- Waikato Regional Council now require a more robust application to be lodged then they did for the previous consent that was lodged in 1999 but not approved until 2005. Legislation has changed.

2.26 Fred Lichtwark

- Would like electro mapping done to investigate groundwater movement to understand underground stream systems – this has been done in the Taupo district
- If the treated WW is applied to land where will it end up? Not just E.Coli but the nutrients that effect the land. Land disposal takes 70 years to flush out compared to 30 days to flush out in water. The harbour retention is 90 days.
- WRC peer review the consent application, it then goes to WRC Councillors for a decision, and then the Environment Court if necessary. We try to avoid this if we can.

The attendees were thanked by WDC for attending, and were asked to provide recreational use, fishing and shellfish locations on the large map that was brought to the meeting.

<p>Date of next meeting <u>24 July 6:30-8:30pm/Supper Room</u></p>	
<p>Drop in sessions 10 July 4-7 pm Supper Room 13 July 10-12 Library</p> <p>Key stakeholders Last week of July (date TBC)</p>	