

**MINUTES** of the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consenting Process meeting (public) held on **Wednesday 6 May 2021** commencing 7.00pm through **ZOOM** Video Communications.

**Present:** Cr Aksel Bech (Chairperson), Ian Cathcart, Special Infrastructure Projects Manager (WDC), Carole Nutt, Waters Contract Relationship Manager (WDC)

Steve Howard, Richard Pullar (Watercare)

**Apology:** John Lawson, Edward Prince, Hugh Keene  
Chris Rayner

## **I. OPENING MEETING**

1.1 Cr A Bech, Chairperson, opened the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Consenting meeting (public) at 7.00pm.

The Chair outlined protocols for the Zoom meeting:

- The meeting would be recorded and posted on Council's web page.
- Chats can be seen by all meeting attendees. Use the chat function to record questions, and Steve would answer at the end of the presentation or offline at a later date if not appropriate to answer at the meeting.
- To get the Chair's attention, use electronic hand function.
- If asking a question, have camera on as courtesy to Steve.

1.2 The purpose of the meeting was to hear Steve Howard's presentation on the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWT) Discharge Consent Application Project.

## **2. PRESENTATION/TOPICS - Steve Howard, Watercare**

2.1 Matters to discuss:

- Part A – Draft MCA Scoring –
- Part B – Public Land Option Update
- Part C – LTP Process and Local Government Activity
- Part D- Wrap Up/Questions

**PART A: MCA SCORING OBSERVATIONS**

**Slide 1, 2 and 3**

**(i) Draft MCA Scoring update**

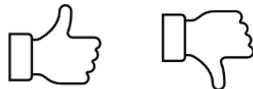
March Meeting Action – distribute draft MCA doc 

The Draft Document was...

- Prepared as a starting point for further engagement
- Provides ability for questioning, editing, additional commentary and input from Raglan Reps.

Next Proposed Step: May Presentation and Workshop: date to be confirmed ASAP (week of 24-28 May)

Discussion



**(i) BPO Consideration**

Note: The MCA is a lens to be applied on the short-listed options toward BPO establishment. Additional lens are (a) affordability and adherence to project objectives (b) statutory and partnership responsibility toward Māori.

**Narrowing down short-listed options collectively is a project goal** 

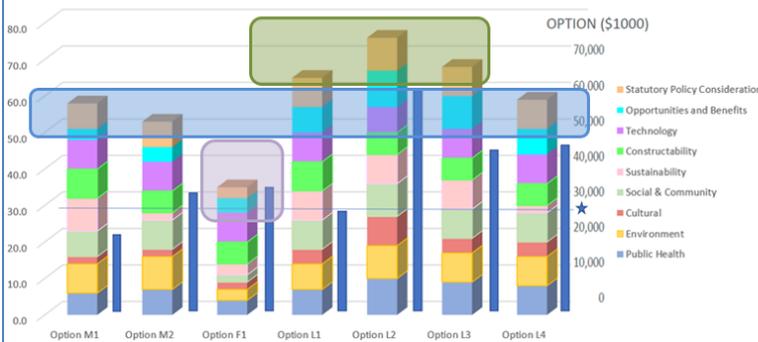
**Balancing factors toward BPO – MCA Observations (Discussion Starters)**

Most Favored Options of Draft MCA

- L1: Private Land and Winter Storage (a) Cultural, Public Health
- L3: Private Land/Tertiary and New Outfall (Winter)
- L2: Public Land/Tertiary and New Outfall (Winter)
- (b) Opportunity and Benefits, Sustainability

Mid Favored Options of Draft MCA

- M1: Tertiary and New Outfall
- M2: MBR and New Outfall
- L4: Public Land/MBR and New Outfall (Winter)



Least Favored Option of Draft MCA

- F1: MBR and Stream Outfall
- (c) Social and community, Environment, Public Health



**Balancing factors toward BPO – Finance Observations (Discussion Starters)**

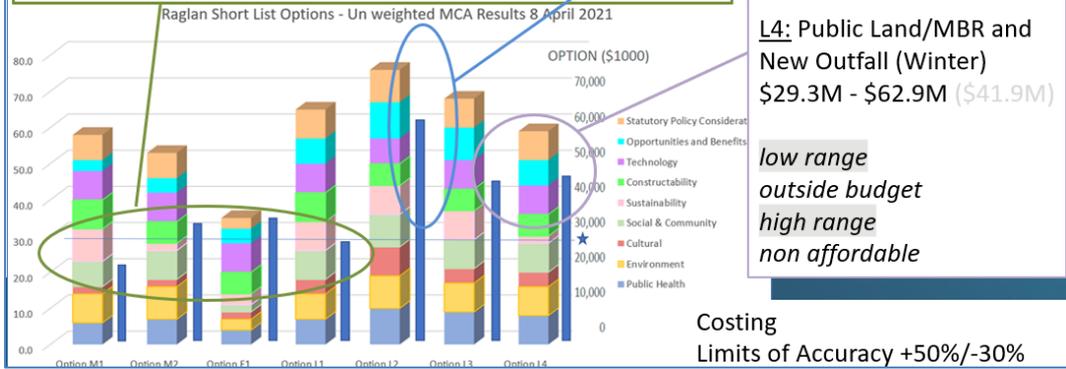
**M2:** MBR and New Outfall  
\$21.2M- \$31.8M (\$30.3M)  
**F1:** MBR and Stream Outfall  
\$21.6M – \$32.3M (\$30.8M)  
**L1:** Public Land/Tertiary and New Outfall (Winter)  
\$17.5M – 37.5M (\$25M)  
*low range affordable high range outside LTP budget*

**M1:** Tertiary and New Outfall  
\$11.9M - \$25.5M (\$17M)  
*low range affordable high range affordable*

**L2:** Private Land and Winter Storage:  
\$41M - \$88M (\$58.7M)  
*Red flag - Mangawhi*

**L3:** Private Land/Tertiary and New Outfall (Winter)  
\$30M - \$64M (\$43.2M)

**L4:** Public Land/MBR and New Outfall (Winter)  
\$29.3M - \$62.9M (\$41.9M)  
*low range outside budget high range non affordable*

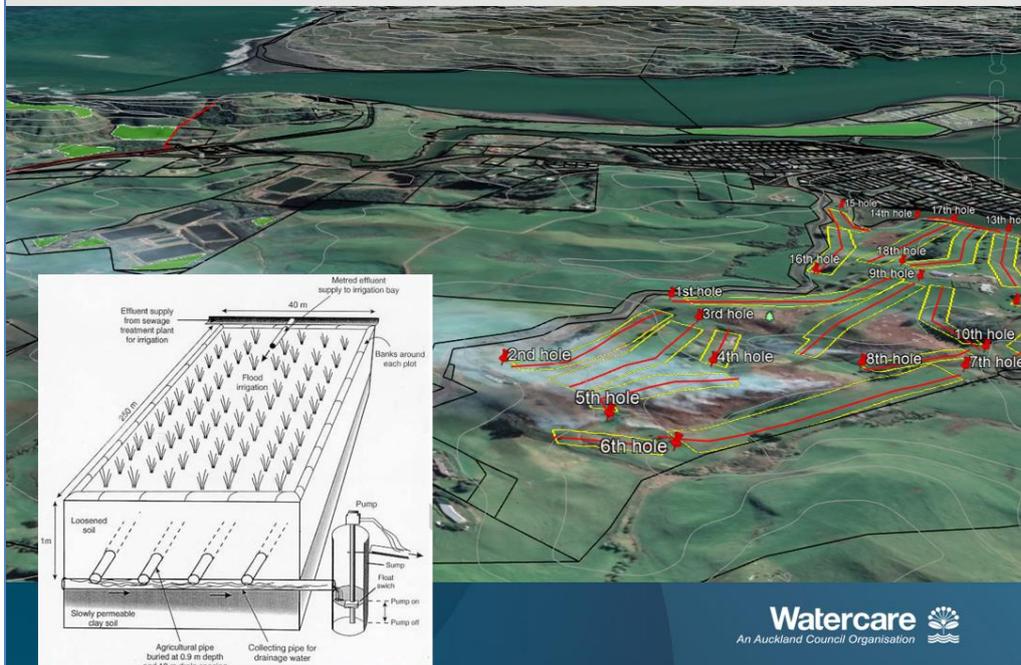


The purpose of these three slides was to outline that selection methodology of ‘best practical option’ was designed to be a community decision making exercise, however there are simple observations that can easily narrow down feasible options. For instance, the freshwater option (F1) is an outlier when considering MCA scoring. My thoughts were that this can be eliminated now from discussion. The 100% option requiring Winter storage doesn’t look to be near any sort of affordability (over x2 LTP budget). My thoughts were that this can be eliminated now from discussion.

Group consensus was that an ‘in person session’ should be held for any such decisions to be made, where it would be anticipated that the ‘top 3’ scenarios be presented by technical reps then (with reasons).

**Slide 4 and 5**

**PART B:**  
Public Land Discharge update



The Wainui Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A WDC Reserve Management Plan process is underway</i></li> <li>• <i>23ha of theoretical farm-land (that avoids other activities);</i></li> <li>• <i>Clay nature of soils is understood;</i></li> <li>• <i>Access is not presumed – Important decisions and challenges accompany Public Land Disposal Option.</i></li> </ul>
Air strip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Very complex history</i></li> <li>• <i>the sandy nature makes it very appealing for a discharge/earth-contact perspective</i></li> <li>• <i>Theoretical utilisation only at this point - In reality this may not be appropriate</i></li> </ul>
Raglan Golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tight clay soils exist in the area,</i></li> <li>• <i>an enthusiastic partner (club) is a significant advantage.</i></li> <li>• <i>NZ golf course irrigation examples to benchmark off</i></li> <li>• <i>Demonstrates a significant re-use initiative</i></li> </ul>

	Acquisition History	Intention	Jurisdiction	Legislation	Decision Making
Wainui	Funded by joint councils	Primary Purpose: Regional Park	Waikato DC	Reserves Act 1977 S.17 Primary Purpose of Recreation	Waikato DC as Minister of Conservation Delegate
Airfield	Confiscated for public works	Primary Purpose: Airfield (can have dual public works use)	Waikato DC Aware of underlying ownership	S.53 Non-leasing Powers S.41 RMP S. 40 Public Works (Airfield)	

These slides highlight NexGen Water feasibility studies and methodologies for sub surface drip irrigation to public land (LI). The challenges of each theoretical area are highlighted. All parties throughout engagement have supported the concept of re-use at the Golf Club, which would be a significant achievement. Inclusion of the air strip was theoretical, where sensitivities of the site are understood by all.

The use for the project presently has been ruled out by the project team given that both hapu that have Whaingaroa within their rohe are not supportive, and that the Community Board have always held up the position that their support will be in step with Raglan hapu. Investigation of other publicly owned areas is therefore needed, where discounting use of the sandy-soil (airstrip) will be mean that access to alternative sandy areas will be needed if any phasing out of a pipe outfall for high winter flow is to be achieved (i.e. hydraulic properties needed for flow that has lower concentrations of nutrients).

**PART C: (i) Update on LTP process and any local government activity (ii) Comms update : Ian/Carol**

**Raglan wastewater treatment plant upgrades**  
Draft LTP 2021-31 Budget

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total (inflated)
510,000	4,935,000	6,873,048	7,196,081	8,781,618	\$ 28,295,747

**Proposed rates increases in the LTP 2021-31:**

We have to meet the higher legislated standards for local government, especially in water supply, stormwater and wastewater treatment and disposal. As meeting these standards is a requirement, the capital investment we need through annual targeted rates increases of 17%, 11% and 9% for waters, stormwater and wastewater respectively.

The average proposed general rate increase will be 9% in the first year.

*Accompanying LTP Commentary*

(ii) Comms Query: What could be effective methods moving forward information sharing and wider community reach?

Above matters were covered by WDC staff, as an update to LTP workshops. Discussion covered advancement of public meetings needed to progress wider engagement.