

Appendix 2

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**Notes of a Pre-hearing Meeting held on Tuesday 27 March 2001
at 7:00pm, Councillors Room, Wainuiomata Public Library, Queens
Street, Wainuiomata**

**Hutt City Council
Application for a Discharge to Water Permit: WGN010101**

Present

Andrew Bichan	Regional Public Health
Pat Scahill	Hutt City Council (Stormwater Assets Manager)
Reg Moore	Wainuiomata Community Board
Ray Wallace	Hutt City Council (Councillor)
Norman Wright	Grey Power
Margaret Wright	Grey Power
Cathie Eady	Hutt City Council (Councillor)
Teri Puketapu	Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a
Maui	
Paul Paton	Grey Power
Iris Fraser	Wainuiomata Resident
Paula Paton	Grey Power
Tanya Turuwhenua	Seaview Projects Limited
Ian Kasher	Seaview Projects Limited
Steve Hutchinson	Montgomery Watson
Alan Bannatyne	Hutt City Council (Wastewater Projects Manager)
Annette McGovern (Facilitator)	Wellington Regional Council
Peter Day	Wellington Regional Council

1. Introduction

Annette McGovern opened the meeting at approximately 19:15. She welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address questions and concerns that submitters may have regarding the resource consent application.

Annette introduced the agenda for the meeting, which included a summary of the issues raised in submissions. The agenda was:

1. Introduction
2. Presentation by Hutt City Council/Hutt Valley Wastewater Services
3. Issues (raised in submissions)
 - potential risks to human health
 - potential effects on water quality
 - potential effects on amenity values (odour, solid matter, limitations on recreational use)
 - mitigation of potential effects
 - reduction/prevention of overflow discharges
 - others??
4. Possible Options (to be discussed)
5. Next Steps (where to from here)

Annette enquired whether there were any other issues that anyone wished to add to the agenda.

2. Resource Consent Application and Presentation by Hutt City Council/Hutt Valley Wastewater Services

Alan Bannatyne began by presenting details of the Hutt City Council (HCC) resource consent application including details of the wider Hutt Valley wastewater upgrades. Alan made a presentation outlining information on the following:

- Purpose of the presentation and intentions regarding the meeting.
- Project Pencarrow overview.
- Consultation prior to the current consent application.
- What Project Pencarrow provides.
- Issues associated with the existing Wainuiomata wastewater system.
- Existing known Wainuiomata sewage overflows.
- Wastewater network options considered.
- Wastewater pumping configuration chosen.
- Future overflow points.
- Computer modelling of the Wainuiomata sewer system.
- Wellington Road pump station overflows.
- Infiltration and inflow works required.

- Specific concerns
 - increases in overflow pipe diameter.
 - blocking of the course screen.
 - no flow monitoring undertaken.
 - no characterisation of the overflow wastewater.
 - eliminating overflow to Black Stream.
 - flooding of Black Stream.
- Funding.
- What HCC undertakes to do.
- Summary.

A copy of Alan's presentation was circulated to everyone present at the meeting.

3. Questions/Concerns and Discussion of the Application

During and following Alan's presentation, several questions were asked by Andrew Bichan, Norman Wright, Margaret Wright, Teri Puketapu and Iris Fraser. As much as possible Alan, Ian Kasher and Steve Hutchison answered these questions and discussion of these points followed. The points raised related to the following (in roughly the same order they were raised during the meeting):

- the rationale used for generating the list of parties to which letters were sent regarding a public meeting arranged by HCC to discuss the resource consent application prior to notification.
- why a holding tank was not being employed at the Wellington Road pump station similar to that used by HCC at Silverstream.
- whether the pump station at Wellington Road would be at the same location and whether it would be new or upgraded.
- the formula employed by HCC to calculate the capacity of the upgraded wastewater system and to calculate the relative pipe diameters.
- the relationship between increasing pipe diameter and volume of overflows during each overflow event.
- HCC's intentions regarding the operation of the other existing overflows once the upgraded system is commissioned.
- discharges of overflows over the course screen and possible discharges of course solids and objectionable material.
- the likely composition of the wastewater during an overflow such as the faecal coliform count and levels of other contaminants.
- flooding of properties adjacent to Black Stream during wet weather events and the public health implications of an overflow during such events.
- management by HCC of the banks and berms of Black Stream.

During the meeting several concerns were raised regarding the potential for the coarse screen of the Wellington Road pump station to bind during an overflow event. The concerns related to the possibility of solids and objectionable material being discharged downstream. Alan and Ian felt that the potential for the screen to bind was small due to the sizing design of the screen and due to the lack of historical problems associated with screen binding. Alan also mentioned that there are currently no screens on the existing overflows. Discussion centred on options for preventing

coarse material entering the Black Stream such as using more than one screen. Alan undertook to investigate possible options for the course screen and methods to prevent it from binding.

Discussion also involved the potential for the Black Stream to flood adjacent properties during wet weather events and the possible public health implications of an overflow occurring during such an event. Iris Fraser mentioned that flooding of her property occurred on a relatively frequent basis (approximately every five years). Andrew Bichan (on behalf of Regional Public Health) was concerned with the implications of the flooding and the frequency within which it may occur. Andrew mentioned that from discussion at the meeting, the frequency of property flooding appeared to be more frequent than initially estimated. In response to concerns regarding flooding of properties via wastewater pipelines backing up, Ian mentioned that any binding of the course screen would not cause sewage to back up in the system and that overflows would only occur downstream of the Wellington Road pump station.

Teri Puketapu outlined that discharges of effluent to natural waterways were abhorrent to iwi. Teri mentioned that the Runanga supported the project as a whole, but that there would still be a discharge to water, which he was opposed to. Teri appreciated that the system would be a significant improvement, but he would still like to see a commitment by HCC to continue to improve the system to reduce the overflows. Alan accepted that ongoing improvements to the system would be part of the process.

Andrew Bichan agreed with Teri in that continuing to improve the system was required to reduce the frequency of discharges, in particular, the ongoing measures to reduce infiltration/inflow were critical. Andrew acknowledged that the number of discharge points would reduce from the existing situation and that overflows would occur when the stream flows were already high. He believed that HCC should implement a contingency plan to detail what measures would be undertaken in the event of an overflow, particularly if property flooding occurred. Andrew believed that the plan should include all potentially affected parties. He also felt that it was reasonable for HCC/HVWS to inspect the stream once stream flows had subsided and remove any objectionable material. In response to Andrew's questions, Ian mentioned that alarms at the Seaview wastewater treatment plant would signal when an overflow had occurred at the Wellington Road pump station. Staff from the plant could then respond and inspect the stream following the event.

Norman Wright (on behalf of Grey Power) outlined his concerns regarding the scientific basis of the application, in particular the level of study of the Black Stream receiving environment. Norman requested that the WRC ensure that the inflow/infiltration measures proposed by HCC be undertaken to reduce discharges from the pump station. Norman also outlined his concerns regarding risks to public health and to the restriction of public access to the stream following an overflow event. Norman also requested that measures be put in place to prevent the course screen from binding.

Several questions were raised regarding the management of the Black Stream in terms of flood management and maintenance of the stream banks and berms. In response to the questions regarding maintenance, Pat Scahill indicated that the stream banks and

berms were maintained twice a year by the Hutt City Council's stormwater department. Alan stressed that the issue of stormwater and flood management were separate from those relating to the specific overflow discharge (and therefore, outside the scope of the resource consent application). Alan indicated that any concerns relating to the stormwater management and maintenance should be directed to Pat Scahill. Pat invited the meeting attendees to contact him directly at HCC (phone 570 6666) to discuss any concerns relating to stormwater management in the Black Stream. Alan also indicated that residents were able to make a submission on the HCC's Annual Plan (for which meetings will be held in April).

The meeting concluded with most participants agreeing that they would be happy for WRC to draft up a set of consent conditions which would be circulated to submitters. Ray Wallace requested that if any conditions were agreed upon that these be publicised so that the wider community could be keep informed of the proposal.

4. **Conclusion**

Annette explained what the next steps would be in the consent process. This was:

- that Peter would draw up a set of draft consent conditions in consultation with HCC. A copy of these would be sent to all submitters along with a copy of the pre-hearing meeting notes.
- that a hearing would not be necessary if all parties agreed to a set of consent conditions.

Annette concluded the meeting at approximately 21:15 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.