



Memo

TO Hearing Panel (Gina Sweetman, Rawiri Faulkner, Jim Cooke)

FROM Shaun Andrewartha, Manager, Environmental Regulation, GWRC and Russell O'Leary, Group Manager – Planning and Environment, SWDC

DATE 21 June 2019

SUBJECT Joint response from GWRC and SWDC in regard to Minute #8 (12 June 2019)

FILE NUMBER WAR/170229

Applicant: South Wairarapa District Council

Proposal: To discharge contaminants to water, land and air associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant

Location: Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant, Donald Street, Featherston
Site A – 65 Longwood West Road, Featherston
Site B – 270 Murphys Line, Featherston

1. Introduction

Minute #8 of the Hearing Panel directed that the applicant and the GWRC respond to the Panel by no later than 5pm Friday 21 June 2019 to provide an update on its current approach; which shall include:

- Progress to date;
- How the applicant proposes to undertake further consultation; and
- An updated timetable for consideration addressing the issues set out in GWRC's s37 extension and the previous direction of the Panel – Minute #7 are to be dealt with.

The Hearing Panel also directed that the previous directions – Minute #7 – are set aside.

2. Progress to date

An agreed approach between the Councils consisting of four steps were identified to the Panel via a joint Council memorandum (dated 6 June 2019). Progress against these four steps are identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Progress to date

Step	Task	Progress to date
1	Preparation of a table outlining the outstanding issues/information gaps, responsibility, key issues to resolve at future workshops and matters set out in the GWRC s37 extension and Panel Minute #7.	In progress. Sven Exeter (SWDC Consultant Planner) and Nicola Arnesen (GWRC Team Leader, Environmental Regulation) have been working together and have prepared a draft table which is currently being provided to technical experts for input.
	SWDC experts draft scopes for the QMRA, Groundwater Effects Assessment and Monitoring and Pathogen sampling plan.	Complete.
2	GWRC and SWDC experts review and approve the scopes of work for the information gaps, with work to be undertaken over the next few months.	<p>In progress. The Groundwater Effects Assessment and Monitoring and Pathogen sampling plan have been reviewed and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further pathogen sampling commenced 7 June 2019. • Bore permits for groundwater investigation lodged 19 June 2019. Well drillers will be ready to drill as soon as the bore permits are granted. <p>The QMRA scope will be finalised by 26 June 2019.</p>
3	SWDC conduct community engagement which is likely to include community meetings/workshops – to help inform the ‘experts’ workshop identified in Step 4 below.	In progress. SWDC has appointed Lisa Muitalo (GHD Communications and Engagement Specialist) to plan SWDC’s engagement with the community, submitters, community groups, mana whenua and GWRC officers in July and August 2019. Further detail is provided in section 3 below.
4	Expert workshops. The overall goal is to get clarity on the issues, how/if these can be resolved and the different options viable to the applicant (together with any perceived risks) going forward.	No progress to date. Progression is dependent on addressing the outstanding issues identified in Table 2 below.

3. How SWDC proposes to undertake further consultation

SWDC has engaged Lisa Multalalo from GHD Ltd, a Communications and Engagement Specialist to develop the plan for open and robust engagement during July and August 2019. The purpose of this engagement is to provide multiple channels for the community, submitters, community groups and mana whenua to provide feedback to SWDC on the Featherston WWTP proposal, obtain updated information, and speak to project team members to provide both feedback and ask questions about the proposal.

SWDC will be carrying out:

- A number of community information sessions
- Direct engagement with mana whenua through a workshop(s)
- Meetings with submitter and community groups
- Continued collaboration and discussions with GWRC officers

The plan for the community information sessions is still being developed.

Information for the community will be updated, which is likely to include developing a video, FAQs, Fact Sheets, and social media content.

There will also be channels for the community to provide more feedback to SWDC on the proposal.

Once the expert workshops have been completed, SWDC will conduct further engagement with regards to the proposal.

4. Updated timetable

The Councils have discussed how the outstanding issues set out in GWRC's s37 extension and the previous direction of the Panel (7th Minute, dated 17 May 2019) should be addressed. The proposed timing to address the outstanding issues are identified in Table 2 below, and have been agreed to.

Table 2: Proposed timetable to deal with outstanding issues

Outstanding issue	Proposed timing - 2019		
	July	August	September
Impacts of the meaning and effect of provisions of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.	Due 31 July	Analysis	
Further consultation by SWDC with submitters, the community (including Maori/iwi representatives), and with GWRC officers.			
Information in relation to the effects of discharge to land on groundwater that was agreed in the Joint Witness Statement to be provided to GWRC.			
Analysis of pathogens (bacterial and viral) in the Wastewater Treatment Plant before and after UV disinfection, which should be undertaken on at least three to four separate occasions by a competent laboratory.			
SWDC to undertake a soil survey in site B in particular to provide certainty on soil types and identify whether there is			

any evidence of macropores that would cause short circuiting of irrigated wastewater.			
NIWA's qualitative assessment of health risk be replaced by a quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) with as many of the assumptions in the qualitative assessment as possible being replaced by measurements or robust estimates agreed by all experts.			
Further discussions between experts, particularly surrounding the outstanding areas of disagreement and areas where more information is required. Expert workshops will be held to: 1. Obtain clarity on the issues 2. How/if these can be resolved 3. Identify the different options available to the applicant (together with any perceived risks) going forward			
Scope – addressing whether the public health risk arising from pathogen spread through the groundwater is within the scope of what was applied for. Other relevant inputs to address scope will also be considered during this period.			

It is imperative for the Panel to note that the proposed timing to address the outstanding issues is not a limit. Flexibility is required as we progress addressing these issues, particularly 'scope'.

There will also be a number of contributing factors that may extend the proposed timing. These include:

- The need to allow sufficient time for SWDC to undertake robust and open engagement with submitters, the community, community groups, mana whenua, and GWRC officers.
- The completion of groundwater investigative work being dependent on the timing of bores and loggers being installed in the next two weeks.
- The completion of the QMRA being dependent on groundwater investigation and pathogen sampling being completed first.

If the approach to consultation and proposed timing to address outstanding issues as identified above are acceptable to the Panel, we will provide a progress update and updated timetable (if required) to the Panel by 21 July 2019.

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