

Memo

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

FROM Shaun Andrewartha, Manager, Environmental Regulation, GWRC and Jennie Mitchell, Group Manager Corporate Support, SWDC

DATE 19 July 2019

SUBJECT Joint response from GWRC and SWDC in regard to Minute #9 (26 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 #9 of the Hearing Panel directed that the applicant and the GWRC respond to the Panel by no later than 5pm Friday 19 July 2019 to provide an update on its current approach; which shall include:

- Progress to date;
- An update on consultation undertaken to date;
- An updated timetable; and
- When a hearing may be scheduled.

2. Progress to date

A progress update against the four steps identified as a Council agreed approach is 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	Complete – with ongoing updates. Sven Exeter (SWDC's Consultant Planner) has been keeping this table up-to-date to reflect the progress against the outstanding issues/information gaps, responsibility and key issues being resolved. This table is shared with GWRC on a weekly basis, being updated on a weekly frequency. Wastewater and I/I experts from Mott MacDonald (on behalf of SWDC) and PDP (on behalf of GWRC) met on 28 June 2019 to discuss

	Panel Minute #7.	the outstanding matters highlighted in evidence. Mott MacDonald provided responses and GWRC experts are reviewing.
	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>Complete - review and approval of scopes of work for the information gaps</p> <p>In progress - addressing information gaps</p> <p><u>Pathogen sampling</u></p> <p>Sampling at the WWTP commenced 7 June 2019. This sampling will contribute to the analysis of pathogens (bacterial and viral) in the WWTP before and after UV disinfection.</p> <p><u>Groundwater monitoring (pathogens and other relevant parameters) and effects assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bore permits for groundwater investigation wells to be installed around the proposed irrigation sites were granted by GWRC on 1 July 2019. • Drilling of these monitoring wells commenced on 16 July 2019. Drilling is anticipated to take approximately two weeks. Monitoring will commence thereafter. • SWDC is seeking landowner permission to sample and evaluate a number of neighbouring bores. This will entail taking a groundwater sample, evaluating bore head security, and observing existing land use activities, and existing on-site wastewater septic tanks and field irrigation). <p><u>Quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) / public health risk assessment)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater sampling (as identified above), and the evaluation of neighbouring bores is contributing to the QMRA.

		<p><u>Technical feasibility assessment for “add-on” modern wastewater treatment technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWDC’s technical experts from Mott MacDonald are progressing a two phase feasibility study on WWTP add-on options to deal with viruses and clarity, and to determine whether the WWTP can deliver the appropriate dose to provide the required disinfection identified from the QMRA. The first phase (determination of costs for each ‘add-on’ option) is progressing well with approximately 70% completed. <p><u>Soil survey interpretation</u> Katie Beecroft (SWDC’s Land Treatment Specialist) has updated the soil maps and commentary.</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. An update on the community engagement undertaken is detailed 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 matters and issues.

3. An update on consultation undertaken to date

The purpose of the July engagement period 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.

3.1 Community drop-in sessions

Community drop-in sessions have been advertised widely, including media releases, on SWDC’s website, Facebook, and on posters in local shops and libraries. All sessions are being held at The Royal Hotel, which is a central and visible location in Featherston. There have been a mix of day time and evening sessions on different days of the week to enable as many residents as possible to attend, including commuters to Wellington.

The first two drop-in sessions were held on 9 July 2019, with the morning session attracting approximately 12 persons, whilst the evening session was attended by approximately 20 persons.

The third and fourth community drop-in sessions were held on Wednesday 17 July 2019. The morning session was attended by approximately 15 persons, whilst the evening session was attended by approximately six residents. Several SWDC Councillors attended the third drop-in session.

The fifth and sixth community drop-in sessions are scheduled for Thursday 25 July 2019, from 11.30-1.30pm and 6.30-8.30pm. SWDC's Consultants Sven Exeter (Senior Planner, Mott MacDonald) and Katie Beecroft (Land Treatment Specialist, Lowe Environmental Impact) will also be attending these last two drop-in sessions to provide the community with the opportunity to ask consenting/planning and land treatment questions directly with these specialists.

At each drop-in session, SWDC staff and project team members were available to listen and record feedback from community members, as well as answer questions. A 'Frequently Asked Questions' handout and feedback form with project contact details was provided to community members to take away. A video summarising how wastewater irrigation to land from the Greytown WWTP works was provided 'on loop' for community members to watch. Maps showing the current Featherston WWTP proposal and irrigation sites were also on display at the drop in-sessions.

All feedback gathered from the community at these six drop-in sessions is being compiled for SWDC staff and consultants to consider and address. The feedback will be used to assist the SWDC in finding the best way forward, which could be the path they are currently on, or modifying the approach. The feedback is also helping SWDC further understand the community's concerns and addressing a number of these concerns through providing further information to the community.

Further communications will be provided back to the community once SWDC has completed an analysis of the feedback.

3.2 Engagement with mana whenua

SWDC provided an update on the process to the Maori Standing Committee on 17 June 2019.

At the time of preparing this memo, SWDC is continuing to work with mana whenua to confirm a hui date to seek feedback and discuss mana whenua concerns with the current proposal.

3.3 Continued collaboration and discussions with GWRC officers

SWDC and GWRC staff continue to collaboratively discuss progression of the technical assessments, consultation, and outstanding issues/matters.

4. Updated timetable

The Councils have agreed that the timetable provided in the previous joint memo to the Panel (dated 21 June 2019) mainly remains unchanged in terms of the proposed timing to address the outstanding issues set out in GWRC's s37 extension and the previous direction of the Panel (7th Minute, dated 17 May 2019). The exception to this is the effects of discharge to land on groundwater outstanding issue may extend into September 2019 (Item no. 3 in the table). The timetable has been updated to reflect this (refer to Table 2 below).

Table 2: Proposed timetable to deal with outstanding issues

Key:  In progress

	Outstanding issue	Proposed timing - 2019		
		July	August	September
1	Impacts of the meaning and effect of provisions of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.	Due 31 July	Analysis	
2	Further consultation by SWDC with submitters, the community (including Maori/iwi representatives), and with GWRC officers.			
3	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.			
4	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.			
5	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.			
6	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.			
7	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			
8	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.			

5. When a hearing may be scheduled

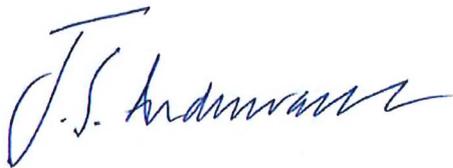
GWRC and SWDC have agreed that it is premature to identify a date or estimated period for when a hearing may be scheduled. The reason the Councils agree is because critical progress is still required on the following matters to help determine when a hearing could take place:

- Allowing adequate time for SWDC to undertake robust and open engagement with submitters, the community, community groups, mana whenua, and GWRC officers.
- Allowing adequate time for SWDC to analyse the feedback it receives from the community drop-in sessions, and to communicate its analysis back to the community.
- Allowing time for the PNRP decisions to be released on 31 July 2019 and for these decisions to be analysed.
- Allowing SWDC and their technical experts to:
 - Complete groundwater sampling and investigations;

- Complete pathogen sampling, which is required to feed into the QMRA;
 - Complete the QMRA; and
 - Discuss the outcomes/results of these technical assessments with GWRC and GWRC's technical experts.
- Enabling GWRC, SWDC and Wellington Water Limited representatives to progress discussions about the outstanding 'scope' matter, and consenting pathway options, as part of addressing a number of outstanding matters/issues identified by the Panel, and submitter and community concerns about the consent process so far.

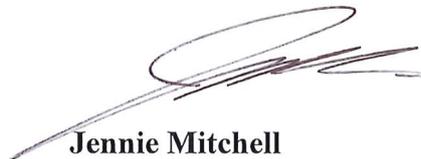
If acceptable to the Panel, GWRC and SWDC will provide a joint memo to the Panel by 5pm 23 August 2019 which covers:

- A progress update;
- A consultation update;
- An updated timetable (if required); and
- A joint view of when a hearing may be scheduled.



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