

Otaki Wastewater Treatment Plant – Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Held:

Wednesday 20 November 1PM, Otaki Memorial Hall (Supper Room)

Chair:

Tess Drewitt, Compliance Consultant, Kapiti Coast District Council (Council) **(TD)**

Present:

Ramesh Pillai, Manager Water & Wastewater Infrastructure, Council **(RP)**

Grant Stuart, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, Council **(GS)**

Reuben Mackey, Supervisor Wastewater Treatment Plants, Council **(RM)**

Ben Thompson, Water Conservation & Tradewaste Officer, Council **(BT)**

Kagan Morcom, Compliance Officer, Greater Wellington Regional Council **(KM)**

Cam Butler, Otaki Community Board Chair **(CB)**

Pip Parkin, Health Protection Officer, Regional Public Health **(PP)**

Allan Head, WWTP neighbour **(AH)**

Apologies:

Sean Mallon, General Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management, Council **(SM)**

Distribution: OWWTP CLG

Item	Action
1 Welcome/ Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">TD welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by a round of introductions.	-
2 Agenda Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">TD presented the agenda overview and referred to the Terms of Reference standing agenda.	-
3 Matters arising since previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">TD referred to the previous minutes from 2022/23 and action items. 3.1 LDTA Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the previous meeting, the Council set up the proposal for upgrading the land discharge treatment area. Proposed works included bulk earthworks and upgrading the discharge laterals to improve effectiveness of LDTA.The Council gave an update on the status of this project. KCDC has granted consent for earthworks on a contaminated site. The Council has applied for other consents from GWRC. The outstanding concerns relate to the potential contamination from earthworks and potential spray drift from new irrigators. The Council is working with technical advisors to address these issues.The group had some discussion around the DRP issue and whether there was an adverse effect from the elevated DRP. AH queried what the actual effect was. BT clarified that when the consent was granted in 2016, the technical information would have supported the DRP limit in the conditions. However, we do not have information about any adverse effects from the DRP limit being exceeded.	-

- AH questioned what the DRP trends are in the groundwater since 2016; TD referred to the information within the Annual Report showing DRP across the year.

Update: The DRP investigation attached to the 2022/23 Annual Report, Section 3.2.1.2 includes an analysis of DRP in the downgradient bores since the consent was granted. The trends show bore 4 (closest to the LDTA) DRP sitting around 0.2mg/L, and bore 5 around 0.1mg/L, with fluctuations in 2020 and 2021 during upgrade works. The limit in the consent is 0.1mg/L.

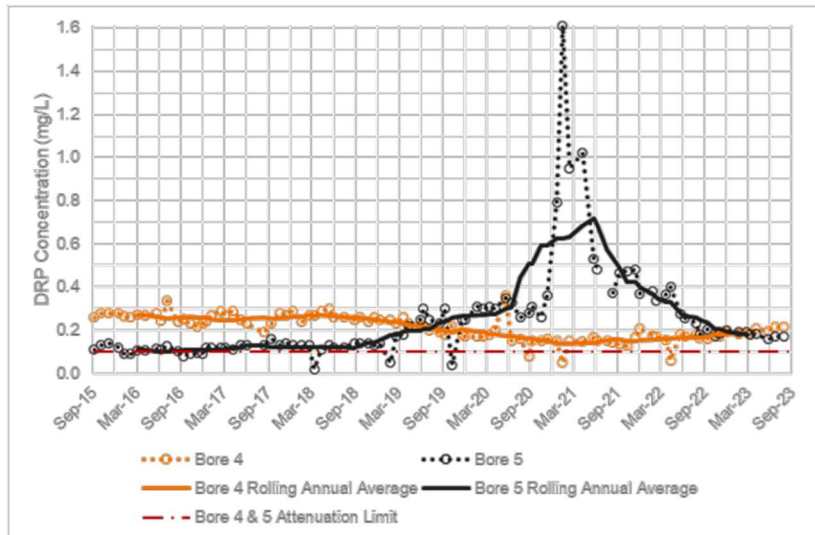


Figure 3-3: Bore 4 & 5 DRP Concentration

- KM suggested a third-party review of the proposal if the Council and GWRC cannot agree on a pathway forward. TD confirmed that the Council is looking at this an option to move forward on upgrades. RP also said that the Stantec report set out several upgrade options including increasing the treatment at the WWTP. However, this also comes with downsides as it involves adding chemicals to the process, making the sludge harder to dispose of (direct disposal of sludge to landfill to increase opex cost as sludge with alum not able to be treated at Paraparaumu WWTP).
- CB queried whether the Council would need to undertake the earthworks on the LDTA annually. RP confirmed it would be every 8-10 years. Current consent application only for once.

Action: Council to update the CLG on progress at next meeting.

3.2 Publishing annual reports

- BT said that the Council will publish all annual reports on the KCDC website. He is in the process of organising this and a link will be sent to the CLG once it is available (mid-December).
- The group agreed that the minutes of CLG meetings should be attached to published annual reports.

Action: TD to share a link to CLG members once the link is live.

RP

BT

TD

4 Resource consent compliance

- The Council is complying with all consent conditions except:

Resource consent condition	No.	Compliance
Wet weather storage capacity	11	●
Treated effluent standards:		
• NH4-N	17(d)	●
Performance and maintenance of the distribution system:		
• Maintenance of infiltration discharge area	24	●
Incident notification	42	●

4.1 Wet weather storage

- Capacity in storm storage pond not complying with consent conditions in Q1 only, due to the way the Council was storing/recording capacity. This has now been rectified and consistent compliance for Q2, Q3 and Q4. RM noted that when it rains, the storm pond will always lose some capacity. However, this is returned to the WWTP as soon as possible. RM has not observed any issues with the pond liner using the new approach. KM noted that the non-compliance in Q1 is not an issue for GWRC.

4.2 Ammoniacal Nitrogen

- Limit 2 was exceeded 3 times in 2023-24. The Annual Report provides some explanation for this, including seasonal patterns and works at the WWTP in 2023 and 2024. The Council is now proposing to upgrade the aerators in 2025, which will help reduce NH₄N.
- AH queried what the population projections are for the WWTP. RP said that the Council is currently reviewing the capacity of the plant to 2054. This is based on estimated population projections of 12,500 by 2051, being a population increase of 5000 people for Otaki. The plant was oversized for a number of years due to the closure of a meatworks facility. AH also queried how long new pipes in the ground in Otaki will last. RP said the material will last at least 100 years, capacity will go beyond 2070.
- GS said that the plant was upgraded in 1997 to cope with meatwork waste, however the meatworks subsequently closed so plant was overspec'd. The Council has been approached to use the WWTP as a training facility for oxidation treatment as it's one of the best multi-staged oxidation ponds in the country.
- KG noted that the Annual Report states NH₄N is higher when the temperatures are colder. GS said yes- but the Council also had to take the aeration lagoon offline in February, which would have contributed to higher levels, along with cleaning the basin.
- TD asked if we would see changes in NH₄N straight away during works, and GS said no because there's a retention time. Hopefully following works on the lining and aerators, we will not have exceedances in 2024/25.

4.3 Distribution system

- TD said that the consent requires 75% distribution coverage, but the Council estimates only 30% is being achieved. The Council has proposed upgrades to the distribution system to improve this through adding a sprinkler distributor. We are working with GWRC to get this consented.
- TD showed videos of the current discharge system and the proposed system. The proposed system involves discharge from sprinklers above ground, current system is a direct discharge from pipe. We anticipate similar droplet size, just a higher

<p>discharge point, hence the potential issue with spray drift. The handout shows the proposed setbacks during wind scenarios to ensure no spray drift beyond the site boundaries. The Council is engaged air quality scientists to prepare further modelling of the setbacks to ensure these are sufficient.</p> <p>4.4 Incident response and notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TD explained that the Council is technically non-compliant with the requirement to notify GWRC of incidents within 24 hours. The current system does not have instantaneous reporting so sometimes we do not know about an exceedance until later. The Council has updated the reporting system to rectify this. As soon as results entered in system, Council will now receive an automatic email alert if the treated effluent does not meet the standards outlined Condition 17. <p>4.5 Compliant conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is complying with most conditions, including maximum discharge rates, treated effluent standards, odour management, LDTA and perimeter planting. <p>4.6 GWRC compliance assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KG presented GWRC's compliance report, which was circulated at the meeting. Overall, in terms of WWTP, KCDC is doing a really good job. Issues are being addressed and being worked on. Updated required by 11 December on proposed works, email update from KCDC will be provided (weather permitted, availability of contractors). 	
<p>5 Proposed changes to activities</p> <p>5.1 Projects undertaken in 2023/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RP presented the projects undertaken in 2023/24, including replacing the inlets screen, undertaking investigations and consenting for the LDTA upgrades, trialling the new sprinkler system, and co-ordinating a planting plan with Nga Hapu o Otaki. <p>5.2 Projects planned for 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RP outlined the projects planned for this year, including LDTA upgrade works, bulk planting on LDTA, concrete sealing on the base of the aeration lagoon and upgrading the aerators. Subject to GWRC consent being granted, the Council is ready to upgrade the laterals and improve the distribution system. We are also working through the earthworks issues; works will be done on a cell-by-cell basis. The outstanding issues with GWRC relates to contamination. 	-
<p>6 CLG feedback/Observations on compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other comments on compliance issues 	-
<p>7 Other CLG feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other feedback. TD queried whether any other parties should be invited to join the CLG, in addition to those listed in the Terms of Reference. CB noted that he has found that the community does not raise issues related to the WWTP. 	-
<p>8 Other matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other matters to report. 	-

9 Recommendations / Next Steps

- Members agreed that annual meetings are sufficient.
- Next meeting will be scheduled for November 2025.
- Actions:
 1. Council to update the CLG on progress with LDТА upgrades at next meeting.
 2. TD to share a link to CLG meetings of Annual Reports once live on KCDC website.

RP

TD

Minutes by: Tess Drewitt, Kapiti Coast District Council.