

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager

DATE: 27 November 2009

REFERENCE: S314

SUBJECT: **TAKAKA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Engineering Services Committee on the discharge consent application for the new Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

2 BACKGROUND

The discharge consent application for the new Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade was lodged in February 2008 and further amended and issued at the end of the Section 92 period (for the request of further information) in November 2008. The Consents Department recommended public notification in February 2009 and at the end of this period in April 2009 seven submissions had been received, all against the discharge application.

The Consents staff sent the application to external consultant CPG to be peer-reviewed and received a technical report back in September 2009.

A pre-hearing was held on 1 October 2009 to discuss submitters' concerns and to provide an open forum for discussions on proposals for the upgrade works. Two submitters were present at the pre-hearing; Mr Bernal Reilly and Mr David Gowland.

Concerns were raised around problems with offensive odours from the existing wastewater treatment plant and concerns over future odour emissions following the upgrade. Council staff realise there are odour issues with the existing wastewater treatment plant and have been looking at mitigating odours in the interim, ahead of completion of the upgrade. Council staff also recognise the sensitivity of offensive odours given the close proximity of the facility to Takaka, and we are committed to a wide range of odour mitigation/control measures to prevent offensive odour releases with the new upgrade.

The upgrade will see the addition of new treatment processes and will mark a significant improvement in treatment quality as well as providing for significant increases in treatment capacity. The current treatment systems are unable to provide a satisfactory level of treatment during peak summer flows and this is around the time odour problems occur.

As the existing site is small and prone to flooding, Council staff are in discussion with an adjacent landowner to agree to purchase land which will provide space for the new treatment systems to be built. The new systems will also be able to be located at a higher level to protect them from flooding from the Takaka River.

Both an agreement to purchase this land and a decision on the discharge consent application are required before any detailed design can begin, but it is hoped that Council will be able to proceed with the upgrade shortly with an earliest date for completion of a new treatment system including significant odour control measures by the end of 2011.

3 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report is received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager