

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

AGENDA ITEM B2

FEATHERSTON WASTEWATER SHORT TERM CONSENT

Purpose of Report

To discuss the option of applying for a short term consent to discharge to land at the Featherston wastewater Treatment site.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Featherston Wastewater Short Term Consent Report.*
2. *Resolve to lodge a consent application to enable discharge of treated wastewater to the southern block on the Featherston land.*
3. *Note that this is unplanned expenditure, and that expenditure can be taken from within existing budgets, and that there will probably be some savings in construction costs.*

1. Executive Summary

SWDC lodged a resource consent application on 28 February 2017 for the discharge of treated wastewater to land at the Featherston Wastewater Treatment site.

This application included conditions allowing discharge to continue to Donalds Creek until sufficient infrastructure had been built to exit Donalds Creek.

The Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (PNRRP) included some definitions that have been interpreted by the Regional Council in a way that defines our discharge to land as a "new" discharge.

The PNRRP has a rule that prohibits "new" discharges.

Our discharge point remains in exactly the same place as it is now, the concentrations of the discharge will remain the same as it is now.

The only change is the volume is reduced because it is going to be applied to land.

Obviously we disagree with this interpretation.

The result of these discussions has been that there is a delay in the hearing until April 2019.

2. Discussion

2.1 Hearing and decision

The result of the matters raised above is that the hearing of our application has been delayed until April 2019.

The hearings panel may well delay their decision until after the PNRRP has been finalised, thus clarifying whether our discharge is "new" or not.

There could be appeals against any of the PNRRP clauses which could further delay matters.

There could be appeals against the panel's decisions around our application.

Therefore it could be between 3 months and, say, 18 months to two years before we have an operational consent.... Or longer.

2.2 Council Policy

SWDC policy is for the discharge of treated wastewater to go to land.

We have not been able to achieve this to date at the Featherston site, despite having the land, and planning completed.

We need a consent to enable us to reach our goals.

2.3 Short Term Consent

In order to meet SWDC goals, it is proposed to lodge a resource consent application to discharge treated wastewater to land, for a period of up to five years.

This differs from our current application which is simply an application to discharge to land, which differs from our current consent application which has to take into account our discharge to water.

Discharge of treated wastewater to land is a complying activity under the current plan, accordingly, as long as we meet certain conditions this should be non-notified.

The short term consent would expire when the new, long term consent, is issued.

It is proposed the consent application would be to the land that already has an irrigation system in place. This will be approximately 40Ha of this land initially due to boundary constraints – we want to make this application as straight forward as possible.

This application will allow a significant volume to be irrigated to land the summer period, probably commencing late January / early February, but also into the shoulder period depending on weather conditions.

2.4 Costs

We have had indicative pricing to lodge the application of circa \$50,000.

If we were to proceed straight away, we can amend the existing contract we have for the construction of the new wastewater main from Featherston to the treatment ponds to include the pipework and other work require to link to the treatment plant to the existing irrigation.

We estimate there could be savings in contractor set up, and tendering of up to \$20,000 or \$30,000

2.5 Benefits

The benefits of acquiring a short term consent are that we commence irrigation to land much earlier than anticipated.

An additional benefit is that we will be sampling the impact of the discharge, and this will inform a significant part of our main consent.

2.6 Land Area

Appendix A identifies the area of land that would be the subject of this consent. In the first stage we would be irrigating to approximately 40ha. We may be able to irrigate to additional land with a variation to that consent.

3. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Area of land that would be the subject of this consent.

Prepared By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive Officer

**Appendix 1 – Area of land
that would be the subject of
this consent**



Property - 174 Murphys Line, Featherston

Valuation ID	1825005105
Legal	LOTS 5 7 8 DP 482853
Description	LOTS 17-25 PT LOTS
Land Value (\$)	0.00
Capital Value (\$)	0.00
Improvements Value (\$)	0.00
Rates (\$)	0.00
Ratepayer First Name	
Ratepayer Last Name	South Wairarapa District
Ratepayer First Name	
Ratepayer Last Name	
Zoom to	