

22 April 2026



Kia ora 

**Official information Request: Solution to the Featherston Wastewater treatment plant (FWWTP) - part 2**

I am writing to you in response to your request received 23 March for additional information relating to the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (solutions) LGOIMA response we sent to you on 13 March.

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). I have received information to provide the following response to the above questions:

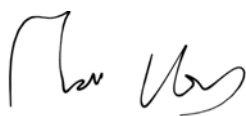
<p>Q8. Costs for the Tender process. Even if completed -" in-house " there is a cost. what was it?</p>	<p>Staff Principal Engineer to draft and issue the tender documents - \$4,320 actual Purchase NZS3916:2013 contract - \$340 GETS posting - \$0 Contracts Manager, Construction Supervisor to evaluate tenders - \$8,000 estimated Consultant Design Reviewer to evaluate tenders - \$15,000 estimated. <b>Total cost \$27,660</b></p>
<p>Q10; The scope for the irrigation "works" at both GTN and MBA WWT was identified and included in the 2016 Consent. The tender in 2026 refers to the 2016 consent. This irrigation to land project is not new and has been a work in progress for 10 years. Why did it not proceed as part of the 2026 MBBR installation Tender?</p>	<p>The construction of the irrigation works was not thought suitable to be let to the design-build contractor market that specialises in mechanical, electrical works. The irrigation works has a longer time allowance under the conditions of consent.</p>
<p>Q 13. Who recommended the MBBR and DFA mix as the best option, was it SWDC Staff?</p>	<p>SWDC staff recommended MBBR, while the DAF was recommended during the consent process. Note that an MBBR is part of the scope for Martinborough and Greytown WWTPs only. There is no MBBR in the scope of the Featherston WWTP upgrade.</p>
<p>Q14 GWRC stated that; "Whether this new process works as intended...is something which SWDC will need to evaluate.."</p>	<p>MBBR is proven activated sludge technology. In the case of this tender, it will be designed to remove nitrogen, since this is currently above resource consent limits in Martinborough and Greytown.</p>

<p>That would make the MBBR option a trial or experiment. Is that correct?</p> <p>Why continue to progress an MBBR trial which is not needed, has never been consented and will cost millions of dollars, when the focus for SWDC should be discharge to land, at all 3 locations, which has consent?</p>	<p>There is no MBBR in the scope of the Featherston WWTP upgrade.</p>
<p>At the SWDC Council meeting of Feb 19th I tabled a copy of the CHCH City Council Unsolicited Proposals Guidelines. See below.</p> <p>I explained that if SWDC would agree to this approach I was happy to outline an innovative concept and solution for the 3 WWT sites.</p> <p>There was no acknowledgment in your email of my offer, which would save SWDC a considerable amount of time and money. Please can you confirm that this document has been made available to Councillors?</p> <p>I am here to offer an outline of design concepts to SWDC provided all Intellectual Property is protected with a standard Unsolicited Proposal based on review of best-practice public sector references from Treasury, the Auditor General, MBIE, Auckland City Council, CCC. I also require a Non Disclosure Agreement. I await your response.</p>	<p>The document that you provided was emailed to Councillors on 20<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>The SWDC WWTP Upgrade tender process was an open tender on Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS). It opened on 13<sup>th</sup> January and closed on 26<sup>th</sup> March. It is currently under evaluation. If there is not a good result from this, SWDC will review its options.</p>

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā



Matt Vins  
Manager, Corporate Support

Corporate Services