

12 March 2026

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information Request: Featherston Wastewater - List of bores potentially at risk

I am writing to you in response to your request received 12 February for the following information relating to bores identified as potentially at risk" in document 'Featherston Wastewater Disposal Groundwater modelling assessment dated 12 February 2025'.

You asked to receive a copy of this list of bores potentially at risk.

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.

The key groundwater bores identified in Featherston Wastewater Disposal, Groundwater Modelling assessment, 12 February 2025 are identified as:

193 Murphys Line	A bore 10–15 m deep, used for stock water, toilet flushing, and outdoor taps.
211 Murphys Line	A shallow bore (10 ft, 3 m) is present on the property, though it is not currently in regular use.
228 Murphys Line	A property with multiple bores (96 in total as reported by landowner), one of which is used for drinking water. This drinking water bore is shallow, at 4–5 m depth.
292 Murphys Line	Two bores, a shallow 7 m deep domestic bore used for potable water and stock supply and 68 m deep irrigation bore

Note that: within the Executive Summary of the report, it states that:

“...We have assessed the potential effects to groundwater, in particular groundwater quality from this land application of treated wastewater. This has included potential impacts such as nutrients, and potential risks from residual microbes to people using groundwater for water supply. Analysis of wastewater has shown that while the treatment plant provides a good level of disinfection, some small quantities of microbes do remain in the treated wastewater”.

And that "... Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management will also be used to manage risks to groundwater users following commencement of land application of treated wastewater, to ensure that the risk to health remains very low and that environmental safety standards are met".

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Corbett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stefan Corbett
Group Manager
Corporate Services