

13 March 2026

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Kia ora ██████,

Official information Request: Solution to the Featherston Wastewater treatment plant (FWWTP).

I am writing to you in response to your request received 12 February 2026 for the following information relating to the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (solutions).

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:

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| <p>1. Why were the I&I and sludge removal out of scope and why were they not included in the FWWTP Resource Consent?</p> | <p>The cost of fixing all I&I issues within the Featherston ward as part of one package of work is cost prohibitive. The required work is extensive and will take some years to achieve. Because of this, a realistic budget for the community has been set furthering this pressing work. We ensured the design parameters of the Plant would be capable of dealing with the current volumes. We are continuing to work incrementally on the I&I issues.</p> |
| <p>2. When were the Community consulted on the tender for the three towns WWTP development?</p> | <p>These projects were approved as part of the 2025-34 Long Term Plan which underwent extensive community consultation, as is required by law. This meant that after the LTP was adopted last year, the projects were able to go to tender. The decision to award the tender (or not) is at the discretion of Council.</p> |
| <p>3. When were the advertisements for the tender for the three towns WWTP upgrades put in the local papers?</p> | <p>The tenders are lodged on the Government’s GETS site, and pre-tender notifications were also lodged on GETS so that contractors knew the work was in the pipeline. GETS is the regular source of information about such infrastructure tenders for the whole public sector throughout the country.</p> |
| <p>4. Please can you give me the links to the Martinborough and Greytown resource consents for the MBBR? a. I note that the FWWTP consent cost \$3,325,000 please could I have the costs for the</p> | <p>There are no requirements for a consent for the MBBR. The resource consents for Greytown and Martinborough set the conditions for treatment and disposal – the mechanism for doing that does not necessitate a specific consent.</p> |

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| <p>Martinborough and Greytown MBBR consents?</p> | <p>See above, no specific consents are required for the MBBR.</p> |
| <p>5. Why are the Martinborough and Greytown wastewater upgrades being done before Featherston?</p> | <p>The tenders for all three pieces of work are being undertaken at the same time. Greytown and Martinborough wastewater upgrades are not being done before Featherston.</p> |
| <p>6. The Hodder Farm and Golf course land was purchased for land effluent disposal –</p> <p>a. Please can I have the costs the community is paying as well as the interest on the borrowed money for the Hodder and Golf land?</p> <p>b. Please advise me are all the SWDC rate payers paying for the interest re-payments?</p> <p>c. If not, is it just the towns who are linked into the FWWTP who are paying through their rates?</p> | <p>a) The purchase price for the land was \$4,166,134. We do not have interest paid on loans broken down to project level as we manage borrowing at a council level. We can make an estimation that a loan of the above amount would have cost approximately \$1.3 million in interest costs between June 2015 to present, based on our weighted average interest rates over that period.</p> <p>b) All properties paying connected or serviceable wastewater rates pay for the interest costs on the wastewater portion of council borrowing. There is no element of interest cost from wastewater activities charged through general rates, so ratepayers who do not pay the targeted wastewater rates are not paying for that interest.</p> <p>c) Our rating policies do not separate any of our rates by town. All ratepayers paying for the wastewater rates across the district are levied equally regardless of location.</p> |
| <p>7. Under the FWWTP Resource consent conditions (G8) There is a requirement for a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to be set up. a. I note that Greytown and Martinborough already have a CLG but not Featherston, why?</p> | <p>The Featherston consent is relatively new and a CLG will be set up shortly.</p> |
| <p>1. As the condition specifies in G8 (h) I would like to put my name forward and Mr [REDACTED] has</p> | <p>We note your request to be involved in the CLG.</p> |

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| indicated he wishes to be appointed to the CLG. | |
| 9. How will the Wellington Water Ltd management service operations programme be implemented and will the alternative suppliers be in-house or with local businesses? | Once Wellington Water Ltd cease service provision to South Wairarapa on 30 June 2026, those services will be provided by another qualified contractor. Quality and capacity to deliver are paramount but, these being equal, the Council prefers to use local businesses if they are available. |

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



Matt Vins
 Manager, Corporate Support
 Corporate Services