

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Gavin Hutchison, Utilities Asset Engineer

REFERENCE: S314

SUBJECT: **Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – RESC10-09-08**
Report prepared for meeting of 30 September 2010

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Engineering Services Committee with an update on the status of the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The planned Takaka WWTP upgrade is required to address quality of the discharge, over-loading of existing plant and to meet future growth within the contributing catchments. It is also required to comply with present and future resource consent.
- 2.2 The project is currently in the detailed design phase. To date a peer review has been undertaken on the proposed discharge method of the treated effluent.

3 LAND

- 3.1 An additional 1.8 hectares has been purchased adjacent to the existing WWTP (see attachment). The negotiations for the procurement of this land were protracted, resulting in some delays in the detailed design process.

4 CONSENTS

- 4.1 As part of the planned upgrade two long-term consents are required to be obtained (excluding those required for construction), these being a discharge consent and Alteration to the designation.
- 4.2 *Discharge Consent*
Council has applied for a new discharge consent. This was notified with submissions closing 20 April 2009. A total of seven submissions were received (all against), following a pre-hearing meeting one submitter still wishes to be heard.
- 4.3 As detailed design progresses each draft consent condition is being reassessed to identify any risks to council.

4.4 *Alteration to Designation*

Council applied for an alteration to the designation of the Takaka WWTP. The consenting authority decided that a limited notification was required for the Notification or Requirement (NOR), providing those that would potentially be affected by the purchased land (refer to attachment) being developed as part of the WWTP upgrade to make a submission on the application. This closed on 23 July 2010 with seven submissions received (all against), two of which have requested to be heard.

4.5 It is intended that a single hearing be held for the discharge consent and the NOR. Currently both the discharge consent and NOR have been put on hold whilst the detailed design has progressed to a point that concerns raised through the submission process can be fully addressed.

5 DESIGN & PROGRAMME

5.1 The protracted negotiations for the land purchase have caused some delays in the original detailed design programme. With this now resolved the detailed design is progressing.

5.2 An updated projected programme will be issued once critical detailed design hold points have been reached. The intention is to go out to tender later this financial year. At this stage the greatest risk to the project programme is the consent process and as such this is a priority.

6 COMMUNITY LIAISON

6.1 A number of concerns have been raised through the submission process to date. The key concerns are odour from the WWTP, flooding and visual impact. These concerns are being addressed in the detailed design phase, with a lot of effort going into collating all of the required data to produce a design that will meet Council and community expectations.

6.2 A letter was sent to those residents in the immediate vicinity of the WWTP (within a 500 meter radius) on 30 April 2010 outlining the recent progress on the planned upgrade to the WWTP. These residents then received a copy of the NOR application on 25 June 2010. The current intention is to provide an update on the project once detailed design has progressed to a point that the concerns raised through the submission process have been addressed. In light of the recent comments in the media regarding consultation this update will be sent to the wider community to provide information on the planned upgrade.

6.3 It is also suggested that Council form a working party (similar to the Takaka Firefighting Working Party) to consider the best options regarding development of the wastewater treatment plant site. This would include layout options, site development etc.

6.4 It is expected that a working party could be set up reasonably quickly and could report back to Council in early 2011.

6.5 This timeframe would still allow for the final design to be completed and tendered by the end of the financial year.

7 COUNCIL REVIEW

7.1 On completion of the detailed design Council would be briefed on the final design and informed of any potential risks if there are any. As discussed the design will address issues raised through the submission process.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 THAT the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade report, RESC10-09-08 be received by the Engineering Services Committee.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager