

Wastewater Para Wai

The challenge for wastewater treatment

The highest quality of water should be sought after so that our waterways are safe for sporting and recreational use...this should've been the number one priority.

— Don

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Our wastewater treatment plant, constructed in 2010, was the first step in improving the quality of water that is pumped through the outfall pipe into the bay. A condition of our resource consent for the outfall requires us to implement further treatment, investigate options for alternative use and disposal, and to make every effort to meet cultural objectives to remove household wastewater from the bay.

At a minimum, we're required to put in additional treatment infrastructure to improve the water quality further. This includes making the water clearer and disinfecting it with UV light.

We ran a survey in November 2017 on five options for wastewater treatment and disposal to ask our community what you thought and help us identify a preferred option.

Your priorities were:

- people's health
- clean water for cultural and recreational values such as swimming, surfing, shellfish collecting
- removing wastewater from the bay
- affordability.

Do Phase One within ten years

Of the five options we surveyed you on, Option 3 was the one that most matched your priorities. To make this option more affordable we propose to build it in two phases.

Between 2020 and 2023 we would implement Phase One which includes clarification, solid removal and UV disinfection. This would meet all water quality standards in the consent and bring the treatment of our wastewater up to par with most wastewater disposal systems in the country. It would be safe to swim close to the ocean outfall and a very low chance of contamination to shellfish on the beach.

We'd take on debt to fund the full cost of Phase One (\$24.3m) during those years and increase rates to pay it back over time starting from 2023. The wastewater would still go into the bay until a viable alternative for use or disposing of the water can be identified for implementing Phase Two.

Implementing Phase Two, which consists of a wetland that would remove more contaminants (pharmaceuticals and pathogens that can't be removed through a conventional treatment system) which would then take our wastewater treatment to above average. This phase has not been budgeted to be completed in the next ten years, but would be completed within 30 years.

Our preferred option

Rates increase

▲ 4.2% from 2023

Phase One \$24.3m funded by debt and rates

\$1.7m added to operational budget

Complete the project within ten years

Sticking with Option 3 from the original survey, our alternative is to complete both phases within ten years. This approach means a higher increase to our borrowing (increasing our debt and rates) or spending less on other infrastructure projects in our plan.

We'd take on debt to fund the full cost of the project (\$44m) during those years and increase

rates to pay it back over time starting from 2023.

This approach provides the same level of improvement to our overall environment but means we would get there sooner. Completing the project within ten years is the preferred option by the Wastewater Management Committee and Turanganui iwi representatives.

Another option

Rates increase

▲ 7.6% from 2023

Complete project \$44m funded by debt and rates

\$1.9m added to operational budget

For more information see our draft Infrastructure Strategy
» www.gdc.govt.nz