

Appendix Q:

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Notes

Session 1 – Water User Groups

Attendees:

- John Wells –Gisborne Yacht Club
- David Corrin –Midway surfclub
- Walton Walker –Horouta Waka Ama – based at marina (left meeting early)
- Flo Bub -Gisborne board riders
- Wolfgang Kanz – GDC
- Ian Mayhew, Karl Baldwin, Megan Dever – 4Sight Consulting

Ian Mayhew presented a PowerPoint presentation

Questions/discussion that followed:

- Flo
 - Supportive of education programme completed to date.
 - Notification - When an event happens, the club would appreciate being notified directly.
 - Protocols in place but could be improved. Action – to discuss directly what this could look like. Potential to include, pre-event (advise if under a watch weather) as well as if an overflow has happened.
 - Would also like to know if overflows are likely to occur, as club could move training locations. Keen to work together to come up with a better solution, could text members warning them if system is likely to overflow, or an overflow has occurred.
 - It is hard to get private property owners motivated, so how is Council helping them complete works?
 - Council has a strategy available around how they are trying to approach this (Infrastructure Improvements on Private Property Strategy [IIOPPS]). This includes a timeframe for compliance, with final stage being enforcement. The strategy is to be rolled out next year. Included in this, are a number of ways to make works more affordable for the community.
 - Has not heard of anyone being sick as a result of overflow events.
- John
 - Liked modelling imagery.
 - Advised the Yacht club are not affected too much, as operate at sea, where wastewater is heavily diluted, and the club are generally not operating in heavy rain conditions.
 - Agrees direct inflow is a big problem, and the solution is heading in right direction.
- David
 - Nationals – 40mm rain event a few years ago, almost had to cancel. Could have jeopardized the event.
 - Train on the in rivers in winter.
 - Would like to be told sooner (pre-event), like Flo, acknowledges signage (5 days these are up), so can act accordingly.

- General support for work Council is doing.
- Have not heard of anyone being sick as a result of overflow events.

Key actions:

- Circulate a copy of the PowerPoint to all attendees, along with the notes. Also re-send the information sheets to attendees.
- Send out copy of IIOPPS.
- Look into pre-event and during event warnings to water user groups.

Session 2 – Technical Groups (Final Meeting Notes – Updated Following Feedback)

Attendees:

- Cathy Walker –Health Protection Officer - Hauora Tairawhiti
- Wanita Tuwairua-Brown - Health Protection Officer Trainee - Hauora Tairawhiti
- Bruce Duncan – apologies sent
- Eben Herbert – East Region, Fish and Game Council, based in Rotorua
- Murray Palmer – Environmental consultant – Rongowhakaata rep (MP)
- Marty Bayley –Eastland Port (MB)
- Manu Graham -RMA Planner – DOC – based in Tauranga
- Samuel Lewis – Rongowhakaata rep
- Wolfgang Kanz – GDC
- Ian Mayhew, Karl Baldwin, Megan Dever – 4Sight Consulting

Ian Mayhew presented a PowerPoint presentation

Questions/discussion that followed:

- Eben
 - Acknowledged the network size (4 to 6 x Average Dry Weather Flow) is considered best practice and that all Councils deal with heavy rain and blockages.
 - Is the frequency of overflows in Gisborne higher than other regions, and if so, why is that?
 - It is understood Council is in same ballpark as other Councils, but this information is quite sparse (Wet Weather Overflows). For Dry Weather Overflows – it is understood Gisborne in middle of the range for this. However, Councils report differently. Will continue to source data from other councils.
- Manu
 - When will consent be lodged?
 - The aim is to lodge early June 2020. The notification date is still to be determined, likely late June/early July. Proposing to bundle application (so non-complying overall).
 - Has any thought been given to the impacts of climate change?
 - Wastewater modelling includes a component of climate change. The DrainWise programme and network works also take into account climate change projections.
- Cathy
 - Monitoring for Emerging Organic Contaminants and other contaminants – is this available to be circulated before the consent has been lodged?
 - This has been sent to Bruce Duncan, Hauora Tairawhiti and is available for review.
 - Data collected is outlined in the report.
 - Has Council seen progress to date?

- Progress is difficult to demonstrate. What we do know is that what causes an overflow is very variable – this can include both short (intensive) rain and rain over a long duration (the associated analysis will be in the consent). This makes the ability to look at cause and effect very difficult. Long term monitoring of success is required, hoping to get some big wins straight away, but it is difficult to quantify this. Anecdotally we have seen improvements on individual private property, with best successes being working collaboratively with homeowners.
- Marty
 - Opportunities – in the consent is there a programme (and commitment) to enacting the required actions?
 - There is a DrainWise Implementation programme with a number of tasks, this is over a 10 year programme. The funding is provided in the Long-Term Plan for this (Council led actions). Private property changes are more difficult to implement. Council infrastructure renewals will happen as business as usual (not needed to achieve stormwater reduction targets).
 - Council also has programme which looks at funding mechanisms, compliance and enforcement, to ensure works are undertaken on private property (Infrastructure Improvements on Private Property Strategy [IIOPPS]).

Post meeting query:

MP: “I’m not sure the response to Marty’s request has actually answered the question: i.e. is there a consent-determined commitment to achieve the goals espoused, or a concomitant deferral to non-compliance should the goals not be achieved?”

MB: “No this hasn’t been answered. While the communications project DrainWise is already underway the question was more to the physical capital and renewals work. It was said that the GDC long-term plan works are planned and works are ranked in terms of priority with timeframes to undertake. Additional comment: these should be a part of the application.”

Response:

Resource consents for wastewater overflows from the wastewater network have not been required under previous planning frameworks. The resource consent will include time-bound performance measures and targets which will be publicly reported on to demonstrate progress. These will be subject to normal resource consent compliance and review processes.

- Samuel
 - Has consideration been given to bringing the private network under the ownership of Council?
 - Yes, this was considered. The cost of taking this over would be high, and could be re-considered, this would need to be a community decision (increase in

rates). Council is also limited by its dept cap (approximately \$49 million to do this work). Affordability mechanisms are being looked at – there are a range of options.

- Council is also applying for funding from Central Government. If this money is available, it will be used to get works being done quicker.

- Murray

- Health Risk Assessment – levels of contaminants in sediment – were these reported?
 - Information is based on regular monitoring and some additional samples around outfalls.

Post meeting query:

MP: “I’m sensing that this may have been a ‘no’?”

Response:

No – contaminant levels in sediment were not reported as part of the Quantitative Health Risk Assessment (QMRA), it was a modelled assessment considering water quality in the water column. A conservative approach, using Gisborne-specific and industry standard parameters in the wastewater discharge, was used in the QMRA modelling.

The Emerging Organic Contaminant (EOCs) modelling considered the potential for bioaccumulation of EOCs in marine species, but again this was assessed on the basis of modelled discharges and not sediment contaminant levels.

Actions:

- Circulate a copy of the PowerPoint to all attendees, along with the notes. Also re-send the information sheets to attendees.
- Send out copy of IIOPPS.
- Investigate availability of information benchmarking Council’s performance (wet weather overflows) against all Councils in New Zealand.

Post meeting update:

Some benchmarking information is available via Water New Zealand and this will be included in the consent application.

Further post meeting query from MP:

“I think I may have raised this at the Zui, or possibly at one previously, but what is the proposed ongoing legal status of the ‘dry weather’ overflows? Are these considered systems’ failures, albeit they may not always be GDC’s fault? Do we have the technology available to identify when pumping/holding stations are under pressure, caused by blockages or failing for some other reason? And hence when ameliorative action is required? Cf the pipe blockage (fat accretion) in Seymour Rd I think (2019).”

Response:

Dry weather overflows (DWOs) are a non-complying activity under the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. While the occurrence of DWOs is unpredictable, as they generally relate to blockages that can occur anywhere in the system, Council is seeking consent for these discharges on the basis of measures to minimise these to the extent practicable (e.g. education, maintenance programmes and general asset management) and response procedures if and when they occur. These will be required as a condition of consent).