

**APPLICATIONS BY TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL TO
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR
DISCHARGES FROM THE PAHIATUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT
PLANT
RECORD OF PRE-HEARING MEETING NO. 3**

RECORD OF PRE-HEARING MEETING: Held 19th October 2016 commencing at 9.30 am

VENUE: Master's Hall, Pahiatua

ATTENDANCE: Listed in Attachment 1

CIRCULATION: The persons listed in Attachment 1 plus all submitters

NOTE:

- By agreement, this pre-hearing meeting addressed only the Pahiatua WWTP discharge.
- Fiona Morton had circulated, by email prior to meeting, a summary of actions agreed at pre-hearing meeting number 2 (19th August 2016) with progress on those actions up until 14.10.16.

MATTERS DISCUSSED 19.10.16:

1. **Pahiatua WWTP Upgrading and Resultant Water Quality Improvements:** Tabitha Manderson and Olivier Ausseil presented a PowerPoint summary of the upgrading works at the Pahiatua wastewater treatment plant and the resulting improvements in water quality.
2. **Future Catchment Water Quality:** Horizons RC will include in the section 42A report a description of the change expected in the wider catchment over the life of the consent sought. This will address improvements anticipated in the water catchment resulting from One Plan policies. It will specifically address phosphorus leaching from catchment soils and how this might influence water quality both upstream and downstream of the Pahiatua WWTP discharge. *(This arises from a question from submitters about whether long term improvements in catchment water quality generally will provide a different (improved) basis for evaluation of the impacts of discharge from the Pahiatua wastewater treatment plant)*
3. **Reliability of Upstream River Monitoring Site:** Michael Patterson will include in his section 42A report data that describes water quality at the Pahiatua town Bridge to verify whether the upstream monitoring site's water quality gives a true picture of water quality un-influenced by groundwater contamination from below the wastewater treatment plant. *(This arises from a question by submitters about the potential influence of the wastewater treatment plant on the upstream monitoring site).* Blair King suggested that Tararua District Council would be prepared to establish a couple of monitoring bores between the wastewater treatment plant and the river.

4. **Data from Commissioning Phase:** TDC confirmed that there is data from the various items of new treatment equipment that provides a record of monitoring of the output quality from each treatment step. The available data describes the early commissioning period of the new equipment at the WWTP. Tabitha Manderson advised that TDC's consultants are collating the available data for analysis. Blair King agrees to get the commissioning data through to Fiona Morton as soon as practicable. The submitters present at the meeting agreed to respect the fact that the data will be from a commissioning process and therefore it will be from a process which requires TDC to test and push the treatment system to learn how best to run the plant. The data should not be seen as representing final long term effluent quality.
5. **Questions for Horizons Regional Council to address before the hearing or in the section 42A report:**
- If treated wastewater is discharged from the plant at higher stream flows, is there a chance that the mass load of contaminants will be transported to the lower River during low flows (noting that there is sensitivity in the lower reaches of the River)?
 - What information is there on concurrent gauging of river flows between the upper and lower catchment?
 - What is a reasonable time period to allow the Council to commission the treatment system and monitor the treated wastewater quality? Peter Wood (Midcentral Health) suggests there is a need to account for atypical climate years during the commissioning and monitoring phase.
6. **Policy 5- 11 of the One Plan:** TDC's intention is to talk to Iwi before investigating or attempting to design any land passage suggestions. Recall that, at the last pre-hearing meeting, Manahi was going to convene a hui to talk about the approach that should be taken to Policy 5- 11. Need to follow up and see whether any progress has been made with that.
7. **Tararua Wastewater Forum:** Submitters request a regular forum and clarified that this need only be convened annually. Blair King confirmed that Tararua District Council is prepared to host and participate in an annual forum. It was **AGREED THAT:**
- a) The first forum is to be held before 31 October in the year of the consent is granted;
 - b) The forum will have an independent facilitator appointed by agreement between the participants in the forum;
 - c) Tararua District Council will host the forum;
 - d) Invitations will be issued to:
 - i. Iwi
 - ii. All Pahiatua and Eketahuna submitters
 - iii. Horizons Regional Council
 - e) Invitations to be issued by public notice and email to known participants;
 - f) The commitment to holding the forum will be articulated in a draft condition of consent;
 - g) Fiona Morton and Christine Foster will draught a 'forum' condition for circulation to pre-hearing participants by 7 November 2016.
 - h) Scope of matters open for discussion at the forum will be:

- i. Discharges from all wastewater treatment plants managed by Tararua District Council (understood to be 7 WWTPs);
 - ii. Reviewing and reflecting on the monitoring findings including discharge quality, environmental effects, cumulative instream effects from all TDC WWTPs;
 - iii. The scope of RMA environmental effects monitoring parameters including cultural health indices;
 - iv. The commissioning and scope of any RMA environmental effects studies or investigations considered necessary in respect of the TDC wastewater treatment plants;
 - v. Any changes to the frequency or timing of meetings of the forum for example agreeing to hold additional meetings.
8. **Conditions:** Tararua District Council advisers will prepare bullet point draft conditions, including conditions addressing submitters' concerns, for supply to Horizons by end of November 2016. Fiona Morton will circulate suggested draft conditions based on TDC bullet points by mid December 2016.
9. **Monitoring:** Submitters want to have access to:
- a) Influent volume;
 - b) Effluent volume discharged;
 - c) End of pipe effluent quality.

TDC management and Horizons staff and Mike Smith (WECA) will work together to establish the availability and accessibility of flow data, effluent quality, and monitoring data. Their task is to agree on the frequency and means of communication for:

- i. Influent flows;
- ii. Effluent flows;
- iii. Effluent quality; and
- iv. The means by which the data or data summaries will be made publicly available.

Mike Patterson (Horizons Regional Council) will take responsibility for convening the work of this group and report back by 7 November 2016 to the pre hearing participants, including details describing information availability, potential complexities and any recommendations for next steps.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS AND DUE DATES:

See Para Above	Action	Due date
2.	HRC to describe future wider catchment water quality improvements.	S. 42A or earlier
3.	MP to verify whether upstream River monitoring site is reliable.	S. 42A or earlier
4.	TM/BK/TDC to circulate data from commissioning phase to pre hearing participants.	ASAP

5.	Questions for Horizons Regional Council.	S. 42A or earlier
6.	One Plan Policy 5-11: convene Iwi Hui to discuss intended approach (need to check progress with Iwi).	No date set
7.	FM to prepare and circulate draft Tararua Wastewater Forum condition.	07/11/2016
8.	a) TDC to generate bullet point list of items for conditions; b) FM to draft wording of draft conditions for circulation to pre-hearing participants.	31.11.16 16.12.16
9.	HRC (Mike Patterson) to prepare and circulate findings of investigations into data sharing options	07/11/2016
10.	FM to suggest timeline towards hearing early 2017.	ASAP

FM = Fiona Morton

HRC = Mike Patterson

TDC/BK/TM = Tararua District Council / Blair King / Tabitha Manderson