

## MEMORANDUM

**FILE:** APP-1993001253.02/APP-2005011178.01

**DATE:** 07 November 2016

**TO:** Tararua District Council and Submitters on Eketahuna and Pahiatua Wastewater Treatment Plant Resource Consent Applications

**FROM:** Mike Patterson

**SUBJECT:** **DATA FEED IN RESPECT OF EKETAHUNA AND PAHIATUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS**

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1. It was identified at the pre-hearing held on 19 October that submitters present wished to have access to daily influent and effluent volumes as well as monthly 'end of pipe' effluent quality. I was to report back by 7 November to the pre-hearing participants regarding information availability, complexities and any recommendations as to possible next steps.
2. To achieve this task I have pre-dominantly spoken to our Catchment Information (CI) team, as well as my colleagues, in order to work out what is currently collected, available and how best that information could be shared.

### Information currently available

3. On the Regional Council website there is the ability to look at environmental data parameters at a number of different sites around the region (e.g. <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/environment-data>)
4. This allows you to select a given site and parameter of interest, and then allows you to plot other parameters over the top of it (you have to select a group (i.e. 'Rivers' or 'Waterquality'), then select a measurement and a location, then click on 'view data'). This webpage allows you to change the time frame and to download the data as a CSV for your own records. This information is available for anyone and pulls directly from the back end of Horizons Hilltop database (where all the flow and water quality information is stored).
5. This webpage displays a select list of sites and a select list of parameters so anything that collected on behalf of other parties, such as TDC, is not displayed on here.

### Option 1

6. What TDC currently does is log into the Regional Council website with a unique user ID and a password and look at essentially the same sort of thing but only for sites they are interested in (and for which they pay for the collection of). This includes the sites around Pahiatua and

Eketahuna STP as well as other discharges/landfills etc. that do not relate to this consenting process. For the Pahiatua STP for example they can see the upstream, downstream and STP discharge points and all the relevant information that is collected at those discharge points.

7. TDC could either make their user ID and Password available, or the Regional Council could set up a direct copy with a different User ID and password for the interested parties.

**Positives:**

- Would require very little additional work to set up.

**Limitations:**

- Would make available information that is not relevant to this consenting process and some sites that are not within the Manawatu Catchment. Therefore TDC would need to agree to make all of this information available (landfills etc).
- Requires context in order to be accurately interpreted.
- Only those with User ID and Password have access.

**Option 2:**

8. A second option is that a new collection of sites is set up and only the relevant information is provided (i.e. relevant sites). This would require a new User ID and Password that could be set up and distributed. This could then allow overplotting of different parameters (i.e. flow vs *E. coli*) on the same graphs and the data could then be downloaded if desired.

**Limitations:**

- Requires both external money (i.e. additional to what is currently budgeted) and staff time as the Regional Council uses an external contractor to do the coding required to make all of this happen. Time would also be required internally in our CI team to put the collections together.
- No costings have been scoped out. Only those with User ID and Password have access.

**Option 3:**

9. The third option is that this information (i.e. data from u/s, d/s and at the STP discharge) is made available on the public access part (environment data link above) of the Horizons website.
10. The above options would allow the display of information such as physical parameters (temp, flow, etc.), chemical parameters (nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.) and microbial parameters.
11. It does not currently include biological information such as periphyton and invertebrate monitoring relating to these consents. That is because this biological information is stored in a separate database (CADDIS) that currently does not link to the Hilltop database. There are technical reasons about database design etc. for this that I will not explain here but currently it does not link. This is a future possibility but is not currently an option and could potentially

cost a lot of time and money to make happen. The invertebrate information is currently captured annually so possibly is not relevant in this context and can be covered in an annual report. The periphyton information is not likely to be able to be shared in this format in the near future and if necessary will have to be handled and distributed in another manner.

**Limitations:**

- Requires additional money and time to facilitate, but is the most preferred long-term option in respect of getting the information out (influent and effluent volumes and some chemical and physical parameters).
- TDC would need to be happy about sharing this information in an entirely public forum.

**Summary**

12. Above is a summary of what currently happens and what options are available. From here I intend to contact Dave Watson via Rob Rose (HRC Compliance) to discuss how TDC would like to proceed.

**Action:**

In order to allow further scoping and investigations, please advise no later than **30 November** by way of email to [fiona.morton@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:fiona.morton@horizons.govt.nz) which of the above 3 options are the most preferred.

Michael Patterson  
**WATER QUALITY SCIENTIST**