

# Whanganui Prison Stormwater Discharge Notes from Hui

**Date:** Tuesday 27 February 2018

**Time:** 1 pm – 1:45 pm

**Venue:** Department of Corrections, Whanganui Regional Office at Whanganui Prison

In Attendance	
Chris Shenton	General Manager Lands and Environment for Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
Hone Tamehana	Chairman of Putiki Marae Ngāti Tupoho
Reti Pearse	Whanganui Prison Director, Department of Corrections
Walter Rurawhe	Area Adviser Māori, Department of Corrections
Pip Hurrell	Senior Environmental Adviser, Department of Corrections
Kaleti Moala-Mafi	Senior Adviser Community Liaison, Department of Corrections
Julia Melville	Environmental Adviser, Department of Corrections
Peter Hall	Partner – Planner, Boffa Miskell (for the Department of Corrections)

## Ngā Mihi and Karakia

Walter formally welcomed everyone and suggested a round the table introduction.

The briefing paper was distributed for discussion.

## The Project

Peter Hall explained the following background to the project on behalf of the Department:

### *Context and background*

- The Department of Corrections (the Department) is seeking resource consent from Horizons Regional Council to continue discharging stormwater (SW) from the Whanganui Prison.
- Since the Prison was established (1978), it has been discharging SW into the channel between Lakes Pauri and Wiritoa via an underground pipe.

- The SW being discharged is rainwater that runs off roofs and hard surfaces in the prison.
- In the course of re-consenting, the Department has recognised that there is a need to improve the SW being discharged from the prison.
- The Department and its technical advisors (Boffa Miskell, Tonkin + Taylor and MWH) have undertaken testing to check the SW quality, examined how the SW quality can be improved, and also if there are alternatives such as a different discharge location.
- The prison serves an important societal function and requires certainty of operation, including discharge of stormwater. It's therefore important for the Department to be able to re-consent this activity.

#### *Purpose of consultation*

- The Department recognises the importance of establishing and nurturing a close working relationship with iwi.
- Through this consultation, the Department would like to:
  - o Share information about the proposal and works undertaken as part of the resource consent process.
  - o Understand the view and perspective of the Tangata whenua on the proposal.
  - o Understand how iwi would like to be consulted with about the proposal and other related work moving forward.
- The Department also notes that the Horizon's One Plan recognises Tangata whenua values with regards to the importance of water, which need to be considered in respect of this proposal.

#### *SW investigations*

- The Department has commissioned monitoring of SW quality from the prison through its technical advisors. The main findings are:
  - o Elevated levels of Zinc – the source of the zinc was found to be older roof areas and the prison secure perimeter fence.
  - o Some elevated nutrients – it is likely that the rural land uses of the land surrounding the prison are a source. It is noted that the prison is not carrying out activities that can contribute to the nutrients in the stormwater.
  - o Some instances of E.coli – the Department has checked for any cross-contamination of SW from the wastewater network, which discharges to ground through beds on the opposite sides of the prison. CCTV also confirmed there is no cross-connections between the pipework. It has been concluded that birds are the most likely source of E coli.

#### *SW improvements*

- The Department recognises that the lake system isn't as good as it once was, and acknowledges that the prison is a contributor to the lake system through discharge of stormwater.
- The Department has undertaken a range of actions to improve water quality over the last few years, including:
  - o Repair and repainting of roofs to reduce the source of zinc.
  - o Adopting and implementing a Stormwater Management Plan to minimise contaminants entering SW system e.g. changes practices for washing brushes and vehicles.
  - o Tighter on-site management and education of contractors and offender employment activities.

- Additionally, the Department has investigated SW treatment devices to reduce contaminants in the SW:
  - It is proposed to install Up-Flo treatment devices to reduce contaminants in SW such as zinc, nutrients, suspended solids and removes rubbish. The Up-Flo devices would require regular maintenance inspections and cleaning.
  - The Up-Flow devices are proposed to be installed in road reserve outside prison perimeter fence

#### *Other alternatives*

- Horizons Regional Council requested the Department to look into alternatives.
- The Department and technical advisors have investigated other alternatives, particularly the possibility of bypassing the lake system.
- This alternative will involve piping the SW for approx. 1 km to the outfall of Lake Wiritoa to be discharged.
- The findings of the investigation are that while it is theoretically possible, the land is very flat and therefore a very wide and deep trench (in parts 6m deep) would be required.
- On this basis, the Department concluded that this is not technically a viable alternative

#### **Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa**

Chris Shenton provided the following feedback:

- Chris explained that historically there was an extensive lake system around Whanganui. A lot of the lakes are now in private hands. Some still link up in rain, some have been completely drained.
- There is a whole system of branches and outlets into the Kaitoke system, around the prison area.
- The Whanganui Land Settlement is getting closer to settlement and iwi have a lot of plans and ideas around the lake system and coastal zone.
- There are currently high levels of exotic flora and fauna in the system and the aspiration is that it goes back to more native species.
- It was also noted that the point of discharge coincides with the epicentre between the two iwi, and this provides an opportunity for the iwi to work together.
- Chris was keen to explore ways to improve the area around the discharge point through removal of exotic species and planting in appropriate native species.
- Chris noted the Horizons Regional Council One Plan recognises these lakes as priority catchments.
- He acknowledged the good work that's been done by the Department with regards to understanding and improving the SW discharge.
- He noted that the landowners around Lake Pauri have undertaken riparian planting which is now establishing and contributing to improving run-off quality into the lake.
- Chris was interested in picking up on aspirational sides of both iwi and interconnectedness of the lake system. Particularly if there is the possibility for more planting particularly the connecting stream which is a tuna/eel passage between the two lakes. This would be an opportunity for the iwi and the Department to work together.

## **Ngāti Tupoho**

- Hone thanked the Department for getting the iwi involved and consulting with them on this significant work and explained that a lot of the area is under hapu interest for Treaty claims.
- Historically lakes were extensively used for fishing. This area was very important as it provided lake eels, which were collected and taken to the Kīngitanga in exchange for trout.
- Hone was interested in frequency of checks of water quality with regards to impacts on tuna/eels, and would like there to be guarantees that contaminant levels (e.g. zinc, E.coli) are not high
- Peter confirmed that :
  - o The Council will impose a formal monitoring condition in a resource consent and as part of the application, the Department will propose monitoring conditions. These conditions would be refined through the consent process.
  - o Additionally, there will be inspections of the Up-Flow device. There would be initial regular checks, and then once it is known how the system functions in practice, a long term monitoring/check regime would be adopted.
- Hone asked where the water quality would be monitored i.e. at the front or back end, at the prison or the lake? Peter advised that it is proposed that the water quality will be monitored in manholes at prison end and then the pipe outflow (when possible).

## **Department of Corrections Response**

Pip Hurrell and Peter Hall advised the following on behalf of the Department:

- Acknowledged the interconnectedness of the lakes and change in normal flow at different times of the year. Therefore the Department has looked at the discharge in both directions.
- The environment between the lakes and at the discharge location is highly modified, with exotic species such as willows. The Department is keen to look at an opportunity to improve this area in conjunction with iwi. There is an option for native species to be supplied by the prison's native plant nursery.
- Noted, that Council support would need to be sought for enhancement opportunities (as the connecting stream is on council land).

## **Conclusions and Next Steps**

- Next step will be to formally present the proposal to the Council (i.e. the resource consent application and assessment of environmental effects). The application will include all of the technical reports.
- The Department will provide copies of this documentation to iwi.
- Council will then decide whether to notify the application.
- The Department will continue the discussion about enhancement opportunities with iwi. The two iwi are also keen to engage with the Department.
- Hone and Chris indicated they were happy with proposal, noting the work undertaken and future work proposed to improve water quality at the discharge, and are keen to support the Department with this work moving forward.

- Hone and Chris will work together to clarify their position in support of the proposal and offered to review/contribute to the formal record of this meeting (these meeting notes).

### **Close of Hui**

Walter formally closed the hui.