

**EKETAHUNA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT WETLAND: SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF BLAIR KING (WETLAND OVERVIEW AND IWI ENGAGEMENT) FOR TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

1. The wetland's primary purpose is to address Policy 5-11 in the One Plan and recognise cultural issues associated with a direct discharge of treated human wastewater to water.
2. Decisions regarding the use of rate-payers' money must be made carefully. It is important that TDC ensures its systems can be efficiently and effectively implemented by the Council, reflect the scale and significance of the issues and are affordable to the community.
3. TDC has already committed to upgrading four wastewater systems across the District. This is a significant investment for a small community. For example, the capital cost of treatment for the upgraded Eketahuna system alone is forecast as \$3.65 million (this figure is currently being re-assessed).
4. Throughout this process and more widely, TDC has built relationships with iwi so that the parties can work together in supporting and enhancing the District's natural resources, and in respecting the cultural values inherent in those resources.
5. Kahungunu has prepared a CVA highlighting the parties' productive engagement. TDC continues to liaise with Rangitāne regarding its CVA.
6. TDC has worked hard to develop a proposal that complies with Policy 5-11 and seeks to address cultural concerns, however I acknowledge Rangitāne has residual concerns regarding effects on cultural values. TDC remains committed to working with iwi and meeting its obligations under the Manawatu River Leaders Accord.
7. The wetland is proposed to be located on land owned by the Eketahuna Golf Club. Discussions with the Golf Club have been ongoing and should consents be granted the Council will make a formal offer to purchase the land.
8. Depending on weather conditions, it would take a construction season to complete the construction of the pipeline to the proposed wetland. The recommended implementation timeframes for the Project remain as they were in Mr Crawford's previous evidence.

9. TDC seeks a term of seven years. Anything shorter would not be an efficient use of ratepayers' money, nor provide any valuable baseline information for future consenting processes.
10. The new screen to remove coarse solids will be commissioned as part of the new tertiary treatment plant, pending the outcome of these proceedings.
11. 18 additional days of effluent characterisation have been completed since the April 2017 hearing and the data closely aligns with previous work undertaken. Recent influent data collection has been challenging in light of issues with the meter being drowned, however TDC has now installed a bottom drain in the sump chamber and a pump with a float to resolve the issue.
12. TDC's Long Term Plan includes a strategy for investigation and reducing infiltration and inflow into the wastewater networks and TDC has allocated \$1,170,000 for this work.
13. TDC does not intend to line the wastewater storage ponds for the reasons discussed by Mr Crawford and Ms Boam. TDC has limited resources and needs to spend them wisely across numerous areas to generate the best environmental outcomes it can.