

Akaroa Wastewater Hui

Ōnuku Marae - 2/6/2016

Overview:

Ōnuku Rūnanga hosted an additional community engagement session with Christchurch City Council (CCC) as part of the Council's consultation on disposal options for waste water from the proposed new Akaroa wastewater treatment plant. Ōnuku offered to host the additional session following comments at the 3 previous engagement events where members of the wider community asked for more time and information to enable them to make more informed and considered submissions as part of the CCCs consultation process on options. In particular they asked for:

- More technical information (i.e. access to the Akaroa Wastewater Concept Design Report for Alternatives to Harbour Outfall , prepared by CH2M Beca, May 2016)
- A better understanding of Ngāi Tahu cultural values

Over 50 members of the wider community attended the hui along with representatives of Christchurch City Council including Councillors and staff. Representatives of Ōnuku Rūnanga and Wairewa Rūnanga were in attendance, supported by staff from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

An outline runsheet for the event is included below.

Hui runsheet:

Time	Activity	Lead
1600	Mihi whakatau	- Ōnuku Rūnanga
1630	Overview of hui	- Ōnuku Rūnanga Chair
	Presentation: Ōnuku Rūnanga & Wairewa Rūnanga Perspectives on Akaroa Wastewater	- Representatives of Ōnuku Rūnanga & Wairewa Rūnanga
1700	Presentation: - Overview of challenges and opportunities of discharge options to land and water (Concept Design Report)	- Christchurch City Council representatives
1720	Community discussion and questions: - Challenges and opportunities for discharge to land? - Challenges and opportunities for discharge to water? - Questions of clarification?	- Chaired by Ōnuku Runanga Chair - Questions answered by relevant CCC or Ngāi Tahu representatives
	Summary of discussion	- Collated by CCC and TRoNT staff
1800	Close / Karakia whakamutunga	Ōnuku Rūnanga
After 1800	<i>Informal discussion for those who wish to stay – kai available</i>	

Facilitation approach

Staff from TRoNT and CCC recorded comments and questions from the public during the discussion session. These were recorded on flip charts and grouped as follows:

- Land based disposal
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
 - Questions of clarification
- Water based disposal
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
 - Questions of clarification

Summary of community discussion

- There was general agreement that it was not desirable to discharge wastewater to the harbour.
- There were however questions and concerns about how an irrigation to land option could be made to work safely in practice.
- There was a strong community desire to work together to find a viable solution.
- Many of the comments and questions raised highlighted challenges and/or opportunities that were applicable to both land and water options.
- There was a concern about viruses in treated wastewater.

Opportunities

Discharge to water	Irrigation to land
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect land• Longer pipe out to sea beyond heads• Ship it out to sea• A half way land/sea treatment option• A chance to make a change for the future<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Think forward – treat the water – put in the pipes – technology will follow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New plant being built• Irrigation to under trees – get rid of viruses• Get health risk out of water• Avoid irrigation above houses

Challenges

Discharge to water	Irrigation to land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on meeting shellfish gathering standards • Turn harbour into “no-go zone” because of the viruses remaining • Some viruses will get through • Filtering out micro beads • Concerns on effects on recreational fishery • Too close to residential properties • Slippage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising rūnanga feelings about discharge to harbour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Opposition • Health risk of irrigation to pasture • Can't get rid of all contaminants in waste water • Polluting the land • Where land owners “eat & drink” from land and farm • Some options only use small percentage of wastewater • Run-off may still end up in harbour due to the soil type • Need to find right application rate

Questions

Discharge to water	Irrigation to land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstraction of viruses? • Spiritual effects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degraded mauri? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have council tested tidal cycles? • What monitoring will be used? • Why pollute land? • Re-use by pumping back to Akaroa? • How sure is council that they can remove viruses? • If soil cannot handle current options what scope is there to explore other options? • What is the role of ECan? • How much water can trees handle? • How will discharges be monitored in rainfall • How were areas chosen? • System maintenance • Why is land less important than sea? • Many Akaroa residents are unaware of this process – why is this? • How much consideration was put into piping out to open ocean? This is a one-off cost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ How many quotes did you get?