

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY REPORT

JULY 2007 Report No. 9

WASTEWATER UPGRADE

Consent application for upgrade lodged

A major milestone in the Council's drive towards upgrading its wastewater treatment plant has been achieved with the lodging of resource consent applications with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

The applications were lodged on 16 May 2007 and included a comprehensive assessment of the effects on the environment.

As well as the consent applications, the Council also lodged a Notice of Requirement as part of District Plan processes to extend the existing designation for sewage treatment purposes to include land for the proposed land disposal scheme and flood protection works, including land recently purchased by the Council (see plan). The consent applications included the following:

- *Water permit* to divert water for the construction of erosion protection works in the Ruamahanga River
- *Land use consent* for the construction of the outfall diffuser and erosion protection works in the Ruamahanga River
- *Discharge to water consent* for the discharge of treated wastewater to the Ruamahanga River and stormwater runoff from the irrigation area to the Ruamahanga River and Makoura Stream
- *Discharge to land consent* for treated wastewater to the irrigation area and for partially treated wastewater by leakage through the base of the ponds and for the dewatering of sludge on land
- *Discharge to air consent* for odours and aerosols from the oxidation ponds, land irrigation area and sludge dewatering area.

These consent applications and the Notice of Requirement have been notified.

Submissions have closed and if submitters' concerns cannot be addressed through pre-hearing discussions, a joint Hearing by Greater Wellington and Masterton District Council will be required to determine the applications. It is anticipated that the Hearings would be undertaken around

November and a decision should be made by Christmas. However, the decision could then be appealed to the Environment Court, which could add six to twelve months to the process.

The Council has continued its reporting to GWRC since the last newsletter, as required by the existing resource consent, the latest report being the completion of the annual monitoring report in May 2007. Monitoring and reporting on the range of consent conditions will continue as required.

Additional land

In March 2007, the Council purchased an additional 107 hectares of farm land adjacent to the existing 91 hectares of land proposed for the treated effluent irrigation site. The new land, between the Makoura Stream and the Martinborough–Masterton Road, will be assessed for its potential use as a site for additional irrigation. The current consent process does not include a consent for the irrigation of this land, however an extended land use designation is being sought for this land as part of the current process.

Trade Waste Bylaw

The Council's Trade Waste Bylaw was implemented in October 2004, in order to regulate significant contributors to the wastewater system through the issue of Trade Waste Consents. It has been successful in that to date there are around 150 businesses on the trade waste register, which covers a significant proportion, if not all, of the trade waste dischargers in the Masterton urban area. It is worth noting that businesses located in the Waingawa industrial area, which is in the Carterton District, are not currently discharging trade waste to the

This newsletter brings you the latest six-monthly update of progress towards implementing the long-term upgrade of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant.

As reported previously, the Council decided on its preferred scheme for the upgrade of the plant in June 2005. To recap, the main features of the preferred scheme are as follows:

- Upgrading the existing ponds to provide improved quality of treated effluent.
- Maximising the irrigation of treated effluent onto land and minimising discharge to the river. When the upgrade is complete, there will be no summer discharge of treated effluent when the river is flowing at less than its median flow rate of 12.3 cubic metres per second.
- Moving the discharge point from the Makoura Stream to the Ruamahanga River.
- New erosion protection works on both banks of the river, adjacent to the treatment plant.

Council's sewer. They have been notified of what they need to do to bring their trade waste up to an acceptable standard before it can be discharged to the public sewer, and will be regulated by the bylaw.

The maintenance of the register is an ongoing process of communication, inspections and monitoring. About half of

(continued overleaf)



Black outline shows existing Council land: yellow line shows the additional 107 hectares of land purchased.

the applications were from food premises, e.g. cafes, restaurants, schools, and food manufacturers. Some of these food premises, found without grease traps during initial investigations, have now had them installed.

Another 20% were from service stations, auto repair shops etc. Most of these applications have been processed and consents issued after payment of fees.

Another benefit of this process has been the heightened public awareness of the potential effect of trade waste, not only on the reticulation and the biological process used to treat the wastewater at the Homebush plant, but also on the receiving environment.

Council staff now monitor the dischargers on an ongoing basis to ensure they are complying with their consents. Any new dischargers will also have to apply for consent.

Operation of the Homebush treatment plant

The Council's wastewater treatment plant at Homebush has continued to perform well over the past six months. There were no complaints regarding odour from the ponds over this period. As for the previous monitoring period, the odour intensity from the ponds was observed to be 'weak' to 'very weak'.

A review of the inlet works at the plant which included a proposal for grit removal and an upgrade of the inlet screen was recently completed. This work may be completed as a stand alone project or included with the main upgrade project.

Reduction of inflow & infiltration

Based on the outcomes of the reticulation investigation work undertaken in 2005-06, which included CCTV inspection of pipes and smoke testing, Masterton sewer maintenance works priorities identified were:

- Replacement of the Cockburn Street sewer. Though only constructed as recently as 1954, and therefore relatively 'young', this sewer experiences significant inflow and infiltration and causes problems on a regular basis.
- Clearing of debris from the section of the sewer network between the urban area and the Pokohiwi Road corner.
- Repair of inflow faults as identified by monitoring processes.

Cockburn Street sewer replacement

Levin Bobcats Ltd is currently constructing a new sewer in Cockburn Street to replace the existing one. This work commenced in June 2007 and is programmed to be completed in September 2007. It comprises the installation and testing of approximately 900 metres of PVC sewer main and 13 new manholes. Houses will be progressively connected to the new main via new laterals, between the main and property boundaries. The lateral from the boundary to the house is the

responsibility of the property owner. Following completion of the sewer main replacement, the Council will undertake CCTV inspection and smoke testing so as to better understand why this sewer has under-performed and to establish better measures of the level of private property infiltration.

Sewer clearing contract

Excell Corporation Ltd undertook this work for the Council from February to May 2007. The contract involved CCTV inspections and heavy cleaning in the following locations:

- Between the Masterton urban area and the Pokohiwi Road corner.
- The Waipoua siphon.

Approximately 4,035 metres of sewers were cleared, with some 13 tonnes of material being removed. Also, the contractor installed ten new manholes to make maintenance of these sewers easier in the future.

Inflow fault repairs

In 2005, 302 private properties were found to have faults requiring repair, to reduce the amount of rainwater run-off they contribute to the sewer. Further to a comprehensive communication and inspection process carried out by the Council, only 17 remain awaiting repair. A number have already agreed to the Council carrying out the repairs at the property owner's cost.

All of the 33 public faults identified in the study have been addressed by the Council, with 15 of these having been repaired. For 12 of the reported faults the smoke test information and further site investigations were inconclusive as to the nature and exact location of the fault, so no repairs have yet been carried out on those and a decision on the appropriate course of action has yet to be taken. The remaining six faults were, on further investigation, identified as faults located on private property and were re-listed as private faults. These will be addressed separately with notices to be sent to the property owners.

19 manholes were identified as requiring structural repair. Nine of these have already been repaired and for the remainder the Council is in the process of



Construction of Cockburn Street sewer replacement. Though only laid as recently as 1954, the existing sewer experiences high levels of inflow and infiltration and causes problems on a regular basis.

determining whether they should be repaired or replaced.

Another phase of CCTV and smoke testing over a further area of the town is planned as part of the Council's routine asset management practices.

Upcoming phases of the project

Now that the resource consent applications for the plant upgrade have been lodged, the following items are scheduled for the near future:

- Public hearing for the resource consent applications
- GWRC decision on those applications
- Detailed design of the upgrade works following the consent hearing decision, assuming there is no appeal to the Environment Court
- Completion of the Cockburn Street sewer replacement
- Rectification of public and private direct inflow faults
- Ongoing inspections and maintenance as part of the Council's regular asset management programme.

For more information call the Council's wastewater enquiry line, 0508 SEWAGE (0508 739 243) or contact the Council at:

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