

Notes: Akaroa Wastewater Update Meeting - 30 March 2019 5.30 pm at Duvauchelle Hall

Suky Thompson and Brent Martin, community representatives on the Akaroa Wastewater Working Party, gave a powerpoint presentation outlining new information and discussion points developed by the Friends of Banks Peninsula Wastewater Subcommittee. They noted that the last community update meeting had been in October 2017.

The main points then were

- Discovery of the faulty flow meter. Actual water volume now known to be approximately double what was previous thought.
- Inner Harbour land disposal therefore considered to be not feasible.
- Council hunting for other solutions.

Since October 2017

- Deep bore trials were unsuccessful
- 1.5 years of accurate flow data. Rate 73% greater – design flow was 137,000m³ pa, now recalculated to be 237,000m³ pa.
- Infiltration assessment completed. Council thinks it can reduce infiltration by 25%.
- Outer bay proposals seem to be out of favour – too expensive.
- Current treatment plant failing

The Working Party met in December 2018. Members were asked to bring ideas and the following was submitted.

- Suky and Brent. FoBP proposal – highest treatment standard, purple pipe through Akaroa, Harbour outfall from end of purple pipe.
- Kath Reid – irrigation to native planting on Thacker land
- John Baker - Managed Aquifer Recharge.

At the 8 March meeting Council put forward a new proposal to irrigate Thacker land at Robinsons Bay, based on a wetland concept proposed by Ngai Tahu. Technical work on this is still in early stages. Might be combined with irrigation at Takamatua flats and limited purple pipe in Akaroa. Council wants to carry out further public consultation in April/May on this along with Outer Bays and Harbour outfall options.

The main points of the Thacker land proposal are

- 1 hectare storage pond 4 metres deep. 6 smaller wetland ponds.
- 30+ hectares irrigation to trees. Trial areas on steeper slopes.

Differences from the previous proposal are

- All storage on Thacker property.
- 5 ha more irrigation. Trial plots on steeper slopes and relaxation of downslopes parameters.
- Risk of pond or stream bank collapse increased.
- Huge earthworks involved.
- High maintenance.
- Closed system. No backup place for water. Council has no control of input level.
- Open ponds - increased risk of midges and odour.
- Loss of heritage site.
- Impacts on residents – neighbours, downstream flood risk, property values.
- Nitrates building up in stream and coastal area.

Suky proposed discussion of the new Thacker land proposal and asked if the meeting wished to pass a resolution expressing its view.

Kath Reid: It needs to be stressed that the wastewater will be treated to a very high standard. Council is taking all worst-case scenarios into account and will be doing a lot of mitigating work. Professional consultants are doing high quality work. People are too alarmed and should have greater trust in the Council and its professionals.

Suky: Not enough information is available at this stage to enable an external peer review.

Kevin Simcock: Council has not demonstrated technical expertise. Experience at Tikao Bay is that irrigation lines clog up over the long term and significant maintenance is required. He does not trust in the Council's technical abilities.

Lee Robinson: Are the engineers advocates for the Council?

Kevin: They do tend to come out with recommendations that support Council.

Unknown: No confidence in Council. Latest proposal only increases concerns in Robinsons Bay.

Chris Moore: What is the proposed treatment standard? Council has never stated this.

Kevin: Will depend on purpose, eg. standard for irrigation to trees would be lower than for purple pipe for watering in Akaroa. Reverse Osmosis must be the standard. Turangi recycles the residue from RO as fertiliser.

David Fleming: Need for high treatment standards is obvious, but the amount of wastewater is the problem – drainage and saturation of land.

Brent: BECA have acknowledged that drainage to creeks will increase. Main issue is the quantity of water, the unsuitability of loess soils and increased risk of slips.

Mark Wren: The level of the storage ponds will be kept as low as possible so that they can be filled up when needed. Concerned about the aesthetics and that surrounding plantings plantings will not mitigate this.

Suky: Plan shows pretty pictures but not the reality. Main pond will be 1 hectare in size and 4 m deep.

Suky said that she would like to get an understanding from the meeting of the line that she and Brent should represent to the Working Party.

Lee: What would be acceptable for land disposal?

Kevin: Must be a beneficial reuse eg. Pompey's pillar. Otherwise treatment to highest standard then disposal to Harbour. Akaroa must solve its own problem. Proposed schemes are now much too experimental. Thacker land disposal option should not be included in the options for public consultation.

Suky asked for an indication of support for irrigation to trees in Robinsons Bay. Kath and Brian Reid supported.

Suky showed a draft of proposed next steps and asked those present from Takamatua if this also aligns with their view.

Mark: Agreed that it does align.

Kevin: Doesn't support disposal of wastewater into a community that it doesn't come from.

Pippa Foley: If the cost of sending to an outer bay is so high wouldn't this money be better spent on a reverse osmosis system.

Resolution was put to the meeting.

Proposed by Doig Smith, seconded by Pip Mason. Carried. Two opposing votes.

Proposed by Pippa Foley to add reverse osmosis to the options. Seconded by Chris Moore. Carried. Two abstentions.

The resolution agreed to is

- Thacker proposal removed from the community consultation options because poorly worked through and without sufficient technical information available
- Beneficial re-use is what we seek, not disposing of water into the communities where it did not come from. Reverse osmosis treatment option requested.
- More work done on the outer bay options, including residual ocean disposal
- Friends option to be properly considered and included in consultation document - treatment to potable water standard, a purple pipe network in Akaroa and Harbour outfall from end of purple pipe. It may be the cheapest option and any residual water to Harbour will be the highest quality.

Suky and Brent will attend the next working party meeting on 11 April. They will be unavailable for the two following meetings and asked the meeting to appoint stand-ins for them.

Lee Robinson nominated Sue Church and Kevin Parthonnaud. Seconded by David Fleming. No other nominations. Carried.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Attendees:

Lee Robinson	Wendy Fleming	David Fleming	Kevin Simcock
Pip Mason	Tony Mason	John Roe	Brian Eves
Jan Cook	Paddy Stronach	Pippa Foley	Andreas Laggeder
Brian Reid	Kathleen Reid	Andrea Louisson	Doig Smith
Brian Bain	Fran Anderson	Grant Robertson	Pamela Fisher
Fiona Turner	Elizabeth Bain	Chris Moore	Anette Moore
Gordan Boxall	Brent Martin	Rose Ryan	Mike Ryan
Chris Shearer	Brent Schulz	Suky Thompson	Trev Bedford
Mike Schlumpf	Mark Wren	Craig Church	

Apologies:

Bryan Tichborne	Nancy Tichborne	Sue Church	Raewyn Stronach
Ken Elliott	Jeanette Elliott	Andrew McGeorge	Kate McGeorge

Notes prepared by Jan Cook. 30 March 2019