



**FRIENDS of Banks Peninsula Inc.**

Akaroa's Community Environment Society since 1990

# **Finding an acceptable solution Akaroa Wastewater disposal**

**Friends of Banks Peninsula Inc.**

on behalf of

Robinsons Bay residents

# Background

- Akaroa Wastewater Working Party 2010/11
- Council finds Old Coach Road site for treatment plant
- Applies for harbour discharge
- Harbour discharge declined
  - Ngāi Tahu cultural values
  - RMA requires avoiding discharge to water unless alternatives have been reasonably discounted
- Environment Court directs Council to report by June 30 having made significant progress on alternatives



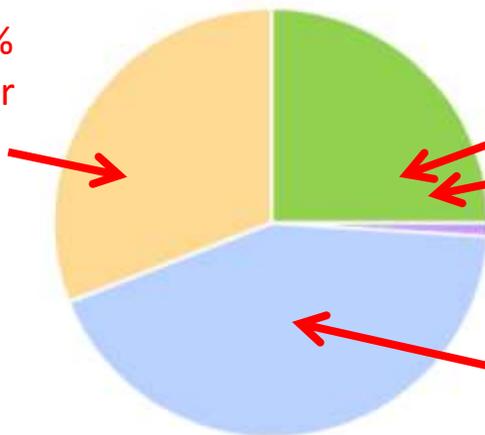
*Current plant at Takapuneke historically and culturally significant*



# Plan 1 - Consultation Results

- Consultation from 26 April to 12 June 2016
- Concerns raised about irrigation causing land instability

No preference: 31%  
Reject all options or  
more information  
needed



Irrigation to trees: 21%  
Irrigation to pasture: 4%  
Harbour discharge: 43%

- Year Round Irrigation
- Wetland/infiltration basin and coastal infiltration gallery
- Harbour outfall
- No preference



# Alarmed residents

- Get informed
- 2 meetings with Council staff
- Incorporate Society
- Public information
- Expert advice



Robinsons Bay residents meet at Pavitt Cottage 20 Oct 2016

# Water Quality

- What remains in wastewater after treatment?
  - Viruses
  - Hormones
  - Heavy Metals
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Endocrine disrupters
- What wastewater can be safely used for?
  - Not human ingestion or inhalation
  - Not watering vegetables
  - Farming – with standdown periods
  - Trees
- Wet weather Bypass flow
  - Expected 2-3 times per year
  - Water bypasses treatment plant and is filtered and UV treated only

## Concerns

- Health Risks
- Safety Risks
- Business Risks
- Destruction of amenity
- Stigma
- Property devaluation
- Lack of information
- Inadequate data
- Tighter parameters/higher risk than land disposal systems elsewhere in New Zealand
  - Setbacks from property boundaries and homes are less than elsewhere
  - Steep land



Robinsons Bay residents meet at Parthonnaud home, 1 Nov 2016

# Finding a fair way forward Community Strategy developed



- Recognises this is a tough problem
- Respects Ngāi Tahu cultural values
- Sets out principles for finding a suitable location
- Sets out a risk matrix to assess proposals

# **Strategy presented to Community Board**

**Jan 30, Lyttelton**

**In attendance**

## **Robinsons Bay Residents**

- Lee Robinson
- Sue Church
- Dianne Carson
- Brent Martin
- Suky Thompson
- Chris Moore
- Annette Moore
- Fiona Turner

**Accompanied by**

**Andrew Dakers eco-Eng**

## **Takamatua valley residents**

- Georgie Osborne
- Mike Osborne
- Page Lawson
- Stuart Jeffreys
- David Shanks
- Nicola Shanks
- Christine Shearer
- James Bell
- Monique Connell
- Stephanie Connell

## Apologies

- **Robinsons Bay Residents & Supporters**

- Pat Lyons
- John Thompson
- Joanna Hase
- Ged & Pippa Foley
- Giles & Lil Foley
- John Thacker
- Anne Moore
- Kevin & Averil Parthonnaud
- Ben Navarron
- Karen Watson & Tod Hazeldine
- Joey & Renen Cataliotti
- Kathleen & Doug Liberty
- Andreas Lageder
- Paddy Stronach
- Peter & Tracy Foley
- Richard & Sue Lovitt
- Fran Anderson
- Brian & Nancy Tichborne - Pavitt Cottage Trust
- Late apologies:
- Julian & Trena Calcutt
- Simon Hadfield
- Mike Early

- **Takamatua**

- Katherine & Hugh Fraser
- Bronwyn Hayward & Andrew Ashby
- David, Sue & Harry Thurston
- Sue & Ray Bruce
- Mark & Denise Wren
- Rebecca & Neil Barnett
- Michael & Barbara Harrington
- Brent Shultz
- Sara Parks
- Annette & Stephen LeLievre
- Peter & Elizabeth Haylock
- Peter & Glenys Roberts
- Prunella Downes
- Michael Downes
- Late apologies:
- Frank Shaw & Maryline Suchley

Total apologies: 58

# Community Strategy Principles

## Principles A

**Wastewater treatment must be consistent and to the highest standard**

- *Contain and treat wet weather bypass flows.*
- *Highest treatment standard possible*

# Strategy

## Principles B

**Disposal must be in the right area, not one that externalises risks and costs onto adjoining residents, or destroys the amenity or health of the environment**

- *Current proposals for land disposal in Robinsons Bay or Takamatua affect large numbers of residents*
- *Setbacks are inadequate and lower than any other scheme in New Zealand*
- *Ideally remote areas should be prioritised for consideration*

# Strategy

## Principles C

**Solution must be sustainable in the long term and robust in the event of natural disasters**

- *No build-up of pollutants in soil*
- *No disposal to waterways. If land disposal is the only option used there must be a mechanism to cope if storage ponds are full.*
- *Robust enough to respond to storms, earthquakes, tsunamis and rising sea levels without creating floods, slips or environmental disasters*
- *A comprehensive risk monitoring and management program needs to be in place*

# Strategy

## Principles D

### **Solution must meet Ngai Tahu cultural values**

- *Alternative solutions must meet Ngai Tahu cultural values and Ngai Tahu representatives must be engaged in the process*
- *Recognise that many other cultures also find wastewater offensive*

# Strategy

## Principles E

### **Akaroa must be actively involved in the solution**

- *Reducing inflow and reduces the size of the outflow disposal problem.*
- *A large percentage of the water arriving at the treatment plant is stormwater that has infiltrated the sewer pipes – hence the large storage ponds*
- *Currently there are no incentives for existing Akaroa properties or developers of new property to install water recycling systems on site*
- *There is little to prevent harmful material entering the system or public education to minimise this risk.*

# Strategy

## Principles F

### **Managed process and infrastructure**

- *The proposed infrastructure and its ongoing management and whole of life cost of management must be identified and in place at the outset, and subject to public and expert scrutiny to ensure that it is fit for purpose, sustainable and includes rapid and effective response to community concerns.*

# Strategy

## Principles G

**Ideally find a solution that makes beneficial use of the water**

- *Be realistic. Human inhalation or ingestion not safe with treatment proposed. Unclear what applies when the effluent is contaminated by wet weather bypass flows*
- *Solution should not facilitate the private financial benefit of some parties while externalising costs and risks onto others*
- *Solution would include a start on re-use in suitable applications in Akaroa and a commitment to install a lavender pipe system to return water to Akaroa.*

# Strategy

## Principles H

### **Obviate the need for compulsory purchase**

- *An acceptable solution that does not harm the receiving community, and for which adequate compensation is paid to landowners and any other affected parties should obviate the need for compulsory purchase*

# Strategy

## Principles I

**Options put out for public consultation must be sufficiently detailed for the public to make an informed choice**

- *Clear information must be given about the quality of the water and how it can be used.*
- *Where water is to be used for any kind of farming, the with-holding periods need to be identified.*
- *Options must indicate the locations of key infrastructure such as effluent storage ponds, pumping stations and pipes and their proximity to neighbouring properties and residences.*
- *Options must include a risk analysis across the full set of risks identified by the community*
- *There needs to be clear information on costings, including how they have been arrived at, and providing the overall land purchase budget for each option.*

# Beneficial reuse

- Beneficial reuse - people in the receiving environment welcome the water
- Dumping – people in the receiving environment face externalised risks and costs and reject the water
- Objective of the Working Party is to assist Council to find beneficial reuse
- Baseline for establishing beneficial reuse
  - Members of working party only support solutions that they would be prepared to accept in their own backyard
  - Community Strategy is formally adopted by Working Party to provide principles to guide the solution