



Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consenting Process

Wellington Water, on behalf of South Wairarapa District Council (the applicant), has applied to Greater Wellington Regional Council for new resource consents for the Featherston wastewater treatment plant.

Resource consents can take a long time to process and involve many steps. Here's an overview of the process we expect to go through for this resource consent application.



More information can be found here –

www.environment.govt.nz/publications/resource-consent-process-for-notifiedlimited-notified-applications

Steps we've taken since 2020:

- Consulting with the community and our mana whenua iwi partners – this remains ongoing
- Prepared the resource consent application and supporting Assessment of Effects on the Environment (AEE)
- Submitted the application to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

Where we're at (August 2023):

- GWRC accepted the application as complete
- GWRC requested further information (referred to as a Section 92 (1) request)
- We are currently collating the information that GWRC requested.

www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/featherston-wastewater-project

Next steps

Application publicly notified – This process is where the community may submit their views on the application.

Once the Section 92 (1) process is complete, GWRC will publicly notify the application. This will include public notices in local newspapers. The application will be available on the GWRC website and hard copies will also be available at the Featherston library and the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) office.



Have your say

Submission period – The community can make submissions on the application to GWRC and indicate whether they would like their submission heard at a hearing. The submission period lasts a minimum 20 working days.

SWDC, supported by Wellington Water, will undertake community engagement during the submission period to help people understand the application and the consent process.



Submissions close – At the end of the submission period, submissions close and GWRC will review the submissions.

This may lead to another request for further information or additional reports being commissioned. SWDC may also want to engage with submitters to better understand and discuss any concerns raised in their submission.



Hearing – This is where a panel of commissioners will hear from SWDC submitters and experts to make a decision on the consent application.

If a hearing is required – and we expect it will be – GWRC will appoint a panel of independent commissioners and give them authority to make a decision on the application. Submitters who indicated that they would like their submission to be heard will have the opportunity to present to the hearing panel. The hearing panel may request SWDC, GWRC, submitters and experts undertake pre-hearing meetings or mediation to narrow down the matters of concern prior to the hearing.



Decision – Once the hearing is completed the panel of commissioners will issue a decision on the application.



Appeal period – After the decision is made and following its release, the applicant and submitters have a 15 working day period where they can appeal the decision to the Environment Court.



Final decision – If there are no appeals, the commissioners' decision is final.