

Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent

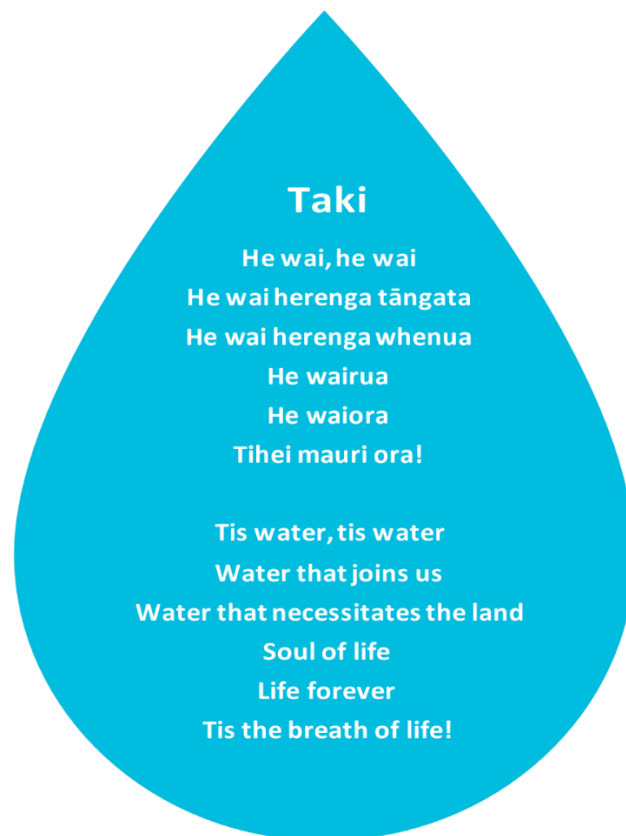
MONTHLY REPORT

31 August 2023



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Approved by: Featherston WWTP Consent Project Governance Group



Te Horopaki Background

The Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been operating under a historic resource consent since 2012, when the existing consent expired. Subsequently South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) lodged a new consent application to continue to discharge treated wastewater into Donald's Creek. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) had concerns about the discharge, and that application is currently on hold.

In 2017, SWDC lodged a new consent application to transition to a land-based discharge. This application was subsequently withdrawn in 2019 and SWDC moved to work with Wellington Water.

In 2020, SWDC commissioned Wellington Water to work towards achieving a new resource consent for the WWTP. Since then, we have been working through a process with key stakeholders, mana whenua and the South Wairarapa community in 2020 to source ideas, define objectives and criteria and develop options.

Ngā hoaketanga

Project Objectives

1. To obtain consent approval for upgrading the Featherston wastewater treatment plant to improve effects on the existing receiving environment, and
2. To determine the suitability of a transition to a land-based wastewater disposal system in the future.

He Whakarāpopoto

Project Summary



Reporting period 1 August to 31 August 2023

Since the last report in July:

- The project team provided an initial response to GWRC for the section 92 further information request – this confirmed the timeline for the full response,
- Work progressed on other deliverables for the Wellington Water concept phase requirements.

Hauora o te Taiao

Health, safety, environment & quality



General Health & Safety Status

No incidents to report this month.

General Environmental Status

The treatment plant is continuing to discharge as permitted.

General Quality

Nothing to report this month.

Ngā Kaupapa mahi o Here-turi-kōkā

August project activity



Communications

Hui held with Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa

Consent

The first part of the Section 92 (S.92) request was provided to GWRC on 30 August. This included Cultural Impact Assessments from ngā iwi. A timeline for providing additional information was agreed and is due in mid October.

Design

Input to the initial S.92 request.

Works progressed on finalising the concept design work in line with the programme.

Environmental

Input to the initial S.92 request, a site visit was undertaken to collect ground water data as part of this.

Hei tēre marama

Next month

Communications

- Continue to seek iwi engagement

Consent

- Progress works on part two of the Section 92 response.
- Meet with GWRC and their advisors to discuss S.92 and our part one response.

Design

- Progress works on part two of the Section 92 response.
- Complete concept design ready for peer review

Environmental

- Progress works on part two of the Section 92 response.

Raupapa Kaiwhaipānga

Stakeholder Management



Stakeholder	Relationship	Issues
GWRC Environmental Regulation	Ongoing meetings to collaborate on the preferred options. This month: First part of S.92. response issued	
Māori Standing Committee	This month: no update this month	
Tangata Whenua	Open working relationship continues This month: hui with Ngati Kahungunu	
SWDC Councillors	This month: no update this month	
SWDC officers	Governance Group meetings and Project Steering Group meetings as required.	
Featherston Community Board	No update this month	
Te Whatu Ora	No update this month	
Fish and Game	No update this month	
Department of Conservation	No update this month	
Adjacent landowners	No update this month	
Featherston Community	No update this month	

Te Hōtaka Wā

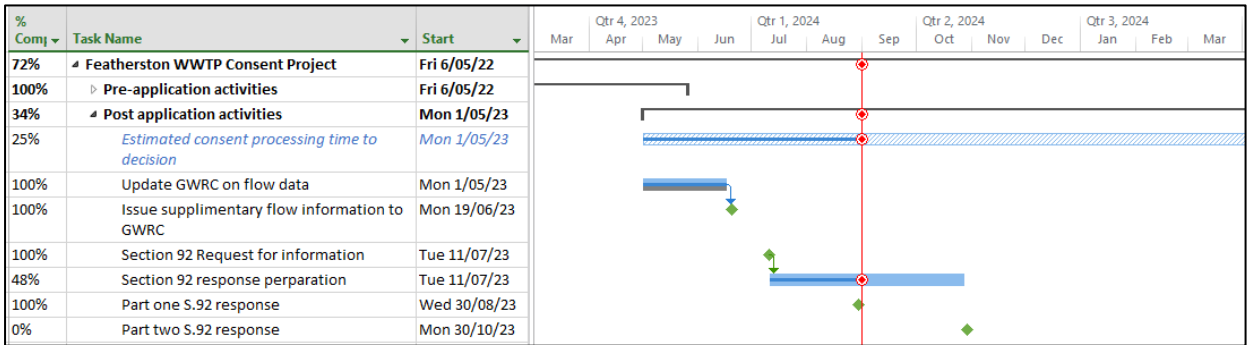
Programme timeline



We are now working through the Resource Management Act (RMA) consenting process. The process for this is driven by the RMA and GWRC as the regulator.

Following lodgement and providing the additional information regarding the increased flows at the WWTP the next steps include:

- ✓ Section 92 request for information from GWRC.
- ✓ Part one response of S.92 request
- Part two response of S.92 request
- Public notification of the application – timing TBC
- Hearing to allow submissions to be heard – timing TBC
- Decision on the application – Timing TBC



Ngā Mahi Matua

Key activities

Key Activity Status	Due Date	Progress	Expected/Actual Completion
Lodge short term consent	23/01/2023	100%	1/05/2023
Update GWRC on flow data	19/06/2023	100%	19/06/2023
GWRC further information request (Section92)	11/07/2023	100%	11/07/2023
Part one response for section 92 request	30/08/2023	100%	30/08/2023
Part 2 response for section 92 request	30/10/2023	50%	30/10/2023
Public Notification	TBC	0%	
Hearing commencement	TBC	0%	
Consent application decision	TBC	0%	

Whakapaunga utu

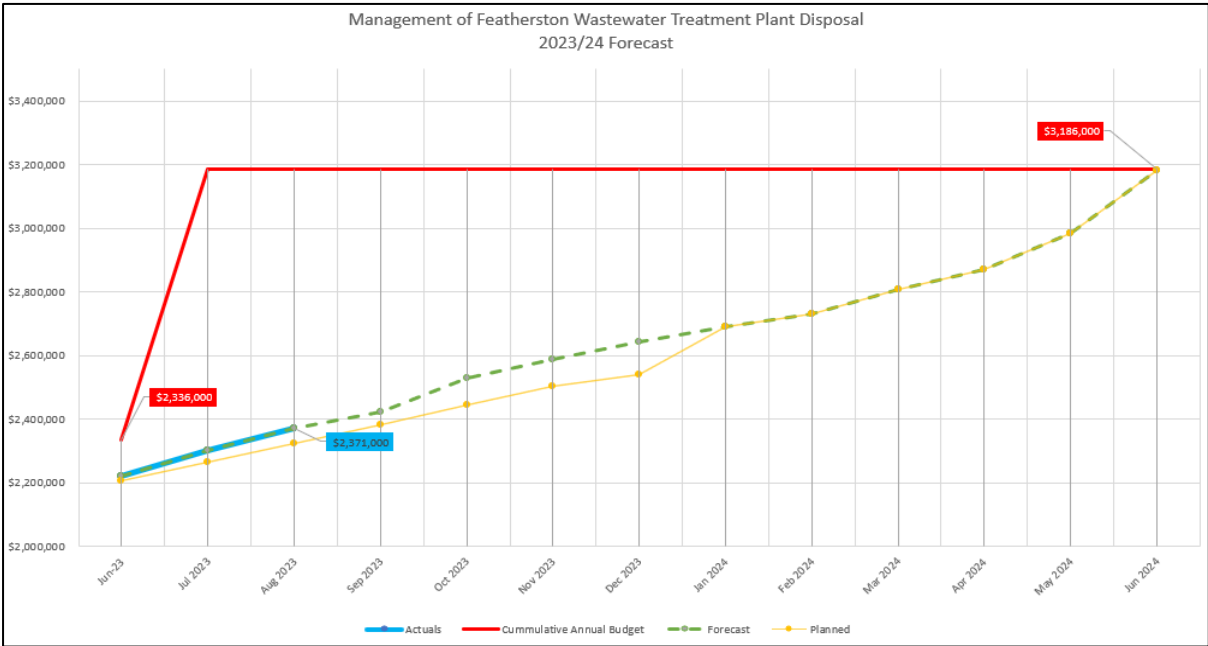
Project Expenditure



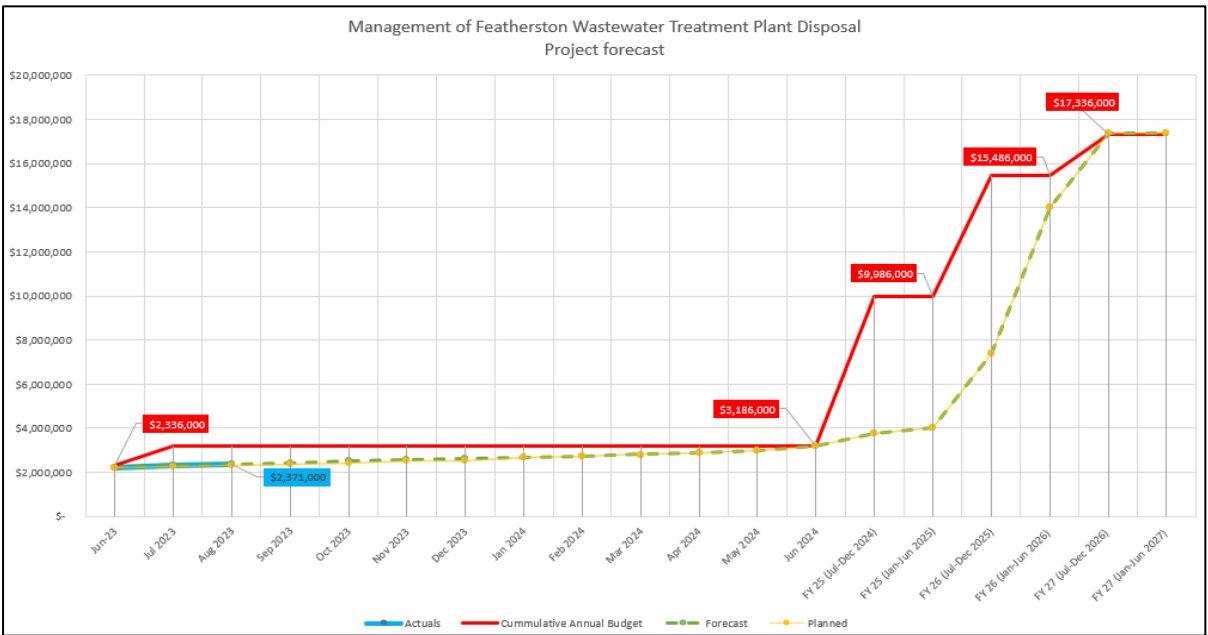
The 2023/24 FY budget is \$850k.

A revised work plan for the financial year has been developed. While this plan ensures the budget is maintained there is risk that the consenting process may bring forward effort or increase costs which could result in additional funding being required. This will be closely monitored.

Forecast for 2023/24 FY:



Full project forecast:



Note, budgets are based on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan

Pūtea āpiti

Contingency

There is a \$300,000 contingency for this phase of work.

No further contingency funding was utilized in August.

The remaining contingency is approximately \$30,000

He Panonitanga

Scope change

There is no scope change to report this month.



He Whakahaere Raru

Risk Management



Current top 5 risks

Risk Description & Consequence	Initial Rating	Mitigation	Rating
There is a risk that the budget limitations / affordability are not sufficient to deliver a consentable solution (high inflow & infiltration (I&I) adds to this risk).	High	Project governance endorsed a recommendation to increase the size of the clarification process to enable treatment of the higher volume of wastewater – the sizing of this will be confirmed at the detailed design phase – risk of additional costs remains	High
There is a risk that if partners or stakeholders have a significant objection to the project or specific detail of the project, then additional work may be required to understand and resolve these issues or risk a shorter consent duration.	High	Regular meetings with key stakeholders via the Project Governance. Community engagement on-going Cultural impact assessment received from both iwi groups and collaboration workshops being sought	Medium
Regulatory / RMA changes	High	Legal and planning teams staying up to date with future changes. Consent strategy developed with future RMA changes considered.	Medium
There is a risk that if engagement and collaboration with mana whenua is not progressed before the consent is lodged, there may be unresolved concerns or objections to the proposed upgrades	High	Cultural impact assessment received from both iwi groups and collaboration workshops being sought. Hui held with Ngati Kahungunu this month	Medium
There is a risk that the conditions imposed on the consent when its granted are not able to be met	Med	Regular conditions assessment workshops undertaken with internal stakeholders and legal to highlight any concerns.	Medium

Ngā Take Issues



Escalation Issue	Action	Action party	Date Required	Ranking (Low, Med, High)	Status
Iwi engagement in collaborative design.	Continue to seek engagement on collaborative design with iwi	WWL SWDC to support	On-going	High	Open
Flow data from the WWTP has shown an increase of inflow. This means that we need to either increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows or make network improvements to reduce the volume of wastewater coming to the WWTP	Project Governance group endorsed recommendation to increase the capacity of the clarification process, this will be confirmed at detailed design phase.	Project governance	ASAP	High	Closed

Ngā Whakatūpato Early Warnings

- I&I impact to design feasibility
 - This has been realised (see issues section above). The increase of inflow to the WWTP means that we need to increase the capacity of the clarification process to treat the increased flows. The additional capacity requirement may result in additional funding being required.
- Materials and Labour shortages and costs
 - There is a national shortage of people and materials estimated to be up to 30% in the construction sector. As we move into construction phase we are expecting the costs estimates to increase.