

Communications and Engagement Overview

Hihi Wastewater Treatment Plant (June 2022)

Purpose

The purpose of this overview is to support the ‘*Economic and Practicability Assessment for Discharge of Treated Wastewater to Land from the Hihi Wastewater Treatment Plant*’ report to Council via the Infrastructure Committee. It is a summary of the full plan [A3175626](#).

This plan outlines the communications and engagement undertaken with the community of Hihi on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and discharge to land investigations.

Goals

The community engagement will support the project goal for Council to approve a process to upgrade the treatment plant and consider discharge to land.

Specific communications and engagement goals are:

- Staff can demonstrate consideration of the community and mana whenua views in developing the proposal
- The community feels consulted / engaged with and understands the extent of their influence
- The community is aligned with Council’s recommendations

Identified Partners & Stakeholders

Table 1 below outlines the various partners and stakeholders who have been identified and contacted. For further information on these parties, see the full plan.

Table 1: Partners & Stakeholders Register

Partners & Stakeholders
Ngāti Kahu
Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa
Ngāpuhi/Ngāti Kahu ki Whaingāroa
Hihi residents in or near the area of benefit
Ratepayers Association
Connected property owners
Adjacent land and property owners who may benefit from an extended plant, should it be proposed

Engagement to date

Table 2 below provides the steps taken for engagement on the Hihi WWTP upgrade and consideration of discharge to land.

Table 2: Engagement Steps – Hihi WWTP

Step	Details	Status
1	Identify Partners & Stakeholders	Complete
2	Develop communications and engagement plan	Complete
3	Present at Ratepayers Association meeting to alert community to engagement	Complete
4	Initiate contact with iwi/hapu	Complete
5	Commission investigation and report to inform Council on options	Complete
6	Community meeting with follow-up survey to capture detailed views	Complete
7	Findings of report will inform next steps and provide material to develop options to take back to community	Complete
8	Workshop with EMs on consent renewals	Complete
9	Technical induction for Ngati Kahu with FNDC	Underway
10	Cultural induction for FNDC with Ngāti Kahu	Underway
11	Holding comms to community (Post reports)	Underway
12	Cultural Impact Assessment to be completed by Ruaiti hapu – will help to illustrate the effect(s) of the discharge on tangata whenua and cultural values.	Not yet underway

Key takeaways from this engagement for discharge to land investigations have been:

- General community of Hihi are fine with current discharge to an unnamed tributary of Hihi Beach. Main concern is the required upgrade at the wastewater treatment plant and the rating impact associated with it. Discharge to land would only add to the impact.
- An interest in a possible addition of a rock/trickling filter at the end constructed wetland directly before the discharge point has been mentioned in conversation.