



9 August 2017

To whom it may concern

Hahei Wastewater and Water Supply Systems

Over the past two years Council has received an increasing number of queries in relation to the future of the existing Hahei wastewater and water supply systems. This letter provides an update on Council's proposed approach to investigating and planning the future of water supply and wastewater in Hahei.

Water Supply

Council operates a water supply network derived from a single groundwater bore at Pa Road, Hahei which services around 23% of the Hahei community. Water abstracted from the bore is treated at the Hahei Water Treatment Plant before being pumped to the Grierson Close Reservoirs. There is limited capacity for additional connections to this system (approximately 25). The balance of water supply is provided by three locally owned and operated bore supply schemes (30%), rainwater (31%), and private groundwater bores.

As Council's water supply is exclusively groundwater sourced, water availability from a reticulated supply is not significantly affected by year to year rainfall or climatic variations as is the case with surface water. However, water consumption is affected by climatic variations in relation to watering lawns and gardens under drought conditions. Fluctuations in water availability are also influenced by seasonal holiday makers prompting increased demand on allocated water volumes during the summer period.

Council has considered the implications of the additional requirements placed by the Resource Management Act and National Standard provisions, the impact of future subdivision, and the longevity of the existing private water bore schemes. As a result we propose to provide for an investigation into the future of Hahei Water Supply as part of our Long Term Plan 2018-2028 consultation process. The scope of this would include evaluation of existing supply and long term options taking into account future development, seasonal capacity, water demand management, and ensuring the meeting of national standards around drinking water. At this stage it is anticipated that any investigation would occur over two financial years; 2018/19, 2019/20 with consultation on options then undertaken with the Hahei community. Council would then look at any capital works (building of the infrastructure) as part of the Long Term Plan 2021-31 process.

Wastewater

Council currently provides a wastewater plant at Hahei. There are currently 140 connections; with a capacity for 48 more. Wastewater is treated and discharged into the Wigmore Stream. Non-serviced properties have their own onsite wastewater provide by septic tanks and wastewater treatment systems.

Given the freshwater standards implemented by the Ministry for the Environment, the age of septic tanks in the area (which may affect the health of the Wigmore Stream and other water bodies), future capacity issues and increased difficulty with obtaining future wastewater discharge consents; retaining the status quo is not likely to be viable in the medium term.

In February 2016 letters were sent to 37 property owners in a specific area that included portions of Hahei Beach Road and Pa Road, along with Emmerdale Drive, Emma Place and Jackson Place seeking expressions of interest in connecting to the wastewater system in the medium to long term. This was in response to interest from property owners in this area. Eighteen responded positively, ten were not interested, and three did not respond.

The expression of interest process was the first part of ascertaining whether there was a reasonable level of support for potential wastewater connection. Since then a number of other property owners outside this area of interest have contacted Council seeking advice on timing for wastewater connection.

While Council is aware of an interest in parts of the community to connect to the wastewater system in the short term; Council is mindful of the need to consider the "economies of scale" aspect - i.e. a portion of the community could conceivably pay much higher dollar contributions than if the whole community (including future development) was included - or vice versa. Notwithstanding, the future of Council's wastewater plant in terms of capacity for the wider community would still need to be determined - including whether the plant needs to be shifted; which could attract additional cost.

For these reasons, Council propose undertaking an investigation into connecting all Hahei properties into a Council owned wastewater plant as part of its Long Term Plan. While this would not satisfy short term demand of some residents; and delay wastewater scheme decisions by those with vacant sections; this option would mean that a wider investigation would be undertaken to look all of the options to satisfy the environmental risks; and most appropriate positioning of the plant to satisfy demand into the future. Council would need to allocate funding in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan over two years 2018/19 and 2019/20 years with community consultation in 2020; and any capital project allocation considered as part of the 2021-31 LTP process.

In Summary

Taking into account the investigation and consultation phases of this work, and assuming there is support for a community-wide Council run water supply and wastewater system, the timeframe for completion of this is likely to be 5 - 7 years.

Your thoughts on the proposal are very welcome as part of the Long Term Plan consultation process which will occur in January 2018. You will find more details on this closer to that time on our website www.tcdc.govt.nz

In the meantime should you have any other feedback or questions please feel free to contact

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Hinson'.

Bruce Hinson
Group Manger
INFRASTRUCTURE