

Wastewater causes concern Te reo is in good hands

COMMUNITY concerns about the health of the Wairoa River have been filling up local social media newsfeeds.

One social media post referred to a smell like "raw sewage" coming from a pipe which was discharged into the river.

Wairoa District Council issued a statement addressing the concerns on its social media page.

"The discharge is treated wastewater from the treatment ponds.

"The Fitzroy Street discharge outlet contains a secondary flow pipe on the bank of the river.

"So, when the flow through the main outlet pipe is restricted (for example, the river channel movement) it does not cause manholes or pipes to burst and create an overland flow."

The council stated that due to the saturated ground from the recent heavy rains, the overflow pipe has been flowing at night in time with the outward tide to keep pace with the current wastewater flows.

"It is great that people are recognising our wastewater challenges.

"The current wastewater consent process has started by consulting with stakeholders and the public on these issues."

The wastewater treatment plant project is underway following a series of meetings to establish the best practicable option for the town's wastewater with the current 25-year consent for its treatment set to expire in May 2019.

Wairoa's wastewater ends up at the treatment plant on Whakamahia Road where it is treated in oxidation ponds before being discharged into the Wairoa River and estuary at the end of Fitzroy Street.

By the end of this year, council need to choose the best option to discharge the wastewater, be it continuing on the same path or an alternative system.

Of the around 80 kilometres of underground piping about half is under privately owned properties.

There are five pump stations in Wairoa, built around 1948, and two treatment ponds, situated near Pilot's Hill and built in the 1980s.



❑ A concerned member of the community said they noticed a smell like "raw sewage" coming from a pipe which discharged into the Wairoa River.

In the council's Long Term Plan 2015-2025 document, it stated that provision had been made for expenditure to develop and implement a new system.

This included \$4.75 million for construction and \$500,000 for associated professional fees.

Infrastructure adviser for Rationale and former Wairoa District Council engineering manager Neil Cook has helped guide the council through the consent process.

Mr Cook said the pump stations had issues with capacity, inflows and overflows, and the treatment system had limited storage and possibly connections that should not be there.

"There are several options and we are trying to reach the best practicable option which balances cultural, social, financial and environmental issues for the community.

"It is a balancing act — it can't just be about affordability, there has to be a balance."

Options included water or land, and whether the wastewater goes directly or indirectly to water, or stays on land.

Then there were options for it to go to the river, ocean, wetland, forestry, or small or large holdings.

Council engineering manager Jamie

Cox said following the very well-attended hui-a-hapu and community meeting last month, the council endorsed a more holistic view of the wastewater discharge as part of the overall health of the Wairoa River.

"The Wairoa Wastewater Stakeholder Focus Group and Project Team have taken this on board as they continue working towards a best practicable option for the council's consideration," Mr Cox said.

"There will be further public consultation over coming months to present progress to date and to get feedback from tangata whenua, stakeholder groups and the community at large.

"Our next consultation round will be in October and will include information provided through the Wairoa Star, the council's website and Facebook page, as well as public meetings and the opportunity for interested groups or individuals to speak directly to members of the project team."

Mr Cox said the council expected to be in a position to adopt a preferred option towards the end of the year.

The preferred option will then be developed further to allow resource consent applications to be prepared.

Rui, Ruia

with Liz Hunkin



te kaumaatua o Te Ataarangi, i puta oona whakaaro mo teetahi Whare o te Reo Maaori. I roto i taua whare ngaa momo whakaako katoa i raro i te maru kotahi. Aue e koro, kei te hurihuri haere tonu maataui!

'Te Reo ki Tua'

TEENEI te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa i awhina, i tautoko, i whakapau werawera kia tuu ai taa taatau waananga tino whakahirahira. Kia korua ko Ngahiwi, Jeremy me raatau hoki ngaa kaimahi, tena koutou. Me pehea hoki he koorero mo ngaa kaikauhau. I whea mai te papai, te ahuareka o teenei noho tahi. Ka titiro atu maataui ngaa paakeke, ka kooa te ngaakau ki te rongo atu ki a koutou mahi, ki te kite atu hoki i te roto i te kapa haka, i roto hoki kaingaakau ki too taatau reo rangatira. I paku whakarereketia e ahau too whakataukii a Jeremy, ki ahau, 'Whakaaweawetia taatau e te hunga kua whakaaweawetia'.

I te timatanga o te waananga, i rongo maataui me pehea te whakamahi i te reo i roto i te kapa haka, i roto hoki i ngaa haapori, i roto hoki i oo taataua kaainga. Koinei te mahi nui maa taataua katoa, te whakamahi i te reo i roto i oo taataua kaainga. Kaatahi pea ka ora too taataua reo! I puta i te waananga te koorero, 'E ora ana koe i te reo, me ora hoki i te reo i a koe'. Kia kaha taataui ki te whakamahi i te reo i waho ake o aa taataua mahi whakaako i te kura, i te kohanga ranei. Awhinatia ou whaanau, too marae hoki kia mohio ki too taataua reo. Koina taau ki te reo! Ko te nuinga o nga kaikauhau, ko te reo Maaori too raataua reo tuarua. Ka mau te wehi! Koa katoa maataui ngaa mea pakeke naa te mea i kite maataui ka ora too taataua reo e te hunga nei.

I ahau i te waananga, ka puta mai te whakaaro, mehemea kei te whakaako katoa taataui i te reo, he aha te take kaaore anoo kia koorero Maaori a Aotearoa? Ki te whakakotahi taataui, ngaa roopuu whakaako i te reo, kaatahi anoo pea ka koorero te katoa. I te waa e ora ana a Te Hapuku Karaka,

Until we speak te reo in our homes our reo is still not safe. We all still have a job to do.

Many thanks to all those who were responsible for our awesome waananga, 'Te Reo ki Tua'.

From the marvellous speakers to all those working on the ground, many thanks to both you and Ngahiwi and Jeremy. We, the older generation were really heartened by all the proceedings. This was indeed as your whakataukii said (although I have changed it slightly). "Be inspired by the inspired."

We heard how kapa haka could be the vehicle for teaching te reo. also we now know what is happening in some communities when Kiwa Hammond spoke about Ngaa Reo Rua, but one of the main thrusts was how to develop a reo programme in your home.

Until we speak te reo in our homes our reo is still not safe. We all still have a job to do. Another wise saying from the waananga was: "If the language provides you with your livelihood, then we need to return the compliment to make sure our reo lives."

We all have a part to play not only at work teaching the reo, but also to help whanau, our marae and the community to learn. Let us all do a little bit more!

I concluded by saying perhaps it is time for all those of us teaching te reo, to work together. I wish I knew how, but I leave that thought!

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