

AN INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY OF WAIROA

*What's happening with our wastewater?
What's the future of the Wairoa River?*

On behalf of the Wairoa District Council you are invited to a:

Hui-a-lwi on Sunday 30th July at 10am, Te Rauhina Marae

Public meeting on Monday 31st July at 5pm, Wairoa Memorial Hall, Queen Street

Group meetings on Tuesday 1st August (based on a request to Council Staff)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WAIROA'S WASTEWATER?

We all produce sewage aka wastewater. Our wastewater ends up at Wairoa's wastewater treatment plant on Whakamāhia Road. Wastewater is treated in oxidation ponds before being discharged into the Wairoa River estuary at the end of Fitzroy Street. The consent to do this expires in May 2019. By the end of this year we need to select the best option to discharge our wastewater, whether it is continuing on the same path or thinking of an alternative system.

THE FUTURE OF OUR RIVER - TE WAIROA HŌPŪPŪ HŌNENGENGE MĀTANGI RAU

Our river is not pristine. It is shaped by many influences including, rocks and soils of the land, how we use our land and the influence from the climate. As a community, we all impact on our awa and we have an opportunity to do something about it. We have some big decisions to make in the coming months about the wastewater system; what else can we do? The council would like to start a discussion about the river with you, including what to do with the wastewater. Decisions made about Wairoa's wastewater discharge may impact on the wider river environment.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT - A BALANCING ACT

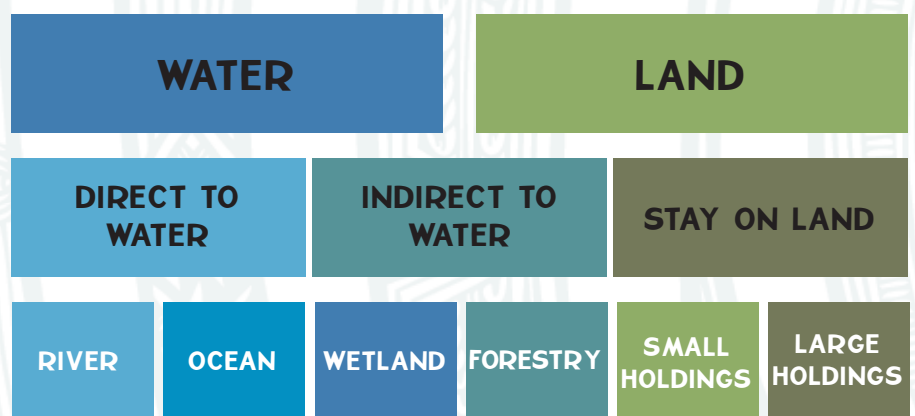
We need to know what is important to you when it comes to discharging Wairoa's wastewater? What you consider to be important will have a bearing on where wastewater is discharged, noting that what is important to you may not be

important to your neighbours. We need help to balance Tangata Whenua views, recreational impacts, environmental effects and how much you can afford to contribute to maintain or make changes to the current system.

ESTABLISH THE BEST PRACTICABLE OPTION FOR WAIROA'S WASTEWATER

The Wairoa community needs to help the District Council decide what is the best way that our wastewater should be discharged. There are other options besides the current system, like discharging to land or into the ocean. Each of these options come with pros and cons.

There is also the need to recognise the cultural significance of a wastewater discharge, particularly the appropriateness of a wastewater discharge directly into surface water. This may mean that options involving the method of treatment and discharge need to be discussed, as well as the location.



STAKEHOLDER GROUP

To assist with decision making, Wairoa District Council formed a Wairoa Wastewater Stakeholder Group. This was formed to help the Council understand the community's views and to assist with preparations for the consent application process. The Wairoa Wastewater Stakeholder Group brings together community representatives, business, council and tangata whenua.

This group has been helping guide the ideas Council are working on in the process of developing a best practicable option. We now require input from our community on the future discharge of our wastewater and the future of the Wairoa River.

