

OOWLG response to NRC revised consent conditions based on the FNDC application number APP.002667.01.04 for the renewal of the consent for the Opononi Wastewater Treatment Plant

Graham Tucker: 094058850,

Terminology/Abbreviations/Definitions:

- CLG (Community Liaison Group) = OOWLG (Omapere Opononi Water Liaison Group)
- CLG is the legal group described in the environmental court ruling on 18 November 2009
- WWTP = Opononi wastewater treatment plant
- Consent Holder = FNDC (Far North District Council)
- NRC = Northern Regional Council

1. Overview

On behalf of the current CLG group, this is the response to the revised consent conditions document, dated 16 August 2023, sent by Alisaa Sluys on 20 September 2023.

The CLG considers itself to be the current Community Liaison Group as was established following the environmental court ruling 2009, despite FNDC disengaging with the group without adequate reasons. There is nothing legally binding determining this is not the case. The current membership is described in a letter from one of the senior CLG members to FNDC. This letter is in the references section below.

Prior to FNDC disengaging with the CLG, the members had a good working relationship with FNDC, having productive and constructive meetings, often quarterly. The knowledge & experience currently in the CLG will be valuable for the new consent term.

The CLG is generally pleased with many of the proposed conditions for the next consent period. A three-year term should be an adequate amount of time to develop a plan and demonstrate at the very least some measurable progress in getting the WWTP to meet the necessary performance metrics.

Note: the clause numbers below relate to your document. Only additional and modified clauses are included.

2. CLG election, definition & engagement with FNDC

- a. Clause 7: The CLG should be elected by locals and not by the Consent Holder. The CLG is currently recruiting members from the community, based on group definitions you have described in your document. The CLG is working with Hapu, Runanga and a variety of community groups. When the membership is complete, the CLG intends to write a letter to NRC and the Consent Holder. NRC should also add the Pakanae Management Committee, which is part of the Pakanae Marae and have been involved since the WWTP was first established.
- b. Clause 8a: share and discuss all information with the CLG. A meeting is not always necessary to disclose this information. Information includes and is not limited to:
 - i. Performance of the WWTP and monitoring of the Hokianga Harbour
 - ii. Performance of the Kaikohe Waste Water Treatment Plant (largest town of any of the WWTP's leading into the Hokianga Harbour and processes 70% of all septic tank waste in the far north)
 - iii. Maintenance records
 - iv. Any future developments, enhancements or modifications
 - v. Site management plan
 - vi. Relevant correspondence or reports (eg engineering or scientific) between the Consent Holder and contractors or consultants relating to the WWTP.
- c. Clause 9b: schedule and hold regular meetings for the duration of the consent, at least twice annually and more frequently when required.
- d. Additional clause: on request, the Consent Holder should facilitate a WWTP site inspection for the CLG typically annually.
- e. Additional clause: NRC will assign a person who will where necessary, arbitrate any unresolvable issue where the Consent Holder and the CLG are in disagreement.

3. General Conditions

- a. Additional clause: Within 12 months, the Consent Holder must provide a draft development plan, describing what action, additional infrastructure, cost estimates and estimated timelines, necessary to meet the defined plant performance metrics. This should include at least two options, including an option for land-based disposal.

References

1. Letter from John Klaricich (CLG member & Kaumatua) – CLG membership

FNDC ADMIN
04 OCT 2019

To: Melissa Parlane, FNDC Infrastructure Planning

From: Opononi/Omapere Water Liaison Group (OOWLG)

OOWLG membership

Dear Melissa,

On 3 October 2019, members of OOWLG met to discuss the membership of the group and whether it should be changed or be expanded. Alan Hessel, Peter Oldham, Louis Toorenburg, John Askew, Graham Tucker & I were present at this meeting.

The group voted unanimously that any change with membership of OOWLG should not be considered until after the current Opononi WWTP resource consent renewal and the Smoothy Road groundwater resource consents have been completed. The group concluded that the current members had a good mix of skills and experience, representing Marae and community which is consistent with the conditions imposed by the environment court in November 2009.

The current members of the OOWLG are Alan Hessel, Peter Oldham, Louis Toorenburg, John Askew, Graham Tucker, Ian Leigh-Mackenzie, Cheryl Turner, John Klaricich and FNDC.

With reference to your email on 30 September 2019, where you have noted Diana Ellis has requested that she attends OOWLG meetings, could you please communicate with Diana, OOWLG's resolution and that she is unable to attend our meetings at this time.

The group would like to thank you and FNDC for your ongoing cooperation.

Yours Faithfully

John Klaricich

John Klaricich
4th October 2019

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