

Hearing Committee: Sharon McGarvey & Reg Proffit  
C/- Alissa Sluys  
Consents & Hearings Administrator  
Northland Regional Council

29th September 2023

Dallas King  
Te Hikutū, Ngāti Kaharau, Ngāti Hau, & Te Māhurehure Hapū  
Hokianga

Re: Response to FNDC Proposed Consent Conditions - Kohukohu & Opononi WWTP

Tēnāno koutou,

Thank you for providing an extended opportunity to respond to the proposed consent conditions.

I also want to acknowledge your commitment to ensuring that submitters (along with the applicant) were able to actively and equitably participate during the week of the hearing. Ngā mihi tino nui ki a koutou.

Please see below a summary of responses to the revised proposed consent application conditions:

1. Hapū are heartened by the reduction of term for both consents to 3 years. We acknowledge the commitment that will be required from both the applicant and us all to ensure the works needed within the term are ably supported. We believe that the term is appropriate and that both communities are well placed to actively & helpfully contribute.
2. With regard to the discharge of contaminants, hapū are concerned about the increases. In particular the median & 90th percentile standards for E Coli. On one hand we are of the belief that it is a more honest standard of expectation for the capabilities of the existing plant and on the other we feel strongly that it permits an increased discharge of contaminants to our wai which is unacceptable.
3. The re-inclusion of Community Liaison Groups is welcomed by hapū. Since the hearing took place hui have been convened to discuss the ways in which hapū & community might address the applicants distorted views of our collective community ability in this matter. To say that hapū were grossly disappointed at the applicants complete & utter lack of understanding and reflection on the inclusion, exclusion, & helpfulness of

community liaison would be an understatement. Albeit a legal requirement on so many levels it feels almost obtuse to proffer to to list them.

In terms of the 'required representation' on those groups, having spoken to the hapū of those areas we support the following:

Opononi/Ōmapere:

- Ngāti Korokoro Hapū (supported by ngā hapū o Hokianga & Iwi - Ngāpuhi & Te Rarawa)
- Opononi/Ōmapere Community

Kohukohu:

- Te Ihutai Hapū (supported by ngā hapū o Hokianga & Iwi - Ngāpuhi & Te Rarawa)
- Kohukohu Community

We also support the CLG having clear and specific purpose. The hearings gave voice to the clear & unwavering stance of hapū and community to realise a culturally & environmentally appropriate WWT system that does not discharge to our wai.

As hapū, having been a part of the investigative & optioneering processes for other WWTP's we now know that this is not only possible but that it is feasible, affordable & reasonable. For this reason we would like to see that specific purpose along with - a clear requirement to set (once convened) some mutually agreed terms of reference & appropriately timed targets for the CLG to be included in the consent conditions.

It would be fair to say that there are many other thoughts, reflections, preferences, and ideals that we as hapū have considered and are inexplicably connected to the purview of these applications. But, in light of the fact that the applicant (FNDC) have willingly & obviously reconsidered and responded to the issues raised by our hapū and community at the hearings we feel those 3 points represent progress enough.

Thank you again for the work & commitment you have put into this hearing.

I/we hope you are all well.

Nāku iti noa, na



Dallas King

Te Māhurehure, Ngāti Kaharau, Ngāti Hau, Te Hikutū  
Hokianga