

Personal submission of Janine McVeagh

To: Hearing Commissioners, Northland Regional Council

Submitter: Janine McVeagh

Submission on: Revised Consent Conditions for Opononi/Omapere Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Kohukohu Wastewater Treatment Plant

Applicant: Far North District Council

Description of activity: Short term discharge permit to wastewater

My submission earlier this year ended with this:

I recommend a maximum of three years for each WWTP with an enforceable mandate to find a land-based solution through partnership with the appropriate hapū and the local community, who have selected their own people and developed their own terms of reference.

I am pleased to see that the time frame for the consents is now three years.

Also noted that the proposed CLG includes iwi and hapū: however, it is for the local people to determine the makeup of the CLG, which I believe should be led by local hapū. The Terms of Reference should be written by these people and they should have control of meeting times and places. Annual meetings will not be sufficient to get through the necessary work.

As well:

- there is no mention of the requirement to find a land-based treatment and discharge within that time. **That should be the PURPOSE of the Community Liaison Group!**
- There is no mention of milestones to arrive at the solution so desperately needed, but there should be.
- Monitoring is still, despite the many qualified people talking about the wider, cultural implications of monitoring, using different definitions of water health, the narrow range of faecal coliforms and oxygen. Not to mention that the already lax standards have been made laxer. That is definitely not good enough!

My recommendations for this renewed application for both Omapere-Opononi and Kohukohu WWTPs are:

1. That the purpose of the CLG is to find a culturally and environmentally appropriate land-based treatment and discharge within the three-year time frame
2. That the CLG take control of the Terms of Reference, the times, dates and places of meeting
3. That milestones to arrive at this solution be part of the Terms of Reference
4. That monitoring be extended to include Matauranga Māori forms of monitoring
5. That the monitoring standards are not to be lowered, but at least maintained or raised.