

Submission of the Northland Branch of the Green Party of Aotearoa

To: Hearing Commissioners, Northland Regional Council

Submitter: Northland Branch of the Green Party

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

Our submission to the hearings concluded with the following statement: **We strongly recommend that the consent be given for a maximum of three years with an enforceable mandate requiring a land-based solution through working collaboratively with local hapū and community, who have set their own terms of reference.**

There is no longer any excuse not to heed the cultural and environmental wisdom of tangata whenua, indeed to continue to insult that perspective.

In the 21st century, enough is known about how to manage sewage in a way that keeps it out of the water and returns it safely to land that there is no longer any reason to continue a 19th century system of disposal. Dilution is NOT the solution.

We therefore approve the term of consent for the two systems with the following provisions:

1. That the purpose of the CLG be to find, approve and set in motion an appropriate land-based system
2. That milestones be put in place to ensure this happens
3. That the CLG be organised by local hapū who set the Terms of Reference, times, dates and place of meeting
4. That monitoring be frequent and include matauranga Māori