



Hauora
Hokianga

Hokianga
Health

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Comments for NRC Hearing Committee Relating to Proposed Revised Conditions

Far North District Council Ōpononi/Ōmāpere & Kohukohu Wastewater Treatment Plants

APP. 003839.01.03 & APP. 002667.01.04

As a general comment, the Trust commends the Far North District Council for largely taking on board the changes to the original applications as sought by the Trust, and in line with the abundance of information and expectations so clearly and eloquently brought to the hearings by the many submitters from within the Hokianga community, and beyond.

However, the Community Liaison Groups (CLG) of Omapere Opononi and Kohukohu should determine their own membership, led by the hapu, supported by the community of the WWTP rohe. The purpose of these groups is to develop alternative solutions for the discharge of effectively treated wastewater from these two plants which will no longer involve effluent discharge into the waters of Hokianga.

The CLG should set their own Terms of Reference concerning venue, meeting frequency, and so on. Should hapu choose to include cultural monitoring this should be supported by the applicant.

We strongly encourage and support the FNDC to work with energy and commitment alongside with the two CLG, starting from the earliest possible date, to seek culturally, environmentally, socially and economically viable solutions to wastewater treatment.

The CLG, alongside FNDC should determine if the proposed treatment of UV and chemically assisted solids removal is required in Opononi Omapere, as there may be more viable solutions.

The discharge limit should not be increased.

There needs to be clear milestones over the consent term to work towards the goal of eliminating human waste from discharging into water from these two WWTP.

This is a chance for the FNDC to take leadership in helping make a lasting change for a better future for Hokianga and its peoples, and to begin to rebuild a more respected and trusted relationship with your community.

There is not one of us who wants to be in this situation again in three years' time. Ko tēnei te taki, karawhiua!

Kathrine Clarke
Chairperson
Hokianga Health Enterprise Trust
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