

## Progress Update – Funding options under discussion

A good turn-out greeted Council representatives at the Queen's Birthday weekend public meeting held at Riversdale Beach Golf Club.

Potential sites and sewage treatment options were on the meeting agenda and it was encouraging to see so much interest in our specialist consultants' comparisons of these – highlighting the importance of two-way communication with the Riversdale Beach community.

The Opus report outlined five options for a sewage treatment and disposal facility, involving four possible sites. It concluded that a pond-based treatment system on land currently in private ownership was best able to meet the needs of the Riversdale Beach community.

However, public consultation remains a key element of the process leading to the Council selecting the final site, and preferred treatment and disposal arrangement – we want to ensure you have all the information you need to contribute to this process.

While accepting the need to finalise a decision on the preferred arrangement, and location – and knowing it is a matter on which the community wants certainty – we continue to proceed with caution. This facility will be a long-term solution to a long-term infrastructure issue. It's a fact of life that sewage needs treating and a fact of life that the community will not get any smaller as the years go by. We therefore aim to do it once and do it right.

So, the next stage of the project looks at funding. How do we fund each of these options?

Before we can begin formal consultation on the options outlined in last month's public meeting, we need to be able to present to you the financial impact of each of the five options now on the table – both in terms of the up-front capital expenditure, as well as the annual expenditure that will be necessary to fund operating costs and other ongoing costs such as depreciation.

The Council is now ready to apply funding scenarios to the various options, so that it will then be able to update you on these. A meeting of the Council's Funding Task Group was held on Thursday, 6 July. At this meeting Council analysed a range of funding scenarios for each of the schemes presented at last month's meeting.

This analysis considered how the capital cost of the scheme can be repaid, and what the ongoing rates impact will be.

Following on from the task group meeting, Council will meet with your nominated representatives – the Riversdale Beach Sewerage Steering Group and present the funding analysis for each of the options. This meeting is set down to take place on July 24.

The outcome of this work will be reported back to Council for endorsement, so that we can then begin formal consultation in early August with the Riversdale Beach Community. This stage of consultation will last about five weeks, during which time you will be invited to make your thoughts known. We anticipate that there will be a number of ways you can be involved when this phase starts. Firstly, you will receive an information package by mail, containing a summary of the different scheme options and a submission form. You can make a submission on the form and will have the opportunity to speak in person in support of your submission at a later date if you wish.

Submissions will be considered in early September and Council will then begin the process of hearing submissions, after-which Council will make its decision. We anticipate this being by late October and will keep you posted as the timeline becomes clearer.

Secondly, you will be able to revisit the Opus report findings via the Council's homepage link to the 'Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme Project'. That will enable you to also download electronic submissions and make your thoughts known this way.

Finally, you can ask questions at any stage through calling the Council or by emailing us at [riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz](mailto:riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz).

## Indicative Timeline

WHEN	TASK
<b>6 July 2006</b>	Funding Task Group Meeting MDC.
<b>24 July 2006</b>	Riversdale Beach Steering Group Meeting.
<b>August 2006</b>	Formal consultation begins. Submission forms received by property owners.
<b>September 2006</b>	Formal consultation ends and submissions close.
<b>Sept/Oct 2006</b>	Submissions heard and considered.
<b>November 2006</b>	Results of submissions and hearings reported to Riversdale Beach Steering Group and Council. Council to make its decision on preferred scheme.
<b>December 2006</b>	Negotiations commence with landowners.
<b>Feb/March 2007</b>	Resource Consent Applications Submitted Detailed drawings, design specs etc prepared.
<b>April 2007</b>	Resource Consent issued.
<b>May 2007</b>	Tendering of the physical works.
<b>Aug/Sept 2007</b>	Evaluation of tenders.
<b>Sept/Oct 2007</b>	Appointment of contractor to undertake physical works.
<b>Nov/Dec 2007</b>	Physical works construction begins.
<b>July/August 2008</b>	Scheme operational.