



MEMORANDUM

To: Central Hawkes Bay District Council and Wider Community
From: Darren de Klerk
Date: 22/03/2019
Subject: Waipukurau, Waipawa and Otane Wastewater Treatment Plants
Subject: Dec 18 and Jan 19 WWTP Community Survey Findings

Introduction

Central Hawkes Bay District Council (CHBDC) is undertaking a project to improve our wastewater treatment plants and in particular the treatment of wastewater and subsequent discharge.

An integral part of the options development is involving the community in the process, and sharing ideas whilst encouraging feedback opportunities. A key component of this is the community reference group, which meets regularly as Central Hawkes Bay District Council develops the Best Practicable Option (BPO), at certain milestones further opportunities for engagement are identified.

An opportunity was identified to survey the wider community, and to ask some key questions of the community on the future of our wastewater networks and the community aspirations.

The survey consisted of 31 questions relative to the values identified during the community reference group meetings and to give the group a better understanding of the affordability of the community on a proposed outcome.

This report outlines the findings following the community survey in Dec 2018 and Jan 2019.

Communications

The survey was published through 'survey monkey' and on the CHBDC website and Facebook pages for a period of 6 weeks in late Dec 2018 and Jan 2019. Additionally a [video](#) response was published on the Central Hawkes Bay District Council website and Facebook pages to encourage response to the survey. Emails were sent to all Central Hawkes Bay District Council staff members and the Taiwhenua group to encourage responses.

Public posts were released via the Central Hawkes Bay District Council Facebook page on the following days;

- 22nd December 2018
- 22nd January 2019
- 24th January 2019
- 28th January 2019
- 30th January 2019

Timeline

The survey was released to the general public on 21st December 2018 and planned to close on Sunday 27th Jan 2019, Council extended the survey through to 3rd February 2019 to allow for additional time.



Executive Summary

This survey focussed on asking questions related to the journey the wastewater community reference group had been investigating, as the group along with council officers, elected members and technical experts work towards a Best Practicable Option (BPO).

The survey addresses questions related to community values and the four key pillars identified;

- Cultural
- Environmental
- Social/ Recreational
- Commercial/ Financial

These pillars serve as headlines for the questions asked and assist the group in setting criteria that all potential options can be assessed against.

As outlined in the key outcomes below, further affordability and funding work needs to be done, and council is progressing a funding work stream to investigate alternative funding sources. This is a key focus as we look to deliver a long term, quality, sustainable outcome for the future of the treatment of wastewater in Central Hawkes Bay.

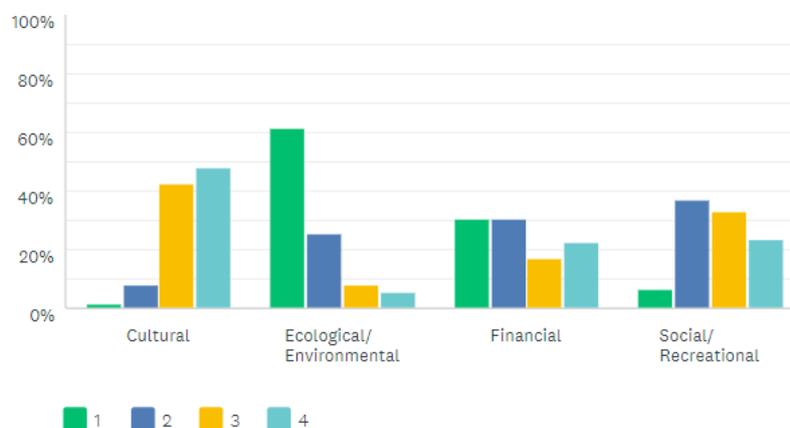
The survey also assists the group in creating criteria to assess all future outcomes against and allows the group to be better informed when thinking about community expectations against realistic deliverables. These will inform options to be taken to the community later in 2019/20 when a Long Term Plan amendment is tabled to finance some or all of the wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Survey Response Outcomes

Community Values

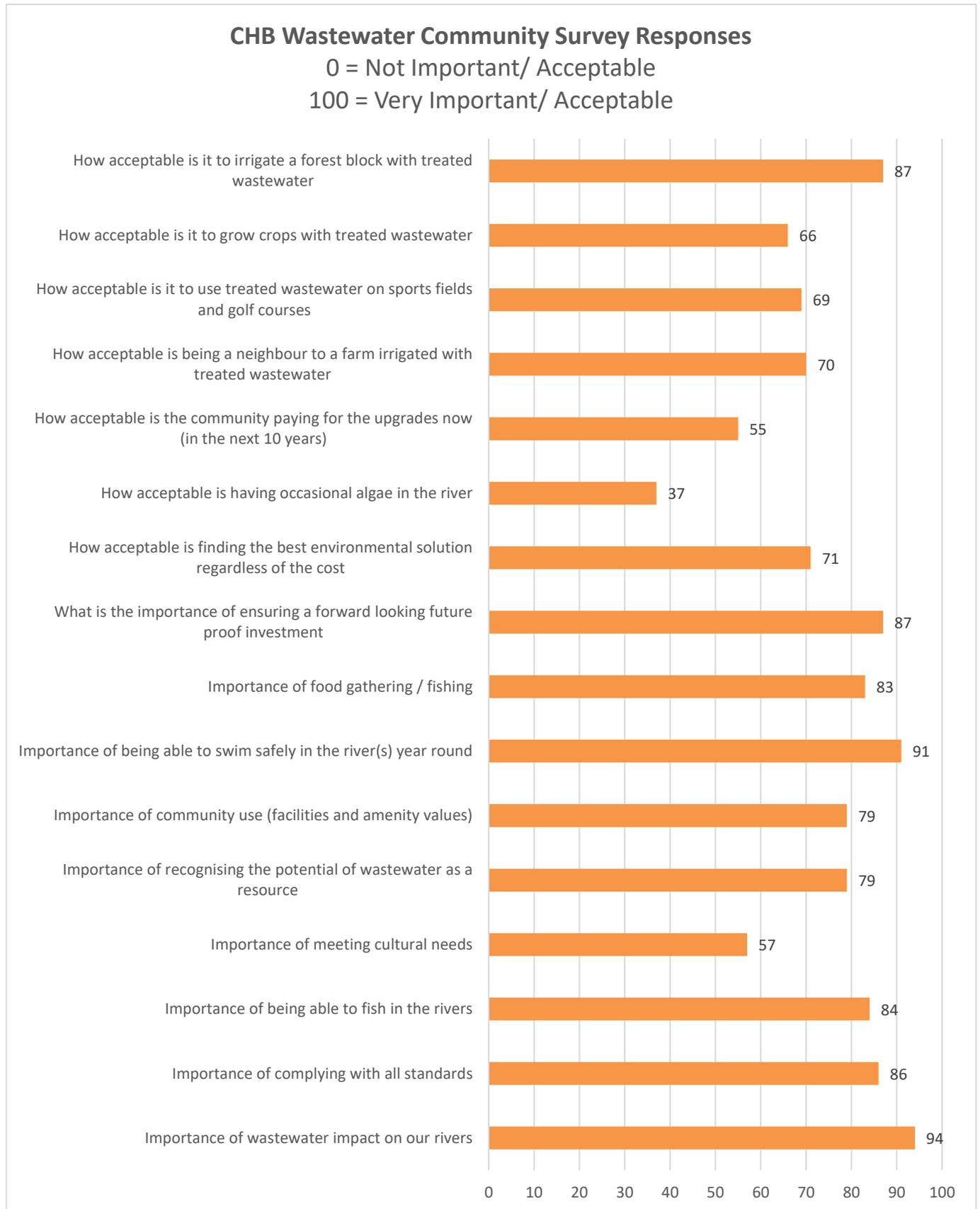
We have highlighted four underpinning values that help us understand what we may value as important, please rank them in order of importance to you?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 0





A summary of answers by question is outlined in the table below;





Please tell us if there is anything else that is important to you when considering the future of our wastewater treatment plants?

- Discharging treated water to land such as on eucalypt tree forests, able to be harvested on short rotations for firewood
- Access to clean sustainable drinkable rivers
- Remember the growing population and plan for it as it's growing at an exceptional rate..
- It is nature's fertilizer and should be used to enhance pasture quality
- Make sure it's fit for purpose and going to be maintainable before installing or purchasing
- Safe for people and safe for animals and birds and it must be done with longevity of plant uppermost
- Plan for increasing population. Plan for recycling. Plan for educating all on how to minimize wastewater and its negative impacts on environment.
- CHB is often short of water and this is likely to increase in time. NZ up to date had very low reuse of wastewater - it is a resource and we should start looking at it this way for win-win beneficial use. There are many examples around the world of reuse opportunities- just needs to get over the social and cultural hurdles
- Long term sustainability, Which includes options which separate at source and see the different streams as potential resources rather than waste which then becomes pollution. Looking at options which do not dispose of human waste in potential drinking water ie composting, Greywater recycling etc. (Recommended reading "The Humanure handbook" by Joseph Jenkins) This will be a challenge but even small steps can make a difference ie starting by supporting those who will embrace these sustainable options.
- That they run efficiently and not cause disruption to the community i.e no smell.
- Making sure no houses in close proximity. NZ has plenty of land and planners should make sure about future plans re housing.
- Please consider ways at reducing inflows into the wastewater treatment plants, by supporting & promoting grey water recycling schemes & composting toilets, and inspecting stormwater infrastructure
- They must work properly. No smell etc and at the end there should be clean treated water. I understand that today wastewater can be treated and at the end it can be drinkable
- That it is working, can be maintained and is geared for an expanding community and industry.
- Design and maintain a system that works and does not pollute the rivers at all. Recycle discharge for non-human use (irrigation trees crops)
- Would love to be able to swim and fish our rivers knowing that waste water is not being discharged into them.
- Make people understand that its user pays in the future and that this stuff comes at a cost to the ratepayer, bottom line
- Future proofing for growth
- Central government make the standard they need to fund all or most of the cost.
- That the costs of improvement is affordable To elderly residents
- Not burdening our current and future residential rating base with HUGE costs in association with this compliance - please seek National and Regional Government assistance with this work and charge the bigger users. E.g. I don't use at my residence any of the council funded water systems, however acknowledge when in town I do and that all my services etc. in town do too so it's fair I pay along with others, BUT the biggest users of the water should also be the biggest payers (e.g. irrigators/rest homes/businesses with higher than norm water use.
- Public awareness of wastewater and what may cause problems with the treatment plant and the river, to help reduce cost of treatment and harm to the river.
- To keep some of the best fishing rivers clean and clear. To keep drinking water clean and safe.
- Looking at the long term cost to the community especially ratepayers who are already paying a lot in rates. As a council it needs to be addressed that the amount of water that is currently being taken from the rivers especially for irrigation.
- Invest the money in quality now, it will only become more problematic and expensive with time.
- Need to take a long term intergenerational approach, current methods outdated and wasteful; reuse of this precious resource is paramount.



Please tell us your preference on where wastewater effluent should go and what should happen to it?

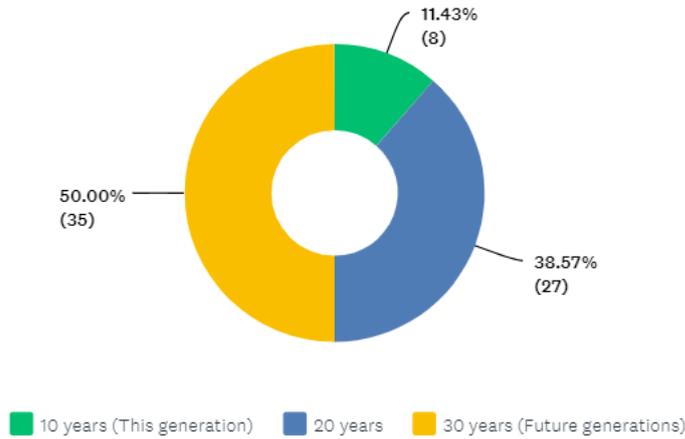
- Use on forests to enable sustainability of the forest
- Efficient and effective use of wastewater, the ideas in the survey are a great start, opportunity for innovation and good practice.
- Irrigate the trees that the regional councils already planted..
- As long as it's treated and not placing any harm on wildlife, environment or people then whatever is an acceptable method to meet those things would be ok
- On to pasture improvement not into the rivers
- Well over seas use treated wastewater is used on farms and green foods all the time like in I think China
- It should be irrigated on to suitable land in a controlled manner
- Should be used to grow trees (carbon sequest)
- If you put it on farms and hort-blocks its going to add to the stuff that is already built up on these lands. And you have too many farms next to water ways!
- Forestry blocks and non-food areas ie regenerated native bush and amenity plantings
- Appropriately treated it should go on forests in first instance. There may be cultural difficulties using it on direct food sources
- Reused as stated. Golf courses, parks, farms etc.
- Beneficial land based use Managed aquifer recharge
- My preference in an ideal world and for long term sustainability is for all human manure (faeces and urine) to be thermophilically (Hot composted.) with no water involved, and for at least household greywater to be reused at source, put through filtering systems such as wetlands and then reused as irrigation. Education and options for contaminants would need consideration...A change in language would help here, at the moment we use the word "Waste" which then becomes a pollutant that someone else has to deal with, rather than "Resources" that may have benefits to us and the environment ie Compost, irrigation
- The 3 systems should be pumped to a common treatment location and treated to a level where the treated wastewater can be used to irrigate grass or trees
- I think the idea of treated water being re used on trees etc is a great idea, I think done properly this is a win win all around.
- I'd prefer it being used for irrigation purposes. Alternatively create a wetland through which the treated effluent passes before entering the rivers
- Wastewater effluent can be properly treated to end up as drinkable water. It has been done in London in the UK since the 1960's. So surely it can be done here.
- In a dry country grey water should be recycled and reused at source. Minimise wastewater by encouraging composting toilets, private septic tanks using worms etc.
- Use it, the best you can. Reduce, Re use, Recycle right?
- If it can be used in a commercial setting eg: Forestry that would be very acceptable than on crops for humans or stock.
- Crop or pasture irrigation, tree irrigation, stored in suitable ponds during wet periods for use in drier times of the year.
- Would like to see discharge to land. Water is becoming too valuable an asset for us to be throwing waste water into the rivers. Regardless of the cost I would like to see discharge to land or waste water utilised in other ways.
- Council owned parks/sports grounds to start then trees crops etc
- Should be used for crop and forestry irrigation in the first instance
- Pipe from Otane to Waipawa - savings to be made, sampling, treatment, labour etc...
- Depending on how it is treated and what chemicals are used I would think it would be ok to use on farm land and trees/ forestry. This depends on the smell of it too. IT HAS TO BE SAFE LONG TERM THOUGH. We are putting too many chemicals on our land, food, rivers so it is important that it is looked at very carefully before doing something like this but the way things are currently isn't working and something desperately has to change!
- Treated and use in forestry, agriculture and other high demand irrigation areas



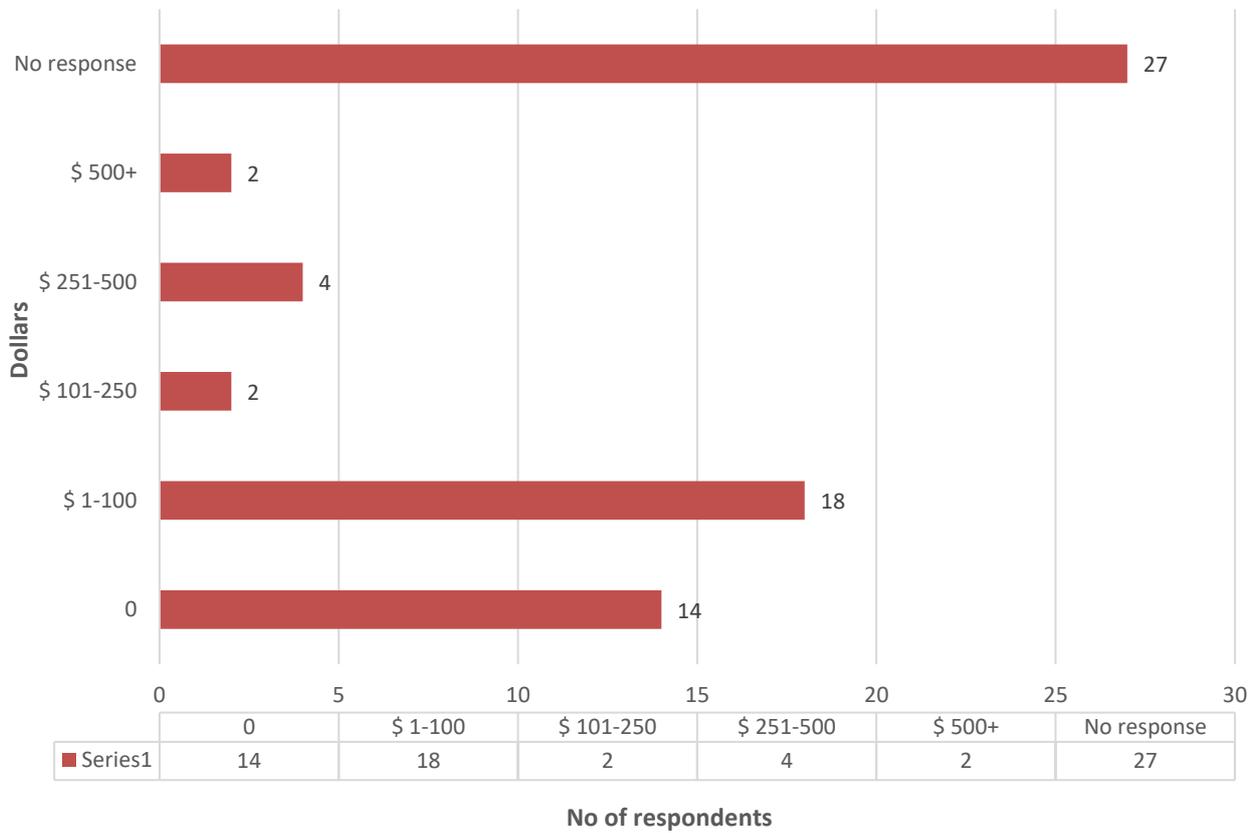
Financial

Considering the payback period on a loan, should council be looking to have this investment paid back by this generation or over a longer term and by future generations?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 7



Q21 - Considering affordability, how much would you be prepared to pay annually via a rates increase?

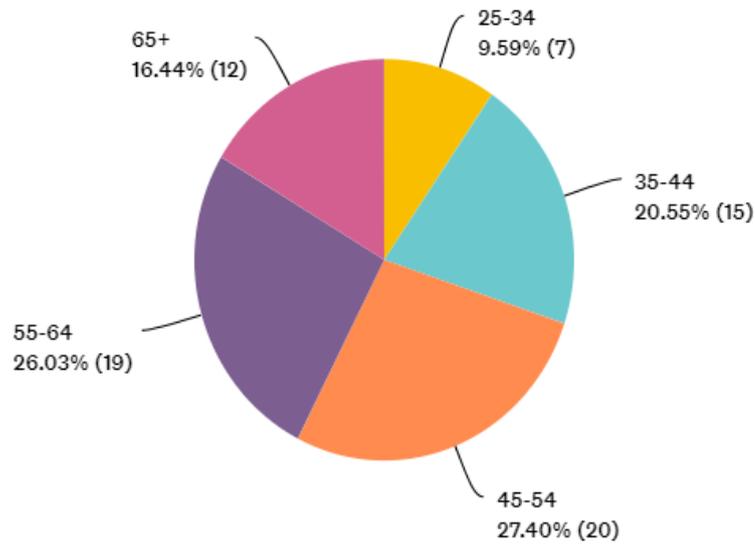




Demographic

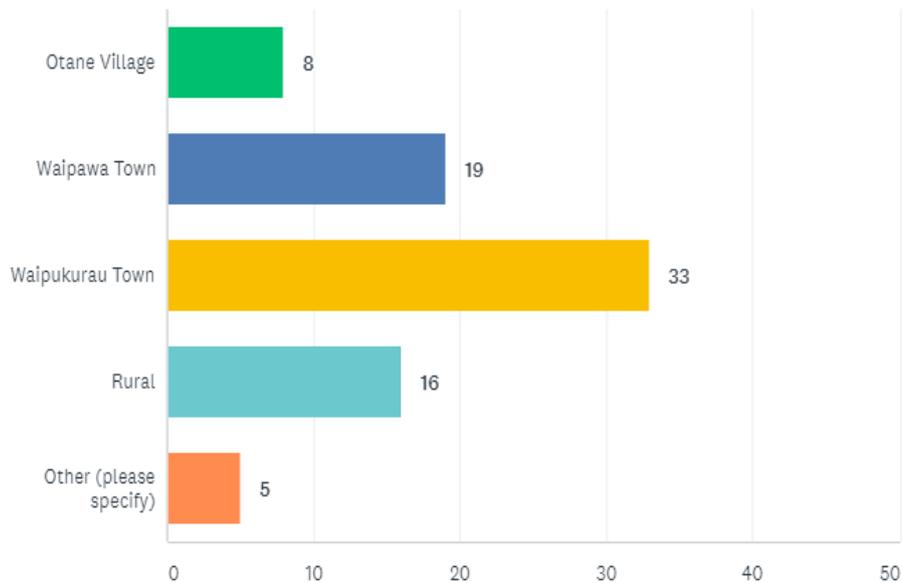
What age bracket do you fall in?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 4



Where do you live?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 0

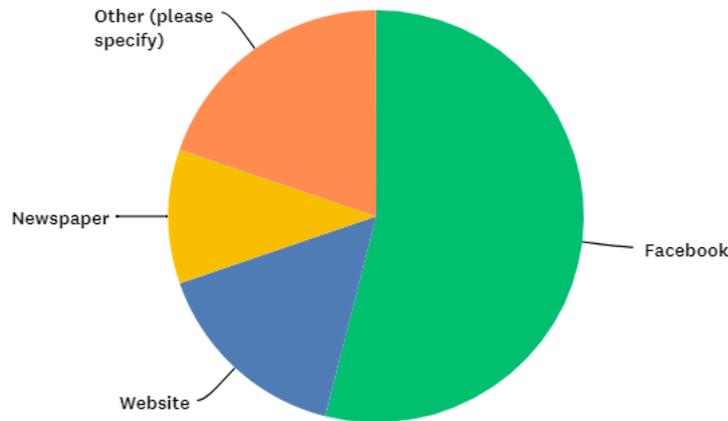




Response

How did you hear about this survey?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook	53.95%	41
Website	15.79%	12
Newspaper	10.53%	8
Letter Drop	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	19.74%	15
TOTAL		76

Key Outcomes

The executive summary addresses a couple of key outputs from this survey in affordability and direction for criteria setting.

Some further key outcomes identified by undertaking this survey are;

- The appetite for a long term sustainable solution
- Focus needs to be put on alternate funding options
- A push for a quality outcome
- Council and the group should be investigating alternate means to discharge the treated wastewater
- Focus needs to be put on removing discharge from the rivers

These are not the exhausted list of key outcomes, but a flavour of some of the key messages resounding through the survey, and this gives Central Hawke's Bay District Council and the community reference group further direction as we continue to work towards options for the future of wastewater treatment and discharge in Central Hawke's Bay.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference – WWTP Community Reference Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE



These terms of reference are to provide guidance to the members of;

Waipukurau, Waipawa and Otane (CHB) Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Community Reference Group

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC) is investigating options for the future treatment and discharge of wastewater for the towns of Waipukurau, Waipawa and Otane.

The current situation is via 3 oxidation ponds in each of the townships, we are reviewing the future of the ponds individually and as an amalgamation of 2 or all 3 areas.

The current deadline is to work towards a best practicable option (BPO) by the end of April 2019 and to deliver a report to the environment court and HBRC by the end of June 2019.

PURPOSE

To further develop the partnership approach between Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC), Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC), the community and the people we serve.

The purpose of the Group is to provide a common platform where representative views of different sections of the community and interested stakeholders can be considered in the process of identifying and choosing the best practicable option for dealing with CHBs wastewater. Council seeks an option that will be economically, environmentally, socially, culturally, and financially sustainable.

The reference group is a key vehicle in utilising the community as a key stakeholder and participate in options that will impact the community, and to provide advice and feedback to the design and project team from a community perspective.

To work towards a best practicable option (BPO) by April 2019 and to deliver a report to the environment court and HBRC by June 2019

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES OF THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The Stakeholder Group will:

- Keep an open mind about the issues and options;
- Respect each other's views,
- Focus on the issues not the personalities;
- Maintain confidentiality where necessary;
- Seek consensus for decision making where possible, and;
- Acknowledge that there might need to be a decision made that not all parties of the Stakeholder Group agree with.

Document Name:	Terms of Reference – Community Reference Group	Version:	002
Author:	Darren de Klerk	Date:	21/12/2018

**Together
we thrive!**

**#theBIG
WaterStory**



AN UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE WAIPUKURAU, WAIPAWA AND OTANE WASTEWATER PROJECT

Issue Date: 20 November 2018

#theBIG-Water-Story

PROJECT VISION

"Our effluent is treated in a sustainable way that creates a resource, protects our environment and continues to do so for generations to come"

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR WASTEWATER?

We all produce wastewater, but what happens to it?

Central Hawke's Bay District Council operates the Waipawa, Waipukurau and Otane wastewater systems, including the sewer reticulation, several pumping stations, and the wastewater treatment plants. Treated wastewater is then discharged into the Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers and an un-named farm drain that discharges to Te Aute Drain/ Kaikora Stream.

There will continue to need to be a discharge of the Waipawa, Waipukurau and Otane wastewater to somewhere, and those discharges are going to need new resource consents. By the middle of next year we need to select the best options to treat and discharge our wastewater, whether it is continuing on the same path or thinking of alternative systems.

Our goal is to see wastewater not simply as 'waste' but rather as a resource that can be used.

As a community, we all impact on our awa and we have an opportunity to do something about it. We have some big decisions to make in the coming months about the wastewater system – what else can we do? Decisions need to be made about what we do with our wastewater, the wastewater needs to be discharged to an environment – whether land or water, these decisions may impact on the wider river environments.

What's important – a balancing act

We need to know what is important to you when it comes to treating and discharging our wastewater? We need help to balance cultural views, recreational impacts, environmental effects and how much you can afford to contribute to maintain or make changes to the current system.

FOUR VALUES PILLARS



ESTABLISH THE BEST OPTION FOR OUR WASTEWATER

The District Council needs help from the community to decide what is the best way that our wastewater should be discharged. There are other options besides the current system, like discharging to land. Each of the options come with pros and cons.

There is also the need to recognise the cultural significance of a wastewater discharge, particularly the appropriateness of a wastewater discharge directly into surface water. This may mean that options involving the method of treatment and discharge need to be discussed, as well as the location.

Reference Group

A reference group was formed to help the Council understand the community's views. The Reference Group brings together community representatives from young and old, business, council and tangata whenua.

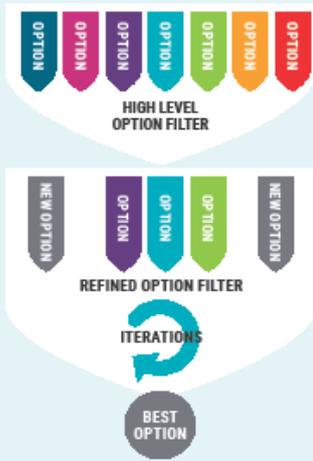
This group has been helping guide the ideas the Council are working on in the process of developing a Best Option. We welcome feedback from the community on the future of our wastewater and the future of the rivers. To provide feedback please email thebigwaterstory@chbdc.govt.nz

Working towards the Best Option

We plan to arrive at the best option by April 2019, we will then run a consultation plan with the community, and then provide a report to HBRC and the environment court in June 2019.



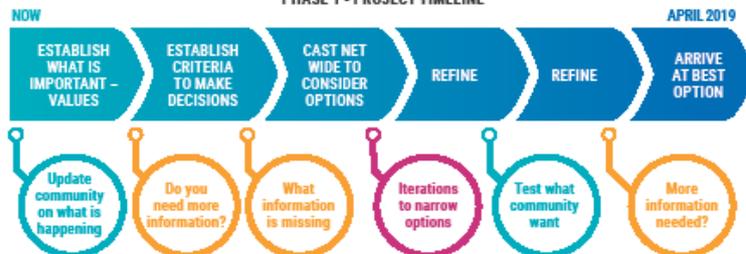
REFINEMENT PROCESS



DISCHARGE CONCEPT METHODS



PHASE 1 - PROJECT TIMELINE



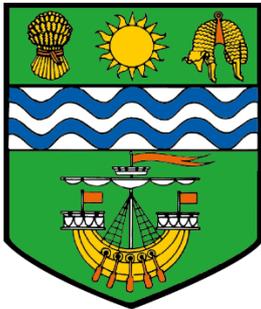
If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.chbdc.govt.nz or contact Darren de Klerk – Councils 3 Waters Programme Manager by emailing thebigwaterstory@chbdc.govt.nz or by phoning Councils Offices on 06 857 8060





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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Appendix 3: Community Survey Notice in Libraries



**CENTRAL
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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Central Hawkes Bay Wastewater – Values and Options Public Questionnaire Survey

Following on from our media release in the CHB Mail on the 20th Nov 2018, Central Hawkes Bay District Council is continuing to investigate options for improved wastewater treatment and discharge schemes for the communities of Otane, Waipawa and Waipukurau.

To help us make the right decisions we want to hear about what is important to you!

Please encourage friends and family to fill out the survey in hard copies at our libraries or in council reception, or electronically via a link on our website and facebook.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.chbdc.govt.nz or contact Darren de Klerk – Councils 3 Waters Programme Manager by emailing thebigwaterstory@chbdc.govt.nz or by phoning Councils Offices on 06 857 8060



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Appendix 4: Hardcopy of community survey



1 | Dec 2018 and Jan 2019 Public Questionnaire – CHB Wastewater

Central Hawkes Bay Wastewater – Values and Options
Public Questionnaire Survey

Following on from our media release in the CHB Mail on the 20th Nov 2018, Central Hawkes Bay District Council is investigating options for improved wastewater treatment and discharge schemes for the communities of Otane, Waipawa and Waipukurau.

To help us make the right decisions we want to hear about what is important to you.

You can fill in the hard copy survey below and post it back to us at PO Box 127 Waipawa, or drop it into the box at council reception, or one of our drop off points around town, you can also complete it online via facebook, or through Council's website at: <https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/> by 5pm Sunday 27th Jan 2019.



There are four value pillars that assist us in understanding what is important to you, please rank them in order of importance to you? 1 - Most important to 4 - Least important.

Social/Recreational Financial Cultural Ecological/Environmental

Please score each the following from not important (1) to very important (5) to you.

	Not -	1	2	3	4	5	- Very
No wastewater impact on our rivers							
Compliance with all standards							
Being able to fish in the river							
Meeting cultural needs							
Recognising the potential of wastewater as a resource							
Community use, facilities, amenity values							
Being able to safely swim in the river(s) year round							
Suitable for fishing/food gathering							
Forward-looking futureproof investment							

Please tell us which of the above (or if something else) is the most important to you.

Please score each the following from not acceptable (1) to acceptable (5) to you.

	Not -	1	2	3	4	5	- Very
The best environmental solution, no matter the cost							
Occasional algae in the river							
Community paying for any upgrades now (in the next 10 years)							
Being a neighbour to a farm irrigated with treated wastewater							
Using treated wastewater on sports fields and golf courses							
Growing crops with treated wastewater							
Irrigating a forest with treated wastewater							

