

19 December 2024

Nature Calls update for Horizons Regional Council

Kia ora Sara,

In our last update, we covered the renewed methodology, and governance structure to reach a BPO for the Palmerston North City Council wastewater treatment plant discharge consent. We also explained the timeline challenges associated with the release of national wastewater standards.

We've previously committed that we would provide updates with you every three months about how we are progressing. This letter covers the Q2 update for 2024.

Project organisational structure implemented

Since the previous update we have continued to implement our new project organisational structure. This includes the Project Oversight Committee which is comprised of senior leadership from PNCC and a representative from Rangitāne.

Iwi have now joined our project delivery team with our kick-off hui held this month. These meetings cover our progress and give an avenue for early direct engagement by iwi. This allows for technical and detailed matters to be covered and feedback given to ensure alignment with cultural needs. Rangitāne, Ngāti Whakātere and Te Tūmatākahuki all have representatives in attendance.

BPO progress

Since our last update the Nature Calls project has collated a list of discharge options that could meet the \$480M budget. The options will be further refined following the release of the National Wastewater Standard from Taumata Arowai in March 2025. Until then the project team has been undertaking no-regrets work. Once the draft standard is released we will work with iwi, Elected Members and key stakeholders to progress the options to a short-list for technical review.

We'll provide another update in March

As previously noted, that every three months we provide our Council with an update on this project, and we will coincide our updates to you at the same time. We have updated our website to reflect the latest news and will continue to use this to inform the public of our progress. You can expect our next update on or before March 28, 2025.

If you have any questions on the matters outlined above, please contact the Nature Calls Project Manager - Anna Lewis (anna.lewis@pncc.govt.nz) in the first instance.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna Lewis

Nature Calls Project Manager

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