

26 June 2024

Sara Westcott
Team Leader – Consents
Horizons Regional Council



Nature Calls – Application 2001009340.05

Tēnā koe Sara

Following our letter on 2 October 2024, it was agreed that we (Palmerston North City Council) would provide a response to Horizons' request for further information under section 92 of the RMA on June 26 June 2024.

As you will be aware, we have since resolved through our Long-Term Plan process to limit the capital cost of the project to \$480 million excl inflation, as an affordability threshold. We are now about to commence a process to consider alternative solutions for our wastewater treatment and discharge, as well as including various funding mechanisms.

We have spent a large amount of time completing work to ensure we are able to answer your s92 questions. However, given the uncertainty of funding at this stage, we are not yet in a position to be able to answer the questions specifically relating to funding and affordability, until this further work is completed. There is a significant amount of work involved in looking at options and funding/affordability. Throughout this process, we're committed to continuing to working with our partners, stakeholders and community. We propose to come back to you with an update of the development of these options by 31 March 2025.

While this process is underway, we would like to reiterate and reassure yourselves and our community that we continue to treat and discharge our city's current wastewater to our existing consent standards.

We intend on providing yourselves, and our community, quarterly updates about this process. For any questions and communications regarding the application, please contact Anna.Lewis@pncc.govt.nz in the first instance.

Ngā mihi nui,

Chris Dyhrberg
Acting Chief Executive and Chief Infrastructure Officer