

Councillor Questions and Answers

Pūroro Waihanga | Infrastructure Committee meeting of 23 March 2022

The following questions were received from Councillors regarding items on the agenda of the Pūroro Waihanga | Infrastructure Committee meeting of 23 March 2022.

[Item 2.1 Install a signalised crossing system at the Raroa Park/Onslow College pedestrian crossing.](#)

Are there any safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians and people on bikes in this area?

There are no adverse concerns for pedestrians or cyclists in this area at this time, so long as the zebra crossing is used appropriately by students.

Do both Onslow and Raroa have good infrastructure for kids to park bikes at school, assuming uptake will increase when we have safe bike lanes installed?

Currently, Rāroa Normal School does not have any infrastructure for kids to park bikes at schools. Rāroa Normal School also does not participate in any Council/cross-Council initiatives such as bike skills training (pedal ready), Movin' March, road patrols, or have shown any interest in Bikes in Schools (Data gathered between 2019 – 2022).

Onslow College has metal racks for bike parking sufficient for the current level of bikes at their school. The school grounds and facilities are also under review for a revamp where bike racks will be considered for an upgrade.

[Item 3.1 Wellington Water Limited Quarterly Report](#)

Dry Weather Sewerage overflows:

What is the reason why we have a target of Zero if we can't meet that expectation? Why can't we meet that expectation?

Performance targets are set by the asset owners, and this one was set with the long term in mind. Other client council targets for this performance measure are 20 (HCC, PCC, UHCC) and SWDC are 10.

Dry weather overflows are usually a consequence of blockages, which are caused by root infiltration through cracks, and by people putting material into the network that it is not designed to carry.

Does this mean we have had 144 dry weather sewerage overflows in this quarter, or please can it be articulated how many we have had?

Wellington Water can advise the number on Wednesday.

How many litres of sewerage has been attributed to these overflows and where has this happened or happening?

The volume of sewage spilled to the environment is not possible to quantify as the vast majority of these are from unmeasured manhole or gully traps. Most overflows are minor.

Resource consents/ Abatement notices:

Why has Wellington Water not been able to comply with Resource consents?

Wellington Water carries out work regulated through 180 different resource consents. There is one at present that we have received abatement notices in relation to.

Can we have more of an update on the abatement notices?

Wellington Water will provide more information on this at the performance meeting on Wednesday.

What is the status of these?

Wellington Water will provide more information on this at the performance meeting on Wednesday.

When will they be complied with?

As noted below, there is a good trend to improving compliance however there are some uncertainties and risks remaining.

How long has/is the process taking to resolve?

Wellington Water will provide more information on this at the performance meeting on Wednesday.

How many litres have been overflowed at Moa Point? Is this continuing to happen?

There were two overflow events in February. Volumes for each event were calculated as 323m³ and 97m³ for the short outfall, and 52,828m³ and 1,863 m³ for the long outfall bypass respectively. Note that 1m³ = 1000 litres.

North Wellington Wastewater network overflow consents:

What will gaining the contents cost?

The consents will be publicly notified and our budget is approximately \$750,000. This cost is shared with Porirua. We are aiming to achieve consent in the 22-23 financial year.

How many years will the global consent be for?

The initial consent period sought will seek 35 years. This may be reduced through the consenting process.

How will this work as a strategy to fit with the objective of stopping the Waste Water Overflows?

To obtain consent will require an approach for progressively reducing overflows will need to be developed. The approach being developed is underpinned by the collaborative committee between mana whenua and Council agreeing prioritisation and the level of service. To be compliant with the consent will require reducing overflows over the lifetime of the consent.

If Wellington City Council has given \$2.6 mill as 34.6% of contribution in this annual plan, is this enough contribution to fix the situation?

Addressing wastewater overflows will require consistent investment over decades. Helpfully, much of that investment will also support other priorities such as growth and renewals. Wellington Water is currently doing a pilot study in Hutt Valley for a small catchment to understand what the costs are if overflows are to be reduced to once or twice a year using current engineering practices.

Will this then mean that if global consents are granted, overflows will be accepted as within the legal requirements? What is the process to make sure this is not the case?

Overflows will be permitted if the terms of the resource consent are being met. This requires the progressive reduction of the amount of overflows over the term of the consent. Given the scale of the work and the decades required to do it, Greater Wellington has decided it is more effective to have the activity occurring within a consent framework to monitor and regulate progressive improvement.

Attempting to resolve the issue without seeking a resource consent would likely result in enforcement action.

Will overflows still be measured and reported to councils and the community?

Yes, if anything, this is likely to improve as a result of the consent.

How will you work with the community to keep them informed and involved with the journey, processes, and outcomes?

Wellington Water has carried out engagement on this issue and received some input from community groups. Our main focus is through the collaborative mana whenua committee. In terms of the wider community we will make our information available and take the information that is provided to us up to the collaborative committee. The application will be publicly notified which will help to gauge the level of interest the community has. We will provide more information about this at the meeting tomorrow.

Secretarial note: The following questions are late submissions and may be answered during the meeting.

[Item 3.1 Wellington Water Limited Quarterly Report](#)

What assets are in 'poor condition' so as to make 'zero overflows' unachievable?

The outline of the abatement notices moves to the Treatment Plant review without addressing why the abatement notices were issued and what is being done about addressing them. Are Wellington Water inferring that it was the operational aspects that will be corrected as a consequence of the review?

What is the 'Human Health Mitigation' project?

Can the median response time for responding to flood events be explained? Other response times are also below target – are there plans to address these?