

MEMORANDUM

Job 10684

To: Darren de Klerk (Central Hawke’s Bay District Council)
From: Sam Morris (Lowe Environmental Impact)
Date: 1st April 2021
Subject: P:C.34 – Porangahau/Te Paerahi Consultation Summary

This memo outlines community consultation undertaken by Central Hawke’s Bay District Council (CHBDC) prior to lodging of the existing discharge consents for the two communities (transitional consents). Additionally, it summarises consultation undertaken for the proposed combined land application of Porangahau and Te Paerahi’s wastewater, which informs the Best Practicable Option (BPO) decision. This memo is to be used as an appendix, supplementing the Porangahau and Te Paerahi BPO report (LEI, 2021:P:C.12)¹.

BACKGROUND

CHBDC manages the Porangahau and Te Paerahi Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) servicing the respective communities. For Porangahau, CHBDC hold consent (DP030233W) permitting discharge from the PWWTP to the Porangahau River, granted on October 22nd, 2009. For Te Paerahi, CHBDC hold consent (DP030234La) permitting discharge from the TPWWTP to culturally significant sand dunes, granted on May 14th, 2012. Both consents expired on May 31st, 2021, with transitional consents for the WWTPs being lodged to continue with the existing discharges under new conditions, whilst a combined land discharge regime is developed.

For Porangahau, the community desire is to cease the existing river discharge, and apply this to an alternative receiving environment, preferentially land. For Te Paerahi, under no circumstances do the community want discharge to culturally significant sand dunes to continue, thus an alternative receiving environment for Te Paerahi wastewater must occur and be consented. With potential for a combined land discharge regime, CHBDC must undertake community consultation, to gauge interest and acceptance for this alternative regime and to collectively agree that this is to be the BPO moving forward.

HISTORIC APPROACH

This section provides an overview of the consultation undertaken by CHBDC with iwi, the Porangahau and Te Paerahi communities and remaining key stakeholders for the existing discharge consents prior to granting in 2009 and 2012, respectively. A summary relating to CHBDC’s consultation process for these consents which is incorporated into this memo is provided within Staff (2007)².

¹ LEI. (2021:P:C.12). *Porangahau and Te Paerahi Wastewater Treatment and Discharge – Best Practicable Option.*

² Staff, R. (2007). *Porangahau Wastewater Treatment and Disposal – Resource Consent Application.* OPUS International Consultants.



- **Iwi**

Consultation with Māori was undertaken using Te Taiwhenua O Tamatea (Tamatea Taiwhenua), an incorporated society representing nine local maraes within the Central Hawke's Bay region, acting as a means of interacting with the Māori community at Porangahau. Additionally, CHBDC used their Māori Consultive Committee to provide guidance and assistance facilitating positive consultation with iwi. There are three iwi within the Porangahau region; Ngāti Kere, Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Pihere, all of which are overarched by Ngāti Kahungunu.

Three key hui for the consent process were attended by representatives within the Central Hawke's Bay area. The first was to explain the consent renewal process for the plants and to invite feedback relating to the existing discharges and the outcomes they wish to see reflected within the renewed consents. The second hui featured the findings of the Issues and Options report³ developed by OPUS, with a series of proposed options being presented. The third hui involved feedback and discussion of these options, refining and development of a BPO decision.

Outcomes from these hui were positive with support shown from iwi for the various options presented, however they recognised the financial strains an alternative discharge would have to the communities. Iwi expressed concerns relating to the Porangahau discharge, stating they did not feel safe retrieving shellfish and whitebait from the river whilst the discharge was operational and expressed disappointment that it had taken Council so long to consider alternative discharges. Māori wished to see the mauri of the river restored as quickly as possible.

Part of the process with gaining the existing consents for Porangahau and Te Paerahi, was the establishment of the Porangahau Environmental Management Team (PEMT). The PEMT is an agreement between the tāngata whenua of Porangahau (Ngāti Kere, Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Pihere and Puketauhinu) and CHBDC, with the aim of developing a solution to wastewater discharge for the two communities. During the consent renewal process, the PEMT regularly met, discussing ideas to 'pave the way' forward for community wastewater discharge, with the agreement providing detail as to how principles and ideas should be implemented. The agreement seeks solutions, providing for social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being to the communities and was officially signed on the 12th of December 2009. For the existing consents, investigations commenced for several discharge options outlined in the Issues and Options report³ but for several reasons were not pursued at this time.

As part of the PEMT, Māori identified the desire of having a partnership role with CHBDC, particularly around environmental monitoring for many WWTPs within the Central Hawke's Bay region. A Kaitiaki Liaison group was to be established containing Ngāti Kere and CHBDC representatives. This group focused on issues at the WWTPs of Otane, Waipukurau and Waipawa, as well as Porangahau and Te Paerahi.

- **Porangahau and Te Paerahi Communities**

Consultation with the communities was through flyer drops to all ratepayers in the community, articles in the news media and a public meeting held at Porangahau. CHBDC invited submissions on the flyer drop relating both to the type and level of upgrades, alongside the funding method for any system component should the upgrade proceed. For Porangahau, there were five submissions, with these supporting the upgrades outlined in the Issues and Options report³.

³ OPUS. (2003). *Wastewater Treatment Plants – Discharge Consent Renewal Application – Engineering Options Report*.



Of the submissions, the majority stated that funding of upgrades should be on a user pays basis, however there were arguments stating that rural ratepayers should also pay a small annual charge to recognise the public benefit of the upgrade. Concerns were raised over the cost of varying upgrades being too high and that cheaper alternatives should be found.

- **Key Stakeholders**

CHBDC engaged with Fish and Game, the Department of Conservation, the Public Health Unit of the District Health Board, Stream2000 and individual landowners directly affected by the existing discharges. Each party were individually consulted with areas of concern identified and feedback received. Consultation with stakeholders continued following engagement with the Porangahau community as options were developed and newly refined options included in discussions.

The outcome from stakeholder consultation was support for the options outlined within the Issues and Option report, however as with iwi and the community, they recognised the financial implications of the upgrades. Based on consultation with all affected parties, it was apparent that the greatest limitation to the improvement of the wastewater quality and discharge for the communities was around cost and funding for the upgrades.

CURRENT APPROACH

This section provides an overview of community consultation undertaken by CHBDC for the proposed combined land application and construction of a new WWTP and storage pond at the discharge property for Porangahau and Te Paerahi's wastewater. The focus is action since December 2019.

- **Iwi**

As with the previous consenting process, early iwi engagement was seen as being critical for this project, despite being significantly impacted by COVID-19 alert levels 2-4. Iwi consultation was undertaken through a series of formal and informal meetings at the Porangahau Hall, Rongomaraeroa Marae and multiple site visits to relevant locations.

Differing to the previous consenting process, since 2019, a district wide wastewater strategy (CHBDC, 2020:A:O.3)⁴ for wastewater management was developed, renewing engagement with iwi. In addition to community meetings, which were well attended by iwi, separate consultation has been undertaken with iwi.

Multiple receiving environments in addition to a land discharge were assessed as part of the BPO process outlined in LEI (2021:P:C.12)¹. Although all proposed receiving environments had their opposition by iwi, a land discharge regime was nominated as being the most appropriate from an early stage over surface water, groundwater or ocean outfall discharges.

A specific community meeting with iwi occurred on July 26, 2020 at the Rongomaraeroa Marae, Porangahau, attended by eight technical representatives and six members of Ngāti Kere. Here a series of schematic diagrams, alongside a project timeline encompassing stages for a preferred combined land discharge regime was presented. These schematics outlined how each stage of the upgrade scheme would look and how the treatment and discharge components will operate. For a land discharge, CHBDC invited feedback from the community to understand their perspectives and understandings on archaeological sites in the area, to ensure cultural values

⁴ CHBDC. (2020:A:O.3). *The Big Wastewater Story – District Wastewater Treatment and Discharge Management Strategy*.



were understood and respected. A summary of the minutes for this meeting are provided within Annex A.

Following this meeting with iwi, CHBDC, in collaboration with Lowe Environmental Impact (LEI) and Beca, organised a bus trip with iwi on the 3rd of October 2020. This trip included site visits around the Porangahau and Te Paerahi area where iwi members identified sites of cultural significance where avoidance with wastewater irrigation was advised. This trip allowed for representatives and iwi to collaboratively identify suitable regions for wastewater irrigation and a new WWTP and storage pond, whilst avoiding sites of significance.

A follow up meeting was held with the chair of Rongomaraeroa Marae on the 5th of November 2020 to discuss the proposed land discharge sites and to gain some direction on locations that could be investigated. Recommendation was made by the chair to commission an archaeological assessment of the proposed land site to better understand the sites of cultural significance.

On the 21st January 2021 a zoom meeting was held with four of the five trustees of the Puketauhinu trust land where the Te Paerahi wastewater pond and discharge is located. The trust were verbally supportive of the short term and long term plans. Further information has been circulated and engagement continues with the trust.

Another bus trip was organised on the 13th of February 2021 for interested members of local iwi and hapū to visit examples of wastewater land application systems that are currently operating. This was an opportunity to see actual examples of systems such as those proposed for the long term solution for Te Paerahi and Porangahau and enabled many questions to be discussed. A wide range of attendees took part in the bus trip, members from Rongomaraeroa Marae, Ngāti Kere Rohe trustees, Ngāti Kere Hapū Authority, Puketauhinu trust, Porangahau Māori Committee all attended the bus trip along with members of the Porangahau Catchment Group, as well as the mayor and deputy mayor of the Central Hawke's Bay District.

The discharge of Te Paerahi's wastewater to coastal sand dunes is within the coastal environment and thus Section 62 of the Resource Management Act (RMA)⁵ requires consultation to be undertaken with Customary Marine Title (CMT) applicants for discharge activities within the immediate area. CMT applicants between Te Paerahi in the south and Blackhead Point in the north are Ngāti Kere and Heretaunga Tamatea⁶ (Figure 1). CHBDC has consulted with each of these parties through a formal letter outlining CHBDC's intentions for ceasing the discharge and removal of the WWTP at Te Paerahi, of which both parties are supportive of.

Additionally, CHBDC have engaged iwi to prepare a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) to outline Māori cultural values, interests and associations with the Porangahau/Te Paerahi area and their thoughts and views on the Project, as well as a Mahinga Kai Assessment.

⁵ Resource Management Act. (1991). *Section 62 – Rights conferred by Customary Marine Title*.

⁶ Te Arawhiti. (2021). *Te Kete Kōrero a Te Takutai Moana Information Hub*.

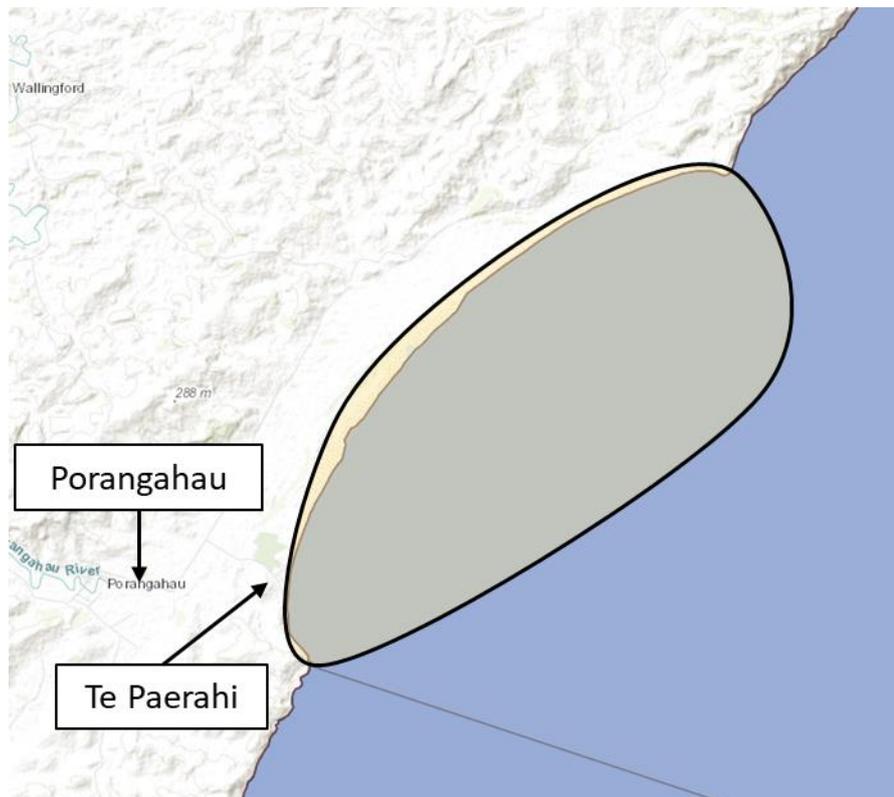


Figure 1: Customary Marine Title Applicant Areas (retrieved from Te Kete Korero a Te Takutai Moana Information Hub (Korero Takutai))

- **Porangahau and Te Paerahi Communities**

Community consultation around the re consenting of the WWTPs has involved multiple meetings, preparation of newsletters and online communication through the CHBDC portal. Despite being significantly impact by COVID-19 alert levels 2-4, two community meetings occurred on the 16th of December 2019 and the 18th of March 2020 with a third being scheduled for the 15th of February 2021, with this was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 alert level changes. Additionally, a Long Term Plan (LTP) meeting was held at the Porangahau Hall on the 18th of March 2021.

Consultation between CHBDC and the community began in December 2019, with the first meeting held at the Porangahau Community Hall. This meeting, chaired by CHBDC, with support from Hawke’s Bay Regional Council (HBRC), LEI and Beca provided an overview of CHBDC’s intentions for the re consenting and discharge regime for the two WWTPs. This meeting included introducing the technical team, background of wastewater discharges and treatment, an overview of the WWTPs performance and options around determining a discharge regime. A wastewater summary was undertaken, with CHBDC inviting feedback and/or suggestions around the discharge regime that could be considered when nominating a BPO. 12 technical representatives and 14 community/iwi members attended this meeting.

Following this, breakout groups were formed, discussing community expectations, aspirations and to seek direction for future planning. The direction to the Council was to develop the options (particularly around a land discharge) to enable the community to assess how they could operate in the Porangahau and Te Paerahi context prior to a next meeting.

Received feedback included the community’s surprise of CHBDC having no plan around the removal of the Te Paerahi oxidation pond, despite mentioning its removal pre-2000s. Due to



being involved within consultation for the existing consents, the community again wished to have responsibility and collaboratively work with CHBDC for the Porangahau and Te Paerahi WWTP reconsenting. Ultimately, the community wished to be a contractor to CHBDC, running and managing the WWTPs themselves. A summary of the minutes for this meeting is provided within Annex B.

A second community meeting occurred on March 18, 2020 at The Duke of Edinburgh House, Porangahau, attended by HBRC, LEI, iwi and community members. This subsequent meeting included the initial announcement of three proposed land discharge options with, CHBDC inviting feedback on these. These were 100% land application, 100% river discharge, and a combination of a land and river discharge. Supplementing these options CHBDC presented estimated costs and treatment options to the community, with associated figures outlining suitable land for wastewater discharge in proximity to the WWTPs. This meeting was attended by 9 technical representatives and 14 community/iwi members. A summary of the minutes for this meeting is provided within Annex C.

Following community consultation, came the need to engage with potential landowners and understand their interest in working with CHBDC, receiving wastewater to their property and the potential for construction of a new WWTP and storage pond on their land. A total of five landowners were consulted with a preferred property identified. This property is owned by the Stoddart family, located at 474 Beach Road, Porangahau and comprises 114.3 ha and is deemed best suited of all available land for wastewater irrigation (Figure 1). Following initial engagement, substantial progress has occurred with the Stoddarts over a series of meetings, site visits and a bus tour with the Stoddarts in October 2020 of sites within the Manawatu Region which currently receive community wastewater.

Discussion and feedback from each community meeting have developed and refined a series of options for inclusion within CHBDC's Long Term Plan (LTP). Outcomes supporting the wastewater project are provided in CHBDC (n.d.)⁷. As mentioned, a meeting was held at the Porangahau Hall on the 18th of March 2021 where a presentation was given to the community around the progress of the Project to date. CHBDC outline that 68 % of the CHB community supported the completion of the wider wastewater programme within 15 years, with a further 21 % within 10 years, equating to 89 % of the community wanting the wastewater strategy to be implemented.

⁷ CHBDC. (n.d.). *We've faced the facts: Out the other side – Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031*. Source: <https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/assets/Links/003056-LTP-Conclusion-4pg-aSCN>



Figure 1: 474 Beach Road, Porangahau Site Location

- **Key Stakeholders**

In addition to iwi and the communities, CHBDC engaged with both the District Health Board and HBRC. CHBDC engaged with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB), with the wider district wastewater strategy communicated (CHBDC, 2020:A:O.3)⁴, along with the plan for Porangahau and Te Paerahi reconstenting. CHBDC engaged with Cameron Ormsby (Public Health Officer) who noted there was unlikely any evidence of historical reports linking wastewater discharges to illnesses of the public at the respective communities. Despite being no records, Cameron noted this did not mean there was no risk to the public. The view was expressed that the proposed long term changes to the wastewater treatment and discharge systems, namely ceasing the low flow river discharge was positive.

Additionally, CHBDC have engaged with both the DHB and Fish and Game through comments on the wastewater programme via the LTP.

Furthermore, CHBDC has been in regular contact with HBRC, having been involved in early district wide discussions and the engagement group leading to the formulation of the wastewater strategy (CHBDC, 2020:A:O.3)⁴. HBRC staff have also attended community presentations and meetings and provided advice and assistance with the reconstenting process. Senior CHBDC staff have been regularly meeting with HBRC staff and advising of progress for developing alternative long term wastewater solutions and their consenting requirements.



NOMINATION OF A DISCHARGE PROPERTY – 474 BEACH ROAD, PORANGAHAU

As previously mentioned, the nominated discharge property is owned by the Stoddart family, located at 474 Beach Road, Porangahau. An extensive and robust investigation was undertaken to nominate the proposed discharge property which had input from technical advisors, CHBDC, the two communities, iwi and the individual landowners consulted. A description of how the area around the discharge property was identified as the preferred location for irrigation is provided within LEI (2020:P:B.11)⁸.

Relating to community engagement, particularly with iwi, CHBDC consulted Elizabeth Pishief of Heritage Services to undertake an archaeological assessment (Pishief, 2021:P:B.18)⁹ of the discharge property to understand sites of significance that may restrict wastewater irrigation. A site visit was undertaken on the 13th of January 2021 led by LEI to which the assessment was based on. This report was extensive and noted multiple sites of significance (Figure 2), enforcing the need to have iwi engaged through the consenting process.

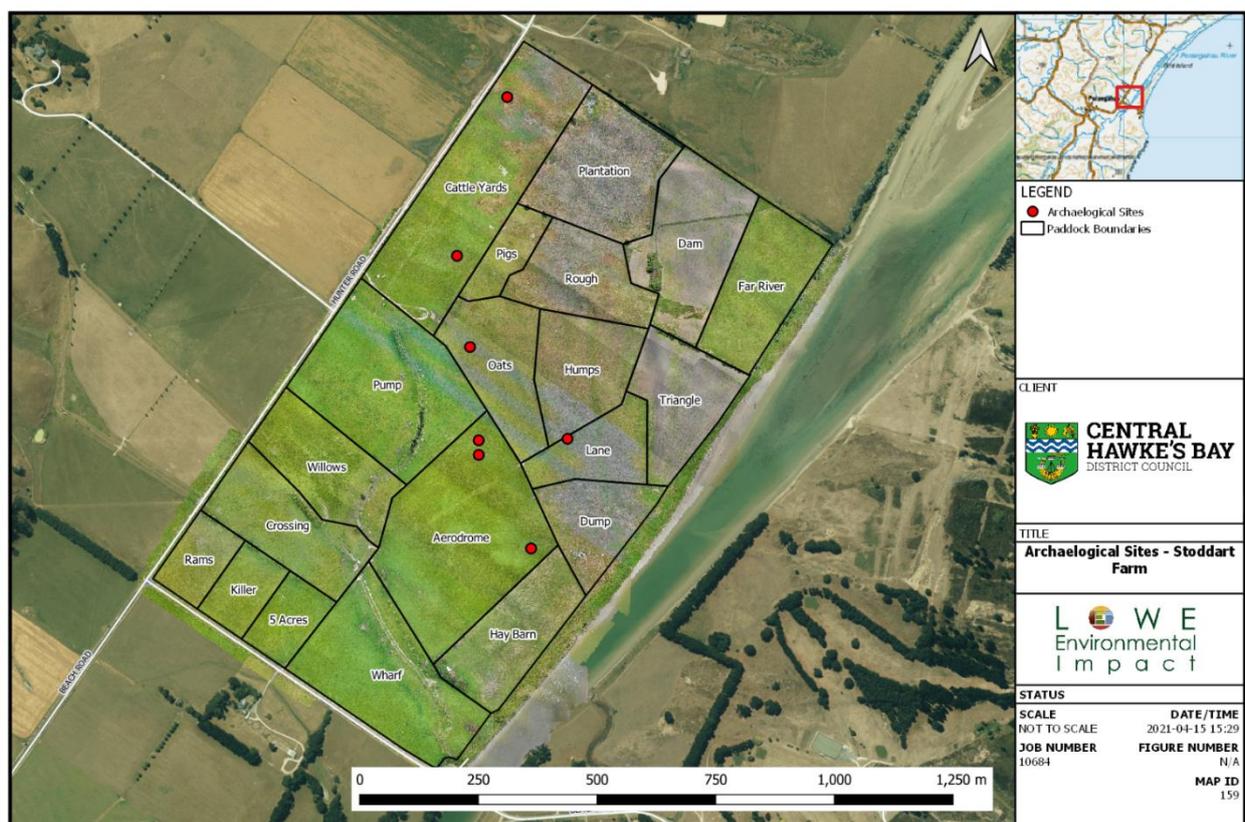


Figure 2: 474 Beach Road Archaeological Sites (Digitised from Pishief, 2021:P:B.18)

⁸ LEI. (2020:P:B.11). *Porangahau and Te Paerahi Wastewater Upgrade – Land Suitability for Discharge*.

⁹ Pishief. (2021:P:B.18). *Archaeological Assessment of Effects: Porangahau and Te Paerahi Wastewater Upgrade*.



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

CHBDC has connected with iwi, the Porangahau and Te Paerahi communities and remaining key stakeholders over numerous meetings and site visits over the course of the reconsenting process. A summary of the key events is provided below.

- 30th August 2018 – Hui at Porangahau Hall to introduce new council team and hear concerns from the community (large focus on wastewater project);
- 16th December 2019 – Introductory meeting for community for the current process;
- 18th March 2020 – Community meeting and presentation discussion of options and technical reports and information sought regarding the values and use of the river and near shore environment;
- 26th July 2020 – Rongomaraeroa Marae hui with Ngāti Kere;
- August 2020 – Long term plan pre-engagement with opportunities for community to interact on options through webinars and online interactive feedback tools (COVID-19 constrained);
- September 2020 – Community hui in Wallingford with Porangahau Catchment Group;
- 3rd October 2020 – Tour of local land sites of significance with iwi representatives;
- 5th November 2020 - Zoom meeting with chair Rongomaraeroa Marae – Land options;
- 24th November 2020 – Bus tour of Manawatu land application sites with preferred landowner;
- 5th December 2020 – Hui with Anthony Tipene-Matua at council to discuss CIA;
- 13th January 2021 – Archaeologist and LEI site visit;
- 21st January 2021 – Zoom meeting with Puketauhinu Trustees describing project, answering questions and offering further engagement opportunities;
- February 2021 – District wide newsletter update on proposed changes wastewater changes, including that at Te Paerahi and Porangahau;
- 13th February 2021 – Irrigation option bus tour with iwi to Manawatu;
- 15th February 2021 – Community meeting – Cancelled due to COVID-19;
- 25th February 2021 – Puketauhinu Trustees email approval for the transitional consents;
- 16th March 2021 – Initial request to Anthony Tipene-Matua for Mahinga Kai Assessment;
- 18th March 2021 – Community hui held as part of Long Term Plan engagement process, with presentation given on wastewater project;
- 2020-2021 – Ongoing discussions with landowners around potential land discharge sites.

As mentioned, dates provided above are for key engagement events with the communities or iwi up until this point in time and will continue to occur up until and beyond consent lodgement. In addition to these, specific engagement with, Customary Marine Title applicants, potential landowners, HBRC and HBDHB have all occurred and will continue to occur.

Discussions and feedback from each meeting have informed the progress of the investigations leading to a series of options for inclusion in CHBDC's Long Term Plan. This consultation has assisted with the long term solution for the wastewater discharge for Porangahau and Te Paerahi and ensured that the community's values, aspirations, and concerns have been respected and factored into the decision making process.

NEXT STEPS

- Refinement of the preferred land discharge option.
- Continued engagement with Customary Marine Title applicants, landowners, iwi and the Porangahau and Te Paerahi communities.
- Apply for resource consents.



If you have any questions, queries, or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Low Environmental Impact

Sam Morris

sam@lei.co.nz

ANNEX

Annex A	Meeting Minutes (26 th July 2020 - Rongomaraeroa Marae, Porangahau)
Annex B	Meeting Minutes (16 th December 2019 – Porangahau Town Hall, Porangahau)
Annex C	Meeting Minutes (15 th March 2020 – Duke of Edinburgh House, Porangahau)