

Report 10.25
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Committee Regulatory Committee
Author Stephen Thawley, Team Leader, Environmental Regulation

Status of municipal wastewater treatment plants in the Wairarapa

1. Purpose

To report on the status of municipal wastewater treatment plants in the Wairarapa, highlighting plants whose consents are currently being replaced, and those which have recently been processed.

2. Background

There are a number of municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's) which discharge wastewater into various receiving environments in the Wairarapa. They are listed and depicted in Table 1 and Figure 1 below.

Table 1: Municipal WWTP's in the Wairarapa

Wastewater treatment plant	Territorial Authority	Scale/Size	Receiving environment
Masterton	MDC	Large	Ruamahanga River with some land discharge
Castlepoint	MDC	Small	Wetlands with some discharge to Castlepoint Stream
Riversdale Beach	MDC	Small	Land only all year round
Tinui	MDC	Small	Land only all year round
Carterton	CDC	Medium	Mangatarere Stream with some land discharge
Greytown	SWDC	Medium	Papawai Stream
Featherston	SWDC	Medium	Donalds Creek via wetlands
Martinborough	SWDC	Medium	Ruamahanga River
Lake Ferry	SWDC	Small	Land with some discharge to wetlands

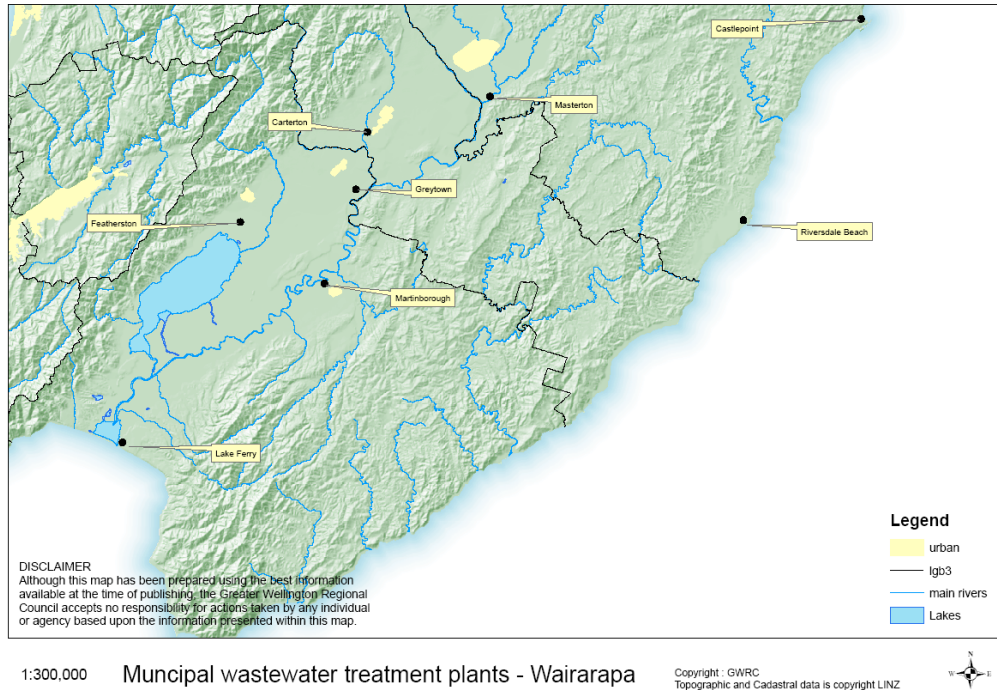


Figure 1: Location of Municipal WWTP's in the Wairarapa

3. Status of wastewater treatment plants

3.1 Masterton

MDC has recently gained resource consents for a 25 year term associated with an upgrade of its WWTP. The upgrade involves constructing new oxidations ponds, discharging to the Ruamahanga River above the median flow in summer and half median flow in winter. At all other times MDC is required to discharge wastewater land by border dyke irrigation. The original decision was appealed to the Environment Court; however, following extensive mediation the appeals were resolved by Consent Order in December 2009. MDC is currently reviewing discharge to land options and a final decision on the method of discharging to land will be made in the next couple of months. If MDC selects an alternative method to border dyke irrigation, new resource consents will be required for this part of the operation.

3.2 Carterton

CDC applied for replacement consents to continue discharging wastewater to the Mangatarere Stream in September 2008. The application includes upgrading the treatment of wastewater using micro-filtration in the treatment process. Whilst CDC is endeavouring to seek landowners who would be willing to receive wastewater discharged to their land, there are no firm proposals to remove additional wastewater from the Mangatarere Stream. Conditions on their existing consents do not allow the discharge to the Mangatarere Stream between January and March inclusive. The applications have been placed on hold for some time as there were large information gaps in the application lodged. A final application has now been submitted and CDC is

presently consulting with key stakeholders. The applications are likely to be notified in April 2010.

3.3 Greytown

SWDC applied for replacement consents to continue discharging wastewater to the Papawai Stream in December 2007. The application was very limited and of a poor quality. SWDC has been working with a Steering Committee since that time to look at alternative discharge options to remove the discharge from the Papawai Stream. We are currently working with SWDC to set in place some firm deadlines to submit a final application.

3.4 Featherston

SWDC has recently gained resource consents for a three year term in August 2009 to continue discharging wastewater to Donalds Creek. During the term of the consent SWDC will be undertaking a trial of a trickle filter treatment system and completing some minor improvements around the treatment plant site. A key component of the resource consents is the requirement for SWDC to set up a Working Party to evaluate long term upgrade options preferably centred around full time disposal of wastewater to land.

3.5 Martinborough

The existing consents SWDC holds for the operation of the Martinborough WWTP were granted in June 2002 and expire in July 2012. The consents required a two stage upgrade of the wastewater treatment process to improve wastewater quality being discharged to the Ruamahanga River. Stage 1 has been completed and wastewater standards for Stage 2 are set from July 2009. There has been no implementation of any further upgrades to the WWTP, hence SWDC are unlikely to comply with wastewater standards for the Stage 2 upgrade. We are currently working with SWDC to resolve this situation, and it is probable that they will seek to change their consent conditions.

3.6 Smaller treatment plants

We are currently processing replacement applications from MDC for the operation of the **Castlepoint** WWTP. Monitoring results show that the WWTP has a minor effect on the environment as it discharges to a wetland adjacent to the Castlepoint Stream. Hence the applications are being processed on a non-notified basis and we are just waiting for the final assessment to be completed.

MDC has recently gained resource consents for a 30 year term in December 2010 for the new **Riversdale Beach** WWTP. This is the longest consent term for any WWTP in the region and reflects the sound work that MDC put into the proposal and applications which discharge wastewater to land all year round by utilising deferred storage and sprinkler irrigation.

MDC gained resource consents for a 25 year term in December 2005 for an upgrade to the **Tinui** WWTP. The upgrade involved constructing a wetland for treatment and disposal of wastewater with no discharge to water. Unfortunately infiltration and inflow problems have resulted in the failure of the constructed

wetlands and MDC has been discharging wastewater to the Whareama River since June 2008. An upgrade of the reticulation network to reduce infiltration and inflow is nearing completion.

SWDC gained resource consents for a 20 year term in June 2005 for a new WWTP for the **Lake Ferry** community. A new reticulation network collects and treats wastewater which is discharged to land (using dripline irrigation) and wetlands when soil conditions are unsuitable for land irrigation.

3.7 Summary

There are a number of wastewater treatment plants in the Wairarapa of varying size. This report has highlighted that we are working closely with territorial authorities to produce viable consent applications and ensure that non-complying wastewater treatment plants are being brought into compliance.

4. Communication

No further communications are considered necessary.

5. Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Stephen Thawley
Team Leader, Environmental
Regulation

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental
Regulation

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management
Group