

5.9 Wastewater Group

Te Wai Para

What we do

We collect, treat, and dispose of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater.

Why we do it

We manage wastewater to uphold the wellbeing of the community and our environment. We work to ensure wastewater systems minimise contaminants to the district's waterways to protect our environment.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

The Wastewater Group contributes to the following community outcomes:

A prosperous resilient economy, a place to belong and grow, infrastructure fit for future, Value for money and excellence in local government

- Wastewater systems help to ensure the Manawatū District remains open for business, whilst maintaining public health, and providing capacity and cost certainty into the future.

A future planned together, a prosperous resilient economy, infrastructure fit for future

- Council enables residential, commercial, and industrial growth across our district through well planned wastewater infrastructure investment.

An environment to be proud of, infrastructure fit for future

The community are connected to our rivers and other water bodies, with impacts from our wastewater systems mitigated wherever possible.

How we do it

We maintain reticulated wastewater networks in Feilding, Awahuri, Cheltenham, Halcombe, Kimbolton, Rongotea, Sanson and Hīmatangi Beach.

We maximise investment in the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant in Feilding, and work to minimise consenting, compliance, and financial risks of multiple rural treatment plants by executing a multi-year programme of work to centralise wastewater from Sanson, Rongotea, Halcombe, Cheltenham and Kimbolton to Feilding.

Council works to ensure that we meet resource consent requirements for the discharge of treated wastewater to either land or water from the district's Wastewater Treatment Plants and meet statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2002, Health Act 1956, and Resource Management Act 1991.

We engage with local iwi to ensure cultural and environmental wellbeing of waterways and our environment are upheld in the management of wastewater now and into the future.

Things we are keeping an eye on

- Wastewater can pollute the environment or cause health risks if not managed successfully.
- Disposal of treated wastewater to waterways and land can have physical, cultural, and environmental implications.
- Unintentional overflows of untreated wastewater from management systems can have adverse effects on public or private land, and waterways. Council undertakes a regime of inspections; maintenance works and renewals to mitigate risks of overflows.
- Council must mitigate the risk that wastewater treatment plants pose to the environment during severe weather events (e.g. flooding).
- Stormwater entering the wastewater network can lead to sewage overflows, or it can lead to issues at the wastewater treatment plant by increasing chemical and power usage. To mitigate the risk, Council undertakes programmes of smoke testing to identify problem areas.
- Investment in trade waste separation in Feilding will assist Council in meeting demand from industrial trade waste customers, while ensuring that discharges to waterways comply with consent conditions.
- Environmental compliance can create affordability issues for the community, particularly given the significant cost of land-based wastewater management solutions.

Levels of service

Level of Service 1		You can expect us to effectively manage Council's reticulated wastewater system (Mandatory)					
		Baseline	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026-34
Measure 1	The number of dry weather sewerage overflows from Council's sewerage system per 1000 SUIPs (separately used inhabited parts of a rating unit).	2019/200.5	0.12	<6	<6	<6	<6

Level of Service 2		You can expect compliance with the Council's resource consents for discharge from its treated wastewater system (Mandatory)					
		Baseline	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026-34
Measure 1	The number of abatement notices advising or breaches of	2019/201	0	<2	<2	<2	<2

	resource consent conditions per scheme.						
Measure 2	The number of infringement notices, enforcement orders, and convictions received by Council in relation to resource consent conditions per scheme.	2019/2020	0	0	0	0	0

Level of Service 3		You can expect timely response and resolution to faults or blockages (Mandatory)					
		Baseline	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026-34
Measure 1	Median response time from the time the Council receives notification to the time that service personnel reach the site. (Urgent)	2019/2020 0.62 hrs	0.52 hrs	<2 hrs	<2 hrs	<2 hrs	<2 hrs
Measure 2	Median response time from the time the Council receives notification to the time that service personnel reach the site. (Non-Urgent)	2019/2020 3.09 hrs	1.38 hrs	5 days	5 days	5 days	5 days
Measure 3 (non-mandatory)	Median response time from the time the Council receives notification to	2019/2020 1.36 hrs	1.11 hrs	5 days	5 days	5 days	5 days

	the time that service personnel reach the site. (Combined)						
Measure 4	Median resolution time: from the time Council receives notification to the time service personnel confirm resolution of the blockage or other fault. (Urgent)	2019/20 1.55 hrs	3.52 hrs	<5 hrs	<5 hrs	<5 hrs	<5 hrs
Measure 5	Median resolution time: from the time Council receives notification to the time service personnel confirm resolution of the blockage or other fault. (Non-urgent)	2019/20 23.80 hrs	4.33 hrs	10 days	10 days	10 days	10 days
Measure 6 – non-mandatory	Median resolution time: from the time Council receives notification to the time service personnel confirm resolution of the blockage or other fault. (Combined)	2019/20 23.50 hrs	4.33 hrs	10 days	10 days	10 days	10 days

Level of Service 4		You can expect satisfaction with our wastewater service (Mandatory)					
		Baseline	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026-34
Measure 1	The total number of complaints received by Council about the following: • sewage odour • sewerage system faults • sewerage system blockages • Council's response to issues with its sewerage system. (Expressed per 1,000 connections to the council sewerage system)* *excludes complaints that do not relate to the service council provides	2019/20 4.43	3.58	<20	<20	<20	<20

Assets and portfolio (if applicable)

187km of wastewater mains

Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant in Feilding

Seven other WWTPs - Rongotea, Sanson, Hīmatangi Beach, Halcombe, Cheltenham, Kimbolton, Awahuri.

Funding Splits

Wastewater

70 - 80% Targeted Rate (fixed) – connected, available, restricted

20 - 30% Fees and charges (Trade waste fees, rental and lease)

Nursery

100% plant sales and planting charges

Interesting facts and figures

In the 2022/23 financial year, an average of 8,939,439 litres of wastewater came into the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant in Feilding.

Capital Projects

- Wastewater centralisation
- Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant consenting and associated works

Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services – Water Supply and Wastewater

The Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services was a mandatory requirement under the original Local Government Act 2002. This requirement was removed as part of the 2010 amendment to Local Government Act 2002. Council is now expected to carry out an assessment “from time to time”. The Local Government Act 2002 requires that the Council identify and explain any significant difference between the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services and the Long-Term Plan.

Council has made considerable investment in the water and wastewater activities to ensure compliance with the Taumata Arowai drinking water standards and conditions of the resource consents Council holds to operate the wastewater treatment plants across the district.

Water treatment improvements have focussed on the Stanway-Halcombe Rural Water Scheme to address the protozoa compliance requirements of Taumata Arowai. Project funding was committed in the 2021-31 LTP but was delayed over the past few years as Council engaged with a range of stakeholders. In addition, Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 resulted in a reduction to the raw water quality which has resulted in increased cost to achieve compliance due to additional treatment requirements. Council has committed funds in year 1 of the draft 2024-34 LTP to address both compliance issues.

All water supplies operated by Council are chlorinated.

The Ōhakea Rural Water Scheme is now complete and supplying connected customers and the RNZAFB Ōhakea with potable water.

The Feilding water supply has been enhanced with the construction of an additional 6,000 cubic metre storage reservoir and strengthening of the existing reservoir. A new production bore has been completed in Roots Street West to supply Feilding. Funding is allocated in the draft 2024-34 LTP for a water treatment plant and reticulation connection for this new bore.

The Wastewater Centralisation project is well advanced with pipelines and pumps completed between Sanson and Feilding. Funding is allocated to continue the connection of Rongotea and Halcombe in years 1 to 5 of the draft 2024-34 LTP.

The Manawatū WWTP continues to irrigate treated wastewater over the summer months with funding allocated for the consenting of the current discharge consent to the Ōroua River, which is due to expire in November 2026.

Stormwater systems have continued to advance with systems installed to match growth and to improve levels of service in Cheltenham, Sanson, Halcombe, and Tangimoana. On-going funding has been provided to continue level of service improvements to these Villages and Rongotea.

Funding has been allocated in the draft 2024-34 LTP for capital investment in the Feilding stormwater network.

Water Safety Plan Status

All Water Safety Plans have been submitted to Taumata Arowai for approval as per the table below. Water Safety Plans for Kiwitea Rural and Ōroua No 1 supply are not required to be completed by Council as these schemes are community operated and administered.

Scheme	Category	Status
Feilding	Large	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Rongotea	Large	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Ōhakea	Large	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Himatangi Beach	Large	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Stanway-Halcombe	Large	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Waituna West	Small	Applied, pending Taumata Arowai approval
Kiwitea Rural	Community operated and administered	Not required
Oroua No1	Community operated and administered	Not required

Summary

The only significant variation from the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services is the additional investment in stormwater infrastructure.

The full review of the Council's Growth and Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Plans has provided updated costs and confirmation of the management of and investment in water and wastewater activities.

Funding impact statement

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