

Beachlands South and Wastewater Treatment Plant – Workshop No.2

Summary and Minutes

Date: 2 December 2025

Time: :11-12pm

Facilitator: Anna Jennings.

Attendees:

Watercare - Anna Jennings, Andrew Deutschle, Dian Verbeek, Hamed Mohajerkouhestani, Helen Shaw, Shabneez Hussain, Tanvir Bhamji.

Russell Group- Brett Russell, Graeme Harvey, Khai Azizi, Rob Bassett.

Apologies : Clemence Carlinet and John Dobrowolski.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on the wastewater servicing strategy for the Beachlands South Development, with a focus on staging requirements, interim solutions to enable connection to the Beachlands Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and the associated upgrades.

1. Proposed Development and WWTP Upgraded Updates

- Ground-breaking ceremony has been completed.
- Resource Consent Progress has been delayed due to ecological requirements and values.
- Dempsey Wood Civil Contractors have been engaged by Russell Group.
- Population estimates for Beachlands WWTP indicate that loads have doubled, now exceeding 10,000 PE, and the plant is currently operating at full capacity.
- Watercare has undertaken targeted network improvement works within the catchment to mitigate inflow and infiltration (I&I), including approximately 1600 private property drainage investigations in the Beachland/Maraetai catchments, smoke testing, and CCTV inspection of approximately 14 km of wastewater pipelines completed in 2021.

- These investigations have informed the current renewals programme and approximately 4 km of wastewater pipes have been relined to date, resulting in measurable reductions in influent/effluent conductivity at the plant.
 - Approximately 12 flow monitoring sensors are planned for installation within the catchment leading to the WWTP to better quantify flows and isolate I&I sources.
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2. Funding Discussions

- Watercare is keen to work with Russel Group on potential funding options.
 - Russell Group will meet with National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFF) this week to discuss the broader project context and explore possible funding pathways and will discuss funding for the Wastewater interim and permanent solutions as well.
 - Funding avenues that are available to Russell Group include NIFF funding, bank funding, and NZ Super.
 - Further clarity is needed regarding the specific interim solutions for which funding is being sought.
 - A separate funding conversation between Watercare and Russell group is supported with the option of meeting jointly with NIFF.
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3. Engagement with NIF

- General conversations between NIFF and Russell Group have been positive, and NIFF has been supportive of the application.
 - Initial cost estimates for the main upgrade have been shared, providing a baseline for short-term and long-term planning.
 - Watercare will involve CFO and Priyan in upcoming discussions with NIFF.
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4. Discharge Standards & Consent

- The new Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards have been released; however, the specific impact on the WWTP remains uncertain, review of the new standards is currently underway .
- The new standards are unlikely to have a significant impact, as existing standards are already stringent and require advanced treatment including an MBR plant.

- The Beachlands discharge environment has low dilution capacity, resulting in higher compliance standards.
 - Under the new standards, the consent authority may include a condition requiring upgrades to be completed within five years of consent issue.
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5. Interim Plant Upgrade

- We have explored increasing storage to provide for an interim upgrade. However, it looks like this would require significant storage requirements estimated between 25,000–30,000 m³ that are unachievable on the current site.
 - It was agreed that to progress options, a smaller technical-focused session will be beneficial
 - Formal consenting will come after interim solutions are clarified.
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6. Technical Considerations

- Watercare has engaged Stantec to assess technical feasibility of the discharge consent, including achievable discharge limits based on funding availability.
 - Question raised regarding the possibility of holding two discharge consents; Auckland Council will need to assess cumulative environmental effects.
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7. Cost Considerations

- Russell Group mentioned that the cost of upgrading the WWTP appears very high compared to previous benchmarks and experiences shared by Rob.
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8. Options for Interim Solution

1. WSL to carry out interim upgrade of the existing plant and look at accommodating more flow, subject to agreement with Auckland Council.
2. Leave the existing plant as is, put in a small package up at the Beachlands WWTP site or on Russell Group land and discharge to Watercare discharge areas. Rising Main up to WWTP. Advance system for better discharge quality and not spending too much money at the WWTP. Probably not enough room at the WWTP.

3. A new discharge consent with interim plant for the Beachlands South flows and a variety of places for the discharge location. Work with IWI on their discharge consents.
4. Using Russell Group's existing consent or apply for a new consent possibly through the fast track process (Interim or permanent).
5. Discharge to ocean outfall rather than stream. Community and Mana whenua not supportive of this option even with better quality of discharge. Outfall needs to be 2km long and PS would be required as well.

Action Items & Responsibilities

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date
Meet with NIIF to discuss broader funding options and present project overview	Russell Group	This week
Watercare to engage CFO and Priyan to initiate funding discussions with NIIF	Helen	ASAP
Review impact of newly released discharge standards on WWTP	Andrew/Dian	Prior to Technical Worksop
Schedule a technical session focused on interim plant design and storage requirements	Watercare Technical team and Russel Group	To be scheduled in February
Russell Group to share and provide land sizing and discharge limit volumes for their current discharge consent.	Russell Group	Prior to Technical workshop
Confirm interim and permanent WWTP upgrade cost estimates and funding alignment	Russell Group and Watercare	After NIIF meeting
Placeholder for next progress catchup in two weeks	Shabneez	16 December