

RMCA Report Three Waters 25/5/2017

RMCA was represented by James Mackenzie at his meeting.

Other Stakeholders attended.

DOC reported on matters which have been undertaken since the last meeting. As you will be aware, the Wastewater Treatment Resource Consent (WWTRC) was opposed by Forest and Bird Society and the Clean Water Society. As a result DOC decided to do due diligence on other options for discharge of treated water outside the National Park. A consultation group was organised to do this.

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting, one of which was the Project Overview for the Initial Business Case (IBC) for the Whakapapa Village and Iwikau Village Infrastructure re-development. This includes

Reticulated drinking water

Sewage- collection treatment and discharge

Stormwater

Rubbish

Recycling

Roads footpaths and lighting

Eruption Detection System.

DOC recovers fair and reasonable costs through the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding, which is currently under review.

The IBC includes Local Bodies Cost Recovery Model, the WWTRC, the Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Long Term Community Plan (LTCP).

The project is managed within the Strategic Project Unit of DOC. Within the IBC is approval to release funds moving forward for the 2018 items of expenditure. For DOC to get further funding they need to have a detailed business case which covers all the matters mentioned above.. A timeline for completion of these is given, some of which stretch through to three years in the future.

LTCP and Cost Recovery Model time through 2019/20

LBCRM same timeframe

WWTPRC 20/21

AMP upgrade 20/21 and beyond

LTCP 2019

Dispersal Options. Simon Bendall of Mitchell Daysh, presented a report on dispersal options out of the Park. The panel which considered these had a variety of expertise which included, cultural interests, WWTP operations, Water quality and aquatic ecology, wetland design, planning and engineering. The panel considered a number of options and came down to 8 possible options, and finally considered that the original plan of dispersal of treated wastewater within the Park ticked all the correct boxes.

There was a presentation of costs and timelines of completion of matters. DOC is working on providing a breakdown of costs based on the 2004 MOA, at 95% contribution of stakeholders over the next three years.

A Cost Recovery update notes the PwC review which recommends user pays, i.e. stakeholders pay. Nothing in that review garners funding from those who visit and pay nothing but use the services, nor does it make a case for funding from any other source, Government or otherwise.

DOC say they understand there needs to be further discussion on affordability, that is something with which the Stakeholders absolutely agree. There is a reasonably detailed overview of Capital Costs required, totalling \$7,515 million. Capital and operating Costs \$ 14,290 million are estimated over the next 8 years. There will be costs coming up this year for payment, which will be for the PwC review, and the work on sand filters and buffer tank upgrade which have already been completed.

The feeling of stakeholders post the meeting is that DOC needs to be reined in and outside funding needs to be found. There is also concern about the PwC costs which, as their report does not seem to have been any benefit to the Stakeholders.

Kathy Guy from The Chateau has suggested a person who has a consultancy business in this area, Mike Henley, be commissioned to seek outside funding.