

**Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū**  
**Banks Peninsula Community Board**  
**MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

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**Date:** Monday 15 March 2021  
**Time:** 10am  
**Venue:** The Gaiety Hall, 105 Rue Jolie, Akaroa

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# FRIENDS of Banks Peninsula Inc.

P.O. Box 56, Duvauchelle, Banks Peninsula, Canterbury



To: Banks Peninsula Community Board  
Re: Akaroa Wastewater decision  
Date: 15 March 2021 Public Forum

Friends of Banks Peninsula wrote to the Community Board on February 1, requesting clarification on a number of matters regarding the Council's resolution supporting the Inner Bays Irrigation Scheme wastewater option. We requested to speak at the Public Forum today anticipating that by this stage we would have answers to the questions in our letter, but we have yet to receive a reply.

We now ask you to address in particular our concerns about:

- Funding Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) reduction, and,
- Setting up the Community Reference Group

## 1. I&I reduction

- The Council recommendation in Clause 3 of its decision was to aim for I&I to be *under 20% of the total flow*. This requires an approximately 80% reduction of storm and ground water incursion through repairing the leaking sewer pipe network.
- The BECA report released in May 2020 sets out the costs of achieving the various options presented for consultation last August. This included \$3.1 million for I&I Reduction Measures.<sup>1</sup> This was considered the amount of funding needed to achieve a 20% reduction, the minimum amount needed for the Inner Bays scheme to proceed.
- As we pointed out to you when we last addressed the Community Board last October and to the Hearing Panel, a 20% reduction in I&I would still leave the total wastewater volume consisting of 55% I&I – which is well above the best practice level. This means the system footprint, particularly the storage ponds are massively bigger than would be otherwise needed, and leaves Akaroa vulnerable to raw sewage overflows during intense storms.
- The Hearing Panel and Council recognised this when they decided to aim for the 80% reduction to bring the sewer pipe network up to a best practice standard.
- Members of FOBP met with Kylie Hills on 9 March, and were disappointed to hear that the total budget for I&I reduction remains \$3.1 million.
- We cannot understand how the Council expects to now achieve 80% reduction for the same amount of funding as it previously allocated for a 20% reduction.
- We understand that the Council has received \$3.1 million in government shovel ready funding and has substituted this for its own funds rather than augmenting the I&I reduction budget. We note a line item 62349 in the LTP 2021/20 of \$2,759,000 million and ask you to clarify whether this is additional funding or the remainder of the governments \$3.1 million. We suspect the latter.
- Unless that 80% reduction is funded and achieved, meaningful reductions in the size of the storage ponds and disposal system will not be achieved, and Akaroa will be left extremely vulnerable to raw sewage overflows on its beaches and into its streams during the more intense and frequent storms forecast for our future.
- We ask the Community Board to petition the Council in its LTP submission for an increase in funds earmarked for I&I reduction in Akaroa to a realistic figure for achieving the reduction in its decision.

<sup>1</sup> CH2M Beca Ltd, Akaroa Wastewater Summary of Disposal and Reuse Options, 8 May 2020, Appendix AB Cost estimates, Page 2

## 2. Setting up the Community Reference Group

- Clause 6 of the Council decision requests Council Officers to work with the Community Board to establish a Community Reference Group to ensure that community concerns about the approved Scheme are listened to and, where possible, addressed.
- As noted in our letter of February 1, we were concerned to read on the Council website that *“the community reference group, will comprise people with expertise relevant to the project.”*
- We do not believe the intention of the Council was to set up a group of experts, but to work with the local communities affected by the wastewater system to address their concerns.
- We understand the Community Board is now setting up the membership and terms of reference.

### Membership of the group

We request that each affected community be fairly represented, not by individuals but by representatives of the residence groups of those areas and appropriate Community interest groups.

- In addition to the local rūnanga representative listed in the decision, we request the other representatives on the reference group are drawn from the following community organisations:
  - Robinsons Bay Ratepayers and Residents’ Association
  - Takamatua Ratepayers and Residents’ Association
  - Akaroa Ratepayers and Residents’ Association
  - Akaroa District Promotions and/or Akaroa Civic Trust (recognising the impact on the towns businesses and development)
  - Friends of Banks Peninsula (recognising the impact on the wider environment)
- We believe that it is essential for proper representation, fairness, equity and the necessity to ensure a community mandate is delivered, that each of these associations is represented, and those representatives are nominated by the respective associations at public meetings, and are required to report back and seek further mandates from time to time as the situation requires from their respective associations.
- The wastewater working party that was set up prior to the Council Hearing was in our view too representative of individual interests rather than community and residents groups and in the interest of natural justice we believe that this proposal should be adopted.

### Terms of Reference

We request that the terms of reference

- reflect the Council decision that the purpose of the group is to listen to and address community concerns
- the group is able to review and adapt the Terms of Reference at its initial meetings
- these terms enable Community concerns to remain the focus by providing representatives with:
  - The opportunity to add items to the agenda
  - The ability to nominate the chair person
  - The agenda and papers to be sent out in sufficient time to allow community members to prepare (ie at least a week in advance)
  - Requiring meetings to be in the Akaroa area and in a facility equipped with modern meeting equipment including internet access and a screen/ projector
  - The opportunity to provide an alternate member from their representative organisation if they are unable to attend