

10 January 2023

Josh



Dear Josh

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 23 November 2023 for:

All correspondence to and from Bruce Hodgins, Strategic Advisor, Hutt City Council, regarding the odour issues from the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Please find attached copies of email chains containing communication from and to Bruce Hodgins pertaining to odour issues from the Seaview Wastewater Plant.

The following link also contains further Information about the work on the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant Biofilter replacement and the final draft of the Seaview odour presentation mentioned in one of the emails attached.

<https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/environment-and-sustainability/water/seaview-wastewater-treatment-plant-biofilter-media-replacement>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases

Yours sincerely



Lucy Hodgins

Administration Support – Legal Team

From: [Bruce Hodgins](#)
To: [Information Management Team](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Current Draft Seaview Public Meeting
Date: Monday, 8 January 2024 10:45:32 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[ATT00001.png](#)

Here it is.

Bruce Hodgins
Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: 04 570 6839 **M:** 027 4820 461 **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Bruce Hodgins
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Cc: Jeremy McKibbin <Jeremy.McKibbin@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Current Draft Seaview Public Meeting

Hi Blair. May I please have the latest slide show which I will share with Tui. She is OK to lead the Karakia and say some preliminary words, for which I will provide her with some bullet points.

You and Jeremy comfortable with the following points.

- We absolutely recognise and acknowledge the offensive nature of the odour emanating from the plant and its effect on local residents and businesses.
- We sincerely apologise and undertake to do what we practically can to address the issue both in the short and medium term.
- The work that is being undertaken now to replace the biofilter will help reduce the level of offensive odour but will not eliminate it.
- Council is currently considering significant investment over the next 3 years in the plant through the Long-Term Plan, which will contribute to significantly improving the odour situation.

Bruce

From: Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Cc: Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Steve Hutchison <Steve.Hutchison@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Jeremy McKibbin <Jeremy.McKibbin@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Current Draft Seaview Public Meeting

H Bruce,

Here is a copy of the current draft of the Seaview slide pack. We have made most of the changes discussed this morning. I have also moved the LTP slide up to slide 4 to front foot the longer term funding situation as it currently stands. This slide would be just after Deputy Mayor Tui's introduction.

Please let me know your comments. We'll continue to finetune but won't make any significant changes until we receive your feedback.

Kind regards

Blair

Blair Johnson Head of Wastewater Contracts



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Private Bag 39804, Wellington Mail Centre 5045
Level 4, 25 Victoria Street, Petone, Lower Hutt



From: [Jeremy McKibbin](#)
To: [Geoff. Swainson](#); [Bruce Hodgins](#)
Cc: [Julie Alexander](#); [Tim Harty](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Infringement for odour at Seaview WWTP
Date: 19 December 2023 14:48:53
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora,

Yesterday I was in the GWRC offices, and I was given a heads up by one of the team that following an investigation into the odour at Seaview, they had reached the decision to issue infringements to Wellington Water, Veolia, UHCC and HCC. I expect these will arrive this week.

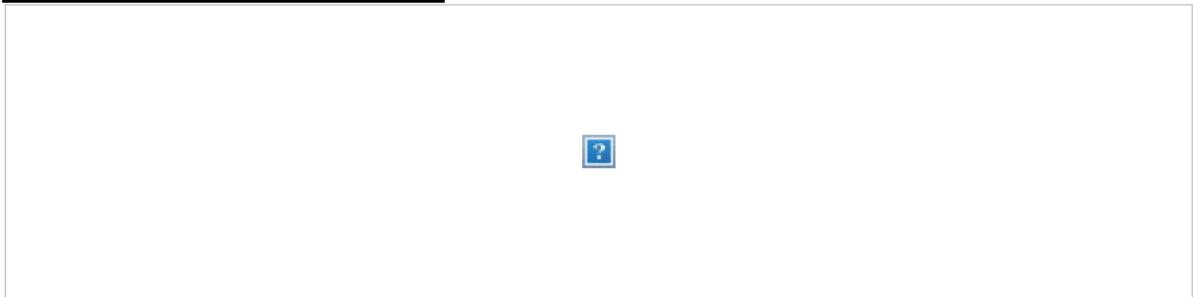
The good news is the biofilter renewals are ahead of the scheduled completion date which is 25th January. Works will be paused from the 22nd December through to 10th January.

Ngā mihi

Jeremy McKibbin Group Manager, Network Management



[REDACTED]



From: [Steve Hutchison](#)
To: [Bruce Hodgins](#); [Laurence Edwards](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Black](#); [Paul Johnson](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft paragraph for LTP report
Date: 09 November 2023 08:44:34
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Bruce,

We discussed the pushing back Eastern Hills yesterday in a workshop with us.

There are risks (which Laurence can describe) but on balance the consensus was that Seaview dryer in particular was higher priority. Opex costs and landfill implications were part of that. We discussed potentially bringing it ahead of Petone Collecting Sewer stage 2 depending on how condition inspection information and other information played out over the next 3 years, but that can follow for next LTP.

Your paragraph looks fine. Adrienne / Paul have the dates.

Regards,

Steve

From: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2023 7:57 am
To: Laurence Edwards <Laurence.Edwards@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Steve Hutchison <Steve.Hutchison@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Cc: Adrienne Black <Adrienne.Black@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Paul Johnson <Paul.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Subject: Draft paragraph for LTP report

Caution: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Morena Laurence and Steve

I am currently preparing information and comment for Council for the LTP. Just wanted you two gents to run your eye over these comments following a meeting with Adrienne and Paul yesterday to go over some of the CAPEX investment options.

1. WWL and its wastewater treatment plant operator Veolia, have recently completed a comprehensive review of the operating plant at the Seaview site. This has revealed that investment is required as a matter of priority for some critical plant items. Consequently, and to manage borrowing limitations, it is proposed to push out the commencement of the construction of the new Eastern Hills Reservoir for a few years until 20xx. This has some risk as water storage does not currently comply with minimum back-up storage standards and additional growth on the valley floor over the next 5 years will exacerbate that situation. However, the consequences of not investing in the renewal of existing plant at Seaview has greater risk, with plant failure resulting in breaches to resource consents and/or sludge not being able to be dried.

Thanks

Bruce

Bruce Hodgins

Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt, Lower Hutt 5010

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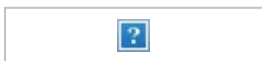
From: [Blair Johnson](#)
To: [Bruce Hodgins](#)
Cc: [Jeremy McKibbin](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Juicy Fest Event at Hutt Park on 5 January 2024
Date: 24 November 2023 08:51:40
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Bruce – understood.

I have asked Veolia for another update this morning but will ensure that the events date is taken into account.

Regards
Blair

Blair Johnson Head of Wastewater Contracts



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From: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 24 November 2023 7:27 am
To: Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Cc: Jeremy McKibbin <Jeremy.McKibbin@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Subject: Juicy Fest Event at Hutt Park on 5 January 2024

Caution: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Blair. At the Council meeting yesterday the mayor raised concerns around the work being done on the biofilter with the increase in odour for this music event at Hutt Park on 5 January 2024.

I indicated that the work would cease over the holiday break with all 6 cells in use at this time, with 4 being completed before Xmas and the other 2 to occur in January. Not sure when the work is planned to recommence in the new year but can we please ensure its after 5 January.

The concern is reputational if we have a large crowd at Hutt Park and the odour is strong.

Thanks

Bruce

Bruce Hodgins
Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt, Lower Hutt 5010

P: 04 570 6839 **M:** 027 4820 461 **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



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From: [Blair Johnson](#)
To: [Bruce Hodgins](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Odour Complaints - Seaview WWTP
Date: 03 January 2024 09:34:04
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Bruce,

As discussed, WWL have not received any complaints directly but we have been notified of a number received by GWRC since work on the biofilter was halted 22 December. At that time, all 6 cells of the biofilter had new media added and the system was fully operational. As we have indicated, the new media takes some time to “bed in” and become fully functional.

Odour complaints (6) that I am aware of as follows:

- 27 Dec 23 – 1 complaint – no address given, but residential – 17.55hrs – No assessment undertaken by GWRC
- 28 Dec 23 - 2 complaints (Leighton Avenue and Bell Road) 14.04hrs and 12.21hrs. GWRC attended site at 15.13hrs and completed an odour assessment at Seaview Roundabout. Detected odour but not O&O.
- 1 Jan 24 – 3 odour complaints (addresses unknown at this stage) – GWRC undertook odour assessments at Bell Road (13.57hrs) no odour detected and at Seaview Roundabout (14.05hrs) odour detected but not O&O.

These are the complaints that GW have informed us of.

As far as we are aware the biofilter is operating as expected and other areas of potential odour from maintenance issues are being carefully managed.

If you need any more detail, please let me know.

Kind regards
Blair Johnson

Blair Johnson Head of Wastewater Contracts



Mob 021 240 7130

Private Bag 39804, Wellington Mail Centre 5045
Level 4, 25 Victoria Street, Petone, Lower Hutt



From: [Joemar Cacnio](#)
To: [Bruce Hodgins](#)
Cc: [Jeremy McKibbin](#); [Blair Johnson](#); [Ceinwen Curtis](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Seaview WWTP - odour related projects
Date: 03 November 2023 13:21:34
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Bruce,

The main projects that targets the odour issue in Seaview are the following:

Seaview WWTP Odour control renewal – the aim of this project is to renew the odour control system of the site thus improving the odour treatment performance of the site.

Seaview Sludge Dryer Replacement – the proposed new dryer will have its dedicated odour control system. This will reduce the load to the current odour control system of the site allowing it to have more than enough capacity to treat the odour from other wastewater treatment processes. Having a reliable dryer operation will also lessen the risk of disposing dewatered sludge to the landfill which is also an odour risk.

Odour modelling helps us to understand the performance of odour control system of the site and use it to modify the treatment operation

As Wastewater treatment has a varying degree of odour risk especially if the treatment process fails, the following projects aims to have a more reliable treatment operation which in turn reduce the risk of odour:

- Milliscreen replacement
- Reactive Renewals
- Planned Renewals
- Screening Wash press replacement
- Clarifier Renewal
- Aeration System Renewal
- RAS and WAS System Renewal
- Grit Removal
- Centrifuge Dewatering Renewal

Kind regards,
Joemar

From: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 3 November 2023 11:35 am
To: Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>
Cc: Jeremy McKibbin <Jeremy.McKibbin@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Ceinwen Curtis <Ceinwen.Curtis@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Seaview WWTP - odour related projects

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Hi Joemar

I wanted to put together a few paragraphs to summarise what we are doing or planning to do to mitigate odour issues at the Seaview Plant.

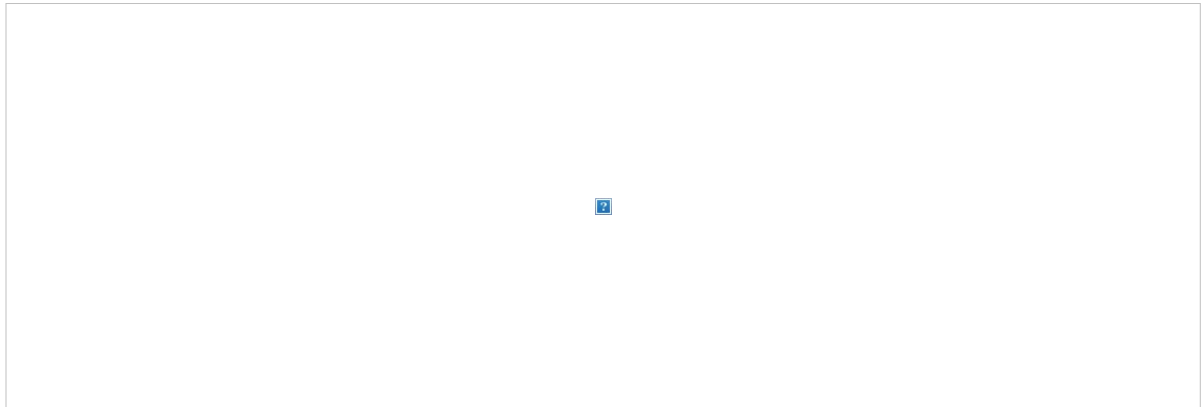
I guess it prompted by the replacement of the biofilter which will shortly commence.

In the draft LTP schedule of works there are the following lines (highlighted) for which I would appreciate some input as to which may have a positive impact on odour.

There may be others in the list that are not obvious.

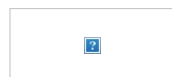
Thanks

Bruce



Bruce Hodgins
Strategic Advisor

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From: [Joemar Cacnio](#)
To: [Gordon Macrae](#); [Bruce Hodgins](#)
Cc: [Gerhard Vosloo](#); [Geoffrey Roberts](#); [Blair Johnson](#); [derek.falvey](#); [Jeremy McKibbin](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Seaview WWTP - Biofilter Media Renewal - Residents Notification Letter
Date: 01 November 2023 14:17:33
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[ATT00001.png](#)

Hi Bruce,

We update the regional council regularly regarding the biofilter project.

Regarding the comms to the wider public, the intention is to use the same message/content on the letter and have it circulated to the Seaview WWTP interested parties list via the Wellington Water Customer hub.

We are also looking into posting into Wellington Water social media channels to advise the work.

Kind regards,
Joemar

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From: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:25:45 AM

Cc: Gerhard Vosloo <gerhard.vosloo@veolia.com>; Geoffrey Roberts <Geoffrey.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>; Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; derek.falvey <derek.falvey@veolia.com>; Jeremy McKibbin <Jeremy.McKibbin@wellingtonwater.co.nz>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Seaview WWTP - Biofilter Media Renewal - Residents Notification Letter

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Thanks Gordon.

Can we please hold off on delivering the letter today until we have had a chance internally to ensure we have everything in place and have informed our elected representatives who may get complaints direct.

Has GW been advised of this work and possibility of increased odour complaints?

Can we please have a map of the area that you are looking to circulate the letters.

Has there been any contact made with the Seaview Business Association to alert the association to this work?

Cheers

Bruce

Bruce Hodgins
Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt, Lower Hutt 5010

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:11 AM
To: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Cc: Gerhard Vosloo <gerhard.vosloo@veolia.com>; Geoffrey Roberts <Geoffrey.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>; Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; derek.falvey@veolia.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Seaview WWTP - Biofilter Media Renewal - Residents Notification Letter

Hi Bruce,

No specific project Comms Plan was prepared, but I believe there are wider comms in terms of the ongoing odour issues at Seaview plant. Sorry I am not able to comment on what they have been to date, although I am sure Blair or Joemar could advise if necessary.

Regarding notification to the HCC comms team. I have not advised them myself as yet, so please go ahead and share with them.

Many thanks,

Gordon Macrae

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] Company Number 1754414

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From: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 7:58 AM
To: Gordon Macrae [REDACTED]
Cc: Gerhard Vosloo <gerhard.vosloo@veolia.com>; Geoffrey Roberts

<Geoffrey.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>; Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; derek.falvey@veolia.com

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Seaview WWTP - Biofilter Media Renewal - Residents Notification Letter

Thanks Gordon.

Do we have a comms plan for this work (Is one required?) with FAQs and a back pocket media statement?

Has HCC contact centre and our comms team been advised of this work, noting that the letter has the HCC contact number on it? Happy to share with our teams if this hasn't been done.

Bruce

Bruce Hodgins

Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt, Lower Hutt 5010

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From: Gordon Macrae [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 7:40 AM
To: Bruce Hodgins <bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz>
Cc: Gerhard Vosloo <gerhard.vosloo@veolia.com>; Geoffrey Roberts <Geoffrey.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>; Joemar Cacnio <Joemar.Cacnio@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; Blair Johnson <Blair.Johnson@wellingtonwater.co.nz>; derek.falvey@veolia.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Seaview WWTP - Biofilter Media Renewal - Residents Notification Letter

Good morning Bruce,

Please find attached the resident's notification letter as requested.

The letter will be delivered to residents today/tomorrow in preparation for commencing the site works early next week.

Kind regards,

Gordon Macrae

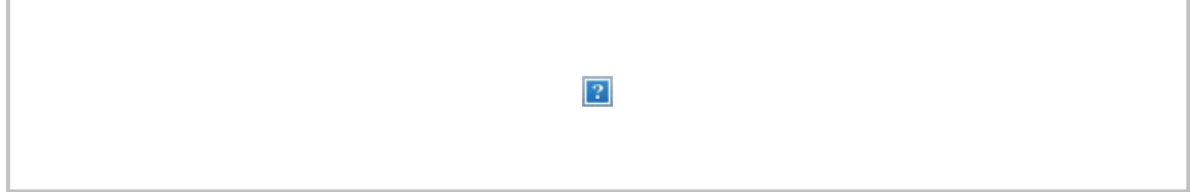
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