

WELLINGTON REGIONAL
COUNCIL

15 SEP 2003

RECEIVED

Attachment 5 to Report
PE 03.570

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	C. WRIGHT		

15 September 2003

Mr. Kevin Montgomerie
Manager Assets and Operations
Masterton District Council
P.O. Box 444
Masterton

COPY

Via Fax 06 378-8400

RE: Masterton Sewage Ponds Resource Consent.

Dear Kevin:

Condition 15 of your interim consent requires that the Council “ shall make a decision on the long term upgrade option, following consultations and technical investigations, no later than two years from the commencement of this consent.” That means the Council has 15 months from now to make a final decision.

It has come to my attention that the hearing to decide issues regarding access to the Forbes property was to be heard by the court in November of this year, but. has now been postponed indefinitely.

If the Council is still convinced that they must conduct tests on the Forbes property, then lawyers for the Council should be aggressively pursuing all possible legal remedies available to bring the matter before the court as soon as possible. I will, however, for reasons outlined in my letter to you dated 22 July 2003, oppose any upgrade proposal that involves the Homebush site.

In the **Masterton District Council Community Report** July 2003, it reads:

“ Before expiry of the seven year interim resource consent, the Council has to seek consent for the proposed long-term upgrade of the wastewater treatment and disposal system.”

That would lead the reader to assume that you have up to seven years to decide on a long-term upgrade. The fact is you have until 17 January 2005.

Further on in that same report it reads:

“Monitoring bores are being drilled at the Mania Road site to determine groundwater quality and direction, and the results from these bores are currently being analysed.”

That would lead the reader to believe the Council is actively conducting tests on the Mania Road site to determine the feasibility as an alternative site to Homebush.

However, in the **Masterton Wastewater Project (WAR 020074)- Progress Report July 2003** prepared by Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd. for the Wellington Regional Council, regarding the Mania Road site, it reads:

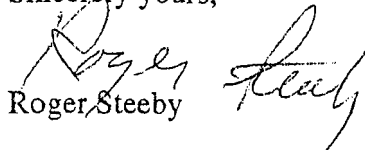
“Section 2.1.2 (c) The feasibility of rapid infiltration on this site is yet to be assessed in relation to groundwater mounding, area requirements, and the effects on groundwater quality and downstream groundwater users. If the option of rapid infiltration at the Mania Road site is progressed further, then Phase Two investigations, involving rapid infiltration trials using groundwater, will be initiated.”

According to the schedule listed at the back of that report, the Phase One tests should have been completed by 1/08/03 and Phase Two tests should now be well underway.

It seems that information released for public consumption in the July 2003 newsletter is somewhat different to what is actually happening. Given the fact that the sewage upgrade project has suffered from years of gross mismanagement by the Council, and given the intransigence and delay tactics utilised by both the Council and Forbes, any further delays are simply unacceptable. I will oppose any request the Council may make to the Regional Council for more time beyond the January 17, 2005 deadline for a final upgrade solution.

The fact is, after thousands of dollars have been spent on consultants dating all the way back to the early 1990's and with 15 months remaining, the Council still has no idea what the final upgrade solution will be. Please advise me in writing at your earliest convenience what steps the Council intends to take to insure that they comply with **Condition 15** of their consent.

Sincerely yours,


Roger Steeby

Cc: Colin Wright ✓
Steve Blakemore
Catherine Somerville, Russell McVeagh