

Project Update 1 – Storm & WW Strategic Project (Cockburn St)

Reporting Period: April 2024

1. General Update

Key Outcomes To Date:

Project Team formed:

Project Sponsor: Kym Fell. **Project Director:** Maseina Koneferenisi. **Project Manager:** Lisa Neill

Project Team/Subject Matter Experts: Matt Kneebone (GHD), Infrastructure Strategist (GHD), Physical works & customer liaison - Duncan Whitcombe (MDC), Strategy & Planning – Tania Madden (MDC), Engineering – James Li (MDC)

The **scope of work** for the project team is to deliver a roadmap for the district identifying the long-term solution and investment required in the stormwater and wastewater network to deliver on levels of service. The project has been broken into three workstreams, these streams will run in parallel, they are:

Workstream 1 - Data Collection – (Inspections and data collection is required to confirm the sources of wastewater overflows). – In progress

To date, solid evidence has been gathered to confirm there are several cross connections into the wastewater network present and these are key contributors to overflow issues. We have been able to get visibility of some but there is likely a number that are beneath ground – this will require physical work to confirm and remedy. We will be taking a collaborative approach with the property owners; each case will be considered on its merits.

Smoke testing has commenced to understand where inflow and infiltration may be occurring, residents have been kept informed through letter drops.

Workstream 2 - Strategic Roadmap – To commence July 2024

The work to produce the roadmap is due to commence in July with an 11-month timeline. A more mature level of data collection and analytics will be required to inform this document. This will be derived from the endorsed pilot trial where we look at a more intense level of data collection, through the installation of instrumentation and potentially a hydraulic model. This will help us identify the potential areas of concerns, zones of inefficiencies and how the network behaves under a variety of scenarios (and weather events). The pilot area is defined as:

- Cockburn Street
- Taranaki Street
- Okato and Patea Place
- Kuripuni Street

Workstream 3 – Communication and Stakeholder engagement – In progress

We are in the process of developing a communication and stakeholder plan for the duration of the pilot trial. We are working to meet with the impacted residents as soon as possible (in the next two weeks). The draft agenda is to share the GHD commissioned report (Cockburn-Colombo WW Overflows Review 25 March 2024) and introduce the project and take questions. The event will be led by the Project Director, with Matt Kneebone present for any report specific questions.

Updates – 6 Weekly updates will be presented to the Infrastructure & Services Committee.

Update – Opaki Water Race (OWR)

Reporting Period: April 2024

General Update

Current State:

Following a decision from Council to close the OWR in 2020 this matter has been identified as an item of interest by the Infrastructure & Services Committee. There was a request for the Infrastructure & Assets Team to provide a synopsis of the work to date and estimated costs/work effort.

- The resource consent to supply the Opaki water race expired in Dec 2018.
- A consent application to continue operating under the existing terms and conditions (for another 5 years) was lodged in June 2018 (**extension consent**). This allowed time for Council to work on a new application and to allow the Regional Council to complete the Natural Resource Plan process, incorporating the Whaitua rules.
- As Council began the new consent process, it became clear that support was not forthcoming from all the necessary agencies.
- In 2020 a report was presented to Elected Members looking at the options. A recommendation was received to consult on closing the OWR due to concerns about costs and compliance.
- MDC undertook the Special Consultation Process, and Council heard the submissions. Following the submission process, Council elected to close the Race by no later than June 2026.
- The **extension application** to GWRC was then modified to reflect the closure date of 30 June 2026.
- To date, MDC Officers have been able to work with the GWRC team to provide adequate information for their planners to process the consent without expensive consultancy costs.
- The draft extension consent was received by MDC in April 2024, noting that GWRC has accepted a lower standard of information than usual based on the closure of the OWR in June 2026.
- MDC now need to confirm acceptance of this draft consent to GWRC in the coming weeks.
- One of the more onerous conditions is the submission of a closure management plan – this will require the engagement of external specialists.
- The GM Infrastructure & Assets met with the small group of OWR users who are advocating a reversal of Councils decision and/or the seeking of another extension to the consent application currently with GWRC.

Advice was sought from GWRC on how this would be viewed. In summary they have shared the following:

The current consent is being granted because it has a very short-term timeframe. Any extension to the closure date will likely require much more information on which to assess the effects of the take (including the engagement of experts).

Should the water race users want to continue the operation of the race, they would need to start engaging experts now to obtain sufficient information in order to provide a full assessment of effects on the river, for a new application.

Costs to Date:

Ring fenced costings have not been captured for this work as it has been incorporated in Councils business as usual operations.

- Officer Time Estimate = 400 hours
- Elected Members Time Estimate = 40 hours
- External Experts Estimate \$20,000

Update – Opaki Water Race (OWR) continued

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Costs if water race was to remain open

- Estimate \$200 - \$300k
- A full application will be required.
- Numerous experts will be required to contribute to the work

Impacts if OWR is to remain open

- Financial
- Reprioritisation of work in the I & A Group (GWRC will only allow a small window before a new application is to be submitted)
- Full consultation will be necessary
- High uncertainty of support through consultation process
- Unaffordable to users
- Increase in ongoing maintenance costs for users due to more intense conditions

Of Note:

1. The group advocating the race remain open does not represent all users.
2. This group has been provided with the response from GWRC
3. Council Officers are proceeding on the initial instruction to close the OWR by 30 June 2026 and *assist the users with finding an alternative solution* (unless directed otherwise).
4. Council Officers will respond to the draft consent from GWRC in June 2024.