

Wendy Collard

From: Rebecca Murray
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 02:48 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LGOIMA Request - Seacliff Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) Request

I refer to your LGOIMA request received 9 October 2023 regarding Seacliff wastewater treatment and disposal upgrade.

We sent an email on 7 November 2023 with the decision to grant your request and advised we would send you the information as soon as possible but no later than 17 November 2023.

Please find below the responses to your questions raised.

1. Why is this sewer plant upgrade necessary?
 - a. The plant upgrade is necessary to improve the performance of the wastewater treatment and disposal system, and to ensure the system is able to continue to meet regulatory requirements. DCC's ability to exercise discharge consent RM.19.210.02 (issued September 2021, expires 2041) is conditional upon upgrades to the treatment and disposal system being completed.
2. Will the work have any impact on our rates?
 - a. Seacliff residents will not receive a targeted rate for this upgrade; the work is part of a programme of treatment plant upgrades across the Dunedin City area, provided for in existing budgets.
3. What is this we hear about the work being necessary for population growth or future demands?
 - a. It is standard practice when designing an upgrade to a treatment plant to allow for an increase in flows.
4. The council is reported as saying "land instability in the area is a known issue and can be appropriately managed as part of the upgrade and plant operation". How?
 - a. As stated in the letter to community on 18 October 2023, we recognise the historic land stability issues along the coastal area from Warrington to the outskirts of Karitane. In response to this concern, we have undertaken several measures:
 - Seeking advice from respected national and international experts
 - Expanding the area for wastewater disposal
 - Diverting rainwater/stormwater away from irrigation areas
 - Implementing extensive planting to enhance soil water absorption
 - Installing a monitoring system for early land stability risk detection
 - Constructing a reserve disposal system for contingency

5. Will DCC indemnify property owners for any loss of property value if the changes adversely affect landslide risks, outlook, noise, or general nuisance?
 - a. Legal matters are addressed depending on the specific facts at the time. DCC does not provide general indemnities without known facts in place. This is not possible given DCC's insurance requirements.
6. Will any of the work involve pipes and drains on private properties?
 - a. The work involves work in land purchased by the DCC for the upgrade. As part of the upgrade, DCC is investigating whether there are any public sewers in the township that may be leaking. Some of these public sewers are in private land; if any need to be repaired DCC will undertake that work.
7. Why is sewerage being trucked out and for how long? Why does DCC say this "is a good outcome"?
 - a. The DCC cannot yet exercise its new consent, RM19.210.02, until the upgrades to the treatment and disposal system have been completed. Consequently, trucking out of wastewater will cease when the upgrade has been completed and the DCC commences exercising consent RM19.210.02, sometime mid-2024.
8. Contractor's trucks and vehicles are speeding down Kilgour St – can DCC make this a 30km/h zone for site-traffic?
 - a. The matter was immediately raised with the contractor who investigated the matter. Trucks were being operated within the speed limit. The contractor subsequently requested staff to go no faster than 30 km/hour.
9. What are DCC's road traffic management and safety plans? Residents' property access has occasionally been obstructed. Heavy vehicle-transporters have also been reversing out along Kilgour St without a lookout-observer.
 - a. No traffic management plan is currently required as no work is being undertaken in the road corridor. There is a safety plan for construction activities at the site. The DCC and its contractor is unaware of any reason why property access would be restricted.
10. Contractor's heavy vehicles seem to be damaging water supply pipe(s) beneath Kilgour St. Complaints have been made to DCC, but the problem is continuing, and one resident is worried their garage might flood. What will DCC do about this?
 - a. DCC has been investigating the situation. The watermain along Kilgour Street (from the Palmer Street intersection to the entrance to the treatment plant) will be replaced in the coming months which will rule out the water supply as the source of the problem.
11. Has DCC looked at an alternative, safer route for site access?
 - a. An access via an adjacent farm and private rail crossing was considered but as there is already an existing, legal, and safe access to Coast Road the alternative access was not considered in depth.
12. What are the works located just below the bottom end of Kilgour St. They did not appear on the community flyer?
 - a. There is a laydown area for the storage of plant and equipment.
13. What about increased visual impact, dust and noise from the site? Will the new plant be more, or less, smelly? Will the plague of noisy wild-geese become worse after the plant is expanded?
 - a. In the assessment of the resource consent application, the ORC stated that

“The current piping system is above-ground; however, the area is surrounded by open farmland and is several hundred metres away from the nearest public vantage point. The area where the short- and long-term discharges are to occur is located on private land with two locked gates; therefore, access by the public is not anticipated. Vegetation planted on the disposal area to improve land stability also acts to screen the pipelines from view. Any effects on visual amenity are minor.”

- b. No increase or dust or noise is expected, other than minor increases at times during construction. The DCC has no insight into geese populations but will monitor the situation. In terms of smell, the ORC stated that

“The greatest potential for odour nuisance from on-site systems arises from system failure and effluent ponding. Recommended conditions of consent require no ponding to occur. Typically, maintenance requirements would be recommended to mitigate the potential for system failure, however given the short-term nature of this activity this is not considered necessary for the current discharge but will be a recommendation for the long-term discharge.”

The design and construction mitigate the above stated risks.

To which I add my own additional questions:

14. What is the pending ‘water connection work on Kilgour St’ mentioned in the DCC flyer?
- a. A water supply to the treatment plant is required. As discussed on the 18th of October 2023, DCC has since resolved to also replace the watermain on Kilgour Street as per question 10 above.
15. Who signed-off the project civil-engineering and ground stability assessment as being satisfactory?
- a. Stantec
16. What are your views on my technical note, and how do they stack-up with findings in the contractor’s pipeline inspection report you received?
- a. DCC is continuing to investigate the pipelines and we thank you for your technical note, which is very helpful.

Kā mihi

Rebecca Murray

Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer
Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | DD 03 474 3487 | E rebecca.murray@dcc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Rebecca Murray

Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 3:00 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: LGOIMA Request - Seacliff Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) Request

I refer to your LGOIMA request received 9 October 2023 regarding Seacliff wastewater treatment and disposal upgrade.

We have decided to grant your request.

However, answers to some of your questions are still being finalised. We will send you the information as soon as possible but no later than 17 November 2023.

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.

Kā mihi

Rebecca Murray

Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer
Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | E rebecca.murray@dcc.govt.nz

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From: Rebecca Murray

Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2023 11:53 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: LGOIMA Request - Seacliff Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) Request

Thank you for your request for information request received 9 October 2023.

This message is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 20 working days after the day your request was received.

If we are unable to respond to your request within the timeframe, we will advise you that we require an extension to respond to your request.

If your request is complex or requires a large amount of collation and research, we may contact you with a view to either refining your request or discussing the possibility of charging for aspects of your request in line with the Dunedin City Council's Charging for LGOIMA Requests Policy.

If we decide to release the information, we aim to provide it at the same time as we give our decision. If this is not possible, we will provide the information as soon as reasonably practicable.

If you need to contact us about your request, please email officialinformation@dcc.govt.nz or call 03 477 4000.

Kā mihi

Rebecca Murray

Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer
Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | E rebecca.murray@dcc.govt.nz

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50 The Octagon, Dunedin

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 9 October 2023 1:59 p.m.

To: William Clifford <William.Clifford@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Merchen Naidoo <Merchen.Naidoo@dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Seacliff Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade

Hi William,

As promised at our meeting on 29th Sept, here is the current list of issues the Seacliff community has raised with me. These are in expectation of an imminent community meeting.

1. Why is this sewer plant upgrade necessary?
2. Will the work have any impact on our rates?
3. What is this we hear about the work being necessary for population growth or future demands?
4. The council is reported as saying "land instability in the area is a known issue and can be appropriately managed as part of the upgrade and plant operation". How?
5. Will DCC indemnify property owners for any loss of property value if the changes adversely affect landslide risks, outlook, noise, or general nuisance?
6. Will any of the work involve pipes and drains on private properties?
7. Why is sewerage being trucked out and for how long? Why does DCC say this "is a good outcome"?
8. Contractor's trucks and vehicles are speeding down Kilgour St – can DCC make this a 30km/h zone for site-traffic?
9. What are DCC's road traffic management and safety plans? Residents' property access has occasionally been obstructed. Heavy vehicle-transporters have also been reversing out along Kilgour St without a lookout-observer.
10. Contractor's heavy vehicles seem to be damaging water supply pipe(s) beneath Kilgour St. Complaints have been made to DCC, but the problem is continuing, and one resident is worried their garage might flood. What will DCC do about this?
11. Has DCC looked at an alternative, safer route for site access?
12. What are the works located just below the bottom end of Kilgour St. They did not appear on the community flyer?
13. What about increased visual impact, dust and noise from the site? Will the new plant be more, or less, smelly? Will the plague of noisy wild-geese become worse after the plant is expanded?

To which I add my own additional questions:

14. What is the pending 'water connection work on Kilgour St' mentioned in the DCC flyer?
15. Who signed-off the project civil-engineering and ground stability assessment as being satisfactory?
16. What are your views on my technical note, and how do they stack-up with findings in the contractor's pipeline inspection report you received?

I should also let you know that some in the community, and now myself, do not wish the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board to facilitate the community meeting, or advocate for the community on this matter. This is in

case any conflicts of urgency, preference or intent arise between the community and the board. I have let Alasdair know.

William, with this list of community questions, when is the earliest that DCC rep(s) can attend a community meeting? A weekday-evening, or Sunday-afternoon would be preferable. I did note from our meeting you reluctantly agreed to have a meeting within +/- 2 weeks, even though you would be away for the first week. At our Sept 29 meeting Alasdair sought a detailed, written project description be provided ahead of the community meeting. My position was, and is, that this is not a requirement - and should certainly not be something that would delay holding a community meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.