

## Central Hawke's Bay Sewerage Treatment Proposal Reviewed

## To be released immediately 2.00pm 15 March 2012

MED201203

## Central Hawke's Bay Sewerage treatment proposal reviewed

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council is putting its plans for a land-based sewerage treatment programme for Waipawa and Waipukurau on hold, as it considers its options and reviews on the projected costs of the land based proposal.

CHBDC lodged resource consent applications with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council late last year to discharge effluent onto HBRC-owned forested land, reducing the amount of effluent discharged into the Tukituki River from the Waipawa and Waipukurau oxidation ponds.

"We are still strongly committed to treating the sewage to a standard that deals with the environmental effects on the Tukituki River, but we want to make sure we make the right choice for the Central Hawke's Bay community," says CHB District Council Mayor Peter Butler.

He says detailed costings on the land-based sewerage treatment proposal have just come in and are significantly higher than the original costings provided for Council, that have been included in the Draft 2012/22 Long Term Plan going out for public consultation. Council needs to fully evaluate these costs before we can take the plan any further.

"To enable us to take a thorough look at the costings we need to put the consent process on hold for now," says Mayor Butler.

He says the council will be looking at the detailed cost structure for the project, as well as an alternative sewerage treatment option.

Central Hawke's Bay District Council currently discharges all its effluent into the Tukituki River, which can, when river levels are low, contribute to algae and bacteria problems. The CHBDC has consent to continue with this practice until 2014, after which higher treatment standards are required.

For more information please call:

John Freeman Chief Executive, Central Hawke's Bay District Council 0685 78060

Authorised by Chief Executive: John Freeman