

Notice of Motion

Submitted on Friday 7 February 2020

Attention: Eric Perry, Relationship Manager, Local Board Services

In accordance with Standing Order 2.5 , I hereby give notice that I wish to move the following motion at the *Tuesday 18 February 2020* meeting of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board (DTLB):

Background:

Our residents are clamouring for Council to clean up pollution in our waterways and ensure our beaches are reliably safe to swim at.

Members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board are also agreed that this is a key priority in our area.

Across the council organisation there are a number of initiatives and projects which have been already been completed, are underway, or are planned.

However – much of this work is not highly visible and not well reported or known in the community. Meanwhile, news headlines and social media are abuzz with how many beaches currently have SafeSwim warnings, photos of suspicious-looking stormwater discharges, and tales of nasty smells. It all adds up to a widespread public perception that little or nothing is being done – or that what is being done is happening elsewhere in Auckland and that the North Shore has been largely left behind.

Barely a day passes in which I don't either receive direct comments, or see social media posts, along the lines of: 'It's just not good enough – we're paying this targeted water quality rate, and the beaches are still too polluted to swim. What's council doing with our money?'

This is a complex issue which has a long and complex history – and which does not have a simple, or single, solution. For the board to play an effective role in this issue we must be kept well-informed with regular, accurate, comprehensive, and timely information.

There is much information which has been amassed across the wider Council organisation which would be of enormous value to the board in gaining that understanding and knowledge.

It seems clear from recent board discussions that an immediate and urgent priority is workshops/briefings to provide a clear overview of the issues and good knowledge of what has been done, what is underway, and what else is being investigated or planned.

It is also crucial that we forge a strong working relationship and excellent lines of communication with the various parts of the wider Council organisation who have responsibility for various initiatives and projects, and ensure we are regularly updated.

This Notice of Motion simply seeks information which is already being gathered and reported in other parts of the Council organisation. As the requests are simply to have this existing information shared with the board, there should be minimal or no cost implications.

As things stand, it seems that much of the information immediately available to the board is in the form of two reports which each have very specific and narrow parameters. While each report is valuable and useful – they do not by any means form a holistic view of the issues, challenges, or potential solutions across our local board area or of the wider Wairau Valley Catchment (of which a significant part lies in the neighbouring Kaipatiki Local Board area).

The first of these reports is titled *Wairau Estuary Sediment Management* (AR & Associates 2015). This was presented to the DTLB's November 2015 meeting (Item 14). It was again included in full at the DTLB's August 2019 meeting (Chairperson's report, Item 20). As this was attached to the recent August 2019 agenda/minutes I have not attached it again to this Notice of Motion.

As the report's title says, it is focussed on sediment in the Wairau Estuary. The study area is geographically limited to the upper Wairau Estuary between the Kitchener/East Coast Rd overbridge, and to just past the Inga Rd overbridge – and does not include the Milford Marina or the estuary mouth at the end of Milford Beach.

It is also very narrowly focused on the amount of sediment, where it came from, and how sediment levels might be managed. There is some broad discussion about water quality and possible sources of contamination – but it doesn't seem to include any testing to find out if the estuary water or sediments are contaminated (or what with).

The second report, which is attached to this Notice of Motion, is *Wairau Valley Catchment – Water Quality Improvement Opportunities* (WSP Opus, August 2019).

The Opus report is geographically limited to the part of the Wairau Valley Catchment to the west of the motorway (which is in the Kaipatiki Local Board area). It does not touch on the eastern part of the Wairau catchment spreading across hundreds of hectares in the DTLB area.

While this report is also informative, it is also not a holistic view of the entire Wairau Valley Catchment.

It is also worth noting that only a brief summary of this report had been presented to the DTLB – not the report itself. I obtained the full report from the Wairau Estuary Environmental Protection Society (WEEPS), who had been given it after they had a meeting with Healthy Waters.

I do not doubt that over the years there has been other information presented to various boards – but it is no longer readily to hand or easy to find. It's also worth noting that four members of this board are new to the role – and do not yet have that acquired knowledge.

And, of course, this is an evolving and ongoing effort which has no end date. New information will arise and plans will change. Council must be proactive, while also being able to adapt and react quickly to the unexpected.

Throughout this process, the DTLB needs to be fully up to date with the latest information.

We must also work closely with our neighbouring Kaipatiki Local Board, which has a significant portion of the Wairau Valley Catchment in their board area.

And, of course, we must have strong relationships in our community and keep our residents informed and up with the play.

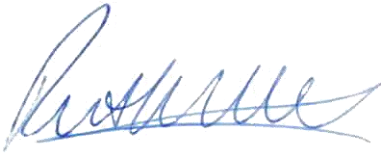
Recommendations:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) **Receive the attached August 2019 WSP Opus report *Wairau Valley Catchment – Water Quality Improvement Opportunities* and request that Healthy Waters formally present the report and discuss it with the board at the earliest practicable opportunity.**
- b) **Request a workshop or series of workshops, to be held as soon as practicably possible, to arm the members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board with a clear understanding of:**
 - i) **the issues which affect the water quality and sediment quality of the waterways, lakes, and beaches in the local board area and wider Wairau Valley Catchment;**
 - ii) **recent, ongoing, and future actions to improve water and sediment quality in the waterways, lakes, and beaches in the local board area and wider Wairau Valley Catchment.**
- c) **Request a map and list showing the locations where regular water quality and sediment quality testing is carried out at beaches, waterways, and lakes in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area and western part of the Wairau Valley Catchment within the Kaipatiki Local Board area – and the frequency of testing at each location.**
- d) **Request that Healthy Waters attend the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board monthly business meeting to report on the following within the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, and the western part of the Wairau Valley Catchment within the Kaipatiki Local Board area, including:**
 - i) **regular water and sediment quality testing carried out over the past month;**
 - ii) **ad hoc water and sediment quality testing carried out over the past month – including the trigger for the testing to be carried out (for example: significant rainfall, a substance spill, building site sediment runoff, public complaint);**
 - iii) **next steps to resolving new issues identified;**
 - iv) **ongoing progress in resolving previous issues identified.**
- e) **Request that SafeSwim provide a monthly report on water quality, hazards, and alerts at beaches in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, and their ongoing monitoring and activities in the area.**
- f) **Request that Watercare provide a summary of incidents where sewage has leaked or overflowed from pumping stations to stormwater networks, beaches, waterways or lakes in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, or the western Wairau Valley Catchment in the Kaipatiki Local Board Area, within the past five years. This should include the dates and locations and briefly indicate the causes and actions taken to prevent a recurrence.**
- g) **Request that Watercare provide a monthly report on all incidents where sewage has leaked or overflowed from public pumping stations or infrastructure into stormwater networks, beaches,**

waterways or lakes in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area or the western Wairau Valley Catchment in the Kaipatiki Local Board Area – or report that no such incidents have occurred.

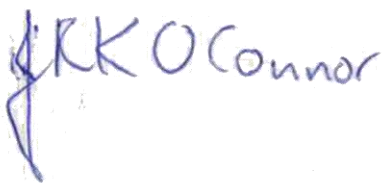
- h) Request that Watercare notify the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board as soon as practicably possible in the event of a significant sewage spill from public pumping stations or infrastructure affecting stormwater, beaches, waterways or lakes in the board area.
- i) Request that Building Consent and Resource Consent teams provide a monthly report on breaches of sediment and erosion control from building sites, and any enforcement measures being taken.
- j) Request regular updates from Auckland Transport regarding the installation and maintenance of the various forms of treatment devices in use in roadside catchpits.
- k) Request regular updates from NZTA regarding the installation and maintenance of the various forms of treatment devices in motorway catchpits.
- l) Request that this Notice of Motion and supporting documents be shared with the Kaipatiki Local Board.



RUTH JACKSON

MOVER

Elected Member
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board



JAN O'CONNOR

SECONDER

Elected Member
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board