
MEMORANDUM

TO: Elected Members

FROM: Mark R Newman
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 22 June 2015

SUBJECT: Council Meeting: Tuesday 23 June 2015

Following the distribution of the Council agenda on 18 June, please find attached:

- Agenda Item 4.1, setting out the responses to questions taken on notice at the Governance and Infrastructure Committee held on 16 June 2015.
- Additional information requested in respect of Minute GI.16/6/15 – Proposed Upgrade of Tims Thicket Septage Facility, which was marked to be circulated separately from the Council agenda.

I would be grateful if you could please ensure that you bring this paperwork with your agenda to the Council meeting.



Mark R Newman
Chief Executive Officer

enc Attachment 4.1 and Additional information referred to above.

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| RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT GOVERNANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2015 |
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**GI.3/6/15 MR R GLASSON: TIMS THICKET SEPTAGE FACILITY: PROPOSAL TO
UPGRADE FACILITY**

Mr Glasson asked the following questions pertaining to the above item which is report 11 on the agenda.

1. The report is heavy on financial investigation, but there is no mention of environmental factors. The licences for inert fill requires Council to manage the land in conjunction with the management plan for Yalgorup National Park as outlined in Ministerial Bulletin number 375. When did the council just base its judgement of these matters, just on the fiscal, what happened to the environmental consideration?

Response:

The report provided to Council on the Tims Thicket Septage Facility upgrade was based solely on financial grounds as it was providing Council with the Business Case for the upgrade of the facility. The environmental aspects of the upgrade will be dealt with by the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) through a Works Approval application process and Council will need to satisfy the DER prior to the issue of this approval.

The DER licence the septage facility and impose environmental conditions on the licence, which includes bi-annual monitoring of the five monitoring bores surrounding the septage facility. The current licensee of the site is Transpacific Cleanaway. An annual environmental monitoring report is submitted by the Waste Alliance to the DER each year in accordance with the licence conditions, and the site is also regularly audited by officers of the DER to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the site licence. The last DER audit was undertaken on 15 April 2015.

Ministerial Statement No. 375 (released in November 1994) approved the proposal to modify the boundaries of the Yalgorup National Park to allow for the construction of a septage treatment facility and limestone quarry. The statement imposed a number of conditions, which included compliance with environmental management commitments made by the proponent in the Consultative Environment Review document.

Environmental Management Commitment 1.3 required the City (in conjunction with CALM and NPNCA) to develop a management plan encompassing the area of land excised from the National Park (aside from that required for the limestone quarry and septage disposal facility) and the balance of Reserve 24198 and 33139. The management plan also had to be consistent with the management of Yalgorup National Park.

Council fulfilled its obligations in 1997 by engaging Halpern Glick Maunsell (Consulting Engineers and Environmental Scientists) to develop the Tims Thicket Reserve Management Plan in accordance with this commitment. The management plan specifically excluded the Tims Thicket Septage Facility and Limestone Quarry as there was no obligation in relation to the excised area.

As per the Elected Members request, additional information on the environmental impacts of the septage facility upgrade have been provided to Elected Members for consideration at the Ordinary Council meeting on 23 June 2015. A copy of this additional information will be made available to Mr Glasson.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT GOVERNANCE AND
INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2015**

2. In March 2015 it was reported in local papers that Councillor Riebeling requested a report from officers into the City's relationship with Regional Rivers Council. Will that report be made public?

Response:

A report addressing the City's future relationship with Rivers Regional Council will be provided to Council, once the resource recovery contract is finalised, and the report will be made publicly available.

(This information was provided at the Council meeting held on 23 June 2015)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Elected Members

CC: Mark Newman
Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Kyle Boardman
Coordinator – Waste Management

DATE: 22 June 2015

FILE NO: A0456

SUBJECT: **Tims Thicket Septage Facility - Proposed Upgrade Additional Information**

At the Governance & Infrastructure Committee meeting on Tuesday 16 June 2015, the Committee deferred consideration of item 11, relating to the upgrade of the Tims Thicket Septage facility, pending further additional information on the environmental impacts of the upgrade.

The Tims Thicket Septage facility is licensed by the Department of Environment. Transpacific Cleanaway are the licensee of the site as they manage the day to day operations under the City's Strategic Alliance Waste Outsourcing Agreement. The DER licence imposes a range of environmental conditions, which can be summarised as follows:

1. Bi-annual monitoring of the 5 monitoring bores surrounding the septage facility. An independent consultant is engaged to carry out the bore monitoring and provide appropriate monitoring reports
2. Provision of an annual monitoring report demonstrating compliance with licence conditions and the provision of environmental monitoring data.
3. Collect samples from every tanker disposing at the facility and test each sample for pH and conductivity, and retain each sample for a period of two months.
4. Treat each load of waste with lime to maintain pH between 6.5 and 8 (for odour control purposes).
5. Manage septage treatment ponds (maintain adequate freeboard, prevent stormwater runoff into ponds, leakage)
6. Measure incoming and outgoing flows to ponds
7. Measure the volume and quality of the effluent discharging to the infiltrative area, and calculate the quantity of nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) being discharged to the environment.
8. Sludge disposal.

In accordance with item 2, the Waste Alliance issues the annual monitoring report to the DER in February each year.

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I have enclosed data (Total Nitrogen and Phosphorus) for the 5 monitoring bores surrounding the Septage Disposal facility over the last 2 years (please refer to Attachment 1 and 2).

The location of the five bores (with respect to the ponds) are as follows:-

Bore 1 North
Bore 2 East
Bore 3 South
Bore 4 Adjacent to ponds
Bore 5 West

Groundwater flow for the site is typically in a westerly direction towards the ocean.

With the exception of bore 4, the bore monitoring results comply with the lower trigger level for Total Nitrogen as specified in the Australia and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality. It is important to note that these trigger values are applicable to nitrogen and phosphorus in irrigation waters as there is no applicable standards for groundwater.

The elevated results in bore 4 is primarily attributable to the compromised pond liners – which will be addressed through the upgrade of pond liners.

The Tims Thicket Septage facility is regularly audited by DER officers to ensure compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the site licence and subsidiary legislation. The last audit was conducted on 15 April 2015. Following this latest inspection, the DER have requested additional information to confirm compliance, but these items are primarily related to the provision of procedural information to confirm that task have been undertaken. The Waste Alliance is currently preparing this information for the DER and is confident that the requested documentation will confirm compliance.

The upgrade of the septage facility will require the City (in conjunction with Transpacific Cleanaway as the licensee) to submit a Works Approval application to the DER for their assessment. Preliminary discussions with the DER have indicated that the City will need to address the following requirements as part of the Works Approval application:

- An investigation into alternative methods of disposal of treated liquid waste other than discharging to an infiltration area. The DER have indicated a preference to not discharge effluent to the environment through an infiltration area.
- An assessment of the suitability of the liquid waste ponds storage capacity and capacity of treatment.
- Provision of a sludge management plan, including pond inspection post de-sludging.

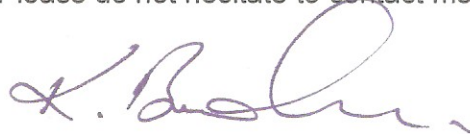
It is also the City's intention to modify the front end of the facility to enable improved and more efficient receipt of septage waste, and to minimise potential blockages within the ponds.

There are currently three potential sources of contamination within the septage facility that could impact on the environment. These include:

1. possible leakage from the pond liners
2. the discharge of effluent from the oxidative pond into the infiltration area; and
3. the existing onsite effluent disposal system that services the gatehouse compound.

Items 1 and 2 can be effectively managed by replacing all plastic liners with new 1.5 mm HDPE liners, and by redesigning the ponds so we eliminate the need to discharge effluent to the infiltration area. Item 3 is required infrastructure for the site although the impact of nutrients on the environment is considered minimal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue.



Kyle Boardman
Coordinator – Waste Management

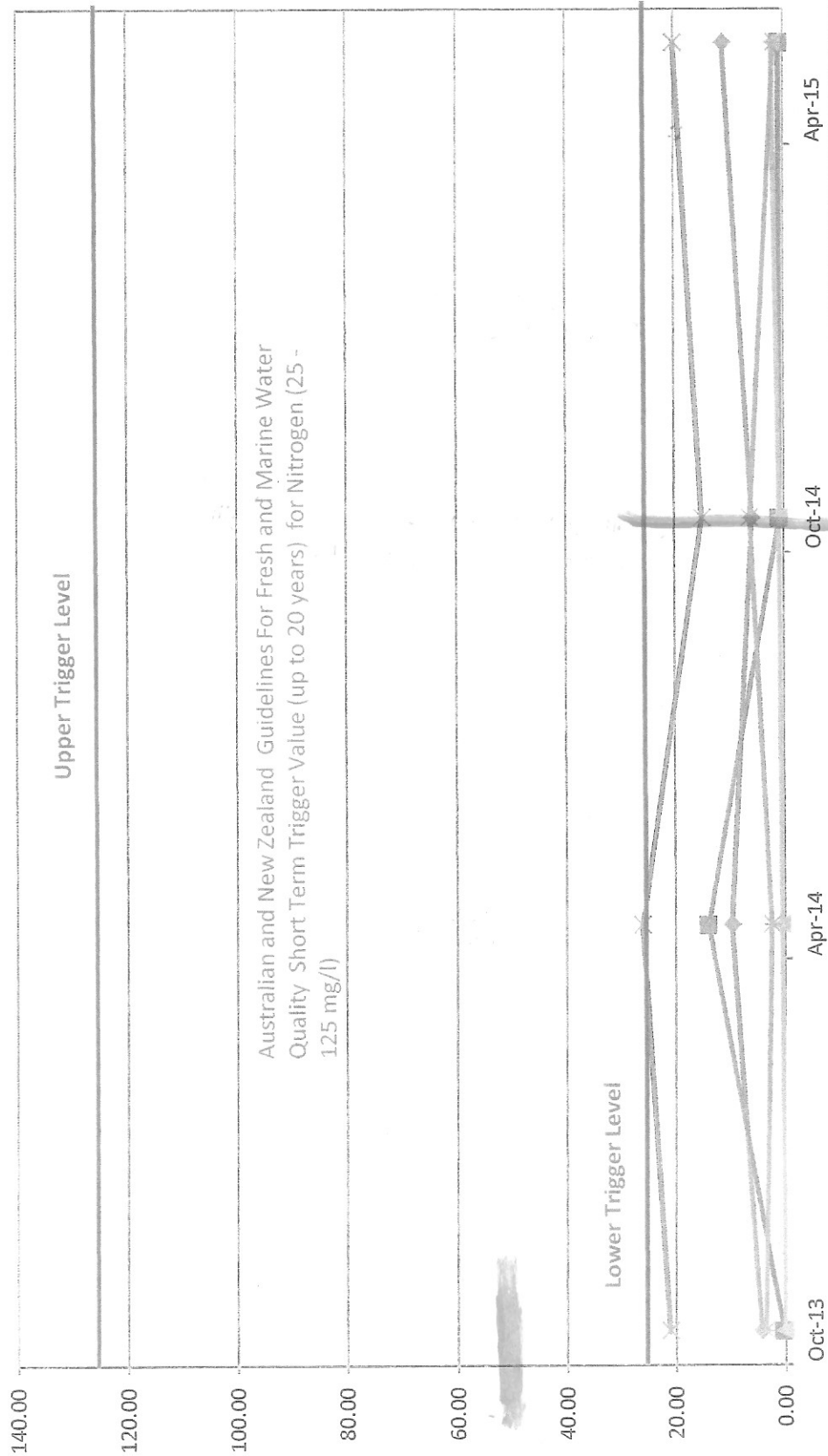


Dr Neil Carroll
**Acting Director
Works and Services**



Mark R Newman
Chief Executive Officer

Tims Thicket Septage Monitoring Bores - Total Nitrogen (mg/l)



- ◆ Bore 1
- Bore 2
- ▲ Bore 3
- ✕ Bore 4
- * Bore 5

Tims Thicket Septage Monitoring Bores - Total Phosphorus (mg/l)

