

5.8 Future Growth

5.8.1 Demand Management

The main drivers of demand on the wastewater system are population growth, development and urban form, economic growth, I/I and (to a small degree) water consumption.

The extra demands on the wastewater system due to the population growth and development of Wellington City will not be substantial in the short term. There are no current significant capacity issues related to population demands.

The presence of I/I creates significant demands on the wastewater system during wet weather. It is proposed that the development of an I/I removal strategy through the Interceptor Upgrade Project would mitigate this demand.

The Northern Growth Management Plan

The area in the north of the city, between Churton Park and Tawa, has been identified for urban development. This will have an impact on future demand for services. The wastewater from this area will discharge north to the Porirua Treatment Plant.

The Northern Growth Management Project highlighted the constraints of treatment facilities in the area and discussions are being held with PCC to identify a solution through an increased share in the Porirua treatment plant capacity.

5.9 Outcomes of Consultation for wastewater

Councillors were interested in the scope for more “Meridian Village” set ups.

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that the information collected via the questionnaire is incorporated into a Council database of on-site wastewater treatment systems (utilising GWRC data). The missing data could be collected via contacting the outstanding households and businesses. To help maintain and update the information database RPH also recommend annual site inspections to determine the status of the non-reticulated supplies on an ongoing basis.

Regional Public Health would support the introduction of an onsite wastewater treatment/disposal bylaw. And suggest PCCs existing bylaw could be used as an example.

Regional Public Health supports the proposed future wastewater options. They recommend adding another recommendation to provide information on good management/adequate maintenance to existing owners of on-site systems.

5.10 Future Wastewater Recommendations

Continue with current Council projects to reduce wastewater overflows and improve performance of wastewater system
In conjunction with GWRC seek to gather information on the operation and maintenance of septic tanks and on-site wastewater disposal systems
Consider mechanisms that would ensure septic tanks and on-site wastewater disposal systems are installed and maintained in a manner that prevents their failure and ensures effective operation. For example systems must meet New Zealand standard 1547 Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management.
Consider implementing the forthcoming MfE guidelines for the safe and clean operation of septic tanks.