

MPI advice on Fast-track Listed Project Application

Application name	Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant
Application number	FTA 290
Applicant	
Whether the application will be ineligible under Clause 18 of the FTA Bill	
Other authorisations that may be required from MPI	
Aquaculture settlement considerations	There are no aquaculture settlement related implications for this application.
Fisheries settlement considerations	<p>The Fisheries Settlement has been concluded. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu hold all commercial fishing assets on behalf of the iwi members. Customary fishing is managed by the Waihopai and Awarua Rūnanga under the provisions of the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999 which were made to give effect to Fisheries Settlement agreements. Customary fishing and management of important customary fishing grounds can only be conducted under these regulations. The rohe of some hapū for customary fishing purpose overlays the site. An application that affected the ability of hapū/ iwi to exercise customary rights would require careful consideration in relation to Treaty obligations. We would recommend consulting the iwi and hapū to understand the possible impacts of the application (eg for particular customary fishing locations).</p>
Impacts of a project on Māori development and PSGE priorities	<p>The applications states that Invercargill City Council has been working collaboratively with Te Ao Marama Incorporated, as nominated representatives for Te Runanga o Awarua and Waihopai Runaka (being the relevant Runanga o Ngai Tahu).</p> <p>The project is to cease direct discharge of treated wastewater to coastal marine area so that aquaculture and fishing can be promoted in the area. This potentially supports aspirations of local iwi/hapu and may have links to other applications related to aquaculture developments in the area.</p> <p>All options are likely to require treatment on land and land has not yet been identified for this purpose. May be implications for iwi/hapu depending on land that is identified for this purpose.</p>

Other considerations	<p>Comments from Water Availability and Security perspective –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific water quantity issues identified. - There is a proposal to land apply treated wastewater. Not enough information is available on how much and when wastewater will be applied. The impact of land applying wastewater on soil structure is acknowledged. However, details on standards on land-applied wastewater is not supplied and its impact on receiving groundwater system via infiltration and leaching, or surface water during periods of significant runoff. - Nowhere I see anything about ecological impacts on land and water unless environmental is inclusive of all flora and fauna. <p>Similarly where 100% of treated wastewater is to land applied, an alternative may be needed when such applications are feasible (e.g. significant rainfall events, saturated soil conditions, raising water table and others)</p>
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Disclaimer: This advice has been developed to support MfE advice to the independent Fast-track Projects Advisory Group and is not intended to provide comment on the merits or viability of the application.