

To the Community Board

From Whangamata Rate Payers Association.

Proposed Stormwater discussion 18 April 2023

WRA would be pleased to support the TCDC initiative to review the stormwater assets within Whangamata. Positive outcomes would be most appreciated by our members, other residents and business community.

We would like to put forward some preliminary ideas. Please note this is not the technical component as we understand at this stage TCDC are proposing a meet and greet session and seeking an idea of what help the working group may be able to provide.

We accept time constraints may mean the meeting may not cover off all these points.

1. **Protection agreement:** Many of our members have been flooded. We had over 120 people at the last public meeting but we don't know what each owners situation (flood issue) is. Some we do. If these owners came forward in good faith we would seek they had no retaliatory notices put onto property files. If this is not negotiable we would seek that any property that did become tagged would be accompanied by a clear statement from TCDC how these owners could remove the tag. Obviously there are merits either way.
2. **Historical Information:** The working group has viewed much of the surface storm water infrastructure assets. It would be reasonable all these assets came about through projects to prepare storm water deliverables. It would seem logical to us to conduct a review of say the last 10 years (maybe even to 20 years) of CAPEX projects. We understand each project has a number and would have a project file. Whether WRA or the working group stay involved with the TCDC team we would like this information so we can present back to our members what stocks we have and why they were built. Many of these projects would have had objectives which may assist understanding of where improvements can be made. Ie not throwing the baby out with the bath water.
3. **Anticipated make-up of the team to move forward:** WRA and the working group are not paid for the services they provide. We do not expect that to change. However it would seem reasonable for TCDC to provide the anticipated make-up of the team. Is this to be in-house, or external or combination. Is TCDC expecting WRA or the working group members to be involved and if so at what capacity?
4. **Timeframe of terms of reference:** Obviously key to WRA is what the terms of reference or scope of the stormwater team will begin with. Some members are flooded. Some fear another flood. Some cannot plan ahead. The terms of reference would be expected to deliver solutions to all those affected and provide confidence for future investment in Whangamata. This includes businesses, owners and tourists. Can we expect timeframes and terms of reference to be expedited?
5. **WRA 7 point resolutions.** At the last public meeting the 120 odd ratepayers unanimously approved the WRA 7 point resolutions. WRA would ask the Community Board to present these at this meeting for consideration into the terms of reference

6. **What flood information has TCDC collected:** WRA would trust the TCDC team be provided with good information about the storm water misses recently experienced. WRA has many emails. TCDC would have requests for service. It would be expected other organisations would be able to contribute like the Fire Service and the emergency relief volunteers. It would be good to have historical RFS added. Did TCDC arrange any aerial recognisance during the flooding? This should include TCDC historical RFS and independent reports. Will these be made available?
7. **Compliance and regulatory matters:** The WRA working group reported instances of both compliance and regulatory issues. Will the TCDC storm water team be required to identify and provide policy to prevent ongoing issues? This seems important to prevent more problems emerging.
8. **Title of storm water project:** It seems appropriate to name this team with a suitable title to capture these matters:
  - a. To provide short term solutions for each of the next few annual plans
  - b. To provide long term solutions to fit into the LTP
  - c. To meet what we understand is Governments new 1.8M rule – resilience beyond sea water rise
  - d. To meet or amend Resource certificate 105667
  - e. To prepare solutions to remove tags and address s71 (BA 2004) matters
  - f. To resolve low spend solutions with scopes to fit inside Schedule 1
  - g. To provide guidelines documents to assist owners preparing bigger ticket spends through building consents
  - h. To provide the chunking down, or steps tom meet the LTP
9. **Industry and development needs:** WRA is concerned of the degree/extent of expansion of impervious surfaces. The storm water assets are or have been recently overwhelmed. Adding more pressure on existing storm water assets in the name of progress may not be desirable at present.
10. **Cease and desist with RFS:** WRA has been copied into TCDC responses (RFS) to its members from the RFS team. We seek these stop immediately. These are not helpful in the interests and integrity of TCDC. It is becoming increasingly difficult for members to believe in or trust some positive action will provide them with relief.

WRA appreciate the intent of the meeting is a face to face greet to see if TCDC could be assisted in the progress towards needed solutions. These queries may not be asked or answerable today. WRA would appreciate if the community board will endeavour to seek answers and advise us so we can transmit that intention to our members.

PS:

- (i) WRA enclose a more technical short list of issues and some comments our working group has made. This list is in our opinion useful to create the terms or reference from and to begin working through some of the issues as identified to WRA.

- (ii) The working group includes compliance people. We have taken the liberty of creating a 'Flood Complaint' form. The concept of this is to get accurate information from each affected owner so the working group has reliable facts about each problem so future projects will include deliverable solutions that improve resilience and hopefully reduce the hazard.