

6 August 2021

Dear Hut Owner

Following consideration of submissions to the Council's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) and Council deliberations and adoption of the LTP on 23 June 2021, we are able to provide an update to the Upper Selwyn Huts community on two key issues.

Connection of Upper Selwyn Huts Wastewater System to Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant

Council has agreed to go ahead with connecting the Ellesmere Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rolleston, via a pipeline along Leeston Road. Further work is required, but once this project goes ahead it will allow a connection of the Upper Selwyn Huts settlement wastewater system to the new pipeline.

This connection will have the additional benefit of allowing the Coes and Chamberlains Ford camping areas to connect, and will remove all wastewater treatment facilities from near the Selwyn River.

The connection for the huts share would be funded through an increase in the licence fee. This cost is estimated to be similar to a new standalone wastewater treatment plant constructed on the reserve behind the huts. In addition to the connection cost is the cost of:

- replacing the wastewater pipe reticulation within the streets of the huts community, and
- a wastewater pump station located at the huts to pump the huts wastewater via the Ellesmere to Pines wastewater pipeline.

Attached for information is an extract from the LTP which provides some background information for new hut owners to the current situation.

Further consultation with the community and investigation will need to be undertaken by Council over the coming year.

Council sees the Ellesmere to Pines pipeline project as providing a positive outcome environmentally for Leeston and the community surrounding Lake Ellesmere.

Renewal of Deed of Licence

Once Council has completed consultation with the community on the preferred wastewater option and a final decision made, consideration can be given to finalising the terms and conditions of the Deed of Licence with a view to renewal. The decision on the length of the licence has yet to be decided by Council and this will depend, in part, on which wastewater option is finally selected as to whether a 15 year or 30 year licence period is selected.

Council staff are now reviewing the 'draft' Deed of Licence which was circulated to all hut owners in April 2020. Council placed that review on hold in June 2020 but with greater certainty on the type of sewer connection an possible term, the review is to recommence.

Consideration will be given to the submissions made to the Council's Annual Plan 2020/2021 consultation document. As part of the Annual Plan submissions and deliberations, Council resolved that:

- a) *Implementing the cost recovery for the work needs to be done now and step up over time; and*
- b) *Staff will work on clarifying the bond, license review, renting of huts and use of the word 'permanent'.*

These matters will be considered as part of the review of the Deed of Licence.

Please note that we will be working with the Huts Association to develop a revised licence for discussion.

If you have any questions with regard to this letter, please ring or email me as below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Douglas Marshall
GROUP MANAGER PROPERTY

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Extract from Council's LTP 2021-2031

"Upper Selwyn Huts

The community's wastewater is collected and treated in an oxidation pond, then spread on land near the lake. The resource consent was given in 2000, and expired in June 2020. The population served is around 100 residents.

Key issues/constraints for wastewater

- *The existing border dyke disposal system (and nitrogen loading rate) has a significant potential environmental effect given the shallow depth to groundwater and the sensitivity of the surrounding environment.*
- *There is high inflow/infiltration into the wastewater system, from high groundwater levels and including illegal stormwater cross-connections (though this latter issue has been greatly reduced through proactive action by Council).*
- *A higher lake level in Te Waihora would result in more times when border dyke irrigation of Upper Selwyn Huts is not possible.*
- *Some historic flooding has also been observed.*
- *The existing wastewater consent for the Selwyn Huts expired in 2020. In order for the consent to be renewed by Environment Canterbury, significant enhancements will need to be undertaken.*
- *Due to the age and condition of the sewer and issues with high infiltration, the reticulation needs to be replaced.*
- *There is drinking water protection zone located within the southern part of the settlement, which constrains the area available of wastewater disposal to land.*
- *A new on-site system (if chosen) would be located in the recreation reserve to the east of the huts. This would exclude the use of part of the reserve for recreation purposes.*

Option 1 (preferred): connect Upper Selwyn Huts to the Ellesmere/Pines pipeline

If a pipeline is installed from Ellesmere WWTP to Pines WWTP, this presents an opportunity to connect Upper Selwyn Huts to the scheme. The two pipe routes are estimated to have similar costs (\$1.4m for the route to Chamberlains Ford in red; \$1.5m for the direct route along Selwyn Lake Road). These costs include an intermediate pump station at Coes Ford, allowing connection of the camping ground at this location and maintaining flushing velocities in the rising main."



Figure 4.11 potential pipe routes for connection of Upper Selwyn Huts and Coes Ford to Ellesmere to Pines pipeline.