



## What's the Long Term Plan all about?

In the next few weeks, you're going to hear a lot of Council's Long Term Plan. The Long Term Plan is important in relation to the proposed wastewater schemes because it sets out how funding for the schemes will be managed in the short-medium term.

By way of background, all councils in New Zealand are required to produce and regularly update a Long Term Plan. The Plan tells the community what to expect from a Council regarding the type of service it will deliver, new projects planned and how the Plan will be financed over the next 10 years.

Our aim is to send you a summary of the Draft Long Term Plan in early April. Keep on eye on the Weekend Sun newspaper for more information.

The draft Plan will be open for your submission on 1 April. Submissions will close on 1 May at which time Council will review the submissions with a view to adopting a final Plan on 30 June.

During the 10 years that the Plan considers Council will monitor its progress, review its direction every three years and ensuring that financing the Plan remains at an affordable level for ratepayers.

The Plan is an important document for the future of your community and the wider Western Bay - so we urge you to read the summary carefully.

We want to know what you think of the issues and proposals raised and let us know whether we are going in the right direction or whether we should change tact. Full details on the draft Plan will be available on Council's website; [www.westernbay.govt.nz](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz) and at Council Offices from 1 April.

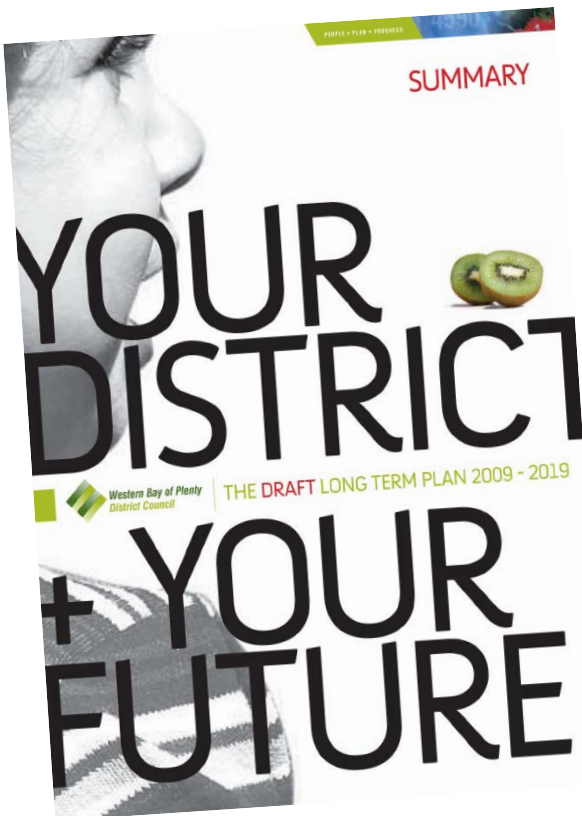
HAVE YOUR SAY

**REMEMBER TO GET YOUR FEEDBACK TO US  
BY 1 MAY.**

## proposed wastewater schemes

### facts and stats

1. A wastewater investigation has been carried out over several years for the Maketu, Little Waihi and Pukehina Beach communities. This included extensive consultation for wastewater treatment and land based disposal at Maketu.
2. Potential treatment options have ranged from a hybrid onsite/area wide scheme to the traditional full community scheme.
3. The current preferred solutions are based on the requirements that the system needs to be easy to maintain, affordable and have minimal operation risk.
4. Environment Bay of Plenty/Regional Council manages on-site wastewater treatment and disposal.
5. Environment Bay of Plenty's On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan 2006, has special wastewater treatment and disposal requirements for Maketu and Little Waihi communities that have to be met before December 2010.
6. One of the environmental constraints for any scheme in the Maketu, Little Waihi and Pukehina Beach areas is the communities close proximity to the harbour and estuary, including lowlying properties, which have a high watertable.





# WESTERN BAY DISTRICT IN THE PIPELINE

## Proposed wastewater schemes - frequently asked questions

### What's behind the development of the new wastewater schemes?

The regional council's (Environment Bay of Plenty) Onsite Effluent Treatment Regional Plan, has earmarked Maketu and Little Waihi as "Maintenance Zones."

Maintenance Zones require an advanced wastewater treatment system and/or community wastewater reticulation scheme to treat the effluent to a higher quality before disposal to ground and/or water to comply with Environment Bay of Plenty's requirements.

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council is assisting communities located within maintenance zones by investigating suitable community wastewater schemes.

### Will these communities be opened up for growth once a new wastewater scheme is in place?

SmartGrowth – the 50 year plan to manage growth in Western Bay and Tauranga – has identified that little growth will occur in Maketu, Little Waihi and Pukehina over the long term.

### Will properties be able to subdivide in the future?

Under Council's District Plan, which contains rules around what can and can't be done when it comes to development in your backyard, street or community, properties **will not** be able to subdivide to less than 800 square metres once the new wastewater scheme is in place.

### Once the new scheme is built what impact will it have on improving water quality and the environment in general?

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council is working with Environment Bay of Plenty to ensure that treated effluent from the proposed new wastewater treatment plant meets the required water quality standards before it is disposed into the environment.

To this end, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council is looking at the most economical or, lowest – cost scheme that, when properly maintained, is friendly to the environment.

### Is any help available from central government to pay for the scheme?

The Ministry of Health has provided \$10.5 million towards a community wastewater scheme.

Environment Bay of Plenty has offered an additional \$1.6 million.

Total existing subsidies are \$12.1 million.

The current subsidies will approximately cover a third of the overall wastewater scheme costs.

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council will continue to examine opportunities for additional sources of funding as the scheme progresses.

## Project timeline

Resource consent application lodged by December 2009.

Public hearings scheduled for first half of 2010.

Construction begins 2011-2013.

### What if I'm building a new house and need to put in an on-site wastewater system? Will I be able to use this system with the new wastewater scheme? Will I be reimbursed for this system if it cannot be used?

Some new systems may be able to be refurbished to meet the primary treatment requirements of the wastewater treatment system.

It is unlikely there will be additional funding to help pay for existing systems that cannot be used with the new scheme.

### What if there is a maintenance problem or no electricity to run the new system?

The new system will offer 24 hour storage in the unlikely event that a problem does occur it should be fixed by Council within 24 hours.

## STEP/STEG WASTEWATER SYSTEM

STEP/STEG stands for Septic Tank Effluent Pump/Septic Tank Effluent Gravity and this system is similar to a conventional septic tank, except that the effluent (liquid) flows by gravity (if possible) or is pumped to a de-centralised (local) community disposal area. The effluent undergoes further treatment before being finally disposed to ground at a location that is not detrimental to the environment. The solids will still need to be periodically pumped out of the tank.

Some advantages of the systems:

### STEP/STEG

1. Primary treatment is on-site reducing treatment plant cost
2. Secondary treatment at a de-centralised community wastewater treatment plant to ensure correct effluent treatment and disposal into the environment

### STEP

1. Smaller pipe sizes to convey effluent to the wastewater treatment plant reducing installation cost
2. Pressurized pipe system that can be installed in varying topography
3. Pressurized system that reduces infiltration from stormwater/high watertable

If you would like further information please contact the customer service team

**07 571 8008**

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE • [WWW.WESTERNBAY.GOV.T.NZ](http://WWW.WESTERNBAY.GOV.T.NZ)



## Next meetings

6.30pm, Wednesday, 8 July  
Whakaue Marae

6.30pm, Thursday, 9 July  
Pukehina Community Centre