

Submitter No: 329

Submitter Name: GDC

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Summary of evidence of Matthew Bayliss

- 1 My name is Matthew Bayliss and I am the 3 Waters Asset Manager for the Gore District Council (GDC).
- 2 While there are a number of concerns related to the management of water, stormwater and wastewater with the proposed Southland Land and Water Plan (pSWLP) my evidence focuses on overflows of untreated wastewater from community sewage schemes.
- 3 GDC owns, operates and maintains three wastewater schemes servicing Gore, Mataura and Waikaka which comprises of 103 km of pipelines and three treatment plants.
- 4 The combined replacement values of these three schemes are currently estimated to be 40.9 million dollars.
- 5 These systems include a number of engineered wastewater overflows.
- 6 These are a consequence of the schemes being developed over the past 100 years and prevent untreated wastewater from entering habitable areas causing public health risks. Due to this they are considered a necessary part of the Gore District's wastewater schemes.
- 7 Continual improvements since the 1970s including the installation and ongoing upgrades of wastewater treatment plants, the removal of stormwater from the wastewater system and upgrading of pump stations has, however, seen these overflows reduced.
- 8 GDC is currently undertaking a 3.5 million upgrade of the Ajax Pump station and associated pipework. This upgrade will significantly reduce the number of overflows from the pumpstation.
- 9 GDC's 2015 -2025 LTP indicates that 16.1 million dollars will be invested in capital upgrades of the Council's wastewater and storm water network. This will continue to decrease the frequency and quantity of wastewater overflows to the environment.
- 10 Under the current pSWLP overflows of untreated wastewater from a community wastewater scheme would be a non-complying activity.
- 11 Such a consenting regime would not provide the flexibility needed to improve the current situation from a wastewater engineering perspective - particularly in the short term. GDC is planning for a longer term solution that will take account of both practical and financial limitations.
- 12 This would be far better achieved if the proposed southland land and water plan acknowledged that wastewater overflows from community sewage schemes are anticipated and that a long term approach needs to be taken to reducing these, through utilising a discretionary consenting approach.