

# Cr Tracey Ultra's post



**Cr Tracey Ultra**  
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On Tuesday 3rd Feb, I visited the Seaview wastewater treatment plant with Mayor Peri and a council staff member.

The smell was pretty bad and I asked questions about the impact of household cleaners in the system affecting the good bacteria, we were told that household chemicals are diluted and it is industrial chemicals that cause a problem. I checked the WW website where they do recommend using plants based cleaners.

Mayor Peri asked about the risk of catastrophic failure due to the dryers needing replacing, it was confirmed that this could happen again.

Solids are separated and the sludge is dried into pellets and trucked to Silverstream Landfill. When the dryers fail, wet sludge is trucked to landfill where it buried, this is only a temporary solution and increases the risk of odour.

Projects starting this month are Dryer replacements, Odour control biofilter refurbishment, UV disinfection upgrade, Backup power supply to replace the 50 year old generators, Aeration system renewal, RAS/WAS pumping system renewal, Clarifier renewal.

Upgrades are essential to meet the demand of population growth. This is expensive (700M for the Pencarrow outfall pipe alone) the total costs including the Pencarrow pipe and other upgrades at the treatment plant come to 1billion. The current financing by councils is unaffordable.

Water assets (and water debt) will be transferred to Tiaki Wai on July 1st. Tiaki Wai will have their own financing system - borrowing from LGFA independently of councils and billing residents separately from rates.

The councils will manage the billing system on behalf of Tiaki Wai.

On Wednesday 4th Feb Moa Point wastewater overflowed into the sea at a rate of 70Million litres per day. This is the kind of catastrophic event that we want to prevent. Ensuring that all treatment plants are compliant and that the “fully treated wastewater” that gets pumped out to sea has no adverse impact on the environment and that we don’t rely solely on “dilution”.

We can all help by only flushing poo, pee and toilet paper.

