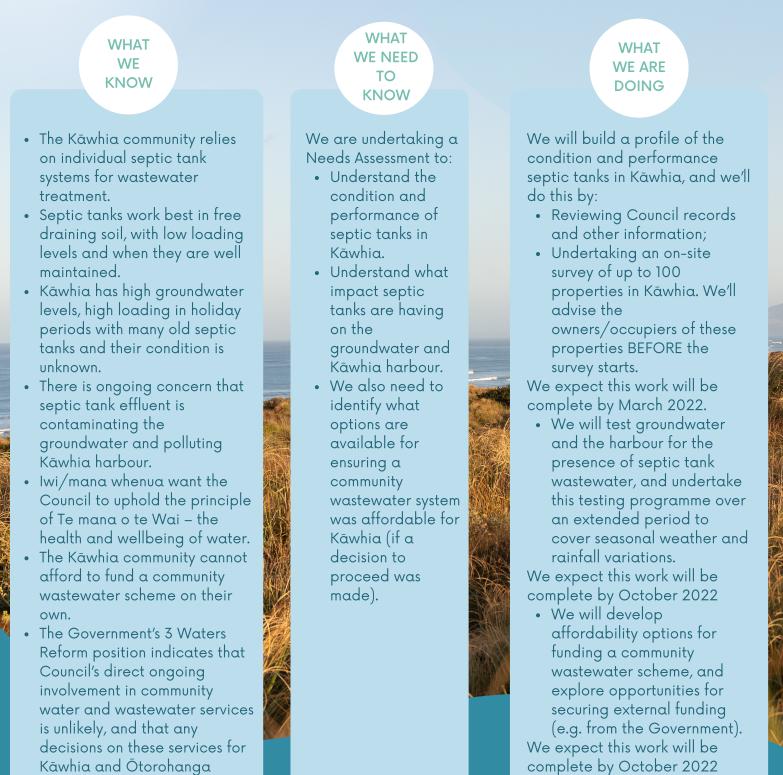
DOES KĀWHIA NEED A WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM?



Ōtorohanga

The Ōtorohanga District Council is doing an assessment to see if a community wastewater scheme is needed in Kāwhia. This sheet explains why we're doing the assessment, what information we'll be collecting and when decisions will be made. We'll keep the Kāwhia community updated as the assessment progresses.



NO FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE MADE UNTIL WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR INFORMATION GATHERING AND CONSULTED THE KĀWHIA COMMUNITY

District may not be made

locally.

UPDATING THE COMMUNITY

The information gathered during the Needs Assessment will be shared with the Kāwhia community, with regular progress reports to the Kāwhia Community Board. A final report on the Needs Assessment is expected to be available to the public by December 2022.

No decision will be made on a community wastewater scheme for Kāwhia until the Council has considered all the information from the Needs Assessment work. The Council will consult with the Kāwhia community BEFORE any final decision on construction is made (which is likely to be in 2023/24 as part of the next Long Term Plan process).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What happens if my septic tank system isn't working properly? A: You may be required to fix it, and that could mean it has to be replaced.

Q: What happens if septic tank effluent is contaminating groundwater and the Kāwhia harbour?

A: This presents an undesirable and unnecessary environmental and public health risk, and steps will need to be taken to correct this. This could mean a community wastewater scheme is the only long-term option.

Q: Can the Council or the Government just decide that a new wastewater scheme will go into Kāwhia without consulting the community first?

A: No – the Council will consult the Kāwhia community BEFORE any final decision to build a new community wastewater system is made. If the Government's 3 Waters Reform process results in the responsibility for local water and wastewater services being taken away from the Council, it is yet not clear what consultation obligations the new entity responsible for these services will have. For this reason it may be beneficial to have a confirmed position on a community wastewater scheme for Kāwhia before any changes to local water and wastewater service delivery are made.

Q: Apart from addressing environmental and public health risks, are there any other benefits to having a community wastewater scheme in Kāwhia?
A: Yes, a community scheme could allow for: the expansion of businesses and dwellings on sites as the area for septic tanks would not be required; the irrigation of treated effluent to support forestry operations; the development of vacant sections and growth of the township.

Still have questions? Please call 07 873 4000 or email info@otodc.govt.nz