

## **Water Protection Society: Recommendations for submissions to the Nature Calls project – options for wastewater.**

Although the amount of information provided by the Council is extremely limited, it is still worth trying to rank the options on the basis of the information we have (most of which is available at <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/nature-calls/> . This is a value judgement as much as anything else.

We encourage submitters to rank the land-disposal options top (3+4) and the discharge to groundwater and the sea last (as they're just transferring the problem to other receiving environments about which we know little - they're out-of-sight, out-of-mind approaches). The other two options both involve river discharge with one involving greatly improved treatment while the other involves discharging further down the river. Neither is especially desirable but at least we know a fair bit about the effects of discharging to rivers.

All options come with a big price tag so this is a matter of how much we value having a clean river and ocean.

We recommend the following ranking

1. Option 3 (gains benefit from the water and nutrients with least damaging environmental impact. Agree that might still have to discharge to river when it is at very high flow as land can't be irrigated then)
2. Option 4 (similar to Option 3 but less benefit gained from nutrients and water being applied to land and more being discharged to river)
3. Option 1 (not desirable to keep putting it in the river but if it is going there then should be very highly treated)
4. Option 2 (this just shifts the part of the discharge to further down the river. Still has effects on estuary and ocean)
5. Option 6 (too little is known about impacts on the ocean environment; dilution isn't the solution to pollution; it's just transferring potential problems elsewhere)
6. Option 5 (even less is known about what effect it will have on what lives in the groundwater than is known for other receiving environments and groundwater eventually ends up in the river, lakes or the sea anyway so may get harmful effects there too)