

- Enga mana e nga reo e nga hau e wha
- Tena Koutau Tena Koutau Tena Koutau Katoa
- Good morning and welcome everyone to this official opening of the Ashburton Wastewater Upgrade.
- All of you have had some part to play in achieving today's outcome and I would like to acknowledge your contribution.
- I would especially like to acknowledge the representatives from Arowhenua for their role within the working group and am pleased to welcome Jamahl Kingi, Tewera Kingi and Timothy Russell. — representatives from Environment Canterbury Sir Kerry Burke and Angus McKay, and would make special mention of Mr and Mrs Anderson who faced the difficult decision of allowing their home to be sold so that this project could progress.
- Many communities have faced the challenge of upgrading their wastewater treatment and disposal systems to meet higher environmental expectations. Ashburton District Council set about the challenge by empowering the community through the decision making process. I would like to recognise the retired and current Councillors who are here today who started this process and ensured that there was total community buy-in from the outset.
- The working group of 20 that was formed in 1997 not only faced the onerous task of identifying issues and options, but communicating and evaluating those issues and options and addressing the community's responses.
- Land disposal was identified as the preferred option for Ashburton and as we know this site was identified as the best site. The seeking and granting of the necessary resource consents for a project of this nature can be a tortuous process but the Ashburton District Council was determined to be a good neighbour. Through the consultation process those who first thought to object, withdrew their objections, and so the consents were issued on 8 June 2004, without the need for a hearing — probably unique in New Zealand for this type of project.
- That to me speaks wonders not only for the skill of our staff and consultants, but also for the community-minded spirit of all those who neighbour this wastewater upgrade.
- To date this is the largest single project undertaken by the Ashburton District Council — it is completed on time, within budget and can be extended to meet further growth.

- Contractors who played a significant role in this project
  - URS – design development and construction overview
  - Works Infrastructure — treatment facilities
  - Meyers Construction — transfer pipeline
  - Rooney Earthmoving — land disposal development
- Main sub-contractors
  - K B Irrigation
  - Millennium Electrical
- MacFarlane Rural Business — for their input into site selection and farm management plan
- And Ashburton District Council staff for their co-ordination
  - operations, property, planning and finance
- Alan Jolley - site manager
- Paul Sanderson - farm manager

**It is now my pleasure to invite the Tangata Whenua of Arowhenua to provide a blessing**

**It is now my pleasure to**

**push button**

**and declare the Ashburton Wastewater Treatment plant officially open and operating**