

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager
DATE: 12 June 2007
REFERENCE: S302
SUBJECT: **CARAVAN/MOBILE HOME EFFLUENT DUMP STATIONS**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee as to the number, operation and estimated cost of operating the caravan/mobile home effluent dump stations in the district.

2 BACKGROUND

A number of Council's effluent dump stations have been located to accept effluent from small mobile homes. Today however these facilities are increasingly being used by larger vehicles, eg trucks and buses which have been converted into mobile homes.

Some of the individual sites are too small to accept large quantities of effluent and are also located in areas where it is almost impossible for larger vehicles to maneuver. Maneuvering is especially difficult at Jubilee Park in Richmond where the unit is located within the car park.

There are 23 dump station sites located throughout the district with Council responsible for the operation of nine of these.

It is interesting to note that a number of private operators charge for use of their facilities if the camper van/motor home is not staying overnight.

3 COMMENT

Council has provided a service throughout the district generally for non ratepayers, ie for the tourists that visit the district. It must be pointed out that not all of the dump stations are operated by Council – a number are located and managed within private camp grounds.

4 OPERATIONAL COST

The operational cost of the dump stations operated by Councils rests with two departments.

Parks & Reserves operate the Jubilee Park dump station and they pay all of the costs to have it regularly cleaned. This year alone, cleaning costs have amount to \$1100. Engineering Services operate all of the remaining eight stations and are also involved with the Jubilee Park operation when it overflows.

The operational costs of the dump stations are absorbed into the Infrastructural Operations and Maintenance Contract and are funded via the pan charge.

The cost of operating the fourteen private dump stations is shared in that the private operators have provided the site for their business and they clean the site however the site is not accounted for as a toilet/pan and does not attract a rate. Therefore Council (the "club") is paying for disposal costs.

It is estimated that the cost to Council for the annual operation of the dump stations is \$740 each (total \$5900). This amount does not include the costs of cleaning up overflows. The loss of income if it was claimed that each dump station facility within the district was equal to a "pan" amounts to \$9430.

Therefore this reflects a total cost to the wastewater club of approximately \$15,000 per annum.

5 DUMP STATION LOCATIONS IN TASMAN DISTRICT

Dump stations are located as follows:

Collingwood	Collingwood Motor Camp.
Takaka	Mobil Service Station
	Takaka Information Centre car park
	Golden Bay Holiday Park, Tukuruia Beach
Pohara	Pohara Beach Top 10 Holiday Park
Totaranui	DoC camping ground
Marahau	Old McDonald's Farm & Holiday Park
	Marahau Beach Camp
Kaiteriteri	Adventure Camp
	Bethany Park
Motueka	Hickmott Place
	Motueka Top 10 Holiday Park
Motupiko	Quinney's Bush
Ruby Bay	McKee Memorial Reserve
Appleby	Greenwood Park
Richmond	Jubilee Park
	Club Waimea
Tapawera	Crossroads Holiday Park
St Arnaud	Kerr Bay DoC Camp
Murchison	SH6 by entry to TNL freight yard
	Mobil Service Station
	Kiwi Park
Nelson Lakes	Gowan River Holiday Camp

(Note - Pump Stations in **bold lettering** are managed by Council).

6 UPGRADING/NEW FACILITIES

The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association has written to Council suggesting locations for further dumping stations so that the coverage within the district is enhanced. The Association has also offered a token sum of funding towards the construction of such a facility.

There is no capital funding in Council's budget for further improvement or development of the current facilities.

Therefore the offer from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association has been declined.

7 SUMMARY

There is approximately 23 dump stations which are well spread out to give a reasonable coverage for visitors to the district. The wastewater sewerage "club" generally accepts all of the effluent from these sites at no cost to the facility. Council operates nine sites. A number of the sites are not able to cater for the larger type of mobile homes currently available. These sites are not being upgraded to accommodate the larger type homes.

The growing use of dump station sites by larger motor homes, the growing volume of effluent being discharged and in some cases limited space of motor homes is resulting in upward maintenance costs.

8 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager