

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager

**REFERENCE:** S302

**DATE:** 03 June 2008

**SUBJECT:** **CARAVAN/MOBILE HOME EFFLUENT DUMP STATIONS**

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## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee on the number and estimated costs of operating caravan/mobile home effluent dump stations

## 2 BACKGROUND

Staff previously reported on the number and estimated operating costs associated with the effluent dump stations throughout the district in June 2007. The report was tabled for information (RWK07/06/12).

## 3 COMMENT

Within the Tasman District there are approximately 23 effluent dump stations. Of these, 14 are privately owned and operated and are generally located at camping grounds. Council operates nine effluent dump stations.

Council has been in discussion with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) who have indicated that they have purchased a property at Murchison and will be providing a new facility at that site. This would allow Council to rationalise the facility in Murchison.

Council and the NZMCA have also been in discussion relating to the installation of a new effluent dump station in the Richmond/Wakefield area. This is due to the difficulties with access to the present Jubilee Park site for some of the larger bus/truck-type motor homes. The Jubilee Park site is located within the parking area outside the Waimea Rugby Club rooms and when the parking area is occupied access to the dump site is limited.

## 4 PROPOSED NEW DUMP STATION SITE LIMITATIONS

Council and the NZMCA have been working together to try to get a site that allows for the following:

- Located a reasonable distance from existing residential dwellings;
- Accessible for both small and large motor homes;
- Provides easy access to a wastewater reticulation network;
- Does not interfere with normal traffic flows;
- Is off-street (the dump station point is not within the road reserve);
- Is not within an existing car park (either a recreation park or off-street parking).
- In "park" areas the combination of large vehicles backing and turning and other uses, eg children are not compatible.

## **5 ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION**

The NZMCA has made a submission to Council's draft Annual Plan (submission 989) requesting that new effluent dump points be established in Brightwater and Nelson.

Since this submission staff have talked with the NZMCA and believe a single well-established site in Richmond would suffice. The question is where?

## **6 POTENTIAL NEW DUMP STATION SITE**

Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council are working together on a potential septic tank effluent dump site on or adjacent to the Beach Road pumping station in Richmond.

This septic tank dump facility will be open 24 hours-a-day/7-days-a-week and will be designed to cope with large septic tank truck/trailer units. The site could potentially be developed to facilitate an effluent dump station for the camper van and mobile home users and thus maximise usage and adequately cope with the larger mobile homes. If this facility was to be developed then the facility at Jubilee Park would be decommissioned.

## **7 COSTS**

It has been estimated that construction of an effluent dump station would cost between \$2000 and \$5000. Council would take the opportunity to accept the NZMCA offer to part-finance any option.

### **7.1 Ongoing Operational Costs**

In the June 2007 report a summary of the operational costs of the Council-maintained dump stations was estimated at \$740 per dump station per annum. With the rationalisation of the dump station at Murchison and the removal/relocation of the dump station at Jubilee Park to Beach Road the effect on Council's wastewater budget would be neutral.

### **7.2 Operational Funding**

The cost of operating Council's wastewater network is funded by pan charges and trade waste fees. There is no additional funding for this essential tourism operation. However, the pan charge covers most built-up areas where the tourist dollar is spent thus there is an indirect benefit to those who pay pan charges. As the operational cost is relatively low and the benefits of having discharge points relatively high the pan charge is seen as a fair mechanism for funding.

## **8 RECOMMENDATION**

**4.1 THAT staff pursue the option of relocating the Jubilee Park dump station to a more suitable site.**

**4.2 THAT operation costs of the dump station be funded as part of the wastewater operations and maintenance.**

Jeff Cuthbertson  
**Utilities Asset Manager**