



Media Release
18 August, 2011

Homeowners advised to check septic tanks

The Selwyn District Council is cautioning that many people have yet to check their septic tanks for damage following the recent earthquakes.

Council Wastewater Supervisor Graeme Wild says broken septic tanks can cause ongoing issues for homeowners if they are not fixed.

"I'm happy to come out and check people's septic tank connections – it's a free service provided by the Council. We know that not everyone understands how these things work," Mr Wild says.

For some people, any repairs that need to be carried out will fall within their EQC claims, but homeowners will need to check with EQC promptly.

"Each week we're finding some septic tanks that have failed and we're trying to be proactive with people. Broken septic tanks can be a health hazard and we want to prevent any of our residents from falling ill unnecessarily," he says.

For some people, the answer is in connecting up to their town Sewer Schemes, which is a requirement by November next year.

Late last year the council contacted those property owners who were recorded as yet to connect to the piped sewer system, outlining the time frame for connections.

A letter is about to be sent out to remind those property owners that their properties now have just over 12 months left to be connected. Council is encouraging people to make contact so some guidance can be offered about how to go about connecting.

"We're keen to meet our deadline of having the outstanding 250 properties connected by 1 November 2012," Mr Wild says. "Please do not leave it until the last minute. And remember to obtain building consents before doing any physical drainage work."

For a septic tank inspection, or to discuss connecting to the Town Sewer Scheme, contact Graeme Wild, phone 03 3472 873, 0274 479 252 or email graeme.wild@selwyn.govt.nz.

Ends

For more information, contact Graeme Wild on phone 03 3472 873, 0274 479 252 or email graeme.wild@selwyn.govt.nz.