

22 July 2019

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Dear Selwyn Hut Resident

Update on Consent Renewal Process

As you will be aware the Council is currently investigating options as to how to provide wastewater services for the Upper Huts community. Options being considered range from upgrading the current wastewater treatment plant to other options that have been identified by community members or Council staff/consultants.

Most options will require the Council to apply for a resource consent from Environment Canterbury. As with any compliance process, it is important that the Council can demonstrate that it is operating the current wastewater plant in accordance with the existing resource consent conditions.

One consent condition that is challenging to meet at times relates to the maximum volume of wastewater that can be treated. When the volume of wastewater discharged by the huts community is greater than the allowed consent condition, the Council needs to remove this additional wastewater volume by trucking the effluent away to another site for treatment processing.

In recent weeks Selwyn Huts locals approached Council contractors at the wastewater plant site questioning what they were doing. Although asking Council staff and contractors to explain what they are doing is a regular occurrence, the manner in which the local did so was deemed offensive and unacceptable to our contractors and the Council. From a Council perspective any inappropriate behaviour in such situations will not be accepted or tolerated.

The Council appreciates that there is probably a lack of understanding as to why the truck has been appearing at the ponds from time to time which is the reason for this letter. As you will now appreciate the truck is removing excess water, not adding wastewater to the pond. Some individuals may not believe these explanations, as an individual suggested that the truck in question had been down to the Lower Huts and was bringing material from the vaulted system at the Lower Huts, and dumping in the pond.

The Council is able to make statements about where the contractor's truck has been with total confidence because SICON vehicles and the trucking company removing the waste water have a tracking device on them called Eroads.

Eroads is a vehicle compliance system which, as well as tracking a vehicle, can also be used by a vehicle operator and the Government as a means by which road user licence charges are paid. Accordingly the systems authenticity as a means of tracking vehicles is acceptable to the Government and also to the Council.

Thus the Council is totally confident that both SICON and the trucking company when they say they have not been dumping effluent inappropriately at the Upper Selwyn Huts pond, and the Council can accept this explanation.

The above statements may seem rather extensive and perhaps over the top by some, but I have included them to show that the Council takes residents' concerns seriously and follows them up to find out the facts.

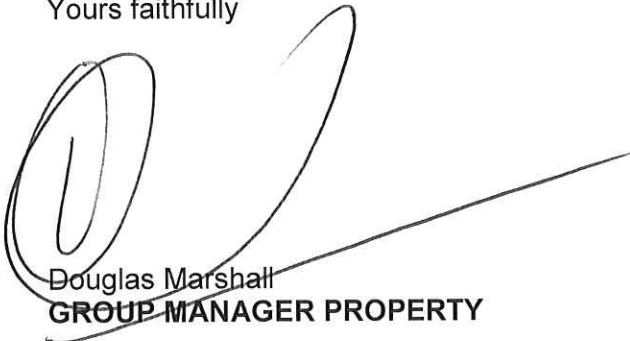
Council staff recently met with Environment Canterbury staff to discuss further the resource consent process. Being able to report on the above trucking actions also gives Environment Canterbury confirmation that Council and the community take consent conditions seriously.

Stormwater Discharges

Recently Council staff wrote to a number of hut owners asking them to stop discharging rain water from their hut roof into the wastewater system. Please ensure that this work is done promptly to ensure that the Council can eliminate every possible excess water from the wastewater plant. It is also a condition of your licence (Clause 13.1 [e] "ensure that storm water is not discharged from the Lot into the waste water system") that you do not undertake activities that are detrimental to the Council operating the wastewater plant.

If you have questions in relation to this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Douglas Marshall
GROUP MANAGER PROPERTY