



12.4 WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL POLICY

Date Adopted	Next Review	Officer Responsible
1 July 2009	30 June 2012	Manager, Solid Waste & Sustainability

12.4.1 Treatment Plant

Policy Purpose:

This function of Council includes the operation and maintenance of gravity sewers, rising mains, and pumping stations.

Policy:

To provide, operate and maintain a wastewater treatment plant utilising the best technologies and methods possible to adequately treat all wastewaters from the urban division.

To treat wastes so that the effluent should meet or exceed such standards as are laid down by the relevant water right or rights, and so that receiving waters are protected and remain within their classifications.

To provide for the treatment and disposal of the sludge produced.

To encourage educational visits to the wastewater treatment plant by residents, visitors, school parties etc, and to maintain the grounds and surrounds to a high standard.

12.4.2 Sewer Reticulation

Policy Purpose:

Policy:

To provide a waterborne sanitary sewerage system over the whole of the urban area.

To provide, operate and maintain a reticulation system including pumping stations sufficient to collect acceptable waterborne wastes and to convey such to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment plant. To utilise such types of pipes and materials as are most suited to the varying ground conditions encountered, and in particular that will resist corrosion and heat in thermal ground.

To require all properties within the area served to be connected to the sewerage system when treatment and disposal facilities are adequate.

To carry the public sewer lines to within 60 metres of every building to be served, in order that Council may invoke the powers of the Local Government Act 1974 to require all such buildings to be connected to the sewerage system.

To carry out all steps reasonably possible by treatment and disposal of wastewaters and by-products to protect the environment and in particular to protect the quality of the water of Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti.

12.4.3 Pressure Sewerage Systems

Policy Purpose:

Policy:

Introduction

Rotorua District Council is proposing to install and use pressure sewerage systems to service parts of the district where conventional gravity sewerage systems cannot be effectively or economically used due to geographic and topographical constraints.

Use of Pressure Sewer Systems in Rotorua District

Areas where pressure sewerage systems will be used are identified as those communities included in the Council's Sewerage Scheme Programme as shown in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

All developments within the area of benefit of the above lakeside and rural communities to be provided with pressure sewerage systems shall be connected to the community sewer, unless it is shown that it is impractical to do so.

Pressure sewerage systems may be used in some areas inside the urban boundary where they are identified as a more advantageous option compared with conventional gravity system or lifting pumps. The servicing of areas within the urban boundary with pressure sewerage systems shall be determined by the District Engineer.

Supply of Pressure Sewer Systems

Council will limit the number of pressure sewer technologies it will support in the long term, so as to minimise its overall spares and inventory, without compromising tender competitiveness.

Installation of Pressure Sewer Systems

Design and Installation Standards

Design and construction of on property installation (pumping unit, electrical appurtenances, individual pressure main and boundary kit) shall be in accordance with the Pressure Sewerage Code of Australia WSA-07 2006 or subsequent adaptations and/or revisions.

Design and construction of street main, pump stations and transfer mains shall be in accordance with the Rotorua Civil Engineering Industry Standards.

Accreditation of Installation Contractors

Accreditation or qualification of personnel for the street main, pump station and transfer main works shall be in accordance with Council's procurement process.

Existing Properties

Individual pumping units shall be provided per rateable residential property with an existing dwelling. Where more than one dwelling exists on a residential property, each dwelling shall be supplied with a stand alone pumping unit. If it is impractical to provide a single unit for each dwelling, the dwellings could be combined and served by a single unit subject to the approval of the District Engineer.

Properties that do not have dwellings on them at the time of the installation of the street main in the area, will not be provided with a pumping unit and boundary kit. A pumping unit and corresponding on-property installations, including connections to the existing street main will be provided when the property develops.

Existing private pumping units due for upgrade should consider replacing them with pressure sewer systems. The cost of replacement is the responsibility of the property owner. The ownership of the new pressure sewer system will be transferred to the council, consistent with Section 5.1 of this policy.

The number of individual pumping units in a commercial or industrial property shall be determined based on the quantity of sewage flow from the property and the configuration of the existing plumbing system.

The recovery of the capital cost of schemes for implementation shall be undertaken through a funding policy, to be developed, taking into consideration the overall cost of the schemes and associated subsidies.

Siting of Individual Pumping Units

The siting of individual pumping units shall be reasonably agreed between the owner and Council subject to design requirements, and in accordance with Rotorua District Council Engineering Code of Practice.

The formal approval of the siting and installation of individual pumping units on private properties shall be in accordance with Section 181 of the Local Government Act 2002 and relevant Council policy.

Connection of Existing Plumbing into the Individual Pumping Unit

Council shall only allow the connection of existing properties external plumbing system if it complies with the relevant New Zealand Codes/Standards into the individual pumping unit. Rectification of the existing plumbing system to meet compliance shall be the responsibility of the property owner and all associated costs. Where the faults to the existing plumbing systems have not been rectified within the contract period for the installation of pressure sewerage systems within the service area, the owner may at council's discretion be liable for the additional cost of bringing the installation contractor back to the site.

The type of materials used in the connection from the gully trap into the pumping unit should be compatible with the pumping unit's storage tank connection facilities and needs to meet the relevant national plumbing standard. The connection work shall be subject to Council's Building Consent process.

Where pressure systems are installed on a property, the septic tank that previously serviced that property should be decommissioned in line with Environment Bay of Plenty's On-site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan.

Connection of the Existing Power Connection into the Pumping Unit

Council shall only allow the connection of the individual pumping unit into the domestic power supply of existing dwellings if it complies with the relevant New Zealand Code/Standard. Rectification of existing

domestic power supply to meet compliance shall be the responsibility of the property owner. Where the faults to the existing electrical system have not been rectified within the contract period for the installation of pressure sewerage systems within the service area, the owner may at council's discretion be liable for the additional cost of bringing the installation contractor back to the site.

The Council shall install and maintain the electrical connection to the pumping unit from the domestic power supply mains circuit breaker and the wiring to the alarm system.

Commissioning

Prior to active operation of the pressure sewer system on each property, the installation contractor, in conjunction with the technology supplier, shall undertake a comprehensive commissioning of the system as per an approved commissioning check list.

As BUILTs

A copy of 'As Built' information for each property serviced by a pressure sewer system shall be stored on the Council's Asset Register and on the property file.

Reinstatement

Reinstatement of disrupted surfaces, plants or structures affected by the installation of the pressure sewerage system should be to the level that the property was prior to the works or as reasonably agreed with the property owner, the former being the minimum benchmark for reinstatement.

Operation and Maintenance of Pressure Sewer Systems

Ownership

Council shall have ownership of the pressure sewer systems, including pumping stations, street mains, boundary kits, reticulation lines to the pumping unit and the pumping unit including alarm box and the electrical connection from the domestic main switch to the pumping unit.

The property owner shall own and be responsible for the maintenance of the private wastewater line from the house plumbing system to the pumping unit, and the domestic electrical connection from the street electrical main to the point of connection of the pumping unit electrical connection.

Where a property is redeveloped for more intensive residential use (backpackers, commercial etc) the property owner shall be responsible for upgrading the sewer system situated inside the property from the boundary kit through to and including the private plumbing system and the associated electrical connections. This may include the replacement of a single pumping unit with a duplex pumping unit. Ownership of upgraded systems shall be as per above.

Operation and Maintenance

General

Operation and maintenance of all parts of the pressure sewer system will be undertaken by Council directly or through an accredited contractor as part of its asset. Maintenance of the pressure sewer system shall be to a level that protects the environment and minimises any risk to public health.

The running cost of the pump shall be the responsibility of the property owner and included as part of their domestic consumption.

Accreditation of Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance of pressure sewer systems shall only be undertaken by trained and accredited personnel. Training and accreditation shall be undertaken through the technology supplier under contract with the Council.

Responsibility for Damage to the Individual Pumping Units and Appurtenances

Costs associated with the deliberate or negligent damage to the pumping unit and appurtenances by the property owner shall be recovered from the property owner. Damage by maintenance operators to private property or to the individual pumping unit and appurtenances will be repaired at the maintenance operators cost.

Responsibility of Property Owner

Owners Manual

All property owners shall be given an owners manual for the daily running of their individual pumping units upon commissioning of the pressure sewer system within their community. Property owners shall comply with the requirements of the owner's manual.

Discharges into the System

Costs associated with the maintenance of the pumping unit due to the discharge of substances that impedes the operation of the pumping unit shall be recovered from the property owner.

Chemicals and substance that may lead to the corrosion, blockage or impede the operation of the pressure sewer system and reticulation network will not be allowed to discharge into the sewer system.

Uncontrolled discharges from swimming pools, spa pools and pool filtration exceeding the capacity of the low pressure grinder pump sewer system.

Relocation of Pressure Sewer Systems

Relocation of reticulation line is allowed subject to Building Consent approvals. The relocation of the pumping unit is not recommended unless there is a threat to the operation or integrity of the unit. Pumping units will only be relocated with the approval of the District Engineer.

Only a Council approved accredited installation contractor is to be used when relocating the council owned discharge line and the pumping unit.

Pressure Sewer Systems for New Development

New developments within an established sewerage scheme area of benefit, where pressure sewerage system are implemented, shall be serviced by a pressure sewerage system only.

Council's sewer service area may be extended to cover any subdivision or development where the property is immediately adjacent or close to an existing sewer scheme subject to approval of the District Engineer.

Pressure sewerage systems shall not be used as an alternative to gravity sewer systems or as a temporary measure to avoid or defer normal developer requirements of installing a gravity system where appropriate, subject to evaluation of the specific case and approval of the District Engineer.

Gravity systems may be allowed in areas which are adjacent to the main transfer pump stations or where there is access to a gravity manhole.

PROVISION OF Pressure Sewer System CONNECTION AND TARGETED RATE FOR VACANT SECTIONS WITHIN AN ESTABLISHED SEWERAGE SCHEME AREA

Full targeted rates will be collected on vacant sections and the property connected to the sewerage scheme when a dwelling is built.

Administration

General

Planning, design, project management and consultation works related to the implementation of pressure sewer systems for community schemes or new developments shall be subject to the standard practices and processes set by Council.