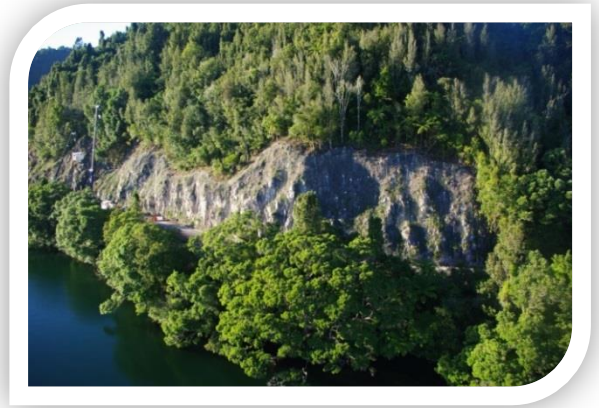


Update on East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme



April 2017

Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Steering Committee (RRSSC) is seeking community views on a different sewerage connection option for Rotomā. The Rotorua Lakes Council has asked the RRSSC for advice.

Since December, developments have been:

- Discussions have been held with landowners who objected to the resource consent application
- Their concern is that raw sewage, especially from other communities, would enter the treatment plant. This is proposed to be located on Haumingi 9B3B block. The people objecting are amongst the owners of this block
- An alternative solution for Rotomā has been identified. It is called a Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) system. Each septic tank provides primary treatment of sewage. A pump in each tank discharges to a central piping network
- The alternative solution has received support from some landowners who opposed the resource consent application

Two update community hui/meetings will be held at Easter:

- 10 am Easter Monday, 17 April 2017 at Rotomā Community Hall (Fire Station)
- 1 pm Easter Monday, 17 April 2017 at Rotoiti Sports Club

These meetings will hear about the options and discuss them. Important issues are:

The options available

- Recommend using the STEP system at Rotomā; or
- Recommend proceeding to resource consent hearings as planned, with grinder pumps at Rotomā

STEP System implications

- It would replace the grinder pump option, which discharges untreated effluent
- Most existing septic tanks would need to be replaced
- An investigation of the system's cost shows the total scheme would cost up to \$780,000 more than the grinder pump option (This would cost an extra \$1,100 more per household than the grinder pump option, or \$90 per annum over 25 years)

Grinder pump option implications

- Grinder pumps discharges untreated effluent into the piping system
- Some owners of the site for the treatment plant opposed this option
- Proceeding with this option may result in strongly contested resource consent process
- Ministry of Health subsidy funding of just over \$4.4m, which requires a disposal system be completed by June 2018, is at risk
- If no sewerage system is provided for, Bay of Plenty Regional Council's On-site Effluent Treatment Plan (OSET) applies with individual property owners facing the full cost, with no subsidy or 25 year payment option
- A significant number of properties are too small, too built up, or too low-lying to install a system that meets OSET standards

The objectives of the East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme are still:

- *To help protect the mauri of the lakes – to keep the lakes clean*
- *To protect the health of the people*
- *To avoid the issues of OSET compliant units at every house*
- *To make good use of available subsidies*

STEP System



The STEP system comprises of a septic tank with a pump. It pre-treats wastewater. This is then pumped to a central piping network and on to the treatment plant. The STEP system is thus an alternative to grinder pumps or Biolytix units connecting houses to a central piping system. In all cases, outflow is highly treated at the treatment plant before it is released on to land.

Questions we need to consider?

- *Should we continue with grinder pumps at Rotomā and go through an RMA consent application process?*
- *Do you think we should opt for a STEP system instead of the grinder pump system?*

RRSSC wants to hear your views. Please come to either of the meetings if you can or email your views to info@rotorualc.nz

Ian McLean,
Chair - Rotomā Rotoiti Sewerage Steering Committee (RRSSC)

You can find more information about the East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme at www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/RotoitiRotomaScheme or email your views to info@rotorualc.nz