

## Wastewater Management – Next Steps

5 September 2017

Sustainable Glenorchy welcomes the opportunity to work with the QLDC and the Glenorchy Community Assoc (GCA) to establish any problem areas and/or negative effects from wastewater discharge in Glenorchy. At all times, our approach is with consideration of the Shaping our Future Report<sup>1</sup> and the Glenorchy Community Plan.<sup>2</sup> In particular, we have through the Shaping our Future process identified the need for a wastewater management framework that leads the way in environmentally sound long-term solutions.

Following the Glenorchy Sewerage Scheme Update presented by Council to the community in early August, and acknowledging that some of this work has already begun, we believe Council should:

- 1. Establish baseline data on the risks and effects of wastewater management in Glenorchy**
  - Share information already gathered from a range of sources and reports on wastewater management in Glenorchy with Sustainable Glenorchy.
  - Share the risk model already developed via information from the QLDC rating system.
  - Continue a desktop assessment of Glenorchy and potential impacts from individual household on-site wastewater disposal (OSWWD) systems.
  - Conduct a survey of a range of household and commercial OSWWD systems e.g. septic tanks, in a range of areas and include Humboldt Park e.g. flood zones, holiday houses, holiday rentals, septic tanks, including Humboldt Park WWD system.
  - Provide information to the community on what is happening in towns of a similar size to Glenorchy in other regions.
  - Inform the community if anything other than environmental concerns are driving the push for a community wastewater scheme e.g. development, preparation for future growth etc.
  
- 2. Stop any further work on the investigation of the Airstrip as a potential discharge area for a community wastewater scheme**
  - We believe it is unethical for Council to continue investigating options for a community wastewater scheme before it has been established that there is a need.
  - The Airstrip discharge option will increase the original estimate given to the community by 7%. Given that the original estimate was already considered unaffordable, it seems a pointless, money-wasting option to continue with this investigation.
  
- 3. Post establishment of baseline data**
  - In the first instance, in the absence of a community wastewater scheme and uncertainty around future discharge requirements, implement risk reduction strategies e.g. bulk cleaning contracts for septic tanks, warrant of fitness for each household and commercial premise, guides for managing OSWWDs.
  - Undertake a needs-based analysis of any other short-term measures that may be required.
  - Following implementation of the ORC Plan Change 6B, engage the community in discussions about long-term solutions for effective wastewater management.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.shapingourfuture.org.nz/assets/Glenorchy-Visioning/Glenorchy-Community-Visioning-Final-Report-2016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/OldImages/Files/Small\\_community\\_plans/Glenorchy\\_Community\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/OldImages/Files/Small_community_plans/Glenorchy_Community_Plan.pdf)