

## The Glenorchy wastewater scheme :- what you need to know

Queenstown Council plan to agree next month the process by which a community waste water scheme is put out to tender.

The tendering exercise is skewed to result in a traditional gravity sewer. Councils prefer to stick to traditional systems despite there being other options available. This means :-

- no one will be able to use their existing tanks and treatment plants, no matter how recent, how expensive or how functional they are.
- Council will charge you on an assumption of how much waste you produce. To be fair and equitable, charges should be based on the actual waste produced by ratepayers - residents and businesses alike and the real cost of public toilets not hidden in our bills.
- there is no opportunity to be rewarded if you do your bit to reduce your waste for example by putting in low flow showers or using grey water in the garden. We believe you should not have to pay as much as those who have no regard for the amount of waste they produce.
- the cost of the overall scheme will be high. Traditional sewer schemes are more expensive than alternatives because of the heavy engineering work and the fact that they have to pump and treat a significant amount of water that leaks into the pipe work.
- the system will be much more vulnerable to earthquake damage than newer alternatives. Remember that because it is no longer possible to insure sewage pipe work the community will face much higher repair costs in the future.

A group of local residents who are concerned about the consequences of Councils' proposals have formed an incorporated society called *Sustainable Glenorchy*.

We fully understand and support the need for a wastewater scheme for Glenorchy but are really worried that not only will Councils' decisions result in a scheme that is far more expensive than it needs to be, but it also won't address the list of issues that the residential and business community have repeatedly said are important to them.

This is arguably the most important decision yet to be made affecting our community which is why *Sustainable Glenorchy* will lobby Council and others against adopting an inner city solution which is inappropriate for a community that wants to tread lightly on its environment and, at the end of the day, have something they can afford to own.

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Published by Sustainable Glenorchy Inc.  
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