

Sustainable Glenorchy - Community Update

8 August 2016

Sustainable Glenorchy members have been busy over the last couple of months trying to get the Council not to go ahead with their planned overly engineered Hybrid Gravity Scheme. Here's a peek at what's been happening.....

Members speak at Council Meeting

8 members of Sustainable Glenorchy addressed the full council when QLDC met in June to consider a recommendation to proceed with a hybrid gravity sewer scheme for Glenorchy. As a result of our representation Council agreed to delay a community vote on the matter until land use consent hearings have been completed. Council need approval from the Regional Council for wastewater disposal.

At the council meeting a number of statements were made by council staff that were either incorrect or unnecessarily vague. Sustainable Glenorchy have written to Council to provide correct information and express our concern that QLDC will spend \$400,000 of our money on design work for a scheme when the scheme is not consented, land for disposal has not been acquired and a community vote has not taken place.

Outcry over Peninsular Reserve produces results

We have just learnt that QLDC are now looking at alternative locations for wastewater disposal so that the Peninsular Reserve remains safe for community use. This a great outcome and shows how important it is for the community to make its voice heard.

Welcome to new members

Sustainable Glenorchy has seen a steady trickle of individuals asking to join the group. Our membership is now up to 30. It's great to have a growing number of like-minded community members helping us achieve better outcomes for Glenorchy. If anyone is interested in joining contact Trish sustainableglenorchy@gmail.com

Developing our own evaluation criteria for wastewater proposals

The Committee agreed it would be helpful to draw up a list of factors that we could use to measure wastewater proposals against. Examples of these are;- fairness, affordability, reduction in resource use, earthquake resilience, land area required for disposal, ability to reuse existing infrastructure. The aim is to enable us to measure how well any proposal fits with the community vision. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Survey of current wastewater treatment in the town

It seems facts are few and far between in the assumptions and reports drawn up by Council and their consultants. To inform debate on the subject, Sustainable Glenorchy members recently carried out a survey on the number of existing septic tanks and advanced treatment systems within the township. There are 157 residential dwellings and 134 empty sections in the town. 35 dwellings are at Humboldt Park, 96 have septic tanks and 22 have advanced wastewater treatment plants.

John Glover, Acting Chair