

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager
REFERENCE: W101
DATE: 4 July 2006
SUBJECT: **TANKERED WASTE DUMPING**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek support to prohibit the unauthorised dumping of all tankered waste into the Council's sewerage reticulation network and wastewater treatment facilities.

2 COMMENT

Council has instigated a Trade Waste Bylaw which came into effect on 1 July 2006. The Bylaw generally covers all discharges from commercial premises. This effluent discharge for a commercial premise generally is consistent in flow and chemical loading.

The effluent flows from tankered waste are not from the general commercial premises; it has been collected from various sources and of unknown chemical composition.

An example of tankered waste for a non-commercial premise would be shipping bilge oil which contains many chemicals including sulphides. These chemicals have the potential to catastrophically damage concrete pipework, pumping stations etc.

3 TANKERED WASTE DUMP SITE

A tankered waste dump site has been specifically developed at the Nelson Regional Sewerage Wastewater Treatment Plant on Bell's Island. The waste trucked to this site is specifically tested to ascertain its chemical composition and then treated appropriately.

There are several companies in the Waimea/Motueka area that tanker waste effluent. At present most of the companies discharge their collected waste to Bell's Island, one discharges at their premises in Beach Road.

A further company operates in Golden Bay – discussions have been held with this company so that a facility will be investigated as part of the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

4 COUNCIL'S AGREEMENT WITH THE NRSBU (NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT)

Council has an agreement with the NRSBU which states maximum limits of discharge from Council's sewerage reticulation to the NRSBU pumping station in Beach Road. Over the last year, on various occasions, effluent discharges to this pumping station have exceeded those limits. This has resulted in extra costs being incurred by Council for the extra treatment required.

Checks cannot state categorically that the discharges are the sole result of tankered waste; however recent discharges of oil and sulphides could not have arrived from industries in the area.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- a) THAT the Engineering Services Committee approve the prohibition of any unauthorised discharging of tankered waste into Council's sewerage reticulation and wastewater treatment facilities.**
- b) That in specific instances, tankered discharges would be permitted only with the written approval of Council.**

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager