

Riversdale Update Issue No.6
January 2007

Community Update No.6, January 2007 – Land Availability Almost Confirmed

The past year has seen Masterton District Council working towards finalising both the location and scheme type for the new multi-million dollar Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme.

Throughout last year we produced a series of newsletters to keep the community informed of progress. This is the sixth such communication and has been prepared to tie in with the Annual Meeting of the Ratepayers Association. It summarises progress during the last year and contains the key points from the previous newsletters.

In June 2006, Opus International Consultants Ltd recommended Council plan to install a pond-based sewage treatment system on private land to the southwest of Riversdale Beach. The report based its findings on an analysis of factors; including capital, operations and maintenance costs, availability of suitable technology, discussions with stakeholders, access for pipelines, power and construction traffic, the location of residential areas and landowner interest.

Opus based its findings on ratings for the following options for the two scheme types and three scheme locations:

- A pond-based scheme located in the reserve at the southern end of the Riversdale Beach community,
- A pond-based scheme on land to the south-west of the Riversdale Beach community, and
- A package type system on land to the west of the Riversdale Beach community.

The Opus report (summarized in Update No.2), together with earlier Riversdale Update Communications can be found on www.mstn.govt.nz or by emailing us at riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz.

The Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme Project dates back many years. The Riversdale Beach Sewerage Steering Group – the nominated representatives of the Riversdale Beach property owners – has met with Council throughout the process and made every effort to ensure property owners have been informed of developments as soon as they come to hand.

So where are we at now?

Unfortunately the timeline for the new sewerage scheme has had to be extended. Securing Heads of Agreement with landowners has taken longer than anticipated and Council is not willing to proceed with public consultation on the options outlined until certainty regarding the availability of land is known. Council has an agreement in place with landowners to the southwest of Riversdale Beach. It anticipates finalising an agreement with landowners to the west of the beach community by March 2007.

In December 2006, we announced topographical surveyors TCB Adamson Land Surveyors would map the Riversdale Beach community in readiness for preliminary design work of the sewerage reticulation system. This work got underway before Christmas. Surveys to plot road profiles are due to be completed in the coming week following which the survey will focus on mapping within property boundaries. The surveyors will notify property owners before this work is undertaken. We apologise for any inconvenience the topographical survey work may cause.

MDC has also engaged Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) consulting engineers to undertake a comparison of pond-based schemes and package type schemes. This report, currently being finalised for Council, will be made available during the public consultation phase of the project on www.mstn.govt.nz or through our email address riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz. It compares the two scheme types with specific reference to soil types and looks at the impact of irrigating treated effluent onto land. It will provide a point of reference for those people wishing to understand more about the schemes proposed.

Council is about to call for registrations of interest from consultants who specialise in sewerage reticulation systems. The purpose of seeking such registrations is to identify consultants who are able to undertake works of the scope and type proposed for Riversdale, and within the broad time frames specified. Once a decision on a scheme type and location has been made, a request for proposal document will be prepared and sent to selected consultants for pricing. This process will expedite the selection of a design consultant and will reduce the costs involved in appointing a consultant.

It is our intention to commence public consultation as soon as practicable. Thank you for your patience.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

WHEN	TASK
January February 2007	Registrations of interest sought from consulting engineering companies wishing to be considered for the design and construction management phase of the project.
March/April 2007	Heads of Agreement in place with the land owner to the west of the Riversdale Beach community.
April/May 2007	Public consultation phase of the project commences.
May/June 2007	Public consultation period ends and submissions heard by Hearings Committee.
June/July 2007	Results of submissions and hearings reported to Riversdale Beach Sewerage Steering Group and Council. Council to make its decision on a preferred scheme.
July August 2007	Fee proposals to undertake the design and construction management phases of the project sought from the short listed consulting engineering companies.
September/October 2007	Resource consent applications submitted. Detailed design drawings, design specifications, etc prepared.
November/December 2007	Resource consent issued.
December 2007	Tendering of physical works contract.
April/May 2008	Evaluation of tenders.
May June 2008	Awarding of physical works contract.
June/July 2008	Physical works construction commences.
March/April 2009	Scheme operational.