

# **Waste Water Disposal Policy – Connections to Sewer Reticulation System**

## **1.0 RATIONALE:**

Sewer Reticulation to urban areas requires a significant investment by Council to meet ratepayer's expectations. This policy is to protect Council's investment by setting standards for connections to the system and identifying where the costs of connection lie. Council wastewater systems have capacity, resource consent limitations and requests for new connections, sub-divisional development will be considered in the context of system capacity.

## **2.0 PURPOSE:**

To set out conditions and cost responsibilities relating to Council owned Sewer Reticulation Schemes in the District.

## **3.0 GUIDELINES:**

### **3.1 GENERAL:**

- 3.1.1 All new connections are charged an administration fee, set by the Council each financial year.
- 3.1.2 Work shall not commence until an application has been approved and all relevant fees have been paid by the applicant and the Group Manager Infrastructure & Services (or his representative) has approved the specifications for the connection work in writing and a permit to connect issued.
- 3.1.3 The cost of connection work (lateral) from the sewer mains to the road boundary and any other associated costs are met by applicants.
- 3.1.4 Connection work referred to above may include (but is not limited to) pipe work, attendance by the Council's contractor at the time of connection to the sewer mains, a New Zealand Transport Agency permit for trenching (if required), a Corridor Access Request for reinstatement of the road and other disturbed infrastructure, relocation of any other services, and any other related work.
- 3.1.5 Applicants have a choice of engaging either Council's contractor or other contractors acceptable to the Council to carry out the connection work(s) referred to. Applicants pay all the costs direct to the contractor.

- 3.1.6 If applicants engage a contractor other than Council's contractor, that contractor does the connection to the mains in the presence of Council's contractor. Applicants pay the necessary cost of attendance to Council's contractor, direct.
- 3.1.7 Costs of extending the sewer mains where required are met by applicants.
- 3.1.8 For connections to new subdivision lots and other properties and buildings including multi-dwellings and occupancies, applicants pay capital contributions to join the existing system at a rate set by the Council from time to time.
- 3.1.9 All users own the asset relating to laterals including the actual connection with the sewer main, and are responsible for the maintenance and replacement in future of that asset. Sewer laterals are to be maintained in leak-proof condition.
- 3.1.10 Each property receives only one connection. Additional connections may be available at Council's discretion where the Council permits more than one house, a commercial building or any other building in a section. In such cases, applicants pay the initial capital contribution referred to above and subsequently contributions for each separate additional connection.
- 3.1.11 For new connections, applicants are required to provide double flush cisterns to conserve town water.
- 3.1.12 All users must ensure that no storm water enters or is made to discharge into the sewer laterals.
- 3.1.13 Charges are recovered through sewerage rates set by the Council each year. That allows for one WC pan charge per rating unit. Additional charges may apply for each additional separately used or inhabitable dwelling on a rating unit (e.g. one charge for a house and an additional charge for a self-contained flat or each additional dwelling). This clause is subject to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Schedule 3 Note 4. Commercial properties have one charge for two WC pans, additional charges apply for each additional WC pan. (e.g. a motel with 10 units with 10 toilets pays nine charges).
- 3.1.14 Users (commercial and industrial users in particular) are required to seek specific written approval for the discharge of any trade waste to the sewer reticulation system. Each case is dealt with on its own merits and in terms of the current Trade Waste By-law after giving due consideration to alternative disposal systems available to applicants, the impact on wastewater treatment plants and the environment. If approved, specific financial contributions and disposal charges shall apply depending upon the type of generated trade waste.

- 3.1.15 Applicants are required to provide as-built plans of connections on completion for Council records. Road opening bonds will not be refunded until as-builts are lodged.
- 3.1.16 Council's obligation to provide sewer connection and liability is in reference to the Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council Consolidated Bylaw operative at the time, Part Eleven: Wastewater Drainage. Council's goal, strategies and policies are made public through the Annual Plan process each year and LTP every three years.
- 3.1.17 To reduce pressure on Council's wastewater treatment systems, no new or replacement of existing waste disposal unit is permitted.
- 3.1.18 This policy will be reviewed and amended from time to time. This amended policy will come into force from 01 May 2017 and will be reviewed from time to time.

## **3.2 URBAN AREAS**

- 3.2.1 Urban boundaries are those defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.
- 3.2.2 Domestic sewer connections shall be 100mm minimum diameter (internal) or as approved by the Group Manager Infrastructure & Services. For industrial purposes, specific design is to include features such as grease traps which require prior approval of the Group Manager Infrastructure & Services. Financial contributions set by the Council year to year referred to in 3.1.8 above are for standard 100mm connections. For bigger diameter connections if and where permitted shall be on pro-rata bases e.g. for 150mm diameter pipe connection, financial contributions will be 2.25 times that of 100mm diameter connection financial contributions.

## **3.3 RURAL AREAS**

- 3.3.1 Rural areas are those areas defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.
- 3.3.2 In rural areas, sewer connections, if available, are for domestic use only for a residential size site deemed to be not greater than 1000 square meters in area.
- 3.3.3 The relevant conditions for new connection in the urban zones shall apply equally to new connections in the rural zone.
- 3.3.4 Despite clauses 3.3.1 to 3.3.3 above, Council may provide a new sewer connection of any specification to a rural property provided that the connection is for a Council deemed significant commercial use and it promotes the social, economic, environmental and/or

cultural well-being of the community. Any connection provided under this clause will be at Council's absolute discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, no connection will be provided under this clause for a rural/residential subdivision.