

More wastewater ponds proposed in Akaroa bays

Seven open wastewater storage ponds are being proposed in Robinsons Bay and Takamatua, in the City Council's latest plans for getting rid of Akaroa's treated water.

The largest of the ponds would occupy more than a hectare, and would be immediately adjacent to the main stream and close to several houses in Robinsons Bay.

Wastewater Working Party member Brent Martin, who spoke at a meeting in the Duvauchelle Hall with other members of the Council's wastewater working party on March 31, said that previous safety constraints have also been relaxed to accommodate the increased volume of water now expected.

Earlier plans had been based on volume readings made with what proved to be a faulty meter at the treatment plant at Takapuneke.

He said that the changes included areas for irrigation previously excluded because of slope stability and for setback buffers from streams.

The local residents at the meeting were shocked, he said.

"The Council now estimates that even after best efforts are made to reduce storm and groundwater infiltration, there will be 75%

more wastewater to dispose of than assumed during the 2017 consultation," said Suky Thompson, another Working Party member.

"They still favour using the Thacker land in Robinsons Bay for most of this, and potentially some of the flat land in Takamatua adjacent to the State Highway."

Residents resolved to ask for this option to be removed from the consultation, and beneficial reuse in Akaroa and the remote outer headlands to be properly researched instead.

Cruise ship visitors

Ships due in Akaroa are

April 12 - *Noordam*, with up to 1,918 passengers, 820 crew members and of 82,300 tonnes

April 13 - *Golden Princess* 2,624, 1,100, 108,865
END OF SEASON!

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