

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Community



□ Aquaholics' Brad Mahony and Department of Conservation project manager Will Bamford are pleased with the revolutionary new sewage system installed at Kaitawa Village near Lake Waikaremoana.

DOC delighted with new waste system

A REVOLUTIONARY new method has been used by the Department of Conservation to upgrade its sewage system at its staff housing area in Kaitawa Village, near Lake Waikaremoana.

DOC project manager Will Bamford said the newly-installed advanced enviro-septic disposal system would work well in the remote Kaitawa environment as it required no power supply and minimal maintenance.

"It is a cost-effective system in comparison to a standard pump operated secondary treatment system. The project has a cost of around \$200,000 which is 15 to 25 percent cheaper than if we went with a standard disposal system," he said.

The Advanced Enviro-septic System (AES) uses a standard septic tank and a special disposal bed as a secondary treatment system.

It is gravity-fed and utilises an air supply from treatment, all without a power supply.

Mr Bamford said this reduced annual maintenance costs as the system required no pumps or blowers.

"The new system meets high environmental standards for disposal of wastewater, meets regulatory requirements and provides quality and safe accommodation for Department staff and their families," he said.

The idea of the revolutionary system came about earlier this year when DOC recognised the previous system was outdated, maintenance costs were

increasing, and a new approach was needed.

Mr Bamford said expert advice was sought and several options were available for consideration.

"The options were a communal wastewater disposal system, or individual septic tanks for each title, but we went with the latter as it was more cost-effective," he said.

The system is an innovative on-site wastewater system which is passive, non-mechanical and does not use pressure distribution.

Using a simple natural process, the new system treats septic tank effluent in a manner which prevents suspended solids from sealing the underlying soil, increases system aeration and provides a greater bacterial area than conventional septic systems.

Mr Bamford said the rising and falling of the effluent inside the pipe enhanced bacterial activity where no other wastewater system offered this functionality.

"It removes weak points in the system and reduces issues for residents in remote locations," he said.

Waikaremoana Holiday Park Manager Petrina Brenchley said the most important feature of the new system was it required little maintenance and no power supply to function.

DOC will continue to monitor the newly-installed system regularly to check the scale of how it benefits the village.