

Pumping with gas again at Waikaremoana

FUEL is pumping again at Waikaremoana Holiday Park after a closure of nearly four weeks.

Waikaremoana Holiday Park manager Petrina Brenchley said the Department of Conservation (DOC) upgraded its bulk fuel facilities at the park by installing forecourt drainage and a fuels interceptor.

The upgrade was the result of a review into the DOC bulk fuel tanks undertaken in 2013.

Conservation Minister Dr Nick Smith required DOC to audit the standards and back-up containment of all fuel tanks in national parks.

Eastern Bay of Plenty DOC

Conservation Partnership Manager Steve Brightwell said the tanks were identified as substandard as part of the minister-ordered review in late 2013.

The forecourt facility was due for an upgrade in order to meet DOC compliances and the Resource Management Act, including preventing environmental damage and meeting all the required standards.

Drainage was installed around the forecourt so if a spill occurs the substance won't leak into waterways.

DOC communications adviser Robyn Orchard said at the same time DOC also removed an old underground storage tank and upgraded a portable tank —

both at Aniwaniwa — at a combined cost of about \$40,000.

Mrs Orchard said the total cost of the work was around \$80,000.

The fuel facility upgrade targeted five sites in the central North Island in response to a 2013 oil spill in which some 19,000 litres of diesel leaked into the Makotuku Stream on Mt Ruapehu.

The diesel spill contaminated Raetihi's water supply and subsequently triggered a nationwide review of fuel storage in national parks.

After the incident Mr Smith said standards for fuel storage on public conservation land needed to be tightened to prevent environmental harm to New

Zealand's most fragile and valued areas.

In 2013 Mr Smith said he expected the reviews would be completed and recommendations implemented in time for the 2014 ski season.

However Mrs Orchard said that the lengthy time frame between the initial review and the work completed reflects the standard planning, consenting and tendering process required for this type of project.

Park manager Petrina Brenchley said some work was yet to be completed but should be done within the next month.

A small amount of revenue was lost through the closure, but the contractors had worked pretty quickly, she said.