New Zealand Land Treatment Collective

Achieving Excellence With Onsite Wastewater

Opening

- Welcome and introductions

- Health and safety

- Who we are

- Who am I

- Plan for day

Programme

- Regional and District Council thoughts
- Industry happenings
    - OSET NTP
    - Suppliers view
    - TP58 update
    - Water NZs role
    - Training
- Panel discussion
- Workshop
- Whats good, whats working, whats not, what needs to be fixed, how
- Closing

Workshop Purpose

- To identify the issues which prevent excellence being achieved in the onsite wastewater industry

- To identify successes in how we manage onsite wastewater and identify ways we can develop them further.

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- Rotorua – 14 November 2012

- 102 people
    - 27 % regulators,
    - 40 % technical advisors and
    - 32 % suppliers and installers.

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- Heard National and International Status
  - Ian Gun – OnSiteNZ
  - Sarah West – Victorian EPA
  - Nick Nobile – Orenco, USA

- Issues of particular note :
  - There is currently duplication between councils (within NZ) and states (within both US and Australia) and there is scope for greater collaboration/coordination within the same country.
  - The OSET facility has a programme which is comparable with other international programmes, including NSF and the ES, and in some cases is superior.
  - New Zealand could look to adopt parts of existing standards to enhance the current testing facility in Rotorua
  - There will be regional differences which may affect the validity of treatment site results, but this has to be accepted to avoid duplication of testing facilities.

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- **Regional Status**
  - Keith Peacock – Hawke's Bay Regional Council: described the history of the region's monitoring and investigation programme and how this has been refined, now leading to a system, designer and installer accreditation system.
  - Judith Robinson – Gisborne District Council: presented the view of a unitary council and highlighted the benefit of health protection officers being actively involved in consent processing and setting regional rules. Local collaboration and participation was seen by Judith as being essential in the development of new rules and on-going management requirements.
  - Trisha Simonson – Waikato Regional Council: the actual number of failing systems are not as high as initially thought, and corrective action is usually undertaken with health officers without the need for enforcement action. Despite this considerable effort is going into risk assessment work to identify risk areas for future management.

- **Key Industry Issues**
  - The participants identified key issues of interest to the industry. A ranking process was used to identify critical issues, which are summarised below.

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- Priorities

Issue	Priority rating	Priority count
Regular servicing	1	19%
Accreditation - systems/designers/inspectors/regulators	2	14%
System design - appropriate and complete	3	11%
Homeowner/customer education	4	11%
Training	5	10%
Robust testing	6	10%
Accreditation - installers/maintainers	7	7%
Place of low cost/simple systems	8	5%
Database	9	4%
Occupancy/Regulations	10	3%
Conflict of Interest	11	3%
Regulatory Collaboration	12	2%
Self-Governance	13	2%

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- Ease of implementation

Issue	Ease rating	Ease count
Regular servicing	1	21%
Accreditation - installers/maintainers	2	18%
System design - appropriate and complete	3	14%
Training	4	9%
Accreditation - systems/designers/inspectors/regulators	5	8%
Robust testing	6	7%
Homeowner/customer education	7	7%
Place of low cost/simple systems	8	5%
Self-Governance	9	4%
Database	10	3%
Regulatory Collaboration	11	2%
Conflict of interest	12	1%
Occupancy/Regulations	13	1%

2012 Onsite Workshop - Do we need change?

- Other Key issues:
  - <u>Septic tanks</u> - Considerable effort is being placed on developing testing facilities and management of Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Systems. But good old septic tanks were used in up to 75 % of installations in some regions. This highlighted the need to ensure that focus is not side-tracked by AWT systems, which while important and have their place despite only making up a very small portion of onsite systems used nationally.

  - <u>Management</u> - Difference in management, approval and regulation being adopted by both district and regional councils throughout the country. While the regional variations often reflected the requirements of that region, there was a frustration that neighbouring regions had different approaches to the same issue. The potential for national standardisation on some issues was seen as a key aspect of coordinating the industry going forward.

  - <u>Integrated database</u> – Was an integrated national database to track the location and performance of systems needed. There were strong views on this with the very clear message that such a database, despite some logistical setup and financial constraints, was seen as a positive step forward for the industry. In the prioritisation exercise a national database scored relatively low (9th) on the list of priorities, but it was noted that the much higher ranking 'Regular Servicing' priority needed a database to function adequately. Consequently by default a national database, or a database of some form, is considered important going forward.

  - <u>Talk fest</u> - Forward process was identified to make the workshop more than a talk fest. This consisted of taking several critical issues and developing them further with the help of a steering group made up of people from the day. This group would seek to develop a plan and secure funding to assist with implementing any changes. The highest priority was a consistent national plan for regular servicing. Details of this plan are to be developed and feedback will be sought from the steering group before it is discussed further with regional councils, with an agreed to plan presented at the LTC Annual conference in Blenheim in April Next year.

What has changed regionally

Judith Robertson Gisborne District Council	The Gisborne Experience
Terry Long BOP Regional Council	The BOP Experience
Keith Peacock Hawkes Bay Regional Council	The Hawkes Bay Experience
Leif Pigott Tasman District Council	The Tasman Experience
Terry Long BOP Regional Council	A survey of implementation of OSET rules by Regional Councils and Unitary Authorities across the country

1. What is the costs (and implications) to your region for installing poor systems?
2. Can existing regional plan rules be implemented/are the rules understandable and effective?
3. What percentage of systems have management contracts?
4. What is the single best thing that has occurred in your region for managing onsite wastewater?
5. What is the single most important action needed in your region to better manage onsite wastewater?
6. What is the best thing that has occurred in the industry in the last 5 years?

What is happening in the industry

Rob Potts LEI	Onsite effluent testing – where to from here
Innoflow Salma Rayan	
EMS Steve Crockford	Supplier experience in the current environment
Oasis Mike Tasker	
Gretel Silyn Roberts Auckland Council	Update on the TP58
Nick Walmsley - WaterNZ	Voice of the Water Industry
Hamish Lowe LEI	Onsite wastewater training – where are we at

- What is the single biggest issue dealing with property owners?
- What is the single biggest issue dealing with district councils?
- What is the single biggest issue dealing with regional councils?
- What is the biggest issue facing the onsite industry?
- What is the best thing that has occurred in the industry in the last 5 years?

Panel Discussion

- Rob Potts,

- Judith Robertson

- Terry Long

- Andrew Dakers

- Gretel Silyn Roberts

- Do we need a national standard?

- Do we need a national testing facility and what should it include?

- Do we need national training and who should it apply to?

- What is working well?

Soapbox Buzzer

- Have your say

- Rules
  - Speak only once
  - Speak for 2 mins
  - Don't interrupt
  - Be open, constructive and frank
  - Look for positives
  - If you want to say nothing happening, suggest action
  - No insults!

Workshop – priorities from 2012

- Conflict of Interest
- Regulatory Collaboration
- Regular servicing
- Occupancy/Regulations
- Accreditation - installers/maintainers
- Accreditation - systems/designers/inspectors/regulators
- System design - appropriate and complete
- Homeowner/customer education
- Training
- Robust testing
- Place of low cost/simple systems
- Database
- Self-Governance

Groups

- Part 1:
    - What priorities are missing
    - With each priority, what does it mean/why important

- Part 2:
    - Group priorities
    - Rank priorities and ease of achieving (afternoon tea)

- Part 3:
    - What has changed with list of priority (2012 – 2016)
    - Top five
        - What progress has been made with this priority
        - Why?
        - What is needed
        - How is it resourced
        - Who to action
        - How do we know it has been achieved

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  - With each priority, what does it mean/why important

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Groups

- Part 2:
  - Group priorities
  - Rank priorities and ease of achieving (afternoon tea)

	Priority	Ease	2012
Accreditation - installers/maintainers/systems/designers/inspectors/regulators	22		
NES	17		
System design - appropriate and complete (high tec vs low input)	16		
Robust testing – facility/field	11		
Regulatory Collaboration	7		
Education - homeowner/customer education/obligations	5		
Regular servicing	3		
Training - upskilling	3		
Database	2		
Need for proof of effects	2		
Need for an end user voice	1		
Roadshow – education	1		
WIPES – understanding what goes down the drain	1		
Self-Governance	0		

	Priority	Ease	2012
Accreditation - installers/maintainers/systems/designers/inspectors/regulators	22	6	
NES	17	1	
System design - appropriate and complete (high tec vs low input)	16	6	
Robust testing – facility/field	11	6	
Regulatory Collaboration	7	4	
Education - homeowner/customer education/obligations	5	14	
Regular servicing	3	16	
Training - upskilling	3	4	
Database	2	21	
Need for proof of effects	2	0	
Need for an end user voice	1	0	
Roadshow – education	1	10	
WIPES – understanding what goes down the drain	1	1	
Self-Governance	0	1	

	Priority	Ease	2012
Accreditation - installers/maintainers/systems/designers/inspectors/regulators	22	6	2,7
NES	17	1	
System design - appropriate and complete (high tec vs low input)	16	6	3
Robust testing – facility/field	11	6	6
Regulatory Collaboration	7	4	12
Education - homeowner/customer education/obligations	5	14	
Regular servicing	3	16	1
Training - upskilling	3	4	5
Database	2	21	9
Need for proof of effects	2	0	
Need for an end user voice	1	0	
Roadshow – education	1	10	
WIPES – understanding what goes down the drain	1	1	
Self-Governance	0	1	13

Groups

- Part 3:
  - What has changed with list of priority (2012 – 2016)
  - Top five
    1. What progress has been made with this priority
    2. Why?
    3. What is needed
    4. How is it resourced
    5. Who to action
    6. How do we know it has been achieved

Workshop Exercise

- Establishing priorities, Ranking priorities, Resourcing and action needed, Achievability of priorities, Action plan to achieve priorities