

**TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSED TASMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 67

Management of Greywater Discharges to Land

19 December 2009

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT and SECTION 32 EVALUATION

The Council proposes to amend the Plan rule managing the discharge of greywater to land.

Council has considered the options and has considered the benefits and costs, and effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of these amendments. Council policy report EP09/12/08 assesses the options and is prepared in compliance with the duties under Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Issues

The re-use of greywater as irrigation water in gardens is promoted as a sustainable use of resources. By re-using greywater instead of sending it down the drain, water is saved, wastewater charges can be reduced and it helps reduce demand for water supplies. It also reduces pressure on on-site disposal systems.

The Plan currently permits greywater discharge into or onto land and provides for the spray irrigation of this wastewater. The rule requires a very high standard of treatment. It prevents easy installation of modern solutions to greywater disposal that seek to reduce water use and discharge of waste water.

Wastewater technology has improved and there has been a greater emphasis on reuse and recycling of water, especially in water short areas or where there is no wastewater reticulation. The conventional means of disposing greywater is now through subsurface irrigation through specially designed wastewater pipes and fittings. The technology is commonly available and this method of disposal is a sustainable disposal option and efficient use of resources.

Land disposal of greywater can cause adverse effects such as:

- Creation of odours if stored too long
- Risk to human health because of microbes in the wastewater
- Breakdowns caused by solids in the wastewater

However, appropriate design and management can mitigate risk of adverse effects.

The discharge of the greywater is proposed to continue as a permitted activity and new conditions limit discharge to subsurface methods and manage risk of adverse effects. Building consents will continue to be required for any new or changes to sanitary systems. The building consent process

will enable appropriate checks to be made of design and installation of greywater disposal systems.

AMENDMENTS

The Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan is amended in accordance with the following schedule.

1. CHAPTER 36: RULES FOR CONTAMINANT DISCHARGES

1.1 SECTION 36.1 – DISCHARGES TO LAND

36.1.6 – Discharges of Greywater

1.1.1 **Delete** conditions (f), (g), (h) and (j).

1.1.2 **Insert** new conditions:

“(ab) Any discharge first commencing after 19 December 2009, does not contain kitchen wastes.”

“(f) The discharge is covered by 50 - 100mm of bark, sand, leaf litter, soil or similar material.”

“(g) The greywater disposal system is installed, operated and maintained to avoid blockages and breakdowns.”

“(h) The greywater is stored for no longer than six hours before being discharged.”

1.1.3. **Insert** at the end of Rule 36.1.6:

“Note 1: Any changes to the sanitary plumbing system of a dwelling require building consent to be obtained from the Council.”