

Misty Peaks Reserve - Management Plan

The Friends of Banks Peninsula requests that the Management Plan includes provisions that retain the potential for the reserve to be used for storage and irrigation of wastewater from the Akaroa Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The principle objective of the Friends of Banks Peninsula Incorporated (the Society) is to protect and enhance the environmental heritage of Banks Peninsula. The Society was established in 1990 and has been involved with the Akaroa Wastewater issue for many years. It is represented on the current Wastewater Working Party and made a detailed submission to the Council's 'Akaroa Reclaimed Water - Beneficial Reuse, Treatment and Disposal Options' consultation in April 2017.

At this point the Council has been unable to find suitable or sufficient land areas in the Akaroa Harbour Basin for wastewater disposal and the suitability of the Misty Peaks land warrants further investigation.

The Society supports a wastewater disposal system for Akaroa that

- Is sustainable and resilient.
- Minimises environmental risk.
- Takes account of climate change and sea level rise.
- Regards wastewater as a resource – irrigation (where it is beneficial, not just for disposal), fire fighting storage, non-potable reuse.
- Treats wastewater to a very high standard (watering leafy vegetables) so as to maximise beneficial reuse.
- Meets cultural and community concerns to the fullest extent practicable.

The Society believes that a reticulated 'Purple Pipe' system (along with increased water conservation measures) meets the above criteria and has the potential, over time, to reuse all of Akaroa's wastewater.

In the shorter term such a system would need to operate in conjunction with another method to deal with residual and emergency flows. Storage and irrigation at Misty Peaks could be a viable alternative to continuing harbour discharge. It is intended that a Purple Pipe system would be treated to a very high standard, so disposal in this area would not be a safety risk to Akaroa's water supply.

The advantages of Misty Peaks are

- Owned by Council so no land purchase required.
- A large area of land so irrigation could be at a low rate, thus minimising land instability and saturation risks.
- Environmental benefits – native forest regeneration and carbon sequestration.
- End to harbour discharge.
- Wastewater storage could double as fire fighting ponds.
- Is an Akaroa-based solution.

The Friends of Banks Peninsula welcomes the opportunity to present further information in support of this submission to the Hearing Panel.