

## *Mangawhai EcoCare Update*

EcoCare is the name given to the Mangawhai waste-water collection, treatment and re-use project, which is necessary to make the town and harbour a cleaner, safer and more appealing place to live and visit.

### **Resource Consent**

The Resource Consent public notification period has now ended with a total of 81 submissions received, both for and against. Earth Tech are currently discussing the submissions with Northland Regional Council and we expect hearings to be scheduled for January 2007. This will be confirmed shortly.

### **Project Costs**

Mangawhai continues to grow so where feasible we are including new developments within the scheme. This means costs are not yet final but should remain much the same as previously advised for individual property owners, with some allowance for inflation. If there are any significant changes there will be further public consultation via an amended statement of proposal.

The style of contract that has been adopted drives a competitive cost approach with a maximum price cap. This contract style allows flexibility to incorporate future scope changes for ongoing development and encourages cost effectiveness so that any savings benefit Council and hence reduce the costs to the community.

Council will continue to manage the process to achieve the optimum result for the community.

### **Storage and Irrigation Site**

Water is a valuable resource. Storage and irrigation of the reclaimed water has been proposed instead of traditional forms of disposal as it provides a sustainable solution for the community, and an economic benefit to the end user

Use of reclaimed water with sufficient wet weather storage for dry weather application to highly productive land has gained momentum in recent years.

The quality of the reclaimed water will exceed Fonterra's irrigation standards and can be beneficially used for irrigating vineyards, pasture, vegetable crops, recreation grounds and reserves. This water will be more consistently clean than nearby water-courses.

The irrigation rates have been designed so that soils will not become saturated and there will be no run-off unless there is an extreme weather event.

There will be opportunities for commercial usage of the reclaimed water, with cost savings.

### **Further Information**

To find out more please visit the website [www.kaipara.govt.nz/mangawhai\\_ecocare.htm](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz/mangawhai_ecocare.htm) and feel free to contact the EcoCare Community Liaison Officer if you have any queries.

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