

## Chairman's Report

I now present the Chairman's Annual Report of the Fiordland Sewerage Options Inc.

I would firstly like to thank immensely the Committee of FSO for their unrelenting attention to the carrying out of the affairs of our Society. At times it has been trying, a huge hurdle to jump, but everyone has singularly and collectively strived to meet the objectives of the group. And we aren't giving up just yet.

Our Society, FSO, was formed due to major concerns being expressed by ratepayers of the Te Anau – Manapouri area over the SDC Resource Consent Application to discharge treated wastewater to land and odour to air on the land bordering our tourist airport at Manapouri.

After a rigorous campaign by individual members at the Resource Consent Hearing our concerns were totally ignored and consent was granted by the Council's appointed commissioners. FSO along with Ruth and Lance Shaw and myself, Alistair Paton-McDonald, appealed the decision to the Environment Court and there we stand.

The Environment Court judge has placed the appeal process on "Party Hold" at our request following SDC's assurances that they are going to look at "Other Options" before continuing with their consented proposal.

The wheels of local government turn very slowly and the present indications from SDC are that a Peer Review of the consented proposal could conclude by 16 December 2015. A decision, hopefully with a favourable Peer Review outcome for us, could be made sometime next year.

In the interim we need to keep our organisation's profile in the public eye and continue to show, and convince, the ratepayers of Southland that we have a better system.

.... Page 2 ....

Chairman's Report AGM fiordland Sewerage Options Inc 11/6/15

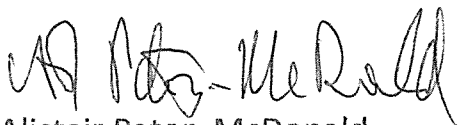
A Governance Group has been formed to look at, or into, SDC's proposal and how it stacks up against other options and we must have faith that the Te Anau Community Board and Manapouri CDA representatives elected to this group, along with our newly elected Councillor, will conduct their business without bias and preconceived thinking or pressure.

FSO applied to the Ministry of the Environment for financial assistance to fight the consented decision through the Environment Court. However, our application was declined due to in short "our case being a localised issue and not of national significance". We intend resubmitting our application with a more expanded explanation of the environmental concerns and cost disadvantages with the SDC concept.

Interestingly, Denis Nugent ( Head Commissioner of the Resource Consent Hearing ) previously headed the group responsible for distributing the Environmental Legal Assistance Funds.

It will be necessary to step up our fundraising projects to meet our outstanding accounts and to this end I would ask that you all "dig deep" to assist us keep Manapouri clean. Ideas for fundraising would be welcomed by your committee and your time to assist would be valued.

Thank you for your attention and this concludes my Annual Report.



Alistair Paton-McDonald

Chairman Fiordland Sewerage Options Inc