

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” — [Margaret Mead](#)

Our Story - sewerage project history

Fiordland Sewerage Options Incorporated - evolved from a group of people who have met regularly since July 2014 to share their concerns regarding the Southland District Council proposed Te Anau sewerage scheme. The group registered as an official non-profit organization: 18th Aug 2014

Our goal

To ensure that the Te Anau Airport at Manapouri, or adjacent land, does not become the disposal site for treated or untreated sewerage from Te Anau and/or Manapouri.

Outcome hoped for

1. Local communities will be well informed about the proposed new sewerage project.
2. SDC will re-think the sewerage scheme proposal and will recognize Manapouri area residents as key stakeholders.

Sewerage project, issues

- affordability: rates blow-out
- safety: airport-bird strike.
- public health risks: from sewerage spray to land and air
- pollution of: groundwater, surrounding waterways, Lake Manapouri and Waiau River
- sewerage odour: degrading quality of life and property values
- negative visitor experience: feedback going global - destroying tourism income
- clean, green image: [What's It Worth?](#)

What we are doing

- speaking with residents to encourage participation and involvement
- organizing presentations at local clubs/associations
- building community support by signing-up members (no fees required)
- addressing issues with adverts in newspapers. Facebook Page updates
- promoting trust, transparency with access to our meetings/minutes
- investigating alternative sewerage schemes and sharing our findings with SDC

History - sewerage project

2005-2006:

Te Anau Community Board (TACB) instruct Southland District Council to investigate a site location for Te Anau's sewerage. Investigations result in the selection of the Kepler Block of land near the town of Manapouri as the sewerage site.

Kepler Block location: 18 kms from Te Anau, 4 kms from Manapouri, less than 1 km from nearby homes, and is adjacent to property SDC bought in 2002 from the Mt Cook Airline.

IWG: At the outset of the sewerage investigations TACB formed an Infrastructure Working Group (IWG), but did not notify, advise, or include Manapouri representatives in the group.

2008: SDC purchase land at the Kepler Block. Manapouri residents are informed that the land is purchased in order to build a new airport. Airport Resource Consent is granted. Airport completed 2009.

Nov 2012: SDC publish the "Proposed District Plan." Included in the Plan, SDC lodge a recommendation for the Kepler Block land to be designated as a Public Utility (for the discharge of sewerage). [Designation Process](#)

Note: SDC, as the authoritative body, would be ruling on their own recommendation (above). Before any decision is made by SDC, the designation requirement is to be heard by an Independent Commission. *

Once the designation is in place it exempts SDC from applying for further resource consents, even if the activity contravenes a rule in the District Plan.

Feb 25th 2013: Deadline for public to send in a submission on the District Plan. Manapouri area residents who notice the re-zoning item, send in submissions opposing the land re-classification. [Submissions - Designation 80](#)

Nov 15th 2013: Environment Southland post a notice on their website: [Notice](#)

Application from SDC for permits to spray sewerage from Te Anau onto land at the Kepler Block, and to discharge sewerage odour into the air

Dec 2013: Manapouri area residents who sent in submissions opposing the re-zoning of the Kepler Block land are advised that the above Application for sewerage discharge has been filed.

Manapouri area residents hold a meeting to inform the community about the sewerage issues, and, they go door-to-door alerting residents.

Jan 2014: SDC hosts two Open Days. Several residents complain that they are seeing details of the sewerage plans for the first time. A SDC official explained that due to an office error the plans were not delivered to PO Boxes.

Feb 14th 2014: Final date for the public to send in a submission on the sewerage scheme.

July 1st 2014: Te Anau and Manapouri residents meet and form a core group of people to address their concerns regarding the proposed sewerage scheme.

July 14th 2014: Hearing held in Te Anau. SDC's recommendation to designate the Kepler

Block as a Public Utility, is to be "jointly heard" along with their Resource Consent Application. [SDC: Designation 80](#) *

July 18th 2014: The Joint Hearing is adjourned by commissioners. Further research is to be carried out by SDC, the results to be peer reviewed and sent to submitters for comment.

Oct 10th 2014: New information due to be sent to people who "spoke" on their submissions at the July 14th Hearing.

Nov 17th 2014: Hearing due to reconvene.