

Investing in Infrastructure

The Council proposes an upgrade to the Redwood Street/Town Branch stormwater system and new weighbridges for waste management.

It is very hard to argue against upgrading Stormwater systems. While pipes in the ground are something we all take for granted, that they are there, and will work effectively. As the recent financial fiascos caused by pipe blowouts in Wellington and other places around the country show, the costs of not upgrading, expanding and improving this type of core infrastructure, goes way beyond the cost of the actual work. Even reputational damage has a long-lasting negative cost on a Region.

As Rate payers we have to rely on planning processes such as the LTP to prioritise that these upgrade works are done to meet modern environmental standards. What was once “acceptable” practice with waste [of all types] harmed the environment on many levels and by 21st century standards fall short of sustainable, healthy, best practice.

New weighbridges for waste management is being proposed as the equity solution flowing from the enforced change of layout at the refuse station and green waste service. As a rural user of this Blenheim “waste” service, we undertake multiple drop-off activities in a single visit; recycling to the resource recovery windows, drop offs to the Recycling shop, green waste disposal, general household non-recycling black bag rubbish PLUS any separated, wood, steel, e-waste into the separate bins.

While we support fair user pays via weigh bridges, the process must also be efficient from a traffic flow perspective and be flexible enough to efficiently allow any one of these tasks to be undertaken individually and/or in any combination.

Sending everything directly to landfill [by using rural commercial wheelie bin collection services] because the transfer station process is seen as unwieldy, or unavailable, is a disaster for the environment.

Renwick:

Encouraging more recycling and resource recovery, therefore automatically diverting material from landfill, would be helped by the establishment of a fully operative Recycle Centre in Renwick. The need for this service was clearly evident when the bins were moved to Foxes Island Road.

Now there is nothing?

In addition with a Recycle Centre in Renwick there might be less rural fly tipping if a wider range of materials could be more easily deposited locally.