

Gold-plated system

In the letter entitled Practical Solution (February 8), the writer talks of "Hands up who wants a 20 per cent rate increase and get gold-plated sewage system". With everyone's sewage bill going from \$275 to \$485 in the past five years (a 76 per cent increase), the question to me is why is the system not already gold-plated?

What people need to understand is that the network leaks like a sieve. So no matter how big a pump we put at Okara, or if we achieve 100 per

cent treatment at the treatment plant, without a serious maintenance programme we will be swimming in sewage for many years to come. There is between \$10 million and \$11 million collected each year from those connected to the Whangarei plant, so there is plenty of money. What is missing is the political will.

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Whangarei

NH. Adv. 10/2/10