

# Trade wastes discharged through park

All trade wastes from the New Plymouth chemicals factory of Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd have had to be discharged through Paritutu Centennial Park for about the past three months to allow for the essential replacement of the sewer down Paritutu Crescent, the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr A. G. Honnor, said today.

Mr Honnor said this after being shown photographs taken yesterday of the damage to the park being caused by the effluent.

The Mayor was told that the damage was far worse than a year ago, when similar photographs of the effects of factory effluent were published in the Taranaki Herald. He was also told of the offensive smell being caused by the discharge.

Mr Honnor was asked whether he was aware of the situation, and if so, how long it was likely to continue. In a prepared statement in re-

ply, the Mayor said:

"Some time ago the council had difficulty with the sewer line down Paritutu Crescent due to the volume of waste from Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd. The matter was fully investigated when it was found necessary to replace the line down to its junction with Ngamotu Rd.

"In order to do this, and to allow the company to continue operations, certain of the wastes and the cooling water from the company's plant had to be diverted. For this purpose, a by-pass was constructed and the water taken through existing storm-water pipes which lead, ultimately, through Paritutu Centennial Park.

"It was confidently expected that this would be for a short time only, but with the need to order a large quantity of pipes and the continued wet weather it has been impossible to expedite the relaying of the sewer. However, the work should be completed very shortly. Once the pipeline is completed most of the present problems should disappear.

"The council is well aware that with the continued or possible development in this area, extensions in some form or other must be made to the sewerage system. The natural fall is towards the Herekawe Stream. The council intends to make a survey, with the concurrence of the Taranaki County Council, of the area on both sides of the stream. It is possible that a separate outfall may be necessary in the near future for this natural basin. The extent of this work can only be revealed by the survey."

## Questions

A series of written questions was put to Mr Honnor. The questions, and the answers to them, were:—

**Did Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd have authority to discharge wastes over the park?**

This had to be done in order to enable the council to reconstruct the line down

Paritutu Crescent to Ngamotu Road.

**How long will the present situation last and will the new sewer remedy the position?**

The new sewer line will cope with most, if not all, of the waste, but it may be necessary to find an alternative outlet for some of the cooling water. This can only be judged once the reconstructed line is back in operation.

**Will chemicals affect the existing sewer where it links with the new one?**

No. With other premises joining in, the dilution continues the further the line goes. As the area develops, so the dilution will be greater.

**How will the cost of the new sewer be met?**

This is a matter for further discussion.

**Will the damage to the park be repaired eventually?**

Little damage has been done to the park which will not heal naturally. What work will be necessary will be dictated by the results which are achieved when the new sewer line is back in operation.