

Report to the Utility Services Committee
from Murray Kennedy, Strategy and Asset Manager

Petone Water Supply

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on Petone Water Supply issues.

2. Rahui Reservoir Water Supply

As reported at the last Committee meeting, the new Rahui reservoir was brought into service on 8 October. Water supplied to the new reservoir has met our quality standards. However, the level of iron in the water at times has been near the maximum allowable under the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards. Iron is an aesthetic determinant, as opposed to a health determinant. It is expected iron levels will reduce over time and are probably linked to the re-commissioning of the main along the Petone foreshore.

3. Fluoridation Consultation

Hutt City Council (HCC) has completed their fluoridation consultation process for Petone and will consider all the information at a Council meeting on 7 December. Results from the household survey are given in a letter received from HCC (**Attachment 1**). Residents are generally in favour of receiving a non-fluoridated water supply and are prepared to pay for it.

4. Gear Island Temporary Supply

Hutt City Council had previously requested a non-fluoridated supply from the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant (WTP) as an interim arrangement. Officers from both Councils met to discuss this.

A variation is required to the Gear Island WTP resource consent. The need to notify the consent publicly was accepted as a probable outcome. Notification and the statutory close out period over the holiday period led us to the conclusion that a temporary supply could not be operational until late March. At the same time, Wellington Regional Council (WRC) officers were able to indicate a permanent solution can be constructed in substantially less than the 12 months initially advised.

As a result, HCC officers with some reluctance have agreed that the Gear Island interim solution can be parked in the meantime.

5. **Permanent Unfluoridated Water Supply**

Preliminary investigation work has now been completed into supplying Petone with non-fluoridated water on a permanent basis. To achieve this changes are required at the Waterloo and Gear Island WTPs. Costs will not exceed \$410,000 which is less than the \$550,000 indicative figure prepared before the investigation work was carried out. Hutt City Council and our other customers have been advised of this cost and some of the technical details (**Attachment 2**).

If the \$410,000 for the capital cost is borrowed at 8.5% interest, and repaid over 15 years, then the annual charges are \$48,400.

6. **Funding System Changes**

In the event HCC asks the WRC to supply non-fluoridated water to Petone, the vexed question of funding remains unresolved.

To assist in the resolution process our other three city customers have been asked to consider whether or not the WRC should pay some, or all, of the capital costs (**Attachment 3**).

Two of the city customers have replied that they will not be able to formulate a policy in time to consider the issue at their last Council meeting of the year. Accordingly, a response is now expected in February.

7. **Petone Water Feature**

At present the public can take artesian water from a tap at the Gear Island WTP before the treatment process. Hutt City Council monitors the quality of this water. Several aspects of the arrangement are not satisfactory.

Hutt City Council is proposing to construct a water feature in the central Jackson Street area. A design competition is being held at present and an application has been made to the Millennium Office for funding assistance.

8. Recommendations

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by

Approved for submission

MURRAY KENNEDY
Strategy and Asset Manager

DAVID BENHAM
Divisional Manager, Utility Services

Attachments (3)