

**Before Greater Wellington Regional Council**

**Under** the Resource Management Act  
1991

**In the matter of** the Proposed Natural Resources  
Plan for the Wellington Region

**And**

**In the matter of** Submissions (S135) and Further  
Submissions (FS25) by **Wellington  
Water Limited**

---

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF COLIN JOHN CRAMPTON**

**HEARING STREAM 1**

**6 June 2017**

---

---

**M J Slyfield**  
Barrister  
Stout Street Chambers  
Wellington

Telephone: (04) 915 9277  
Facsimile: (04) 472 9029  
PO Box: 117, Wellington 6140  
Email: [morgan.slyfield@stoutstreet.co.nz](mailto:morgan.slyfield@stoutstreet.co.nz)

7. Councils own their respective 3 waters assets and retain the following roles with respect to 3 waters:
  - (a) Long term levels of service, both definition and targets;
  - (b) Customer policy decisions eg flouride;
  - (c) Set long term investment levels in 3 waters infrastructure performance; and
  - (d) Set water rates.
  
8. It is Wellington Water's role to provide all necessary services to achieve the stated customer outcomes within these constraints, as set out in service plans.

#### **STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

9. Wellington Water operates under a range of statutes, regulations, and industry standards including:
  - (a) the Companies Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) which include specific provisions for council-controlled organisations;
  - (b) the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007 that ensures safe community drinking water supplies and mitigates the risk of disease through waterborne diseases by stipulating national drinking water standards and water safety plan requirements;
  - (c) the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
  - (d) the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 and all plans, policy statements, consents and other regulations constituted under this act; and
  - (e) other statutes such as the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972.

#### **WELLINGTON WATER IS A REGIONAL ENTITY**

flow paths which while disruptive at the time, operate for only short periods. The overall objective of stormwater services is to prevent flooding of habitable floors and businesses and prevent contamination entering waterways and the sea.

17. Thus the 3 Waters provide the 408,000 people of the Wellington metropolitan area with essential services. We think the 3 Waters assets, valued at \$5.4b, are regionally significant infrastructure that provide essential services to people and businesses.
18. We can maintain, operate and upgrade the networks to manage the volume of wastewater and stormwater they receive, but Wellington Water does not and cannot control or manage the sources of wastewater and stormwater. For example, we do not have a role in managing changes of land use that contribute to the generation of wastewater and stormwater.

#### **WELLINGTON WATER'S TWELVE SERVICE GOALS DRIVE INVESTMENT**

19. Our service planning process is driven by 12 service goals which deliver the following outcomes:
  - (a) Safe and healthy water
  - (b) Respectful to the environment; and
  - (c) Resilient networks to support the local economy
20. The 12 service goals are set out in **Attachment A**. We use the 12 service goals to have long term level of service discussions with our clients so that we can optimise activities so they deliver on the priority areas identified by Councils.
21. The five Councils are unified in their priorities for the next 10 years. These are:
  - (a) Improving the water quality in our waterways and oceans as impacted upon by 3 Water services;
  - (b) Reducing the impacts of floods on people, businesses and critical users and anticipating the effects of climate change;

- (c) Support our client Councils to provide 3 Waters outcomes in a way which is collaborative, effective and affordable to ratepayers across the region;
- (d) Promote and encourage ways of providing 3 Waters services, including the granting and managing of resource consents, in a way that is cost effective for all parties. In particular, through creating enabling provisions and allowing for global consents that limit the cost to all parties; and
- (e) Recognise entities with common goals and values, and establish flexible processes that enable such entities to operate efficiently.

#### **THINGS CAN GO WRONG**

- 27. Most of the time our services are very reliable and available to our customers, and have minimal impacts on the environment.
- 28. From time to time things do go wrong and/or mother nature impacts on us with storms, earthquakes and floods.
- 29. It is important that the PNRP enables our services to operate in such conditions with sometimes reduced levels of service, as fully operating under such conditions is unachievable and cost prohibitive. Whilst we are slowly making progress to improve the resilience of our systems, controlled discharges and emergency operating provisions are essential following major natural events.

#### **COMPLIANCE COSTS SHOULD BE MINIMISED**

- 30. Wellington is a vibrant region and economy, and the costs of doing business need to be minimised to promote this. The PNRP places additional costs on businesses because of the standards it sets and the associated costs for organisations like Wellington Water to achieve compliance. This cost is ultimately borne by regional ratepayers and residents.
- 31. We would like to see the Greater Wellington Regional Council aim to minimise compliance costs by being supportive of a regional

## ATTACHMENT A

### Wellington Water Service Goals

#### Safe and healthy water



We provide safe and healthy drinking water



We operate and manage assets that are safe for our suppliers, people and customers



We provide an appropriate region-wide fire-fighting water supply to maintain public safety.



We minimise public health risks associated with wastewater and stormwater

#### Respectful of the environment



We manage the use of resources in a sustainable way



We will enhance the health of our waterways and the ocean



We influence people's behaviour so they are respectful of the environment



We enhance the impact on the natural and built environment of water services