

# TECHNICAL EXPERT WITNESS CONFERENCING

## Proposed Natural Resources Plan

Topic: Community Drinking Water Supplies

Date: 17 August 2018

Venue: Greater Wellington Regional Council, Shed 39

Time: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

### Witnesses Present:

NAME	FOR
Geoff Williams	Wellington Water Ltd
Carolyn Wratt	Wellington Water Ltd
Barry Loe	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mike Thompson	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mike Toews	Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Environment Court practice note:

It is confirmed that all present:

- Have read the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 Code of Conduct and agreed to abide by it;

And in particular

- Have read the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 Code of Conduct, Appendix 3 – Protocols for Expert Witness Conferencing and agreed to abide by it.

## **Joint Conferencing Statement**

The scope of conferencing is limited to consideration of the following relief sought by WWL in their submission:

1. To extend the Lower Hutt Groundwater Protection Zone to cover the Hutt catchment upstream of the infiltration zone:

Agreement that the outcomes of the conferencing ought not be applied or extrapolated to any other community drinking water supply catchments in the region. The submission points are unique to the Hutt catchment and the nature/mechanism of the groundwater abstraction from the Waiwhetu aquifer.

### **To extend the Lower Hutt Groundwater Protection Zone to cover the Hutt catchment upstream of the infiltration zone:**

- WWL seek an extension to the protection area to cover the whole of the Hutt catchment upstream of the infiltration zone.

### **Arguments for and against extending the protection area**

- WWL's argument for this extension relates to the potential for contaminants discharged in this area to impact on the quality of the community drinking water supply.
- Agreement that this conferencing point relates to risks posed by chemicals which are persistent in the environment and have known adverse health impacts on humans.
- WWL presented Figure 2 showing the areas in the Hutt River catchment referred to in their submission. Of particular concern to WWL with respect to mitigating contamination risk are the 'Unprotected Catchment' areas.
- The potential benefit of extending the groundwater protection area into the wider upstream catchment does not relate to reducing pathogenic risks; there is sufficient attenuation capacity in the Waiwhetu aquifer down-gradient of the infiltration zone for this.
- Agreement that, conceptually, a persistent chemical contaminant discharged to land in the furthest reaches of the Hutt River surface water catchment could migrate to the infiltration zone, and from there to the Waiwhetu groundwater supply points.
- Agreement that the ready exchange of shallow groundwater on the Upper Hutt valley floor with surface water systems creates a potential for contaminant movement from land into the Hutt River and from there into the Lower Hutt Aquifer system. However, the specific nature of such pathways is not known.
- Agreement that the presence of BPAs (an industrial chemical used in plastics manufacture) in the Hutt Aquifer system indicates that the risk of persistent contaminant travel to the supply points is real rather than theoretical. However it is acknowledged that there is no evidence as to origin (i.e. whether from the surrounding Lower Hutt area or upstream of the infiltration zone or both).
- Agreement that the landscape upstream of the infiltration point poses a relatively unique risk profile in that it is heavily urbanized on the Upper Hutt valley floor with rural/lifestyle land use beyond that.

## Points of agreement

- The principle concerns for the extended area are chemical contaminants. Microbiological contaminants are not as much of a concern for the extended area.
- Activities of concern in the extended area would require resource consent under the existing rules of the proposed NRP.
- It was agreed that the sensitivity and significance of this area needs to be recognised in resource consent processes for discharges of contaminants to land and water.
- It was agreed that the Hutt catchment should be recognised in the proposed NRP as an area from which chemical contaminants could potentially enter the community drinking water supply.
- It was agreed that the Hutt catchment should be identified on the Maps in the proposed Natural Resources Plan but no specific new rules or changes to existing rules are needed.




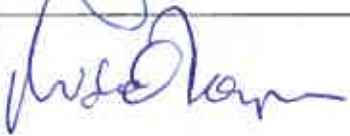

## Agreement to amendments

- New term: **Hutt community drinking water supply catchment**
- New definition: **The area shown on Map 27b from which surface water or groundwater may flow to and impact the quality of the community drinking water supply. Note: Policy P69 applies in this area.**
- Amend Map 27b (see Attachment):
  - Amend the title to add Hutt community drinking water supply catchment.
  - Amend legend to add Hutt community drinking water supply catchment.
  - Show the extent of the Hutt community drinking water supply catchment in a colour that distinguishes this area from the CDWSPA.
  - Create a new GIS layer.
  - Show Map 27b at a scale that shows the CDWSPA as well as the Hutt catchment.
- Amend the section 42A report recommendations to amend Policy P69:

Policy P69: Human drinking water supplies

The adverse effects from discharges to land and water on the quality of **community drinking water supplies** and **group drinking water supplies** shall be avoided to the extent necessary to implement the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007, in consultation with the drinking water supply operator.

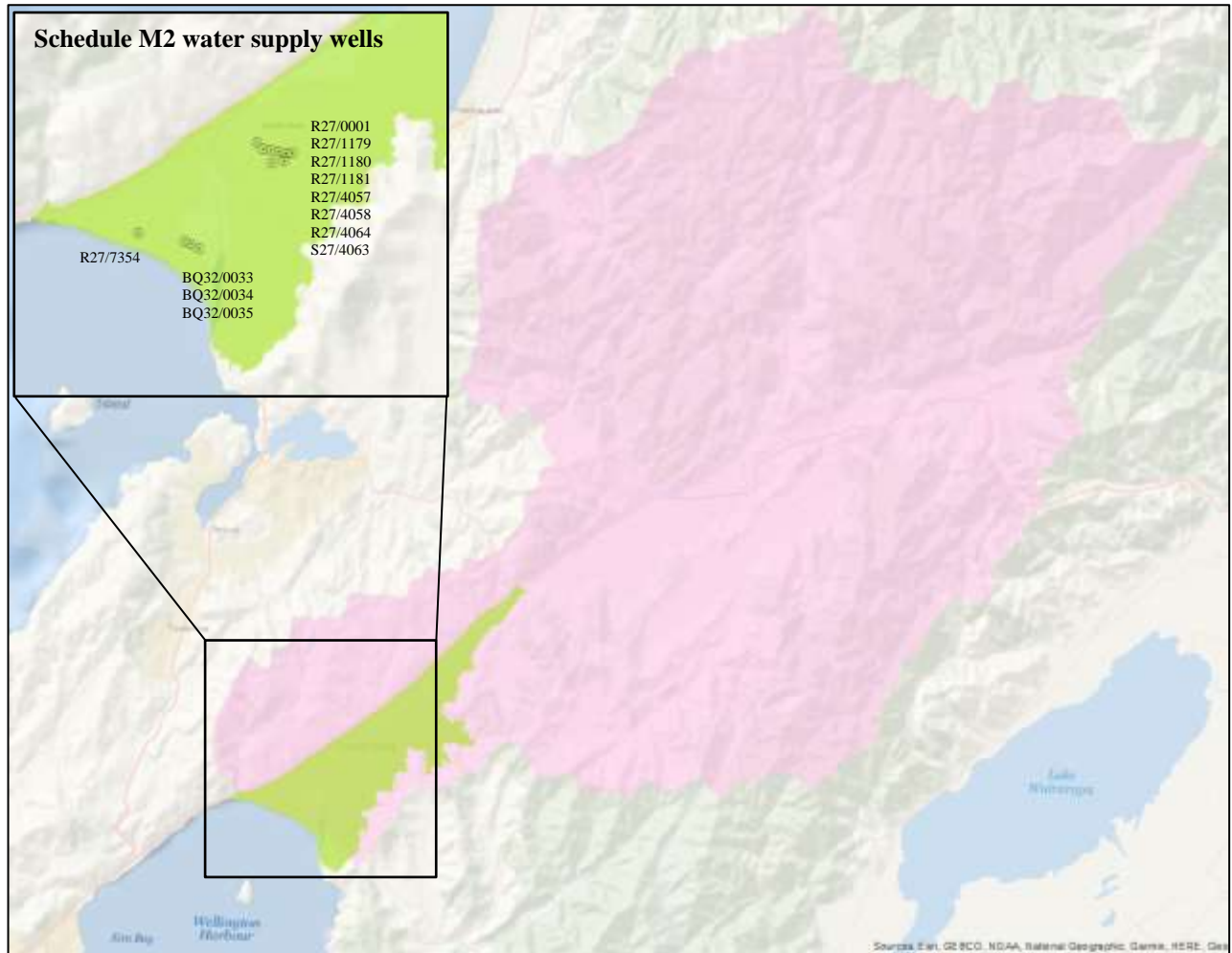
Signed




NAME	Date	Signature
Geoff Williams	17 August 2018	
Carolyn Wratt	17 August 2018	
Barry Loe	17 August 2018	
Mike Thompson	17 August 2018	
Mike Toews	17 August 2018	

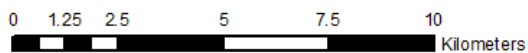
# Appendix 1.

Proposed amendment to Map 27b

## Groundwater community drinking water supply protection area – Hutt Valley (incorporates Schedule M2) and Hutt community drinking water supply catchment area



-  Groundwater community drinking water supply protection area
-  Hutt community drinking water supply catchment area
-  Schedule M2 Groundwater Supply Well



*Note 1: The groundwater protection area (shown in green) is a modification of the version in Map 27b of the PNRP; this modified version covers the whole of the Lower Hutt valley floor as proposed in the Joint Witness Statement of 18 June 2018.*

*Note 2: The water supply wells shown in the inset view of the groundwater protection area are amended from the PNRP as described in Schedule M2 of the red-line version.*