# **Newsline Issue 590 – 21 March 2025**

# Drinking water by the numbers

It’s very easy to take water supplies for granted – just turn on the tap and there’s plenty of fresh water to drink, wash your clothes, and have a shower – but do you know where your water comes from and how it gets to your place?

In Tasman, we manage a complex variety of water delivery systems. Let’s look at our drinking water system by the numbers.

We own and operate 15 water schemes which include 15 water treatment plants, 100 reservoirs, 30 bores, 28 pump stations, 810km of pipes and approximately 14,000 metered connections.

As of June last year, our Council water supply serviced 15,397 properties, with an expectation that this will increase by 13% over the next 10 years.

Now, about 55% of the Tasman District population is serviced by one of our Council water supplies.

But in Motueka for example, only about a third of properties are currently connected to our Council water supply with many relying on private bores for household water – those bores can lead to questionable water quality.

However, the added capacity of our new Parker Street plant, which went online about 18 months ago, means everyone in the town can be supplied with high-quality and safe drinking water in the future if they choose to connect.

These facts and figures all need to be considered as we look to ensure we get the best outcomes for the future of our drinking, waste and stormwater management and funding under the new Local Water Done Well organisational options.

# Planning for the growth of Tasman

Two significant draft changes – Draft Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement and Draft Plan Change 81 to the Tasman Resource Management Plan – are about to open for community feedback.

Our District is an attractive place to live for existing residents and people who want to relocate from elsewhere in New Zealand. To keep homes affordable, we need to provide enough homes and jobs to accommodate the growth.

We need diverse housing options to suit all life stages, and ample business land to ensure accessible job opportunities.

The plan changes are guided by the Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy 2022 – 2052 which aims to consolidate growth along State Highway 6 from Atawhai to Wakefield, and in key towns.

Draft PC81 provides sufficient residential and business land for the next 10 years, creating high-quality living environments, and offering a diverse range of housing options in Tasman’s towns.

We are also asking whether we should enable additional rural living opportunities by allowing second dwellings on rural properties.

Feedback is open from Thursday 27 March until Monday 5 May. Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/urban-growth-PC81 to share your thoughts.

# Have your say on our response to natural hazards in Tasman District

Our experience of floods, wildfires, coastal erosion, and other events serve as reminders that Tasman District is vulnerable to natural hazards.

This is why we have developed an Issues and Options Report as part of Plan Change 85 Natural Hazards.

This will be open for feedback on Shape Tasman from Monday 24 March until Monday 5 May and presents a range of potential planning incorporating the latest scientific understanding, including sea level rise.

This initiative is the start of the process to update the Tasman Resource Management Plan’s natural hazards provisions.

To have your say, visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/natural-hazards.

The report highlights three areas for each natural hazard topic (liquefaction, fault rupture, slope instability and debris run-out, coastal hazards, flooding, wildfire) where we want to hear your feedback:

* Issues: what is the problem we are trying to solve.
* Outcomes: what do we want to achieve.
* Land use planning options: what is your preferred option to manage the effects of natural hazards.

We are committed to sharing our natural hazards information with our community. Explore the new, interactive map viewer to understand the location and extent of natural hazards across the District. This tool consolidates available maps and data into one user-friendly platform.

Check out the natural hazards map viewer at tasman.govt.nz/natural-hazards-map-viewer.

## District-wide plan change drop-in sessions

During April, we’re hosting a series of drop-in sessions across Tasman to discuss the draft Plan Changes. Here, you can talk to our planners and technical staff about both natural hazards and urban growth and ask any questions you may have.

We’ve taken this approach to increase accessibility, encourage broader community input and open up discussion on multiple aspects of Tasman's future development at one event. You can see event details on Shape Tasman and in our next Newsline.

# Garden goodness from scraps

With landfill costs rising, did you know you can drop off some of the heaviest parts of your household waste at no cost?

We’re glad to support a fantastic Golden Bay initiative with the Mohua Compost Collective, offering a free food scraps/parakai drop-off service. Instead of sending your kitchen scraps to landfill, they’ll be transformed into nutrient-rich compost – great for the garden and even better for the environment.

Taking part is easy. Simply collect your food scraps at home and drop them off at one of two convenient locations in Tākaka.

You’ll find a collection point at the Golden Bay Visitor Centre on the main road, opposite Fresh Choice, and another at the Golden Bay Community Gardens and Sustainable Living Centre on Meihana Street.

If you’re a local resident, the collective provides free five-litre buckets to make collecting your food scraps at home even easier.

The scraps are then used to create a special composting brew to help you kickstart your composting journey. To get started, visit the Sustainable Living Centre or contact general.manager@gbslc.org to arrange a pick-up.

The service accepts a wide range of food scraps, including dairy and eggs, citrus, meat and fish without bones, and even onions. However, certain items like rubbish, tissues, compostable packaging, oils, and liquids can’t be accepted.

For more information, visit gbslc.org and start turning your kitchen scraps into something amazing for our community and our planet!

# Shining a light on moth plant pest potential

Moth plant has caused havoc in the North Island, particularly in Northland. So far, it has only been found at a handful of sites in Tasman, and we need your help to keep it that way.

Moth plant (Araujia hortorum) aka milk vine or false choko, is an evergreen climbing vine, with distinctive, smelly, milky sap that can irritate the skin.

Moth plant fruits are very distinctive. They resemble chokos, with large, leathery green pods (10 x 7cm) shaped like an upside-down pear. Each pod contains hundreds of black seeds with white fluffy ‘parachutes’, like a thistle.

Narrow leaves grow opposite each other on the vine and are dark green above and dull grey below. Flowers are small (20 – 25mm), white and appear from December to May.

Moth plant grows quickly to the canopy where it smothers plants and creates a long-lived, heavy mass that can produce many seed pods each season.

When the pods mature, the seeds are dispersed on wind currents far and wide, making them difficult to contain once they become established. This vine tolerates shade, drought, wind, dampness and damage. It is however susceptible to frost, which is helpful for us here in Tasman.

It’s now listed as an eradication pest plant in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan which means people must report any sightings to us.

If you think you have moth plant on your property or have seen it around the District, please let our Biosecurity team know on 03 543 8400 or biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz.

# Grant helps health shuttle help others

Every year, we distribute grants to dozens of community organisations across Tasman whose services and projects provide wide benefits and add to the well-being of our community.

One of those last year was the Waka Ora Health Shuttle, a koha-based community service that transports people to a wide range of health-related appointments.

During the past 12 months, the Motueka and Nelson Health Shuttles have supported 186 clients who live in the Tasman District, on 2,079 individual trips to and from health appointments.

The Motueka service supports clients from as far as Tasman Village, Upper Moutere, Ngātīmoti and Riwaka, to reach appointments within the Motueka area.

The Nelson service covers Wakefield to Wakapuaka for appointments within this area.

The service assists people to live independently and helps ease the anxiety that may come with the difficulty of finding transport to appointments. It can also remove the stress of having to ask family or friends for transport.

St John Health Shuttle volunteers provide a door-to-door service to ensure that clients can attend their appointments with support and reassurance.

The health shuttles are locally funded through client and public donations, community fundraising, and grants, including $2,600 from our Community Grants.

The service operates Monday – Friday (except public holidays) and is easily booked on 0800 103 046.

Our Community Grants open on 1 May, so keep an eye out for more information in the coming months, or if you want to know more now, head to tasman.govt.nz/grants.

# She’s a heart of the community

The next recipient of one of our Outstanding Community Service Awards is Sharon McConnon.

In Golden Bay, the name Sharon McConnon is synonymous with dedication, generosity, and community spirit. Her contributions span so many local groups and initiatives that it’s nearly impossible to list them all!

Sharon’s journey in community service began when Hank Visker invited her to take on the role of Secretary for the Wrinklies Express. She stepped up with enthusiasm, handling the responsibilities with skill and efficiency.

As a parent, she threw herself into supporting Motupipi School, leading fundraising efforts and serving as ‘camp mother’ on school trips. Later, when her daughter took up football, Sharon was right there once again, helping with fundraising and going to away tournaments to cheer the team on. All of this while balancing full-time work.

Since 2012, Sharon has been the driving force behind Daffodil Day in Golden Bay, organising the event on behalf of the Cancer Society.

Her commitment to the community extends even further. In 2014, she became a Justice of the Peace, a role she carries out with patience and kindness.

More recently, her energy has been poured into the Golden Bay Squash Club, where as Secretary, she is playing a key role in organising the annual squash tournament.

Sharon McConnon’s tireless contributions make Golden Bay a better place. Her selfless efforts, warm heart, and can-do attitude embody the true spirit of community.

# Council’s communication channels survey

Keeping you informed and up to date about what’s happening in Tasman is a priority for us. You can help by filling in our survey and you’ll also go in the draw to win one of three Nelson Tasman Monopoly games.

Is Newsline still a vital source of communication? What about our social media channels, Antenno, or the website? We want to know what you think about our channels – what works, what doesn’t, and more. We aren’t asking about engagement or consultation right now, we’re focusing on the communication channels we use.

You can complete the survey at **shape.tasman.govt.nz/councils-communication-survey**.

This survey is open from Monday 17 March to Thursday 17 April. Prize draw is open to Tasman District residents only.

# Safer speeds a must for Tasman boaties

There’s still plenty of good fishing out in Tasman Bay – however our Harbourmaster team wants to remind boaties to navigate at a safe speed if you’re out on the water in the coming weeks.

Marine hazards in the form of unmarked floating ropes were recently discovered within the vicinity of some marine farms in the Tasman Bay Aquaculture Management Area.

There is a tendency for these mussel lines to come to the surface at times and so boats travelling at speed are at risk.

There have been a number of reports of boaties displaying unacceptable behaviour in recent days and it is disappointing that people are not slowing down accordingly.

A Navigation Safety Notice was issued on 26 February and remains in effect until further notice.

Maritime Rules prevent vessels from exceeding 5 knots within 200m of a marine farm.

Boaties are discouraged from navigating through these farmed areas, as hazards include floating, sub-surface, and sunken lines and structures. Anchoring is not advised due to multiple hazards on the sea floor which are unmarked.

Please familiarise yourself with any maritime rules and particularly the terms of any navigational safety notices – this will enable personnel to do what they need to in the marine farm area, while also reducing the likelihood of enforcement action being taken.

# Enjoy autumn on our shared paths – safely!

The crisp, fresh days of autumn make it the perfect time to get out and explore Tasman’s wonderful network of cycleways and walkways.

Whether you’re walking, cycling, pushing a pram, or scooting with the kids, our shared paths are here for everyone to enjoy.

To keep things safe and pleasant for all, here are a few friendly reminders:

* Cyclists, take extra care. You’re often the fastest on the path, so slow down when approaching others, ring your bell, and pass with care.
* Be seen. Ride in a visible position, wear bright clothing, and if you’re out after dark, make sure you have lights and reflective gear.
* Stay alert. Keep an eye on what’s happening around you – pedestrians may cross without noticing bikes approaching.
* Listen up. If you love music or podcasts while walking or riding, keep the volume low or use just one earbud so you can hear what’s happening around you.

Let’s all do our part to keep our shared paths safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone. Happy riding and walking!

# Motueka Community Board

The Board advocates for considerate and conscious development of affordable housing for a growing Motueka population without impacting the integrity of our region. Finding a balance of providing mixed housing options and maintaining green spaces that respect the environment and aesthetics, whilst delivering for new homeowners and developers who invest in such projects, will require mindful cooperation and commitment by the wider Motueka community.

Chair Terina Graham, Deputy Chair Claire Hutt, and Councillor Trindi Walker along with Cultural Advisor Sean Delany and Motueka High School Principal John Prestidge form the ‘Community Wellbeing Solutions Working Group’, supporting initiatives to address the housing crisis, homelessness, and youth attendance and engagement. Principal John Prestidge reports positive momentum with encouraging outcomes improving student engagement and attendance, thanks to dedicated staff and community support.

Given the current financial environment, the Board is aware that maintenance services have been impacted, and the upcoming financial year is not looking brighter. The Board is working on a submission for the Annual Plan and encourages Motueka Ward residents to work together to support solutions that empower community resilience.

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together!

# What’s On in Tasman

### It’s on in Nelson Tasman

To keep up with events happening across the region, visit nelsontasman.nz/events.

### Positive Ageing Expo

Saturday 5 April, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, Headingly Centre, Richmond.

Our Positive Ageing Expo is a wonderful opportunity to explore the many recreational, health, and social services available in Nelson Tasman to help us embrace ageing as a positive and enriching journey. This year’s Expo will be packed with 70 wonderful stalls featuring helpful services and engaging demonstrations.

To make it easier to attend, there will be a free shuttle service running between the Richmond eBus Interchange on Queen Street and the Expo every 30 minutes from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, with the final return shuttle at 12.45 pm. Additionally, the Motueka Community Bus will arrive in Richmond at 10.30 am and depart at 2.00 pm – call the Motueka iSite to book your seat.

### Community quilt project

Monday 24 March – Monday 30 June, all Tasman District Libraries.

All ages, all sewing abilities, all welcome. Pop into your local library to pick up an entry form with everything you need to know to take part in this creative community project. Our theme for this quilt is Threading Connections / Tuia te Hononga, a celebration of the connection you feel with Te Tauihu / Top of the South.

### Tuku25 Whakatū

Sunday 23 March – Sunday 4 May, Motueka and Richmond Libraries.

Six weeks of events to tuku (share) our unique stories of people and place. From talks, to lessons on digitising your cherished photos and slides, to an opportunity to collectively participate in creating tukutuku (latticework), we have all kinds of happenings in April. Please visit tasmanlibraries.govt.nz for information on our Tuku25 library programme.

# Newsline Notices

### Flush your taps, check your roof

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health/Manatū Hauora recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use, to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Everybody should try to save water whenever they can so you could collect the small amount you flush from the taps and use it for something else like watering plants (but not the veggie garden).

If you have a rainwater supply, flushing taps won’t help. You need to check your roof and guttering for materials that may contain metals that could contaminate the water: lead flashing, lead-headed nails and lead paint, for example. These should be replaced if you find them.

### Alcohol applications

Visit tasman.govt.nz/alcohol-notices to see the latest alcohol licence applications.

### Want to be the first to see Newsline?

Did you know you can read Newsline online? We put a digital version on our website and email it to those who have signed up to our mailing list. This means you should get it in your inbox before it reaches your letter box!

Visit tasman.govt.nz/newsline and follow the link to join the mailing list.

### Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and via Zoom. For details, the Zoom link and recordings of previous meetings visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Submissions Hearing (Māpua Masterplan)  
Wednesday 26 March, 9.30 am.

Tasman District Council  
Thursday 27 March, 9.30 am.

Golden Bay Community Board  
Monday 31 March, 1.00 pm, Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group  
Wednesday 2 April, 9.30 am, Emergency Operations Centre, Oxford St, Richmond.

Strategy and Policy Committee  
Thursday 3 April, 9.30 am.