



# Waimea Water Augmentation Committee

March 2013

## Council proposes to change its Water Management Plan

Council has recently announced its intention to start the Plan Change process in relation to water resource management on the Waimea Plains. This will have significant impact on current and future water use and I urge you all to read the information here and familiarise yourself with the proposal and the process behind it.



**Murray King**  
Chairman

Waimea Water Augmentation Committee

### WWAC – background

Following the severe droughts in the early 2000s, the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee (WWAC) was established to investigate the options available to provide a sustainable water supply to the Waimea plains. WWAC is comprised of representatives from all the key stakeholder groups with an interest in water management in the Waimea Plains including: Department of Conservation, irrigators, Fish and Game, iwi and representatives from Nelson and Tasman Councils.

As a result of nearly ten years of investigation and consultation WWAC has concluded that a community owned dam on the Lee River is the most viable water augmentation option for the Waimea plains.

### Council water management

Tasman District Council has a statutory obligation to manage the district's resources. It has been widely acknowledged for more than a decade that Tasman has an acute water shortage on the Waimea Plains and that the available supply is over-allocated.

The Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) was amended in 2007

(Variation 52) to include interim water management objectives, policies and rules for the Waimea water management zones. These interim measures were implemented to provide time for long term, sustainable water supply options to be explored which would also address potential future water demands.

Council needs to update and replace the interim water allocation provisions with a definitive water management regime before existing water permits in the affected water management zones expire in 2016/17.



Tasman District Council has now decided to commence a Plan Change process that will replace those interim provisions for the Waimea zones and address the legal requirements under the Government's national water management policy statements.

The Plan Change proposal will provide two water supply scenarios, both of which will be required to meet the Government's minimum flow allocation. (Note: there is currently no minimum flow allocation in the Waimea River)

The first scenario will define water resource allocation with no augmentation of the current water supply.

The second scenario will define the water resource allocation with the augmented supply following the construction of a dam in the Lee Valley.

### **Information available**

A large amount of documentation has been prepared for and by WWAC in support of a water augmentation dam on the Lee River, including feasibility studies, expert reports and cost/benefit analyses of the with dam and without dam alternatives. The Committee has also ensured that there has been public participation throughout this project and has held regular public meetings and produced regular newsletters.

All of the documentation produced so far is publicly available on the Council's website

[www.tasman.govt.nz](http://www.tasman.govt.nz)

### **Council's Plan Change process**

- Council's Environment and Planning Committee will consider its draft water management options on 28 February 2013.
- These will then be put out for public feedback during March 2013.
- In April, following public consultation, Council will finalise the proposed Plan Change and that will then be publicly notified.
- There will then be further opportunity for submissions on the proposed Plan Change.
- In October 2013 the Plan Change will be heard by independent Commissioners.



### **Have your say**

WWAC strongly encourages any people or organisations with an interest in water management in the Waimea Plains to become involved in this consultation process.

If you have any questions about the Lee Dam proposal, please don't hesitate to contact any of the members of the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee.

### **Council meeting dates:**

13 March Appleby School Hall 3.30 -7.00pm

14 March Hope Hall, Hope Recreation Reserve 3.30 -7.00pm

18 March Council Chamber Richmond 3.30 -7.00pm

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