

Possible Waimea Basin Storage Sites Identified

A study being undertaken by the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee (WWAC) has identified three possible sites for a water storage facility in the Waimea Basin.

This study has been on-going since mid 2004 and was undertaken because historically the Waimea Basin has been very short of water. Water users have had to cope with severe water restrictions over the last few years during dry seasons. This has caused significant production cutbacks for irrigated crops leading to economic loss, affected the important environmental values of the Wairoa/Waimea Rivers and the coastal springs that are highly valued. Restrictions have also adversely affected the major urban water supplies for the Waimea Basin including the serious threat of seawater infiltration into the aquifers at the coastal margins which affects both urban water and irrigation supplies.

The Committee will consider initiating further detailed investigations into the suitability of three potential sites. The three sites are Pigeon Valley north branch, the upper Lee Valley, beyond the limestone quarry and the upper Wairoa Valley left branch above the forks.

These three were determined to have the best potential as water storage sites following a process of elimination led by consultants Tonkin and Taylor. The process began with consideration of 18 sites which could service the Waimea Basin. This has been narrowed down to three based on engineering, hydrological, geological, environmental, community and economic factors.

Chairman of the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee, Murray King, says a final decision on a site will only be made after more in depth research has been carried out. 'We are pleased to have narrowed down the options to these three sites, which now makes it feasible to get on with the detailed research work we need to have done before further decisions can be made,' Mr King says.

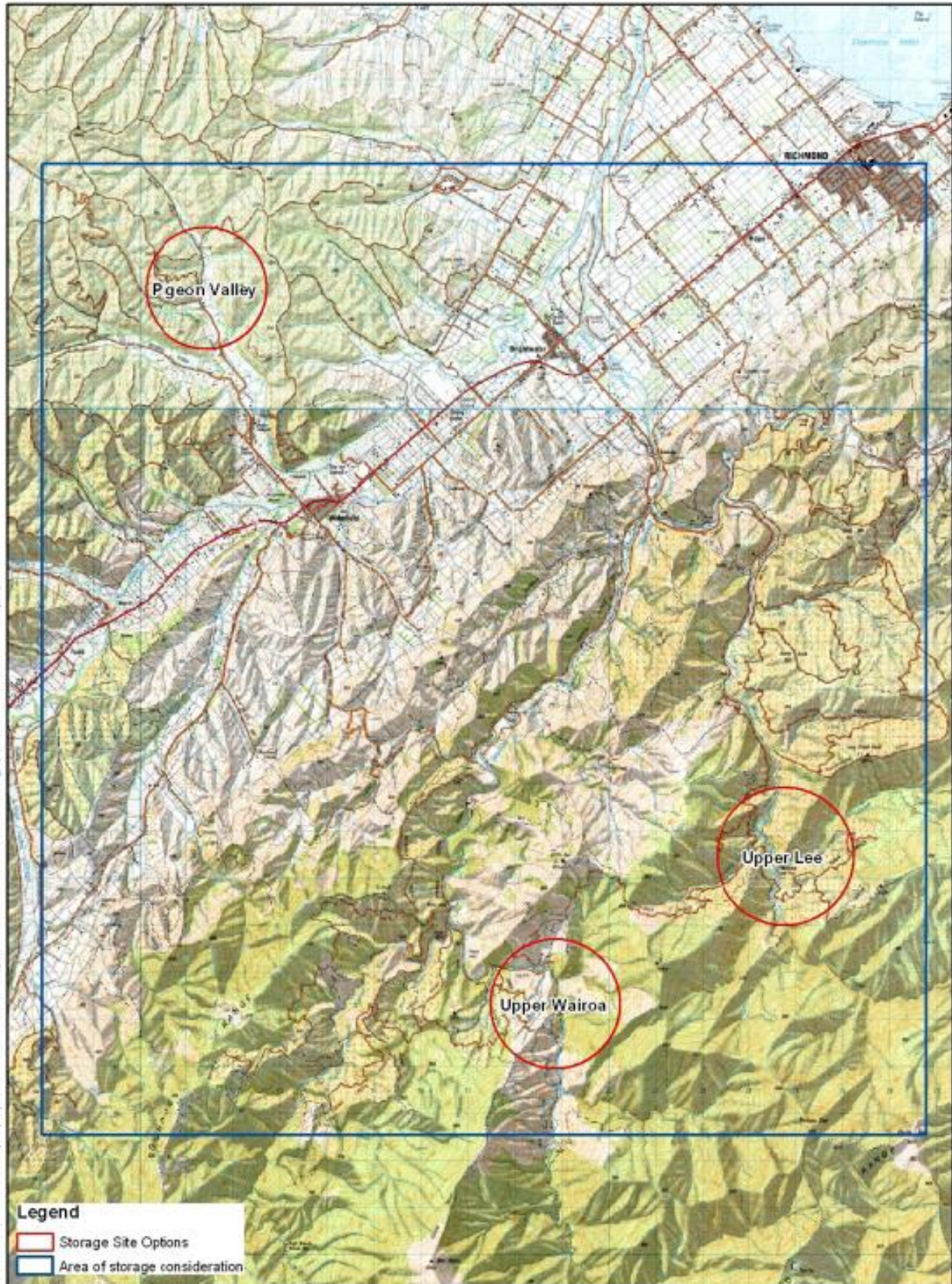
The Committee intends to consult and keep landowners and local communities informed as further information and reports become available.

For more details contact:

Murray King
Chairman
Waimea Water Augmentation Committee
Phone 03 544 8465

Joseph Thomas
Project Manager
Tasman District Council
Phone 03 543 8494

Sourced from Land Information New Zealand data. Crown Copyright reserved. Aerial photography copyright Terralink International Limited. Rural Imagery from Dec2000-Apr2002. Urban Imagery from Jan2003. This information on this map is prepared for indicative use only and is not intended for definitive legal, location or formal reference purposes.



Legend

- Storage Site Options
- Area of storage consideration

Waimea Water Augmentation Storage Site Options

May 2005

1:110,000

