

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Engineering Manager
REFERENCE:
DATE: 22 June 2005
SUBJECT: Water and Sanitary Services Assessments (WSSA)

PURPOSE

The amendments to the WSSA documentation have been finalised. Council are required by the Local Government Act 1992 to adopt WSSA by 30 June 2005.

BACKGROUND

At the Special Council meeting on 24 June 2005 the final changes to WSSA were approved. The changes are summarised on the attachment to this report. All changes are included in the final WSSA Volume 1 document accompanying this report

(Note: WSSA Volume 1 to be sent out under separate cover).

RECOMMENDATION

That the final revised Water and Sanitary Services Assessment be adopted by Council in accordance with Part 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager

APPROVED REVISIONS TO WSSA

- a) *Append a list of the submissions with information on the points raised in each submission in an Appendix of the WSSA (see Attachment 1).*
- b) *The submission received from Matt Molloy, Public Health Officer with the Public Health Service should be referenced in section 2.4 Involvement and Consultation with Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Services, and appended to the WSSA document.*
- c) *A reference section should be added at the front of the WSSA document acknowledging those people that assisted by providing input. Those referenced include:*

*Jim Wareing, previous TDC Utilities Asset Manager (retired)
Joseph Thomas, TDC Resource Scientist-Water
Beryl Wilkes, TDC Manager of Reserves
David Lewis, TDC Environmental Health Officer
Mary-Anne Baker, TDC Policy Planner
Public Health Service staff including:
Geoff Cameron, Senior Medical Health Officer
Matt Malloy, Medical Health Officer
Annamarie Clough, Medical Health Officer
MWH New Zealand Ltd*

- d) *A footnote should be added in section 3.3 Geology and Groundwater Resources referencing the Tasman District Groundwater Resources report by Joseph Thomas.*
- e) *Provide a summary of the relevant comments within the WSSA document in the “Public Consultation and Community Expectation” section at the end of each of the water, wastewater, stormwater, public toilets and cemeteries/crematoria sections.*

Revised text for each of these section summaries is:

“4.9 Water Public Consultation and Community Expectation

Of the 24 submissions received, 22 submissions made reference to issues pertaining to community and Council water supplies. The issues raised included the following:

- *Support by the Public Health Service (PHS) of a fully reticulated water supply scheme for Motueka, Takaka, Patons Rock, Pohara, Ligar Bay, Tata Beach and Marahau/Sandy Bay*
- *Agreement by PHS of the priority rankings and ratings of the community water supplies*
- *Revision of the priority ranking from 2 to 4 for the water supply for Patons Rock*
- *Revision of the priority ranking from 2 to 4 for the water supply for Takaka*
- *That existing groundwater and rainwater supplies were adequate in quantity and quality*
- *That existing infrastructure for Patons Rock is appropriate and adequate*
- *That reticulated water supplies for Motueka, Takaka and Pohara are unnecessary and expensive*
- *Opposition to the Coastal Pipeline project*
- *That the aquifers be protected to ensure continued satisfactory water quality*
- *Consider rainwater as a suitable option for Pohara and Tata Beach*
- *Existing groundwater supply at Pakawau is satisfactory in quality but of insufficient quantity*
- *Holiday home users oppose having to contribute to reticulation costs*

- *Funding of a reticulated supply from Takaka to Tata Beach is an inefficient use of ratepayers funds*
- *That proposed development in Patons Rock should not force contribution to infrastructure by existing ratepayers*
- *Opposition to reticulated water supply since Parapara has an adequate water supply already*
- *Reticulated water supply for Pohara is an unnecessary and unsustainable objective*

The Council acknowledges the views and concerns of the submitters and where appropriate has made changes to correct specific points raised. The Council has decided to retain the assessed priority rankings but recognises that more information and data is needed to support the priority assessments. The Council therefore commits to collecting more information for future assessments as follows:

- *Council will undertake a more detailed assessment of the quality of Patons Rock water supplies to determine whether the quality and reliability of the bore water. Until that time the priority ranking will remain, however the Council will not pursue any community water supply scheme without further consulting the community.*
- *Council will undertake a more detailed risk assessment of the water quality issues in non-reticulated properties in Motueka and Takaka, and will undertake an assessment of the fire fighting capability provided in both townships. Until that time the priority rankings will remain, however Council will undertake consultation with the communities affected before Council decides to proceed with either the proposed Motueka or Takaka Water Supply Scheme.*
- *Council will undertake consultation with the communities affected before Council decides to proceed with the proposed Pohara/Ligar Bay/Tata Beach Water Supply Scheme.*

“5.8 Wastewater Public Consultation and Community Expectation

Of the 24 submissions received, 14 submissions made reference to issues pertaining to community and Council wastewater disposal systems. The issues raised included the following:

- *PHS supports wastewater system upgrades for Bells Island, Collingwood, Takaka and Tapawera*
- *PHS agrees with the ratings and priority rankings regarding wastewater disposal systems in the WSSA document*
- *PHS stated that Priority 1 communities require addressing first since they contain the highest risk and are currently growing or projected for substantial growth in the future*
- *Patons Rock residents suggest a revision from 1 to 4 on the priority ranking for community wastewater systems*
- *That existing on-site systems are adequate to serve waste disposal needs for communities such as Patons Rock where there is considerable development planned*
- *Sewage impacts on shellfish and environmental issues for Bells Island not adequately addressed*
- *Marlborough Shellfish Quality Programme Inc (MSQP) suggests that a maximum allowable bacterial level be a condition of all discharge consents*
- *MSQP recommends that resources be increased for environmental monitoring to ensure continuation of the aquaculture industry*
- *No consideration has been given to use of composting toilets*
- *In Pohara, on-site wastewater systems should be investigated for adequacy before investing in a reticulated wastewater scheme*
- *Developers should pay full costs for infrastructure for their proposed developments*

The Council acknowledges the views and concerns of the submitters and where appropriate has made changes to correct specific points raised. The Council has decided to drop Patons Rock from a Priority 1 community to a Priority 2 community but recognises that more information and data on system performance is needed to support the priority assessment in Patons Rock. The Council therefore commits to collecting more information for future assessments as follows:

- Council will undertake a more detailed assessment of the performance of Patons Rock on-site wastewater systems to determine whether the performance constitutes a public health risk.
- Council will consider composting toilets and develop a policy on their use.
- Council will review present practice on monitoring and operation of on-site wastewater systems in communities and consider the issues raised in section 5.6.4 of the WSSA.

“6.8 Stormwater Public Consultation and Community Expectation

Of the 24 submissions received, 7 submissions made reference to issues pertaining to community and Council stormwater disposal. The issues raised included the following:

- PHS supports recommended stormwater upgrades in Motueka, Takaka, Marahau/Sandy Bay, Patons Rock and Tasman/Kina. Stormwater improvements will reduce the risk of contamination to water supplies, shellfish and the marine environment and impacts from overflows to on-site and Council owned wastewater schemes.
- Stormwater should be disposed of properly to protect the aquifer
- In Patons Rock stormwater problems cause flooding and could be remedied without great expense
- Priority ranking should be revised from 4 to 1 for Patons Rock
- Patons Rock Beach Society requests that community be involved in future consultations
- Waterways should be managed to protect against pollution from agriculture, erosion and other pollutants

The Council acknowledges the views and concerns of the submitters and where appropriate has made changes to correct specific points raised.

The Council has particularly noted the Patons Rock submission and agrees that the Priority 4 ranking understates the stormwater problems in Patons Rock from surface flooding due to the drainage systems and from rural runoff contaminating the waterways. Council has therefore elevated Patons Rock from a Priority 4 to a Priority 1 ranking in Table 6-1 pg 68. Council further undertakes to assess the performance of the Patons Rock stormwater system to assess the issues and options.

“7.9 Public Toilets Public Consultation and Community Expectation

Since no submissions were received with regard to public toilets, Council should continue in its role in the providing of toilets to meet public and tourism demands.”

“8.9 Cemeteries and Crematoria Public Consultation and Community Expectation

Of the 24 submissions received, 1 submission made reference to a matter relating to a cemetery and crematoria issue. The following issue was raised:

- *Given Council's commitment to a long term requirement to find new cemetery land or increase the number of available plots, should Council encourage cremation as an alternative to burials?*

The above submission comment is acknowledged, however, no revision of Council policy is necessary at this time. While performing the assessment of cemeteries and crematoria, it became apparent that a comprehensive understanding of the total number of plots, including the number of vacant plots in cemeteries was not readily available.

The Council therefore commits to undertake a study to assess the number of plots available in the district."

- f) *the following section be added to the WSSA at the end of the document.*

"9. Where to from here?

9.1 Legislative requirements

Section 125 of the Local Government Act requires a territorial authority to assess water services and sanitary services "from time to time". Therefore, there is discretion as to how frequently assessments must be performed.

After completion of this first District-wide assessment of water and sanitary services, it is the Council's intention for updates to coincide with the adoption of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). This occurs every three years from June 2006. Therefore the first update will coincide with the June 2009 LTCCP.

9.2 Water and Sanitary Services Assessments (WSSA) Improvement Plan

Following review of the submissions received on the WSSA documents, Council is commits to:

- *Undertake a more detailed assessment of the quality of Patons Rock water supplies.*
- *Undertake a more detailed risk assessment of the water quality in non-reticulated properties in Motueka and Takaka, and an assessment of the fire fighting capability provided in non-reticulated areas.*
- *undertake consultation with the communities affected before Council decides to proceed with proposed new community water supplies.*
- *undertake a more detailed assessment of the performance of Patons Rock on-site wastewater systems.*
- *consider composting toilets and develop a policy on their use.*
- *review present practice on monitoring and operation of on-site wastewater systems in communities and consider the issues raised in section 5.6.4 of the WSSA.*
- *Undertake an assessment of Paton's Rock stormwater disposal.*
- *Undertake an assessment of available cemetery plots in the district."*

- g) *After review of the submissions and the WSSA document, several minor text errors and inaccuracies were discovered that should be corrected.*