

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
REFERENCE: W209
DATE: 10 June 2009
SUBJECT: **TEN YEAR PLAN SUBMISSIONS
 MOTUEKA WATER SUPPLY**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to include the Motueka water supply reticulation in the Ten Year Plan subject to obtaining an adequate Government subsidy.

2 COMMENT

Council has carried out extensive public consultation on the proposal to provide a reticulated water supply with the residents of Motueka.

Council received 134 submissions. The following summarises the submissions.

Submission	Number
In support of a water reticulation scheme	20
In support of a water reticulation scheme but with subsidy	10
Not in support of a water reticulation scheme	106
Comment – cost too high (rates too high if stopbanks projects proceeds) Limited income	84
Already have good quality water supply	48
Don't want water to be supplied to the Coastal Tasman Area or Mapua	25
Want alternative reticulation for firewells	16

Many of the submissions raised multiple concerns, however of the 106 opposing the proposal:

- 84 (79%) raise the high cost of the scheme and the financial impact on Motueka residents. Many of them have sited their status as unemployed, part-time employed, retired or on low incomes. Many have cited the timing relative to the recession and many have raised the timing relative to other Council proposals for the area that are important projects but have a compounding effect on their rates. This includes the construction of the stopbanks which would have a similar impact on rates as the proposed water supply scheme.
- 48 (45%) raise the issues around the good quality of the groundwater they use and that they like the taste, never get sick and don't see the need for a Council system. Some have recognised the health risks but feel the risk is low and are prepared to live with it. Some like control of their own water and don't want a Council supply because they fear it will have chemicals added (note Council are not proposing to chlorinate or fluoridate).

- 25 raised the issue of Motueka water being supplied to the Coastal Tasman Area and Mapua. Some of this opposition is due to submitters thinking that they would be paying for other people to get water, especially those in richer areas. Some are not keen as they think the water resource in Motueka will be depleted and they won't be able to use it anymore. Some are against the water leaving the borough full stop ('it's our water').

3 GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY

As Councillors will recall, Council staff have been in discussion with the Ministry of Health and we believe there is the potential to receive a Government subsidy to offset some of the capital works for the Motueka reticulated water supply.

4 COASTAL TASMAN AREA AND MAPUA

If the Motueka reticulated water supply project did not go ahead the need for water to be reticulated to Mapua remains. The cost implications of the shared pumping reticulation (ie Motueka, the Coastal Tasman Area and Mapua) from the bore field in Parker Street to the Mariri Reservoir are known. If the Motueka scheme did not proceed the total cost of this pipeline and bore field would reduce. Reducing the pipeline size and bore field capacity would not result in the same proportional drop in expenditure for what would be required to service the Coastal Tasman Area and Mapua. This extra cost would mainly need to be met by the "Water Club".

5 RESOURCE CONSENT

Council staff are in the process of obtaining resource consent for the extraction of water for the Motueka township, the Coastal Tasman Area and Mapua. If the project to reticulate Motueka is not included in the Ten Year Plan, the ability to be able to obtain resource consent to extract the water and protect that water for Motueka's future could be uncertain.

6 EXISTING MOTUEKA WATER SUPPLY

The existing water supply in Motueka will need to be upgraded to meet the drinking water standards. The cost of this project has been included in the proposed Motueka new town supply (component for targeted rate).

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 THAT the Motueka township reticulated water supply project be included in the 2009 Ten Year Plan.**
- 7.2 THAT Council staff apply for a Government subsidy for the Motueka township reticulated water supply.**
- 7.3 THAT Council considers the rates required for this project in the 2010/2011 Annual Plan.**
- 7.4 That wording is incorporated into the Ten Year Plan explaining that the Motueka township reticulated water supply project will only proceed if it gains a satisfactory Government subsidy.**

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager