

RETICULATED DRINKING WATER FOR TAKAKA

The purpose of this letter is to seek your views on a proposal to provide Takaka township with a reticulated water supply.

As you will probably be aware, the Ministry of Health considers that the majority of privately owned water bores in Takaka constitute a risk to public health. When flooding occurs the water can become contaminated.

Tasman District Council previously proposed a fully reticulated water supply scheme for Takaka. This was not supported by the community. However the Golden Bay Community Board requested through their submission to the 2009 Annual Plan, that Council seek a subsidy for a fully reticulated drinking water supply in an attempt to reduce the cost of the firefighting scheme.

Later in 2009, following the general election, central government placed the drinking water subsidy scheme on hold in order to review the criteria for eligibility. In December 2010 the Ministry of Health had completed their review and announced that they would again seek subsidy applications for drinking water schemes.

In the meantime the firefighting reticulation project for Takaka's Central Business District could not be postponed any longer. The Takaka Firefighting Water Supply Working Group (including the Golden Bay Community Board and the Golden Bay Councillors) agreed that this scheme should proceed to ensure that Takaka had its badly needed firefighting protection. The tender is now let for the firefighting project. The new criteria for the government subsidy do not provide funding for water supply to commercial properties.

The Community Board has been delegated responsibility to consult with the Takaka community to establish whether Council should make an application for a fully reticulated residential water supply on behalf of the Takaka community under the new subsidy scheme.

Although we have been advised that Takaka will qualify under the Ministry of Health criteria, the funding pool is limited to \$10 million per year across New Zealand. This application is conditional on the community of Takaka giving a clear mandate to support a subsidised reticulated water scheme and evidence that there is a clear public health need. We may receive sufficient subsidy to meet the Ministry of Health's requirements at a reduced cost to the ratepayer. If there is no subsidy, the scheme will not proceed. The pure Takaka water which would come from a bore deep into the Takaka aquifer would be UV treated in preference to chlorination.

As applications close on 30 March 2011, this consultation is urgent. The Community Board has decided to send this letter to every family that could receive reticulated water supply on this scheme to seek their opinion.

Council estimates that the capital cost of the water supply scheme would be \$525 per residential rateable property per annum over a 20-year loan period. This rate would be applicable to all properties

within a defined rating area. This assumes Council gains the maximum government subsidy available and also receives a capital contribution from Council's other urban water schemes within the district.

If Council makes an application for subsidy we would expect to be informed of any allocation by September 2011. Council would then need to refine all estimates and determine whether or not to proceed with a water supply scheme after formal public consultation. The earliest that this capital work could be committed is in the 2012-2013 financial year.

- This scheme would only go ahead if:
1. There is community support for this initiative
 2. The subsidy application is successful
 3. The cost to the ratepayer is acceptable

We recognise that Takaka has excellent natural water resources. However with the reintroduction of the drinking water subsidy for smaller communities such as Takaka, we would be remiss if we did not give ratepayers the opportunity to decide if they wanted to make formal application for this joint funding.

We value your views on this important initiative for the Takaka community.

Kindest regards

Carolyn McLellan
Chair Golden Bay Community Board

On behalf of Councillors Martine Bouillir and Noel Riley
Board Members Karen Brookes, Leigh Gamby and Mik Symmons

As you will appreciate time is of the essence and we welcome your reply in the enclosed pre-paid envelope by 28 February 2011.

I DO support Tasman District Council making application to the Ministry of Health for a fully reticulated water scheme on behalf of the Takaka community

OR

I DO NOT support Tasman District Council making application to the Ministry of Health for a fully a reticulated water scheme on behalf of the Takaka community.

Number of persons in your household

Please add any other comments you may wish to make

Signed _____ Name _____
(Please print)