

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee  
**FROM:** Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager  
**DATE:** 12 June 2007  
**REFERENCE:** W209  
**SUBJECT:** **MOTUEKA WATER RETICULATION**

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## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support to undertake work in relation to the pre-feasibility investigation into the reticulation of the Motueka township.

## 2 COMMENT

Reticulation of the Motueka township was included in the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006. During the consultation process and review by Council it was decided that Motueka's water supply would not be included in the LTCCP budgets but would be added as a deferred capital item, ie not funded within the 10-year plan.

## 3 WATER EXTRACTION RESOURCE CONSENT

Before any of the major projects relating to the Coastal Tasman Area (CTA) and Motueka can be undertaken the extraction consent for water must be obtained.

Council has now submitted the resource consent to extract water, it has been advertised and submissions received. Council has received a request for further information/clarity of issues which are being worked through. At this stage it is now known when the consent will be heard by a commissioner.

It should be noted that a number of submitters are concerned about their ability to extract water from the shallow private bores. In the majority of cases the private bores do not penetrate the aquifer adequately and this could be affected by Council's and potentially any other water extraction operations.

If Council was to mitigate these effects the best option would be to reticulate Motueka and thus provide the bore owners with an alternative water supply.

## 4 MINISTRY OF HEALTH – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Council staff have registered the existing Motueka water supply with the Ministry of Health. As part of the registration Council needs to undertake certain reporting to the Ministry which could result in financial assistance being provided.

#### **4.1 Public Health Risk Management Plan (PHRMP)**

As a requirement of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (DWSNZ) water suppliers will be required to provide PHRMP's for all of their individual water supplies. The purpose of a PHRMP is to assist Council to do everything they can to prevent putting people's health at risk from drinking water. Council's consumers must be able to trust Council to provide safe and acceptable drinking water.

A PHRMP must list the most important things that can go wrong in a water supply that presents a risk to public health, what might cause that risk and what measures should be in place to reduce the likelihood of that risk occurring.

This provides a basis for deciding what features of Council's water supplies present a risk to public health and what can be done about them. There is also a request to have a contingency plan and obviously consultation with the Medical Officer of Health if all actions of the PHRMP fail.

#### **4.2 Technical Assistance Programme (TAP)**

The Ministry has set up a Technical Assistance Programme which offers advice to small water suppliers on the operation, management and upgrading of their water supplies and will provide assistance to help them write their Public Health Risk Management Plans. If this programme shows that capital development is needed, small water supplies can then apply for a share of the \$150 million available over the next ten years.

Potentially Council can also receive assistance for new community drinking water supplies.

#### **4.3 Capital Assistance Programme (CAP)**

Council has the opportunity to put its case forward following application of the PHRMP and TAP for a subsidy to upgrade or even construct a new water scheme. Staff wish to at least investigate the opportunity for government assistance for upgrading the existing Motueka water supply and potentially the construction of the remainder of the water scheme.

### **5 FUNDING**

Within Council's 2007/2008 Annual Plan there is a project to upgrade the Naumai Street water extraction well at a cost of \$52,016. In light of Council's water extraction consent application it is proposed not to undertake this upgrade but to transfer the funding to undertake the PHRMP, CAP and TAP for the greater Motueka township water supply. With this funding change approved, there would be no funding impact on the Motueka water account.

### **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1 THAT Council undertakes and complete a Public Health Risk Management Plan for the Motueka township water supply taking advantage of the Technical and Capital Assistance Programmes from the Ministry of Health where possible.**

- 6.2 THAT Council forgoes the work relating to the Naumai Street well and transfers capital funding of approximately \$52,000 to undertake the Public Health Risk Management Plan, Technical Assistance Programme and Capital Assistance Programme and any associated investigations and preliminary design work during the 2007/2008 financial year.**
- 6.3 THAT Council reconsiders the costings and estimates for the construction of a new town water supply for Motueka with a view to it being included as a significant capital project in the next LTCCP review.**

Jeff Cuthbertson  
**Utilities Asset Manager**