

22 August
2018.

Water Supply Bylaw change submission – J Clifton – 22.8.2018

Paying for water

The proposed changes do not make a distinction between those that pay for their water as metered and those that don't. It is time to take this into account and establish a clear priority for those that pay by volume consumed.

Irrigation and an opportunity

The urban and metered businesses use very little water (less than 15% of all extraction) and by virtue of price are careful with their usage.

The opposite is true when it comes to irrigators (the other 85%). They don't pay for the volume of water that they use and are actually incentivised to use as much as possible in order to maintain their allocation. They aren't generally interested in conservation and are not usually affected by stage 1 & 2 restrictions as most have excessive allocations. It is interesting to note that there are no prescriptive requirements for Irrigators such as those laid out for urban users – why aren't irrigators required to only use water at night for example? Why should they avoid stage 1 & 2 restrictions?

TDC needs to address irrigation water allocation and usage before introducing these bylaws, the whole subject needs a structured, holistic approach. Excessive use has to be curtailed and conservation encouraged and mandated, one excessive irrigator using the same amount of water as Richmond makes a mockery of any urban restrictions that might be imposed.

So an opportunity for TDC to save massive amounts of water and provide a structured approach for the long term.

Leakage

No attempt is being made to reduce leakage in the reticulated network. With this backdrop it is completely unreasonable to expect urban users to be restricted to the extent proposed when TDC has no policy, target or timetable to rectify this serious problem. Stop the leaks and the population can double for the same amount of water extracted.

Start being honest

Stop scaremongering, be honest and transparent. Start to represent the ratepayers rather than a small sector of the business community. Stop presenting the water issue as an urban problem – it isn't - urban water use is almost irrelevant in this discussion. Bylaw changes that don't address the whole subject are a waste of time and will have no tangible impact.

The usual reminder

- TDC ratepayers have the highest rates in the country outside of Auckland/Bay of Plenty.
- Household incomes in the Tasman District are the lowest in the country.