

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 SEPTEMBER 2019

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## AGENDA ITEM C2

### REPORT ON CHLORINATION OF MARTINBOROUGH WATER SUPPLY

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#### **Purpose of Report**

On 26 June 2019 Council resolved to continue to temporarily chlorinate the Martinborough water supply and to engage with the district on proceeding with a manganese removal plant to allow permanent chlorination. Community engagement on the project started on 1 July and members of the community were invited to provide feedback and information, and to attend drop-in sessions with the Chief Executive on 22 August.

The purpose of this report is to share the community feedback received during the engagement period and gain Council approval to permanently chlorinate Martinborough's water.

#### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that Council:

1. Receives the Report on Chlorination of Martinborough Water Supply Report.
2. Agrees to permanent chlorination of Martinborough water supply.
3. Notes the summary of feedback from the engagement with the community.

#### **1. Executive Summary**

The June meeting of the Assets and Services Committee resolved to prepare an engagement and communications plan for the water supply for Martinborough. The purpose of this report is to conclude this engagement and inform the council of the findings.

#### **2. Council's Objectives**

- To install a manganese plant to allow permanent chlorination of Martinborough's town water and ensure clean, clear, safe and secure drinking water for the long-term.
- To manage water supply with community conservation methods, while waiting for the manganese extraction plant to be installed.

### **3. Communications and engagement objectives**

- Educate the Martinborough community about the risks around the current water supply situation
- Gain acceptance of the need for a permanent multi-barrier approach, with permanent chlorination looking like the most viable option
- Gain acceptance from local residents to the proposed site of the manganese extraction plant
- Provide for the exchange of information, points of view and options regarding the continuance of temporary chlorination, as Council proceeds with a manganese plant to allow permanent chlorination.
- Achieve community understanding the need to conserve water and get their feedback on how best to do this.
- Improve district-wide community understanding on the benefits for the whole community of Martinborough having a sound water supply, and how the manganese plant is being funded by Council and rates.

### **4. Engagement Approach**

The Chief Executive led engagement proactively with any interested or affected parties. Business were directly engaged with open invitations to public meeting and drop-in sessions, where any member of the public could meet to discuss their views or concerns.

Council commenced this approach with invitations for public engagement through its website with supporting commentary including posters, social and public media approaches.

The predominant purpose of the engagement was to seek information from the community that could ensure Council had all the relevant information. This information provided basis to reach a decision on permanent chlorination of the Martinborough water supply.

### **5. Summary of Community Feedback**

The Chief Executive met with a number of community groups and spoke with many individuals and small groups.

In all meetings the community supported and encouraged Council to act quickly to provide a safe, secure and clean drinking water supply. Many were concerned with the impact of the costs of chlorination and the installation of a manganese removal plant (MRP). Once an explanation was provided as to how this would be funded and had already been incorporated in the Annual Plan, people considered their concerns addressed.

Some people supported the Council's approach of a temporary installation of a MRP, pending a long-term solution of locating the water treatment and manganese removal

functions in a single plant. This allows the Council to explore alternative water supply and in a location that could offer better protection of the water source.

A number of individuals had concerns regarding the effect of the MRP on their properties. Specific concerns were related to noise, traffic volumes, and amenity values. When the mitigation measures for this were explained the individuals considered the Council's actions appropriate.

A significant part of the feedback was seeking explanation as to the cause of the *E.coli* and Council's response to the issues. Essentially wanting to understand why this had happened and seeking assurance that the Council had investigated the cause and taken action to ensure long-term security of water supply and treatment. The release of the lessons learnt and the specific response to the questions raised by Mr Freeth have been received well to provide this explanation.

## **6. Conclusions**

This type of open and transparent communication was appreciated by the community. Feedback certainly indicated that people appreciated the 'one-on-one' opportunities rather than the traditional public meeting approach. It was felt that these meetings were often captured by pressure groups and indicated that they couldn't get their individual views heard. Feedback also indicated and acknowledged the willingness of staff to be available to work through their issues. A number commented that it was refreshing to have the Chief Executive leading and fully participating in the 'one-on-one' discussions and also being accountable to the Martinborough community.

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Water Treatment Plan to Princess Street

Appendix 2 – Town Water Supply Policy

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Reviewed by: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive

# **Appendix 1 – Water Treatment Plant to Princess Street**



Aerial of Water treatment plant to Princess St



Pictorial of Water treatment plant to Princess St

## **Appendix 2 – Town Water Supply Policy**

# Town Water Supply Policy

## **1.0 RATIONALE:**

Water supply to urban areas requires a significant investment by Council to meet ratepayer's expectations. This policy is to protect Council's investment by setting standards for connections to the system and identifying where the costs of connection lie. Council water supply systems have capacity limitations and requests for new connections, sub divisional development will be considered in the context of system capacity.

## **2.0 PURPOSE:**

To set out the conditions and cost responsibilities relating to Council owned water supply schemes in the District.

## **3.0 GUIDELINES:**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

- 3.1.1 All new connections are charged an administration fee, set by the Council each financial year.
- 3.1.2 Work shall not commence until an application has been approved and administration fee has been paid by the applicant and the Group Manager Infrastructure & Services (or his representative) has approved the specifications for the connection work in writing and a permit to connect issued.
- 3.1.3 The cost of connection work from the water mains to the road boundary and any other associated costs are met by the applicant.
- 3.1.4 Connection work referred to above may include (but is not limited to) pipe work, testing and disinfection, manifold (back flow preventer) service box (toby), water meter, flow control system (if required), attendance by the Council's contractor at the time of connection to the water mains, a New Zealand Transport Agency permit for trenching (if required), a Corridor Access Request for reinstatement of the road and other disturbed infrastructure, relocation of any other services, and any other related work.
- 3.1.5 Applicants have a choice of engaging either Council's contractor or other contractors acceptable to the Council to carry out the connection work(s) referred to. Applicants pay the costs direct to the contractor.
- 3.1.6 If applicants engage a contractor other than Council's contractor, that contractor does the connection to the mains in the presence of Council's contractor. Applicants pay the cost of attendance to Council's contractor, direct.



- 3.1.7 Costs of extending the water mains where required are met by applicants.
- 3.1.8 For connections to new subdivision lots and other properties, applicants pay capital contributions to join the existing system at a rate set by the Council from time to time.
- 3.1.9 Council owns the asset relating to new connection work up to and including the service box (toby) located near the road boundary including water meter and will be responsible for its future maintenance. To meet maintenance requirements, Council requires applicants to use Accuflow manifolds (backflow preventers) and service boxes (Code SM905 double check valve) or equivalent with prior approval of the Group Manager Infrastructure & Services.
- 3.1.10 Each property receives only one connection. Additional connections may be available at Council's discretion where the Council permits more than one house, a commercial building or any other building in a section. In such cases, applicants pay the capital contribution referred to above and subsequent capital contributions for each separate connection.
- 3.1.11 New connections will not be approved for irrigation purposes and Council will review existing irrigation connections from time to time to ensure the efficient use of water resources.
- 3.1.12 All water supply users are required to comply with Council's other policies such as all year round alternate day water supply conservation measures and any other conservation measures applied from time to time.
- 3.1.13 Non-compliance with Council's policies or non-payment of water charges may result in disconnection or reduced flow and non-pressure water supply. For a reconnection, applicants pay an administration charge and other charges.
- 3.1.14 Council's role in providing town water supply is in reference to Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council Consolidated Bylaw operative at the time, Part Five: Water Supply. Council's goal, strategies and policies are made public through the Annual Plan process each year and LTP every three years.
- 3.1.15 As from 1 July 2009, properties have been metered. An annual water usage threshold will apply for each connection and will be subject to review from time to time. Additional usage over the threshold will be charged based on a per cubic metre rate set by the Council each year. Monitoring of water usage is the property owner's responsibility.
- 3.1.16 Users requiring higher quality of water as compared to that normally available from council town water supply to suit to their particular needs shall install their own treatment / filtration system at their own cost.
- 3.1.17 It is the responsibility of individual users to regularly clean their appliances (for example: washing machine filters and plumbing fittings) clear of any suspended material within their premises.



3.1.18 Connecting booster pumps to Council reticulation system and plumbing fittings within the properties are not permitted. Any existing booster appliances must be disconnected.

3.1.19 Applicants are required to provide as-built plans of water connections on completion for Council records.

3.1.20 This amended policy will come into force from 01 May 2017 and will be reviewed from time to time.

## **3.2 URBAN AREAS**

3.2.1 Urban boundaries are those defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.

3.2.2 In urban areas, new water supply connections are 20mm nominal diameter (internal). Financial contributions set by the Council year to year referred to in 3.1.8 above are for standard 20mm connections as stated on the application form. For bigger diameter connections if and where permitted shall be on a pro-rata basis based upon capacity, e.g. for 32mm diameter pipe connection, financial contributions will be 2.56 times that of 20mm diameter connection financial contributions.

3.2.3 If as a result of a change in the urban boundary, former rural properties may request an on-demand supply. The property owner will pay the cost for this change.

## **3.3 RURAL AREAS**

3.3.1 Rural areas are those areas defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.

3.3.2 New water supply connections are for domestic use only, and to meet that demand, supply is limited to 1500 litres per twenty-four hours. At officer discretion only, an on demand supply may be offered to urban size property in the rural area. An urban size property is deemed to be 1000 square meters or less.

To supplement town water supply, applicants are encouraged to provide a conventional roof water collection system.

3.3.3 The relevant conditions for new connection in the urban zones shall apply equally to new connections in the rural zone.

3.3.4 Applicants may use a 20mm connection pipe from the mains and provide a Council approved restricted flow control system to regulate the flow to the extent mentioned above.

3.3.5 Despite clauses 3.3.1 to 3.3.3 above, Council may provide a new connection of any specification to a rural property provided that the connection is for a Council deemed significant commercial use and it promotes the social, economic, environmental and/or cultural well-being of the community. Any connection provided under this clause will be at

Council's absolute discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, no connection will be provided under this clause for any agricultural use or a residential subdivision.