

# Kāpiti update

A monthly information newsletter from your local Council

## Green light for Kāpiti-Rimu Rd signals

**New traffic signals at the Kāpiti/Rimu Road intersection should be working by today (November 30).**

Installation of a 600mm stormwater pipe through the intersection has been completed, though it took longer than anticipated due to the extremely poor ground conditions.

“Local contractors Mills Albert and FM Plumbing and Drainage have been working in very difficult conditions and have done a great job just getting the works completed,” says Council’s Group Manager Infrastructure, Sean Mallon.

The new stormwater pipe will augment the existing smaller stormwater pipe and reduce ponding in the vicinity.

More than 26,000 vehicles go through the intersection a day during its busiest month of December.

Sean says the intersection’s mini roundabout was not coping with these volumes. “Traffic lights will reduce peak time congestion and future-proof the intersection. Motorists’ patience during the upgrade should be well rewarded once the signals are working.”

Timing of the signal phases will be programmed to recognise peak hour demand. They will also be linked to the phasing of the lights on SH1 to ensure the most efficient operation of both intersections.

Traffic flow along Kāpiti and Rimu Road will be carefully monitored in the first few weeks so signal timing can be fine-tuned to maximise traffic flow. Pedestrian and schoolchildren’s use of the lights will also be monitored. It is hoped to keep delays to a minimum during this



*Corporate Business Committee chair Councillor Ross Church and Sean Mallon inspect the intersection just prior to the lights going green.*

commissioning phase but Sean says it will take a little time to get it right.

Pedestrian crossings on Kāpiti and Rimu Road will be removed in favour of pedestrians crossing at the new traffic signals.

Cyclists will also find it easier to negotiate the intersection with a

combination of dedicated on-road and off-road cycle paths.

“Completing a project of this scale on an intersection that has to deal with 26,000 vehicles per day is a significant achievement that couldn’t have been done without the patience and understanding of local motorists,” said Councillor Church.

## Country Road issue resolved

**A land encroachment issue with its beginnings as far back as 1936 has finally been resolved.**

The encroachment by Council and its predecessors on 882 square metres of land on the eastern boundary of the railway lines along the line of County Road, is now the subject of a lease-to-occupy by Council.

The encroachment was not limited to public road as critical water and wastewater infrastructure also pass under the land in question.

Ōtaki Community Board Chair Don Moselen said the Board, Council and the community would be pleased that this long-standing matter had finally been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

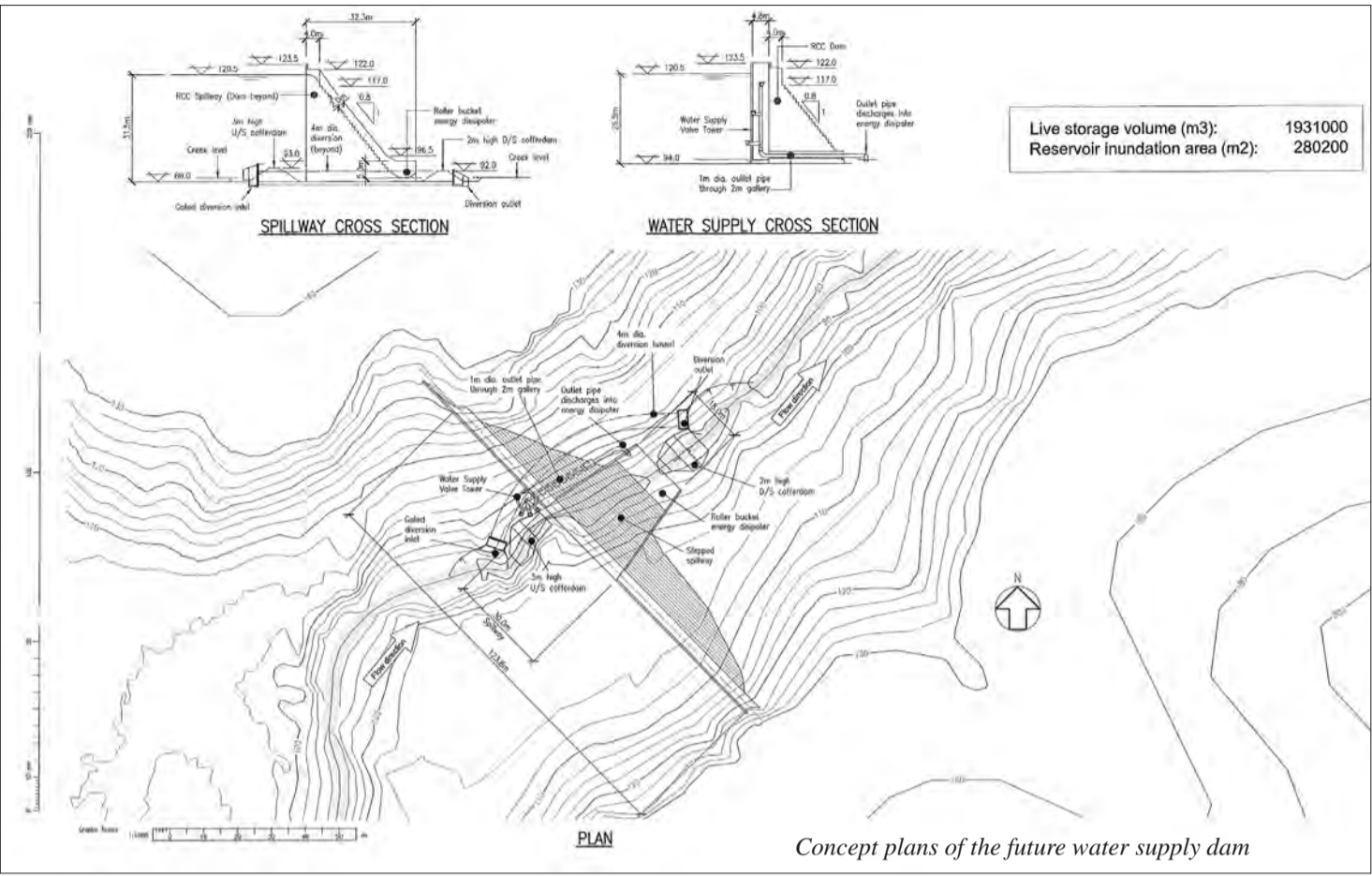
Research suggested that the state highway was constructed along the line of County Road in Ōtaki around 1887 but that it was diverted to its current alignment in 1936 when it became the local road known as County Road. The water and wastewater services were installed sometime in the early 1980s.

The descendants of the original land owners, represented by Piripi Raua ko Matiaha Arahiora Whanau Trust, became aware of the encroachment in 2000 and discussions between them and Council have been proceeding since then in an attempt to resolve issues associated with the long standing use of the land as a public road and its future use as an important local roading connection.

At a meeting recently the Council agreed to the lease and settlement terms.

The annual lease fee, based on a registered valuation of the 882 sq metre land parcel, will be \$4200 a year with an initial term of 20 years and two rights of renewal each for a further 15 years. A settlement amount of \$89,000 was agreed as full and final settlement for all previous historical use of the land.

Representative of the Trust, Ra Higgott, said it was good that the matter had finally been settled in a manner that recognised the issues and provided a reasonable level of compensation for the past encroachment as well as a return going forward.



## End in sight for Raumati Village work

**People wanting to shop and lunch at Raumati Beach Village should find it much easier from next week.**

The one-way system in Margaret Road will revert to two-lanes next week.

The diversions have been necessary as part of the \$2.9 million major stormwater upgrade and undergrounding of power and telephone systems that started in May this year.

“We appreciate that this work has caused delays for motorists through the area and impacted on local businesses,” says Council Stormwater Asset Manager Matt Aitchison.

“This has been one of the largest infrastructure improvement projects in Kapiti this year, and will enable village business-owners to sleep easier without the same flood risk the area was prone to.”

Mr Aitchison praised the contractor, Action Civil Limited, who had to lay a large 1200mm pipeline deep beneath a myriad of existing services, while removing ground water wherever the work had taken place.

Work remaining includes installing and connecting new high capacity sumps to the recently laid stormwater pipes.

Work on Raumati Road should be completed by mid-December enabling all traffic in the area to return to normal.

A new pedestrian crossing on Raumati Road near the Kiwi Road intersection is planned, to make it safer for children walking to school and kindergarten. The crossing will be ready for the start of the new school year.

# Milestone reached on land purchase for a dam

**A milestone has been reached on the purchase of land for a dam that will future-proof the water supply for Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati residents.**

Agreement in principle has been reached with Ikaham Holdings Ltd to purchase 91.69 hectares of land on the Maungakotukutuku Stream behind Nikau Valley.

“The agreement is still conditional on Council getting Department of Conservation agreement over changes to the covenant covering part of the block. However, discussions with DOC are going well,” says Mayor Jenny Rowan.

There are three land-owners in the

area. The biggest land-owner is Ikaham Holdings. The other two are Kaitawa Forest Ltd and Greater Wellington Regional Council. Negotiations with the other two land-owners are continuing.

Details, including the purchase price, will remain confidential till all land purchase negotiations are completed.

Council last year said its preferred solution for providing a dependable supply of good quality water to Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati for the next 50 years was to recharge the Waikanae River in times of drought using groundwater from Waikanae bores.

The second was to buy land

for a future storage dam in the Maungakotukutuku Valley. This will add a further 50 years to the supply solution.

Mayor Jenny said the agreement with Ikaham Holdings was a significant step forward towards providing residents with a dependable water supply for up to 100 years.

“We have deliberately chosen options that are cost-effective and can be staged over time so their costs do not fall directly, and harshly, on current ratepayers.

The long-term plan for the Maungakotukutuku Stream is for a 31-metre high dam which will create a 1.9 million cubic metre lake.

# Sun provides power in Otaki through PV panels

**Eight solar photovoltaic (PV) panels have been installed on the Ōtaki Library and Memorial Hall complex in Main Street.**

The panels are positioned over the Hall entrance and will produce some of the electricity for the buildings. They are linked to the electricity network so any excess power can be sold.

The project is to publicly demonstrate grid-connected solar PV technology,

which is rapidly reducing in price and produces emissions-free electricity from sunlight.

Council, Electra and Ōtaki-based business Astara Technologies have worked together on the project. Other sponsors include clean technology businesses ESG Energy Ltd, who installed the system, Mitsubishi Electric, who supplied the solar panels, Enasolar Ltd, who have supplied the AC/DC inverter for the

system, and GreenKeeper Systems Ltd. A real-time information system is also being developed to display the performance of the system on the internet and as part of a permanent exhibit in the library building.

The solar panels are presently being adjusted to slope at a lower angle in order to reduce glare. The lower angle will also have the effect of increasing annual power production but will reduce the visibility of the system.



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