

# Water update

## Water flows from new production well

The new well north of Waikanae is flowing water, strengthening prospects that the proposed Waikanae River Recharge scheme will be sustainable.

The well, which could eventually become a fully-fledged supply well, is on the unformed section

of Ngarara Road surrounded by farmland.

The well has been drilled to a depth of almost 65 metres and has yet to be fully developed, however the early signs are more than encouraging, says Water Supply Project manager Phil Stroud.

Earlier pump tests on an investigation bore at the location had produced estimates of around 20-30 litres per second.

The target yield from all the new wells is 120 litres per second which is equal to around four to five fire hydrants gushing water.

### Welcome to this week's edition

Even though it has been a comparatively wet summer, we have come within a whisker of water restrictions or possible use of bore water (see story on this page). This highlights how vital our work is to secure additional supply for the district.

Over the next several months, we are looking to finalise testing on the sustainability of our Waikanae River Recharge scheme and, if results are satisfactory, Council will decide on whether to apply for resource consent. We are also getting closer to a final decision on residential water meters. In the coming weeks, we will use the Water Update pages to provide you with all available information on these topics.

## Consumption reached threshold

Water consumption in the Raumati Paraparaumu Waikanae catchment reached near capacity on Christmas Eve, bringing the district to the brink of water restrictions or possible use of bore water.

Figures show that despite relatively high rainfall over the holiday period, water consumption touched on the upper threshold of 23,000 cubic metres per day on Christmas Eve. Had consumption stayed at that level for just one more day, water restrictions would have been implemented.

Water Treatment Plant manager Dave Bassett says this illustrates just how vital additional supply is for the district. "We were getting pretty close to water restrictions. If there had been less rain, we would eventually have had to use bore water to supplement the supply to households. We want to avoid this, because people don't like the bore water."

"In future, under the planned River Recharge Scheme, bore water will only be used to supplement the river flow, allowing us to take just river water from upstream for treatment and supply to households."



JP MacDonald (left) and Roly Richardson take a close look at the water pouring into the settling tank at 16 litres a second.



The new production bore near Ngarara Road. The bore is in the foreground left. In the distance are the two settling tanks



Roly Richardson checks 100 year old bore water for taste.

## Consultation on water meters set to begin

Consultation on water meters is set to get underway as part of discussions on the district's Long Term Plan.

Residential water meters are widely accepted as an excellent way to conserve water. There has however

been robust debate in the district about this issue, mainly relating to what charging regime will be applied.

To this end, Council has set up a Charging Regime Advisory Group representing sector groups,

including family budget planners, senior citizens, landlords and commercial interests.

This group is expected to report back with recommendations in late March or early April.

Residents will then receive more information on how charges might be set and will have a chance to make their views known during the Long Term Plan consultation process in April and May. Council will then make a final decision.