

Ōtaki

UPDATE

A monthly newsletter
from your local council

The Ōtaki water story

Ōtaki Community Board chair James Cootes has had several people question him on why Ōtaki residents need water meters installed like other parts of the District.

There is a perception amongst some that Ōtaki has an unlimited supply of water from the Ōtaki River. In fact, Ōtaki's water supply does not come from the river at all. It comes from two bores and water from them has to be treated and piped to households/businesses in the same way river water does.

These processes are expensive and getting dearer. There are also strict limits to how much water can be taken from the bores, so Ōtaki residents need to look at ways to conserve water just like residents from other parts of the district do. Saving water will also keep down the cost of maintaining and upgrading the water network.

Water supply in Ōtaki

Ōtaki has the highest water use in the district per head of population with an average daily

demand of 604 litres of water per person per day.

Water supply for Ōtaki comes from the Rangiuru and Tasman groundwater bores located between the town and the beach on Rangiuru and Tasman Roads. Bore water gives a more dependable supply than the river, which is subject to water shortages in times of drought.

However both sources have limited capacity to produce water and there is an upper limit on what can be taken from them.

Like any water network, the cost of maintaining the infrastructure, treating water and piping it to homes and businesses in Ōtaki is growing.

New charging system

From 1 July 2014, the way we pay for water across the District will change. Meters will



Community Board Chair James Cootes and Ōtaki Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor visit the Tasman Road bore plant.

measure how much water we have used over specific periods, so we can pay for it.

This is not only a fairer system, with households who use more water paying more than those who use less, it will also encourage people to reduce how much they use.

How water charges will change

The annual water charge (\$357 in 2013/14) will be removed from rates invoices from 1 July. Property owners will receive a separate water

invoice four times a year instead which will include:

- a lower fixed annual charge of \$188.50*, calculated on the number of days in each invoice period (there is no free allowance included in this charge)
- a volumetric charge of \$0.95* cents per cubic metre (1,000 litres) of water used, measured by water meters.

[*Final charges will be approved in June 2014 as part of the 2014/15 Annual Plan process.]

More information

Council offers a range of services to help householders reduce their water use inside and out; financial assistance for greywater/rainwater systems; and a range of educational resources for schools. Call: 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486. Or, visit www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/water-meters

Splash pad comes at no cost to ratepayers

Ratepayers won't have to pay a cent towards the cost of building a children's splash pad water feature when it is built in Ōtaki.



The Ōtaki splash pad will look similar to this one in Raumatī. Decisions still have to be made whether the Community would prefer an indoor or outdoor facility.

The splash pad – a series of water fountains and spray cannons similar to those in Raumatī's Marine Gardens, where children can play safely and have fun water fights – has been earmarked for development at a cost of \$268,000.

However, some Ōtaki residents have inferred that they will have to pay for this through their rates, when in fact the cost has already been covered.

Ōtaki Community Board chair James Cootes says the money will come from a Reserve Fund especially set up to provide recreational facilities.

"Every time there is a major development, the developers pay a levy which goes into the fund. The fund then earns interest which helps build the total amount of money available for Community use.

"The Ōtaki Community Board decides how to apply the money after consultation with our residents and with Council authorisation.

"An important point is that the fund has to be used for projects of a capital nature (new facilities or an improvement) that are on reserve land and are for direct recreational purposes.

"The money can't be used, for example, for maintenance; projects not on reserve land; or better management of an existing facility.

"It has to be something new for Ōtaki people to enjoy. In the case of the splash

pad, which will give enjoyment not just to children but to the parents and grandparents who bring them along, it is being paid for fully by the fund."

The Community Board will be consulting with locals about where the splash pad should be sited. Options include adjoining it to the Haruatai Pool complex, therefore adding to the overall attraction of the pool facilities, siting it near the existing playground further down Haruatai Park or at Ōtaki beach.

"Alternative locations on reserve land can also be considered. Each site will have advantages and disadvantages and it is important we weigh those up as a Community in making the best choice for the location," says Mr Cootes.

"We will also be looking at other issues, such as ensuring the splash pad uses recycled water, given the focus on conserving water in our Community."

He adds that the Reserve Fund will still have money left over, once the splash pad is built.

"Based on current budgets, we expect there will be about \$110,000 left in the fund at 30 June 2015.

"The Community Board will be consulting further with locals at the appropriate time, to see what other recreational attractions can be added for the enjoyment of Ōtaki people – with no impact on rates."

Annual Plan hearing dates set

Consultation on the Draft Annual Plan for 2014/15 has concluded and public hearings are set to run from 20 to 22 May. The hearings follow a month of consultation after the plan was released on 26 March. Council will consider submissions on 5 June and adopt the final Annual Plan on 26 June.