

## BORE INVESTIGATION DRILLING UPDATE

Richardson drilling has been awarded the contract and expects to start on March 28.

There will be a Te Āti Awa blessing of the site that day as there will be for all sites before drilling starts.

The first site is on Greenhill Road. This is the first of six investigation wells with each expected to take up to six weeks to drill.

Drilling will be undertaken one well at time with results from the drilling helping to determine the location of the next new site to be drilled. This approach will ensure costs can be controlled and the length of any future pipelines optimized.

Yours sincerely,



*Jenny Rowan, QSO JP  
Mayor Kāpiti Coast District*

## CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A consultant has been selected to undertake the Cultural Impact Assessment. Hapai Whenua – Environmental Advocates Ltd - have started work developing the engagement plan.

There will be a series of hui with Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai members. The final report is expected to be completed later in the year and will cover both the river recharge and dam options.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

- i. Identify cultural issues associated with both preferred water supply options proposed by Council;
- ii. Assess potential impacts on cultural sites and values;
- iii. Identify possible measures that may alleviate cultural issues for each option; and
- iv. Make recommendations to Council on potential avoidance, mitigation, or remedial methods for each option.

## Contacting the Water Project Team

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# Kāpiti Coast Water Supply



Project Update March 2011

# our water is precious - he tāonga te wai

## WATER METERS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Council is to include water meters in the draft Annual Plan for 2011/12 in a move designed to give more certainty that water consumption and leak reduction targets will be met.

The Water Supply Project has two separate but related streams.

One will provide a long-term secure water supply to Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati residents. The other involves a number of conservation and educational initiatives aimed at reducing peak consumption to 400 litres per person a day.

The level of capital investment involved in the first stream is based on the assumption that peak consumption can be reduced to 400 litres per person a day. Peak consumption, however, is running at up to 560 litres a day and in some areas, more than 700 litres.

Council has a number of innovative schemes underway aimed at reducing consumption. One is Plan Change 75 which requires all new dwellings to have rain water tanks or diversion systems. It is about to introduce an interest-free loan scheme to fund rain water tanks for existing homes. Information about the loan will be made available at the Sustainable Home & Garden Show on March 26 and 27.

During preparation of the Draft Annual Plan, it became clear there are considerable advantages in installing water meters districtwide.

It is estimated that as much as 5,200 tonnes of water a day is being lost from the network. By far the biggest loss of treated water from the network is on private property. One leak found recently totalled 30,000 litres a day.

The installation of water meters will provide detailed information about what is being consumed and where, and what is being lost. Council believes there are clear fairness reasons as well to support universal water meters.

On a dry summer day we estimate 7000 cubic metres (7000 tonnes) of treated water is being applied to lawns and gardens in the Waikanae/Paraparaumu/Raumati area alone.

At present low water users are subsidising these large water users. Many of these low water users are elderly on fixed incomes. Under a metered system, residents will pay for what they use.

Meters will also give Council more certainty in planning for future supply needs and figures. The installation of districtwide meters is expected to result in a 25% reduction in peak residential water usage.

This would enable Council to defer some parts of the Water Supply Project. Figures presented to the March 17 Council meeting held in Ōtaki showed that the installation of meters will permit up to \$26.7million in current budgeted programmed works in the water supply area to be deferred. A further \$9.4million of works not yet programmed but required can also be deferred.

The two major concerns with water meters are privatisation and cost.

The recent change to Council's Standing Orders to require a 75% vote before any changes to the operations, management and not-for-profit nature of the water supply systems, should greatly reduce the concerns over privatisation.

There are considerable issues around charging under water meters – how the pricing regime will impact on the elderly, families, people with large gardens. It is proposed that a separate Charging Regime Advisory Group be set up to look into different charging regimes. The former head of the State Services Commission and current head of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Group Don Hunn has already agreed to chair such a body.

The decision to introduce water meters triggers Council's Policy of Significance. This means there will be specific consultation on this one particular policy change which will run parallel to and at the same time as consultation on the Draft Annual Plan.

For more information go to [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/watermeterproposal](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/watermeterproposal)