

25 May 2022

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Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: OIR 2122-265

I refer to your information request we received on 11 May 2022 for the following related to the Hautere Water Scheme (HWS):

I believe the basis for the supply of water in this scheme is outdated and requires a review. Other areas in Kapiti have moved to installing water metres which is equitable, and fair based on usage.

The HWS is based on units based on a maximum supply of about 1,000 litres supply whether or not this quantity is actually used. There is no opportunity to buy addition units or to have them transferred between members if available.

In Summer particularly, those only on 1 unit (1000 litres per day) the amount of water is inadequate but there is no mechanism to increase supply. With a restrictor of only 0.7mm, this tiny aperture is prone to blockage with the prospect of running dry!

To better inform me could you provide the following information:

1. Total number of members/properties in the scheme.

There are 306 properties connected to the Hautere Water Supply (HWS).

2. A breakdown of the total units allocated by the number of units per member. Eg xx with 1 unit, xx with 2 units etc.

The table below shows the number of properties grouped by the units supplied each day.

Note: 1 unit/day = 1,000 litres/day = 1 m³/day.

Number of units supplied	Number of properties utilising units supplied
1	161
2	98
3	23
4	8
5	4
11	2
13	1

16	2
17	1
30	1
31	1
33	1
42	2
53	1
Total	306

3. The daily/ monthly/yearly Wellington Regional Council consent allowed for water taken in this scheme.

The Hautere Water Abstraction Consent WGN160082 [38112] permits the Council to take up to **16 l/Sec, 1382.4 m³/day**, scaled to **504,576 m³/year**.

4. The volumes of water taken against the consent monthly.

Date	Water Supplied for each month (m³/month)	Max Volume Available (m³/month)
Jul-20	17,511.0	42,854.4
Aug-20	17,770.9	42,854.4
Sep-20	17,136.9	41,472.0
Oct-20	19,194.0	42,854.4
Nov-20	18,068.8	41,472.0
Dec-20	19,387.2	42,854.4
Jan-21	21,426.0	42,854.4
Feb-21	21,001.0	38,707.2
Mar-21	21,589.0	42,854.4
Apr-21	19,593.4	41,472.0
May-21	21,268.4	42,854.4
Jun-21	19,714.8	41,472.0
Monthly Average	19,471.8	42,048.0

Comment: Due to limitations in the network infrastructure, we can only supply less than 50% of the available volumes.

5. The number of units allocated but not used.

Each property connected to the scheme has a water allocation of units but with no metering in place. We cannot assess how much water each connected property uses from the daily restricted supply.

The attached memo, “Hautere Te Horo Restricted Water Supply”, provides a more detailed explanation of how the units were allocated and how the scheme operates. Therefore, we will not make more units available unless a significant investment to upgrade the network is being done.

6. From the last fiscal year’s accounts, the annual breakdown of the cost of running/maintaining the scheme. In particular, the cost of contractors maintaining the scheme.

Below are the operational costs for running the treatment plant and the network. The table shows the contractor costs for each activity (*the contractor costs are italicised*).

Budget	2020_21 expenditure
Hautere Water Treatment Plant (HWTP) Operations	\$66,916.82
- <i>HWTP Ops Contractor costs</i>	\$22,857.58
HWTP Compliance and Monitoring	\$24,247.57
- <i>HWTP C&P Contractor costs</i>	\$1,038.51
HWTP Chemicals and Energy	\$6,824.25
- <i>HWTP C & E Contractor costs</i>	\$3,816.43
Hautere Reticulation works	\$43,527.60
Total	\$169,228.76

7. Any other information pertinent to the scheme’s operation.

The scheme is classified as rural restricted water supply. It does not provide peak demand fire water flows; hence every resident is expected to have storage for emergency and fire flows.

8. In the short term, I would like to see the minimum (1) unit allocation to be raised to 2000 litres per day. This would increase supply over Summer and provide for certainty of supply and lower contractor maintenance costs. In Winter, there would be no extra supply as tanks would remain full offsetting the possible additional usage in Summer.

As per the attached “Hautere Te Horo Restricted Water Supply” Memo, the Hautere Water Supply is a restricted supply and is fully allocated. Making more units available will cause supply and level of service issues across the network, particularly those properties at the periphery of the supply boundary.

The pipes in the distribution network are too small to provide additional water to a minimum level of 2,000 litres/day.

9. In the long term, a review may lead to the HWS being discontinued and supply infrastructure replaced with the installation of water metres which would be ultimately the most equitable on users.

We do not have any plans for metering or any upgrade to the network infrastructure except for drilling new bores for the security of rural water supply and treatment plant upgrades to meet compliance.

Ngā mihi



Glen O'Connor

Acting Group Manager Infrastructure Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Pakiaka



Hautere Te Horo Restricted Water Supply

This supply was set up as a co-operative venture between the farmers of the area and the Horowhenua District Council as a rural stock water supply. It was put in with the aid of a 50% subsidy from Central Government and many of the farmers who supported the scheme provided labour and machinery input in lieu of cash. The water mains were laid generally in private property and no easements were registered over them. The scheme took over from a water race and was intended originally for dairy farming with the opportunity for farmers to supply their houses with a disinfected water supply. The water was allocated to farms on the basis of 1unit (1,000 litres \mp 15%) for each 2.326 hectares of land within the scheme.

Since then the dairy industry has diminished considerably and the area has seen the rise of lifestyle blocks resulting in a large number of small areas of land with individual connections using 1 or 2 units as opposed to a small number of large farms with a large number of units. When land is subdivided the units remain with the land and are divided according to area, and to some extent, the owners wishes.

The supply is restricted. This means that water is fed to each connection through a very small orifice 24 hours a day at a constant rate, that is, it takes 24 hours to deliver the number of units allocated. This is done to keep the size and therefore the cost of the pipes, reservoirs and treatment plant to a minimum. Each consumer has to provide a tank to contain the water and a pump to provide an on demand supply to the household. The consumers tank should hold at least 2 days supply and preferably 5 days supply

The supply comes from 2 shallow bores sunk into the river gravels alongside the Otaki river. Treatment is fairly basic being pH correction and disinfection only. The supply has a Ministry of Health grading for source and treatment of "C" which means that it is considered to be:

"Marginal, moderate level of risk, may be acceptable in some small communities."

The cost of upgrading the supply is likely to be unaffordable to the community and there are no plans to improve the supply in the near future.

From time to time, when the Otaki river is in flood, the turbidity or cloudiness of the water increases and there is an increased risk of Giardia or Cryptosporidium cysts being drawn through into the supply. Giardia is susceptible to chlorine but Cryptosporidium is not. Both are capable of infecting people with a gastro intestinal illness. In Giardia it is treatable whereas there is no known cure for Cryptosporidiosis although it is self limiting after about three weeks. The very young and elderly are particularly susceptible to both infections.

If you suspect that a member of your family has been infected please contact your doctor and report it to Kapiti Coast District Council's Environmental Health Officer or Services Engineer on 06 368 1628 or 04 298 5139 or Regional public health on 04 370 9007.

The supply is monitored for turbidity and when the levels rise a boil water notice is issued either by hand delivery or through the local media. When issued, a boil water notice may remain in place for some time as the consumers tank will be affected.

On 1 July 1999 Council resolved to close the scheme and not permit any further connection except where it was a reallocation of existing units.

For more information please contact Services Engineer Chris Trattles.

This memorandum was placed on the building files of relevant properties on 29 November 1999.