

**Report No. 99.407**

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[HK\Reports\MDK - US 99.407 - Petone Water Supply]

Report to the Utility Services Committee  
from Murray Kennedy, Strategy and Asset Manager

## **Petone Water Supply**

### **1 Purpose**

To update the Committee on the pending change of water source for the Petone area and associated issues.

### **2 Background**

The latest advice from Hutt City is that the new Rahui reservoir for the Petone area will be completed in August this year and commissioned in September. At that stage the Buick Street pump station will cease duty, and Rahui will be supplied from the Waterloo Water Treatment Plant. There are a number of issues related to this change which are updated below.

### **3 Sourcing Water from the Waterloo Water Treatment Plant**

The OK main along the Petone foreshore has been brought back into service. It was last used just prior to the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant being commissioned in 1993. Recommissioning was slightly more expensive than originally envisaged due to unforeseen repair work. The total cost though should not exceed \$150,000 when all accounts are received. Water used in flushing the pipe was discharged into Hutt City's waste water system.

At present the OK main is running in parallel with the 1050 main. Water passing through the pipeline meets our quality standards.

#### **4 Rahui Reservoir Rising Main**

The main has been laid and will be connected into the new reservoir as part of other work Hutt City is arranging at the reservoir site. Final costs will not exceed \$530,000 compared with a budget of \$590,000.

#### **5 1993 Fluoridation Review Recommendations**

One of the recommendations from the independent 1993 fluoridation review panel was to carry out an education programme before the Petone supply was changed to fluoridated water. With the delay by Hutt City in building the new Rahui reservoir there was no point in doing this before now.

The initial phase of the education programme was a presentation at a public workshop organised by Hutt City for its Councillors.

This has been followed by a brochure delivered to all residencies in the Petone area in the second weekend of July in preparation for public meetings the following week. These public meetings are being facilitated by Regional Councillors from the Lower Hutt constituency. WRC officers have been invited to make presentations at the meetings along with other interested groups. Various advertisements incorporating information on fluoridation and the Regional Council's fluoridation policy are also planned.

It is expected that the education programme will cost about \$15,000. This is the same amount as Hutt City has allocated for its consultation programme on whether or not the Petone water should be fluoridated or unfluoridated.

A further recommendation from the 1993 fluoridation review was:

*the Council promote the monitoring of the impact of the adjustment of fluoride levels in water supplies by the appropriate national, regional and Maori health authorities.*

We are fortunate that the Public Health Service, based in Lower Hutt, has taken a particular interest in the impact of fluoridated water in reducing dental decay. A comprehensive database is available so that it will be possible for the Service to measure the benefits from fluoridation, assuming Petone water is fluoridated in the longer term.

#### **6 Longer Term Source of Petone's Water**

Once the Rahui reservoir is completed, fluoridated water will be supplied, as noted in point 3. Discussion with Hutt City officers has identified the two most practical and cost effective options for supplying unfluoridated water, if this is the longer term decision. These options would be a one off cost to Hutt City of either \$550,000 or \$400,000 depending on the final outcome.

Hutt City has also requested the WRC to allow it to take over the Petone water supply. A separate report to the Committee evaluates this request.

## **7 Untreated Water Public Supply Point**

At present the WRC provides a public tap at the Gear Island pump station. This provides natural artesian water. Hutt City is responsible for testing the tap water and ensuring the tap is kept clean. The City has made provision in its Annual Plan for an extensive water feature in, or near, Jackson Street Petone. Once this is built the Gear Island tap will be removed.

One of the recommendations from the 1993 fluoridation review was the provision of an untreated water supply, though at the Waterloo Water Treatment Plant. Hutt City's Petone facility will serve the same purpose. Accordingly, it has been indicated to Hutt City that if they wish to ask the WRC for a contribution to the water feature, the request would be put before the Utility Services Committee.

## **8 Recommendation**

(i) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*

Report prepared by:

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