

Part A: General Assessment Information

A presentation of general information on the district, overview of the services provided, and a copy of the Water Services Strategy.

Part B: Water Supply Assessment Summary

The primary goals of the water services function are:

- to ensure that adequate and secure community supplies of potable water are provided for all existing and projected commercial, industrial, and domestic purposes
- to encourage the use of effective water conservation practices, and to minimise waste.

Six reticulated water supply networks are managed by the Water Services function in Rodney. Water treatment plants are operated by RDC to supply the urban areas of Warkworth, Wellsford, Snells/Algies Bay, Muriwai and Helensville. The Hibiscus Coast is supplied with water from the Watercare bulk supply network.

The key issues identified in the assessment for public water supply schemes include:

- demand management of water supplies, particularly in the Hibiscus Coast
- infrastructure requirements for the Hibiscus Coast
- the lack of availability of raw water to meet growth demands in the Snells/Algies Bay, Warkworth and Wellsford reticulated areas
- the need for the upgrading of Council water treatment plants to ensure compliance with the revised New Zealand Drinking Water Standards (expected to be implemented in 2005). It is proposed that Aa grading be adopted for Hibiscus Coast supplies, minimum Bb grading for other RDC supplies

- the need for the upgrading of Council water treatment plants and building of additional infrastructure to service growth
- continue provision of a reticulated water supply in Muriwai although funding mechanisms may need to be reviewed.

The remainder of the district is generally supplied with water sourced from rainwater tanks, bores or dams. The way in which this water is stored, treated and reticulated varies widely, from single dwelling households with untreated tank supplies to small communities serviced by privately owned package treatment plants. There are no proposals to build new water treatment plants to supply these households and businesses, although in some cases they may be able to connect to an existing reticulated system – particularly on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

The key issues identified in the Assessment for the private water supply systems include:

- the need for education of private system operators and owners as to the appropriate operation and maintenance procedures for their water supply systems (including rainwater tanks)
- the need for a fire-fighting water supply in the Kumeu-Huapai area.

The government has recently announced that central government funding may be available for community water supplies. RDC proposes to investigate this funding and provide support for preparing funding applications to eligible communities in the district.

Update February 2009:

Further work has been undertaken to upgrade the district's water treatment plants to achieve compliance with the NZ Drinking Water Standards (DWS). All now comply with the 2000 DWS, though some further upgrades are required to comply with the 2005 DWS and the 2008 DWS revision. A groundwater investigation is in progress for Wellsford and, if successful, could mean that an upgrade of the existing river water plant is not required.

Considerable progress has been made on all of the issues identified in the 2005 WSSA and projects to address these are included in the LTCCP 2009-2019. Key projects include:

- *development of the Kumeu-Huapai water supply scheme within the next 3 to 5 years*
- *source upgrades in Wellsford, Warkworth, Helensville*
- *demand management and pressure management initiatives to improve network performance and reduce losses*
- *reticulation upgrades in Warkworth, Helensville and Whangaparaoa*
- *upgrades to small public supplies, such as campgrounds, to meet the DWS 2005*
- *trunk main upgrades in the Hibiscus Coast to support growth.*

Part C: Wastewater Services Assessment Summary

The primary goals of the RDC wastewater function are:

- to ensure that all community sanitary wastes are satisfactorily collected, treated and disposed of in order to protect the health and safety of the public, and to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment
- to encourage the use of advanced technologies for providing higher quality, reliable, and cost-effective treatment, disposal and reuse options.

Effluent from the Hibiscus Coast is treated at the Army Bay, Waiwera and Orewa wastewater treatment plants. A further seven wastewater treatment facilities are operated by Rodney District Council, providing a reticulated wastewater service to the urban areas of Warkworth, Wellsford, Huapai (part only), Snells/Algies Bay, Helensville, Matakana and Omaha.

The key issues identified in the Assessment for these public schemes include:

- stormwater infiltration and inflow problems into the wastewater network
- wastewater treatment plant performance and the need for a comprehensive environmental monitoring programme.
- prioritisation of upgrading works and allocation of funding
- the need for Council to produce maps showing defined areas for current and future public reticulated wastewater servicing
- the need to review servicing options for communities to meet future growth and discharge quality requirements (strategic reviews will include a study of all available wastewater servicing options for a community, consideration of current and future populations, and an examination of available wastewater

technologies. The various options are short listed and assessed under a quadruple bottom line process considering economic, social, environmental and cultural attributes).

The remainder of the district is generally serviced by on-site or centralised treatment systems (estimated 12,400 systems). The way in which this wastewater is stored, treated and discharged varies widely, from single dwelling households with individual septic tanks to small communities serviced by privately owned package treatment plants.

The key issues identified for these private schemes and systems include:

- management, maintenance and performance of private systems vary. RDC assistance in a district-wide educational programme is recommended
- cumulative effects of individual on-site wastewater systems have been shown to have some public health risks, particularly in urban areas. These systems are not sustainable in the long-term for a number of communities and consultation is proposed to be undertaken on alternative servicing and monitoring options
- a Council policy on acceptable wastewater serving options for new development has been proposed. Particular restrictions are proposed to be enforced on development in urban areas.

On-site Warrant of Fitness (WOF) and pump-out scheme

The on-site WOF and pump-out scheme outlined in the draft assessment was proposed in response to a report commissioned by RDC that identified health risks in the district due to poor maintenance and operation of on-site wastewater systems. These risks were highest in urban areas where there are cumulative effects from multiple systems in close proximity to each other.

The objectives of the proposed scheme were:

- to ensure that on-site systems can be maintained safely in perpetuity (protection of public health); and
- to delay/avoid the need for reticulated systems in urban areas.

Consultation on the proposed scheme in the assessment was inconclusive, with submissions received both for and against the proposals. In response, the final assessment report has been modified to include additional consultation on the scheme with affected urban communities prior to any implementation.

Update February 2009:

Significant work has been undertaken since the 2005 WSSA to improve wastewater treatment plant performance, particularly in the Hibiscus Coast (Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant). The LTCCP 2009 – 2019 proposes further investment in treatment plant upgrades, particularly Helensville and Wellsford, as well as funding for an ongoing reticulation rehabilitation programme to manage inflow/infiltration and associated system overflows. These upgrades will ensure compliance with resource consents and that the impact of wastewater discharges on receiving waters is minimised.

The Kumeu-Huapai scheme is the only new wastewater scheme proposed in the LTCCP 2009 – 2019 budget. However if the 2010 WSSA identifies unacceptable risks in other communities, the need for further schemes may need to be considered and included in the LTCCP 2012 – 2022.

There has been no progress in the Warrant of Fitness scheme proposed for consideration – the need for this will be reviewed as part of the 2010 WSSA study.

Part D: Stormwater Drainage Assessment Summary

The primary goals of the stormwater function within Council are:

- to ensure that stormwater is controlled and, if necessary, treated and then disposed of in order to protect the health and safety of the people, land and property
- to maintain the mauri of water
- to protect and enhance the life-supporting properties and quality of the streams, rivers, estuaries and harbours
- to have efficient and effective stormwater infrastructure
- to encourage the use of low-impact stormwater management practices where practicable.

Council provides and maintains stormwater drainage infrastructure in most urban areas of the district. This typically consists of a conventional gravity drainage stormwater system, comprising of a network of pipes and open channels which convey stormwater to natural watercourses. This means that pipes run downhill and are not intended to operate under pressure. However, in some older urban areas, stormwater infrastructure is absent or has not kept up with intensification / infill development. In rural and undeveloped areas, public stormwater drainage systems are usually limited to those provided alongside the public roading network.

The asset management/catchment management plan and discharge consents processes have already undertaken a significant amount of work identifying and prioritising stormwater issues in the district. The treatment options for public health risks identified in the Assessment are already incorporated into existing Council planning processes.

The key issues identified in the Assessment are:

- the need to continue with the asset management/catchment management plan and discharge consent programmes to prioritise stormwater works needed
- continuation of the drain safety programme
- continuation of the Safeswim programme
- adoption and implementation of the Water Services Strategy.

Update February 2009:

The primary issues for the stormwater activity are managing growth and mitigating the impact of the stormwater activity on the environment. Continued development of catchment management plans (and implementation of the recommendations) are a key focus of the 2008 Stormwater Asset Management Plan.

Part E: Cemeteries Assessment Summary

RDC operates seven cemeteries across the district that are available for public use. It is anticipated that two additional cemeteries will be operated by RDC by the end of 2005. There are also a number of denominational and privately or trustee-operated cemeteries that accept interments. There are no crematoria in the district but residents have access to other facilities in the Auckland region.

The seven Council cemeteries offer between them the choice of traditional burial plots, ash interment plots and Returned Services areas. No additional special burial services are available with the exception of a memorial wall in the Wainui Cemetery servicing the Eastern Ward.

There is no immediate need for additional cemeteries to be provided for public health protection purposes. The capacity across the district can be shown to already adequately provide for the burial needs of the Rodney District community beyond the 10 year planning horizon of the sanitary assessment. The issues raised in the assessment were based on community burial preferences and level of service desires rather than a need to protect public health. These include:

- a lack of cemetery facilities servicing the Kumeu and Warkworth areas
- lack of provision of special burial services.

Update February 2009:

The two additional cemeteries have been provided in the district since the 2005 WSSA – the Warkworth Presbyterian and Tabora Cemetery. RDC now operates nine cemeteries across the district. The provision of these cemeteries addresses some of the servicing issues discussed in the 2005 WSSA report in the short-term. Council has also bought land near Kumeu to develop a cemetery to provide additional capacity in this high growth area, but this is a long-term project and not included in the LTCCP 2009 – 2019 budgets.

Part F: Solid Waste Assessment Summary

RDC does not provide or manage any solid waste collection services directly; however private rubbish contractors are licensed by the Council to collect domestic waste.

A rate-funded kerbside collection service for recyclable goods is provided to all residential households in the district.

RDC adopted a Waste Management Plan, called the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) in July 2002. The plan aims for zero waste to landfill by 2020. ZWP was extensively consulted on before adoption and adequately addresses the issues required by the assessment of sanitary services. Additional information not included in the plan has been provided in the Assessment for completeness. RDC will:

- continue to implement the actions set out in the ZWP; and
- review ZWP every 3 years to reflect progress of initiatives undertaken to date, to update timetable of future actions and provide a forecast of the future demand for solid waste recycling, reuse and disposal. The next review is scheduled to take place in 2005.

Update February 2009:

The Zero Waste Plan was updated in 2005. A new action plan was prepared to address the following priority areas:

- *Organic waste (from both residential and commercial sources)*
- *Construction and demolition wastes*
- *Inorganic refuse (from both residential and commercial sources)*
- *Hazardous waste*
- *Packaging and special wastes*
- *Residual waste including the management of closed landfills.*

Part G: Public Toilets Assessment Summary

RDC maintains 80 public toilets blocks across the district. There are also a significant number of toilets owned by other organisations and businesses that are available for public use. Public toilets are needed to provide for the comfort of visitors and travellers, users of public spaces and other public activity destinations such as shopping centres, events and other gatherings.

Council has undertaken a grading of its own public toilets as part of the Assessment so that it can prioritise the works needed to continue to ensure the protection of public health. Other steps taken to protect public health include the labelling of all non-potable water supplies as being unsuitable for drinking and the pumping out of septic tanks as necessary for all RDC public toilets.

Visitor numbers and demand for access to Rodney's coast, estuaries and rivers for recreational activities continue to rise and are expected to increase demand for public toilets, particularly at the northern beaches. Council will continue to monitor the use of public toilets in these locations to ensure that they can adequately meet demand.

The improvement plan for the Assessment addresses a number of information gaps that exist and will be remedied in the next assessment. These include the collection of information on public toilets owned by organisations other than Council and the preparation of a demand forecast for popular destinations.

In summary, key issues raised were:

- the need to consider the assessment grading scores when prioritising the upgrading or replacement works programme for public toilets
- the need to continue to allocate funding in the LTCCP for 'miscellaneous upgrades' to enable Council staff to respond in a timely manner to any facilities needing urgent remedial works
- completion of a demand analysis and forecast examining the public toilet requirements in the district, particularly with respect to key destinations and travel routes
- monitoring of the use of public toilets, particularly those at popular destinations, to ensure that they are able to meet demand
- collection of information on all toilets available to the public.

Update February 2009:

The need for improved understanding of public toilet use and future demand requirements is still an issue. Some budget has been allocated in the LTCCP 2009 – 2019 for new toilets to service growth and to upgrade water supplies. Demand analysis will be undertaken as part of the 2010 WSSA to ensure that these are provided in the area of most need.

The 2008 Parks Asset Management Plan includes increased budget for renewal and rehabilitation, to ensure that the existing facilities are being maintained.