

## **Makara/Ohariu Community Board**

Oral Submission on 2005/2006 Draft Annual Plan

*in reference to:*

Liquid Waste Management Plan

Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services 2004

Development Contributions Policy

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to make an assessment of water quality services. It is envisaged that as a result of ongoing assessment there will be increased regulation of such services in the future.

The Makara Ohariu Community Board(MOCB) wishes to be actively included in any process that involves regulation of Wellington's non-reticulated water supplies and wastewater (septic tanks).

In relation to rural area water quality, this document generally recommends further information gathering to see if there are any problems.

We support Wellington City Council applying to the newly established Drinking Water Assistance Fund (Ministry of Health, as recommended) to assist with regular monitoring and maintenance of water collection systems in the rural area, so that this cost during the information-gathering stage is not borne by the rural property owner.

We comment on the further recommendations in this report (10.1 p88) as follows:

We support greater provision of education for rural residents about safe drinking water.

We would like to be involved in discussions about the introduction of a rainwater code of practice for private rainwater systems (as recommended) and the installation of first-flush diverters on all new roof-water feeding tanks (as recommended), with particular regard to any associated increase in costs to rural property owners.

We are concerned that although Council may bear the costs of increased management controls, individual property owners will be made to bear increased compliance costs.

There are also issues surrounding the Development Contributions Policy and its ability to fund the increased amount of money required from the rural community if, in the future, Council decides a treatment plant or waste disposal scheme is necessary. Many rural titles, under the new Plan Change 33 subdivision rules, will probably be subdivided each 5 years at which point they pay their development contribution. However, many of these new properties will not be sold until larger landowners retire or move. This could see building activity occurring in 'clusters' but the development contribution will already have been paid some years previous. Such issues will need to be fully canvassed.

We would wish to see the different managerial bodies working together, i.e. we would not want a two-tier level of regulation with the present Ministry of Health requirements concerning water quality on the one hand, and Council compliance requirements on the other, with associated doubling of assessment and monitoring costs.

In relation to the collection of data, we note that the 2004 Capacity survey of households on non-reticulated water systems received only a 26% response. In general, rural landowners are reluctant to provide information that would lead to an increase in monitoring of their activities.

We suggest more community education and discussion about the issues is undertaken before residents in the rural community are next asked to respond with personal information.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns and look forward to further discussions with Council on the above matters.

Ruth Paul

Chair

Makara Ohariu Community Board