

Appendix 2 Summary of Information

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION IN THE STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES 2005

1. Purpose

Wellington City Council is required under the Local Government Act 2002 to prepare an “Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services” covering both the reticulated and non reticulated areas of the City. The reticulated areas have historically been assessed through the asset management planning process and associated Asset Management Plans (AMP) that provide significant information on the provision of these services. However Council has significantly less information on the non-reticulated areas. Therefore the biggest challenge currently is to gather and process information on the non-reticulated areas of the City.

2. Background

The Water and Sanitary Services Assessment comprises water supply, wastewater services, stormwater drainage, cemeteries, crematoria, public conveniences and waste disposal and its focus is primarily on public health risks. These services are deemed vital to public health and welfare.

The Assessment captures much of what is contained in the relevant Asset Management Plans but is not limited to Council services or reticulated urban areas. It covers services in both the urban and rural areas and assets that are not owned by Council. There are no national standards or regulatory requirements to monitor the quality and risks of these systems; therefore they are potentially more exposed to public health issues.

The Assessment takes a snapshot of the current population, the demands on infrastructure and identifies present risks. It also looks at the likely future situation; at estimated population growth and demand, risks associated with this growth and Council’s proposed methods to meet these demands and reduce risks to the communities. It focuses on the quality and adequacy of the future water supply, wastewater and stormwater discharges and the public health and environmental impacts associated with these.

As Council has already prepared its Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with the LGA 1974, no assessment of waste management is required.

3 Key Findings

Significant public health issues and risks

Water

Reticulated areas: Recent Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) research has stated that if the recent rate of population growth continues, as from 2007, they would be unable to supply sufficient potable water during 50-year drought conditions. This has prompted the call for the preparation of a Regional Wellington Water Management Plan to identify the possible options to provide solutions.

Non-reticulated areas: At present there is no long term monitoring data on the quality of water collected for domestic purposes from roof, bores or streams. This means the Assessment cannot determine whether these water supplies meet current Ministry of Health guidelines.

Wastewater

Reticulated areas: Parts of the wastewater system (some pipes, treatment plants and pump stations) lack sufficient capacity to meet Council's current levels of service during wet weather.

Non-reticulated areas: It is not possible at this time to accurately comment on the performance of the non-reticulated wastewater systems. This is due to the lack of information and regulation on the ongoing operation of these systems.

Stormwater

More buildings, gardens and roads are being flooded more frequently than Council current levels of service and those implied in the Building Act 1991.

Lack of information on what level of stormwater quality and treatment is acceptable to the public before it enters the receiving environment.

Sanitary Services

Makara Cemetery is one third full there is a need to begin thinking about planning for opening up new areas for burial in terms of planting, road access and services.

No significant issues were identified with the public conveniences.

Data to be obtained for the next assessment

Given the lack of available information on several of the services, it is recommended additional information be collected for the next Assessment. This should include:

- Non-reticulated potable water source, treatment and quality.
- The number and type of non-reticulated wastewater treatment facilities and their efficiency.
- The usage level of public conveniences.

Due to this lack of information it is not possible to clearly define the level of public health risk some of these services pose, based on the lack of any significant outbreaks of disease and reported sickness they have been assessed as presenting minimal public

health risks. In future when these data gaps have been filled, especially the data on water quality, there may need to be a review of the public health risk.

4 Proposals / Recommendations for Consideration

Water

Contribute to the Wellington Water Management Plan proposed by GWRC. The Plan would provide a unified approach from the regions local authorities to develop an integrated approach to improving the region's water use efficiency. Essentially the plan will be targeting a more sustainable use of the water resource and encompass a conservation awareness programme promoted by GWRC

Regarding the information gathered on the quality of the non-reticulated water supplies, Council may consider applying the proposed Ministry of Health/ Ministry for the Environment national environmental standard (NES) for human drinking-water sources to smaller individual drinking-water supplies via mechanisms that would ensure regular monitoring and maintenance of collection systems.

Education regarding safe drinking water and emphasis on conserving water needs addressing in conjunction with GWRC and MoH.

As a safeguard recommend that all new dwellings be required to install first-flush diverters on all roof water feeding to tank(s).

Encourage future development to make use of greywater systems. Council may consider introducing a code of practice for private rainwater systems for use as a building compliance guidance document under the potable water requirement of the Building Act.

Wastewater

Continue with current Council projects to reduce sewage overflows and improve performance of wastewater network.

Consider mechanisms that would ensure septic tanks and on-site wastewater disposal systems are installed and maintained in a manner that prevents the future failure of these systems and ensures effective operation.

Consider implementing forthcoming MfE guidelines for the safe and clean operation of septic tanks.

Stormwater

Continue completing catchment management plans and subsequent upgrade works under the Flood Protection Project to rectify the flooding risk in the majority of the City.

Integrate Sustainable Urban Design (SUD) and Low Impact Urban Drainage Design (LIUDD) principles into mainstream development practices.

Maintain investigations in conjunction with GWRC to determine appropriate water quality standards related to stormwater across the region. This will assist in determining what level of treatment may be required on stormwater discharges.

Consult with the community on preferred stormwater quality standards.

Sanitary Services

The development of new plots at Makara Cemetery is governed by the rate of use for established areas and, to a lesser extent, the amount of burial that occurs at Karori Cemetery. Expansion is anticipated within 5-15 years and will occur in a planned way to ensure infrastructure and amenity works occur where required in a consistent approach.

For further information, the full Statement of Proposal is available for inspection at the Wellington City Council 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington Public Libraries and on the Council website www.wcc.govt.nz. Copies are also available by calling 499-4444.