
REPORT 3
(1215/52/IM)

DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES: REPORT BACK ON CONSULTATION

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to detail the results of the consultation process on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services and recommend changes to the draft document as a result of that process.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Recommend to the Council that it:*
 - a) *Note that 13 written submissions on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services were received and 4 oral submissions made during the special consultative procedure (which was held in conjunction with the draft Annual Plan 2005/6)*
 - b) *Note that a summary of the issues raised by the submission along with the recommended response is attached at Appendix 1 to the Officer's report.*
 - c) *Agree that the issues raised by the submitters, on the proposed Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services have been considered.*
 - d) *Agree that the special consultative procedure has been completed pursuant to sections 83 and 87 of the Local Government Act 2002.*
 - e) *Agree to adopt the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, attached as Appendix 2 to the Officer's report.*

3. Background

The draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services (AWSS) was produced under the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 which requires it be completed by 30 June 2005. The draft AWSS sets out a long term direction towards meeting a number of future growth related challenges facing water supply, wastewater services, stormwater drainage, cemeteries, crematoria and public conveniences. It identifies any public

health risks associated with supplying, or not supplying, these services. The AWSS will also sit within the context of the Environmental Strategy currently being developed.

Public consultation on the draft Assessment was held during 20 April – 20 May 2005 in conjunction with Council's draft Annual Plan 2005/2006.

As part of the consultation process, copies of the draft Assessment were placed in all Council libraries, the Service Centre and on Council's website. Information about the draft Assessment was published in *The Wellingtonian*, the *Absolutely Positively Wellington* newspaper sent to all city residents and public notices were placed in *The Dominion Post*. A meeting was held with Ngati Toa and the Wellington Tenth Trust. A presentation was also made to the Makara Ohariu Community Board. In addition, some of the consultation material for the draft Annual Plan included information about the draft Assessment.

Copies summarising the draft Assessment were sent out to 180 residents and special interest organisations. They were invited to submit on the draft document and obtain further information if required. A public meeting was also held to discuss both the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services and the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan which five members of the public attended.

4. Discussion

4.1 Consultation results

As part of the draft Annual Plan submission process, 13 written submissions were received and 4 oral submissions were made about the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services. Those who made written submissions are listed below (with the relevant submission number in brackets). Those who also made an oral submission about the draft Assessment are indicated *.

- Ann Louise Mitcalfe and Alex Mitcalfe Wilson (784)
 - Betty Weeber* (569)
 - Chris Renwick (533)
 - Glenside Streamcare Group (827)
 - Greater Wellington Regional Council (556)
 - Housing New Zealand Corporation (664)
 - Local Government Forum (409)
 - Makara Ohariu Community Board*(517)
 - Regional Public Health, Hutt Valley District Health Board (390)
 - Rosamund Averton (359)
 - Trellisick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group*(699)
 - Wellington Conservation Board (L7)
- Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers Association (Inc)*(706).

4.2 Responses to submissions and recommended changes to draft AWSS

A summary of the submissions made and the recommended responses are contained in Part A of Appendix 1. As the consultation for the draft AWSS was held concurrently with the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan, some submitters commented on both and these are summarised in Part B.

Overall there was general support for the direction being taken in the draft AWSS and its content. Changes to the draft AWSS have mostly been clarifications and refinements. The common issues raised in the submissions were:

- The review of the Code of Practice for Land Development is considered to be one of the more important outstanding tasks and the priority for this review should be raised. This is currently scheduled to occur by 2007 and given the resources required, and other priorities, is unlikely to be achieved earlier.
- There is a call for greater and more effective consultation. This will be considered in future projects to be carried out.
- Water conservation and stormwater re-use is strongly supported. This is being addressed through the current development of a Wellington Water Management Plan by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- Regulation of self sources water supplies and wastewater disposal systems is likely in the future. Initially information on the current situation needs to be gathered before further steps can be explored and implemented.

The revised Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, including the recommended changes, is contained in Appendix 2.

4.3 Consultation with Iwi.

Consultation was undertaken with Ngati Toa and the Wellington Tenth Trust.

The Tenth Trust did not specifically submit on the draft Assessment but noted they strongly support waste minimisation strategies, do not believe that enough is done in this area, and stress that Council needs to continue to strongly support sewerage works to eliminate pollution and reduce wastewater.

Ngati Toa representatives did not have any major concerns with the draft Assessment and noted that both they and Council appeared to have common objectives. They did not formally submit on the draft AWSS.

4.4 Implementation issues

The actions and tasks set out and implied in the Assessment will be included in the relevant Asset Management Plans, Business Plans and/or forward programme, as appropriate, for implementation. The Assessment will also be used as the basis to shape future policies and practices.

The recommendation regarding the collection of data prior to the next Assessment will be implemented. A register of properties in the non reticulated areas is to be set up and will record the means by which water is obtained, its quality and how and when systems are maintained. A similar register is also to be established for wastewater disposal systems in the Wellington City area. Initially the database will have information entered as it becomes available. This process will be monitored to assess the further information required to complete the database and the extent of the required task to fill any gaps. Funding for this project will be sought through a future Long Term Council Community Plan process.

The Plan will be reviewed in 2008 to gauge progress and determine future actions.

5. Conclusion

This report presents the results of the consultation process on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the final Assessment and recommend that it be adopted by Council.

Contact Officers:
Maria Archer, Infrastructure
Nicci Wood, Capacity
Tina Chong, Policy

Supporting Information

1) Fit with Strategic Objectives/Strategic Outcomes

Wellington City Council already has a commitment to waste reduction and sustainability as set out in *Strategic Direction 2001*.

Outcome:

6.3 Reducing Waste

Reducing quantities of waste entering the waste stream where an increasing volume is reused, recycled or recovered.

6.4 Sustainable Disposal

All waste is disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner ensuring the protection of people and ecosystems

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

N/A.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Liquid waste is an area of high interest, in particular in relation to receiving waters, wastewater treatment options and bio solids.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

This report presents the results of the consultation process.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua have been consulted with.

6) Legal Implications

None.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, if agreed to, will be new policy. It will also be consistent with the Liquid Waste Management Plan (also up for agreement).

APPENDIX 1
SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED and RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Part A - Draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services (AWSS)

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Ann Louise Mitcalfe and Alex Mitcalfe Wilson</i>	
Public satisfaction with the number and maintenance of public toilets is not accurately reflected.	More information to the AWSS reflecting future upgrades and maintenance has been added.
Supports composting toilets etc.	Will be considered in Environmental Strategy.
Support research and action on environmental education – work more closely with not for profit organisations to ensure quick, beneficial progress.	Note WCC supports some not for profit organisations providing environmental education e.g. Wellington Regional Environment Centre. Also will be considered in Environmental Strategy.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Glenside Streamcare Group</i>	
Glenside is not a fully reticulated community.	AWSS amended to include Glenside as one of the non reticulated water supply communities.
Richmond Hill reservoir ownership is being claimed by some residents.	The residents will be informed of ownership responsibilities.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Greater Wellington Regional Council - Water (GWW)</i>	
Section 1.3 Links Water supply should be listed as a service provided that contributes to a Public Health outcome. A supply of high quality potable water has long been regarded as a very important ingredient of good public health.	AWSS amended.

<p>Section 1.3.3 Wellington City District Plan</p> <p>While infill development may have little effect on local services, any increase in population will impact on bulk services.</p>	AWSS amended.
<p>Section 2.1 Reticulated Communities</p> <p>The text, Table 1 and Figure 1 are inconsistent and a little confusing. It would be good to have a map showing the water supply and drainage communities as described in the text, ideally overlaid on the suburb map in Fig 1.</p>	Noted and will take into consideration in AWSS review.
<p>Section 4.3.1 Reticulated Infrastructure</p> <p>The last bullet point in this section implies that GWRC owns Macalister Reservoir and leases the supply pipe. This is not the case.</p> <p>GWRC maintains the levels in the 18 primary service reservoirs above an agreed minimum, and maintains an agreed minimum pressure at Thorndon, under all except emergency conditions.</p>	AWSS amended.
<p>Section 4.4.1 Asset Stewardship</p> <p>GWRC has a bottom line quality standard of meeting the requirements of the DWSNZ:2000, including aesthetic standards, and a supply reliability standard of supplying enough water to meet demand in a drought with a recurrence of up to 50 years. These standards have been agreed with the four customer cities.</p>	Noted.
<p>Section 4.5.1 Reticulated Situation</p> <p>There is also a wastewater recovery plant at Wainuiomata WTP. At both plants the most contaminated effluent is disposed off site, not recycled.</p> <p>The table of zone gradings is incorrect. In all cases the plant grading quoted as C should be B. The B plant grade relates to Waterloo, and was assigned because water from Waterloo plant is not chlorinated. However water from Waterloo plant that is pumped to Wellington is chlorinated at Gear Island, and therefore effectively A grade.</p>	AWSS amended.
<p>Section 4.6.1 Risks (Reticulated)</p> <p>Suggest that more care is required in categorising risk.</p>	AWSS amended.
<p>Understand that the WCC policy of voluntary residential meters was dropped some years ago. However notes that the WCC website implies they are available without giving much detail.</p>	Policy is still valid.
<p>Section 4.8.1 Future Growth (Reticulated)</p> <p>There was not a drought “last year” and the GWRC system was not under strain.</p> <p>The Wellington Water Management Plan is only a proposal at this stage. The idea has been accepted, but</p>	AWSS amended.

nothing substantive has yet been done. It is only one aspect of future planning being undertaken by GWW. Potential additional sources are also being actively investigated, as is universal metering.	
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Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Housing New Zealand Corporation</i>	
Any policy with regard to rates to address the cost of water and sanitary services must be tailored to ensure there is no “double dipping”.	Noted.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Regional Public Health (Annette Nesdale)</i>	
Strongly supports the recommendation to investigate a code of practice for private rainwater systems, and further recommend that this be extended to all private water systems e.g. sourced from stream water, bores and rainwater.	Noted.
Support education on risks of non-reticulated supplies.	Education material on non reticulated supplies is available. Has been sent to a number of self sourced properties.
Support gathering info on non reticulated supplies and maintaining this in a database.	Noted. Database is established. Will continue to populate this database.
Recommend annual site inspections to determine status of non reticulated water collection and wastewater disposal systems	Will establish options for regulation and implement optimum option.
Support WCC’s decision to contribute to the Regional Water Management Plan.	Noted.
Take into consideration the potential for cross contamination when using greywater systems.	Noted.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Rosamund Averton</i>	
Supports draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.	Noted.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Wellington Recreation Marine Fishers' Association (Inc)</i>	
Collection of silt from the road is inadequate. As chemicals and oils quickly reach sea.	Will consider a project trialling options and monitoring effectiveness.
Silt/ sediment run off from works into drains and streams is not adequately prevented.	Revision of the Code of Practice for Land Development is proposed (by 2007) and the Earthworks Bylaw is currently under review. Introduction of guidelines for silt control has been introduced by GWRC and are being implemented. Council is working with GWRC in preventative education.
Monitoring of beaches and streams has failed to identify the increase of run off contamination	The proposed harbour model project will make the connections of long term sediment buildup and the chemical composition of the stormwater depositing these sediments. AWSS amended to show the Beaches and Streams data that reflects the decrease in metal contamination in the harbour.
Kaiwharawhara Stream needs urgent recognition that it is the only unperched stream flowing into the harbour.	Project Kaiwharawhara is working to protect the stream and to promote the awareness of the importance of the stream.
The quantity of stormwater being directed to Moa Point is unacceptable	Only stormwater from infiltration and inflow flows to Moa Point. This is being addressed through a current investigation, the results to be presented to Council in late 2005.
The long outfall pipe from Moa Point fails to clear Lyall Bay.	The findings in the December 2003 Assessment of Environmental Effects for the Moa Point Bypass consents states that "the outfall is located outside the Lyall Bay circulation zone".
Lack of acknowledgement of leaky landfills.	All discharges from operating landfills covered by resource consent monitoring which indicates no problems at this time
Half the city's water supply is from the Hutt Aquifer, which is under strain due to contamination and dropped pressure.	WCC's water is from Te Marua and Wainuiomata. Any issues regarding the Hutt aquifer should be addressed to GWRC and/or Hutt City Council.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Wellington Conservation Board</i>	
Pleased that Council has completed the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.	Noted.

Part B - Submissions relevant to both Draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services (AWSS) and Draft Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Betty Weeber</i>	
Water management and ownership to be kept in public hands.	The LGA governs ownership of infrastructure related to water and its management
Supports stormwater storage and reuse.	Noted.
Council must continue to upgrade and keep pipes up to standard.	Noted. Refer to the relevant AMP for details.
Moa point treatment plant needs to be augmented to take all sewage flow to prevent raw sewage discharges to the sea.	Council are currently investigating mitigation options for sewage overflows at Moa Point and across its network as part of the SPE project. Also the GWRC requires an annual report on progress with this issue under existing short-term resource consents at Moa Point.
Take stormwater drains off major beaches.	Priority has been given to removing pollutants from stormwater discharges. When existing stormwater drains are replaced or upgraded, relocation is considered at the design feasibility phase.
Flood protection is a priority.	Noted. Refer to section 3.1 of the Liquid Waste Management Plan.
Improve drinking water quality in non reticulated areas by making “first flush diverters” compulsory.	A recommendation to look into the feasibility and costs of these diverters is already contained in the draft AWSS.
Need an education programme for environmental and water conservation.	The Greater Wellington Regional Council carries out a number of education programmes including the “Be The Difference” campaign.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Chris Renwick</i>	
Proper tikanga and protocols need to be followed in areas such as liquid waste management.	Council consults regularly with iwi regarding liquid waste matters.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Local Government Forum</i>	
Supports regular assessments of infrastructure to ensure Council provides ratepayers with the required level of service.	This is addressed by the relevant Asset Management Plans.
Requests more detail in DAP on Council performance in providing infrastructure.	This information is contained in the relevant AMP.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Makara Ohariu Community Board</i>	
The Board wish to be actively included in any processes that involve regulation of non reticulated water supplies and wastewater and any discussions regarding codes of practice.	Noted.
WCC should apply to the Drinking Water Assistance Fund for funds to monitor and maintain systems.	This will be investigated and application made if relevant.
More education recommended for rural residents about safe drinking water.	Education material regarding the collection of drinking water and septic tank maintenance are available and are being distributed.
Wish to see WCC and MOH working together to avoid a two tier level of regulation.	Council will work along side the MoH to ensure that the public are not subjected to two tiers of regulation.

Submitter	Recommended response
<i>Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group</i>	
Preparation of Kaiwharawhara Catchment Management Plan be given highest priority.	An ecological assessment showed the stream retaining a relatively healthy habitat despite its location in an urban environment. The priority for the preparation of Catchment Management Plans has been determined based on a range of factors. The resulting assessment did not place this catchment near the top.
Hard Surfaces: Concern about increase of hard surfaces and their effect.	This will be addressed in the Code of Practice for Land Development review.
Stormwater discharge outlets in Trelissick Park are causing concern.	The outlets are currently being investigated.

The Sewage Pollution Elimination investigations to ensure there are no sewage overflows into the stream are to continue.	This will be an ongoing exercise due to RMA requirements even when the project officially ends.
Sediment and Silt: The debris trap should be relocated off the park	The debris trap is in the most effective position to collect silt and sediment. Removing it will cause the stormwater tunnel to block and downstream flooding.
Pollution from road and paved areas: More public education is required.	The GWRC “Be the Difference” public education programme is already underway and additional education is not currently a priority.
Code of Practice for Land Development requires review	The review of the Code of Practice for Land Development is due for completion by 2007. (Submission referred to “Code of Practice for Urban Development” but that document does not exist.)
District Plan Rules: Changes required e.g. provide for esplanade strips to be wider.	Noted. Will be taken into consideration when the catchment based stormwater Resource Consents are being prepared.
Sewer Renewals: When sewer pipes are renewed, consider relocation outside the park.	The majority of the pipes were renewed recently so this cannot be considered in the short term.

**APPENDIX 2
PROPOSED
ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES**