

27 July 2021



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email request received on Friday 15th June, for the following information:

"Please could I have all correspondence and associated documents (meeting minutes, dates of meetings, texts, emails, reports, etc.) between Carterton District Council (incl. its councillors and mayor) and Wairarapa Water Ltd. since January 2021 until the present."

On 29th June, you clarified your request as:

"Please could I have all meeting minutes, emails, reports between Carterton District Council (incl. its councillors and mayor) and Wairarapa Water Ltd. since March 2021 until the present."

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

We have identified five documents within scope of your request. Our decision on the release of each documents is tabled below:

Date	Type	Subject
19 April 2021	Email from Walt Dickson to Mayor	Wairarapa Water News
19 April 2021	Email from Walt Dickson to Robyn-Campbell	Wairarapa Water News
19 April 2021	Email from Walt Dickson to Rebecca Vergunst	Wairarapa Water News
17 July 2021	Email from Walt Dickson to Jill Greathead	Wairarapa Water News
	Memorandum of Understanding	Wairarapa Water Ltd

The Wairarapa Water Ltd Memorandum of Understanding can be found in the CDC website at:

[Agenda of Extraordinary Council Meeting - 30 00 2021 \(infocouncil.biz\)](https://www.infocouncil.biz/Agenda-of-Extraordinary-Council-Meeting-30-00-2021)

Regarding the rest of the information you are requesting, Carterton District Council has assessed these documents, and finds it necessary to withhold them under section 7(2)(i) of the Act in that the Council wishes to enable its business as a local authority to carry on, without prejudice or

disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Thank you again for your email/letter. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



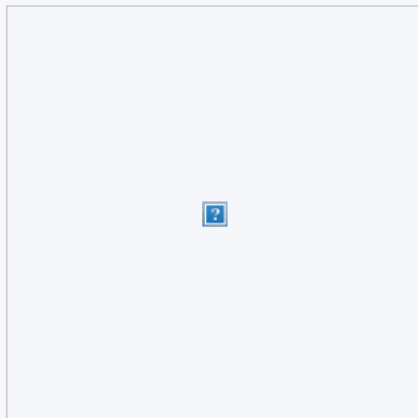
Blair King
Interim Chief Executive

Document 1

From: [Walt Dickson](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: Wairarapa Water News
Date: Monday, 19 April 2021 1:11:08 pm

Wairarapa Water
Newsletter

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April 2021

Unlocking opportunities for shared outcomes

STRONG SUPPORT FROM MINISTER

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Nga mihi o te tau hou!

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At the pop-up information centre meeting were Kieran McAnulty (MP for Wairarapa), Hon. Meka Whaitiri (Associate Minister for Agriculture and Member for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti), Iwi leaders from Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, the three Wairarapa mayors, and Greater Wellington Regional Council deputy chair Adrienne Staples.

The Minister's broad understanding and support for the project was very encouraging. In an article in the Wairarapa Times-Age, Minister Nash said he thought the project would add significant value to the region.

Here are some excerpts from the Wairarapa Times article:

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"I've seen who's on the governance committee, and I think you have some incredibly experienced and engaging people who know more than most about this stuff," he said.

You can read the full Wairarapa Times-Article [here](#).



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Rene Bakx will take over as acting deputy chief executive, a new role, while we find a permanent employee. Rene is ex CE of both Port of Otago and Christchurch Airport and is an engineer by training. Our engineering and technical team members will report into this new role.

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Economic and Regional Development
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A particularly interesting walk in was Sid Hayes, who shared with us that he in fact grew up on the reservoir site. Sid shared stories of when he was a young lad and several photos of the farm and Wakamoekau Creek. (See photo below)

WWL CEO Robyn Wells, (left) with Hon. Meka Whaitiri, Associate Minister for Agriculture and Member for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti, and Masterton mayor Lyn Patterson

The pop-up ran for five weeks starting in early March and we will open up again at some point again in May.

Many people have come through the door, keen to learn more about the project, share views, and offer a show of support. The feedback has been invaluable. We are listening carefully to concerns, seeking opportunities, are open to everyone's thoughts on ways forward and are incorporating feedback into the project.



Iwi leaders, Jo Hayes (Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust), Robin Potangaroa and Marama Tuuta (Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui a Rua Settlement Trust).



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The students asked to speak to a diverse range of people who would have differing views on the reservoir. This would allow them to test the approaches taken to the problem of water security in the Wairarapa.

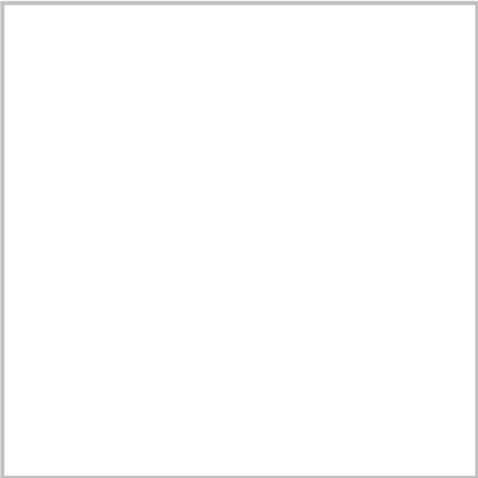
“Having a group of smart international students ‘test’ the thinking on our project by listening to diverse views from the Wairarapa community seemed like an opportunity for us to gain new insights and learn from fresh perspective,” said Robyn Wells, chief executive of Wairarapa Water.

The link up with the Dutch university students was the result of an introduction by Carterton-based environmental expert and Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee deputy chair, Esther Dijkstra.

Read full story [here](#).

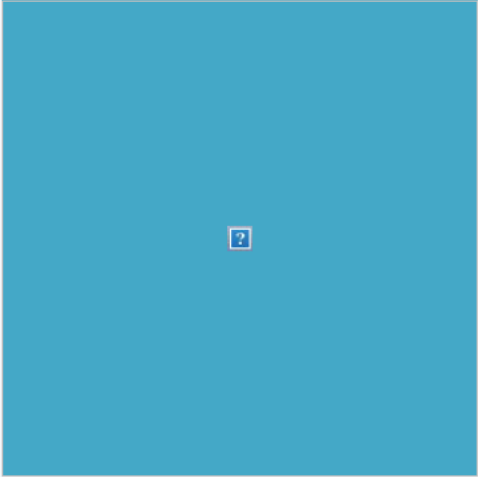
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We would like to hear from you

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Robyn Wells
WWL Chief Executive

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Document 2

From: [Erin Collins](#)
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#)
Subject: FW: 2021-68
Date: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:44:06 pm

From: Rebecca Vergunst <rebecca@cdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:23 am
To: Erin Collins <erin@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: 2021-68

From: Walt Dickson <info=wwl.net.nz@cmail19.com> on behalf of Walt Dickson
<info@wwl.net.nz>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Rebecca Vergunst <rebecca@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Wairarapa Water News

Wairarapa Water Newsletter

No images? [Click here](#)



April 2021

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shared outcomes**

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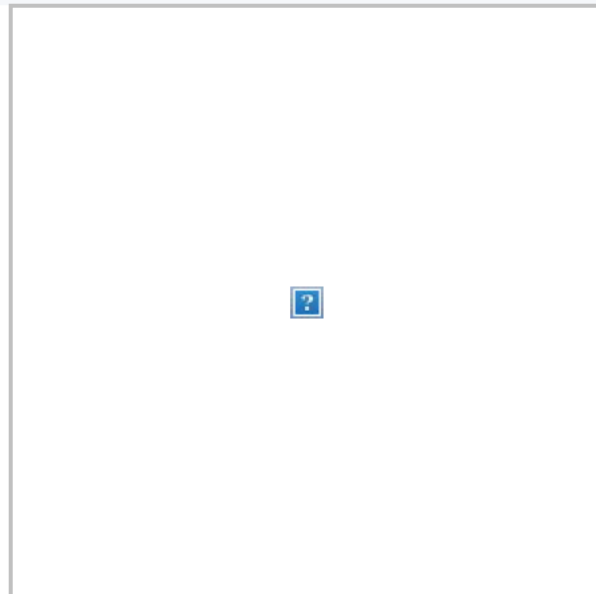


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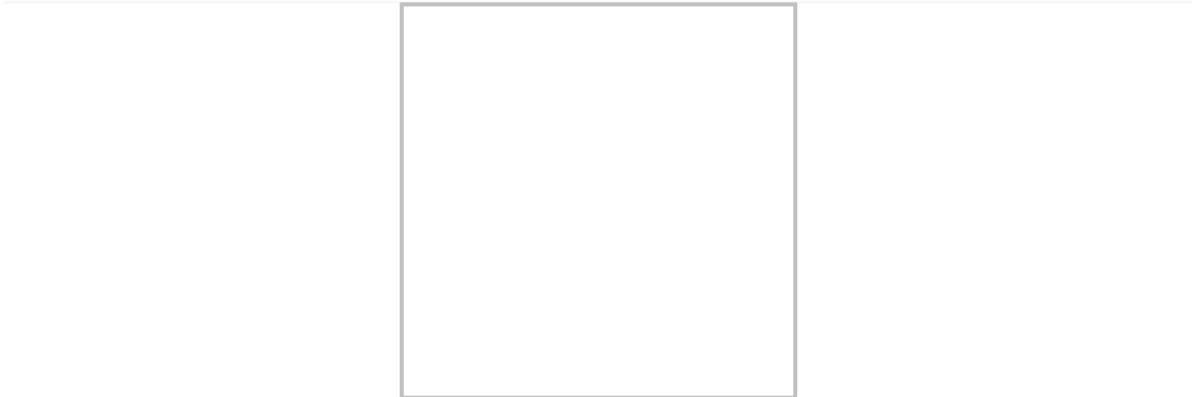
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WWL Chief Executive



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Document 3

From: [Erin Collins](#)
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#)
Subject: FW: Re LGOIMA - 2021-68
Date: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:57:41 am
Attachments: [Outlook-mmg0yqig.png](#)

From: Robyn Cherry-Campbell <robyn@cdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 3:17 pm
To: Erin Collins <erin@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re LGOIMA - 2021-68

Robyn Cherry-Campbell | Councillor | **Carterton District Council**
Mobile: 021 155 6821 | Email: robyn@cdc.govt.nz
PO Box 9, Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street, Carterton | Website: www.cdc.govt.nz



This email message and any attachments are confidential. If we have sent you this message by mistake, we apologise. Please let us know by return email, and delete all copies of this message and its attachments. Thank you.

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Wairarapa Water Newsletter

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The students asked to speak to a diverse range of people who would have differing views on the reservoir. This would allow them to test the approaches taken to the problem of water security in the Wairarapa.

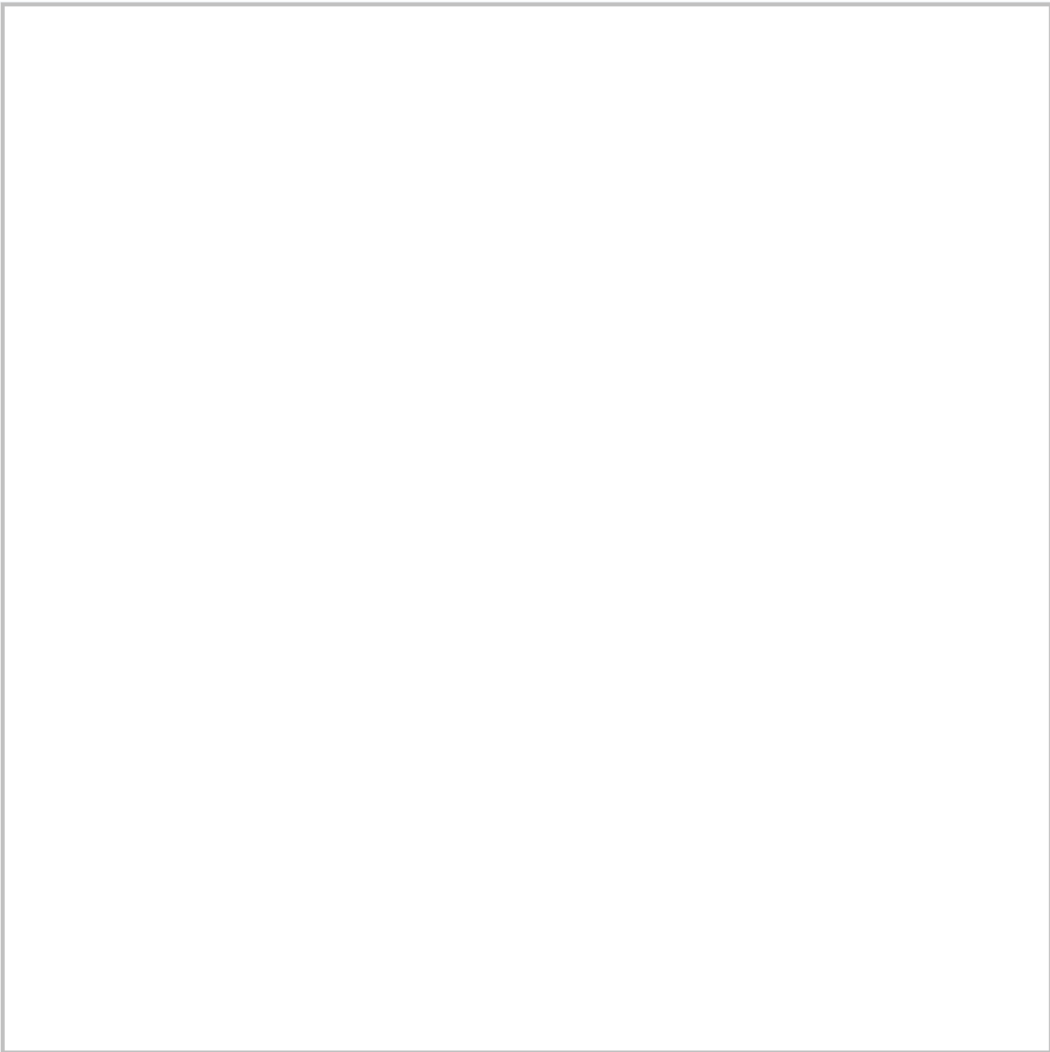
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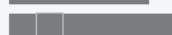
Robyn Wells
WWL Chief Executive



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Document 4

From: [Erin Collins](#)
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#)
Subject: FW: 2021-68: LGOMIA Request - FW: Wairarapa Water News
Date: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:56:20 am

From: Jill Greathead <jillg@cdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 4:07 pm
To: Erin Collins <erin@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: 2021-68: LGOMIA Request - FW: Wairarapa Water News

Email One

Warm Regards | Ngā Mihi Na
Jill

Jill Greathead | Councillor | **Carterton District Council**
Mobile: 0274 884 376 | Email: jillg@cdc.govt.nz
PO Box 9, Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street, Carterton | Website: www.cdc.govt.nz

From: Walt Dickson <info=wwl.net.nz@cmail19.com> **On Behalf Of** Walt Dickson
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 1:07 PM
To: Jill Greathead <jillg@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Wairarapa Water News

Wairarapa Water Newsletter

No images? [Click here](#)



April 2021

Unlocking opportunities for

shared outcomes

STRONG SUPPORT FROM MINISTER

Kia Ora,
Nga mihi o te tau hou!

Welcome to the second Wairarapa Water newsletter for 2021. The purpose of these is to keep you updated on the development of the proposed community water reservoir in the hills above Masterton, the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme (WCWSS) being progressed by Wairarapa Water Limited (WWL). Previous editions can be found on our website [here](#).

There has been a lot happening since our last newsletter at the beginning of February. A notable highlight was a visit from Economic and Regional Development Minister, Stuart Nash.

The Minister had a full day in the Wairarapa and we were very fortunate to host him in the afternoon for a speaking engagement at the project pop-up information centre in Queen Street, Masterton, followed by a tour of the proposed reservoir site.

At the pop-up information centre meeting were Kieran McAnulty (MP for Wairarapa), Hon. Meka Whaitiri (Associate Minister for Agriculture and Member for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti), Iwi leaders from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, the three Wairarapa mayors, and Greater Wellington Regional Council deputy chair Adrienne Staples.

The Minister's broad understanding and support for the project was very encouraging. In an article in the Wairarapa Times-Age, Minister Nash said he thought the project would add significant value to the region.

Here are some excerpts from the Wairarapa Times article:

"One of our global competitive advantages is water. Our ability to store it and use it in dry times is going to be vital if we are to continue as a highly productive nation going forward," Nash said.

He said he didn't think anything could be done differently in terms of bringing the community along.

"There will always be a small sector of the community that doesn't buy into the vision for whatever reason, but that happens no matter what you do."

He said he was aware that the project hadn't been fully signed off but had looked at some plans and thought they were comprehensive.

"I've seen who's on the governance committee, and I think you have some incredibly

experienced and engaging people who know more than most about this stuff," he said.

You can read the full Wairarapa Times-Article [here](#).



Up at the proposed reservoir site: WWL chair Tim Lusk, Wairarapa MP Kieran McAnulty, Economic and Regional Development Minister Stuart Nash, and WWL chief executive Robyn Wells.

DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS

It is timely at this point, almost exactly a year since we entered into a structured three-year program of work with support from the Provincial Growth Fund, that we pause to celebrate our progress; assess the feedback we have been receiving from those that have read our draft resource consent application, and listen to those who have dropped into our Masterton pop-up centre or been on one of the many site tours we have hosted. From this, it is our goal to do a project reset, and chart an optimised pathway forward that will continue to deliver on our commitments.

It would be unwise of us to not use what we have learned through these consultation processes to adjust our thinking and modify our design, if possible, so as to allay any concerns. Additionally, we are in unprecedented times with some major legislation either recently becoming effective or soon to be in effect that will impact on our consenting pathway and possible mitigation strategies; the *Proposed Natural Resources Plan*, the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management* and *National Environmental Standards*, the *Three Waters Reforms* and the overhaul of the RMA to name a few. All the more reason to pause and take stock.

That being said, we cannot let any of this dissuade us from our commitment to deliver this important project for the people of Wairarapa. Rest assured we remain determined and committed to the WCWSS project and we invite you to continue on the journey with us by dropping in to meet the team, inviting us to events you may know about, sending us feedback via our web site, and sharing this newsletter with your friends and colleagues. We welcome your interest and thank you for your support so far.

Should you wish to contact me directly, please feel free to do so [here](#).

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Document 5

Purpose

For Council to provide approval for the Mayor and CE to sign the attached MOU with Wairarapa Water Ltd

Background to MOU

As part of the 2021-31 draft Long Term Plan, Council noted

Water Wairarapa

Over the last twelve years Wairarapa has been exploring ways of ensuring greater certainty of water supply for Wairarapa through the development of a major water storage project. A limited liability company, Wairarapa Water Limited, was established in 2017 to develop, through to construction, a water storage scheme in the Whakamoekau catchment, just north west of Masterton. With funding from the Provincial Growth Fund, Councils, and the private sector the company has been completing its research and finalising consent documents, with the aim of lodging consent applications in the 2021 calendar year.

The proposed Wakamoekau scheme will provide off-main-river water storage that captures excess water during periods of high flows from the Waingawa River and Whakamoekau Stream. The water will be stored in a reservoir and released when needed for rivers, towns, industry, land-use change, and rural supply. The company is working with a wide range of groups including Wairarapa Iwi, landowners, businesses, and Councils, and is aligning with Greater Wellington Regional Council's Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Plan.

The final ownership structure for the scheme is yet to be determined. Other similar schemes across New Zealand have been based on a cooperative model, where water users purchase shares, and this determines how much water they are allocated. The Carterton District Council has no plans at this time to purchase shares in the company. However, there is an allocation in this Long Term Plan to provide up to \$400,000 as a commercial loan to Wairarapa Water Limited to enable it to complete the consenting process, should it require this funding. The other Wairarapa Councils are also making provision in their Long Term Plans for loan funding.

LTP submissions 32, 87, 101, 103, 138, 146, 147, 186 all commented directly on the storage scheme with no consensus for or against.

How does the Storage Scheme align with Greater Wellington Regional Council's Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP)

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) led this project until 2017, when they passed the Intellectual Property to Wairarapa Water Limited (WWL) to enable consenting and construction of a storage scheme at Whakamoekau. The intention was a scheme that enabled

- Users who had irrigation infrastructure alongside specific rivers, to be able to use water released from the storage scheme via the river as a conduit to replace that lost when minimum flows are raised.
- Industry who received potable supply via MDC to replace this with raw water from the scheme freeing up treatment capacity for MDC and to replace water lost when minimum flows are raised.
- Urban supplies to either draw from the river, or pipe offtakes directly from the scheme storage

- Other users to benefit from a more resilient river flow

Whilst WWL were successful in obtaining funding via Provincial Growth Fund and GWRC, they must meet specific milestones before they can draw on this funding. Of these milestones, the most challenging is consenting as the PNRP prohibits taking water from a river below mandated minimum flow and using the river as a conduit to replace water lost as minimum flows are raised is the most logical and cost-effective design.

The design of the scheme is known as in-river storage because 25% of the reservoir volumes will come from the Whakamoekau Creek catchment that will flow through the reservoir site. The other 75% of volume will come from the harvesting of water from the Waingawa and storing this in the reservoir independently of the river. As the Whaitua Implementation Plan intends for the minimum flows to be raised on the river, and the PNRP prohibits water takes below that minimum flow the storage scheme is not consentable without amending the plan or legislative intervention. Without a scheme, users under the new river flows are predicted to go from 22 days without usage in summer, to 52 days by 2029 (based on 2020/21 Ruamāhanga River flows).

The Waingawa Industrial Estate users have analysed the impacts on their businesses and two major employers have assessed that the potential for lost production under the PNRP water allocation limits would be 41 days under 2024 levels and 50 days under 2029 levels.

WWL advise the options include

- GWRC vary their plan, to enable the viability of the scheme they passed to WWL to implement. This would require the scheme being defined by GWRC as regionally significant infrastructure similar to a power station, to ensure in-stream storage as proposed is feasible.
- Seek a call-in to a Board of Inquiry through the Minister for Environment
- Private Plan change
- Seek an Act of Parliament

All of these options add complexity to the consenting pathway, significant additional costs (potentially \$800,000+) and potentially time to lodge a consent application but do not affect the proposed MOU.

What does the MOU commit Carterton District Council (CDC)?

CDC has an interest in Masterton District Councils (MDC) water take, as this supplies the Waingawa Industrial Estate (WIE) potable supply. If Masterton run short of water due to minimum flows, then the MDC supply agreement enables Masterton to exclude WIE from being supplied.

The purpose of this MOU is two-staged:

- Stage 1 - to establish a preferred way forward for a municipal water supply to MDC and therefore to CDC customers the WIE.
- Stage 2 - Conditional to the WCWSS being the preferred way forward from Stage 1, to establish an Agreement of Supply (Agreement) between the parties

LTP feedback received by Masterton District Council with respect to signing the MOU

In the open feedback section, approximately one quarter of submitters made some reference to water, with many commenting that water is a priority and resilience needs to be addressed. These views were reiterated at the hearings and were also raised during face to face engagement sessions. Submissions from Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust (RTMRT) reinforced the

significance of water for Māori and reiterated Maori participation and partnership in decision making related to water. Key reasons for advocating for water storage included water resilience, climate change, population growth and/or not meeting current demand. Some submitters expressed concern regarding impacts on our rivers in general, regardless of how water storage was achieved.

Those referring to the Wakamoekau project in the open feedback section had mixed views. Reasons for supporting the project included that it is needed for growth and would support the economy. Key reasons for not supporting the scheme included uncertainty around costs, including potential escalation and impacts for ratepayers. Concern was also expressed in relation to compromising the health of our rivers and regarding the nearby earthquake fault. A minor theme was Council investment in private enterprise, with one submitter specifically saying they were not against the scheme but against council investment in it. Generic comments in support of water storage, and comments on Council's proposal to invest in storage at Kaituna, primarily related to increasing capacity. There were also a minority of comments advocating Council investment in its own assets versus the Wakamoekau project, as well as comments advocating the reverse view - investment in Wakamoekau rather than Council owned assets. Another theme that has been seen in previous consultation was advocacy for domestic water storage. Associated with this were comments encouraging council to also require domestic reuse of greywater, and to consider greywater for Council use too. Feedback from face to face sessions reflected submitter feedback with the strongest themes being advocacy for mandatory domestic water tanks and comments regarding the Wakamoekau project (mixed views as per written submissions).

The Ruamahānga Whaitua chapter of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Natural Resources Plan (NRP) focuses on the local river impacts and rules for takes and users whether that is via a community or Council scheme. The LTP has provisions for these NRP changes, for example the proposed Kaituna water storage project and stormwater treatment requirements. A resource consent is currently being sought for the Wakamoekau Community Storage Scheme. The consenting decision sits with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). An environmental/cultural/economic assessment is required as part of the consent process. The project will need to meet the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, proposed Natural Resources Plan requirements, and consider the Ruamahānga Whaitua recommendations. The outcome of the consent application is expected later in 2021. In the interim, Council have agreed, in principle, to a \$1 million loan to Water Wairarapa to support the consent process. The scheme also received funding of \$7 million from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) and \$2 million from GWRC. It is unlikely that the Council would invest in both the community dam and storage at Kaituna. If consent for the Wakamoekau Community Storage Scheme is granted, part of Council's assessment will be whether to proceed with the Kaituna option or transfer that investment to the Wakamoekau Scheme. During the hearings, Wairarapa Water Limited requested Council enter into a MOU to establish a preferred way forward for a municipal water supply to the Masterton District (and to customers requiring potable supply in the Waingawa Industrial Estate).

Domestic water storage, and greywater usage, would be managed via the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP) by making it a requirement for new buildings. Council has already committed to exploring this option as part of the review of the WCDP. Some of the Ruamahānga Whaitua recommendations relate to requiring new developments to have on site water storage. Council has no ability to require retrofitting to existing buildings but could consider financial incentives to encourage this.

Options

Council is yet to sign off the final Long Term Plan, which shows \$400,000 as a commercial loan to Wairarapa Water Limited to enable it to complete the consenting process. In terms of the MOU, this means

1. Council signs the MOU. This is the recommended option as it aligns with Councils goal to source a resilient potable and raw water supply to the Waingawa Industrial Estate. The goal of the storage scheme to harvest and store water given the increased risk of climate change induced droughts means we can utilise their research as we look for more water to supply growth demands for Carterton township
2. Council declines to sign the MOU. This would signal that Council is not interested in the viability of WWL to progress through consenting stage, and opens Council to further questions on the purpose of the \$400,000 commercial loan proposed in the Long Term Plan.

Impacts.

Iwi

As noted in the feedback Masterton District Council received, submissions from Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust (RTMRT) reinforced the significance of water for Māori and reiterated Maori participation and partnership in decision making related to water. Signing the MOU is compatible with our commitment to discuss water resilience with local Iwi regardless of the central government 3 waters reform

Climate Change

The research undertaken by WWL through any consenting process will be very valuable to Carterton as we fit within the same Regional Council rules. Climate Change induced drought impacts will create challenges to cater for growth in Carterton and the Waingawa Industrial Estate.

Recommendations