

What is a water race and why do we have them?

The water race system was engineered and constructed some 100 years ago. This was to be the lifeline of the Taratahi Plains which before this had no natural water courses. Some of our rural residents have water races running through their properties.



How many water races are there?

The Carterton District contains two water race systems that total some 306km in length. The Taratahi race is 270km long (in red on the map) and the Carrington race is 36km long (in blue on the map).



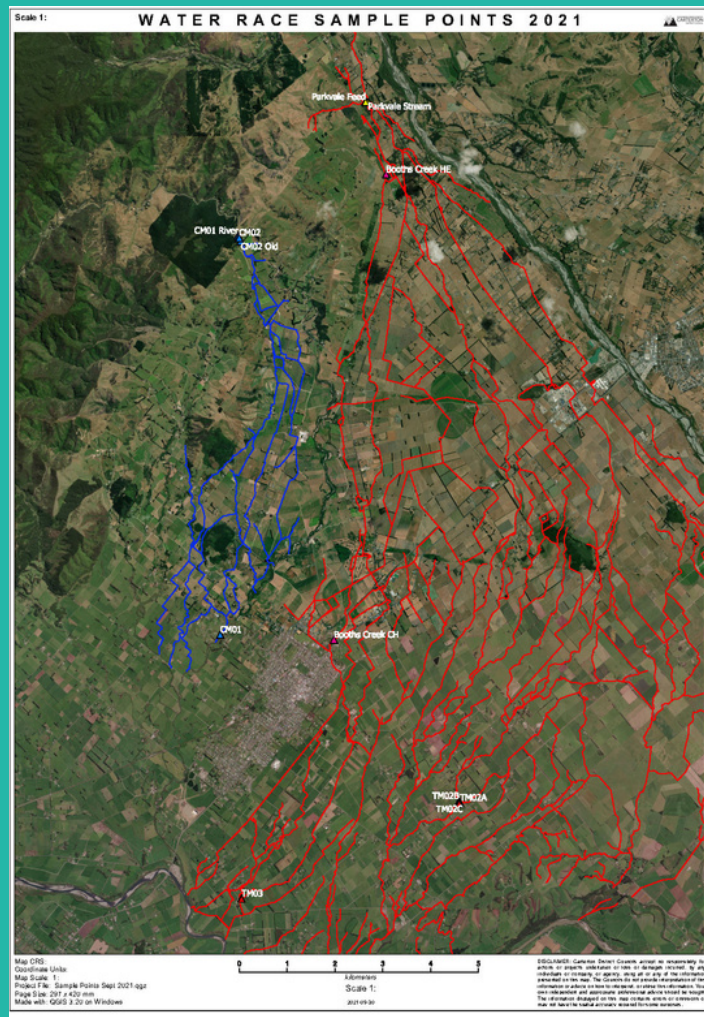
What are they used for?

The Taratahi and Carrington races have resource consents, which allow them to take water for the race (for stock watering purposes), and discharge contaminants to waterways at the end of the race branches. Those using the water races for cropping, stock troughs and other life forces, have their own provisions when the water levels are low.



Who pays rates for them and what is covered by water race rates?

Water Race rates are charged to those with a race running through their property and these cover general maintenance and cleaning, and ensuring water is able to pass through freely when the water flow is sufficient.



Is there a committee that oversees the management of water races?

Yes there is! The committee is made up of 4 water race property owners who are elected onto the committee by water race ratepayers every 3 years. The other members are Carterton District Councillors.

The committee's responsibilities are:

1. To oversee the operation of the Carrington and Taratahi Water Races.
2. To make decisions on applications to alter or use the water races.
3. To make recommendations to Council on:
4. a. the level of rates and charges for the Rural Water Service activity.
5. b. any changes to, or development of new bylaws in respect to the Carrington and Taratahi Water Races.
6. To develop policy in respect of the water races and recommend these to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

For more info, visit cdc.govt.nz/water-races