

18 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-13

Thank you for your email of 15 March 2023 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

1. *"We would like a copy of the consent form the council needs to submit to the regional to understand what is asking for.*
2. *we are concerned if a piped system went in, would the cost of the infrastructure fall to the landowners?*
3. *if piped, would it be metred for usage and therefore charged? (or could this be a possibility in the future?*
4. *we have any questions about concerns to the wildlife as people mentioned eels, kingfishers, fish, frogs, molluscs and other native birds, as well as the open water race losing 80% of the water to land absorption that naturally feeds trees, water table and everything else growing along the way - what will the council do to protect this if it is piped system?*
5. *Many concerns around the value of properties, open water flow is an attraction and people at the meeting said they looked for that as part of their buying criteria. Would the council revalue properties (and adjust rates) as well as compensate for losing any market value?*
6. *What happens if the council cannot get approved consent?*
7. *How long is the consent for?*
8. *How will 3 waters affect a piped system as opposed to a open flow race?*
9. *what is the proposed size of the pipe, and will there be drawing limits?*
10. *what happens to those properties if there are no other water sources?*
11. *We also would like to know the councils legal understanding of the owners of the race? there was a large discussion from older residents who knew the history of why and who developed the race. "*

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

My response to your request is in the number order below.

- 1. We would like a copy of the consent form the council needs to submit to the regional to understand what is asking for.***

There is no form, other than the standard Water diversion and discharge to water application.

Greater Wellington is the owner of The Proposed Natural Resources Plan which can be found in their website here: <http://pnrp.gw.govt.nz/home/pnpr-final-appeals-version-2022/>. The appeals version is the latest for the majority of it, some is still going through the Environmental court.

The information that council needs to provide is Policy P118, schedule Q in particular. Also, council needs to consider the regional freshwater Plan, Whaitua recommendations, and NES freshwater 2020 policies.

- 2. We are concerned if a piped system went in, would the cost of the infrastructure fall to the landowners?***

Yes, if the landowners own the asset, and if it was decided the best solution was a piped system based on a full concept and design.

- 3. If piped, would it be metred for usage and therefore charged? (or could this be a possibility in the future?)***

As per question 2, it is only a concept, however it may be a requirement of the resource consent to allow the water to be taken even if it is not a piped scheme.

- 4. We have any questions about concerns to the wildlife as people mentioned eels, kingfishers, fish, frogs, molluscs and other native birds, as well as the open water race losing 80% of the water to land absorption that naturally feeds trees, water table and everything else growing along the way - what will the council do to protect this if it is piped system?***

There is a conversation to be had with Regional Council; the application will be for a discretionary activity so there will be opportunity for public submissions. If you would like to be informed, we can forward the information for submissions.

The Water Race Survey letter attached as **Appendix One**, CDC had sought feedback from rate payers on their views on the water race system. Surveys were sent to the 74 addresses in Norfolk Road. A survey was also sent to you. Out of the total 508 surveys that were sent, only one letter was returned.

- 5. Many concerns around the value of properties, open water flow is an attraction and people at the meeting said they looked for that as part of their buying criteria. Would the council revalue properties (and adjust rates) as well as compensate for losing any market value?***

Property value cannot be considered under the Resource Management Act.

- 6. What happens if the council cannot get approved consent?***

28 Holloway Street, Carterton, Wairarapa | PO Box 9, Carterton, 5743 |
lgoima@cdc.govt.nz | 06 379 4030 | www.cdc.govt.nz

LGOIMA ID: 2023-13

There are existing rights, the council cannot refuse to consent it under the current rules, but it can restrict the flows, enforce conditions, that it is not a viable/economic operation.

7. *How long is the consent for?*

The existing consent was for 10 years.

8. *How will 3 waters affect a piped system as opposed to a open flow race?*

No effect, 3 waters does not include stock water.

9. *What is the proposed size of the pipe, and will there be drawing limits?*

As above in point 2, no design has been started. The survey was clear on the purpose, that peoples' opinions on the existing water races; a piped reticulation was an alternative concept.

10. *What happens to those properties if there are no other water sources?*

One of the reasons why the survey is conducted is to evaluate the number of properties that are without alternative water supplies.

11. *We also would like to know the councils legal understanding of the owners of the race? there was a large discussion from older residents who knew the history of why and who developed the race.*

Water races are owned by landowners, the consent and the intakes are owned by council.

Councils legal understanding of the water races is that Council operates the Water Races on behalf of the users, and the operations are overseen by the water race committee.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Hamilton'.

Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA

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1 March 2023

We want your views on Carterton's Water Race system

We're currently seeking feedback on your views on the water race system with particular focus on how it is used, what value it provides to you, and what your views are on how it is maintained and funded.

Why are we doing this?

The Council is required to hold a current consent with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) for the take and discharge of water for the water race system. The current consent expires in June 2023. We are busy compiling all the relevant information to finalise our consent application, however, a key component of this application is the views of the public on the value of our water races.

As a current water race user, your feedback will provide a valuable insight which will help with the success of our consent application.

How can I take part?

We have prepared a online survey which you can access via our website

cdc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



You can also access by scanning the QR code on this page.

We know some of you may prefer to send us a hard copy, so we have included a paper copy on the other side of this page. Simply fill this in and return to us

by 5pm Friday 17 March

This will need to be returned to our main Council office at 28 Holloway Street or posted to PO Box 9, Carterton 5743



Upcoming Water Race Committee Meetings

Agendas and minutes available at
cdc.govt.nz/meetings

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of Council and Committees.

If you wish to participate, call us on 06 379 4030 or email demservices@cdc.govt.nz at least 24 hours prior to a meeting.

Some parts of a meeting may be held in exclusion of the public.

Information on this is available in Section 18 of the Council Standing Orders.

Wednesdays, 1pm, Carterton Events Centre

- 17 May
- 16 August
- 22 November



Water Race Committee Members

Made up of councillors, elected water race users and members co-opted by the committee,

- Councillor Brian Deller (Chair)
briand@cdc.govt.nz
- Mayor Ron Mark
mayor@cdc.govt.nz
- Councillor Steve Cretney
steve@cdc.govt.nz
- Councillor Steve Gallon
steveg@cdc.govt.nz
- Member Jill Eastham
- Member David Ellison
- Member John McFadzean (Deputy Chair)
- Member Neil Wadham
- Co-opted members to assist with the draft consent to be submitted to GWRC: John Booth and Michael Hewson.

Are you a current water race user?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What do you use the water race on your property for?

- ☐ Stock
- ☐ Irrigation
- ☐ Household
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No water race on property

If you answered 'other', please specify:

I have an alternate water supply which is used for the following purposes:

- ☐ Stock
- ☐ Irrigation
- ☐ Household
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No water race on property

If you answered 'other', please specify:

My alternative water supply is:

- ☐ Underground bore
- ☐ Rainwater tank
- ☐ other

If you answered 'other', please specify:

How would you describe your reliance on water from the water race for the purposes described above?

- ☐ Not needed
- ☐ Optional
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Essential

Would you like to make any other comments on the water race system?

Name

Contact phone number

Are there any sections of the water race on your property which are no longer used?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't have a water race on my property

How do you rate the manner and methods by which council maintains the water race system?

- ☐ Poor value
- ☐ Good value
- ☐ Very good value

Reason for answer above:

How would you describe your views on the possibility of a piped reticulation system being installed in place of the open water race system?

- ☐ Not in favour
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Moderately in favour
- ☐ Fully in favour

Are there any advantages to you or your property if a piped reticulation system were to be installed and the water race system discontinued?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please state advantages:

Are there any disadvantages to you or your property if a piped reticulation system were to be installed and the water race system discontinued?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please state disadvantages:

Were you aware the Council had a water race committee before this letter?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Would you like us to contact you about your survey?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address and email