

Submission by

Hamilton City Council Staff

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF THE WATER SUPPLY BYLAW 2014

15 July 2021

It should be noted that the following submission is from staff at Hamilton City Council and does not necessarily represent the views of the Council itself.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council staff support the overall direction and content of Waikato District Council's Review of the Water Supply Bylaw 2014.
- 1.2 Hamilton City Council staff appreciate efforts made to seek subregional alignment of bylaws as intended under the Future Proof Three Waters Strategy.
- 1.3 As a supplier of water to Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council staff support the provision of clauses within the bylaw which promote and encourage efficient use of water, consider network capacity, and manage safety risks to the supply network.
- 1.4 Hamilton City Council staff have provided general matters for Waikato District Council's consideration related to cross-boundary connections. In this regard, there is potential for conflict between the Waikato District Council Bylaw and Hamilton City Council Policy that needs to be considered further.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hamilton City Council staff (hereafter referred to as 'staff') welcome the opportunity to make a submission to Waikato District Council's Review of the Water Supply Bylaw 2014.
- 2.2 Staff support the overall direction and content of Waikato District Council's Review of the Water Supply Bylaw 2014.
- 2.3 Staff acknowledge the Future Proof Sub-Regional Three Waters Strategy (of which both Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council are partners) which seeks alignment of strategic direction.
- 2.4 Hamilton City Council supplies water to Waikato District Council from its network. Hamilton City Council has water demand measures in place to manage network and treatment capacity. This includes promotion of water efficiency, water allocation policies, water loss mitigations and water restrictions. Hamilton City Council, in turn, relies on Waikato District Council to have in place appropriate controls to ensure the efficient use of water within areas where Hamilton City Council supplies water.

3.0 KEY MESSAGES

- 3.1 Staff support the amendments made to increase alignment of bylaws in the subregion.
- 3.2 We support the inclusion of clauses which promote and encourage efficient use of water including:
- Continued provision of the requirement for customer agreements and water conservation demand management plans for high water users.
 - Controls on water use, including not allowing run to waste and use of water in lifts, machinery, single pass cooling systems etc.
 - Incentives for repairing leaks quickly.
 - Enforcement of water restrictions (when imposed).
 - Maintenance of devices that have been put in place to manage water demand.
- 3.3 Staff support clauses which require consideration of network capacity issues, including:
- Enforcement against unauthorised removal of flow restrictors.
 - Enforcement against customers failure to meet obligations in customer agreements.
 - Provision for water restrictions, water restrictors.
 - Prohibition of equipment that can cause pressure surges or fluctuations.
- 3.4 Staff support the inclusion of clauses to manage safety risks to the supply network, including:
- Requirement for backflow prevention devices (of a specified quality).
 - Enforcement against tampering of backflow devices.
 - Provision for inspecting devices.

4.0 OTHER MATTERS

- 4.1 Staff note the Bylaw clause which states that applications to connect to a network outside the area currently served may not be approved (Clause 8.1 (v)).
- 4.2 Hamilton City Council policy precludes any new 'individual' water supply to Waikato District and Waipa District residents, and connections to existing connections.
- 4.3 As such, Waikato District Council may wish to consider Hamilton City Council's policy position when undertaking its land use and infrastructure planning functions.
- 4.4 Hamilton City Council supplies water directly to approximately 2,700 individual customers within the Waikato District Council boundary. These customers will be subject to both the proposed Waikato District Council Water Supply Bylaw and any conditions imposed by Hamilton City Council under an Individual Supply Agreement. We look forward to working collaboratively with Waikato District Council on these matters to ensure the obligations on these customers are clear and complementary.

5.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS OUR SUBMISSION

- 5.1 Should Waikato District Council require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact **Rae Simpson** (Senior Planner - City Waters) on 07 838 6427, email raewyn.simpson@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 5.2 Staff would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of our submission with Waikato District Council in more detail.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE