

Appendix 4:

Responses received following the 'Our Wellington' page article

On 11 May 2010 the following article was placed in the 'Our Wellington' page of the Dominion Post inviting feedback on the introduction of a 'Draft Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan.' The feedback received has been collated and presented following (verbatim) with an overview provided.

Respondent Submission mode	Comments	Overview
B Barrett Telephone	More advertising of issue required. Spoke of experiences on Waiheke Island with tank supply only. Water conservation messages needs to be pushed harder.	References use of education and advertising of the issue.
F Cook Telephone	Requested to be kept informed of progress and would like to offer input when possible.	
N & M Colling Email	<p>Water conservation is a problem.</p> <p>The main issue is that for decades council have not bothered to maintain or upgrade infrastructure for reticulation and water reservoirs etc, in line with city growth, and then council turns around and seeks consumers to conserve water. Not appropriate.</p> <p>Wellington City Council is not the only ones around NZ doing that, and it seems water reservoirs are not on the radar until some event triggers yet another policy paper out of the concession ridden policy plonkers, when prime infrastructure should be a part of sound ongoing management and development.</p> <p>Water conservation no, water meters no, build reservoirs yes, use water wisely yes, use reduced flow shower heads yes, turn the pressure down at the Toby yes, monitor running taps to ensure use is fit for purpose yes.</p> <p>Paying for metered water use is ultimately acceptable, so long as reservoirs are developed to keep pace with city growth and not just used as yet another tax on ratepayers. Do you know how many ratepayers it takes to pay for a new wind sculpture....lots.....let's not waste money as it does not grow on trees.</p> <p>By the way, we do support council with the majority of its initiatives, as Wellington is a fantastic place to live, work and play, but primary infrastructure is just that and it needs to be kept up to speed with growth</p>	<p>References a perceived lack of maintenance and upgrading of water infrastructure.</p> <p>References pressure management.</p>
P Hubbard Email	<p>Hi Paul, I read the article in yesterday's paper in the weekly Council section and here are some thoughts.</p> <p>I think there has to be a really big push to educate people about water use. We work quite hard in our household to save, re-use and generally be aware of water usage, but I get very strange reactions from people I talk to about this. They seem to regard water as being like the air, it's just there for us all to use as we want.</p> <p>I also think that people are very lazy about it and think for instance that the only way to wash themselves is by running quantities of water taking a shower. One thought I have about this would be to put 'timers' on the showers at the public pools so they only ran for a limited time as happens in other places where water is limited, like huts on the Great Walks, or on board ship. This would model that a short shower can be fine, and also save money for the Council. Some people even leave hot showers running after they have left them, presumably in the belief they turn off automatically, so perhaps they should.</p> <p>I am old enough to have lived through World War II and we could only have little baths (few showers in Britain then) but otherwise washed in bowls of hot water which is perfectly efficient and clean but not what we have become used to. The 'health industry' that produces all the products to use</p>	References education.

	<p>in showers and for hair washing etc have created this belief that you can only be clean by showering every day (even twice a day) and this has to be changed somehow.</p> <p>I would be interested to keep up with water conservation and efficiency.</p>	
Miles Workman Email	<p>An efficient water plan would mean that there are no wasted resources. I put it to you that the addition of fluoride to our water supply at the cost of \$185,000 p.a is not efficient.</p> <p>Many people who decide to investigate the potential adverse health effects of fluoride do not want it in the water. Those who are for it most likely don't know much about the recent discoveries and decisions that have been made overseas.</p> <p>Countries around the world have ceased adding it to the water supply due to the health risks. The dental care argument can be easily addressed by the evidence that fluoride is much more effective if applied topically, not ingested, this is why it's in toothpaste.</p> <p>\$185,000 would go a long way in terms of advertising the preservation of water including full page Dominion Post adverts, bus stops, radio and even TV.</p> <p>I realise there is a bit more to it than just pulling the plug on fluoride but it seems to make economic sense and therefore deserves attention. Not to mention the health implications.</p> <p>The info is not hard to find, and most of it is backed up with contacts or case files as per below.</p> <p>http://www.ukcaf.org/european_court_ruling_spells_an_end_to_fluoridatio.html</p>	References potential to save money by not fluoridating the reticulated water supply.
L Vigrass Email	<p>fyi - in response to the article in the Dom Post I have today sent this letter to the Hutt News.</p> <p>Sir –</p> <p>The GWRC say that they "favour working with the public on water conservation" and the draft Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan is due to go out for public feedback in July (Dom Post 11.5.2010). If by 2014 we have continued to use water at the current rate, then their two proposals are water metering and/or building a dam at Whakatikei in the Akatarawa forest.</p> <p>Here, in the Hutt Valley, we are the guardians of our precious river and we should be leading the way in water conservation in the region - Porirua and Wellington are not going to care about our river when we don't or won't.</p> <p>Public education, fixing leaks and more efficient management of the supply are undoubtedly essential tools in protecting our river and aquifers; but why oh why do councils continue to ignore the obvious solution of rainwater harvesting?</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting should be mandatory for all new building developments and there should be financial incentives for those people wishing to fit tanks retrospectively. There are amazing new technological advances in rainwater harvesting that can deliver unobtrusive collection tanks and clean water. Such water can be safely used for toilets and gardens thus leaving our precious treated piped water for washing, drinking and cooking.</p> <p>Perhaps only when our river is totally degraded will the HCC and GWRC have the sense of the Kapiti Coast District Council who have declared that, "All new dwellings constructed are required to have either a 10,000 litre rainwater collection tank for toilet flushing and outdoor uses or a 4,500 litre water tank for toilet and outdoor use plus a greywater collection system for subsurface garden irrigation."</p> <p>It's our river and our water! Let's save it!</p>	References rain water harvesting, public education, leak management
Thorndon Resident Association Email (1)	<p>This community association would like to be kept up to date with water conservation and efficiency developments.</p>	
Thorndon Resident Association Email (2)	<p>Just an initial question. Can you clarify for us, the nature of relationship exists between Capacity Infrastructure Services Limited, the Wellington City Council (our TA) and Greater Wellington (the Regional Authority)? ... or just point us to something online (if its there.)</p>	

F Wells Email	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I saw the article in today's dom post inviting comments regarding wgtm water conservation... correct me if I misunderstood that we can just send an opinion to this address but:</p> <p>My 2 cents regarding the Wellington water situation is that Wgtn greatly benefit from the council supporting (perhaps subsidising) residential rainwater tanks.</p> <p>I've heard of some great initiatives overseas (e.g. permeable driveway material to counter the urban flooding issues) but I guess that's a wee way off around here.</p> <p>I'd like to be kept on the mailing list thanks.</p>	References rainwater tanks with potential for Council support via subsidies.
P Pritchard Email	<p>In reading today's Dom Post, the Wellington City Council had an article about the future of water charging and deferring new dams. Victoria University as you can probably well image is a large property owner in Wellington and reasonably large water consumer.</p> <p>The University currently has most of it buildings metered, although not all and therefore monitors its water consumption and costs. We have increased our efforts in the last year to detect water leak and initiate retrofitting of more efficient devices, but always happy to learn more, particularly around cost effective programmes.</p> <p>As the Environmental Manager at Victoria we are keen to be consulted on Water Conservation and Efficiency, particularly the proposed WCC Plan.</p>	References partnership opportunities with Victoria University of Wellington
P Stephenson Email	<p>I read your article in the Dominion Post yesterday. I am a mature student at Massey studying Environmental Management and am currently writing an assignment looking into water in the urban area. Whilst I set out to get people to install a water tank, it just didn't stack up financially to do so - UNLESS – councils subsidise the purchase in order for them to have less storm water to deal with or less fresh water they need to supply. Unfortunately I couldn't find any figures for a proposed dam.</p> <p>Since we are only using 5% of potable water to drink and flush the majority down the toilet, it would make sense to use stormwater to flush the toilet, wash the car and water the garden. This would double the capacity of the current city water storage and reduce run off from the ever increasing impermeable surfaces.</p> <p>In the case of Wellington it would also increase the survival chance of citizens in case of an Earthquake. As civil defence is currently urging us to be prepared, it would make sense if houses had stored water in the backyard as they could function a lot longer (have to boil it of course). And with Wellington's topography, a burst pipe or burst dam can really upset the situation.</p> <p>My assignment is due by the end of next week and I am happy to send it to you once I have written the Executive Summary. I would love to include Wellington as an example. Would it be possible to give me a dollar figure of how much you are estimating the dam solution would cost (land purchase, resource consent, construction)? I understand it would be a rough estimate but would be a lot closer to what I can come up with/ have at present.</p>	References rainwater tanks
N Dixon Email	<p>Two things,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have just notified the WCC about a water leak on the corner of Wellington Rd and Moxham Ave. Hopefully it will get fixed fast. 2. I think the WCC should heavily subsidise water tanks on domestic property and encourage people to use that rain water for gardens, washing cars/houses and possibly even toilets. If not a subsidy to have on installed, a reduced water rates bill to recognise someone has had one installed. 	References rainwater tanks and potential for Council subsidies for people who fit tanks to private dwellings.
F Morgan Email	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I saw you call for ideas in the Dominion Post this morning and have one to add that's previously been used in India to successfully minimise power consumption.</p> <p>The idea:</p> <p>Send consumers a simple statement/postcard each month with a two bar</p>	References information for water users about their individual consumption.

	<p>graphs on it. Alternatively if they have been using more water than their neighbour, the statement displays a sad face and a message like 'Try and save more water!' with some possible suggestions for saving water.</p> <p>(Note: I've got the bar graphs the wrong way in the above image but hopefully you get the idea. Smiley face and positive message if you are using less than your neighbours, sad face and tips to save more water if you are using more than your neighbours.)</p>	
M Baaijens Email	<p>I am building a new eco home in Wellington. I am surprised to learn that there are no incentives, not even encouraging words for new developments to collect water onsite. Decentralising water supply surely will save money by reducing infrastructure requirements and will make disaster management easier and avoid the whole issue of leaky pipes. Money spent on infrastructure could also be spent on decentralisation, product R&D for Wellington domestic and commercial water tanks, grants for new home owners to encourage local water collection. I am keen to put a water tank in, even just for garden use and emergency storage, but to be honest it is the last priority as I am forced to use the WCC supply anyway, so it is an ideological luxury at the moment.</p>	References rainwater harvesting
R Fayle Email	<p>How about the amount of water lost in reticulation? I believe one litre of water is lost for every five gained from the storage facilities through leakages in old rusty pipes that should have been replaced before now.</p>	References leak detection and management.
A Rouppe van der Voort Email	<p>This email is in response to the request for information in the Dominion Post May 11th 2010.</p> <p>I have made this suggestion directly to Wellington City Council at least twice and been brushed off both times. Better luck this time maybe.</p> <p>In my travels around Wellington offices, I have noticed that many men's toilets in the business district still use timer-based flush triggers as opposed to either manual or motion sensed triggers. This means that throughout all non-working hours and weekends, the urinals are merrily flushing away when they do not have to. This is not just old buildings such as those up Cuba St, but also includes fairly modern offices.</p> <p>I have done a simple <u>spreadsheet</u> that estimates wastage. You can adjust the numbers if I have made some wrong assumptions. Basically I have calculated that if each urinal cistern uses 5 litres per flush, flushes 4 times an hour for 14 hours a day when it doesn't need to, for 365 days a year, then each cistern effectively wastes 102,000 litres of water a year. This does not take into account that many offices are empty at weekends and that wastage over that time is 24 hours a day, not 14.</p> <p>I have made a guess that there might be 10,000 such cisterns in the catchment area (Wellington, Lower and Upper Hutt, Porirua etc), remembering that many mens bathrooms will have more than one cistern, and that they will all be using the same trigger method. If there were that many cisterns, then there is a region-wide wastage of over one billion litres a year.</p> <p>That seems like a big number to me, and if the objective is to defer large scale storage capacity construction then it seems to me that this is a prime target. An compliance programme would be fairly cheap and quick to carry out to audit all offices, bars, restaurants etc.</p> <p>Lets also not forget the staggering 20% wastage that has been estimated as loss in the pipes, and the fact that I have personally observed many council watering programmes such as the Botanic Gardens and several roundabout sprinklers going in the middle of the day when everyone else is required under threat of prosecution to irrigate only morning or evening.</p>	References low flush urinal devices and leak detection.