

Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services: Summary

The Council completed its Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services in October 2005. It comprises an assessment of water supply (drinking water), wastewater and stormwater drainage, cemeteries and public conveniences. Its primary focus is on public health risks. It captures much of what is contained in relevant asset management plans, but the assessment is not limited to Council services or reticulated areas. It covers services in both urban and rural areas and systems that are not owned by the Council.

The assessment highlighted a lack of information available on several systems. It was recommended that additional information be collected for the next assessment which was proposed to be completed for the Long Term Council Community Plan, however it has been decided to wait for Council's water, stormwater and wastewater strategies to be completed (due October 2009).

These strategies will assist in more clearly identifying the level of public risk the services pose and includes:

- non-reticulated potable water source, treatment and quality
- the number and type of non-reticulated wastewater treatment facilities and their efficiency.

Below are the key findings and recommendations for each service, with the progress for each service.

WATER		
Key Findings	Recommendations	Progress
Based on recent population growth rates, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would be unable to supply sufficient potable water during 50-year drought conditions from 2007.	Contribute to Greater Wellington Water Management Plan to consider water demand issues and water conservation.	GWRC has prepared a draft Regional Water Strategy which is out for comment now. Council will consider water management options when the strategy is finalised.
Council is unable to determine whether water collected for domestic purposes from roofs, bores or streams meets current Ministry of Health guidelines as there is no long-term monitoring data collected.	Compile database of non-reticulated supplies. Consider code of practice for private rainwater systems. Undertake education regarding safe drinking water. Consider applying Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment national environment standard for human drinking water sources.	No action.

WASTEWATER		
Key Findings	Recommendations	Progress
Parts of the wastewater system lack sufficient capacity during wet weather.	Continue with projects to reduce sewage overflows and improve performance of wastewater network.	On going.
Information about septic tank performance indicates some do not work effectively and lead to contamination of receiving waters.	Investigate gathering information on septic tanks and on-site disposal systems. Consider mechanisms to ensure their effective operation.	Initial discussions were conducted with GWRC, but no further progress has been made.

STORMWATER		
Key Findings	Recommendations	Progress
More buildings, gardens and roads are being flooded than Council's agreed level of service.	Complete catchment management plans and subsequent upgrade works. Integrate Sustainable Urban Design and Low Impact Urban Drainage Design principles into development practices.	Catchment planning work is on going. The work on Low Impact Design is being progressed through Council projects were applicable.
Lack of information regarding what level of stormwater quality and treatment is acceptable to the public.	With GWRC, determine appropriate water quality standards. Monitor effects of stormwater contaminants in streams, harbour and south coast. Consult on stormwater quality and impacts.	Through the regional Stormwater Action Plan, and other investigations, GWRC are reviewing freshwater and coastal monitoring programmes to ensure that sampling/monitoring strategies can effectively identify and characterise the effects of stormwater discharges. This information will provide a basis for future planning.

CEMETERIES, PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND WASTE DISPOSAL		
Key Findings	Recommendations	Progress
Cemeteries: Makara Cemetery is nearly one-third full.	Planning for new burial areas required in terms of planting, road access and services.	Long term management plan with a 20 year outlook has been prepared and adopted.
Public Conveniences: Some availability issues including winter closures.	Address ways to improve services to users.	Investigations have been made and alternative conveniences in issue areas have been identified.
Waste Disposal: Refer Solid Waste Management Plan.	Refer Solid Waste Management Plan.	Refer Solid Waste Management Plan.