



SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENTS OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES

This was in the 2006 LTCCP and the document has not been updated since then. The Local Government Act 2002 requires this to be updated from time to time (Part 7, Section 125-129). An update to this document is required and will be undertaken in due course.

The Buller District Council is required in terms of S125 of the Local Government Act 2002 to assess water and sanitary services within its district. An assessment must contain the following information:

- (a) A description of the means by which -
 - (i) Drinking water is obtained by residents of, and communities within, the district including the extent to which -
 - (A) Water supply is provided within the district by the territorial authority and any other person: and
 - (B) The water is potable; and
 - (ii) Sewage is disposed of within the district, including the extent to which reticulated sewerage and sewage treatment services are provided within the district by the territorial authority and any other persons; and
 - (iii) Stormwater is disposed of within the district, including the extent to which drainage works are provided within the district by the territorial authority and any other person; and
- (b) An assessment of any risks to the community relating to the absence in any area of either a water supply or a reticulated wastewater service or both; and
- (c) An assessment of -
 - (i) The quality and adequacy of supply of drinking water available within the district for each community; and
 - (ii) The quality and quantity of wastewater discharged from reticulated sewerage or a sewage treatment system; and
- (d) A statement of current and estimated future demands for water services within its district and a statement of any issues relating to;
 - (i) The quality and adequacy of supply of drinking water for each community; and
 - (ii) The health and environmental impacts of discharges of stormwater and sewage (whether treated or untreated) arising from the current and future demands for water services within its district and a statement of any issues relating to -
- (e) A statement of the options available to meet the current and future demands identified under paragraph (d) and assessment of the suitability of each option for the district and for each community within it; and



- (f) A statement of the territorial authority's intended role in meeting the current and future demands identified under paragraph (d); and
- (g) The territorial authority's proposals for meeting the current and future demands identified under paragraph (d), including proposals for any new or replacement infrastructure.

The water and sanitary services assessment is an assessment of the facilities relating to:

- Water Supply
- Sewerage
- Stormwater
- Public Toilets
- Cemeteries

The purpose of the assessment is to provide Council with an indication of the services provided for in the district. The legislation is specific about the process and the scope that must be undertaken. It will provide Council and the community with the information to plan for and to prioritise improved levels of service. This will be undertaken by revision of this assessment and also over time by inclusion of upgrade programmes identified in this assessment being included in the Council's Long Term Community Plan.

The assessment shows that of the water supplies that are within the Buller District only the Westport supply complies with the Drinking Water Standards. With the review of these standards the Westport supply will also require upgrading. Some of the community water supplies are too small to be able to afford an upgrade to meet the requirements of the standards even after allowing for a subsidy to help in the construction. This is because of the need to fund depreciation on the improved supplies and the ongoing maintenance costs. Consultation with the community will be required to determine the level of expenditure that is affordable.

The bulk of the district is served by septic tanks that for the rural areas are not giving any concerns on their performance. Some of the townships are however starting to experience problems with soakage for effluent disposal. In these areas their needs to be consultation with the community to determine how extensive the problems are and to consider options of treated sewage systems.

The district is reasonably well served with stormwater disposal systems and although there is isolated flooding of roadways houses are only threatened with inundation following extreme events.

The Council intends undertaking an investigation with the Department of Conservation and Transit New Zealand to determine the need for further public toilets at tourist areas and important rest areas for the travelling public.

There is sufficient capacity in cemeteries within the district for the next fifty years with the exception of Karamea. The Karamea Cemetery Trustees are in discussions with an adjoining landowner to purchase more land that would then provide adequate facilities for this area as well.

A summary of the findings of the draft report are as follows:





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WATER SUPPLIES

Karamea

There are a number of private supplies serving this area that range from bore water, rain water collection and the Karamea River. None of these supplies meet the current New Zealand Drinking Water standards and have risks associated with them. All the bore water that was tested demonstrated compliance with microbiological standards, and those supplies that are supplying water to visitors generally do have some form of disinfection.

Little Wanganui

The extension of the water supply to the township area has been previously discussed with the community and did not find favour because of the costs. This option can be further discussed as part of the wider need to provide a safe drinking water. There are options available to provide treatment to the subdivision water supply and also to those who rely on rainwater. The subdivision supply has supply limitations during summer months that have resulted in water restrictions being enforced.

Seddonville

It would be impractical and too costly to the community to introduce a full water treatment plant and water reticulation to individual dwellings within Seddonville. The Seddonville township water bores can be made safer by securing and ensuring a secure wellhead so that contamination cannot occur from overland flow. A further degree of protection could be obtained by adapting a UV disinfection system for drinking water in the same way that this can be used for treating tank water.

Mokihinui

The township needs an upgraded water supply. A number of options need to be explored from simply providing a point of supply treatment to rain water tank supplies to a community supply that meets the drinking water standards.

Ngakawau/Hector

The Hector-Ngakawau community needs a quality water supply and upgrade to meet the drinking water standards. The community is growing and there will be additional pressure should commercial activities establish to tap into the tourist trade.

Granity

Residents on the five supplies do not wish to upgrade their supplies due to the high cost of filtration and disinfection for each water supply. They state that they have consumed the water for many years and built an immunity system. This can be backed up by the fact that there are no known infectious disease notifications in these areas that has been derived from their water supplies. The cost of providing one community-based water supply for all of Granity needs to be further investigated with the community. It is likely that such a scheme would be too expensive for the population to fund. The area is a narrow strip of ribbon development. The alternative to a community scheme is to keep the status-quo with residents given the option to either boil all water for potable purposes or install their own filter UV light (Point of Use POU or Point of Entry POE device).

All commercial premises, ie backpackers/hotels, cafes, supplying potable water to tourists must have a form of water treatment. This is the most likely entry of contamination to the public.

Granity School

The water supply is likely to be acceptable if the UV light is used to disinfect the water. The supply needs to have a back up of parts to ensure that the treatment of the water is undertaken at all times.



Waimangaroa

Water quality complying with the NZ drinking water standard could be achieved with the introduction of a disinfection system, filtration, turbidity reduction and pH correction.

Birchfield

The township already has a resident operated reticulated water supply. Providing a water supply that complies with the NZ drinking water standards will need to be consulted with the community.

Westport

The current level of water supply to the Westport area is good in terms of reticulation, quantity and quality of water. The supply is also a fire fighting supply. However the Council proposes upgrades to the treatment plant to address issues of aluminium residual and to also comply with the drinking water standards 2005.

Punakaiki Township

The current level of service is satisfactory in terms of quality of supply. The supply will require additional storage or a alternative supply to meet future demands and to serve the Dolomite Point area should this be required.

Reefton

The water supply is an untreated supply however the results of regular monitoring show microbiological compliance. The supply will not meet the drinking water standards 2005 unless there is a form of disinfection, pH adjustment and a covered secure reservoir for treated water.

Mawheraiti

The township already has resident operated reticulated water supply. Providing a water supply that complies with the NZ drinking water standards needs to be consulted with the community.

Inangahua Junction

The Community supply needs further investigation and testing. The bore head needs to be made secure and the water disinfected and if necessary have pH correction. The school water treatment system is well maintained and in good condition, and is considered to be safe.

Bayhouse Café Private Supply

The storage tanks of the Bay House Café are fully enclosed and with the treatment provided the water at this facility is considered to be safe.

Charleston Motor Camp Private Supply

There is potential for this rainwater collection to become contaminated and point of supply treatment as discussed at the end of this section should be considered.

HOLCIM Cement Company Private Supply

The water is monitored, tested and treated 24 hours a day supervised by a trained water technician, this supply is considered appropriate for this site.





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Punakaiki Tourist Centre Private Supply

A single water treatment process should be put in place before the water supply is reticulated to the various locations. Although depending on analysis of this water a point of supply treatment following filtering may be all that is required to make this water acceptable. If a community scheme was chosen then it would be appropriate for the system to be monitored and maintained by the Department of Conservation while the cost should be passed on to the other users.

Punakaiki Rocks Hotel Private Supply

The water treatment system is well maintained and in good condition, and is therefore considered to be low risk.

Maruia Area School Private Supply

The water treatment system is well maintained and in good condition, therefore the supply is considered to be low risk.

SEWERAGE

Westport

Resource consents have been obtained for a new sewage treatment plant for Westport and Carters Beach. The location of a fully mechanised plant will be in the old gravel pit near the Buller Bridge. Detailed design is underway with the treatment plant commissioning in December 2006. The treated effluent after passing through a rock filter will outfall into the Buller River through diffusers built into the piers. Consultation is currently being conducted with residents of the Orowaiti area to have this area reticulated to the Westport treatment plant.

Reefton

Resource consents have been obtained for a new sewage treatment plant for Reefton. The location of a pond system is in the Willowbank Road area behind the Reefton racecourse. The treated effluent after passing through a rock filter will outfall via Cemetery Creek into the Inangahua River. The construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2006.

Oparara Subdivision Private Plant

After advanced secondary treatment by the packed bed reactor, the treated effluent is irrigated into an 8000-m²-disposal field in a reserve set aside as part of the subdivision. The system will require monitoring to meet its resource consent, and the West Coast Regional Council will be responsible for this role.

Little Wanganui Subdivision

The developers of the Little Wanganui Subdivision installed the system in the 1970's using asbestos cement pipes. Subsequent checks using video equipment have shown that parts of the system have been constructed poorly and sections of mains will need to be re-graded. The oxidation ponds were designed for a larger population than is currently being served and therefore have surplus capacity. Monitoring of the quality of the outfall shows that the ponds are meeting the conditions of the Resource Consent.

Rest of District Septic Tank Systems

The current individual wastewater treatment systems involving septic tank and soak holes is adequate for the disposal of effluent in most areas. As individual systems are upgraded their new design, incorporating an in-line filter system, will improve the operation of these systems. The construction of a community wastewater treatment



system should be periodically reviewed particularly in those areas where ground soakage has been of concern. Areas such as Ngakawau/Hector, Granity and Waimangaroa should investigate such options.

HOLCIM Cement Company Private Scheme

The wastewater system of the Holcim site was upgraded in 2004 and is of a high standard. The treatment plant is monitored and any risk of discharge is considered to be low. The current wastewater treatment system at the Holcim site is adequate for the disposal of effluent from its works site and its residential properties.

Punakaiki Tourist Centre

The wastewater system at the Punakaiki Tourist Centre site was upgraded in 2004 and is of a high standard. The treatment plant is monitored and any risk of discharge is considered to be low.

Punakaiki Rocks Hotel

The current wastewater treatment system at the Punakaiki Rocks Hotel is appropriate for this facility.

