

# Government Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water

UNDER The INQUIRIES ACT 2013

IN THE MATTER OF GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO HAVELOCK NORTH DRINKING WATER

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INFORMATION BRIEF ON BEHALF OF WATER NEW ZEALAND

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## Introduction

1. This brief is designed to provide some contextual information about the operation of the water industry to parties of the Government Inquiry into the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry. It details some of the activities of Water New Zealand as the representative body for the industry, the extent of engagement by Councils in New Zealand with Water New Zealand and the extent of involvement of staff at Hastings District Council with various groups which the Association operates.

## The Water Industry

2. The responsibility for the provision of water supply in urban environments in New Zealand lies with Territorial Local Authorities – district and city councils, or with a Council Controlled Organisation. (Section 124 of the Local Government act)
3. The reticulation of public water supplies is different to other utilities provision in several respects. Firstly, its provision is disaggregated in the sense that it is supplied by 67 different Councils. Unlike electricity, telephones and roads which form joined up national networks – often supplied by a limited number of organisations, water supply is supplied separately by each individual council.
4. Additionally, every individual community within each Council District boundary is often supplied from a separate water source or sources. That is, virtually all towns in New Zealand have their own dedicated water supply, typically unconnected to the supply in each adjacent town. However there are some small communities where their water supply is interconnected.
5. Virtually all Councils or Council Controlled Organisations employ someone who fulfils the function of overseeing the supply of drinking water in their district – colloquially referred as the Water Services Manager. If a Council does not employ someone directly then they have an external service provider who does so for them. This provision may be by way of service contracts with a private sector provider such as, for example: Veolia, Downers or Citycare.
6. Every Council either employs directly, or retains the services of an external service provider to provide advice as to the design, operation and maintenance of water treatment plants and pipeline networks for each individual water supply which the Council operates.
7. All decisions on what type of water treatment plant and pipeline reticulation network to install is made separately by each individual council. While there are a range of accepted technology for water treatment adopted by the industry there is nothing to prevent a Council installing innovative technology.
8. All funding decisions as to capital expenditure and maintenance of networks are made separately by each individual Council – usually based on Activity Management Planning.
9. All decisions about whether to treat public water supplies lies with the elected Councillors in each Council, with advice from the Water Service Manager.
10. It is probably correct to claim that most if not all water supplies drawn from surface water sources are treated in some manner. It is probably also correct to claim that many water supplies which use secure bore water are untreated. This provides no barrier to the risk of contamination post abstraction.

## The Association

11. Water New Zealand is the principal trade association which represents the interests of the water industry. Water in this context includes drinking water, waste water and stormwater. It is important to realise that participation in the activities of the Association is voluntary. We have no statutory powers.
12. Our membership includes most District and City Councils in New Zealand, and most regional Councils. Those Council members and non-members are detailed in **Appendix 1**. Our membership also includes most of the professional consultancy companies providing advisory services to Councils, and most of the suppliers of goods and services to the sector. As at the time of writing the Association had 1600 financial members, both corporate and individual.
13. As such we consider we have a mandate to speak on behalf of the water reticulation industry.
14. The Association is funded exclusively from the financial contribution of its members and the services it provides, and does not receive any central Government funding.
15. The Association provides services to the industry in three main ways: industry collaboration, advocacy on behalf of the sector, and the provision of technical guidance.

## Industry Collaboration

16. There are a variety of ways in which Association members can participate in industry activities.
17. The Association runs two main conferences, one focussed on drinking water and waste water which usually has 1000+ registrants and 175 trade exhibitors, and a smaller conference focussed on stormwater which usually has 330 registrants and 25 trade exhibitors. **Appendix 2** shows participation by District and Regional Councils over the past 5 years and the extent of participation of Hastings District Council staff.
18. We have a number of regular meetings of industry participants, the most significant of which is a twice annual meeting of the Water Service Managers Group – representatives of each Council where water related issues are discussed. **Appendix 3** shows participation by Councils over the past 5 years. Brett Chapman and Dylan Stuijt from Hastings District Council have been members of WSMG since 2001 and 2006 respectively.
19. The Association co-ordinates a number of *special interest groups*. Participation in these is by self-selection. **Appendix 4** provides a list of these groups, the number of industry participants in each group, and the number of groups which Hastings District Council staff participates in.

## Advocacy

20. The Association acts as a spokesperson for the water industry. We produce the Water Journal 5 times a year – a professional publication which contains news and technical updates on the sector. We produce a fortnightly newsletter (Pipeline) for members and interested parties.
21. We provide the following services on behalf of our members: timely media commentary; submissions to government on discussion documents, regulatory and legislative changes;

appear before Parliamentary Select Committees, and represent the industry at a wide variety of industry and government related fora.

## Technical Guidance

22. The Association employs two full time technical staff and co-ordinates the provision of technical guides to the sector. The Association has produced a number of guidance documents for use by Councils. These include:
- New Zealand Pipe Inspection Manual 2006 – Currently under review
  - Water loss guidelines and the associated software tool (2010)
  - Onsite wastewater system maintenance guideline for home owners
  - Draft National Modelling Guideline - Wastewater Modelling (2009)
  - Draft National Modelling Guideline - Water Distribution Network Modelling (2009)
  - New Zealand Constructed Wetland Planting Guidelines (2006)
  - Oxidation Pond Guidelines (2005) Currently under review
  - Application of Bio solids to Land in New Zealand (2003) Currently under review
  - National Guideline for Occupational Health and Safety in the New Zealand Water Industry (2001) Currently under review
  - New Zealand Infrastructure Asset Grading Guidelines (1999)
  - Infiltration and Inflow Control Manual (2015)
  - Visual Assessment Manual for Utility Asset (2008)
  - New Zealand Asbestos Cement Water main manual (2001) Currently under review
  - Manual for Wastewater Odour Management
23. Of particular relevance to the supply of public drinking water are several documents currently under review. The first of these is a review of our asbestos cement water mains database, manual and life prediction model. The database contains test data on asbestos cement pipes around New Zealand and is used as the basis of lifetime prediction and analysis curves. The accompanying manual provides specifications for sampling, testing and condition grading. Information in the manual and database is being updated and expanded to include contemporary information and improve usability.
24. We have just completed a review of four good practice guides for the supply of water treatment chemicals. In 2016 revisions were incorporated into good practice guidelines for the supply of Chlorine, Aluminium Sulphate, Hydrated Lime, and Polyelectrolyte. Ministry of Health is undertaking further work to determine chlorate levels in Drinking Water Supplies. This work will be completed and incorporated into a chlorine guidance document in 2018. The chlorine guideline has been provided as provisional advice until this amendment. The guidelines provide purchasers, manufacturers, and suppliers with the minimum physical, chemical and testing requirements for drinking water chemicals to meet safe limits.
25. We are currently producing a guide to the development of chlorine emergency management plans. This project will provide good practice guidance on the development of Chlorine Emergency Response Plans for water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and swimming pools.
26. The Association also produces an annual National Performance Review. This is an exercise to benchmark the performance of Councils in the delivery of services. Attached as **Appendix 5**

is a list of participation by Councils since the survey began in 2008. 2016 is the first year in which Hastings District Council has participated.

27. All of these guidance documents and best practice guides are produced for the water industry with active participation and input from Association staff, Council staff and consulting engineering firms.
28. While this documentation is provided free of charge to Councils, there is no legal obligation for councils to use or adhere to any of this guidance material. The Association has no ability to require Councils to either contribute financially in the development of this material or require its use in day to day operations.

### **Hastings District Council Participation in Water NZ Activities**

29. This brief report has demonstrated a pattern of ongoing engagement by Mr Chapman and Mr Stuijt from Hastings District Council in the wider activities of the water industry as co-ordinated by Water New Zealand over the past 15 years.



John Pfahlert  
Chief Executive

2 November 2016

## APPENDIX ONE – Water New Zealand District and Regional Council Members

(Non-members in yellow)

	Individual	Corporate		Individual	Corporate
Ashburton DC		✓	Otorohanga DC		✓
Auckland Council		✓	Palmerston North CC		✓
Bay of Plenty RC		✓	Porirua CC *		✓
Buller DC		✓	Queenstown Lakes DC	✓	
Carterton DC		✓	Rangitikei DC		
Central Hawkes Bay DC		✓	Rotorua DC		✓
Central Otago DC		✓	Ruapehu DC		✓
Chatham Islands Council			Selwyn DC		✓
Christchurch CC		✓	South Taranaki DC		✓
Clutha DC		✓	South Waikato DC		✓
Dunedin CC		✓	South Wairarapa DC		✓
Far North DC		✓	Southland DC		✓
Gisborne DC		✓	Stratford DC		✓
Gore DC		✓	Taranaki RC		✓
Greater Wellington RC *		✓	Taraua DC		✓
Grey DC			Tasman DC		✓
Hamilton CC		✓	Taupo DC		✓
Hastings DC		✓	Tauranga CC		✓
Hauraki DC		✓	Thames Coromandel DC		✓
Hawkes Bay RC		✓	Timaru DC		✓
Horizons RC		✓	Upper Hutt CC *		
Horowhenua DC		✓	Waikato DC	✓	
Hurunui DC		✓	Waikato RC	✓	
Hutt CC *	✓		Waimakariri DC		✓
Invercargill CC		✓	Waimate DC		✓
Kaikoura DC			Waipa DC		✓
Kaipara DC			Wairoa DC		✓
Kapiti Coast DC		✓	Waitaki DC		✓
Kawerau DC		✓	Waitomo DC		✓
Mackenzie DC		✓	Wanganui DC		✓
Manawatu DC		✓	Watercare		✓
Marlborough DC		✓	Wellington City Council		
Masterton DC		✓	*	✓	
Matamata Piako DC		✓	West Coast RC		
Napier CC		✓	Western BOP DC		✓
Nelson CC		✓	Westland DC		✓
New Plymouth DC		✓	Whakatane DC		✓
Northland RC			Whangarei DC		✓
Opotiki DC		✓			
Otago RC		✓			

**APPENDIX TWO: Council Attendance by Staff Numbers at Water NZ Annual Conference**

<b>Council</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Ashburton District Council					1
Auckland Council	6	2		3	7
Bay of Plenty Regional Council		1	1		1
Carterton District Council		1			
Central Otago District Council	1	1		1	1
Christchurch City Council	8	11	5	2	13
Clutha District Council		3	3		2
Dunedin City Council	12	10	2	4	8
Far North District Council		1		1	
Gisbourne District Council	5	5	3	2	1
Gore District Council		2	2	2	1
Greater Wellington Regional Council	6	5	5		
Hamilton City Council	10	30	3	33	13
Hastings District Council	5	5	2	6	
Hauraki District Council	8	7	6	5	3
Hawkes Bay Regional Council	1				
Horowhenua District Council		2	2	3	3
Hurunui District Council			2	3	
Hutt City Council		1			
Invercargil City Council	1	1	3	1	1
Kaipara District Council		1	1	1	1
Kaikoura District Council	1				
Kapiti Coast District Council	6	6	4	8	7
Mackenzie District Council					1
Manawatu District Council	7	7	8	7	8
Marlborough District Council	5	3		3	2
Masterton District Council				1	
Matamata Paiko District Council	2	2	1	4	3
Napier City Council	6	5	4	6	1
Nelson City Council				1	1
New Plymouth District Council	7	6	5	3	3
Otorohanga District Council	2	1	1	1	2
Palmerston North District Council	1	3	2	6	2
Porirua City Council	7	5		1	1
Queenstown Lakes District Council	2	3	2	3	3
Rangitikei District Council	4				
Rototua Lakes Council	17	5	3		5
Ruapehu District Council	1				1
Selwyn District Council	6	2	2	4	
Southland District Council	2	3	4	3	3
South Taranaki District Council	3			4	4
South Waikato District Council	2	2	3	4	3
South Wairarapa District Council	1				1
Stratford District Council	2		2	1	

Tararua District Council	2	3	1	1	
Tasman District Council	1	3	2	2	1
Taranaki Regional Council					1
Taupo District Council	5		5	4	5
Tauranga City Council	17	9	4	15	21
Tauranga District Council	1				
Timaru District Council	1	3	4	3	2
Thames-Coromandel District Council		2	2	2	3
Waikato District Council	13	17	1	18	12
Waikato Regional Council	2	3	2	2	1
Waimakariri District Council	4	6	4	9	8
Waimate District Council					1
Waipa District Council	8	12	8	10	11
Waipara District Council					1
Wairoa District Council	1	1	1		
Waitaki District Council		3			
Wanganui District Council	1	2	4	1	
Wellington City Council	4	2	1	2	
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	10	11	9	10	10
Whakatane District Council	2	3	2		
Whangarei District Council	3	2	2	4	8
Total	222	224	133	210	192

**APPENDIX THREE – Water Services Manager Group Engagement 2010-2015**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ashburton DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Auckland Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Bay of Plenty RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Buller DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carterton DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Central Hawkes Bay DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Central Otago DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chatham Islands Council	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Christchurch CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Clutha DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Dunedin CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Far North DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gisborne DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Gore DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Greater Wellington RC *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Grey DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Hamilton CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hastings DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hauraki DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hawkes Bay RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Horizons RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Horowhenua DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hurunui DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Hutt CC *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Invercargill CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Kaikoura DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Kaipara DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Kapiti Coast DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Kawerau DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Mackenzie DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Manawatu DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Marlborough DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Masterton DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Matamata Piako DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Napier CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Nelson CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
New Plymouth DC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Northland RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Opotiki DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Otago RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Otorohanga DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Palmerston North CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Porirua CC *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Queenstown Lakes DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓
Rangitikei DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Rotorua DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ruapehu DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Selwyn DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Taranaki DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Waikato DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
South Wairarapa DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southland DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stratford DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Taranaki RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Tarua DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Tasman DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Taupo DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tauranga CC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thames Coromandel DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Timaru DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upper Hutt CC *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Veolia (service contracts with a number of councils)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waikato DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓
Waikato RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Waimakariri DC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓
Waimate DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waipa DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wairoa DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Waitaki DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waitomo DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Wanganui DC	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watercare - Auckland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wellington City Council *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Coast RC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Western BOP DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westland DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whakatane DC	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Whangarei DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### APPENDIX FOUR – Water NZ Membership Participation by Special Interest Group

<b>Special Interest Group</b>	<b># of members</b>
Young Water Professionals	256
Backflow	153
Water Efficiency	39
Digital Water	69
Modelling	254
Rivers Group	144
Small Water Systems	263
Stormwater	403
Small Wastewater Systems	291
Trade Waste	202

Mr Stuijt and Mr Chapman from Hastings District Council are represented on 7 of these interest groups.

## APPENDIX FIVE – National Performance Review Participants

Participants in 2008-09	Participants in 2009-10	Participants in 2010-11	Participants in 2011-12	Participants in 2012-13	Participants in 2013-14	Participant in 2014-15	Participant in 2015-16
Christchurch City Council	Christchurch City Council	Dunedin City Council	Dunedin City Council	Ashburton District Council	Auckland Council	Ashburton District Council	Ashburton District Council
Dunedin City Council	Dunedin City Council	Hamilton City Council	Hamilton City Council	Auckland Council	Central Otago District Council	Auckland Council	Auckland Council
Hamilton City Council	Hamilton City Council	Invercargill City Council	Invercargill City Council	Christchurch City Council	Gisborne District Council	Central Otago District Council	Buller District Council
Invercargill City Council	Invercargill City Council	New Plymouth District Council	Marlborough District Council	Dunedin City Council	Christchurch City Council	Christchurch City Council	Central Otago District Council
New Plymouth District Council	New Plymouth District Council	Palmerston North City Council	New Plymouth District Council	Gore District Council	Dunedin City Council	Dunedin City Council	Christchurch City Council
Palmerston North City Council	Palmerston North City Council	Rotorua District Council	Rotorua District Council	Hamilton City Council	Hamilton City Council	Gore District Council	Dunedin City Council
Tauranga City Council	Thames - Coromandel District Council	Tauranga City Council	South Taranaki District Council	Invercargill City Council	Hauraki District Council	Hamilton City Council	Far North District Council
Wellington Central	Timaru District Council	Timaru District Council	Taupo District Council	Kaipara District Council	Invercargill City Council	Hauraki District Council	Gore District Council
Wellington Hutt	Waikato District Council	Waipa District Council	Tauranga City Council	Kapiti Coast District Council	Kaipara District Council	Horowhenua District Council	Grey District Council
Whangarei District Council	Waipa District Council	Wellington Central	Timaru District Council	New Plymouth District Council	Mackenzie District Council	Invercargill City Council	Hamilton City Council
	Wellington Central	Wellington Hutt	Waikato District Council	Palmerston North City Council	New Plymouth District Council	Kaipara District Council	Hastings District Council
	Wellington Hutt	Whangarei District Council	Waipa District Council	Waitaki District Council	Queenstown Lakes District Council	Kapiti Coast District Council	Hauraki District Council
	Whangarei District Council		Wellington Central	Carterton District Council	Rotorua District Council	Mackenzie District Council	Horowhenua District Council
			Clutha District Council	Queenstown Lakes District Council	Ruapehu District Council	Marlborough District Council	Invercargill City Council
			Wellington Hutt	Rotorua District Council	South Taranaki District Council	New Plymouth District Council	Kaikoura District Council
			Whangarei District Council	South Taranaki District Council	Taupo District Council	Palmerston North City Council	Kaipara District Council
				Tasman District Council	Tauranga City Council	Rotorua District Council	Kapiti Coast District Council
				Taupo District Council	Timaru District Council	Ruapehu District Council	Mackenzie District Council
				Tauranga City Council	Waikato District Council	Selwyn District Council	Marlborough District Council
				Timaru District Council	Waipa District Council	South Taranaki District Council	Nelson City Council
				Waipa District Council	Wairoa District Council	South Waikato District Council	New Plymouth District Council
				Wairoa District Council	Watercare Services Ltd	Tasman District Council	Palmerston North City Council
				Wellington Central	Wellington Central	Taupo District Council	Queenstown Lakes District Council
				Wellington Hutt	Clutha District Council	Tauranga City Council	Rotorua District Council
				Wellington Region	Wellington Hutt	Thames - Coromandel District Council	Ruapehu District Council
				Wellington Upper Hutt	Wellington Porirua	Timaru District Council	Selwyn District Council
				Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Wellington Region	Waikato District Council	South Taranaki District Council
				Whakatane District Council	Wellington Upper Hutt	Waimakariri District Council	South Waikato District Council
				Whangarei District Council	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Waipa District Council	South Wairarapa District Council

Participants in 2008-09	Participants in 2009-10	Participants in 2010-11	Participants in 2011-12	Participants in 2012-13	Participants in 2013-14	Participant in 2014-15	Participant in 2015-16
					Whangarei District Council	Wairoa District Council	Southland District Council
					Westland District Council	Watercare Services Ltd	Stratford District Council
						Wellington Central	Tasman District Council
						Clutha District Council	Taupo District Council
						Wellington Hutt	Tauranga City Council
						Wellington Porirua	Thames - Coromandel District Council
						Wellington Region	Timaru District Council
						Wellington Upper Hutt	Waikato District Council
						Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Waimakariri District Council
						Whakatane District Council	Waimate District Council
						Whangarei District Council	Waipa District Council
						Westland District Council	Wairoa District Council
							Watercare Services Ltd
							Wellington Central
							Wellington Hutt
							Wellington Porirua
							Wellington Region
							Wellington Upper Hutt
							Western Bay of Plenty District Council
							Whakatane District Council
							Whangarei District Council