

REGULATORY SERVICES

RURAL WATER SUPPLY POLICY

Date of adoption:	February 2009
Resolution number:	09/RDC/072
Date Last Reviewed:	December 2017
Resolution Number:	17/RDC/332
Date by which review must be completed:	As required
Relevant Legislation:	Nil
Statutory or Operational Policy:	Operational
Included in the LTP:	No

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Refer to Delegated Authority of Rural Water Supply Sub-Committees.

1 Purpose

1.1 The Rural Water Supply Policy explains how the Rangitikei District Council operates and manages the Erewhon, Hunterville and Omatane Rural Water Schemes and any subsequent rural water schemes constructed and managed by the Council. It outlines how the schemes function and should be read in conjunction with the delegated authority of the Erewhon, Hunterville and Omatane Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committees.

1.2 The schemes water supplies are non-potable.

2 Agreement for Supply

2.1 The consumer shall enter into an agreement with such conditions as Council may require in relation to the supply of water.

2.2 No property shall connect to or be served by the rural water supply, until application has been made and approved and an agreement entered into.

3 Application for Supply

3.1 No new connections will be made until the appropriate connection fee has been paid in full. This application fee shall be at least equal to that fee paid by original consumers of the relevant scheme together with compounded interest thereon.

- 3.2 New consumers shall pay a capital contribution for connection to and participation in the scheme.
- 3.3 Applications for an increase in supply will be approved where it is practicable to do so and the appropriate fee has been paid provided that the total quantity supplied does not exceed the property's share of the scheme's capacity.
- 3.4 Decreases in supply will generally only be allowed at the end of each financial year of Council.
- 3.5 The supply to each property shall be as far as practically possible continuous through orifice valves which will provide a constant flow throughout the year into the customer's primary tank(s).
- 3.6 A register shall be kept detailing the points of supply to a consumer, the size of the orifice valve or valves for each supply and the properties and area supplied there form.

4 Non-potable Supply

- 4.1 Rural Water Supplies are non-potable. Water provided is not intended for human consumption. If a property owner wishes the water to be used for human consumption, they must install appropriate treatment within the property at their own cost.

5 Supply Not Guaranteed

- 5.1 The uninterrupted supply of water is not guaranteed and no allowance or compensation will be made on the account of water not being supplied, whether by accident or for the purpose of scheme construction, extension, or maintenance.
- 5.2 Each property owner shall provide on their property storage of water. The amount of storage required, and responsibility for the cost, shall be set by the relevant Committee.

6 Waste of Water

- 6.1 A person who is supplied with reticulated water by, or on behalf of, a Rural Water Supply must not waste the water or allow it to be wasted.
- 6.2 Wastage of water is to be reported to a member of the relevant Rural Water Supply Committee or to Council staff as soon as possible.
- 6.3 If a consumer wilfully or negligently wastes water, the supply to that consumer may be cut-off and stopped at the appropriate point until satisfactory repairs have been made.

7 Property to which Water is Supplied

7.1 Subdivisions

Where any participant's property is subdivided and sold into separate ownership and control, it shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property being subdivided to negotiate with the purchaser(s) of the new lot or lots, an agreement concerning the participation of those lots in the Scheme and such agreement will be subject to Council approval. New scheme mains and/or tank installation, if any, shall be at the expense of the property owner or purchaser.

7.2 Whole of a Property to be a Part of the Scheme

The whole of any participant's property shall be included in the Scheme and all capital contribution quantity of water supplied and operating costs shall be determined having regard to the total area and stock carrying capacity of the whole property unless determined otherwise by Council.

7.3 Sale of Participant Property

Where a participant property is sold to the owner of an adjoining non-participant property and the two properties are to be operated as one, the maximum water entitlement shall be limited to the maximum water entitlement of the participant's portion and no water shall be piped or transported across the boundary between the participating and non-participating portions of the total area without Council approval.

7.4 When for any reason a supply of water to a property is no longer required, the owner or occupier shall remain responsible for payment for water supplied unless relief is specifically approved by Council.

8 Water Charges

8.1 Water charges shall be set and may prescribe a scale of charges, which may differ from those in any rural water supply, or differ from subdivisions (if any) within the same rural water supply.

The charges shall:

- a. Fix an annual charge per unit. The value of this charge shall be referred to as the 'unit charge' and shall apply to all supply sites.
- b. Fix a charge per cubic meter for water metered and sold in bulk. Unless specifically fixed, the value of this rate shall be taken as one hundredth of the unit-charge and shall apply to all water supplied other than to supply sites.
- c. Fix other charges for water supplied, or connections made whether to a consumer or not, under such conditions and at such rate as from time to time determined.

- d. Fix a charge for the provision of an additional supply site for an existing customer. Unless determined otherwise, the value of this new supply site charge shall be taken as equal to the unit-charge. In addition, to such charges the consumer concerned shall also bear the full cost of all materials, plant, and labour used to establish the new supply-site, including the cost of providing any necessary pipeline additions or modifications.
- e. Fix a charge for increasing the constant-flow-valve size.
- f. Fix a charge for decreasing the size of the constant-flow-valve.
- g. Fix a charge for the connection of a new consumer.

In addition to these charges the new consumer shall also bear the full or part cost of all materials and labour and engineering and overheads used to establish the new supply-site(s) including the cost of all rural water supply additions or modifications necessary as may be determined by Council.

Where any consumer becomes liable to a charge for a supply of water, after the start of the water year, the consumer shall pay for the first year a proportion of the annual charges equivalent to the number of complete months during which water has been supplied.

- 8.2 Water supplied to a non-rateable property in the District shall be by orifice-valve size and charged at such rates as may from time to time be fixed by Council or as may be agreed on with any person receiving that supply. Minimum charges for such extraordinary supply may likewise be specified.

9 Damage

- 9.1 Council will not be responsible for any damage that may in any way arise from the bursting or overflow of any rural water supply, or private water reticulation.
- 9.2 If a property owner causes accidental damage to a rural water supply pipe by any action the owner may be held liable for the cost of the repair.
- 9.3 Each property owner is liable for the maintenance of adequate insulation and protection for the constant flow valve and pipeline connection between the valve and the primary tank(s) against damage due to weather, stock, etc.
- 9.4 Property owners and occupiers must allow reasonable access for operation and maintenance of the Rural Water Supply to persons engaged for such.