

Date: Tuesday 22 February 2022
Time: 1.03pm
Meeting Room: Proceeded via Microsoft Teams.
Venue: Either a recording or written summary will be uploaded on the Auckland Council website.

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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DRAFT V0.1

Feedback from the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board to support Auckland Council's submission on the proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water

22 February 2022

The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board provides the following feedback to inform a council-wide submission on the proposed amendments to the *Kia kaha ake te tiakina o ngā puna wai-inu / Improving the protection of drinking-water sources: Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 consultation document* (NES-DW).

The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board is supportive of ensuring the protection of, and access to, clean healthy human drinking water.

Introduction

The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board note that there is no public water supply network in its area.

Residents predominantly rely on rainwater collections with some properties having access to stream sources or aquifer / artesian bore supply.

No formal on-island water supplies exist. The community face periods of peak demand over summer periods when the population swells and less rain falls. The local board have provided a grant to a not-for-profit organisation to support collective purchasing and distribution of water tanks to support household resilience. An Auckland Council managed emergency supply is also being established via bore access to provide the island with resilience enabling water containers of up to 20 litres being filled for essential use.

Contextual planning references

The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board is a strong advocate for clean drinking water and the need for it to be freely available to support island resilience.

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2020

The board has **Ko te tino hia hia ki a manawaroa to tatou motu / Our island is resilient** as its sole outcome. It identifies a desired future where 'our food and water supply are safe and secure'.

The plan identifies the associated initiatives:

- Is establishing an emergency potable water supply
- Acknowledge that the Waitangi Tribunal has stated that the Treaty of Waitangi provides for Māori proprietary interest in water bodies, as well as the exercise of tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga over water, and work alongside mana whenua to ensure safe and clean drinking water for everyone
- Establish a water security plan that starts with an understanding of our aquifers
- Support AoteaOra to establish a drinking water refill programme

- Mitigate the effects of climate change by restoring freshwater ecosystems to provide ecological services such as flood mitigation, habitat for native biodiversity, sedimentation reduction, and carbon sequestration through riparian planting
- Deliver a local freshwater stream quality programme to identify and mitigate pollution sources.

Specific Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board feedback to this drinking water consultation

Currently all drinking water is self-managed on the island. The feedback provided by the local board acknowledges the importance and rights around access to clean drinking water. The mainstay of this feedback relates to water sources being drawn on for public supply as this may occur in the future, however industry best practice is also a guide for local private scale activity.

Caring for our water catchments and the environment we live in is a central value to our residents

1. The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board acknowledges Te Mana o te Wai as the cornerstone of freshwater management. That by protecting the health and wellbeing of our freshwater, the health and wellbeing of our people and connected environment is also protected.
2. The local board generally supports the intent of the proposed amendments with its focus on protecting source water as a means of ensuring healthy drinking water is available for all. This is inline with Te Mana of te Wai where water is to be cared for firstly within its natural environment and then it will be available to support the health of people.
 - a. Agrees that stronger protections are required to ensure that contaminants do not enter all water sources.
 - b. Supports an integrated ecological approach to the management of drinking water resources. Education about the receiving environment and how land-based activities impact that environment is critical.
3. The local board supports establishing a default methodology for delineating source water risk management areas (SWRMAs) to identify areas where activities have a higher likelihood of affecting source water and to more impactfully plan how water sources may be protected not just in the immediate vicinity of the source water extraction point but also “upstream” at points of contribution to the source water
 - a. Identifying water source catchments will assist in identifying many “out of sight” contaminants or risk factors any contribute to greater certainty on the healthiness of the water at the draw source.
 - b. The ability to plan for and manage across catchment levels may be complex with contributing factors particularly where direct management of actions across the catchment may not be possible due to multiple ownerships and uses.
 - c. The SWRMA 2 and 3 areas are significant and place greater obligations onto local authorities to actively plan in an integrated way and also require additional monitoring to manage risks. This will increase costs to councils and its financing will need to be considered through the current planning reforms.
4. Consideration needs to be given to the mapping of private versus public water sources. A private bore well can be a source of bacteria access into an aquifer if it is not managed or sealed appropriately.
5. In terms of the groundwater bore management, due to the risk posed by unused bores, regional councils or unitary authorities should be required under the new provisions to complete a survey of unused bores and to ensure that disused bores be properly decommissioned or, if faulty and required, upgraded to current standards.

6. The local board supports the management of stream and aquifer resources to ensure long term sustainability and water quality. Education is needed to change current attitudes to water to better reflect its value as a precious finite resource.
7. The local board supports measures to monitor water-carriers under the new water authority *Taumata Arowai* including establishing robust testing and reporting regimes for water carriers to ensure that no contaminated drinking water is delivered.

END