

EXTRACT – OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES GROUP

9.5 OHU: WAI WATER SOLUTIONS

9.5.2 Water Supplies

- Further to the pump failure at Deep Creek (Reporoa) reported before Christmas, investigations indicate we have had a power spike through this plant which has caused damage to a lot of electrical components including a Variable Speed Drive unit for a main pump and the auto switch over gear for the generator. Replacement items have been ordered and we are waiting on delivery/installation. The two other main pumps have coped adequately with the summer demand.
- Standby generators for both the spring source and treatment plant at Hamurana have been installed and are permanently connected to start instantly in a mains power cut. This provides confidence that service and compliance with standards will continue during long and short power outages without the need for sending staff out to manually hook over a generator.
- Water usage was very high due to the long hot weather spells that were experienced prior to Waitangi weekend, but did not reach levels that exceeded our ability to manage the supplies. Considering the wet weather over that weekend and the days following, we would not expect demand to reach those high levels again this summer.
- The water renewals programme has recommenced at Malfroy Road from Westbrook Place towards Old Taupo Road, and has started in Hilda Street.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

In December 2021, the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Amendment Act 2021 came into force. This new legislation amends the Health Act 1956 to give the Director-General of Health the power to issue a direction to local authority drinking water suppliers to fluoridate a public water supply. The changes do not apply to private water supplies.

The Director General of Health has written to local authorities advising that he expects to consider issuing directions to fluoridate from mid-2022 onwards, and encouraging all local authorities with un-fluoridated community water supplies that service over 500 people to start fluoridation-related preparatory work now. All of Rotorua Lakes Councils public water supplies fall into this category.

He has also advised that the Ministry of Health has a limited amount of capital works funding available for local authorities who are willing and able to begin the capital works to fluoridate by the end of 2022, and has requested estimates of the likely capital cost to install fluoridation equipment at all applicable supplies, and the timeframes within which this could be done.

Staff have assembled the requested information which will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health. The total estimated cost for all supplies is \$3.1m, and depending on the level of urgency, work could be substantially completed in 12 months at the earliest.

Note that the estimates of cost and time are very preliminary, with costs subject to a margin of error of 30% and construction time subject to delivery of equipment and materials.