

Kaihu Water Treatment Plant and Truck Filler

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 7 April 2021
Reporting officer: Donnick Mugutso, Waters and Waste Manager

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

This purpose of this report is to brief Council on the possibility of constructing a packaged treatment plant and truck filler in the Kaihu Valley for the benefit of the community.

Context | Horopaki

After the 2020 Northland drought, “a lessons learnt” session of the four Northland Councils identified that there was need to have more truck fillers in the community after communities purchased expensive tank water. It also took a long time to have water delivered to households during these periods.

Funds are likely to be available through the 3 Waters Reform for Marae and through the Northland Regional Council (NRC) who propose a \$500k budget in the 2021-2031 LTP.

The Kaihu Valley has long been a source of water for Dargaville and Bailys however there has been concern that this does not benefit the community directly. There is an opportunity to extract water at Ahikiwi where there is an unconsented intake. However, without Iwi and Marae support this is unlikely to progress.

The opportunity now is to partner with Iwi to develop a solution which can be consented and delivered through external funds. The benefit will be to the local community within the catchment as well as to the urban areas on reticulated supply.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

A Business Case outlining the proposal is attached (**Attachment A**). We estimate the operational costs of running the plant at \$65,000 per annum and recovered through on-charging for treated water. Approval of the Business Case is the first step in a process which we will develop alongside Te Roroa.

1. Council Briefing
2. Business Case and Project Execution Plan approved
3. Marae engagement
4. Development of proposal
5. Go / No Go – Council and Iwi
6. Funding and Consent application (including AEE & CIA)
7. Construction
8. Handover

Initial hui have been held with Te Roroa CEO and this has helped shape the process. If Council are supportive of the approach, then a hui at the Waikaraka Marae will be held to gauge support and seek feedback.

We envisage a plant with a capacity of 250m³/day (to future proof for scheme growth and extra consent capacity), like the Mangawhai Water Treatment Plant, which was constructed in 2017 for approximately \$360,000 (excluding piping), would suffice.



Fig 1. – Aerial map showing the Waikaraka Marae with the red roofs

An application for a water take consent will be for 100l/s with an equal share of 50l/s each between the Kaihu water Treatment and the Dargaville Water Supply augmentation to manage the drought. Please note that the 50l/s provides 180m³/day and if future water takes are approved then the remaining excess treatment capacity will be utilised.

If a water take of 50l/s for Kaihu is approved by NRC then, utilising a treatment capacity of 180m³/day provides potential gross revenue of approximately \$100,000 for 183 days.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Continue discussions with community and Iwi and the community for buy-in and land availability.
Discuss with NRC on capital funding and water consent applications

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Kaihu Water Treatment and Truck Filler Business Case