



Report 11.35
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Committee Council
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Report on the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2 February 2011

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee that took place at Te Marua Water Treatment Plant on 2 February 2011.

2. Public participation

Five persons spoke in public participation; they each raised matters relating to the report on household rainwater capture in metropolitan Wellington.

Mr Frank Cook queried some references in the report, and was concerned that the scope of the cost and savings analysis was too narrow and a review that only looked at domestic rainwater tanks was not appropriate.

Mr Stan Abbott had a concern that the report had a strong bias to bulk water supply at the expense of harvesting rainwater domestically. Mr Abbott felt that rainwater yields were underestimated in the report. He suggested that the report should be the subject of some independent scrutiny by international peers.

Mr Pat van Berkel felt that the report was incomplete because it did not give anyone an opportunity to look at the underlying models produced by consultants, Harrison Grierson, and the information that they contain. In addition, the work undertaken did not analyse the use of 1,000 or 2,000 litre water tanks, which are cheaper to install and provide a supply back-up in the short term. He also considered that the issue of community resilience needs to be considered.

Mr Jason Markham raised a concern that the report did not separate flow from volume. Also, he believed some thought was needed in weighing up other options effected by flood risk, energy used, conservation, food production, etc.

Ms Robyn Moore spoke to the report and queried some of the costings that had been applied and suggested that some investigation be made with and without any toilet flushing included. Further, she mentioned that GNS and Massey

University are jointly investigating the benefits of rainwater tanks in an emergency.

3. Household rainwater capture in metropolitan Wellington

Murray Kennedy introduced this paper and advised Councillors that the purpose of the report was to get an indication, in a 1 in 50 year drought event, of whether rainwater tank storage would reduce the need for developing the wholesale water storage.

Tony Shaw presented his report and outlined the results of rainwater tank modelling carried out by Harrison Grierson using daily rainfall information and an estimate of household water consumption for toilet flushing and outdoor use. The consultant's report included a simple cost benefit analysis on installing rainwater tanks and identified the top-up that would be required from the wholesale water supply. The cost of a rainwater tank installation in 25% of houses was found to greatly exceed the estimated costs to construct another storage lake (Lake 3) or the Whakatikei dam. In addition, the top-up required from the wholesale water supply in a dry summer meant that infrastructure development would still be necessary.

Councillors in general discussion requested that Harrison and Grierson's report be made publicly available. In addition, Councillors requested that further investigation be carried out into issues raised at the meeting, and in particular into the use of rainwater tanks for emergency storage. The issues to be investigated include one person households, the use of smaller rainwater tanks (1,000 and 2,000 litre capacity), with and without toilet flushing.

4. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are in **Attachment 1**.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Cr Nigel Wilson
Chair, Social and Cultural
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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes