

Network Utilities





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Key Issues

Council provides network utilities (such as water, stormwater and wastewater services) to houses and businesses within the District as well as other essential services. These services provide for the social and economic wellbeing and health and safety of people and communities. Works and network utilities may have adverse effects, however the community accepts many of these effects because the services are required for the effective functioning of our communities. Adverse social, cultural, economic and environmental effects would result if works and infrastructure services were not provided.



Are the objectives and policies in the Plan providing for the development of works and network utilities in such a way as to achieve the anticipated environmental results?

Indicators

Pressures:

- Quantity of stormwater discharged from Council services per annum;
- Quantity of sewage treated by Council services;
- Quantity of water consumed per annum; and
- Number of new utilities granted resource consent per annum (e.g. wind turbines, large-scale satellite dishes, telecommunications aerials).



State:

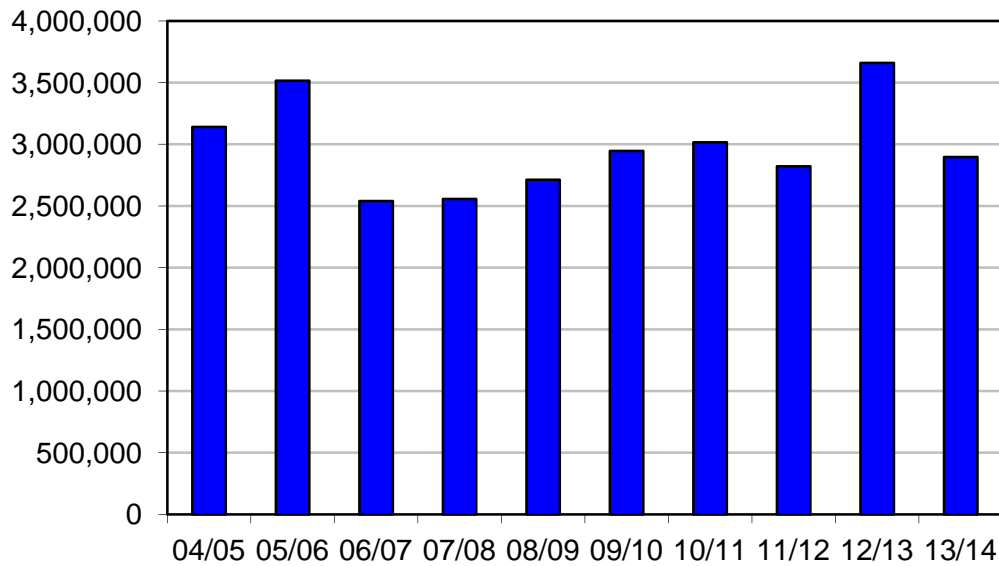
- Level of compliance with resource consent conditions achieved by Council infrastructure e.g. stormwater;
- Area of reserves under Council management;
- Quality of drinking water (Ministry of Health Standards);
- Length, number and state of Council infrastructure;
- Incidence of water shortage restrictions;
- % increase in water consumption;
- % increase in the quantity of stormwater discharged;
- and
- % increase in the amount of sewerage treated.

Response:

- Amount of overhead cable undergrounded by power companies per annum;
- Co-siting of facilities;
- Amount of Council spending on maintenance and upgrades of urban services;
- % of the community that receive education material regarding water conservation; and
- Number and value of development contributions collected per annum (e.g. reserve, water, stormwater, roading etc).

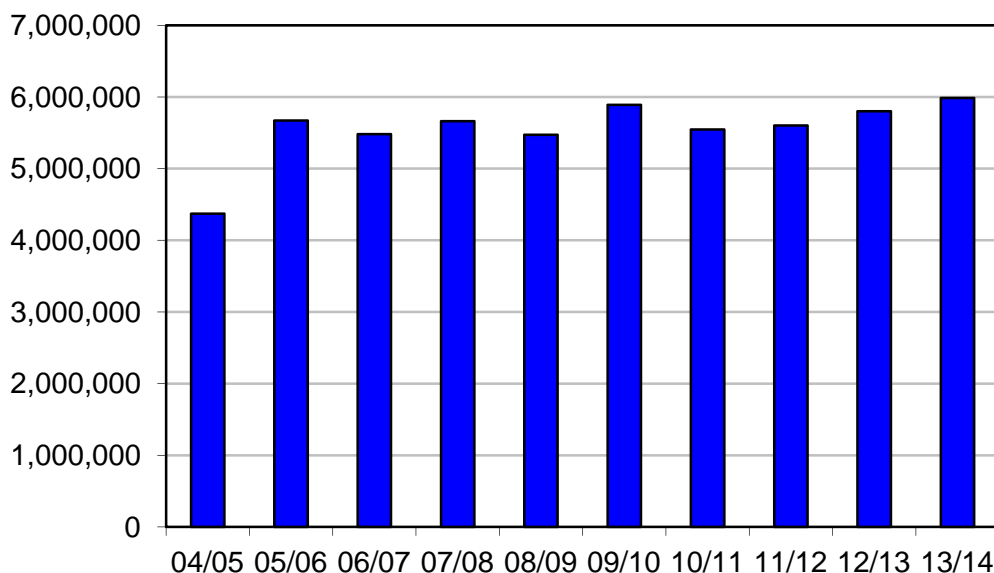
Results:

Quantity of sewage treated by Council services (m³)



The quantity of sewage being treated in the District has remained relatively stable, notwithstanding growth in population and businesses. This has been due to improvements on the metering of discharges and efforts by large industry to reduce the volume they discharge to Council treatment plants. Council has also instigated a program to measure and reduce stormwater infiltration into our sewerage systems.

Quantity of water consumed (m³)



The total quantity of water being consumed in the District has increased steadily over the years. Consumption for the 2013/14 financial year was 6 million m³ [1 cubic meter (m³) = 1,000 litres].

Compliance rates with resource consent conditions

Year	Level of Compliance
2004/2005	60% compliance due mostly to lack of monitoring and reporting of consent compliance in a timely manner. Morrinsville WWTP also failed to comply with discharge targets several times due to coliform levels.
2005/2006	A compliance rate of less than 90% was achieved for waste water, with non conformances at the Morrinsville and Te Aroha WWTPs. 100% level of compliance was achieved for stormwater discharges.
2006/2007	Council complied 100% with water & stormwater resource consent conditions. 85.5% compliance was achieved with wastewater discharge consent conditions.
2007/2008	Council complied 100% with water and stormwater resource consent conditions. 90.8% compliance was achieved with wastewater discharge consent conditions.
2008/2009	Council complied 100% with water resource consent conditions, 95% with stormwater resource consent conditions and 96% with wastewater discharge consent conditions.
2009/2010	Council complied 100% with water and storm water resource consent conditions and 94% for waste water.
2010/2011	High compliance with conditions.
2012/13	High compliance with conditions.
2013/14	High compliance with conditions.

Due to generally mild summers and frequent rain there had been no major water shortages in the District over recent years. Short term water restrictions have had to be imposed from time-to-time in various parts of the District, due to spells of extremely dry weather.

The table below sets out the amount of Council spending on upgrading & renewing urban services. During the last five financial years (2009/10 – 2013/14) the Council spent a total of \$37.6 million, or an average of approximately \$7.5million per year, on the upgrading and renewal of urban services.

Amount of Council spending on upgrading and renewing urban services

Year	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
(\$000s)	3,164	5,622	9,782	10,615	9,735	8,195	5,994	7,258	8,014	8,124

To help Council provide for increased demand and growth, development contributions are collected by Council on all new developments and subdivisions. The number and value of development contributions collected per year are shown in the Table below. During the last five financial years, the Council collected a total of \$1.1 million in development contributions (an average of \$228,000/year). This is substantially less than the value collected in previous years, prior to the global financial crisis.

Number and value of development and financial contributions collected per year

	04/05*	05/06*	06/07*	07/08*	08/09*	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number	59	261	379	263	135	229	238	114	84	73
Value in (\$000)	758	915	1,661	1,457	1,136	336	373	168	133	132

*Includes Network contributions and Parks and Reserves contributions

District Plan Provisions

Section 3.7.2 Works and Network Utilities

Objective:

- To enable the effective provision of works and utilities so as to minimise the adverse environmental effects while enabling people and communities to provide for their social economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

Policies:

- To encourage the co-siting of facilities where practical to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects particularly the impact of multiple masts and lines on the landscape;
- To protect existing and proposed works and infrastructure from incompatible use or subdivision of adjacent lands;
- To ensure that works and network utilities are considered having particular regard to the avoidance, remediation or mitigation of anticipated adverse environmental effects and comprehensive analysis of the existing and future services/facilities;
- To provide an acceptable degree of protection to settlements and productive rural land from the adverse effects of flooding; and
- To take a precautionary approach in the siting of facilities relative to dwellings where there is significant doubt or debate over the impact of its effects.

Anticipated environmental results

- Efficient use of land for utilities; and
- The management of buffer areas around certain utilities.

Objective:

- To ensure that effective, efficient and environmentally appropriate water supply, sewage reticulation and treatment and stormwater services continue to be provided and maintained.

Anticipated environmental results

- Efficient provision of infrastructure by Council; and
- Protection of land and assets from floods and poor drainage.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

Are the District Plan's objectives and policies the most effective and efficient way to achieve the following anticipated environmental results?

- *Efficient use of land for utilities;*
- *The management of buffer areas around certain utilities;*
- *Efficient provision of infrastructure by Council; and*
- *Protection of land and assets from floods and poor drainage.*

Works and network utilities such as the supply of water, stormwater and wastewater management are essential to maintain the environmental quality, and quality of life within the District. Council aims to provide effective and environmentally efficient water, stormwater and sewage reticulation and treatment to meet the needs of our communities. Council provides network utilities to houses and businesses within the District. Works and network utilities provide services essential to our social and economic wellbeing, and to our health and safety. Other utilities in our District include electricity, telecommunications and gas.

While there are positive effects of providing infrastructure, works and network utilities may potentially have some negative effects on the community and our environment. These are addressed either through resource consent conditions that aim to remedy, mitigate and avoid any adverse effects of activities, or by setting environmental parameters through the designation process. There could also be negative social, economic and environmental effects if these works and infrastructure services were not provided.

The objective *'to ensure that effective, efficient and environmentally appropriate water supply, sewage reticulation and treatment and stormwater services continue to be provided and maintained'* can be assessed using a number of different measures. Incidences of water shortages can be a sign that our infrastructure is not effectively providing enough water for our communities. Water shortages can also be caused by other factors or by a combination of factors such as extreme dry weather or overuse of water. Short term water restrictions had to be imposed from time-to-time, within parts of the District due to spells of dry weather. Water shortages are not necessarily controlled by methods in the District Plan however it is one measure to show the effectiveness of network utilities.

The quantity of water consumed has increased over time. Where public water reticulation is available, our District Plan requires all new development within our towns to be connected.

When Matamata-Piako District Council gains resource consent from the Waikato Regional Council for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) the Regional Council imposes conditions, including to control amenity effects such as odour. The conditions of consent for the WWTP require Council to effectively achieve environmental standards which simultaneously allows MPDC to achieve the first part of the objective *'to enable the effective provision of works and utilities so as to minimise the adverse environmental effects while enabling people and communities to provide for their social economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety'*.

Complaints regarding the operation of the Council's utility networks, are rare. The lack of complaints in regards to wastewater treatment may be helped by the District Plan provision which requires new dwellings, dwelling-based activity, or subdivision within 300 metres of Council effluent treatment plants to gain consent. These activities are classed as 'restricted discretionary' activities in the Rural, Rural-residential and Residential zones and 'non-complying' in Industrial, Business and Kaitiaki zones. This requirement means appropriate consideration can be given to whether the activity is compatible with a WWTP and/or appropriate measures are undertaken to remedy, mitigate or avoid adverse effects.

The quantity of sewage being treated in Matamata-Piako has stayed relatively stable over the recent past, even though the District has shown moderate growth. This has been due to improvements on the metering of discharges and efforts by large industry to reduce the volume they discharge to Council treatment plants. Council has also instigated a program to measure and reduce stormwater infiltration into our sewerage systems.

Improvements to WWTPs have seen a steady increase in the level of discharge compliance throughout the District. Council commissioned a new \$4.5 million WWTP for Te Aroha in December 2006 and the effluent discharge from this plant is fully compliant with the current discharge consent from WRC. This suggests that we are effectively achieving the AER *'to ensure that effective, efficient and environmentally appropriate water supply, sewage reticulation and treatment and stormwater services continue to be provided and maintained'*.

Information on the volume of stormwater discharged from Council reticulation is not monitored. Council does however regularly monitor the quality of stormwater discharged as per conditions detailed in our discharge consents.

Council has spent a considerable amount of money on the maintenance and upgrading of urban services such as sewerage, water and stormwater. We can suggest that the continued spending is leading to improvements and making progress towards achieving the AER *'to ensure that effective, efficient and environmentally appropriate water supply, sewage reticulation and treatment and stormwater services continue to be provided and maintained'*.

It is acknowledged that Council does not have much information on works and network utilities because this is mainly governed by the Regional Plan through discharge or water take consents and the designation process.

It is suggested that the provisions that are within the District Plan that control development surrounding WWTPs are working reasonably effectively as no complaints regarding odour have been lodged. It would be ineffective to not have rules providing buffer areas of 300 metres surrounding effluent treatment plants as this would likely create reverse sensitivity effects and potentially limit the operational capacity of the WWTPs.

The new Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) while not yet operative is essentially beyond challenge. The RPS contains methods to require that new development throughout the Region must be integrated with infrastructure, and that regionally significant infrastructure networks are protected from the adverse effects of development.

The Council has recently completed Plan Changes 43 and 44 that have reviewed the utilities and transportation sections of the District Plan. Once these plan changes become operative, they will introduce new objectives, policies and rules into the District Plan to ensure the integration of development with infrastructure, and the protection of regionally significant infrastructure networks. These new provisions will ensure that the District Plan gives effect to the RPS when it becomes operative. Monitoring of the effect of the new provisions and the level of achievement of the new AERs will need to be included in future reporting on the effectiveness and efficiency of the District Plan.

Summary

Anticipated Environmental Results Network Utilities	Achieved? ☺ - Achieving → - Progress towards achievement ☹ - Not achieving ? - Not monitored
Efficient use of land for utilities	?
The management of buffer areas around certain utilities	☺
Efficient provision of infrastructure by Council	→
Protection of land and assets from floods and poor drainage	→