

16 December 2019

WATERS GOVERNANCE BOARD

Postal Address
Private Bag 544, Ngaruawahia 3742
New Zealand

0800 492 452
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Waikato District Council

DRAFT

Attention: Gavin Ion

Re: Ohinewai Servicing for Three Waters

We write with regards to the three water servicing approach for the Ohinewai area. Currently this area is not serviced by WDC.

The Waters Governance Board (WGB) are aware of the servicing needs for the Ohinewai area. The needs of this area are linked to the servicing of the Auckland to Hamilton corridor in the longer term and the District Growth and Economic Development Strategy. Within our new relationship with Watercare which started on 1 October 2019 we have the following work underway:

- The WGB have had visibility on several key risks including the application of the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) contribution and the delivery of a solution to solve the abatement notice at Te Kauwhata WWTP
- A risk workshop was held between senior WDC staff and Watercare staff on 23 October to get common understanding and deal with the most significant risk in the waters area – the HIF and abatement mentioned above are in the top 5 risks we were focusing on.
- Watercare is commencing the Mid Waikato Waters Servicing Strategy which is for the area between Meremere and Huntly. This is a critical piece of work and is due around May 2020.
- This strategy will best inform the commitments for the HIF fund for the wider catchment. Where differences do exist a revised business case for the final ‘best for corridor’ solution will be completed and this has been agreed with Treasury.

WDC indicated to the Ohinewai area that water and wastewater servicing would be needed on site in their early stages while the above studies are completed. The lead time on water and wastewater infrastructure is lengthy and in this case (dependent on the Mid Waikato Strategy) between 5 and 10 years.

The WGB will be kept informed via the risk and general reporting mechanisms in the contract with Watercare. We’re trying to facilitate growth with a better solution that conceivably, if well sited and considered, will trigger even greater growth and ensure the future proofing that is desired.

Yours sincerely,

Rukumoana Schaafhausen
Chairperson
Waters Governance Board