



*caring about you & your environment*

**Report 00.513**

4 July 2000

File: Y/12/2/5

Report to Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
from Stephen Thawley, Resource Advisor, Planning and Resources

## **Water Races Forum**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of a recent forum held with the District Councils on issues relating to the replacement of existing consents for the operation of water races in the Wairarapa.

### **2. Background**

There are six water races in the Wairarapa operated by the District Councils.

<b>Water Race</b>	<b>Watercourse</b>	<b>Take</b>	<b>District Council</b>
Opaki	Ruamahanga River	170 litres/sec	Masterton
Te Ore Ore	Ruamahanga River	170 litres/sec	Masterton
Taratahi	Waingawa River	482 litres/sec	Carterton
Carrington	Mangatarere Stream	113 litres/sec	Carterton
Moroa	Waiohine River	500 litres/sec	South Wairarapa
Longwood	Tauherenikau River	200 litres/sec	South Wairarapa

Nearly one-third of the total instantaneous water take from the Ruamahanga River catchment is for water races, hence they are a significant user of surface water resources in the Wairarapa. The existing consents expire in September/October 2001.

### **3. Forum – Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2000**

Due to the impending expiry of resource consents for the water races, a forum was initiated with the District Councils to discuss issues relating to the replacement of the existing consents. This forum was held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June with all District Councils participating. A number of issues were discussed including:

- The intentions of the District Councils in terms of the future operation, management, and maintenance of the water races.

- ❑ Information required to prepare adequate 'Assessment of Environmental Effects' (AEE) reports.
- ❑ What resource consents are required.
- ❑ Opportunities for the District Councils to work together on some issues.
- ❑ Consultation methods – what has and has not worked in the past.

#### **4. Outcomes**

The District Councils will be initiating the process for replacing the existing consents for the water races once some follow up advice is received from the Regional Council. This advice includes:

- ❑ Providing a broad framework of information required and timeframes.
- ❑ Investigating and reporting on national trends on how other water race consents are being managed in 2001.
- ❑ Providing an inventory of information available from water quantity and water quality monitoring.

#### **5. Communications**

No communications are necessary as there is direct follow up being undertaken with the District Councils.

#### **6. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and the information noted.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Stephen Thawley  
Resource Advisor

Steve Blakemore  
Manager, Planning and Resources