



Monday 27 February 2023

OIA IRO-354

Name: [REDACTED]

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

Official information request regarding Camborne Water Storage Tank.

Thank you for your official information request dated Friday 27 January 2023.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and determined that we are able to grant your request in full.

The information you have requested is in the Appendix below.

Please note for context that the only reservoir currently serving the Camborne area is the Pope Street reservoir. However, as it is proposed that the Plimmerton Farms development water supply also links to and supplies the Camborne area, the Pope Street reservoir capacity was reviewed against current and future development needs so that any shortfall can be addressed through the Plimmerton Farms development works.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Team Lead, Communications and Engagement

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Appendix

What advices has WW given to PCC in respect to the Camborne Water Storage Tank performance against targets, including additional connections and shortfall risks?

Answer...

With respect to the Plimmerton Farms development and supply from the Pope Street reservoir, Wellington Water has advised:

- That there is an existing shortfall of around 1.8ML based on a 2 x Average Daily Demand criteria target, and by around 1.4ML based on the peak demand criteria target.
- Supplying the Plimmerton Farms development prior to construction of a new reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms that has suitable volume for the new development plus the existing shortfall will further compromise the above.
- The new reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms development should be constructed as soon as possible, with the same top water level as the existing Pope Street reservoir and provide capacity for the existing and projected shortfall from the existing Pope Street reservoir.
- Although it is hydraulically possible to supply part of the Plimmerton Farms development from the Pope Street reservoir, given the existing shortfall we do not recommend serving further properties from Pope Street prior to construction of the new reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms development.
- It is possible that a temporary storage tank could be supplied from the Pope Street reservoir at a lower top water level to facilitate some additional development, pending completion of the reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms development.

Note: Wellington Water advised in our previous response to you that no recommendation had been made to PCC with respect to connection of further properties to the Pope Street reservoir, however this is an error, as per the advice stated above.

In relation to the Camborne Water Storage Tank, please advise the system upgrades planned and underway to address any target shortfalls.

Answer...

There are plans to install an additional 4 x 30m³ plastic tanks next to the reservoir but other than this there is no active work underway to address the target shortfall prior to construction of a new reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms development other than the consideration of temporary storage options as also mentioned in response to question D.

Currently, by how far does the Camborne Water Storage Tank useable water storage capacity fall short of Regional Standard target volumes?

Answer...

The Pope Street (Plimmerton No.1) reservoir is estimated to have a current shortfall against the target of around 1.8 million litres. It is intended that this shortfall is provided for in a new reservoir within the Plimmerton Farms development.

By how far is the Camborne Water Storage Tank useable water storage capacity predicted to fall short of Regional Standard target volumes after all permitted properties (new and extensions) currently under construction are connected (by 31 December 2023), and after further growth including the first tranche of Plimmerton Farm properties are connected (as at 31 December 2024)?

Answer...

We have not completed this assessment, but do not expect the shortfall to increase significantly prior to construction of the Plimmerton Farms reservoir.

When was the land on and around the Camborne Water Storage Tank last subject to seismic testing, and what were the results and recommendations?

Answer...

Wellington Water is not aware of any detailed seismic testing being carried out on the land around the reservoir. Detailed geotechnical assessment will be completed in due course when appropriate for strengthening or replacement of the reservoir.

Has WW requested recommended seismic strengthening of the reserve land where the Camborne Water Storage Tank is located?

Answer...

No.

Should the land fail, taking out the cell phone towers, who would be liable to indemnify the mobile phone companies (loss of profits) and homeowners (assuming the towers fall onto properties and vehicles)? WW or PCC?

Answer...

Insurance companies would need to assess this and determine whether PCC's insurance cover (or another agency) is appropriate.

If the water storage tank fails due to seismic and / or structural failure (un-actioned strengthening work), taking out the cell phone towers, who would be liable to indemnify the mobile phone companies (loss of profits) and homeowners (assuming the towers fall onto properties and vehicles, and a mini tidal wave from the storage tank swamps properties)? WW or PCC?

Answer...

In this extreme scenario, insurance companies would need to make an assessment and determine whether PCC's insurance cover (or another agency) is appropriate.

Does the [...] storage tank and its mains pipework into the tank, meet / exceed IL4?

Answer...

Detailed assessment of the reservoir has not been carried out; however preliminary high-level assessment indicates the existing reservoir does not meet modern importance level 4 performance requirements.

Answer...

If it doesn't meet IL4, please advise its status - a, b or c?

Answer...

The reservoir was constructed in 1956. On this basis our expectation is that the reservoir will be either strengthened to new build standard or be replaced in due course.

If it doesn't meet IL4, please advise the work to be completed, including timetable?

Answer...

Further detailed assessment is required to determine the preferred option for the existing reservoir (strengthening or replacement). Timing is to be confirmed subject to availability of funding, prioritisation against the wider reservoir strengthening and replacement/upgrade program and may be impacted by water reform.

When was the strengthening work completed?

Answer...

As above.