

17 October 2022

OIA IRO-307

Email: [REDACTED].co.nz

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Official information request on response to OIA IRO- 292/PCC-004, with additional questions on storage of drinking water for new property developments; Pascoe and Mana Esplanade.**

I write regarding your official information request dated Thursday 22 September 2022. Your request is detailed below:

1. What is the proposed footprint and capacity of the second water storage tank at Pope Street?
2. Will cell phone towers need to be removed / re-positioned to accommodate the new water storage tank?
3. The existing water storage tank was identified to require internal and external reinforcement following the report on the Christchurch earthquake. External reinforcement was initially identified as a high priority, but has not proceeded, and is not included the current 10-year asset plan. Will this work be completed before the 2nd water storage tank is constructed? If not, the new tank is at risk should the current tank fail in the manner which triggered the reinforcement need?
4. When was the site seismically confirmed as suitable to bear the weight of a second tank? Can residents please sight the report/s? Previous work indicated the site needed significant reinforcement for the current tank and cell phone towers, let alone a second tank.
5. Pipes feeding the tank routed up Pope Street are old, leaking in multiple places, and are operating over pressure to meet outflow demand. When will the existing pipes supplying the current water storage tank be replaced?
6. The current water storage tank falls well short of LGNZ water storage standards. Please confirm no connections to properties deemed to be in the area described as Plimmerton Farm (North of James Street), will be connected until the new water storage tank is constructed, and new feeder pipes to supply the tank are installed, and all are fully operational.

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7. Will water main capacity along Mana Esplanade (SH59) need to be increased to cope with current growth plus Plimmerton Farm?

8. What are the predicted future water storage requirements (annually) required to (1) meet the current storage shortfall, and to (2) cover existing area growth, and finally (3) including Plimmerton Farm (three different sets of projections)?

9. What steps will be taken to protect staff and contractors working on the second storage tank (and reinforcing the first)? The cluster of cell phone towers at the top of Pope Street have the combined highest output of any in NZ (treated as separate in NZ, but overseas considered as one due to the proximity to each other).

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.

**Our response to the above questions can be found in the Appendix of this letter.**

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Team Lead, Customer Hub  
Wellington Water Ltd

## **Appendix**

**Question One: What is the proposed footprint and capacity of the second water storage tank at Pope Street?**

**Answer...**

*The proposed reservoir will not be located at Pope Street but is proposed as part of the Plimmerton Farms development. The footprint will be confirmed as part of subsequent design work.*

**Question Two: Will cell phone towers need to be removed / re-positioned to accommodate the new water storage tank?**

**Answer...**

*The proposed reservoir will not be located at Pope Street but is proposed as part of the Plimmerton Farms development.*

**Question Three: The existing water storage tank was identified to require internal and external reinforcement following the report on the Christchurch earthquake. External reinforcement was initially identified as a high priority, but has not proceeded, and is not included the current 10-year asset plan. Will this work be completed before the 2nd water storage tank is constructed? If not, the new tank is at risk should the current tank fail in the manner which triggered the reinforcement need?**

**Answer...**

*As above, the proposed reservoir will not be located at Pope Street but is proposed as part of the Plimmerton Farms development. The strengthening or replacement of the reservoir currently sits outside the 10-year window following prioritisation, based on the funding available.*

**Question Four: When was the site seismically confirmed as suitable to bear the weight of a second tank? Can residents please sight the report/s? Previous work indicated the site needed significant reinforcement for the current tank and cell phone towers, let alone a second tank.**

**Answer...**

*Not applicable, as above.*

**Question Five: Pipes feeding the tank routed up Pope Street are old, leaking in multiple places, and are operating over pressure to meet outflow demand. When will the existing pipes supplying the current water storage tank be replaced?**

**Answer...**

*There are no current plans to renewal or upgrade the GWRC rising main to the Pope St reservoir or the network mains in Pope St.*

**Question Six: The current water storage tank falls well short of LGNZ water storage standards. Please confirm no connections to properties deemed to be in the area described as Plimmerton Farm (North of James Street), will be connected until the new water storage tank is constructed, and new feeder pipes to supply the tank are installed, and all are fully operational.**

**Answer...**

*There may be some additional connections to the existing Pope Street reservoir prior to completion of the new reservoir proposed within the Plimmerton Farms development.*

**Question Seven: Will water main capacity along Mana Esplanade (SH59) need to be increased to cope with current growth plus Plimmerton Farm?**

**Answer...**

*The capacity of the bulk water supply mains will be increased when required and as growth dictates. This may require construction of an additional pump station on the bulk water supply network.*

**Question Eight: What are the predicted future water storage requirements (annually) required to (1) meet the current storage shortfall, and to (2) cover existing area growth, and finally (3) including Plimmerton Farm (three different sets of projections)?**

**Answer...**

*Assessment of storage requirements against the Regional Standard for Water Services indicates there is around 1.6ML of shortfall against the target currently. With intensification in Mana this is expected to increase to around 2.6ML. This shortfall in storage volume against the target is intended to be provided in the reservoir serving Plimmerton Farms.*

*The total storage volume of reservoirs within the Plimmerton Farms development is subject to the subdivision layout and design.*

*Annual projections have not been calculated and are not available.*

***Question Nine: What steps will be taken to protect staff and contractors working on the second storage tank (and reinforcing the first)? The cluster of cell phone towers at the top of Pope Street have the combined highest output of any in NZ (treated as separate in NZ, but overseas considered as one due to the proximity to each other).***

***Answer...***

*Not applicable as above*