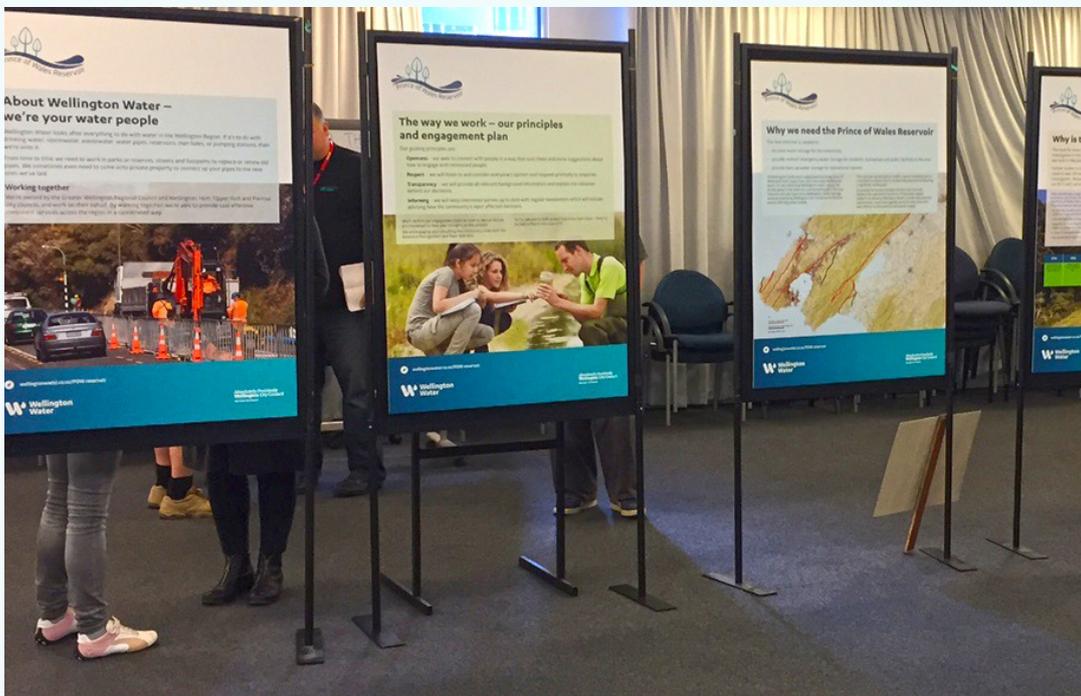


# Developing the Prince of Wales Reservoir

## First Open Days complete

Thanks to everyone who attended one of our first (two) project Open Days, which aimed to kick-start our community engagement on the consenting phase of the Prince of Wales Reservoir. In all, around 60 community members and interested people attended and told us the topics they'd like considered as part of the reservoir's resource consent application.



The planned Prince of Wales Reservoir will be a highly-resilient, 35 million-litre concrete reservoir that will service the areas of Wellington's central business district, Newtown, and Mount Cook. It could be built in the Prince of Wales Park, Mount Cook and once construction begins, it is expected to take two years to build. The reservoir will be buried and the surrounding area will be reinstated and landscaped.

## Topics raised

As well as meeting the team, the main activity at the Open Days was for people to tell us the issues they'd like us to cover as we prepare the draft resource consent application. Topics raised were along the lines of the following themes:

- environmental – protecting the Papawai Stream and local wildlife

- construction - minimising the effects, using the sports fields, and access to the park

- flooding issues

- what the final reservoir and landscaping would look like

- how Wellington Water will engage with the community during the project.

# The main themes that emerged were:

1

## Protecting the Papawai Stream

We received several comments about the need to protect the stream and its fishy inhabitants from construction activities. Comments included:

“Ecological values are most important to me. Particularly the Papawai Stream - endangered native fish - Koura freshwater crayfish.”

“Please protect Papawai Stream.”

“Papawai Stream needs to be preserved.”

Protecting the Papawai Stream will certainly feature as a key part of our resource consent application. We have engaged ecological specialists and are working with interested people to identify what we can do to mitigate any potential impact of construction on the stream.

As part of its wider work, Wellington Water is also working on ways to mitigate erosion issues in the stream, and flooding issues around Salisbury Terrace and the impact this has on nearby properties.

2

## Minimising construction impacts on residents

Like anyone living near a construction site, community members are keen to understand the impacts of constructing the reservoir and how those impacts will be minimised. Comments received included:

“As a Rolleston Heights resident, I am concerned about noise, dust & general disruption to the quiet enjoyment of our property. How will this be mitigated?”

“Flooding during construction, given how bad the current drainage is.”

“How many truck movements? Need more details.”

We are currently developing possible construction scenarios which will outline a method of how the reservoir could be built, including the number of likely truck trips along nearby roads and how the playing fields might be used, eg to store fill or for access to site for cranes and other construction vehicles. The indicative construction scenarios will be used by technical specialists to determine likely impacts of the work and appropriate mitigations. (It's important to note that the preliminary scenarios are draft only; the main construction contractor will finalise the actual construction method they'll use).

3

## Landscaping and protecting vegetation

The appearance of the area once the reservoir is completed and the need to protect existing native vegetation were also noted by several people. Comments included:

“We love the hill the reservoir will replace. Don't landscape it to look like an over designed eyesore. It's wild and that's why this bit of the park is special over all others.”

“First basic issue - at the end of project the reservoir must be totally underground and the original height and landscape values for the site retained.”

“Avoid native vegetation. Relocate new planting where possible.”

The reservoir will be built underground with grass relayed over its top. A landscape and visual assessment plan is one of the specialist reports currently being developed. Our landscape designers will attend our second Open Day to discuss their recommendations with the community.

## Next steps

Over the next two months, our team will review the proposal, talk with interested people, and then develop advice on ways to protect the environment and mitigate potential impacts of construction on nearby residents and park users. Specialist investigations include:

- Cultural Impact Report
- Landscape and Visual Assessments
- Traffic Assessment
- Earthworks Erosion, Sediment and Dust Control Management Plan
- Stormwater Effects Assessment
- Ecology Assessment
- Recreation and Social Impact Assessment
- Noise and Vibration Assessment

At the second Open Day in March, we'll present the recommendations from these investigations as part of our draft resource consent application, and our team will be on hand to discuss issues.

We'll let you know the date and time for the next Open Day via our website, newspaper and Facebook advertising, and by a neighbourhood letter drop. In the meantime, you can contact us on our email address or find out more on our website.

04 912 4400

POWReservoir@wellingtonwater.co.nz

facebook.com/wellingtonwater

wellingtonwater.co.nz/POW-reservoir