

Submission Details

Submission ID: 836
Name: David King

Please provide your comments below

When I first heard that Fonterra was providing water to Waitoa I was amazed. Then, when I heard they could no longer provide that service, I realised that things change over time. So, I support the proposal to connect Waitoa to Te Aroha water.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 837
Name: Selwyn Martin

Please provide your comments below

We are long time residents of Waitoa with our own bore and are supportive of having Council water supply .We feel that this is the best option for the future.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 838
Name: Trevor Green

Please provide your comments below

As all the current water supplies were paid for by the original districts within Matamata Piako, Why are we now being asked to subsidize 85% of the cost? I personally believe that the percentage is too high and should be closer to 60% or less. How dose levy this affect the proposal with the new Water Done Well for our district. Is the \$35.00 per year going to be passed onto their account or remain a Matamata Piako cost on future rate demands?

Submission Details

Submission ID: 839
Name: Journey Knight

Please provide your comments below

I DO NOT support the proposed water changes for Waitoa under the suggested Council supply.

- 1) Firstly, there is no defined approximate of the cost to households. Council are notorious for overcharging despite lower estimates proposed to rate payers
- 2) Secondly, the estimation that this change will increase our rates by 500-1K per year alone is ridiculous. Considering this does not include paying for the water, the payment from the mains to tap at our section and the estimated cost we will have to pay back to the Council on a payment plan. If I do not want to be attached I would still be paying 500-\$1k more on my rates when NOTHING has changed. In what other town have you made home owners HAVE to pay to get water upwards of 4k per year! Nobody who is currently struggling with money would be able to afford this. Considering the majority of home owners in Waitoa are older (as per latest demographics figures from stats).
- 3) are current panel members home owners or renters? You cannot expect fair advice from renters who would not have to front the bill for rates or the payment plan to Council. Thereby making the outcome recommendations of the panel bias.
- 4) You have not asked any individuals or done a survey on WHAT PEOPLE WANT. We are self contained with a large water tank and rain water supply. We can manage this on our own. The issue i have is the Council wanting to charge us an extra 500-1k per year for something we would not even use. This is not fair.
- 5) make the people who want it pay and don't supply to individuals who dont want it and do not increase there rates when they are NOT using it.
- 6) Who can afford to pay an estimated 3-4k extra per year in this economy? We get nothing from our rates- no facilities, no parks. We have our own septic tank, we only pay for our rubbish bins. If you are going to increase our rates then atleast give us something.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 841
Name: Journey Knight

Please provide your comments below

Estimating the cost for a self-sufficient water system in New Zealand involves three main parts: the tank itself, the filtration/pump hardware, and the installation labor. For a standard 25,000L to 30,000L setup, you should budget between \$7,500 and \$12,000 for a full professional installation. Here is a breakdown of the current market rates:

1. Tank Purchase Costs

Prices vary by material and brand, but for a 25,000L–30,000L capacity (the minimum for self-sufficiency):

Plastic (Polyethylene): \$3,000 – \$4,500. These are the most common in the Waikato because they are lightweight and easier to transport.

Concrete: \$4,000 – \$7,000. While durable and better for keeping water cool, the "hidden" cost is delivery and crane hire, which can add \$1,500+ depending on site access.

2. Filtration & Pump Hardware

To make the water safe and get it to your taps, you need a "whole house" kit:

Pump & Controller: \$800 – \$1,500 (e.g., Grundfos or Davey).

Filtration & UV System: \$1,500 – \$2,500. This usually includes a 3-stage system (20-micron filter, 1-micron filter, and the UV sterilizer unit).

Accessories: \$400 – \$800 (First flush diverters, leaf eaters for gutters, and tank level gauges).

3. Installation & Setup

This is the most variable cost and depends on your specific site:

Site Prep (The Pad): \$500 – \$1,500. Tanks must sit on a perfectly level base of compacted sand or a concrete slab.

Plumbing Labor: \$1,500 – \$3,000. This covers connecting your downpipes to the tank, installing the pump/filter, and plumbing it into your home's main line.

Electrical: \$300 – \$600 for a dedicated outdoor power point for the pump and UV system.

Total Estimated Budget (New Install).

Item Low End (DIY-assisted) High End (Professional)

25,000L Plastic Tank \$3,000 \$4,200

Pump & UV Filtration \$2,300 \$3,500

Site Prep & Base \$500 \$1,500

Plumbing & Electrical \$1,800 \$3,500

TOTAL ~\$7,600 ~\$12,700

Requirement Rule

Building Consent Not required for ground-mounted tanks under 35,000L.

UV Sterilization Required for new builds to meet "potability" standards; strongly recommended for health in all setups.

Plumbing Consent Required if you are connecting the tank to the internal plumbing of the house (taps, toilets, showers).

Site Prep Must be on a level, stable base that can support the weight (a 25,000L tank weighs 25 tonnes when full).

Getting a tank closer to the boundary than the standard 5m in the Matamata-Piako District (MPDC)

is possible, but it moves you from a "Permitted Activity" to one that requires specific council approvals.

In the MPDC District Plan, a water tank is often classified as an accessory building. Here are the two ways you can legally move it to within 1.5m of your boundary:

1. The "Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity" (The Easiest Way)

If your only rule violation is the boundary setback, you can avoid a full Resource Consent by getting a Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity notice.

The Condition: You must get written, signed approval from the neighbor whose boundary you are encroaching upon.

The Process: You provide the council with a site plan and the signed "Affected Person's Approval" form. If the neighbor agrees, the council must treat the activity as permitted.

Why this works: It's faster and significantly cheaper than a full consent process.

2. Written Consent for Accessory Buildings

Specifically for Rural and Rural-Residential zones in Matamata-Piako, the District Plan (Rule 3.2.1) states:

"Accessory buildings may be erected on any rear and/or side yard... so long as the written consent of any affected property owner(s) is obtained."

As long as you aren't building in a River Protection Yard or violating the Height-to-Boundary rule (see below), this written consent is your "golden ticket."

3. The "Height-to-Boundary" Rule (The Trap)

Even if your neighbor says yes, you must still comply with the Recession Plane (also known as the daylighting rule).

The Rule: No part of the tank can exceed a height of 3m plus the horizontal distance from the boundary.

The Math: If you place the tank 1.5m from the boundary, the top of the tank cannot be higher than 4.5m ($3\text{m} + 1.5\text{m}$).

The Reality: Most standard 25,000L–30,000L tanks are around 2.5m to 3m tall. As long as you aren't putting the tank on a high stand or a very built-up pad, you will easily clear this rule at a 1.5m setback.

Summary of Your "Special Circumstances" Strategy

Action Potential Cost

Step 1 Talk to your neighbor. Show them the plan and explain it won't block their view or cause runoff issues. \$0 (and maybe a box of beers)

Step 2 Have the neighbor sign the Affected Person's Approval form (available on the MPDC website). \$0

Step 3 Apply for a Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity. ~\$300 - \$600 (Council admin fee)

Step 4 Ensure your site plan shows the tank is ground-mounted (to stay under the 35,000L building consent exemption). \$0

Submission Details

Submission ID: 840

Name: Joel

Please provide your comments below

I'm not sure where you have gotten your information on the cost to go self sufficient that is double what it would cost. Enough with the bullshit and scare tactics

We don't want or need your water supply.

Self supply is more attractive to buyers not your supply with large costs attached you should be helping bring up the community making it more affordable.

Also the board should be made up from only home owners with in the affected area. With only 14 percent from waitoa this sounds like a mpdc scam and with 6 percent not paying rates and 16 percent renting they should not be included as they will be bias.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 842
Name: Les Wheat

Please provide your comments below

I don't agree with the proposal as we pay enough rates.
In this user pays world the residents should bear the cost .
As you say they have a choice to connect or not.
It's their choice to live there.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 844
Name: BENSON

Please provide your comments below
In favor of waitoa water proposal

Submission Details

Submission ID: 847
Name: Sam Hudson

Please provide your comments below

Our household don't agree that the targeted rate payers should pay more money to supply water to Waitoa, they have brought houses there at a lower cost. We didn't and now are being asked to pay more money so someone else can benefit that's not right!

Submission Details

Submission ID: 848
Name: Brooke Roebeck

Please provide your comments below

As a new resident of Waitoa, I do not support moving to a council-managed water supply.

One of the major reasons we chose to move to a rural community like Waitoa was the affordability and independence that comes with self-managed water systems. The ongoing cost of maintaining tanks simply does not compare to the likely long-term costs of council water rates, infrastructure charges, and future increases under a regional water entity model.

For many households in Waitoa, particularly families, retirees, and lower to middle income residents, significantly increased water charges would not be financially sustainable. Rural communities should not be forced into urban-style costs when existing self-supply systems already work effectively for many residents.

Waitoa is also an area well known for flooding and high water availability. There is not a natural shortage of water here. The issue is more around management and compliance requirements, not lack of access to water itself.

I believe maintaining and improving local tank and self-supply systems is a more practical, affordable, and community-focused solution for a small rural township like Waitoa. It also allows residents greater control over their own costs and water use.

I am concerned that connecting Waitoa into a larger council or regional water network will eventually result in unaffordable water rates and additional charges that many residents did not sign up for when choosing to live rurally.

Any future decision needs to carefully consider the demographic of Waitoa and the real financial impact on residents — not just infrastructure preferences. Affordable living matters, especially in smaller rural communities.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 849
Name: Cody bury

Please provide your comments below

We do not agree with the Waitoa water proposal. We are home owners on Farmer road. We are in favour of getting our own water supply via bore or rainwater. Proposed costs on the recent pamphlet are exaggerated and total rubbish. How many residents already have their own water supply or a bore drilled etc? These are questions that should have been answered and discussed with the whole community. We have a bore drilled on our property and a water tank already in place. We are against the council water connection.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 851
Name: Laurette

Please provide your comments below

I am making a submission as a homeowner in the Waitoa township
I have been present for the majority of the town meetings in regards to the water supply.
I am greatly disappointed in how this process has gone.
We were told that 80% of those affected would have to agree or disagree for any decision to go ahead with the town supply. No vote has ever been taken.

At no time, have the residents been asked what water they use.
We have not been asked if we want the water supply.
Several residents asked for a complete survey to be done of current supply information from the beginning of this process and this request was ignored over and over.

Eventually, a survey was sent out a few months ago. It was misleading in the questions it asked, the answers you could opt for, and avoided asking the most important questions above. Locals have commented this survey was never given to the council/panel and they have no idea what was in it. Does the council have this survey? Have the results been made public?

Statements have been made by council about costs that households would have to pay for self supply. We have a drainlayer in the family and the council claims are extremely inflated.

No estimates have been provided on getting the water from the town supply to the houses. This could affect those residents who chose the council supply which has been sold as the cheaper option, which could be false.

Sounds like some decision factors of the panel were because a few households don't want to clean their gutters or take up space with a tank, or some properties being too small for water tanks. Please advise how many houses are in this situation?

If all 130 houses self supplied at councils inflated estimated cost of \$25k, this equates to \$3.25 million. A far cheaper option than a town supply minimum cost of \$8.2m. As a self supply could be considered a home improvement it could be added to mortgages or loaned by banks, instead of council loans, costing rate payers more money.

With the prices of PVC pipe going up 30% in the last month alone, how will this have affected the quoted \$8.2 million?
How much land will have to be purchased to enable the pipeline and has this been included in the \$8.2m?
Has inflationary costs been taken into consideration with the quote considering a potential start date two years from now.

Has a cap been put on for Waitoa residents costs or if the costs double or triple will our costs double and triple also?

I purchased my home knowing it had its own water supply and minimal ongoing costs. Its disappointing this is being pushed upon home owners that dont need or want a town supply. I dont have a spare \$10- 20k to get a water supply for other residents to use.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 852
Name: Gemma

Please provide your comments below

On self supply - as is most of our street. This is an added cost for us that we don't think is necessary nor fair for the ones who are already set up.

For the ones who don't have a place for self supply, could there not be an option of a shared bore..... there are farms behind them.. and surely amongst 2-3 houses there is at least 1 spot that a bore could be set up and run to all 3 houses. (Splitting the cost amongst the 3 for set up, maintenance etc)

Then it's not impacting the large amount of us who are already set up

Submission Details**Submission ID:** 853**Name:** Julie

Please provide your comments below

We had two thoughts

[1] An alternative - provide each of the 130 properties two 25000L tanks installed with a pump and filter. This could cost no more than 20K per property. \$2.6M is less than the \$8.5M therefore better for the wider district. Yes back yard tank location ... would need resolution but this means there is a greater balance of compromise for the 130 properties versus the region.

[2] If the proposal is to move forward we recommend the scope is increased. The Waihou water scheme struggles to meet the needs of the community and with new properties coming water is a stumbling block to development. Residents have commented about water quality concerns. We know the community at Waihou try hard to keep this system compliant. If there is a pipeline going out to Waitoa, this should also deliver water to Waihou. This gives the benefit of having balance tanks and pumps at Waihou, which spreads reliability risks of any equipment and would have better service to Waitoa. Whilst this may cost a little more, the Waihou residents in the community would benefit and see a fairer project. Please consider bringing Waihou into this water upgrade project.

We are not members of the Waihou water scheme but do want to see high quality and secure supply water for the Waihou residents.

Thank you !

Submission Details

Submission ID: 854
Name: Julie Keir

Please provide your comments below

Please include giving Waihou water as the pipeline will go past Waihou

Submission Details

Submission ID: 855

Name: Ron Bell

Please provide your comments below

Waihou needs water too. Make that part of your proposal.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 857
Name: Tim Keir

Please provide your comments below

It would be fairer for the region for water to be supplied to Waihou and Waitoa or both have to have their own tanks.

Supplying tanks to Waitoa would be cheaper than a pipeline by back yards may not accommodate the space.

Having a pump station at Waihou, for Waitoa water supply, means supply both towns is easy, all be it at slightly more cost.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 858

Name: Erika

Please provide your comments below

What is the reasoning behind people who already pay water rates subsidising this? Surely it should be spread across all rate payers in the district? I do not agree that only people who already pay should be paying more, this cost should be borne by every rate payer in the district, with a higher percentage for Waitoa residents.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 859
Name: Brian and cathy williams

Please provide your comments below

We live in waitoa, and have done since 1992, We weren't consulted about the water proposal that has been put forward and don't consider it fair that a panel of 17 people make a decision for the rest of the residents in waitoa.. and don't agree with the current proposal. We have our own water supply fed from a bore on our property which works very well. The information and costing for the water supply has been patchy to say the least. Then there is the issue for people whom have to go on the water, may also need to have the plumbing in there house upgraded again a huge cost which many can not afford. From information that we acquired it seems the cost that residents have been told is way under the true cost that it will end up being for each property, it seems like we have been grossly mislead. We wonder why given the history of the water issues/ supply like the time caustic Soda contamination straight into the water, and residents were injured ie burnt having a shower or unsuspectingly drank the water, We think frontera should really pay the full cost of the info structure needed to get the water out to Waitoa and past each person's property at the very least! And if residents make the decision to connect then it is at there cost.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 861
Name: Rebecca Norton

Please provide your comments below

I live st 49 Farmer road last house at the end my water l's directly piped and drip feeds my under water tank. I am a single pensioner I could manage \$35 year but other than that I would need financial assistance. Would this fee be a separate billing or get added to rates payments?

Submission Details

Submission ID: 862

Name: Greg

Please provide your comments below

I'm already dying with the rates, I loan them money for water tanks or something.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 863
Name: Peter west

Please provide your comments below

I am the owner of a property in Waitoa (Esk Street) and I support the proposal to move to town water supply. My only feedback would be 15% contribution from the Waitoa owners seems a bit harsh and this should be closer to 5% in my opinion.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 864
Name: Andrew Leech

Please provide your comments below

Hi, we are on the edge of the village (the very last house that will be affected by this - 3798 SH26). We have tank water and no interest in paying for council water or the associated installation costs. I am disappointed that we were never consulted once the sub committee was formed - we were told at the meeting that this was in fact what the panel members would be doing! While I can accept that a decision has now been made (even though they have no idea how many people were actually using the Fonterra supply), I would like to know if you can stop the water supply at our neighbours please, so that we don't have to pay the \$10,000 to get water we will never use up to our gate?

Submission Details

Submission ID: 865
Name: J Gibbs

Please provide your comments below

Hi, I am unsure where each district gets their water from. I am wondering which district has the greatest water capacity. If it is for example Morrinsville, then why is the water for Waitoa not coming from there instead of Te Aroha.

Submission Details**Submission ID:** 866**Name:** Mr Kent & Mrs Joesiphine Brown

Please provide your comments below

Our submission request is for the funds that Fonterra and sale of the hall contributes and goes towards the cost to fund the water supply for rate payers in Waitoa and affected areas.

We agree that council should fund at least 85 of this cost and outlay charges.

We as rate payers and home owners currently have a water supply as we have a tank and pump. However we have considered your proposal and would like to opt in to the council supply provided to all rate payers (as per your current proposal) Appendix 1: How the options compare - Aspect Capital Council Supply (proposal) Between approximately \$2,000 and \$4,000 per Waitoa property owner per year to 3 to 7 years. Noted that we also agree with the Additional \$34 to \$36 on top of targeted water rates district-wide for 3 to 7 years. We would require a fixed interest rate for the consecutive 7 year period. This will again assist our budgeting moving forward. Thanks for taking the time to understand our requirements and submission.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 867
Name: Tamara Kingi

Please provide your comments below

I'm supportive of supplying water to the Waitoa community and contributing a small amount over five years.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 868
Name: Isabel

Please provide your comments below

Council Supply

1. ☐ I support the Waitoa community connecting to the Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) water supply. I believe this is the right long-term decision for the safety, reliability, and future of our community. However, I wish to make further submission points to ensure that Council's approach to delivering this outcome is fair, transparent, and financially achievable for Waitoa residents.

2. ☐ I had the pleasure of being one of the participants on the Waitoa Water community panel and support the Panel's recommendations. Council supply offers a safe and reliable source, modern infrastructure, firefighting capacity, and removes ongoing maintenance responsibilities from individual households. The benefits extend beyond the 130 affected residential homes – improved infrastructure adds value to the whole Waitoa community and positions it for future growth, not only in Waitoa, but also where the new infrastructure will pass through.

3. ☐ Cost has been the defining obstacle throughout years of community discussion on this issue and it remains apparent today. Rising inflation, material costs, and the broader economic pressures facing households mean that what may have been manageable years ago is now a genuine hardship for many Waitoa residents. Council must not treat affordability as a secondary concern.

Ensure the Targeted Rate is Affordable and Fixed

4. ☐ The Council recommends Waitoa ratepayers be liable for 15% of the total project cost. Given the project estimate of \$8.2 million, this represents approximately a minimum \$9,462 per each affected household (\$1.23 million), this is a significant burden for a low-income community. This figure also does not account for the interest costs that many households will inevitably face, given that a lump sum payment of this size is simply not feasible for many Waitoa residents. I will address this concern in my next point as well.

5. ☐ I also note that at page 24 of the Council Background Information Document, the lump sum of \$10,881 appears to have been calculated based on only 113 households, rather than the 130 households understood to be affected by this transition. This discrepancy raises concern about the accuracy of the figures being presented to the community. I ask Council to confirm the exact number of households affected, ensure all cost calculations reflect that correct figure, and provide updated and accurate numbers to the community before any decisions are made.

6. ☐ However, regardless, the figure is high. I therefore ask Council to give serious consideration to reducing the community's contribution to 10% of the project cost.

7. ☐ A reduction from 15% to 10% would decrease each household's share by approximately \$3,000 per property. The remaining cost differential would be spread across the approximately 10,000 serviced connections in the wider district, amounting to a very modest per-household

increase. As Council transitions to Waikato Waters Ltd (WWL), this cost could be spread even more broadly across WWL's serviced connections, making the impact on the wider district negligible while providing meaningful relief for Waitoa residents.

8.□ Critically, any cost estimates used to set the targeted rate must be guaranteed and locked in now, with the current geopolitical environment driving up fuel, material, and equipment costs, the true project cost could escalate significantly if Council delays the project. What appears somewhat affordable today may become unaffordable in two or three years. Waitoa residents need certainty the cost will not change.

Interest-Free or Fixed, Capped Repayment Options

9.□ For residents who cannot pay upfront, I ask that Council provide flexible repayment options as recommended by the Panel. Specifically, options of 3, 5, and 7 year instalments should be available, in addition to upfront payment at no cost.

10.□ At the interest rate Council proposes, households would be paying an additional \$2,000-\$4,000 more than the principal alone. Council must consider that it is those least able to afford it who end up paying the most – households that cannot meet a lump sum payment face a higher total cost simply because they need more time to pay. This is inequitable and Council should give serious consideration to minimising or eliminating interest on repayments altogether.

11.□ Furthermore, given that Waitoa is a low-income community being asked to fund infrastructure they have no alternative but to accept, I submit that any interest applied should be fixed at a low rate, such as 2% p.a., for the full duration of the repayment term. Residents should not be subject to fluctuating interest rates or miscalculated figures on what is effectively a compulsory financial commitment.

12.□ The ideal position is that interest should not be applied at all. This is not a voluntary loan, residents must pay the targeted rate regardless of whether they need or want it. It is therefore unreasonable to financially penalise households who simply need more time to pay.

13.□ Any interest cost could instead be spread across the wider community. As noted at paragraph 6 of my submission, the impact on the wider district would be almost negligible compared to the direct burden placed on Waitoa residents.

14.□ Council should also explore securing financing through the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA), of which WWL is a member, as LGFA rates are generally more favourable than commercial lending. Any savings achieved through LGFA financing should be passed directly through to Waitoa residents.

15.□ Further, residents who wish to make early or advance payments toward their targeted rate should be permitted to do so, reducing any future interest liability. Council should clearly communicate all available options, including any existing rebate or rate assistance schemes, to affected households.

Fonterra Contribution and Waitoa Hall Sale Funds

16.□ I fully support the Panel's recommendation that Fonterra's \$500,000 contribution be applied directly and solely toward reducing the community's contribution for the 130 affected Waitoa households. Fonterra's commitment has consistently been communicated by their senior

management as a dedicated fund for Waitoa residents affected by this water supply transition. Council representatives have been present at these discussions and are aware of this intent and any reallocation of these funds would be a breach of the community's trust.

17. □ I also support the Panel's recommendation that the proceeds from the sale of the Waitoa community hall of \$386,000 be applied pro-rata toward reducing the project costs for the 130 affected households, in total approximately \$240,000. This is community money, accumulated through rates paid by Waitoa residents over many years and it should return a direct benefit to those same residents. With water supply being the most urgent and financially significant issue facing the community right now, there is no better use for these funds than addressing it. Applying them on a pro-rata basis to the affected households is a fair and transparent approach – it directly assists those bearing the cost of the transition, while ensuring any remaining proceeds can still flow back to the broader Waitoa community in some form.

18. □ Together, these two contributions could significantly reduce the per-household cost by about \$3,850.00 and make voluntary participation a genuinely viable option for more residents.

Begin Design and Procurement Without Delay

19. □ I strongly support the Panel's recommendation that Council move with urgency to begin the design and tendering process. Every month of delay exposes the project to further cost inflation, eroding the value of Fonterra's fixed contribution and the hall proceeds. It also extends the period during which Waitoa residents remain dependent on an uncertain water supply.

20. □ Decades of discussion have already passed. The time for action is now. Council should also explore the strategic route via State Highway 26, which may deliver benefits not only to Waitoa but to the Waihou community, potentially enabling others to also transition to Council supply and share project costs.

21. □ The transition to WWL must not be used as a reason to further delay this project. Council should proactively manage this transition so that Waitoa's water supply upgrade is not caught in any administrative limbo.

Protect Waitoa Residents Through the Transition to Waikato Waters Ltd

22. □ As water management transitions from Council to WWL, I ask Council to ensure that any commitments made to Waitoa residents – including the allocation of Fonterra's contribution, the hall funds, and the agreed targeted rate structure – are formally documented and binding on WWL.

23. □ Waitoa residents have waited long enough for certainty. They should not have to renegotiate these commitments once Council hands over management to WWL. Any future changes to the arrangements agreed with the community should require genuine community consultation before being implemented.

Pursue All Available External Funding

24. □ I encourage Council to actively pursue all available central government funding sources to offset project costs. Such as the National Infrastructure Funding and Financing or the Regional Infrastructure Fund may be relevant given the nature of this infrastructure project, particularly the grants that would assist in offsetting costs.

25. ☐ Council has the expertise and experience to navigate these funding applications and I ask that they do so proactively and in the best interest of the Waitoa community. Every dollar of external funding secured is a dollar less that vulnerable households are asked to find.

Conclusion

26. ☐ If the funding recommendations in this submission are adopted, including the application of Fonterra's contribution, the hall proceeds and a reduced community share: the anticipated targeted rate per affected household would be approximately \$2,500. Plus the estimated connection cost to each house of a further \$2,500, the total upfront cost per household would be in the around \$5,000-\$6,000, plus the ongoing water rate. This is a far more manageable figure for Waitoa residents and one that supports more meaningful and voluntary participation in Council supply a realistic prospect for the majority of households rather than a financial burden that is forced onto those that do not want it.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 869
Name: Julie-Anne Llewellyn-West

Please provide your comments below

As a panel member myself I am agreeing that council supply is the best long term option for us Waitoa residents. One concern I have, and raised in our meetings, is that the estimates will likely not be valid with inflation the way it is recently. I proposed that bulk materials be bought now to keep some portion of the costs to a minimum. This was countered with "the tender process needs to go out to the public to decide what is best to use themselves" which I understand to a degree, however I feel there must have been engineers involved in the first place to bring about the estimate we were given. I believe there must be certain standards to be met in piping from the branch line through our village, and again for connections, therefore could these be bought ahead of time to bypass inflation hikes?

PVC pipe costs have increased by 25-30% in the last few months due to the Middle East crises, hopefully this will decrease in time but this project has been extremely dragged out. Some assurances it isn't going to be well over the generous estimate before it begins would be comforting for not only us Waitoa residents but the wider community too.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 870
Name: marcela elgueta

Please provide your comments below

WE ARE TOTALLY AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL. AS IS TE AROHA HAS A YEARLY SUMMER / AUTUMN WATER SHORTAGE. TE AROHA BADLY NEEDS ITS OWN UPGRADE OF WATER SERVICES, INCLUDING INCREASED STORAGE CAPACITY.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 871
Name: Sophie Lee

Please provide your comments below

Thank you for your efforts for Waitoa water.

I have an unsolved question for supplying water plan.

What does wastewater system changing ? Do we have to remove septic tank ? Does the water bill include wastewater ?

The estimated amount is \$8.2m, but can be increased according to plan. I understand it. But I am concerning about big gap of leapping it would be by Waikato waters Ltd.

Submission Details

Submission ID: 872
Name: Timothy Low

Please provide your comments below

For the long-term security of water for Waitoa residents and taking into consideration the challenges some properties would face putting in self-supply with modern standards, I support a council supply for Waitoa.

Waitoa Water Supply Consultation Submission

John W. Harris

5 Riverview Lane,

Te Aroha

Phone: 0274 796 944

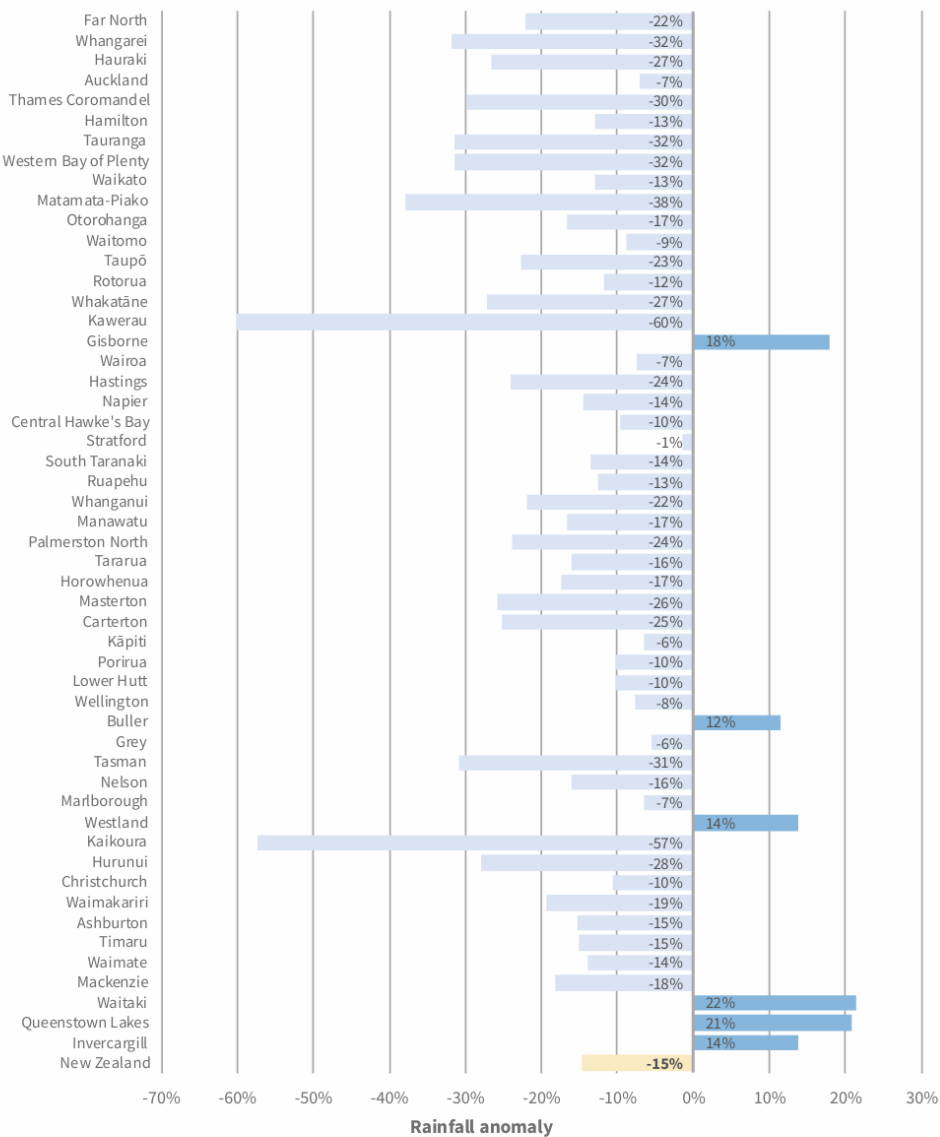
My Comments are as outlined below:

- ❖ Agree with proposed public water supply and reticulation using water from Te Aroha supply as groundwater in the general Waitoa area has always been of poor quality and impacted on teeth, let alone general health (personal experience). It is also needed for emergency purposes, especially fire.
- ❖ Agree that costs should be spread over the full District
- ❖ Cannot comment on the 15% - 85% split for property owner – Council, as I do not know the parameters that Council based its figures on, apart from mention of loan interest rates and a 5 year repayment plan paid by the District ratepayers as a targeted rate.
- ❖ If the MacKay Subdivision is having trouble with its own private supply & reticulation scheme, the majority of the rest of Waihou have individual supplies and that there are three various sized subdivisions currently underway in Waihou, why would you extend the Te Aroha water supply to Waitoa without including Waihou, especially since the Te Aroha sewage reticulation was recently extended to Waihou. It may be worth considering whether the sewerage reticulation could be extended to Waitoa, as it could provide long term benefits to the whole District for the following reasons:
 - Joint construction of the two services could result in significant overall cost savings;
 - Provide long term certainty to property owners, both Waihou and Waitoa, and
 - Provide a catalyst for both residential and commercial developments in the future.
- ❖ This, however, raises two important questions that at least should be considered as part of the overall proposal:
 - The first being to extend the sewage reticulation to Waitoa, hoping that the new Te Aroha to Waihou pipeline has a reasonable level of capacity to cover growth and the Te Aroha Sewage Treatment has spare capacity;
 - The second being a legal question in relation to the very convenient use of the redundant railway corridor for the reticulation. If the railway line was ever to be reopened, noting that the current fuel crisis is making that a viable option for bulk haulage and reduced damage to the roading networks, is the existing reticulation allowed to remain, noting that any maintenance on the reticulation would involve stopping trains and lifting the tracks, and
 - I vaguely remember that, in terms of culverts/pipes under railway embankments, not directly related to essential drainage, or operations, for the railways themselves, there was some mention of a possible annual lease. I may be wrong but it would be worth investigating to ensure that the new water company is not faced with everlasting costs that, if the reticulation was not on Railway property, would not be required, or faced with the future costs of relocating the reticulation away from the rail corridor.
- ❖ The consultation documents were somewhat vague on the reliability of a constant water supply, apart from mentioning systems to manage demand and the use of meters on high demand properties only, in spite of references to the effectiveness of meters reducing demand by up to 20%, as well as providing operational efficiencies for early leak detection, and that it is in the Long Term Plan, for the start of implementation of

installing meters in 2027/28. What it failed to do was to provide an indication of the population, including businesses, that the current water supply and treatment could be reasonably expected to provide for, allowing contingencies for growth, seasonal demands, breakdowns, emergencies, etc. Without that, it is impossible to comment on and, noting the close relationship of potable and waste water, should be comparable with sewerage treatment capacities. It should also be noted that the water supply currently feeds Silver Ferns and Inghams, as well as Te Aroha West, not forgetting the large number of relatively recent subdivisions in Te Aroha.

- ❖ I am not aware, of any major upgrades to the Te Aroha water supply systems, excluding treatment, since the late 80s and 90s, mainly, but not only, as a result of the damages created by the 1985 Te Aroha flood and also remember the dry period when the Waihou River level was dropping below the level of the Rolleston Street water supply intake. I mention this specifically because this proposal is based solely on the existing abilities of both the potable water and waste water to adequately handle existing demands, plus additional capacities to handle projected growth, while retaining a high degree of resilience for foreseen and unforeseen events, weather, earthquakes, human, etc., with particular attention to potential impacts of Climate Change (refer to Figure 2 below for an idea of the potential impact, with particular attention to Matamata-Piako).

Figure 2: Quantity of rainfall compared to the Climate Normal Period (1991–2020), by TA, 2024



Source: NIWA

- ❖ I am under the assumption that Council will not have any authority to charge a targeted rate for water when the water company is formally up and running, and that it will be transferred to the water company to pass onto the users, noting that they may not necessarily have the same constraints that Local Government has with regard to rating. I simply do not know but want to make sure, as a minimum, that it is discussed as part of this consultation process.
- ❖ My most important concern is that the consultation is based on the existing status of Council's current responsibility for the three waters, and that I cannot speak to an identity, that will shortly be totally responsible for three waters, and who may not agree with the Council's recommendations, especially as it may automatically tie them down with long term financial outlays, without their specific inputs. Council, as a shareholder, can only be the voice of the people, remembering that there are 5 other councils, each with their own respective agendas.
- ❖ This Consultation should be controlled by the new water entity, not Council, and could backfire politically on Council, if the new entity turns it down, with particular mention to the possible compulsory use of meters, which the Council refrained from specifically mentioning. There is also the not insignificant cost of consultation which may be wasted.
- ❖ There is high likelihood that the other 5 authorities may have similar problems as Waitoa and that economies of scale, possibly by parcelling of several small contracts into one larger contract, could attract a wider range of Contractors and achieve more competitive prices.

Thanking you for the opportunity to comment

John Harris

18 May 2026