

**Permitted activity water takes in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua – further information and recommendation for 26.10.2017 workshop**

At the 14.09.2107 workshop, the Committee discussed how to manage permitted activity water takes, including an earlier recommendation from the Project Team to change the existing permitted take rule to a lesser volume (5m<sup>3</sup> per day). The following ideas emerged from this conversation:

- The low level of water use in the whaitua compared to most other parts of the region is an opportunity to take a more protective approach of instream values (e.g. native fish)
- There is high uncertainty around the current level of permitted activity takes. In future, particularly under climate change, such takes could comprise a large portion of allocation volumes for some streams, potentially putting instream values at risk
- Estimates suggest only a small amount is taken for stock watering and domestic use (s14(3)(b) takes)<sup>1</sup> in most streams<sup>2</sup>, meaning these takes do not put instream values at much risk
- Users of water for activities such as watering gardens or filling pools should be encouraged to have systems that do not rely on taking water from streams (e.g. rainwater tanks)

The Committee indicated interest in having no permitted activity takes at all, with the exception of s14(3)(b) takes. Such an approach would require would-be users to apply for consent, thus providing more certainty that allocation limits will be met, better management of effects when stream flows are low, stronger ability to collect water use information and greater ability to ensure abstracted water was used for productive purposes. The Committee requested further information on the potential administrative/cost burden on water users if all takes (aside from s14(3)(b) takes) required resource consent.

The table below shows consent application and compliance costs for three water takes in the whaitua. These costs are low and likely place a low administrative burden on water users.

Consent no.	Purpose	Water body take is from	Rate of take (L/sec)	Max daily take (m <sup>3</sup> )	Application cost	Compliance cost/yr (at 2016/17)
WGN090021	Pasture irrigation and dust suppression associated with cleanfill operation	Pauatahanui Stream	1.71	68	\$250	\$260
WGN120062	Golf course irrigation	Pauatahanui Stream	12.2	130	\$1870	\$214
WGN120031	Horticulture irrigation (orchard)	Horokiri Stream	1.8	103.7	\$1100	\$260

On the basis of this further information, it is recommended that the Committee proceeds with their proposition of having no permitted activity rule for taking water in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua other than takes for the health needs of people and stock drinking needs.

<sup>1</sup> Relates to section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 which conditionally permits taking water for stock and domestic needs

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/REPORT-Modelling-Permitted-Surface-Water-Use-in-Te-Awarua-o-Porirua-Whaitua-23-May-2017.pdf>