

Water For you

Water Water Water!

....A domestic reticulated supply...
...Moutere Valley/Braeburn/Gardner Valley/Harakeke....
Yes...this is possible

In 2001 there was a move to get a reticulated domestic and stock water supply that would fill the water void between the TDC funded schemes of Dovedale, Mapua and Lower Moutere.

A group of locals formed the Braeburn Water Scheme Committee (BWSC) and asked TDC to retain a deep bore on Wilsons Road for that purpose. TDC had offered that supply to an adjacent landowner for irrigation, so that opportunity disappeared.

The total water resource in the lower confined aquifer that sits below this entire area was, at that time, pre-allocated up to its limits so no additional extraction was allowed.

TDC did very generously place BWSC on what is called the “waiting list”. So when water became available TDC would offer the opportunity for the BWSC to arrange a domestic and stock water scheme.

TDC staff did some basic work on a scheme with some costings, but without the availability of a water source the matter was quietly left to hang.

Last year, TDC did a review of the actual water usage from the Deep Aquifer. (Moutere Eastern Groundwater Zone). They found a number of existing “users” were not consuming the water they were allocated and returned this amount to be offered to those on the waiting list.

So, now TDC have offered the BWSC the opportunity to progress the scheme, or lose the opportunity if there is no application along with the necessary fees.

The cut off date has been set by TDC as 11th March 2014.

Advice to the remnants of the old BWSC was sent out just prior to Christmas.

There is no BWSC at this point but there is still a small sign of life in some of the ex members with memories of what a dry summer does to this locality.

So we need some input from you. Water will not suddenly appear without both effort and cash. That TDC are not going to offer anything is the best bet. They do however take a lot of money out of this area but very little comes back. That can be changed!

A meeting will be held at the Moutere Hills Community Centre Saturday 1st March 10am.

There is an extensive shallow aquifer through most of the valley floor at around 2 to 3 metres deep. This is where many of us get our water. Get a FC test done - you may be surprised. Take a look at the Moutere River and the Company Ditch. Both have been allowed to deepen considerably over recent years to the extent that the 3 metre aquifer is exposed and draining. Give us a good Nelson summer for a change and there will be plenty of dry wells; we have been saved this year by a wet Christmas and last year by 100mm rain in late January. But sooner or later it will happen, a real Nelson summer is 90 days without significant rain and then the drought starts.

YOU MAY BE OK FOR WATER NOW BUT WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Water quality has always been an issue in the Moutere Valley and surface take as with the Dovedale Scheme is not the answer. If you are on the Dovedale Scheme and live close to the Moutere Valley come to the meeting.

It's time we had good water for domestic and stock use.

At present the council allocates most of the deep bore water for irrigation, while we get our substandard drinking water from the roof or shallow wells. All the while we are sitting on a Deep Aquifer of good potable drinking water.

Better get a reticulated scheme.

Better get something of worth for your rates.

Better get involved.

Better attend the meeting.

p.s. Do you realise you will be paying for 30% of the Lee Valley Dam- no water for you though !

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Water For you