



# Ashburton District Council



## **Summary of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services in the Ashburton District Summary**

Draft Revised: March 2009

# ***Summary of Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services in the Ashburton District***

## **Introduction**

Ashburton District Council is required to assess water and sanitary services in the District in accordance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Water assessments include water supplies, wastewater and stormwater. Sanitary assessments include cemeteries, public toilets and solid waste services. The purpose of the assessments is to provide Council and the community with information regarding the current state and quality of water and sanitary services, to assess any risks identified, consider estimated future demand and consider options available to meet the current and future needs of the community. It is, therefore, an important input into Council future planning to ensure reliability of services to meet current and future demand.

## **Assessment Methodology - Communities**

The assessment looked at water and sanitary services in six community types as follows: Ashburton, fully serviced rural towns (Methven, Rakaia, and Lake Hood), partly serviced rural towns and areas (Council operated water supplies), partly serviced rural settlements and areas (community operated water supplies), private communities including schools, sports clubs etc and unserviced rural areas.

## **Water Supply**

The assessment looked at the water supplies serving the communities assessed. Findings were as follows:

**Water Quality** - The main issues and conclusions are:

- Water quality in Ashburton urban area is high.
- Most of the district's water supplies provide water of a satisfactory quality.
- The water supplies that have quality issues and require attention where there are nuisance effects are Methven (hardness), and Fairton and Chertsey (nitrate nitrogen)
- Water quality in Mayfield is poor and requires attention. The Mayfield water supply is programmed for an upgrade in 2008/09.
- Water supplies in partly serviced areas are adequate for the needs of the communities serviced.
- There is relatively little information known about private schemes, where water quality is likely to be variable.

**Water Quantity** - The main issues and conclusions are:

- Fairton and Mount Somers were identified as having inadequate supply for the needs of the communities.
- Where quantity of water is identified as an issue it will be addressed through programmed upgrades.
- Demand for water for irrigation impacts on the ability of some schemes to meet demand during the summer months.
- Water is sourced primarily from groundwater, (nine schemes) and surface water (five schemes).
- Options have been identified to address water quantity and source issues.
- Future demand has been considered.

## **Wastewater**

The assessment looked at the wastewater schemes serving the communities assessed. The main issues and conclusions identified by the full assessment are:

- A centralised wastewater system is provided for the greater Ashburton urban area.
- The Ashburton wastewater treatment and disposal system has been upgraded to provide a high level of treatment. Public health and environmental impacts from upgraded system will be low.
- The existing reticulation system in Ashburton is subject to groundwater infiltration and stormwater inflow.
- There are no significant issues relating to wastewater treatment and disposal in Methven or Rakaia. These systems are not causing any environmental or health concerns.
- In unserviced areas properties rely on on-site systems which are monitored by Environment Canterbury.

## **Stormwater**

The main issues and conclusions of the assessment are:

- In Ashburton the existing system is able to cope with current levels of stormwater discharge, however development will be needed over the next 10-20 years. A stormwater strategy for Ashburton is to be developed over the coming three years – 2009-2011.
- The requirements of Environment Canterbury's Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan will be considered at the same time as the development of the Ashburton Urban Stormwater Strategy.
- In general, except for significant rainfall events, systems in Methven and Rakaia are able to cope with stormwater flows.
- There is no centralised stormwater system for partly serviced rural towns, where most stormwater is discharged from properties to natural water courses or soakage pits.
- There are no known current public health issues relating to stormwater disposal in Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.

## **Cemeteries**

The main issues and conclusions of the assessment are:

- The Hinds and Winslow cemeteries at times have elevated groundwater levels.
- Future demand has been planned for.

## **Public Toilets**

The main issues and conclusions of the assessment are:

- Toilets adjacent to State Highway 1 receive the highest usage.
- Currently there are no major public health issues.
- Development of public toilet facilities will be influenced by usage, district growth and numbers of visitors to the district.

## **Solid Waste Management**

The main issues and conclusions of the assessment are:

- There is kerbside collection of residual waste and recyclables in Ashburton, Methven, Rakaia, Mount Somers, Mayfield and Hinds.
- Residual waste is transported out of the district for disposal at Kate Valley.
- The current waste systems have sufficient capacity to accommodate growth in waste generation from the anticipated increase in population.

**Review of the Assessment**

Council has undertaken a review of its' Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services to update the document with relevant information and to include issues and options appropriate to Ashburton District today.

Community consultation on the reviewed Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services is being carried out in conjunction with the Community Plan 2009-19 (LTCCP) consultation and submissions process.

The full Ashburton District Water and Sanitary Services Assessment document is available from the Council on request or from the Council website [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)