

# Application for Connection to Water Supply or Wastewater Schemes Policy

---

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The Council receives a number of requests each year to extend water supplies or wastewater scheme connections outside of current serviced areas. There are a variety of reasons for these requests, with the four most common being:

- Poor water quality of on-site water supply (often a private well)
- High cost associated with operating on-site water supply or wastewater disposal system
- Increased security associated with public supply or service
- Provision of water supply or wastewater disposal for subdivisions.

1.2. This policy was developed to provide a method of assessment for approving (or not) the extension of water and wastewater infrastructure outside the existing boundary. The methodology was developed to ensure the assessment is both transparent and consistent.

1.3. The policy also clarifies requirements for private property owners that are connected to restricted Council potable water supplies that wish to surrender one or more water units.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to effectively manage and operate the water and wastewater schemes in a controlled manner.

## 3. Scope

The policy applies to:

- Assessment of all proposed new connections to the Council's reticulated wastewater or water supply schemes
- Proposals to surrender units from properties with restricted water supply connections.

## 4. Policy objectives

The objective of this policy is to provide the methodology for managing and assessing extensions for water and wastewater schemes outside the existing scheme boundaries and managing proposals to surrender existing water units for properties on restricted water supply schemes.

## 5. Policy statement

5.1. Applications to extend reticulated water supplies and wastewater systems into un-serviced areas will be assessed by the Council by applying the following criteria:

- There must be adequate capacity within the scheme to accommodate the additional connection or connections
- The connection must be at least cost neutral to the existing scheme members. Annual rates generated from the new connection(s) must be sufficient to cover the life cycle costs of the new assets and the variable costs of the service
- The applicant may incur costs for upgrade works in order to provide adequate capacity
- The 3 Waters Manager must determine that there is no other reason for declining the application.

5.2. Any property owner on a restricted Council water supply may choose to surrender water units at any time, subject to the following:

- The units will be surrendered with no payment by the Council
- The Council will change the surrenderer's water restrictor at no charge
- The surrenderer's water rates will be recalculated based on the revised water allocation, which will come into effect on the next 1 July (the start of the new rating year)
- If the surrenderer requires additional water units at a future date, those units must be purchased from the Council in accordance with the Development Contribution Policy
- The Council will not purchase or buy-back any water units.

## 6. Responsibilities

All approvals under this Policy sit with the 3 Waters Manager.

## 7. Definitions

**Water Supply Scheme** – an area where connected properties are provided with a supply of potable drinking water by the Council.

**Wastewater Scheme** – an area where the Council provides for the disposal of wastewater from connected properties.

## 8. Questions

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the 3 Waters Manager in the first instance.

## 9. Relevant documents and legislation

- District Plan, S11 Utilities and Traffic Management; Proposed District Plan, Subdivision Chapter
- 3 Waters and Roading Asset Management Plan
- Local Government Act 2002
- Development Contributions Policy
- Waimakariri District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2018
- Waimakariri District Council Wastewater Bylaw 2015

## 10. Effective date

2 May 2023

**11. Review date**

2 May 2029

**12. Policy owned by**

General Manager, Utilities and Roading

**13. Approval**

Adopted by Waimakariri District Council on 2 May 2023