



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

CARTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

Water Race Committee meeting

Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

**Location: Carterton Events Centre
50 Holloway St
Carterton**

Cr B Deller (Chair)

Deputy Chair J Booth (Deputy Chair)

Mayor R Mark

Deputy Mayor S Cretney

Cr S Gallon

Member J McFadzean

Member N Wadham

Member G Smith

Notice is hereby given that a Water Race Committee meeting of the Carterton District Council will be held in the Carterton Events Centre, 50 Holloway St, Carterton on:

Wednesday, 19 February 2025 at 1:30 pm

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Mai i te pae maunga, raro ki te tai

Mai i te awa tonga, raro ki te awa raki

Tēnei te hapori awahi ai e Taratahi.

Whano whano, haramai te toki

Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

4 PUBLIC FORUM

5 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES



5.1 MINUTES OF THE WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024

1. RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Minutes of the Water Race Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024 are true and correct.

File Number: 429803

Author: Robyn Blue, Democratic Services Officer

Attachments: 1. Minutes of the Water Race Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2024 AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Brian Deller (Chair), John Booth (Deputy Chair) – Member, Mayor Ron Mark, Deputy Mayor Steve Cretney, Cr Steve Gallon, John McFadzean (Member), Neil Wadham (Member), Grant Smith (Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Johannes Ferreira (Infrastructure Services Manager), Lawrence Stephenson (Water Services Manager), Jeet Kiran (Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer), Melvin Pike (Water Race Overseer), Kyra Low (Finance Manager), Robyn Blue (Democratic Services Officer), Katrina King (Democratic Services Officer)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting opened with a karakia by all members.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

5 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 AUGUST 2024

MOVED

1. That the minutes of the Water Race Committee meeting held on 14 August 2024 are true and correct.

B Deller / N Wadham

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING**MOVED**

1. That the motion to recommend to Council that the difference in overheads between the Long-Term Plans be backdated and refunded to the Water Race Activity be rescinded.

N Wadham / J McFadzean

CARRIED**NOTED**

- As a means of managing the situation of the past overheads, the Chief Executive proposes to fund an apprentice for Melvin Pike for up to 2 years, on the proviso that the Water Race community users help to identify an appropriate person. This charge would be attributed to management and not to Water Race overheads.

MOVED

- The Chief Executive to write a report for the next Water Race Committee on the proposal for use of the past overheads.

J Booth / J McFadzean

CARRIED**6 REPORTS****6.1 RESULTS OF THE WATER RACE ELECTIONS 2024****1. PURPOSE**

For the Water Race Committee to receive the results of the Water Race elections 2024.

NOTED

- Cr B Deller welcomed the new Water Race Committee members – those community members that had been re-elected (John McFadzean and Neil Wadham) and the new community members (John Booth and David Smith).

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the results of the Water Race elections 2024.

Mayor R Mark / Deputy Mayor S Cretney

CARRIED

6.2 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIR

1. PURPOSE

For the Water Race community members to confirm the Deputy Chair of the Water Race Committee.

MOVED

That the Community members of the Committee:

1. **Appoint** John Booth as the Deputy Chair of the Water Race Committee.

N Wadham / J McFadzean

CARRIED

6.3 REVIEW OF THE WATER RACE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

For the Committee to review the Water Race Committee Terms of Reference.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Confirms** the Terms of Reference of the Water Race Committee.

N Wadham / G Smith

CARRIED

6.4 WATER RACE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Water Race Committee with an update on the management of the Water Races.

NOTED

- Some fences are inhibiting cleaning of the Water Race by the contractors.
- There was discussion about options to prevent this occurring:
 - Consider charging Water Race Ratepayers if access to the Water Race for cleaning is difficult.
 - Use of the Code of Practice.
 - Send Water Race users a newsletter including the updated Code of Practice.

Actions

- Lawrence Stephenson to talk to GWRC, including clarification of their regulations and how they can assist.
- In order to determine the feasibility for sending a newsletter and notifications to Water Race ratepayers, Council officers will determine how many Water Race ratepayers don't have an email or phone number listed in the Rates Database.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

Deputy Mayor S Cretney / J Booth

CARRIED**6.5 QUARTERLY WATER QUALITY REPORT****1. PURPOSE**

For the Committee to be informed about water quality in the water races.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

J Booth / B Deller

CARRIED**6.6 WATER RACE FINANCIAL REPORT****1. PURPOSE**

To present the financial reports for the water races for the period ended 30 September 2024.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr B Deller / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a karakia by all members.

The meeting closed at 2.04 pm

Minutes confirmed:

Date:

DRAFT

6 REPORTS



6.1 WATER RACE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Water Race Committee with an update on the management of the Water Races.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. WATER RACE CODE OF PRACTICE

A professional service advisor, Genevieve Drake, has been engaged to review the draft and notes that have been developed for the updated Water Race Code of Practice (CoP) during the last two years.

Genevieve has used her experience in Water Races and talking to several farmers and operators to update the draft CoP. Officers anticipate the draft CoP will be completed by the end of February, after which it will be shared and workshopped with the Water Race Committee.

4. SUMMARY OF SERVICE REQUESTS, WATER RACE FLOWS AND MAINTENANCE

Service Requests

Referred to Rural Water						
No Water	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other	1	-	3	2	2	-
Waterrace	1	-	18	12	7	-
Total for Rural Water	2	0	22	15	9	0

Water Races Dashboard – update



5. OVERSEER’S REPORT

Cleaning was minimised during spring to minimise disruption and damage to fields. High rainfall in the region over Christmas offered some relief after a dry October/November, however the ground conditions are still dry. The flow and warm weather conditions have caused rampant weed growth, increasing the number of calls for blockages and clearance of the water races.

The rains over Christmas have also delayed haymaking and grains, so there are some fields that are still shut up, making the cleaning difficult to manage and maintaining consistent flow through the system.

The low flow conditions over the last month, are causing branches to pool with juvenile fish suffering. They are unable to move upstream before the flows reduce. The hot temperatures are also causing higher water temperatures and there haven’t been the rains in the hills like normal. These events have usually allowed a short flush to top up the water race levels.

The springs have dried up, and the water race is supporting the streams, such as Booths Creek and Parkvale Stream.

The update from the Water Race overseer highlights ongoing maintenance challenges, with fences having to be cut and slowing down the operational cleaning. He has had to inform customers that the water races are in a low flow condition and request that the non-potable supply is not used for garden watering. He queried how many customers had email contacts and if an email could be sent around when the water races were in low flow.

At the last meeting it was discussed that a newsletter could be sent to Water Race users to highlight the issue of fencing and need for access to the water race. We have been advised that out of 494 users, 294 (60%) have an email, so this will be worked on.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

An extract from the operating budgets is summarised below, using the same spreadsheet as previously used by the CDC Finance officer:

<i>Key Variances:</i>	2024/25 YTD Actuals February	2024/25 YTD Budgets February	2024/25 YTD Variance February	2024/25 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Actuals	2022/23 Full Year Actuals
Maintenance	170,484	181,904	11,420	272,850	399,744	268,588
Staffing	37,304	36,248	(1,056)	54,368	61,667	55,623
Support	84,719	112,072	27,353	168,099	364,924	345,431
Resource Consents	-	26,672	26,672	40,000	32,005	68,578
Health Monitoring	3,580	8,752	5,172	13,131	13,455	8,144
Other operating costs	17,914	14,520	(3,394)	21,770	18,982	5,216
Depreciation	21,135	40,576	19,441	60,858	50,768	49,916
	335,137	420,744	85,607	631,076	941,544	801,496

7. CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Climate change

There are no direct climate change issues relating to the decisions in this paper.

7.2 Tāngata whenua

There are no issues in this paper that impact on tāngata whenua.

7.3 Financial impact

There are no financial impacts relating to the decisions in this paper.

7.4 Community Engagement Requirements

There are no community engagement requirements relating to the decisions in this paper.

7.5 Risks

There are no risks associated with the decisions in this paper.

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 440056

Author: Lawrence Stephenson, Waters Operations Manager

Attachments: 1. Water Race General Ledger January 2025 [↓](#)

RURAL WATER	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
February 2025	YTD	YTD	YTD	Full	Full Year	Full
	Actuals	Budgets	Variance	Year	Actuals	Year
	February	February	February	Budget		Actuals
Income						
Rates Income - General	22,844	39,234	(16,390)	58,851	66,394	60,812
Rates Income - Water Races	176,802	353,106	(176,304)	529,659	740,876	751,488
Fees - Industrial Use	5,357	10,504	(5,147)	15,750	15,513	12,187
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	-	850
Total Income	205,003	402,844	(197,841)	604,260	822,783	825,338
Expenditure						
Corporate Services	44,933	60,944	16,011	91,415	193,418	168,607
Operations Overhead	38,612	48,968	10,356	73,451	169,599	176,005
Garage	1,173	2,160	987	3,233	1,908	819
Consultancy - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefit Tax	4,811	-	(4,811)	-	4,295	4,644
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	540	-
Maintenance - General	13,656	-	(13,656)	-	1,745	662
Maintenance - Intake Gates	-	7,400	7,400	11,100	2,075	3,600
Maintenance - Water Races	149,938	164,504	14,566	246,750	388,053	251,494
Materials - General	6,890	10,000	3,110	15,000	7,872	12,832
Monitoring - Health	3,580	8,752	5,172	13,131	13,455	8,144
Plant & Machinery- minor purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resource Consent (GWRC annual monitoring)	-	26,672	26,672	40,000	32,005	68,578
Telephone & Tolls	310	1,368	1,058	2,040	3,498	806
Vehicle Expenses	4,852	2,344	(2,508)	3,520	1,232	1,015
Fuel Expenses	3,199	3,336	137	5,000	5,748	2,596
Wages Allocated	32,494	34,912	2,418	52,368	56,877	50,979
Staff Training	-	1,336	1,336	2,000	495	-
Depreciation	21,135	40,576	19,441	60,858	50,768	49,916
Interest expense	9,552	7,472	(2,080)	11,210	7,964	798
Total Expenditure	335,137	420,744	85,607	631,076	941,544	801,496
Operating Result surplus/(deficit)	(130,134)	(17,900)	(112,234)	(26,816)	(118,762)	23,842



6.2 WATER RACE WATER QUALITY REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For the Committee to be informed about water quality in the water races and water race consent applications.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. WATER RACE RECONSENT APPLICATIONS

The consent application was submitted in May 2023, and the continued operation of the Water Races has been approved by GWRC.

Lawrence Stephenson has been continuing with the consent processes and responded to GWRC in August outlining the following:

- Further gauging started this summer to support the ecological assessment of the river environments
- The Council experts will review the further information request received.
- A 20-year consent is requested, but we have not yet received any feedback from GWRC.
- Similar consent conditions have been suggested to the existing consent, and the results from the further sampling undertaken in the summer will be assessed.

The highlight from subsequent correspondence received from GWRC between October to November 2024 is below:

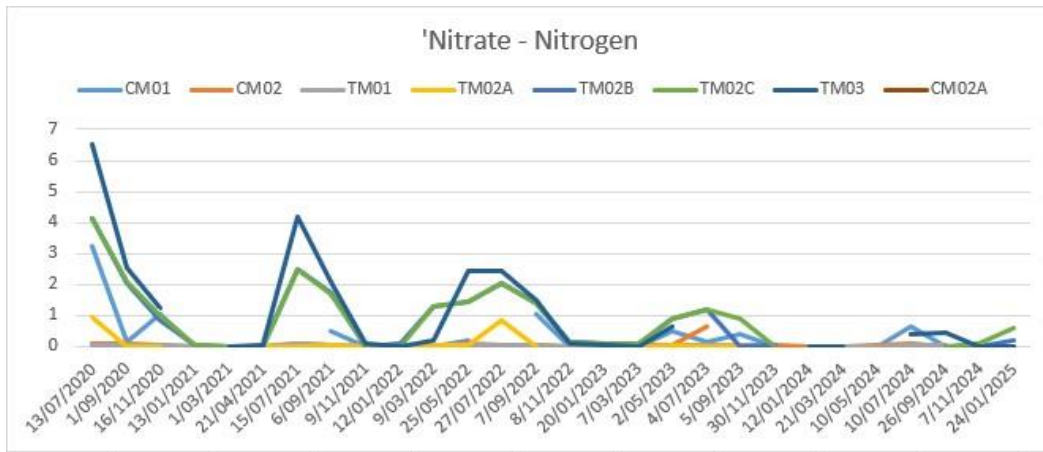
- GWRC confirmed that they reviewed the information submitted by the CDC as per the s92 request, but are seeking more information.
- CDC is currently addressing the s92 request and awaiting information from the consultants.

4. UPDATED HISTORIC WATER QUALITY DATA

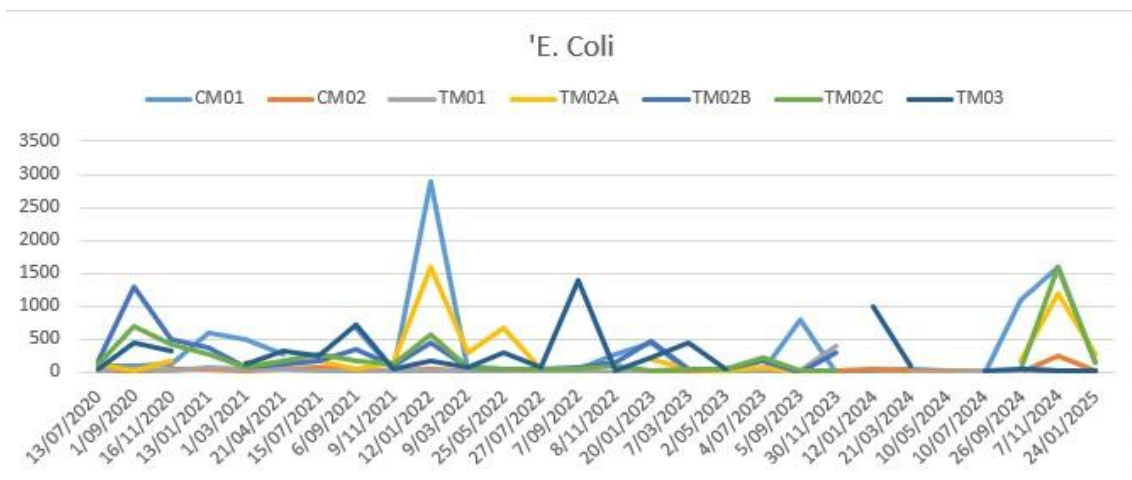
The charts below cover the sampling period from 2020 – 2024:

Nitrate levels are generally elevated in winter/spring with the higher flows. The levels are currently less than 11.3mg/L for Drinking Water, but this is still high for NZ. The majority of Total Nitrogen is nitrates.

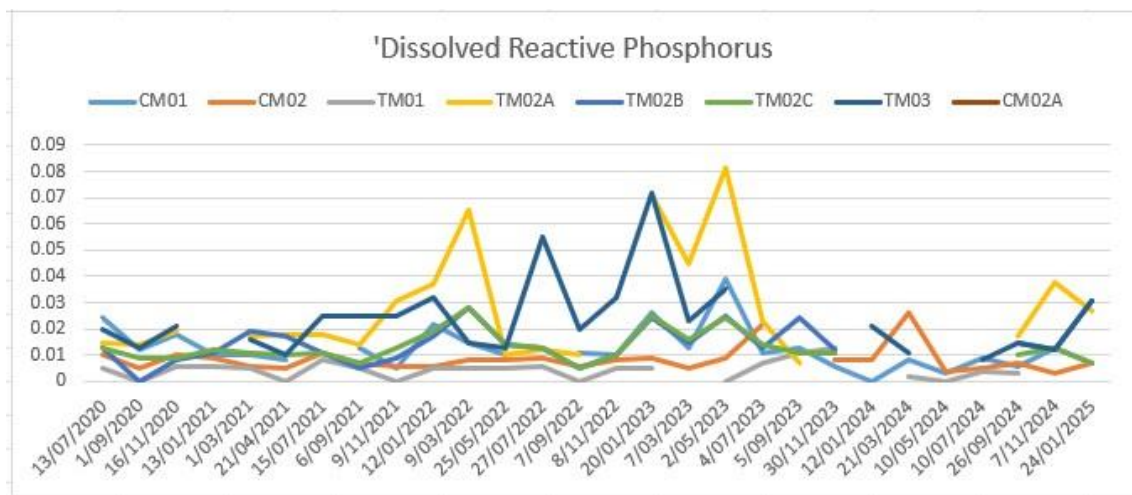
Peaks are decreasing.



The limit for safe swimming is 260 E. coli coliforms/100mL. E. coli levels have dropped.



New freshwater targets for DRP are less than a maximum of 0.05mg/L, which all sample points meet in general.



5. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 440096

Author: Jeet Kiran, Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer

Attachments: Nil



6.3 APPRENTICE FOR THE WATER RACE OVERSEER

1. PURPOSE

For the Committee to consider a recommendation to Council to employ an apprentice Water Race Overseer.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. BACKGROUND

As part of the adoption of the 2021 Long-Term Plan (LTP), Council refreshed the calculation of corporate overheads. This change saw an increase in corporate overhead charges to Water Race activity.

Water Race Committee members queried the increased overhead charges and a review was undertaken as part of the 2024-34 LTP.

When reviewing the 2021-31 LTP corporate overhead charges, staff found little evidence of the methodology used. A new methodology was developed for the 2024-34 LTP.

The adoption of the 2024 LTP saw a reduction in corporate overhead charges to Water Race activity.

4. DISCUSSION

Having refreshed the corporate overhead allocation model for the 2024-34 LTP, some Water Race Committee members expressed a desire to re-set the 2021-2023 corporate overhead charges to Water Race activity using the updated 2024-34 allocation model.

Re-stating three years of audited and adopted financial statements would not only affect the Water Race, but also all other activities across Council, including Rooding, Water, Wastewater etc. This would affect the "cost" to deliver those activities and require a re-statement of three fiscal years' financial statements. The change may also undermine the assessments of Targeted Rates used in some activities including the Water Race, water supply and wastewater services.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTION

The overhead allocation model was refreshed and this issue resolved for future Water Race targeted rates. Unfortunately, the “historical” issue remains a source of tension between some Water Race owner representatives and Council.

One way to help all stakeholders move forward may be for Council to underwrite (fund) the employment of a Water Race Overseer apprentice. This option could also reduce the risk of employing one (albeit very experienced) Water Race Overseer managing the two Water Race networks.

If the Water Race Committee recommend the training of an apprentice, and should Council agree to fund it, the cost of this activity would not fall to Water Race owners for a period of time – perhaps the entire training period.

Training an apprentice could be expected to take number of years, depending on the individual. A comment at the last Water Race Committee meeting that the 1987 Water Race By-Law stated a mandatory training period for a Water Race Overseer of five years was incorrect. The 1987 By-Law makes no mention of staff (**Attachment 1**).

The role of Water Race Overseer is unique and will require an individual with a particular set of skills. Council has twice previously employed staff with a goal of training a Water Race Overseer apprentice. To date, neither of these people remained in the role. It is possible further Council-led recruitment for an apprentice will also be unsuccessful as it is not ‘farmer-led’.

We need to find the best apprentice candidate for the long-term future of the Water Race networks. In order to achieve this goal it is suggested the existing Independent Members of the Water Race Committee identify potential candidates for the apprentice role. A formal selection process can begin once a short list of candidates has been identified and expressed interest in the role. It is anticipated the current Water Race Overseer would participate in the selection process.

Summary

In summary, it is recommended that the Water Race Committee considers seeking Council support to fund the employment of an apprentice Water Race Overseer at no cost to the Water Race users for a period. Furthermore, it is recommended this funding request is supported by the Independent Members of the Water Race Committee identifying suitable candidates.

6. CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Climate change

There are no climate change considerations related to the decision in this report.

6.2 Tāngata whenua

There are no implications for tāngata whenua related to the decision in this report.

6.3 Financial impact

There are no financial risks to the Water Race Committee related to the decision in this report.

6.4 Community Engagement requirements

Not applicable.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Agrees** to seek Council support to fund the employment of an apprentice Water Race Overseer at no cost to the Water Race users for the training period.
3. **Agrees** the Independent Members of the Water Race Committee will identify suitable candidates for the apprentice position.

File Number: 440147

Author: Geoff Hamilton, Chief Executive

Attachments: 1. Water Race Bylaw 1987 [↓](#)

WAIRARAPA SOUTH COUNTY WATER RACE BY-LAW 1987

THE WAIRARAPA SOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL HEREBY makes by special order the following by-law under any by virtue of and in pursuance of the powers and authorities vested in the said County by the Local Government Act 1974, the Land Drainage Act 1908, their respective amendments and all other Acts powers and authorities enabling the Council in that behalf:

1. The short title of this by-law shall be the Wairarapa South County Water Race By-law 1987.

2. This by-law shall come into force on and shall take effect from the 1st day of June, 1987.

3. In this by-law, if not inconsistent with the context -

'Council' means the Wairarapa South County Council

'Obstruction' includes earth, stone, timber, and material of all kinds and trees, plants, weeds, and growths of all kinds

'Occupier' includes the owner, lessee, or occupier of any land for the time being

'Water Race' means a water race as defined by Section 58 of the Land Drainage Act 1908.

4. In respect of all water races within its district the Council by its authorised officers shall in addition to those powers specified in the Local Government Act 1974 and the Land Drainage Act 1908, have the power to enter upon any land within the said district and take thereon any machinery or vehicle for the purpose of inspecting, unblocking, cleaning, repairing, removing any obstruction, or doing anything whatsoever in connection with any water race.

5. No person shall create or permit any obstruction to any water race or shall plant or permit to grow any tree, plant, shrub or growth of any kind or deposit any thing or erect any building or other structure whatsoever within a distance of 6 metres from the bank of any water race.

6. Any occupier of land on which any obstruction to a water race exists or which obstruction is situated within 6 metres of the bank of any water race shall on receiving notice in that behalf from the Council remove the obstruction within the time specified in such notice.

7. No occupier or person shall alter or interfere with any water race or instal any culvert or weir or draw off any water from or within any water race without the prior consent in writing of the Council first had and obtained.

8. Every occupier of land in respect of which any culvert, weir or crossing- place in on or over any water race is constructed by authority of the Council shall be thereafter responsible for the construction, repair and maintenance or replacement of any such culvert, weir or crossing place, and failure to comply with any notice in that behalf given to the occupier by the council shall constitute an offence under this by-law.

9. Every occupier who fails to complete any work directed by the Council by notice to be done within the time specified in such notice commits an offence under this by-law, and in addition to any penalty imposed under by-law 110 of the Wairarapa Counties Joint General By-law 1985, shall be liable to pay the cost incurred by the Council in doing any such work, and the said cost shall be a charge on the land and may be recovered as rates are recovered under any Act for the time being in force in the district of the Council.

10. Any occupier or person obstructing, resisting or otherwise interfering any authorised officer of the council or preventing or obstructing any vehicle or machinery under control of such officer from entering or being used in accordance with this by-law, commits an offence against this by-law.

11. Any occupier or person committing an offence against this by-law shall be liable to the penalties provided in by-law 110 of the Wairarapa Counties Joint General By-laws 1985.

X

Confirmed Council meeting 21st May, 1987

..... *[Signature]* CHAIRMAN

..... *[Signature]* COUNTY CLERK

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA