



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

CARTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

Water Race Committee meeting

Date: Wednesday, 6 August 2025

Time: 2:00 pm

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

Cr B Deller

Deputy Chair J Booth

Member J McFadzean

Mayor R Mark

Deputy Mayor S Cretney

Cr S Gallon

Member N Wadham

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, 6 August 2025 at 2:00 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 awhi 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 DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC FORUM

6 REPORTS



6.1 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 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.

Highlights from subsequent correspondence received from GWRC between October to November 2024 are below, and also recent actions undertaken to address the requirements:

- 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.
- An indication of the costs incurred from GWRC has been received. The team is collating these costs, planning the response to the s92 request, and assessing the additional costs that may arise during the consultation period. Officers will update the Committee on the final cost estimates once in due course.
- The officer has engaged with the consultant and is currently arranging sampling for the water races to gather the data required to address the s92 request. The sampling is scheduled to occur shortly as weather conditions are favourable.

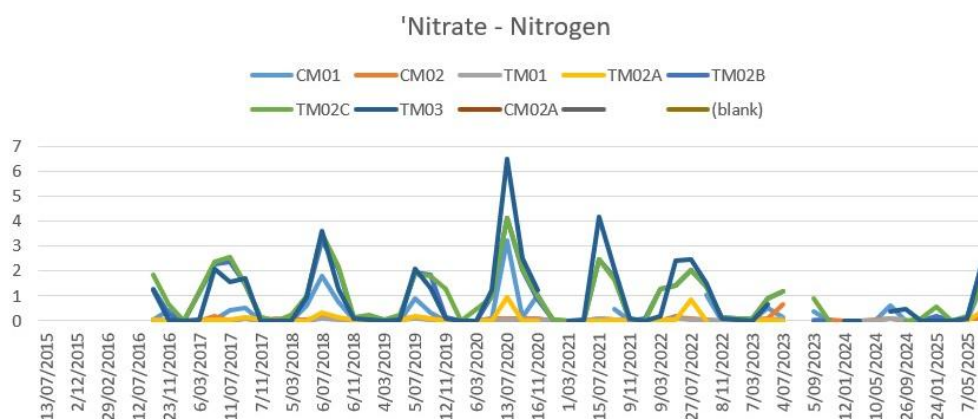
4. UPDATED HISTORIC WATER QUALITY DATA

The charts below cover the sampling period from 2020 – 2025:

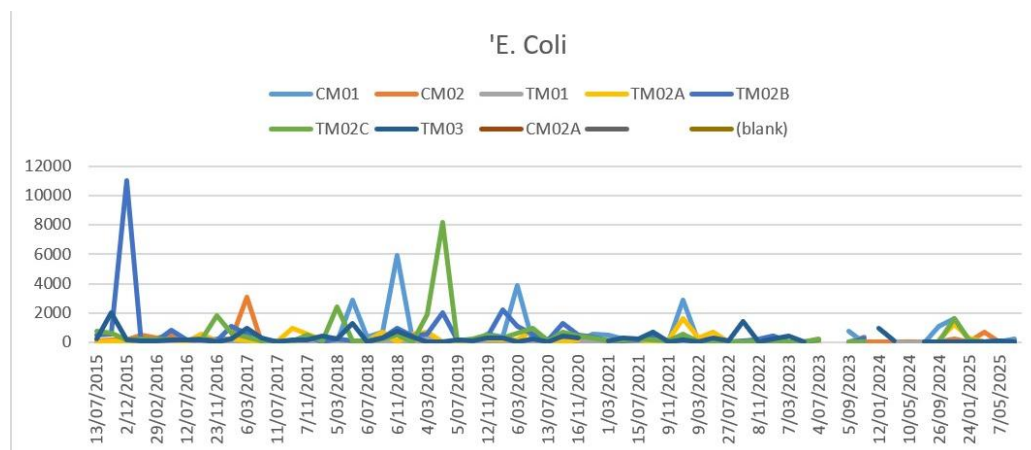
Nitrate levels are generally elevated in winter/spring with the higher flows. The levels are currently less than Drinking Water standard of 11.3mg/L.

Peaks appear to be in a rising pattern; however, it can be a seasonal variation (Winter), with general readings well below the maximum acceptable value, which is 11.3mg/L.

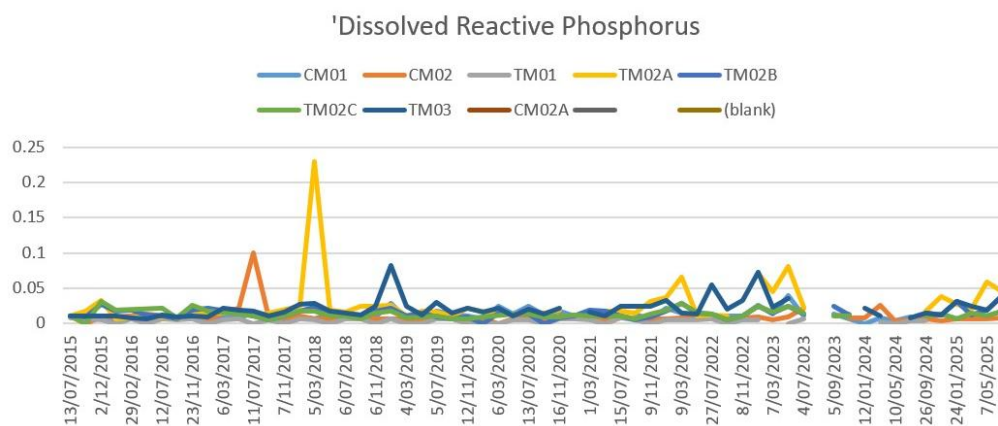
Nitrate levels in water races often rise in winter due to increased rainfall and runoff, which carry fertilisers and waste into the water. Cold, wet conditions also enhance soil leaching, leading to seasonal peaks.



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



New freshwater targets for Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus 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: 477485

Author: Jeet Kiran, Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer

Attachments: Nil



6.2 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. APPOINTMENT OF THE WATER RACES OVERSEER ASSISTANT 2IC

We are happy to report that we have completed the recruitment for the Water Races Overseer Assistant 2IC. We received a lot of interest and strong competition, with over 80 applications.

Jason Rose was identified as the preferred candidate by the Recruitment Team and will start at the end of the year. Jason has relevant Water Race experience as he worked for the maintenance contractor in the past. We look forward to formally welcoming Jason to the CDC team.

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

Service Requests

10 Requests Received from 01/05/25 to 30/06/25

Department referred to: Rural Water
Other
Waterrace
Total for Rural Water

Total	Completed	In Time
1	1	1
9	6	1

10	7	2
=====		
10	7	2

Grand Total:

5. OVERSEER'S REPORT

We removed a few Willow trees from the Booths Creek because of the tree and roots constricting the water race/ stream.

At Bill Goodin's location, a new pipe is being installed as weather permits. Repairs have been completed on the sluice pipelines over Booths Creek at Marshall's Road.

We used over 500 sandbags throughout the network to repair the banks and stabilize the headwalls.

We have been unblocking culverts impacted by flooding and wind.

I have been working with the Maintenance Contractor to bring the network up to date, as we have fallen behind over the last six years due to budgetary pressures and weather events.

Some overflow points have been upgraded to better manage overland flows.

We have also jetted some of our long pipelines to clean them out in preparation for the rains that are typically around the corner in October.

I had a meeting with a farmer on Carter Line regarding the fencing of the water race to determine the most suitable location for the fence. It's great that property owners are reaching out to us for advice.

It is important for our contractor to have unrestricted access to the water race to ensure efficient and cost-effective maintenance of the water race. We therefore met with the developers on Parkers Road, even though they were reluctant at the start, they agreed to install suitable access gates on all the sections.

I took some time off to spend with my grandkids, as well as to review my fish and weed studies. This allowed us to assess how we can best manage the weeds in the water race to help maintain and improve the water quality.

We are in the initial planning stages of the removal of pine trees at the intake this which should take place during summer.

6. POTENTIAL WATER RACE HISTORY PROJECT

Officers have been investigating the possibility of conducting an oral history project of the Water Races and the people involved in establishing and operating this amazing piece of historic infrastructure. There exists an opportunity to capture decades of experience and eyewitness accounts and formally archive the findings to the standards of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand.

This research could further support future submissions to environmental, infrastructure, agricultural, and historic competitions, which will further emphasize the significance and importance of our Water Race system.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

An extract from the operating budget to the end of June 2025:

<i>Key Variances:</i>	2024/25 YTD Actuals June	2024/25 YTD Budgets June	2024/25 YTD Variance June	2024/25 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Actuals	2022/23 Full Year Actuals
Maintenance	355,909	272,850	(83,059)	272,850	399,744	268,588
Staffing	61,396	54,368	(7,028)	54,368	61,667	55,623
Support	177,212	168,099	(9,113)	168,099	364,924	345,431
Resource Consents	38,215	40,000	1,785	40,000	32,005	68,578
Health Monitoring	10,559	13,131	2,572	13,131	13,455	8,144
Other operating costs	25,827	21,770	(4,057)	21,770	18,982	5,216
Depreciation	36,227	60,858	24,631	60,858	50,768	49,916
	705,345	631,076	(74,269)	631,076	941,544	801,496

RURAL WATER	2024/25 YTD Actuals June	2024/25 YTD Budgets June	2024/25 YTD Variance June	2024/25 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Full Year Actuals	2022/23 Full Year Actuals
June 2025						
Income						
Rates Income - General	68,530	58,851	9,679	58,851	66,394	60,812
Rates Income - Water Races	530,431	529,659	772	529,659	740,876	751,488
Fees - Industrial Use	13,090	15,750	(2,660)	15,750	15,513	12,187
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	-	850
Total Income	612,051	604,260	7,791	604,260	822,783	825,338
Expenditure						
Corporate Services Overhead	93,476	91,415	(2,061)	91,415	193,418	168,607
Operations Overhead	81,465	73,451	(8,014)	73,451	169,599	176,005
Garage	2,271	3,233	962	3,233	1,908	819
Consultancy - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefit Tax	3,759	-	(3,759)	-	4,295	4,644
General Expenses	10	-	(10)	-	540	-
Maintenance - General	27,854	-	(27,854)	-	1,745	662
Maintenance - Intake Gates	413	11,100	10,688	11,100	2,075	3,600
Maintenance - Water Races	302,537	246,750	(55,787)	246,750	388,053	251,494
Materials - General	25,105	15,000	(10,105)	15,000	7,872	12,832
Monitoring - Health	10,559	13,131	2,572	13,131	13,455	8,144
Plant & Machinery- minor purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resource Consent (GWRC annual monitoring)	38,215	40,000	1,785	40,000	32,005	68,578
Telephone & Tolls	524	2,040	1,516	2,040	3,498	806
Vehicle Expenses	5,455	3,520	(1,935)	3,520	1,232	1,015
Fuel Expenses	5,519	5,000	(519)	5,000	5,748	2,596
Wages Allocated	57,638	52,368	(5,270)	52,368	56,877	50,979
Staff Training	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	495	-
Depreciation	36,227	60,858	24,631	60,858	50,768	49,916
Interest expense	14,318	11,210	(3,108)	11,210	7,964	798
Total Expenditure	705,345	631,076	(74,269)	631,076	941,544	801,496
Operating Result surplus/(deficit)	(93,294)	(26,816)	(66,478)	(26,816)	(118,762)	23,842

8. CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Climate change

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

8.2 Tāngata whenua

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

8.3 Financial impact

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

8.4 Community Engagement Requirements

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

8.5 Risks

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

8.6 Wellbeing***Economic Wellbeing***

- *Quality, fit-for-purpose infrastructure, and services that are cost-effective and meet future needs*

Cultural Wellbeing

- *Te Āo Māori/Māori aspirations and partnerships are valued and supported.*

Social Wellbeing

- *A strong and effective council providing trusted leadership*
- *A caring community that is safe, healthy, happy and connected.*

Environmental Wellbeing

- *Safe and resilient water supply, wastewater, and stormwater systems*
- *Healthy, sustainable waterways.*

9. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 477539

Author: Lawrence Stephenson, Waters Operations Manager

Attachments: Nil

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē, hui ē, taiki ē