

## MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD AGENDA

MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018

2. MATAURA WATER CONSUMPTION AND WATER RESTRICTIONS – JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2018

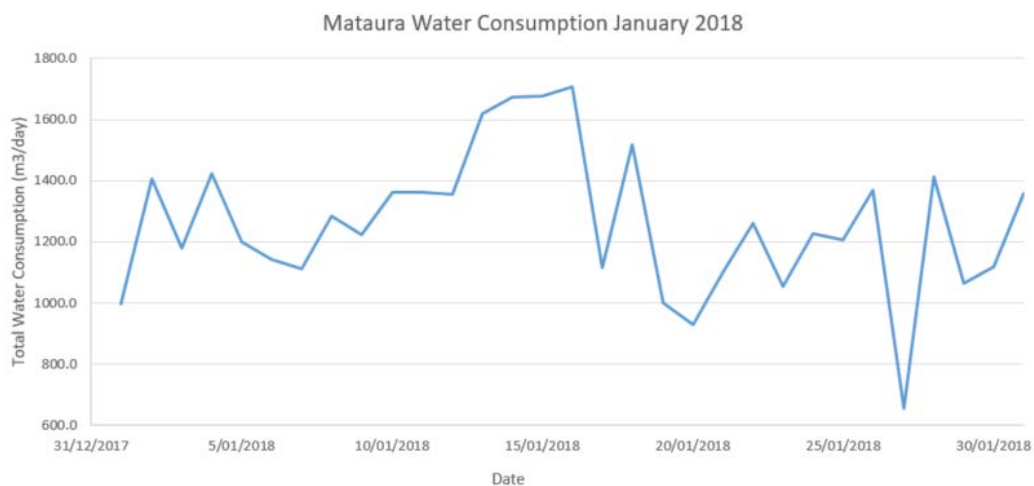
(Report from 3 Waters Asset Manager – 27.02.18)

**Introduction**

The sustained long dry summer has put significant pressure on both Gore and Mataura's drinking water supplies. In addition to this a significant draw-off from the Mataura water supply in mid-January put the Mataura water supply into a vulnerable position. This report provides a summary of these events.

**Increased draw-off from Mataura water supply from 13 to 16 January 2018**

The average daily water consumption in Mataura for the first 12 days in January was 1226 m<sup>3</sup>/day, this is in line with what was expected for that time of year. However this significantly and suddenly increased during the period from Saturday 13 January until Tuesday 16 January, during this period average water usage was 1669 m<sup>3</sup>/day. With the supply unable to match demand, this resulted in the treated water reservoir dropping to a level of 42% on 16 January. The following graph show Mataura's water consumption for the month of January:



This sudden and significant increase in water consumption obviously caused considerable concerns. If this had continued for a sustained period of time it would have likely resulted in severe water shortages for Mataura. As a result of this the following actions were taken:

- An extensive survey of the network for leaks was completed which identified two considerable leaks losing an estimated 50 – 80 m<sup>3</sup>/day.

- Issuing of level 4 water restrictions. Extreme temperatures were being experienced during this period, however this would not normally be expected to result in such a significant and constant increase in water demand.
- A ban was placed on water carriers from taking water from the network (refer further comments below).

As a result of these actions water consumption returned to normal from 16 January onwards (another high water usage day was however experienced on 18 January), with an average water consumption 1111m<sup>3</sup>/day.

### **Water carriers**

Due to the dry hot summer that Southland has experienced, a number of rural residents on rainwater supplies had been running out of water, increasing the demand for water carriers to take water from the Council's network. Prior to the large draw-off in Mataura in mid-January the Mataura water supply was under significantly less pressure than the Gore water supply. This resulted in water carriers being directed to take water from a hydrant in the Mataura network.

Following the large draw-off from the Mataura network there were a number of unconfirmed reports of water carriers taking excessive amounts of water from the Mataura network. The companies consented to take water from the Gore and Mataura network were contacted during this excessive draw off, but denied taking any water during this period. It is also worth noting that given the constant and prolonged draw-off from the supply between 13 and 16 January, (ie the draw-off appeared to continue throughout the night and water carriers were banned from taking water on the morning of 15 January) even if there were some water carriers taking water initially, this was not considered to be the main cause of the excessive draw off.

Currently and historically water consumption and fees and charges for water carriers has been based on an honesty system. Water carriers are required to inform the Council of their planned water usage prior to taking the water and then invoiced based on actual volumes taken. A review of the suitability of this arrangement and potential alternatives is however proposed.

### **Water restrictions and emergency pumping from the Mataura River**

Level 4 water restrictions were implemented on Monday 15 January as part of the response to the excessive draw-off during this period. Although water consumption returned to normal levels after 16 January, unfortunately the levels in the Pleura Dam had dropped to a critical level by this stage. Emergency pumping from the Mataura River was implemented on 16 January 2018. This continued until 5 February following a significant rainfall event.

Providing drinking water via emergency pumping from the Mataura River, although safe to consume, does incur taste and odour issues. Consideration as to how best to mitigate this issue will be given as part of the upgrade of the Mataura water treatment plant planned for the 2020/21 financial year.

As a result of the taste and odour issues, an alternative water source was provided during this period. Initially this was provided through a commercial water tanker however, very little water was used from the tanker. Due to the low water usage a decision was made to provide an alternative arrangement using a potable water tank on a trailer.

Following the rain which fell on 2 and 3 February water restrictions were lowered to level 2 on 8 February. While this rainfall provided some relief, the supply did not return to comfortable levels until further rain fell on 10 February. Following further rainfall, water restrictions were reduced to Level 1 (Level 1 restrictions are in place all year round) on 1 March 2018.

#### **Future mitigation measures**

The sustained dry hot summer has put significant pressure on both the Gore and Mataura water supplies which has caused notable inconvenience for consumers. Going forward consideration will be given as to how best future occurrences of these water shortages can be prevented and/or mitigated. Potential options that will be explored are:

- An alternative water supply.
- Improved treatment to prevent taste and odour issues when emergency pumping from the Mataura River.
- Improved flow monitoring of the treatment plant and/or network, which will allow large draw offs to be more quickly identified and controlled
- A review of the suitability of the current arrangement in place for water carriers.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

### 3. REPORT FROM MATAURA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

- Mataura Community Development office, located at 8 McQueen Avenue and open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings (exceptions of meetings and training that I am needed to attend), 9.00am–12.30pm each week and alternating Monday and Saturday mornings.
- Visitors to the office are regularly popping in.
- Met with Robyn Morris in January and February to discuss what is happening in Mataura and any issues that need to be addressed.
- Attended the Life Matters meeting on Thursday 1 February – this is a group that responds to and reviews situations where suicides have taken place. It also makes people aware of trainings that are coming to our area as well as assessing what other sort of training needs to take place to support the community workers and social agencies who need help and support in this area.
- Put together Mataura Messenger for February and March, regularly updated the Facebook pages and written the Mataura Matters Column for The Ensign for February and March.
- Met with Lee-Anne Hewlett, Gore Work Broker with Work and Income Employer Services in the Gore Office on Wednesday 7 February.
- Met with Ngaiwa McCallum – Able Southern Family Support Thursday 8 February.
- Met with Sue Morrison-Bailey – Welcoming Communities Advisor for Venture Southland on Tuesday 13 February. Discussed the Welcoming Communities initiative and the Southland Youth Future project as well as who else in Mataura would be interested in these.
- Met with Juanita Thornton, Community Advisor for Internal Affairs Community Operations on Wednesday 7 March. We are looking at holding a funding workshop on Wednesday 4 April, 4.00–6.00pm at the Mataura Community Development Office for people who involved in community groups or individuals who are needing funding to help with projects – this will be a combined workshop with Dianne Williams from the Community Trust of Southland, Juanita Thornton from Internal Affairs and a representative from the Mataura Licensing Trust.
- Attended the Mataura School athletics day to connect with families of our district and to have opportunities to make them aware of services that are available in Mataura
- Have taken up the role of “Cool Schools Peer Mediation Co-ordinator” for the Mataura School – this involves training children from the school to be able to mediate conflicts between students during lunch times. Once the programme has been set up I will be giving ongoing support to the peer mediators in their role in the Mataura School.
- Attended the public meeting for the future of the Mataura community garden held on Wednesday 7 March – will be offering ongoing support to the leadership of the gardens as they look at the issues affecting the garden for its future.
- Have been assisting the Mataura Combined Churches in organising a visit from DJ Forbes – unfortunately DJ was not able to commit to the original dates set due to overseas work commitments and although we have been trying to work on new dates for him to come and visit, this is not looking likely now
- Have set up with SouthernREAP community based adult education classes:

- “From the Mataura Garden to Your Plate” cooking classes – to be held at the Mataura Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays for four weeks starting on 20 March, 10.30am–12.30pm and will be supported by the Mataura community garden.
- “Computing for Beginners” basic computer skills classes – to be held at the Mataura Community Development Office on Thursdays for four weeks starting on 22 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm.
- Flax weaving class to weave a Pikau (backpack) – to be held over the weekend on 11–13 May

These will be advertised in the Mataura Messenger and on the Facebook pages.

- Southern REAP has also offered to the Mataura community the opportunity to host Nathan Wallis for three sessions while he is down from 19–21 June. These sessions include:
  - Brain development 0-3 years – the importance of the first 1000 days in a child’s life – to be held at the Community Centre.
  - A Night with the Blokes – to be held at the Mataura RSA or the Falls Hotel.
  - The teenage brain – for parents and teenagers to attend together – to be held at the Community Centre.

In order for these sessions to take place we as a community would need to make the venues available and to commit to contributing \$2,000 towards the costs of Nathan’s speaking costs. Southern REAP has offered 10 free tickets for each of the sessions (tickets \$5 per person to attend) to be given away at the discretion of the Mataura community or more specifically the Community Board.

- Did a review of the “Summer Holiday Activities for All the Family” and held a meeting with the organising group – general feeling was that it was very successful for our first attempt and that it was well worth doing. Susan Dennison, Principal of Mataura School made the effort to ring me and tell us how impressed she was that we had put on so many activities for the week and that it was great to see the local community groups being encouraged to host activities for families to give them an idea of what is going on in the Mataura community. Planning is now underway for the autumn school holidays with the second week (Sunday 22–Saturday 28 April 2018) being set aside. This time we will be putting flyers through the local schools for promotion. We are also hoping for more community groups to be involved and Southern REAP is also looking at what it would be able to provide for classes.
- Still working on the “What’s on for the under 5’s in Mataura” handout and the Mataura local directory – am hoping for them both to go out with the Mataura Messenger in April but still need to work on who is going to paying for the printing costs for both of these.
- Am working towards seeing if we can get the Early Childhood Taskforce and the Mataura Community Workers groups up and running again to help with information sharing and supporting one another in the work happening in the Mataura area.











