

15 March 2019

South Wairarapa District Council
PO Box 6
Martinborough 5741
info@swdc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Re: Submission on Wellington Water Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on this consultation document.

Regional Public Health serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier, safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff includes a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

Our organisations already work together on drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and we look forward to continued collaboration.

Regional Public Health **supports** South Wairarapa District Council becoming a shareholder in Wellington Water.

In our [submission on your draft long term plan \(April 2018\)](#) we encouraged increased collaboration and resource (expertise and asset) sharing between the greater Wellington region's councils. South Wairarapa District Council with an estimated resident population for 2018 of 10 450, represents a small rating base. The area has significant challenges associated with operation, maintenance and improvement of existing infrastructure (in particular drinking water and wastewater). Furthermore the infrastructure is required for three separate townships, each with their own unique challenges requiring a significant level of technical and operational expertise. This is combined with increasing regulatory and community expectations of improvements in existing water quality.

The recent challenges in managing a contamination event within the Martinborough township drinking water supply highlight the value and need for access to a wider pool of resources and

technical expertise. Access to the additional resource is necessary not only for managing the response to an incident, but also to prevent future incidents with a potential risk to public health.

We believe partnering with Wellington Water is the option likely to bring the greatest benefit in terms of protecting core infrastructure, improving resilience via economies of scale, support for region-wide consistency, and strengthening the ability of the Council to meet public health standards and improve the well-being of the community.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

Dr Jill McKenzie, Medical Officer of Health
Jill.McKenzie@huttvalleydhb.org.nz ; 04 570 9002

Ngā mihi

Dr Jill McKenzie
Medical Officer of Health

Peter Gush
Service Manager