

12. CROSS BOUNDARY SUPPLY TO CITY USERS FROM PAPARUA STOCK WATER RACE SYSTEM

RR 9333

Officer responsible Water Services Manager	Author Derek Rid
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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the administration of the Paparua stock water race system.

1 INTRODUCTION

Community Board members will be aware that a substantial area of rural land within the Christchurch city district receives a cross boundary supply of race water from Selwyn District. The scheme is administered and maintained by Selwyn District with Christchurch users charged directly by Selwyn for use of the race system. Representation of city interests in the administration of the scheme is achieved through membership of Mike Mora on the Water Race Sub-committee with Derek Rid, Water Services Unit providing technical support.

2 RECENT INVESTIGATION AND COMMITTEE WORK

A consortium of Pattle Delamore and Agriculture New Zealand was recently commissioned to report on scheme operation. Their findings included the following main points:

- (a) Residents/ratepayers in the water race area were generally in favour of the water race continuing. It was seen as an important asset to the area.
- (b) The water race administration was in need of attention.
- (c) The existing user charging system was unfair to the larger property owners.
- (d) Lifestyle block owners were not aware of their responsibilities for upkeep of water races.
- (e) Inconsistent flows in the water races frustrated farmers and was the major complaint against the system. Some inconsistency was brought about by
 - blockages
 - poor cleaning upstream
 - illegal drawing-off of water
 - illegal changes in flow splits at race take-offs

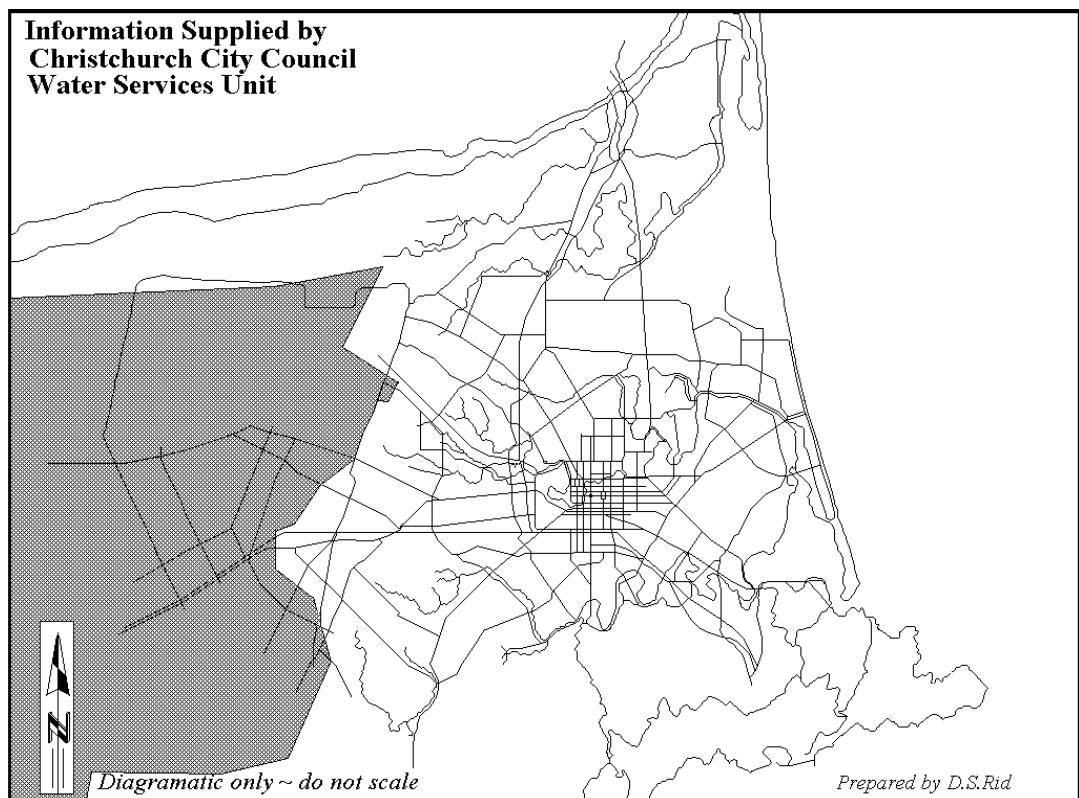
As a result of the report the water race will continue to operate for the foreseeable future provided the consent to take water from the Waimakariri River is renewed by the Canterbury Regional Council in 2001.

Since the Selwyn District Council's Water Race Sub-committee adopted the report and recommendations it has steadily worked through items identified as needing attention. This Sub-committee looks after three water race schemes within the Selwyn District Council area including the Paparua Stock Water Race of which approximately one third by area lies within the city boundary. The work includes:

- (a) A draft set of bylaws, common to all three water races, is being prepared, based on an agreed set of policies (see **attached**).
- (b) There is a new composition of the Water Race Sub-committee membership, made up of elected members and users, based on area and number of users. This has given the city one elected member and one user.
- (c) Flows within the Papanua Stock Water Race have been improved and are more steady and reliable. The stone weirs for controlling flows into branch races are being replaced with simple gate structures with lockable gate settings.
- (d) The charges for users have been changed to be more in line with that recommended in the consortium's report.
- (e) A draft newsletter has been prepared that informs property owners of their responsibilities relating to the water race system.
- (f) The water race caretakers have a responsibility to identify any non-paying users to the Selwyn District Council so that they may be charged for use of water.

3 SCHEME AREA WITHIN CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT

Within the city the water race system provides water to the area shaded on the map.



4 CITY BENEFITS

In addition to providing for stock water needs the city benefits from the water race system in the following ways:

- Aquifer recharge
- Ecological Values
- Aesthetic Values
- Stream flow augmentation
- Rural fire fighting

Aquifer Recharge

Approximately 90% of the water taken for the system from the Waimakariri River ends up recharging the aquifers either through seepage losses, soakholes at ends of races or irrigation.

Ecological values

Plants

The race water supports 22 native vascular plant species, *Paesia scaberula* not being recorded in the Christchurch plains area before.

Invertebrates

Diverse, healthy communities comprising substantial numbers of stoneflies and mayflies – two pollution sensitive species uncommon in many urban waterways.

Fish

Three indigenous species along with brown trout.

Aesthetic values

The races provide corridors of green plant life and areas of moisture in an area of the city that would otherwise be dry.

Stream flow augmentation

Some water races discharge directly into the top end of the city streams giving them additional or in some situations some flow throughout the year.

Rural fire fighting

For example, water was used directly from the water race to help put out the fire at the corner of Buchanans Road and Old West Coast Road during the summer of 1997/98.

5 POLICIES AND BY-LAW

As mentioned above, the sub-committee has prepared a set of policies that apply to all of the schemes administered by Selwyn District. These are **attached**. As well, the sub-committee has revised the by-law governing water race management and is in the process of having these adopted. It will be sensible for the city to adopt an identical by-law to allow its administration with the city district and this will be brought before your board for recommendation to the Council as soon as the finalised version is available.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That the Board join with the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for an informal Seminar to consider the contents of this report.
 3. That the Seminar be held at 4 pm on Monday 22 March 1999.

SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WATER RACE POLICIES

The following details the Selwyn District Council's policies in regard to Ellesmere, Malvern and Paparua Water Race schemes.

These policies should be read in conjunction with the Council's Water Race By-laws and Section 421 to 439 of the Local Government Act.

DECEMBER 1998

POLICY NO. 1: IRRIGATION

"That where a dead-end race finishes on a property, the property owner can use this but that any other irrigation must be by application to the Committee".

Malvern area - Irrigation not permitted except under the conditions stated below.

Ellesmere area - Irrigation not permitted except under the conditions stated below.

Paparua area - Irrigation permitted.

Conditions: Paparua

- Permits; permitted to continue after October 2001 subject to resource consent conditions.
- Total irrigation and stock use not to exceed resource consent conditions. Paparua Intake 1300 l/sec.
- That the water race that irrigation is proposed to be taken from is of sufficient size so there will not be detrimental effect to downstream users.
- Application fee of \$200.
- Yearly charge noted in Annual Plan.
- Applicant shall be required to show conclusively that irrigation take is within $\pm 5\%$ of approved amount within 48 hours notice from Council.

Minor Commercial Irrigation - All schemes will be permitted subject to application to the Selwyn District Council Water Race Committee with each case being treated on its merits.

Minor irrigation for non-commercial users for house gardens and shelter belts is permitted.

Conditions

Gardens

Maximum take of 15m³ per day.

No detrimental effect on downstream users permitted.

Application to Council required (no permit fee required).

Properties must be rated for stock water.

Irrigation may be required to cease immediately if there is a water shortage.

Shelterbelts

By permits only for three years.

Maximum rate of 15m³ per day.

Irrigation to be from a sump adjacent to race.

Application fee of \$200.

No detrimental effect on downstream users permitted.

Properties must be rated for stock water.

Irrigation may be required to cease immediately if there is a water shortage.

Illegal Irrigation

Any persons undertaking irrigation without a permit shall be automatically prosecuted.

POLICY NO. 2: PONDS

Relating to all schemes

Ponds - Described as an area of water being used for purposes other than a watering place for stock..

Permitted - Yes.

Conditions

1. Size restricted to 100m².
2. Maximum depth of water shall be 600mm.
3. Separate inlet and outlet pipes to water race.
4. Inlet and outlet pipes shall be 100mm diameter (nominal).
5. Shall have no detrimental effect on downstream users.
6. No detrimental effect on water quality shall occur.
7. Construction and maintenance shall be to the satisfaction of the Manager Works and Services.
8. Property must be rated for stock water.
9. Permit fee of \$200.
10. Where proposed ponds are felt to have a detrimental effect on the water race scheme then permission for a pond will be declined.”
11. Permission for continued use of pond may be withdrawn if Conditions 5, 6 and 7 are not met.

POLICY NO. 3: RACE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

3(A) Ellesmere and Malvern

1. Selwyn District Council is responsible for all maintenance and race cleaning on the main races. Schedule of main races shown are on plans SDC 2020/000/A3 & 2021/000/A3 dated 15/5/98.
2. All other races not defined as main races are the responsibility of the surrounding or adjacent property owner/s.
3. Culverts, bridges and other structures are the responsibility of the surrounding or adjacent property owner/s.
Exemption - Culverts across Council's formed roads.
- Weirs and control structures that control flow to more than one property.

4. Public notification by Selwyn District Council shall be given prior to 30th October in each year advising property owners or lessees of their responsibility to clean races.
5. The timing for the cleaning of water races is that:
 - (i) All races within areas of grazed land is to be cleaned by 30 December each year,
 - (ii) All races within areas of arable land to be cleaned as soon as the crop is removed or by 31 May each year.

NOTE: This does not remove the property owners responsibility as detailed under the Water Race Bylaw.

3(B) Papparua

Selwyn District Council is responsible for

- (i) All maintenance and race cleaning on the mains races and all other races that are within legal road maintained by the Council as shown on plan SDC 2019/000/A3 dated 15/5/98.
- (ii) Weirs and control structures, that control flow to other properties, within private property.

Exemptions - Water race crossing to individual properties are the property owner's responsibility.

POLICY NO. 4: WATER RACE TAILINGS

POLICY - 4[A] WATER RACE TAILINGS - CLEAN TO BANK OR REMOVE FROM BANK

That in all three schemes Council water races be cleaned to truck for a length of 50m outside properties where the road edge is mowed regularly.

POLICY - [4B]: REMOVAL OF WATER RACE TAILINGS FROM BANK

(These are the race cleanings that has built up over a number of years).

- To be removed if it is deemed to be a safety hazard by Council's Roading Engineer.
- To be removed when volume is such that it is within 0.5m of the road formation.
- To be removed when operation of the race is comprised by the cleanings.

That the proportion of tailings to be removed from each scheme to be determined by each scheme each year".

POLICY NO. 5: SPRAYING OF COUNCIL RACES

- Yearly spraying of noxious plants with non-residual or non-persistent sprays within land deemed water race reserve as required to ensure control of noxious plants is necessary.

NOTE 1: Notification of owner where water race goes through leased land.

POLICY NO. 6: RELOCATION OF WATER RACES

Relocation of water races shall be permitted subject to:

1. Relocation of the race shall not have a detrimental effect on any other water race users or the water race system operation.
2. Application for relocation shall be made in writing to the Manager Works and Services.
Application to include:
 - (i) Map showing existing and proposed works.
 - (ii) Specifications for construction of work.
3. No works can proceed until Engineering approval of the works has been obtained from the Manager Works and Services.
4. All costs associated, including any supervision, with the relocation will be at the applicant's expense.
5. Where a water race relocation application is an enhancement to the scheme then a cost sharing arrangement may be entered into between the Council and the applicant at the Council's discretion.

POLICY NO. 7: CLOSURES OF WATER RACES

1. "The race network may be rationalised from the extremities of the Water Race Scheme on a race by race basis, in consultation with property owners, and in light of any other decisions pertaining to enhanced use of the scheme for irrigation and/or aquifer recharge for water supply and stream augmentation."

POLICY NO. 8: NEW RACES AND OR ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES

Installation of new races will be permitted:

1. Where new properties are required to be served.
2. To serve additional areas of individual properties.

Conditions

- Cost of all works including the associated supervision be at the applicant's expense.
- Design and construction to the approval of the Manager Works and Services.

POLICY NO. 9: EXEMPTIONS FROM PAYING WATER RACE RATES

Malvern and Ellesmere

Where the property is within a water race area and stock water is unable to be supplied to that property or is impracticable to do so then:

1. The property shall remain within the water race area but exempted from payment of stock water rates.
2. Application for such exemption must be in writing and not be retrospective prior to the current financial year in question.

Paparua

Where the property is within water race area and a water race does not go through the property or adjacent to that property then:

1. The property shall remain within the water race area but exempted from payment of stock water rates.
2. Application for such exemption must be in writing and not be retrospective prior to the current financial year in question.

POLICY NO. 10: CARRY OUT WORK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Where Council's Water Race Contractor has been required to carry out or arrange to carry out works on private property so as to ensure compliance with the Water Race Bylaw and Maintenance Contract Specifications then this work shall be paid by Council via the appropriate water race account.

Council will then invoice the property owner(s) concerned to recover all costs incurred by Council.

POLICY NO. 11: SUBDIVISIONS

Where a subdivision is proposed, all lots within that subdivision shall be served by the race system except if it is physically and or technically impractical to serve each individual lot.

Exemption

Properties within rural residential, residential, commercial, and industrial zones are not required to be serviced.

POLICY NO. 12: SOAKHOLES

The maintenance and operation of soakholes are the responsibility of:

1. Council when the associated water race is within a formed road.
2. Property owners when the associated water race and existing soakholes is within the private property.
3. Replacement of the soakhole due to its inability to take the water race flow shall be Council's responsibility. Council will only be responsible for installing a standard soakhole.
4. If flow increases due to changes in operation, which has a detrimental effect on existing soakholes, Council will be responsible for all costs to upgrade the soakholes.

POLICY NO. 13: REGISTRATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints/requests received by the Council's Water Race Contractor (from either the public or Council) shall be noted along with all relevant remarks. This information will be reported to the Water Race Committee where:

1. Response times (as per the Maintenance Contract) have not been met.
2. Reoccurring complaint.

POLICY NO. 14: HOUSEHOLD WATER SUPPLIES

In the event of domestic water being required to be delivered that:

1. The Council meets the cost to supply potable water, where the consumer pays the appropriate charges for a domestic supply and the shortage is as a result of malfunction of the water race system.
2. The consumer meets the cost where the consumer pays no charges for a domestic supply.

POLICY NO. 15: REMISSION OF RATES

"That the Council's policy in relation to credits for unplanned disruption of the water race supply be as per schedule 1 -

"Water race remissions" as follows:

The following is a list of circumstances where a ratepayer can apply for a write-off of water race rates. (Note - a supply of water must have been disrupted for a minimum of 24 hours).

SCHEDULE 1

The following is a list of circumstances where a ratepayer can apply for a write-off of water race rates. (Note - supply of water must have been disrupted for a minimum of 12 hours).

- (a) Where a race is blocked by materials.
- (b) Where a drought situation causes part of a system to run dry (this acknowledges that the majority of the system can be supplied but that the reduced quantity of water in the system leaves some isolated areas with no water.
- (c) Credits will only be given upon application by the ratepayer and will apply from the date of application until supply is restored.
- (d) A full day's credit is given for every party of a day where disruption occurs (e.g. if a ratepayer is not supplied for water for one day and two hours, this would result in a two day credit being given).
- (e) Credits do not apply in situation where ratepayers are advised of scheduled maintenance which exceed 12 hours.

The above circumstances do not apply where "acts of God" occur.

Acts of God cover the following:

- (i) flood conditions where intake is closed by Council to prevent damage to water race system
- (ii) flood conditions where intake is closed due to
 - (a) flood damaging intake or associated structure
 - (b) where course of river has altered in a manner that prevents intake and associated structures being supplied
- (iii) drought conditions where level of river results in intake not being supplied.