

Reference Number: 2022/896

7 October 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 12 September 2022. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

New Zealand urban water pricing data

Please refer to the attached document containing data and information for each water supply managed by the Horowhenua District Council.

Also attached are example documents of a bill sent to households and commercial water users as requested under general institutional conditions.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer at LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Steve McTaylor-Biggs
Executive Sponsor

Water Supply	Levin	Shannon	Tokomaru	Foxton	Foxton Beach												
Type and number of water sources used, for example storage, dams river extraction, groundwater aquifers etc	River	River	River	Groundwater aquifers	Groundwater aquifers												
Number of households services from each source	Based on the number of connections, not households. There are 9,332 from data on 28 September 2022	Based on the number of connections, not households. There are 815 from data on 28 September 2022	Based on the number of connections, not households. There are 227 from data on 28 September 2022	Based on the number of connections, not households. There are 1,455 from data on 28 September 2022	Based on the number of connections, not households. There are 1,680 from data on 28 September 2022												
Population serviced from each source	20,530 (Calculated based on the number of connections multiplied by 2.2 which is the estimated number of occupants per household)	1,793 (Calculated based on the number of connections multiplied by 2.2 which is the estimated number of occupants per household)	499 (Calculated based on the number of connections multiplied by 2.2 which is the estimated number of occupants per household)	3,201 (Calculated based on the number of connections multiplied by 2.2 which is the estimated number of occupants per household)	3,696 (Calculated based on the number of connections multiplied by 2.2 which is the estimated number of occupants per household)												
Volume of water available/produced at each source	9,366 - based on the 2021/2022 daily average in cubic meters	745 - based on the 2021/2022 daily average in cubic meters	146 - based on the 2021/2022 daily average in cubic meters	1,253 - based on the 2021/2022 daily average in cubic meters	612 - based on the 2021/2022 daily average in cubic meters												
The fixed costs of water supplied per cubed or per litre	Per cubic meter or 1,000 litres	"	"	"	"												
The variable and/or marginal costs of water supplied per meter cubed or per litre and any details on how these are calculated	See below response	"	"	"	"												
Storage capacity where storage is used	13,600 (Volume in cubic meters)	1,338 (Volume in cubic meters)	527 (Volume in cubic meters)	1,600 (Volume in cubic meters)	1,150 (Volume in cubic meters)												
The proportion of recycled water (if any)	None at this stage	"	"	"	"												
The proportion of leakage if any (loss in transit from suppliers to water consumers)	<div><div>The proportion of water wastage is measured using the 'Real water loss performance of the network as measured by the standard World Bank Institute Bank for Leakage'. Our target is "Band B".</div><table><tr><th>Supply</th><th>"Snapshot" Infrastructure Leakage Index</th></tr><tr><td>Levin</td><td>C</td></tr><tr><td>Shannon & Mangere</td><td>C</td></tr><tr><td>Foxton</td><td>C</td></tr><tr><td>Foxton Beach</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>Tokomaru</td><td>B</td></tr></table></div>	Supply	"Snapshot" Infrastructure Leakage Index	Levin	C	Shannon & Mangere	C	Foxton	C	Foxton Beach	A	Tokomaru	B	"	"	"	"
Supply	"Snapshot" Infrastructure Leakage Index																
Levin	C																
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Water Demand	Levin	Shannon	Tokomaru	Foxton	Foxton Beach
Volume of water consumption from each source for household, industry, and commercial use	The water consumption varies throughout the year. Our target water consumption rate per person per day is 300 litres. During the wet weather period (off peak) it is below the target value and exceeds the target during dry period (peak time).	"	"	"	"
Number of households using water tanks and retention tanks	All of Waitāre Beach, Hokio Beach, Manakau and Waikawa Beach settlements do not have reticulated water supply. The total number of households for these settlements are 1,556. These households are on rainwater tanks or bore water. Additionally, rural properties have their own water supply either from rainwater, tanks or bores. The number of these rural properties across the district is 3,091.	"	"	"	"
Information on the dates and restrictions imposed on households during any recent periods of low supply or drought (especially how much water restrictions could reduce the consumption)	For the 2021/2022 Summer period - Level 1 imposed on 24 December 2021, elevated to Level 2 on 18 February 2022 and elevated to Level 3 on 30 March 2022. All restrictions lifted on 20 May 2022	N/A	N/A	For the 2021/2022 Summer Period - Level 1 imposed on 18 December 2021, elevated to Level 2 on 21 January 2022 and lifted on 14 April 2022.	For the 2021/2022 Summer Period - Level 1 imposed on 18 December 2021, elevated to level 2 on 21 January 2022 and lifted on 14 April 2022
Information on how much water demand varies between drought years and wet years	It varies between 20%-40% between dry and wet periods	"	"	"	"

Water Charges and Pricing	Levin	Shannon	Tokomaru	Foxton	Foxton Beach
How are water charges structured? E.g: No Charge, Flat rate or charge, Volumetric pricing (price per unit), Dynamic or scarcity pricing (price per unit changes based on available supply), A combination of the above (for example, volumetric charging only for use in excess of a specified amount)	Properties that are metered are charged using volumetric pricing. If you live in Levin, Ōhau, Foxton, Shannon or Tokomaru and you have a water meter, your ordinary Council rates cover the cost of 91,000 litres of water per quarter (that's approximately 1,000 litres a day). As long as you don't use more than this, you won't incur any extra water usage charges. The 91,000 litre allowance can't be increased and doesn't accrue, so you can't carry over any unused part of it to the next quarter. If properties go over the 91,000 litres allocated they are then charged at \$2.50 per 1,000 litres	"	"	"	If you live in Foxton Beach, you'll be charged at different rates per 1,000 litres depending on how much water you use, according to a three-tier system: First 50,000 litres are charged at \$1.07 per 1,000 litres, 51,000-100,000 litres are charged at \$2.15 per 1,000 litres, 101,000 litres plus are charged at \$3.22 per 1,000 litres.
Details on fixed and variable charges for water users, and whether these differ for household and commercial water use	See above response	"		"	"
Details on whether a separate charge is used for water coming in and water coming out	No	"		"	"
When was water pricing introduced?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information on the rationale for introducing pricing (or the rationale for not using pricing) the goals of water service provision, and the goal of water pricing	Water pricing may need to be reviewed in the future as part of upcoming District Plan changes. Sustainable water use approach would need to be introduced which may include rainwater tanks installation for non-drinking water usage for new build homes.	"	"	"	"
Who sets the water pricing? Is long run marginal cost (LRMC) pricing being used?	Water rates are part of Horowhenua District Council's targeted rates for water supply, set under section 19 of the Local Government (Rating Act) 2022, where a metre is used to measure consumption on the network during the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Prices are set in the Annual Plan.	"	"	"	"
The number of water users in each pricing scheme (if there are more than one)	See above response	"	"	"	"
Volume of water consumption under each pricing scheme	See above response	"	"	"	"
Do household, commercial, and industry water users pay different prices per unit of water? If so, what are these prices?	The water charges for properties with town water supply, excluding Foxton Beach, are the same for all types of properties where a water meter is in place. Some rural properties have restricted supplies where a fixed amount of water is supplied at a continuous rate. Some of these properties are metered and are charged for water use on the same basis as any other metered connection. Council is progressively extending the coverage of meters throughout the supply area.	"	"	"	"

Metering	Levin	Shannon	Tokomaru	Foxton	Foxton Beach
Have water meters been installed for all water users?	Not all properties in the district are metered. All extraordinary users are metered, which includes commercial and industrial premises, properties with pools, educational and health facilities, retirement villages and properties with agricultural use. Some properties are metered because we've identified a possible leak on the property during a leak survey.	"	"	"	All properties in Foxton Beach are metered
Are water meters in use for all water users	No	No	No	No	Yes
Have smart meters been installed for any water users, how many, and are there any plans for installing meters in the near-future?	Not at this stage, there may be consideration in the future	"	"	"	"

General Institutional Conditions	Levin	Shannon	Tokomaru	Foxton	Foxton Beach
Information on any incentives in place for households to collect rainwater	Currently there is none	"	"	"	"
Information on any financial assistance for low-income households	There is a rate rebate available for any eligible house-holds. Water supply fees are apart of Council rates.	"	"	"	"
Information on any co-governance considerations, such as whether there is engagement and input from local iwi in the decision-making process of water pricing	No	"	"	"	"
Evidence of monitoringg and enforcement in cases where metering is not present	As part of water intake resource consent conditions, we are required to Water Demand Management. As part of this we monitor how the water supply network is performing, identify and address any water leakages.	"	"	"	"
Example document of a bill sent to households and commercial water users					

WATER CONSUMPTION RATE INVOICE

Tax Invoice – GST No: 51-919-041



Name		
Property Address	Invoice Date:	03/10/2022
Property Description	Payment Due Date:	25/10/2022
	Previous Reading Date:	29/06/2022
	Current Reading Date:	20/09/2022
	Assessment Number:	

Billing cycle 1						
Meter No.	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Consumption this Period	Consumption Billed	Rate	Amount
	1321	1415	94			
				91	0.0000	\$0.00
				3	2.5000	\$7.50
				0	0.0000	\$0.00
					Current Billing (incl GST)	\$7.50
					Balance Brought Forward	\$0.00
					Total Now Due	\$7.50

If your water rates are paid by Direct Debit this account is for information only.

Payment can be made directly to our bank account
02-0668--0070607-02 (Please quote assessment number)



Remittance Advice Water Billing

Please return this part of the form with your payment

Amount Due: \$7.50

Amount Paid Cheque/Cash:

WATER CONSUMPTION RATE INVOICE

Tax Invoice – GST No: 51-919-041



Name		
Property Address	Invoice Date:	20/07/2022
Property Description	Payment Due Date:	25/08/2022
	Previous Reading Date:	08/04/2022
	Current Reading Date:	05/07/2022
	Assessment Number:	

Billing cycle 1						
Meter No	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Consumption this Period	Consumption Billed	Rate	Amount
	1361	1412	51			
				50	1.0700	\$53.50
				1	2.1500	\$2.15
				0	3.2200	\$0.00
					Current Billing (incl GST)	\$55.65
					Balance Brought Forward	\$0.00
					Total Now Due	\$55.65

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02-0668--0070607-02 (Please quote assessment number)



Remittance Advice Water Billing

Please return this part of the form with your payment

Amount Due: \$55.65