

COUNCIL PAPERS: OPAKI WATER RACE CLOSURE CONSULTATION

Date	Meeting		Attachments
12 February 2020	Infrastructure and Services Committee	Report recommending that the Infrastructure and Services Committee recommends that Council agrees to undertake public consultation on a proposal to close the Opaki Water Race. Committee agreed to recommend to Council.	Attachment 1 Report 003/20 Opaki Water Race Attachment 2 Report 010/20 Report of the Committee (page 302-303)
26 June 2020	Council	Council agreed to undertake a special consultative procedure (SCP) and adopted a Statement of Proposal to consult on the closure of the Opaki Water Race.	Attachment 3 Report 087/20 Opaki Water Race Statement of Proposal
2 September 2020	Hearings Committee	Hearing undertaken following the consultation process • 66 submissions received • 8 submitters were heard • 45 supported closure • 19 did not support the Council proposal.	Attachment 4 AGENDA Hearings Committee 2020-09-02 – includes Report 123/20. Attachment 5 AGENDA Hearings Committee 2020-09-02 All Submissions Received Attachment 6 126/20 Report of the Hearings Committee 2020-09-02
30 September 2020	Hearings Committee	Deliberations – the Committee recommended to Council that the Opaki Water Race be closed by 30 June 2026.	Attachment 7 AGENDA Hearings Committee 2020-09-30 Deliberations - includes Report 142/20 Attachment 8 Report 145/20 Report of the Hearings Committee 2020-09-30

Date	Meeting		Attachments
28 October 2020	Council	Council confirmed the recommendation of the Hearings Committee and added a resolution that Council resolved to work with the Opaki Water Race Users Committee in a constructive and inclusionary manner to achieve the closure of the Opaki Water Race and to assist them to find alternative water supply options before the closure of the Opaki Water Race.	Attachment 9 Report 158/20 Council 2020-10-28 – Supplementary Report re Opaki Water Race Attachment 10 Report 155/20 Council Minutes 2020- 10-28 (see pages 106- 107)

To:	Infrastructure and Services Committee
From:	Phil Evans, Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance David Hopman, Manager Assets and Operations
Endorsed by:	Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive
Date:	12 February 2020
Subject:	Opaki Water Race
RECOMMENDATION	
Recommendation: That the Committee recommends that Council agrees to undertake public consultation on a proposal to close the Opaki Water Race, noting that the Special Consultative Procedure and the adoption of a Statement of Proposal will be required in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain a decision from the Committee on a proposal to close the Opaki Water Race.

Executive Summary

The Opaki Water Race supplies stock drinking water to 54 properties in the Loopline / Paierau Road / SH2 area north of Masterton. The race is supplied by a water take from the Ruamahanga River, with the inlet close to Double Bridges. Note that although there are 54 properties on the race, some of those are leased out. Including the lease holders, there are 64 users of the race.

The water take is subject to a Resource Consent issued by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). The Consent has now expired, and Council has been working through the renewal.

Issues with the renewal have arisen, with the requirement of GWRC to notify the application. Concerns about the level of costs and uncertainty around that process have provided a driver to investigate alternative water supply options.

Additionally, changes to the Regional Plan have created uncertainty around the long-term use and viability of the race, although the final form of the rules have not yet been determined. Rules requiring fencing, riparian planting and efficient-use will impact on the functionality of the race, as will proposals to increase minimum flows in the river.

Currently, there is a mixed level of engagement with the multiple users, with a significant minority remaining silent.

The outcome of the investigations that have been undertaken is that only a minority of users are fully reliant on the race for stock water. It is therefore recommended that Council take this opportunity to formally consult on whether the race should in fact be closed. If the Committee agrees the draft Statement of Proposal will be presented to Council for adoption.

Context

The Opaki Water Race is one of five remaining water races used throughout the Wairarapa. Typically, these were constructed in the early 20th century to supply drinking water for stock in areas where there was no readily available alternative. The Opaki Water Race consists of a single intake located on the Ruamāhanga River at Double Bridges which branches multiple times to provide 25km of water way. Excess water from the race eventually returns to the river system via four points along the Waipoua River and one point in Lansdowne at the head of the Hiona Stream.

The race is unlined and loses a significant amount of water to the ground. Typical intake flow rates are around 120-130 l/s, while the discharge rates vary from 0 to 5 l/s.

At times of heavy rainfall, the race serves as a cross country drain, intercepting overland flows and diverting them back to the Waipoua River and Hiona Stream.

Although the original purpose of the race was to provide stock drinking water, this is now only a function for approximately a third of properties. Land fragmentation means that many of the properties are now “lifestyle” types, with little or no stock. Some users view the race as having aesthetic value. Some were unaware of the nature of the race until contacted by Council staff.

Much of the race is unfenced, or only fenced on one side. This is to allow stock direct access to the race for drinking water and is key to the design. Proposed rules in the Regional Plan, and in the National Environmental Standards, will require the race to be both fenced and riparian planted. This will cause significant problems with not only stock access for drinking water, but also for machinery access for maintenance.

Only one property – Matahiwi Vineyards – has permission to take water from the race for the purpose of irrigation. This is subject to a range of conditions, including a prohibition on taking water when the river flows are low.

A survey of users carried out in 2017, to which 41 out of 64 users responded, indicated that a minority saw the race as being vital for their stock water needs. Most of those properties do however have access to an alternative water source, such as the Opaki Water Scheme, water tanks or private bores.

It is currently estimated by Council staff that only 4 properties are fully reliant on the water race for stock water, plus the vineyard for irrigation water. While this exact figure may be subject to change, the reality is that only a small number of users are fully reliant on the water race for the purpose it was intended.

Council officers have been working on the renewal of the water take consent, with the initial intention of seeking a short term (5 year) consent in order to provide an opportunity for the Regional Plan Whitua rules to come into effect.

We have now been advised by GWRC that this consent will need to be notified, due to one party being unwilling to provide affected parties consent. The costs and uncertainty of the notified consent process have made this option unreasonable for a short-term consent. It would only make sense to pursue this for a long-term (15 to 25 years) consent.

Council has deferred spending significant money on automated upgrades to the race, due to the current uncertainty. For instance, Council has not installed a control gate at the inflow point. This would allow Council to vary the inflow in response to changes in the river level. Currently this is not possible and Council is occasionally in breach of its Resource Consent conditions because of this.

The Water Race has struggled to comply with the terms of its Resource Consent and there have been multiple non-compliances in terms of the discharge water quality and the intake water quantity. Regional Council has considered enforcement action against Council in the past and in 2017 served an Advisory Notice due to high levels of bacteria in the discharge. Although steps have been taken to improve water quality, further work and investment will be required if the race remains in operation.

Significant investment is required to firstly renew the Resource Consent application and then to install automated flow controls. This investment will be required to be funded by the users.

Alternatively, the race can be closed and landusers who have a requirement for stock water will need to source water from a different supply.

Attempts to obtain a majority agreement from the users of the race on the best way to proceed have been unsuccessful, in part due to a significant number of users who choose not to engage.

It is therefore not clear from current users which path the Council should be taking and there is currently no clear mandate for either option.

It is recommended that the Council undertake the Special Consultative Procedure with the race users, with a recommendation to close the Race, which will result in a clear decision and a mandate for a pathway forward. The Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) is the formal consultation process under the Local Government Act 2002. Council must formally adopt the statement of proposal once it has been prepared and prior to consultation beginning.

Analysis and advice

The purpose of local government is;

- To enable democratic decision making by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- To promote the social, economic and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

The Opaki Water Race is operated by the Council on behalf of the user group. Costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the race, including the costs of any infrastructure, consents or monitoring, fall entirely on the user group via a targeted rate. No funding is provided from the general rates.

The function of the race is primarily the provision of stock water. Only one permit has been issued for irrigation.

The existing Resource Consent has expired, and Council is currently working through the renewal. Although it was initially hoped that an application for a short-term consent could be granted relatively easily, this has not been the case. The costs of a notified or limited notified application and the costs of additional infrastructure to achieve Consent conditions will result in a significant increase to the costs rated against the existing users.

As noted above, the Race is subject to increasingly complex and onerous rules at both a Regional and National level. These relate to the requirement to install fencing, riparian planting and the need to demonstrate efficient use. The cost of this work will need to be borne by the users but will create practical difficulties for accessing the race for maintenance. Land users who are reliant on the water for stock will need to install some alternative for access, such as pumping water from the race. Access for maintenance appears harder to resolve.

Multiple attempts have been made to date to gain a consensus among users on an agreed pathway forward. This has not been successful. However, background work carried out as part of this has indicated that there may be a reasonable alternative for most of the water users.

A private water supply scheme – the Opaki Water Scheme – operates through the same area, and already supplies water to most properties on the water race. Initial discussions with the Scheme operators confirmed that the Scheme could supply the existing stock water needs to all properties. It would not be possible to supply irrigation water through this system due to the volumes required.

Council has the ability, under the Local Government Act, to undertake a consultation with the community on the proposal to close the race. This process would provide an opportunity for all users to have their say.

Options considered

Council officers have considered multiple options for addressing the issues with the race.

Option 1 – That Council pursue the long-term consent irrespective of the costs and uncertainties. The costs of this will fall on the existing user group unless there is a change to the Council's funding policy. Council may choose to pursue this option but should be aware of the likely costs involved and determine where these costs should fall. In the event that this is the preferred option, consultation with the affected users will be important.

Option 2 – That Council pursue the short-term consent. There are similar costs and uncertainties to option 1, with no real benefits to seeking a shorter term. This option is not recommended for those reasons.

Option 3 – The Council undertake a public consultation on the closure of the race. The mechanism for this is the Special Consultation Procedure (SCP) under the Local Government Act.

Recommended option

Option 3 is the recommended option. This will provide an opportunity for all affected parties to provide submissions and for the Council to make a determination.

Strategic, policy and legislative implications

The Water Race is not a strategic asset but is operated for the benefit of a subset of ratepayers. Council does have a bylaw relating to the operation of the Race, and this forms the basis of the management of the race and the shared responsibilities of the users.

There are no legal requirements for Council to operate the race or to provide stock water. However, as the race already exists, it is not possible for Council to simply cease operations without undertaking a formal consultation with the users.

The SCP is the formal consultation process under the Local Government Act, and there are legislative requirements that need to be followed.

Assessment of significance

The decision to close the water race would be significant in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy for multiple reasons;

- Change to level of service – cessation of the provision of stock water via the race
- Specific geographic area affected – the users are confined to a specific area
- Council exiting an existing activity – cessation of the provision of stock water

- Difficult to reverse – the existing water race operates on an (expired) Resource Consent issued under the previous Regional Plan. New rules will be increasingly stringent and the water take would be difficult to reinstate.

As the closure of the race would be significant, an appropriate level of public engagement would be followed. This would be done via the SCP.

Communications and engagement plan

A communications and engagement plan will be drafted and used to manage the SCP and ensure that legal requirements are met.

Financial considerations

There are financial impacts of closing the race. These include carrying out the public consultation and running a hearing to hear any submissions received. These costs would be met from existing operational budgets.

Impacts on Maori

There are no apparent impacts that are specific to Maori. Both local Iwi have expressed verbal support for the renewal of the existing Resource Consent, but only for a short term. Iwi representatives will be consulted directly prior to beginning the SCP.

Environmental impact and considerations

The decision to engage with the users through the SCP does not involve any environmental impact. However, should a decision be made to close the race, there will be a range of environmental impacts, both positive and negative, which will need to be addressed.

Positive effects will include stopping the impact of the water take on the Ruamahanga river at times of low flow and stopping any impact on the Waipoua River from the discharge.

Negative effects include the loss of the water race itself as a habitat and the possible effect on the local ground water.

Next steps

If the Committee agrees to recommend that Council engages with the water race users, then the next steps will be to prepare the Statement of Proposal for adoption by Council.

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010/20

**REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT
WAIATA HOUSE, LINCOLN ROAD, MASTERTON ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019
AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor G Caffell (Acting Chair), Mayor Lyn Patterson, Councillors B Gare, D Holmes, F Mailman, T Nixon and S Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Manager Assets and Operations, Manager Community Facilities and Activities, Manager Finance, Communications and Marketing Manager, Properties and Facilities Manager, Senior Advisor Wastewater Compliance and Strategy, Community Development Advisor, Governance Advisor, two media representatives and three members of the community.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In relation to the Community Facilities and Activities Update, Mayor Lyn Patterson declared her husband has a leased hangar at Hood Aerodrome and Councillor Nixon declared her partner is the Aerodrome Manager and also leases a hangar at Hood Aerodrome.

APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor B Gare

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee accepts the apologies from Councillor Nelson, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Peterson, Ra Smith and Tiraumaera Te Tau
Seconded Councillor D Holmes and CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

Colleen Daniels and Ruth Parker addressed Council on the closure of the library and public toilets over the Christmas period as they were unhappy with the length of time the facilities were closed.

**LATE ITEMS FOR INCLUSION UNDER SECTION 46A(7) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987**

There were no late items.

WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION DRAFT BYLAW
(001/20)

The report providing information about the proposed Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Draft Bylaw and asking the Committee to request the Joint Policy Working Group to review the bylaw and provide feedback to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee was presented by Manager Assets and Operations.

In response to a question the Manager Assets and Operations advised that the feedback from the whole region would go to the Joint Committee and that the aim would be for the Joint Policy Working to meet early in March to review the bylaw. The intention was to have as much consistency across the region as possible but there would be some areas that wouldn't apply to

Masterton. Each council was still responsible for its own bylaw and Council would have to adopt its own statement of proposal and go through the special consultative procedure.

Moved by Councillor S Ryan

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee:

1. **Notes the Wellington Region's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan's action for councils to "*investigate and if feasible develop, implement and oversee monitoring and enforcement of a regional bylaw, or a suite of regionally consistent bylaws*";**
2. **Notes the work completed to analyse the issues and associated justifications for regionally consistent bylaw provisions;**
3. **Requests Wairarapa Joint Policy Working Group**
 - i. **to review the draft waste bylaw template contained in Attachment 1 to Report 001/20 and**
 - ii. **to provide feedback on the draft waste bylaw template directly to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee by March 2020;**
4. **Notes that Council appointees to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee (Councillor Sandy Ryan, and Councillor Chris Peterson - alternate) will join the Wairarapa Joint Policy Working Group for the review of the draft bylaw template**
5. **Notes that the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee will collate all the regional feedback, modify the bylaw as required and then return the bylaw to each Council for consideration before each Council begins their individual bylaw consultation process**

Seconded by Councillor F Mailman and CARRIED

OPAKI WATER RACE (003/20)

The report seeking the Committee's recommendation to Council to consult on a proposal to close the Opaki Water Race was presented by the Manager Assets and Operations and the Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance.

Members discussed the report. One member noted that the recommendation was not necessarily saying Council wanted to close the race but was the beginning of a process. This was necessary because Council had sought a five year consent to allow the water race to continue to operate until regional policy changes had been worked out but as Fish and Game, who were concerned about a non-native species, wouldn't agree to a five year consent the consent would need to be notified which was a costly process.

Another member agreed that an interim consent would be the best solution to allow the alternatives to be looked at as things had changed considerably since the water race was built, land use had changed and there was now a greater emphasis on water quality. Another member stated that if the users wanted to go through the notification process to enable Council

to seek a five-year consent then they would have to pay for it. Some users of the race also needed to lift their game in terms of water quality.

Staff advised that Council policy to date had been to support the race and users, but for a number of reasons it is now proposed to start a serious conversation about what the alternatives might be.

Moved by Mayor Patterson

That the Committee recommends that Council agrees to undertake public consultation on a proposal to close the Opaki Water Race, noting that the Special Consultative Procedure and the adoption of a Statement of Proposal will be required in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Seconded Councillor G McClymont and CARRIED

WAINUIORU RURAL WATER SCHEME REPORT (002/20)

The Manager Assets and Operations presented the report on the Wainuioru Rural Water Scheme from the Chair of the Scheme's Committee.

The work done by the Scheme's Committee over the last few years to improve the Scheme's operation was recognised and an addition to the recommendation to that effect was agreed to by the meeting.

Moved Councillor D Holmes

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee receives the report on the Wainuioru Rural Water Scheme and commends the Scheme's Committee for their excellent work.

Seconded by Mayor L Patterson and CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE (004/20)

The report providing the Committee with an update on key infrastructure projects and areas of focus was presented by the Manager Assets and Operations.

Moved by Councillor T Nixon

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee notes the information contained in Report 004/20.

Seconded by Councillor F Mailman and CARRIED

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE (005/20)

The report providing the Infrastructure and Services Committee with an update on key projects and summary of progress, including highlights and any new issues, was presented by the Manager Community Facilities and Activities.

Staff were commended for the great job they had done on the Cricket Grandstand Opening in December. Whether some recognition should be given, at the cricket oval, to the achievements of Ross Taylor was discussed.

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Moved by Mayor L Patterson

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee notes the contents of Report 005/20.

Seconded by Councillor T Nixon and CARRIED.

The meeting closed at 2.43pm

Unconfirmed

087/20

To:	Your Worship and Elected Members
From:	Phil Evans, Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance David Hopman, Manager Assets and Operations
Endorsed by:	Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive
Date:	26 June 2020
Subject:	Opaki Water Race Statement of Proposal
Recommendation: That the Council undertakes the Special Consultative Procedure and adopts the Statement of Proposal to close the Opaki Water Race in accordance with section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain a **decision** from Council on Adoption of a Statement of Proposal for the closure of the Opaki Water Race.

Executive Summary

The Opaki Water race supplies stock drinking water to 54 properties in the Loopline / Paierau Road / SH2 area north of Masterton. The race is supplied by a water take from the Ruamahanga River, with the inlet close to Double Bridges. Note that although there are 54 properties on the race, some of those are leased out. Including the lease holders, there are 64 users of the race.

The water take is subject to a Resource Consent issued by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). The Consent has now expired, and Council has been working through the renewal.

Issues with the renewal have arisen, with the requirement of GWRC to Notify the application. Concerns about the level of costs and uncertainty around that process have provided a driver to investigate alternative water supply options.

Additionally, changes to the Regional Plan have created uncertainty around the long-term use and viability of the race, although the final form of the rules have not yet been determined. Rules requiring fencing, riparian planting and efficient-use will impact on the functionality of the race, as will proposals to increase minimum flows in the river.

Currently, there is a mixed level of engagement with the multiple users, with a significant minority remaining silent.

The outcome of the investigations that have been undertaken is that only a minority of users are fully reliant on the race for stock water. It is therefore recommended that Council take this opportunity to formally consult on whether the race should in fact be closed. A statement of proposal is attached to this report for adoption by Council.

Context

The Opaki Water Race is one of five remaining water races used throughout the Wairarapa. Typically, these were constructed in the early 20th century to supply drinking water for stock in areas where there was no readily available alternative. The Opaki water race consists of a single intake located on the Ruamahanga River at Double Bridges which branches multiple times to provide 25km of water way. Excess water from the race eventually returns to the river system via four points along the Waipoua River and one point in Lansdowne at the head of the Hiona Stream.

The race is unlined and loses a significant amount of water to the ground. Typical intake flow rates are around 120-130 l/s, while the discharge rates vary from 0 to 5 l/s.

At times of heavy rainfall, the race serves as a cross country drain, intercepting overland flows and diverting them back to the Waipoua River and Hiona Stream.

Although the original purpose of the race was to provide stock drinking water, this is now only a function for approximately a third of properties. Land fragmentation means that many of the properties are now “lifestyle” types, with little or no stock. Some users view the race as having aesthetic value. Some were unaware of the nature of the race until contacted by Council staff.

Much of the race is unfenced, or only fenced on one side. This is to allow stock direct access to the race for drinking water and is key to the design. Proposed rules in the Regional Plan, and in the National Environmental Standards, will require the race to be both fenced and riparian planted. This will cause significant problems with not only stock access for drinking water, but also for machinery access for maintenance.

Only one property – Matahiwi Vineyards – has permission to take water from the race for the purpose of irrigation. This is subject to a range of conditions, including a prohibition on taking water when the river flows are low.

A survey of users carried out in 2017, to which 41 out of 64 users responded, indicated that a minority saw the race as being vital for their stock water needs. Most of those properties do however have access to an alternative water source, such as the Opaki Water Scheme, water tanks or private bores.

It is currently estimated, by Council staff, that only four properties are fully reliant on the water race for stock water, plus the vineyard for irrigation water. While this exact figure may be subject to change, the reality is that only a small number of users are fully reliant on the water race for the purpose it was intended.

Council officers have been working on the renewal of the water take consent, with the initial intention of seeking a short term (5 year) consent in order to provide an opportunity for the Regional Plan Whitua rules to come into effect.

We have now been advised by GWRC that this consent will need to be notified, due to one party being unwilling to provide affected parties consent. The costs and uncertainty of the notified consent process have made this option unreasonable for a short-term consent. It would only make sense to pursue this for a long-term (15 to 25 years) consent.

Council has deferred spending significant money on automated upgrades to the race, due to the current uncertainty. For instance, Council has not installed a control gate at the inflow point. This would allow

Council to vary the inflow in response to changes in the river level. Currently this is not possible and Council is occasionally in breach of its Resource Consent conditions because of this.

The Water Race has struggled to comply with the terms of its Resource Consent and there have been multiple non-compliances in terms of the discharge water quality and the intake water quantity. Regional Council has considered enforcement action against Council in the past and in 2017 served an Advisory Notice due to high levels of bacteria in the discharge. Although steps have been taken to improve water quality, further work and investment will be required if the race remains in operation.

Significant investment is required to firstly renew the Resource Consent application and then to install automated flow controls. This investment will be required to be funded by the users.

Alternatively, the race can be closed and landusers who have a requirement for stock water will need to source water from a different supply.

Attempts to obtain a majority agreement from the users of the race on the best way to proceed have been unsuccessful, in part due to a significant number of users who choose not to engage.

It is therefore not clear from current users which path the Council should be taking and there is currently no clear mandate for either option.

It is recommended that the Council undertake the Special Consultative Procedure with the race users, with a recommendation to close the Race, which will result in a clear decision and a mandate for a pathway forward. The Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) is the formal consultation process under the Local Government Act 2002. Council must formally adopt a statement of proposal prior to consultation beginning.

Analysis and advice

The purpose of local government is;

- To enable democratic decision making by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- To promote the social, economic and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

The Opaki Water Race is operated by the Council on behalf of the user group. Costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the race, including the costs of any infrastructure, consents or monitoring, fall entirely on the user group via a targeted rate. No funding is provided from the general rates.

The function of the race is primarily the provision of stock water. Only one permit has been issued for irrigation.

The existing Resource Consent has expired, and Council is currently working through the renewal. Although it was initially hoped that an application for a short-term consent could be granted relatively easily, this has not been the case. The costs of a notified or limited notified application and the costs of additional infrastructure to achieve Consent conditions will result in a significant increase to the costs rated against the existing users.

As noted above, the Race is subject to increasingly complex and onerous rules at both a Regional and National level. These relate to the requirement to install fencing, riparian planting and the need to

demonstrate efficient use. The cost of this work will need to be borne by the users but will create practical difficulties for accessing the race for maintenance. Land users who are reliant on the water for stock will need to install some alternative for access, such as pumping water from the race. Access for maintenance appears harder to resolve.

Multiple attempts have been made to date to gain a consensus among users on an agreed pathway forward. This has not been successful. However, background work carried out as part of this has indicated that there may be a reasonable alternative for most of the water users.

A private water supply scheme – the Opaki Water Scheme – operates through the same area, and already supplies water to most properties on the water race. Initial discussions with the Scheme operators confirmed that the Scheme could supply the existing stock water needs to all properties. It would not be possible to supply irrigation water through this system due to the volumes required.

Council has the ability, under the Local Government Act, to undertake a consultation with the community on the proposal to close the race. This process would provide an opportunity for all users to have their say.

Options considered

Council officers have considered multiple options for addressing the issues with the race.

Option 1 – That Council pursue the long-term consent irrespective of the costs and uncertainties. The costs of this will fall on the existing user group unless there is a change to the Councils funding policy. Council may choose to pursue this option but should be aware of the likely costs involved and determine where these costs should fall. In the event that this is the preferred option, consultation with the affected users will be important.

Option 2 – That Council pursue the short-term consent. There are similar costs and uncertainties to option 1, with no real benefits to seeking a shorter term. This option is not recommended for those reasons.

Option 3 – The Council undertake a public consultation on the closure of the race. The mechanism for this is the Special Consultation Procedure (SCP) under the Local Government Act.

Option 3 is the recommended option. This will provide an opportunity for all affected parties to provide submissions and for the Council to make a determination.

Strategic, policy and legislative implications

The water race is not a strategic asset but is operated for the benefit of a subset of ratepayers. Council does have a bylaw relating to the operation of the Race, and this forms the basis of the management of the race and the shared responsibilities of the users.

There are no legal requirements for Council to operate the race or to provide stock water. However, as the race already exists, it is not possible for Council to simply cease operations without undertaking a formal consultation with the users.

The SCP is the formal consultation process under the Local Government Act, and there are legislative requirements that need to be followed.

Assessment of significance

The decision to close the water race would be significant in terms of the Councils Significance and Engagement Policy for multiple reasons;

- Change to level of service – cessation of the provision of stock water via the race
- Specific geographic area affected – the users are confined to a specific area
- Council exiting an existing activity – cessation of the provision of stock water
- Difficult to reverse – the existing water race operates on an (expired) Resource Consent issued under the previous Regional Plan. New rules will be increasingly stringent and the water take would be difficult to reinstate.

As the closure of the race would be significant, an appropriate level of public engagement would be followed. This would be done via the SCP.

Communications and engagement plan

A communications and engagement plan will be drafted and used to manage the SCP and ensure that legal requirements are met.

Financial considerations

There are financial impacts of consulting on closing the race. These include carrying out the public consultation and running a hearing to hear any submissions received. These costs would be met from existing operational budgets.

As noted above, all costs are ring fenced to the race users. There is no input from the general rate.

Typically, the operation of the Water Race costs in the range of \$40,000 to \$46,000 per annum, which includes approximately \$5,000 for monitoring and consent compliance. However, additional work to keep the race operating during the past summer increased this to \$62,000. This was due to the extreme dryness and low water levels in the river.

Estimations of future costs are difficult to make. Council staff have estimated that the costs of progressing with the new consent, plus the costs of additional sampling and monitoring that will be required, will increase the annual costs by a factor of 2 to 3, for at least a 5-year period. These costs will need to be borne by the users.

Impacts on Maori

There are no apparent impacts that are specific to Maori. Representative of both local Iwi have expressed verbal support for the renewal of the existing Resource Consent, but only for a short term. Iwi representatives will be consulted directly prior to beginning the SCP.

Environmental impact and considerations

The decision to engage with the users through the SCP does not involve any environmental impact. However, should a decision be made to close the race, there will be a range of environmental impacts, both positive and negative, which will need to be addressed.

Positive effects will include stopping the impact of the water take on the Ruamahanga river at times of low flow and stopping any impact on the Waipoua River from the discharge.

Negative effects include the loss of the water race itself as a habitat and the possible effect on the local ground water.

Next steps

If Council agrees to engage with the water race users, and adopts the attached Statement of Proposal, then the next steps will be to commence the consultation with Iwi and users.

Attachments

Opaki Water Race 2020 – Statement of Proposal

Opaki Water Race 2020

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

The Masterton District Council is proposing to close the Opaki Water Race.

The Opaki Water Race supplies stock drinking water to properties in the Opaki area north of Masterton. This proposal is a result of changes in legislation surrounding water use at both local and national levels and land use changes within the area supplied by the Water Race. These are affecting the ability to renew the Resource Consent that allows the Race to operate. Additionally it appears that only a minority of users are reliant on the water race for stock water. Maintaining the race will require support from all current users, and it is not clear that this support exists.

The proposal is intended to obtain a clear decision on a pathway forward, with closure being the preferred option.

What is the Water Race and why should you care?

The Opaki Water Race was established in the early 20th century as a stock water supply for farms north of Masterton. The area supplied by the race does not include natural water bodies and the water race allowed this area to be developed for grazing.

The race takes water from the Ruamahunga River and transports it to 54 properties via an open, unlined channel. No treatment of the water occurs and it is only suitable for stock drinking water purposes. In total, the race consists of 25km of channels.

The water is separate from other natural water sources but may be linked to groundwater. It is not intended to be used as an irrigation supply, although one property has permission to take a limited amount of water for irrigation, subject to conditions.

The diversion of water from the Ruamahunga River is subject to a Resource Consent granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council. This consent has now expired, and the renewal process has been started. However, it is clear that the process to renew the consent will not be straight forward and is likely to incur significant costs to progress without any certainty of the outcome.

Why are we considering closure now?

The Consent renewal process has identified a number of issues with the water take. The regulatory environment and community expectations have changed significantly and are continuing to change.

Newly developed water use rules in the Regional Plan, along with national policy directions, are seeking to prioritise rivers over human activities which will make it increasingly difficult to justify the water take at times of low river flow.

Under these same rules, water races will need to be fenced to keep stock out of the water, which will increase costs for the users and raise practical issues with access for maintenance and stock for drinking.

The renewal of the consent has to be completed in this context, making it more complex and more costly. All costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the race are shared amongst the users, and this includes the Consent process. There is no contribution from the rest of the Masterton ratepayers.

This means that the cost per property may vary from year to year depending on the budgeted costs and the property values. Annual costs range from \$40K to \$62K, depending on the amount of work that has to be carried out during the year. The costs are shared by users based on land value as a proxy for usage, so each property will pay a different amount – the larger the area serviced the higher the share of the costs. An average cost is in the range of approximately \$740 to \$1148, but some properties pay considerably more than this. A new consent, plus increased monitoring and compliance costs, may see this increase by 2 to 3 times.

Because these issues are coming together at once, it is the right time to look at the future of the race before continuing with a potentially expensive Consent process.

Attempts have been made to gain a consensus from the users of the water race on the best pathway forward, but this has not been successful. A minority of users wish to continue with the Race, while a majority either do not or have remained silent.

On this basis, it is difficult for Council to justify the expense in keeping the water race open.

If the water race is closed, it will not be possible to re-establish it at a later date due to increasingly stringent regulations surrounding water takes and use. This may have an impact on the users who are fully reliant on the race for stock water.

However, the volumes of water being extracted from the Ruamahunga River are substantial, and at times of low river flow are likely to be having an adverse effect on the river.

Additionally, land fragmentation into smaller farmlets and lifestyle blocks has occurred since the Race was constructed, meaning that it is difficult to access and maintain all of the Race. Not all users are engaged with the Council or meeting their obligations to maintain their sections, which is compromising the supply to downstream users.

Who is affected by this closure?

Council is consulting with those people who have a section of the water race on their property and therefore contribute to the ongoing costs of operating it.

It is not proposed to consult wider than this, other than with local Iwi. The key issue that this proposal seeks to address is the impact of the closure on these properties.

Specific consultation with Iwi will be undertaken in order to ensure that the decision takes into account their relationship with water, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.

Does this proposal apply to CDC and SWDC?

No. Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils operate their own water races which are completely separate to the Opaki water race. This proposal only relates to the Opaki Water Race.

Options Considered by Council

In accordance with section 77 of the LGA, Council has considered all reasonable options available. The advantages and disadvantages associated with each option are detailed in the table below.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Pursue a long term resource consent to take water from the Ruamahanga River.	Would provide long term certainty to users of the water race.	Significant costs in preparing and progressing the consent, which would be borne by the users. No clear mandate from the users.

			Uncertain outcome due to changing rules around water takes and use. Continuing need to maintain and operate the race.
2	Pursue a short term consent to take water from the Ruamahanga River.	Would provide some certainty for users.	Similar costs and disadvantages as for option 1, with no obvious benefit.
3	Closure of the water race and cessation of water take.	Provide certainty. Remove ongoing compliance and monitoring costs for users. Avoid costs of Consent renewal. Remove impact on the Ruamahanga and Waipoua Rivers.	Requirement for users reliant on the water race to find an alternative water source.

The preferred option is Option 3 – Closure of the water and cessation of the water take.

How you can have your say

We want to hear what you think about the proposal. Submissions can be made in writing by **4:30pm, Friday 31 July 2020**.

Submissions can be sent to;

Masterton District Council

P0 Box 44

Masterton 5840

Attn: Phil Evans

Or emailed to;

submissions@mdc.govt.nz

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does this mean that the Water Race will definitely be closed?

No. The purpose of this consultation is to determine whether there is support for closing the Race. The decision on whether or not to close the Race will be made by the Council following a public hearing.

What about an alternative water supply?

Alternative supplies are not part of this consultation. A number of alternatives do exist, and some people are already using these. Anyone reliant on the water race would need to make their own arrangement in the event that it is closed.

Will MDC provide an alternative if the Race is closed?

There is no proposal to do this, and is outside the scope of this proposal. Council is not obligated to provide a supply, but is obligated to consult on the closure of an existing one.

Why do we need a Resource Consent for the Water Race?

This is a legal requirement under the Resource Management Act and the Regional Plan. Any use of water needs to comply with these requirements. The Opaki Water Race uses a significant amount of water and as such needs to operate under this legislation.

How is the legislation changing?

Changes from both central and regional government is moving to protect natural water ways from human activity and to prioritise leaving water in the river over extraction and use. This complicates any consent application as we will need to demonstrate how we can comply with these requirements while continuing to operate the race.

How much does the Race cost Ratepayers?

The costs of operating the Water Race fall entirely on the properties that are serviced by it, via a targeted rate. No funding is provided from the general rates. This means that the cost per property may vary from year to year depending on the budgeted costs and the property values. Annual costs have ranged from \$40K to \$62K, depending on the amount of work that has to be carried out during the year. The costs are shared by users based on land value as a proxy for usage, so each

property will pay a different amount – the larger the area serviced the higher the share of the costs. An average cost is in the range of approximately \$740 to \$1148, but some properties pay considerably more than this. A new consent, plus increased monitoring and compliance costs, may see this increase by 2 to 3 times.

Hearing

A hearing will be held on **X XXXX 2020**. Any person or organisation who makes a written submission will be given an opportunity to be heard at that meeting.

We will contact anyone who wishes to speak at the hearing after submissions close in July to confirm the time. Hearings will be held at the Masterton District Council offices on Lincoln Road.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the proposal or the consultation process, please contact Phil Evans at submissions@mdc.govt.nz or phone 06 370 6300.

TIMELINE

24 June 2020 – Adoption of Statement of Proposal

26 June 2020 – Publication of SOP and opening of consultation process

31 July 2020 – Closure of consultation process and preparation of report

TBC – Public Hearing of submissions

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

HEARINGS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER AT 10.00AM

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Cr F Mailman (Chairperson)

Her Worship

Cr T Nixon

Cr S Ryan

Cr D Holmes

Cr C Peterson

Quorum: Three

Notice is given that the meeting of the Masterton District Council Hearings Committee will be held on 2 September 2020 at Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton commencing at 10.00am.

**RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL
POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED**

28 August 2020



AGENDA

The Order Paper is as follows :-

1. Conflicts of Interest (Members to declare conflicts, if any)
2. Apologies
3. **SUBMISSIONS ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE OPAKI WATER RACE** (123/20)

Pages 611-650

To:	Hearings Committee
From:	Phil Evans, Senior Advisor Wastewater Compliance and Projects
Endorsed by:	Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive
Date:	2 September 2020
Subject:	Hearing of Submissions on the Proposal to close the Opaki Water Race
INFORMATION	
Recommendation: That the Hearings Committee a) Receives the submissions on the Opaki Water Race proposal b) Notes that of the 66 submissions received, five submitters have requested to be heard.	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the submissions received on the proposal to close the Opaki Water Race.

Context

Council agreed to undertake the Special Consultative Procedure and adopted a Statement of Proposal to close the Opaki Water Race at its meeting on 24 June 2020. The Statement of Proposal is attached (see Attachment 1).

Consultation on the proposal opened on 6 July and closed on 31 July 2020. A total of 66 submissions were received. The full set of all submissions received is provided separately.

The proposal to close the water race is undertaken through the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the Local Government Act 2002. Submitters have the right to speak to their submissions under this process.

A hearing will be held on 2 September 2020 at 10:00am in the Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road Masterton. All submitters who have indicated that they wish to speak to their submission will have the opportunity to do so. Five submitters have requested to be heard and the hearing schedule and hearing procedure are attached (see Attachments 2 and 3) along with copies of the submissions made by the five submitters to be heard (Attachment 4).

Submissions Received

Submissions were received directly from submitters either by using the online submission form on Survey Monkey, emailing a submission to Council or by completing a hard copy submission form and mailing or dropping it in. Additionally, a number of people submitted as part of a joint submission promoting an alternative proposal. The cross over between the two sets of submissions does cause some confusion due to duplicates, so a summary of the submissions is provided below and a more detailed version is attached (see Attachment 5).

Table 1 - Summary of Submissions

Support the alternative option to close the water race after a six-year period.	45
Support the Council's proposal	12
Do not support the Council's proposal	19
No support for either option	1

Note: the numbers in the above table include duplicate submissions

Next Steps

A deliberations meeting will be scheduled for the Hearings Committee to consider all the submissions received and make its recommendation on the proposal to Council.

Summary of Considerations

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

The water race is not a strategic asset but is operated for the benefit of a subset of ratepayers. There are no legal requirements for council to operate the water race or to provide stock drinking water. However, as the race already exists, Council cannot cease the operation without undertaking a formal consultation with the users.

Alignment with the Council's strategies is unclear. The wellbeing strategy, *He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua*, identifies that Council is prioritising improved water quality as a strategic direction, including protection of the rivers. The water take from the Ruamāhanga River that supplies the race is significant and may be having an adverse effect on the river at times of low flow.

The same strategy aims to promote economic growth and the water race will contribute to agricultural activity.

The wider legislative regime, regional and central government regulations and legislation is making the taking and use of water increasingly complex, with greater protection being afforded to natural systems and increasing efficiency being required by water users. These points have been

summarised in the statement of proposal prepared for this consultation. Officers of Council have expressed concern regarding the impact these changes will have on a number of Council operations, including increased compliance costs and reduced access to water at critical times.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

The closure of the water race is a significant decision in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and for that reason the Special Consultative procedure has been followed.

OPAHI WATER RACE 2020 STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL



WE ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WWW.MSTN.GOV.T.NZ



INTRODUCTION

The Masterton District Council is proposing to close the Opaki Water Race.

The Opaki Water Race supplies stock drinking water to properties in the Opaki area north of Masterton. This proposal is a result of changes in legislation surrounding water use at both local and national levels and land use changes within the area supplied by the water race. These are affecting the ability to renew the resource consent that allows the water race to operate. Additionally it appears that only a minority of users are reliant on the water race for stock water. Maintaining the water race will require support from all current users, and it is not clear that this support exists.

The proposal is intended to obtain a clear decision on a pathway forward, with closure being the preferred option. We want to hear from you: Do you support closing the Opaki Water Race?

WHAT IS THE WATER RACE AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The Opaki Water Race was established in the early 20th century as a stock water supply for farms north of Masterton. The area supplied by the water race does not include natural water bodies and the water race allowed this area to be developed for grazing.

The water race takes water from the Ruamāhanga River and transports it to 54 properties via an open, unlined channel. No treatment of the water occurs and it is only suitable for stock drinking water purposes. In total, the water race consists of 25km of channels.

The water is separate from other natural water sources but may be linked to groundwater. It is not intended to be used as an irrigation supply, although one property has permission to take a limited amount of water for irrigation, subject to conditions.

The diversion of water from the Ruamāhanga River is subject to a resource consent granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council. This consent has now expired, and the renewal process has been started. However, it is clear that the process to renew the consent will not be straight forward and is likely to incur significant costs to progress without any certainty of the outcome.



WHY ARE WE CONSIDERING CLOSURE NOW?

The consent renewal process has identified a number of issues with the water take. The regulatory environment and community expectations have changed significantly and are continuing to change.

Newly developed water use rules in the Regional Plan, along with national policy directions, are seeking to prioritise rivers over human activities which will make it increasingly difficult to justify the water take at times of low river flow.

Under these same rules, water races will need to be fenced to keep stock out of the water, which will increase costs for the users and raise practical issues with access for maintenance and stock for drinking.

The renewal of the consent has to be completed in this context, making it more complex and more costly. All costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the water race are shared amongst the users, and this includes the consent process. There is no contribution from the rest of the Masterton ratepayers.

Because these issues are coming together at once, it is the right time to look at the future of the water race before continuing with a potentially expensive consent process.

Attempts have been made to gain a consensus from the users of the water race on the best pathway forward, but this has not been successful. A minority of users wish to continue with the water race, while a majority either do not or have remained silent.

On this basis, it is difficult for the council to justify the expense in keeping the water race open.

If the water race is closed, it will not be possible to re-establish it at a later date due to increasingly stringent regulations surrounding water takes and use. This may have an impact on the users who are fully reliant on the water race for stock water.

However, the volumes of water being extracted from the Ruamāhanga River are substantial, and at times of low river flow are likely to be having an adverse effect on the river.

Additionally, land fragmentation into smaller farmlets and lifestyle blocks has occurred since the water race was constructed, meaning that it is difficult to access and maintain all of the water race. Not all users are engaged with the council or meeting their obligations to maintain their sections, which is compromising the supply to downstream users.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS CLOSURE?

The council is consulting with those people who have a section of the water race on their property and therefore contribute to the ongoing costs of operating it.

Members of the community, wider than users, are also welcome to share their views. We are also seeking input from Iwi.

Specific consultation with Iwi will be undertaken in order to ensure that the decision takes into account the their relationship with water, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.

DOES THIS PROPOSAL APPLY TO CDC AND SWDC?

No. Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils operate their own water races which are completely separate to the Opaki Water Race. This proposal only relates to the Opaki Water Race.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL

In accordance with section 77 of the LGA, the council has considered all reasonable options available. The advantages and disadvantages associated with each option are detailed in the table below.

OPTION		ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1	Pursue a long-term resource consent to take water from the Ruamāhunga River.	Would provide long-term certainty to users of the water race.	Significant costs in preparing and progressing the consent, which would be borne by the users. No clear mandate from the users. Uncertain outcome due to changing rules around water takes and use. Continuing need to maintain and operate the water race.
2	Pursue a short-term consent to take water from the Ruamāhunga River.	Would provide some certainty for users.	Similar costs and disadvantages as for Option 1, with no obvious benefit.
3	Closure of the water race and cessation of water take.	Provide certainty. Remove ongoing compliance and monitoring costs for users. Avoid costs of consent renewal. Remove impact on the Ruamāhanga and Waipoua Rivers.	Requirement for users reliant on the water race to find an alternative water source.

The preferred option is Option 3 – Closure of the water and cessation of the water take.

HOW YOU CAN

We want to hear what you think about the proposal. Submissions can be made in writing or online before 4:30pm, Friday 31 July 2020.
Visit: www.mstn.govt.nz

Submissions can be sent to;
Masterton District Council
PO Box 444
Masterton 5840
Attn: Phil Evans

Or emailed to;
submissions@mstn.govt.nz



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE WATER RACE WILL DEFINITELY BE CLOSED?

No. The purpose of this consultation is to determine whether there is support for closing the water race. The decision on whether or not to close the water race will be made by the council following a public hearing.

WHAT ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY?

Alternative supplies are not part of this consultation. A number of alternatives do exist, and some people are already using these. Anyone reliant on the water race would need to make their own arrangements in the event that it is closed.

WILL MDC PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE IF THE RACE IS CLOSED?

There is no proposal to do this, and it is outside the scope of this proposal. Council is not obligated to provide a supply, but is obligated to consult on the closure of an existing one.

WHY DO WE NEED A RESOURCE CONSENT FOR THE WATER RACE?

This is a legal requirement under the Resource Management Act and the Regional Plan. Any use of water needs to comply with these requirements. The Opaki Water Race uses a significant amount of water and as such needs to operate under this legislation.

HOW IS THE LEGISLATION CHANGING?

Changes from both central and regional government is moving to protect natural waterways from human activity and to prioritise leaving water in the river over extraction and use. This complicates any consent application as we will need to demonstrate how we can comply with these requirements while continuing to operate the race.

HOW MUCH DOES THE RACE COST RATEPAYERS?

The costs of operating the water race fall entirely on the properties that are serviced by it, via a targeted rate. No funding is provided from the general rates. This means that the cost per property may vary from year to year depending on the budgeted costs and the property values. Annual costs have ranged from \$40K to \$62K, depending on the amount of work that has to be carried out during the year. The costs are shared by users based on land value as a proxy for usage, so each property will pay a different amount - the larger the area serviced the higher the share of the costs. An average cost will be in approximately \$740 to \$1148, but some properties pay considerably more than this. A new consent, plus increased monitoring and compliance costs, may see this increase by two to three times.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the proposal or the consultation process, please contact Phil Evans at submissions@mstn.govt.nz or phone 06 370 6300, or visit: www.mstn.govt.nz

HEARING

A hearing will be held in August 2020. Any person or organisation that makes a written submission will be given an opportunity to be heard at that meeting.

We will contact anyone who wishes to speak at the hearing after submissions close to confirm the time. Hearings will be held at the Masterton District Council offices on Lincoln Road.



TIMELINE

29 June
2020

Publication of Statement of Proposal and opening of consultation process

31 July
2020

Closure of consultation

August
2020

Public Hearing of submissions



PHONE

06 370 6300 Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm
06 378 7752 after hours (5pm-8am and weekends)

EMAIL

mdc@mstn.govt.nz

CALL INTO

Masterton District Council
161 Queen Street, Masterton
9am - 4pm

WRITE TO

Masterton District Council
PO Box 444, Masterton 5840

WWW.MSTN.GOV.T.NZ

HEARING SCHEDULE**Wednesday 2nd September 2020**

Kiwi Room, Waiata House, Lincoln Road

PLEASE NOTE THIS SCHEDULE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time	Sub #	Name	Submission	Page
Opaki Water Race Consultation				
10:10am	11	Matahiwi Vineyard, Karina Southey and/or Miles Dinneen	Does not support the closure of the water race.	624
10:20am	27	Tim Penn	Supports the closure of the water race.	628
10:30am	34	Andrew Donald	Did not indicate an opinion for either option.	633
10:40am	33	Barry Gleeson	Does not support the closure of the water race.	634
10:50am	10	Steve Wilton to speak on behalf of OWR Committee	Users' proposal document.	636
11:00am	32	Other users to be confirmed by Brian Geary, Acting Chair of OWR Committee		642

HEARING PROCEDURE: OPAKI WATER RACE SUBMISSIONS

1. The Hearings Committee will hear all submissions. Members are:
 - Councillor Frazer Mailman (Chair)
 - Mayor Lyn Patterson
 - Councillor David Holmes
 - Councillor Tina Nixon
 - Councillor Chris Peterson
 - Councillor Sandy Ryan
2. The Hearings are a public meeting where the press will be present.
3. The Hearings are to give you an opportunity to expand on your submission or to focus on your key points. You can assume that Councillors have read your submission. It is not an opportunity for you to ask questions of Councillors or to enter into debate with Councillors about the matters raised in your submission.
4. The chairperson or any member, through the chairperson, may ask you questions. The chairperson may wish to clarify or correct any matter raised.
5. You will have a total of 10 minutes to present your submission – made up of 7 minutes for you to speak and 3 minutes for responding to questions from Councillors. To let you know how much time has passed, a bell will be rung at 6 minutes and again when your time has finished, at 10 minutes.
6. The chairperson has the right, with or without the agreement of other members, to terminate a submission in progress or to extend the time allowed for any submission.
7. The Council will not indicate whether or not they support your submission. Once Council have heard all the submissions and the hearings have concluded Council will move into deliberations and make decisions on the submissions and proposals within the Statement of Proposal.
8. If you are not able to present your submission at the time provided please call Harriet Kennedy, Governance Advisor, on 027 542 6765.
9. If for any reason you are unable to present your submission in person, the Council will still consider your written submission.

624

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:52:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:56:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:33
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Alastair Scott

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

To Masterton District Council

From Alastair Scott, Matahiwi Estate.

July 2020.

Submission

Opaki water race closure.

At Matahiwi we support the aim to maintain a minimum flow through the river system.

We support water storage projects that can contribute to minimum flows. We support storing water when river flow is high to release into the system when the levels are low.

We submit and agree that the water race closure will assist in increasing the river flow.

We submit that there are several options, but the best option is to close the water race when an alternate water supply is available (preferably via the Wairarapa Water Storage Project 'WaiWater') .

Being certain that the scheme will close is much better than prevaricating about the scheme. Certainty forces actions and plans to be made.

The need for a period of time, say 10 years, allows business to adjust, close, invest and plan for that inevitable closure. Less time puts unreasonable pressure on the businesses and will lead to suboptimal outcomes. Given the Government's aim is to increase primary sector exports, we should not be pursuing or forcing suboptimal outcomes as a community.

At the extreme, if the water race were to close tomorrow, the land could not support animals and so reduce the owners income and capital value. The same is true for grapes. Without water, our crop would be severely restricted/reduced.

If the water race was closed in one or two years time (before Wai Water storage or another alternative was completed), the farmers and grape growers must invest in interim solutions that may become permanent and likely to be suboptimal.

Interim solutions include, on-farm storage using shallow bores, or deeper bores. Forcing farmers to invest in multiple on-farm solutions is expensive, but necessary if there is no alternative.

These interim solutions would then become permanent solutions due to the investment required. Once the permanent solution is in place the farmer no longer has any interest in the cheaper more efficient WaiWater project, or any other alternative. That is a bad outcome for the local economy.

The worst case scenario is that the Opaki land becomes self-sufficient and reduces the demand side for the WaiWater project, so the WaiWater project fails.

The second worst case is that Opaki land users become self-sufficient and then the WaiWater starts to deliver water to the area soon after. There has been a massive overinvestment on farms as the interim solution is now redundant.

The alternate water supply could be:

The WaiWater storage project.

A user funded piped system from the Ruamahanga taking the same route as the water race. The water demanded/required would be restricted to say 40 litres per second and considered Class C water. This contrasts to the current take into the water race of 160-200 litres per second Class A. The piped solution gives a significant increase in the flow to the Ruamahanga in a short time frame.

Piping option dovetailing into WaiWater infrastructure.

An alternate supply is piping water from the river along the water race route. The volume would be much less than the current extraction. The piping would be funded by the users and the water would flow as if it was Class C water. (There is no point investing in the pipes only to have the water cut off in a drought). It could continue to flow by eventually connecting to the WaiWater flow. The piping could continue to be owned by the users or sold on to WaiWater.

The piping option could be executed fairly quickly, enabling the water race to be closed soon.

If the WaiWater project fails, there are other options listed below.

The RMA allows for Class A water to be taken for stock water. So when the river flow is low, water can continue to be extracted for the purpose of livestock health, but for no other purpose. The water extracted must be treated as if it was Class C, that is, the water is able to be extracted at below low flow limits.

Summary

So options are, from cheapest to more expensive:

Leave the water race open with existing constraints until WaiWater is operational. OR

Construct a piped system along existing water races to be owned by the users. Take water at the much reduced rate of (estimated, say) 40 litres/second as Class C water. Close the water race system. Merge with WaiWater when WaiWater is operational. OR

To assume WaiWater does not occur. Similar to option 2. Increase the volume of water allowed to be taken at low flows above the 'stock water' amount (treat as Class C), so that current users (including irrigators) are able to be added to the piped solution. The cost of the piping infrastructure can then be shared amongst more users. A resource consent will be required but should be easier to get if F&G are amenable. OR

To allow extraction at low flow to satisfy stock users only, but have an increased capacity in the piping infrastructure to allow greater flow when the river is higher. This will allow any on farm storage to be refilled for later use. This more expensive option will become the permanent solution and will reduce the demand for the WaiWater project.

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Signed

Kanna

Name

Kanna Southey Matahiwi Vineyard

Physical Address

[REDACTED]

Postal Address

.....

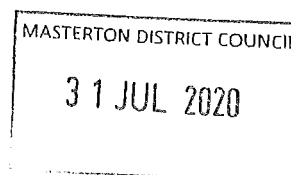
Email

[REDACTED]

.....

Phone

[REDACTED]



#27

COMPLETE

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:51:37 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 12:16:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:31
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Jill Penn and Tim Penn

Q2

Address

Address

Address 2

City/Town

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Costs: The cost to us of the Opaki water race is already uneconomic for our 61ha lot. We currently pay \$3000 per annum in rates to the council and biannually our maintenance costs which ensure constant flow of the race are about \$1800. (For that cost we receive stock drinking water only.)

We are not in any way reliant on the Opaki water race, we have adequate alternative water supply.

Any resource consent application filed by the council on behalf of users, by the council's estimations as mentioned in their brochure, may double our rates to \$6000 per annum and at worst would go to \$9000 per annum plus the maintenance costs. (Way too much for stock drinking water only.)

Acquisition: Legislation is changing and we will soon be required to fence the water race off. This is another of our major concerns as we have approximately 1.2km of the race running through the centre of the property. Given that the race is up to 4m wide in places and probably averages between 2-3 metres, this would be a large and disproportionate land acquisition when compared to other utility services. In some places we would have to fence a strip up to 14 metres wide to comply with this new legislation. I cannot think of another situation in which this much land is acquisitioned to conduit a service. Even pylons allow you to graze underneath them.

Stock units and irrigation: The race services only one vineyard "Matahiwi" for irrigation purposes and one for frost protection (for which there are alternative methods). It also provides stock drinking water for more or less 25,000 stock units. This is an incredibly inefficient water take from the Ruamahanga river given such a low number of stock units. Bear in mind these stock units are not all totally reliant on the water race. I do not know of any survey that has been undertaken to determine the actual number of units reliant on the race for their water.

Compliance and rating inequity: For many years we believe compliant ratepayers have subsidised a few uncompliant users. Its common knowledge and by their own admission that there are properties drawing from the race for irrigation and frost protection who are unable to obtain consents to do so lawfully. The council has turned a blind eye to this over a long period of time. This means they are not rated accordingly for their water take. This creates great inequity in a user pays scheme. This is an uncomfortable issue for everybody but needs to be addressed. I raise this issue because these users are lobbying to keep the water race open and if they are successful increased costs will fall on compliant users only.

Environmental: Future resource consent application would require the following condition to be met. That the water race will have to be closed when flow rates in the Ruamahanga are low. This means no stock drinking water for extended periods of time, so water storage infrastructure would have to be implemented regardless. The question then must be asked, should a 61ha block pay \$6000 a year in water rates for stock drinking water that is not available during those times when livestock are most reliant on it? We therefore ask that the council close the water race as soon as possible.

(Note - submitter included three photos of the water race with their submission.)

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

OPAKI WATER RACE SUBMISSION

Jill Penn and Tim Penn

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Costs:

The cost to us of the Opaki water race is already uneconomic for our 61ha lot. We currently pay \$3000 per annum in rates to the council and biannually our maintenance costs which ensure constant flow of the race are about \$1800. (For that cost we receive stock drinking water only)

We are not in any way reliant on the Opaki water race, we have adequate alternative water supply.

Any resource consent application filed by the council on behalf of users, by the council's estimations as mentioned in their brochure, may double our rates to \$6000 per annum and at worst would go to \$9000 per annum plus the maintenance costs. (Way too much for stock drinking water only)

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Stock units and irrigation:

The race services only one vineyard "Matahiwi" for irrigation purposes and one for frost protection (for which there are alternative methods) It also provides stock drinking water for more or less 25,000 stock units. This is an incredibly inefficient water take from the Ruamahunga river given such a low number of stock units. Bear in mind these stock units are not all totally reliant on the water race. I do not know of any survey that has been undertaken to determine the actual number of units reliant on the race for their water.

Compliance and rating inequity:

For many years we believe compliant ratepayers have subsidized a few uncompliant users. Its common knowledge and by their own admission that there are properties drawing from the race for irrigation and frost protection who are unable to obtain consents to do so lawfully. The council has turned a blind eye to this over a long period of time. This means they are not rated accordingly for their water take. This creates great inequity in a user pays scheme. This is an uncomfortable issue for everybody but needs to be addressed. I raise this issue because these users are lobbying to keep the water race open and if they are successful increased costs will fall on compliant users only.

Environmental:

Future resource consent application would require the following condition to be met. That the water race will have to be closed when flow rates in the Ruamahunga are low. This means no stock

drinking water for extended periods of time, so water storage infrastructure would have to be implemented regardless.

The question then must be asked, should a 61ha block pay \$6000 a year in water rates for stock drinking water that is not available during those times when livestock are most reliant on it?

We therefore ask that the council close the water race as soon as possible.



This photo demonstrates any riparian fencing will be a large acquisition of very usable land, given that a 5m distance on either side would be required, plus the cost of compulsory planting.



This photo gives you some idea of how much water is drawn from the Ruamahunga River. During summer, the water literally swirls from this culvert.



The bottom photo shows the water race entering our property [REDACTED]. This is a massive water grab, and I recommend the water race be closed. This water would be better left in Ruamahunga River to support a healthier river during this period of climate change.

From: [Anna Gilliland](#)
To: [Anna Gilliland](#)
Subject: Opaki water race
Date: Friday, 14 August 2020 5:05:33 PM

From: Andrew Donald [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 4:05 pm
To: MDC Submissions <submissions@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Opaki water race

Phil, As a member (spokesperson) of the Waipoua Community Catchment Group that is in the early stages of trying to help the summer dry problem in our river, I submit the following: That my opinions expect to be modified/ improved after the debates that our group (including David Hopman) has on this subject on the 18th of August. I believe in the collective constructive brain power of our experienced group. We meet from 10.00 until 2.00 and I would hope that you would be available for at least some of that time.

That we should negotiate at the highest possible level to have Fish and Game give us more time for an extended (non notified) consent, because of the information that the magnatron survey will give us. After testing the electronic data with test bores, a wealth of information will be available for individual farmers (or groups) to put down bores to feed their farming needs. I suspect that there will be an area at the top of the Opaki that will still be problematic. Possibly the first part of the race could be used for only feeding infiltration swales that could have 400? litres / second put into them for 300 to 330 days per year. GWRC could determine (as they do for irrigators) when to reduce or stop any take.

Individual farmers in that area could then put down shallow? wells that a magnatron survey would be able to guide their placement, thus saving them cost.

Some arms of the race may be wanted to stay open? long term, but these decisions should be made by a rate payers committee combined with an expert group from GWRC, MDC, Iwi and WCCG, all guided by the survey results.

No decisions should be made until after the election as the Provincial Growth Fund may not exist after that. The implications of that could mean that the money will not be available for large dams and ground infiltration swales and small dams may be a more practical solutions for the Wairarapa.

The huge ground movement from earthquakes in the Black creek proposal is a major concern. 13 metres ground shift at the last big quake there is noteworthy. Cost overrun burden on rate payers of such large projects is also a worry.

We need water for nz's evolution into more horticulture, (Too many eggs in the dairy basket) and as a community we should be able to work openly together in a collaborative way to facilitate our 'growing ' businesses.

Whatever we do decide as a group (NOT MDC only), our Waipoua is suffering badly with summer dry and we need more water in our upper catchment to leach into the river to save the aquatic life etc. The Waipoua can end up a fabulous park for Summer long use by the Masterton residents.

My last two letters to the Times Age are also part of my submission.

I may want to talk to my submission, but wouldn't want to waste anybody's time if we have already Talked at the WCCG meeting.

--

Cheers

Andrew Donald

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Hard Copy (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:26:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:29:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Barry & Christine Gleeson

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address Not supplied

Phone Number Not supplied

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We Barry & Christine Gleeson of [REDACTED] Masterton hereby submit our reasons for NOT SUPPORTING THE CLOSURE of the OPAKI WATER RACE.

Our reasons are based on the following key points:

1. The only two options being considered by the Masterton District Council that are presented for consultation and hence consideration and outcomes would appear to be closure or open.
2. Given the fact that the use of the land was a major part of our initial purchase some 27 years ago now and continued investment in the properties with water accessibility being a key factor we feel very let down by Council in the options of consideration they are offering.
3. We are not satisfied that a comprehensive impact report has been carried out to allow meaningful discussions to occur to allow for consideration of acceptable outcomes for all interested parties.
4. It would appear Masterton District Council have not considered the impact of closure within their own annual reports.
5. We believe water is such a vital component of both urban and rural life that Council should be implicit in ensuring good water usage at a fair price to all users.
6. Land use would alter significantly if the Council was to allow the Opaki Water Race to close as landowners who currently have the water race channelled through their respective properties would then be either acceptable to a variation for transferring water or against which in turn would see considerable angst and cost to try and allow.
7. We support the Race staying open to allow more consideration of the benefits of closure as it stands now but with the driver being finding a cost effective and efficient manner in which the present land can still be productive land with good water accessibility.
8. In supporting the continuation of the race we do accept we may have greater periods of restricted flow however for the greater number of days the race would support greater flows to enable more take off that could be used to on land store for dry periods to ensure the Ruamahanga had reasonable flow.
9. On the same hand when there is no or very little flow at the end of the Opaki Water race (we are at the very end where the race drops into the Waipoua) and the Waipoua has no flow of its own, then the only water flowing into the Waipoua is from the residual from the races.
10. We as a family have on numerous times then taken fish from isolated rock pools to bigger rock pools to allow the fish to survive. These fish have included trout, eels, cockabillies and crawlers. In addition our children and their friends have enjoyed many a time spent playing, roaming and studying the water race so its more than just a race.
11. The Council refer to the water race however the life of the race is more of a creek given its age and the habitat that uses the races including birdlife and other.
12. If the race was to close what options at what cost to the individual will occur that could or would will result in even more layers of compliance with no real benefit to the supply of water.

In summary we believe a collective and supported approach to reviewing the existing water race should be insisted upon with acceptable time frames to allow for consideration of the above points and other points individuals such as neighbours etc. may have. Our concern is the limitation thrust upon us as individuals to them be in a position to counter any support for closure such as no doubt will be forth coming from rate payers organisations such as Masterton District Council, Wellington Regional Council and other with access to Government funds such as Bird and Game. We believe those that want the Opaki Water Race to close should present their case to us land owners and users so as we can then consider the merits of their points first.

Not be given the opposite it would seem from Masterton District Council who simply are proposing to close the Opaki Water race. We wish to be heard to raise points around our submission.

Signed Barry Gleeson Christine Gleeson

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:00:35 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:42:12 PM
Time Spent: 02:41:37
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Steve Wilton

Q2

Address

Address

Address 2

City/Town

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

My wife and I own approximately 70 hectares [REDACTED] with an estimated 2.5 kms of water race within our property.

Our rationale for SUPPORTING the closing of the Water Race is as follows.

We have been advised that the estimated cost for which the Users can probably get a 5 year resource consent is \$111,000 per annum, a total of \$555,000 over the 5 year term. This cost estimate is subject to the Users agreement to close the water race at the end of a 5 year term, which is a specific requirement of Fish and Game who have been identified as an affected party.

If we proceed without the support of Fish and Game, we may still get a consent, and this may or may not be for more than 5 years, however the cost to do so will be materially more than the \$555,000 estimated with the support of Fish and Game. This is because the process will require notification with supporting expert reports, plus possibly quite substantial legal and related costs.

Looking at the bigger picture, the water race is undeniably an inefficient use of water from the Ruamahanga River (or any water source) . With increasing pressure on all available water in the Wairarapa, it is clear that resource consents for inefficient water use will ultimately not be sanctioned, probably at the expiry of any consent which we MAY be able to obtain currently.

Given that future scenario, that ultimately a resource consent will not be granted hence the Water Race will be practically closed in the foreseeable future, in our opinion the Users are better to redirect the minimum of \$555,000 estimated cost for a short term solution to an enduring solution, either collectively or individually.

HOWEVER we believe it would be crucial (and reasonable for the Users to expect) that as part of the closure process that Council take responsibility to negotiate with the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) a reasonable transition period i.e. getting the agreement of the GWRC to allow the existing expired consent to run on for a further say 3 years. This time period is the minimum required for Users to be able to progress identification and implementation of an enduring efficient water solution, either collectively or individually.

The agreement negotiated with GWRC should also include preferential rights to the Users during the 3 year transition period to obtain a consent in respect of some of the water released from the closing of the Water Race for a collective alternative scheme to provide stock water plus water to continue irrigation use (existing volumes only) by the persons currently allowed to irrigate from the Water Race.

It would be reasonable to expect the GWRC to agree to such a transition period and preferential rights to a consent to some of the water, given the closing of the Water Race will result in the discontinuation of an existing inefficient use of water, plus release back to the river a material volume of water (much more than any alternative collective water scheme would require).

It is also important and reasonable to assume that Council would allow any collective alternative water scheme free use of road reserve land for the piped distribution of this water.

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

From: [Steve Wilton](#)
To: [Submissions Sub](#)
Cc: [Philip Evans](#)
Subject: Amendment to Submission on Closure of the Opaki Water Race
Date: Thursday, 30 July 2020 11:28:14 AM
Attachments: [Opaki Water Race Users Proposal Final.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Phil,

I have already lodged a submission in favour of closing the Opaki Water Race subject to a transition period.

I now wish to amend this submission to support of closing the Opaki Water Race subject to the Proposal set out in the attached document.

As there is no facility on-line to submit an attachment I have forwarded this communication to you.

Please confirm receipt of this amendment submission and that my original submission will now be considered subject to this amendment.

Thanks.

Steve

SENDER DETAILS

Mr Steve A R Wilton; BBS, FNZIF



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are –

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme – www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion – Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it were suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation.

Conclusion – Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

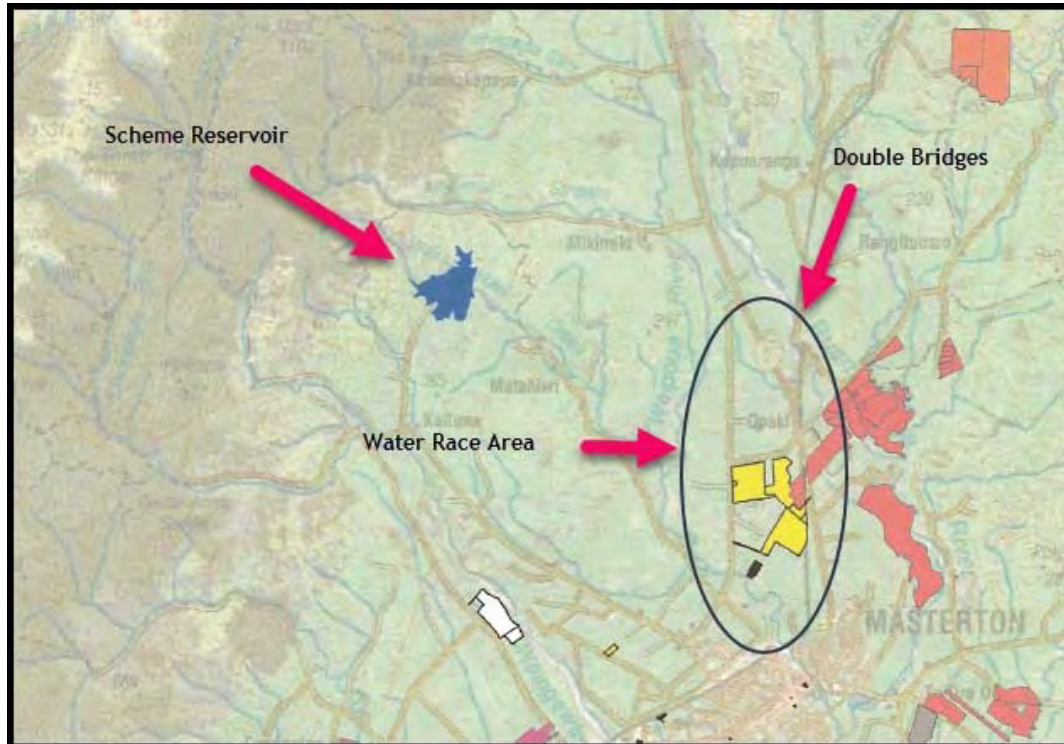
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the

present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion – the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion – Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows –

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Signed

Name

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email Phone

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Hard Copy (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:04:28 AM
Last Modified: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:07:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Brian Geary

Q2

Address

Address

Acting Chair, Opaki Water Race Committee

Address 2

City/Town

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Ecology

Potable water use for horticulture

G.D.P

Recreation use

Viable alternatives, if any

Suggestions on attached sheet

Signed by B Geary, Barry Gleeson and D Woodhouse

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

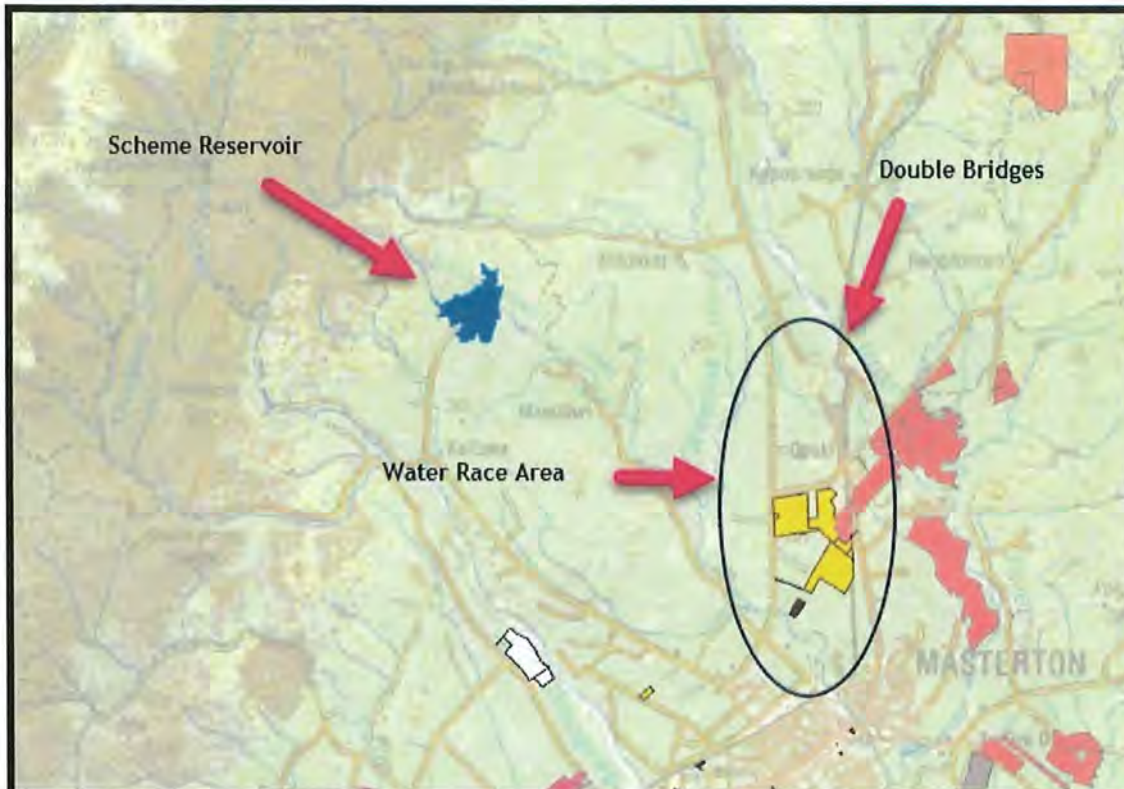
The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

31 JUL 2020

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Opaki Water Race Steering Committee 2020

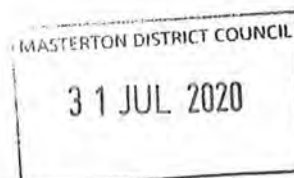
Signed Brian Geary

Name Brian Geary

Physical Address ...

Postal Address As above

Email Phone



Summary of Submissions

2020 Opaki Water Race Submissions

Submissions were open from 6 to 31 July 2020

34 submissions received

32 submissions considered (this is the number minus all submissions withdrawn)

45 alternative proposals received

KEY

2x submissions withdrawn (submitter withdrew submission)

34x alternative proposals submitted

Submission			Submission	Submitted an Alternative Proposal Document?
Sub #	Name	Q7. Speak at Hearing?	Q3. Do you support the closure of the water race?	
1	Peter Bresaz	No	No	Yes
2	Chris & Lisa Steel - WITHDRAWN BY SUBMITTER	No	Yes	
3	Clifford Dawson	No	No	No
4	Heemi & Janine Tupaea - WITHDRAWN BY SUBMITTER	No	Yes	
5	Andy Sims	No	No	No

Submission			Submission	Submitted an Alternative Proposal Document?
Sub #	Name	Q7. Speak at Hearing?	Q3. Do you support the closure of the water race?	
6	Katie Vermeer	No	Yes	No
7	Annette Mullis	No	Yes	No
8	Iain Thirsk	No	No	Yes
9	Stephen Davies Howard	No	Yes	No
10	Steve Wilton AMENDED SUBMISSION RECEIVED VIA EMAIL - SUPPORTING THE USERS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Alastair Scott	Yes	No	No
12	Caroline & Clem (Tui) Melville	No	Yes	No
13	Will & Ruth Stokes	No	Yes	No
14	Wendy Reynolds	No	No	No
15	Lisa Parkinson & Kieron Caveney	No	No	Yes
16	Richard & Carolyn Stevenson	No	No	No
17	Mike & Ruth Wiley	No	No	No

Submission			Submission	Submitted an Alternative Proposal Document?
Sub #	Name	Q7. Speak at Hearing?	Q3. Do you support the closure of the water race?	
18	Tim & Jen Bockhop	No	Yes	Yes
19	S Wyeth	No	No	Yes
20	Jenni & Norman Johnston	No	Yes	No
21	Graeme Butcher	No	Yes	No
22	Catherine Drysdale	No	No	No
23	K Inder	No	No	No
24	Caroline & Brent Eddy	No	Yes	No
25	Graham McNae	No	Yes	Yes
26	Sarah Kaye	No	No	Yes
27	Jill Penn & Tim Penn	Yes	Yes	No
28	Doug & Ann Lawrence	No	No	Yes
29	Kevin and Eileen Cunningham	No	No	Yes

Submission			Submission	Submitted an Alternative Proposal Document?
Sub #	Name	Q7. Speak at Hearing?	Q3. Do you support the closure of the water race?	
30	Dave & Susie Hilliard	No	No	No
31	Kevin Wilson	No	No	No
33	Andrew Donald	Yes		No
34	Barry & Christine Gleeson	Yes	No	No
35	Andy & Tinks Pottinger			Yes
36	B J Ammundsen on behalf of G Foston			Yes
37	Barry Auckram			Yes
38	Ben Bruce			Yes
39	Brian Geary			Yes
40	Bruce Patrick			Yes
41	Christine & Tom Rufford			Yes
42	David & Deb Woodhouse			Yes
43	Frank & Bernice Parker			Yes
44	Guy Farman			Yes
45	Jan Wyeth			Yes
46	Janice Hayes, Rakiraki Punawai Limited			Yes
47	Jim Barlow			Yes
48	Jim Wallace			Yes
49	John Farmer			Yes

Submission			Submission	Submitted an Alternative Proposal Document?
Sub #	Name	Q7. Speak at Hearing?	Q3. Do you support the closure of the water race?	
50	John Le Grice			Yes
51	Karen Aitkenhead			Yes
52	Karina Southey			Yes
53	Kim Oakly			Yes
54	Lawrence & Elizabeth Cheetham			Yes
55	Louise Jackson			Yes
56	M J McKay			Yes
57	Mark Allan			Yes
58	Michelle & Ivor Allmand			Yes
59	Mike Aitkenhead			Yes
60	Oliver Bensaude			Yes
61	Philip Isaac			Yes
62	Rebecca Boggs			Yes
63	Robert & Wendy Gray			Yes
64	Shane Wilson			Yes
65	Trevor & Joanne Jackson			Yes
66	Wendy Totman			Yes
67	William Bicknell			Yes
68	William Patrick			Yes

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPAKI WATER RACE 2020 SUBMISSIONS

28 August 2020



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Note: where submission numbers aren't consecutive, submissions have been withdrawn.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 11:08:50 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 1:32:33 PM
Time Spent: 02:23:43
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

peter bresaz

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

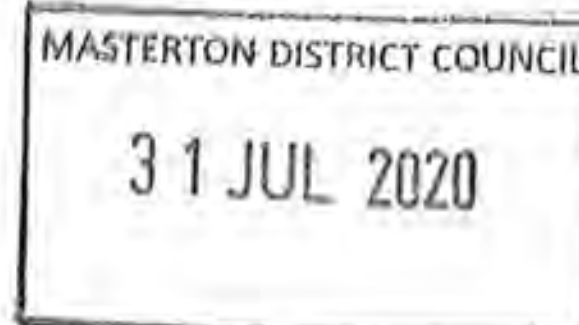
My reasons for this are:

supplies valuable water for livestock. for over 100yrs it has now formed part of local ecology. there are many fish and bird species present and reliant on its presence. i hope fish and game will re-locate the many fish species (mostly native) that will die when it dries up. ironically one branch of the race returns to henley lake which is also seeking further assurance of supply. its a sad state when a govt mandated organisation charged with the protection of mainly introduced species can have such influence on local water, its use (or not) and the potential negative impacts on the economy.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

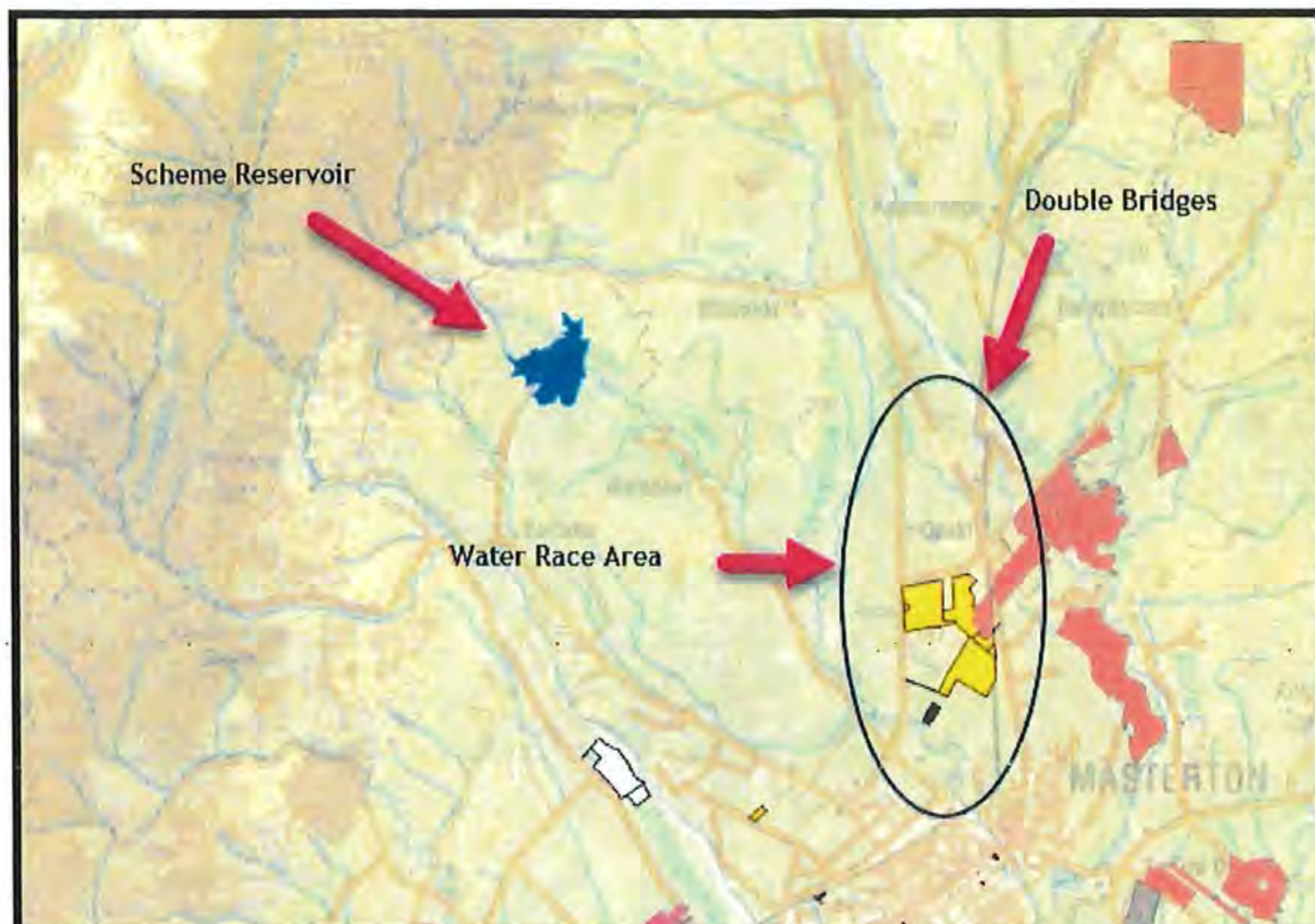
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

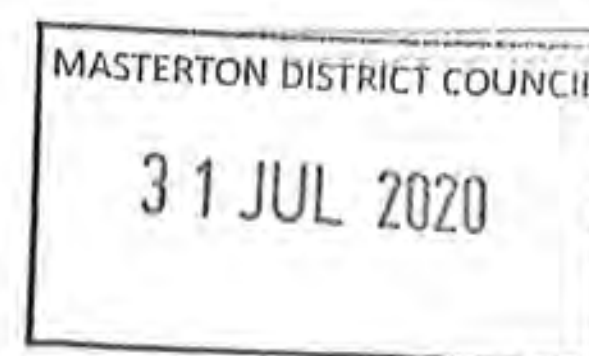
Signed *P. Bresaz*

Name *Peter Bresaz on behalf of*

Physical Address *Lennies PDF Ltd* [redacted]

Postal Address *as above*

Email [redacted] Phone [redacted]



#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 1:16:47 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 1:18:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:55
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Clifford Dawson

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed closure of the Opaki Water Race. I am not a user of the Water Race but am a financial member of the Opaki Water Scheme.

Firstly, I take issue with some of the wording in the recent public notices regarding the proposed closure, and cite one example. This appeared in the ‘Midweek’ dated 2 July and I quote, “Alternate water is available, such as the Opaki Water Scheme.....”. This statement is not accurate. It is my understanding that a decision as to whether the Opaki Water Scheme is available to users of the Water Race rests with the users of the Water Scheme alone once all available information is considered by Scheme members and consent agreed. No such consideration or discussion has occurred and therefore the public notice should read “Alternative water may be available”.

Secondly, although this may not be a matter of direct concern to the Council, councillors will be aware that the Opaki Water Scheme has recently undergone an extensive and expensive upgrade. The improvements were necessary to meet compliance requirements of the Health Act and Ministry of Health. Further upgrade may be required in the near future pending Government decisions on the protection of small and rural water supplies. Notwithstanding these, and ongoing costs to Water Scheme members, the possibility of making available highly treated, monitored and tested potable water for the purposes of irrigation and stock watering needs very careful consideration. Whilst I appreciate that limited quantities of water from the scheme may already be used for stock water this is likely to be on a small scale and of long standing. As I understand it the Opaki Water Scheme was developed primarily for the supply of potable water for domestic use and we should not, lightly, consider extending this to additional agricultural and horticultural use, particularly that on a larger or commercial scale than at present.

For these reasons I oppose the closure of the water race.

If, however, closure proceeds I would suggest that it should be up to current, and any potential future race users, to take over the costs of managing and maintaining the race on a user pays basis as is the case with the Opaki Water Supply. Or, as Council’s public notice suggests, other alternatives are sought such as private bores or rainwater.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 12:17:11 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 12:29:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:35
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Andy Sims

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

As the Controller for the Mauriceville Volunteer Rural Fire Force I have concerns about the closure of the Opaki Water race. Our fire crew turnout to vegetation fires in Opaki area and have utilised the water race as a source of water to fight veg / grass fires. Fighting vegetation and grass fires require large volumes of water. The water race is an excellent source because of the volume of water it carries and ease of access. The volume available in farm troughs would simply not be enough. In the current climate environment we could expect more of these types of fires to occur? Without this supply of water assets are more at risk. And as the number of assets increases in the area the higher that risk becomes. If the water race is closed, a replacement high volume easy access supply of water should be included in the plans for this area.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:29:50 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:31:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:49
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Katie Vermeer

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Constant flooding from the water race through the entire winter - and i do not want to pay to maintain it.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 11, 2020 6:25:59 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 11, 2020 6:39:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:04
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Annette Mullis

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Even though we will miss the use of the water race, with the amount of people who abuse the privilege of having a water race, by blocking it diverting it, pumping out of it to suit their own needs, and fill up their own ponds, you can no longer count on the water race 365 days of the year. There used to be eels, frogs, crawlies living in the water but no more, because either it dries up, or people tip unknown oily substances down it and yes I have seen this. Some people look after the race on their own property but we are surrounded by neighbours who honestly don't give a dam, they let cattle in it, they don't clean it or look after it. Most lifestylers have access to the opaki water scheme, which provides adequate water for household and livestock, for a yearly fee, those like the matahiwi vineyard have had 20 years to get water storage and supply sorted, but they haven't done that. I know there are a couple of farms at the northern end that have no options, available, and yes I feel for them. The cost of these consents and there is no guarantee, of getting them sorry but we can't afford it, we pay enough now, just for it to run along the back of our property. Permanent fencing the cost would not be nice and if would take our shelter belt away from our livestock. If need be we will put either a private hire in or another tank to collect water.

Q5
Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my
submission

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 17, 2020 6:33:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 17, 2020 6:50:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:17
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Iain Thirsk

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

The water race was established over 100 years ago for the good reason that other sources of water were hard to obtain for what is - during the summer months - a very dry area. That has not changed and whether one is trying to make a living from the land and needing stock water, or water for irrigation for a crop or vines, or simply trying to make a lifestyle home with a garden we all need water. It is unfortunate that the consent has come up for renewal in the Opaki water race - the smallest and least well resourced of all the water races - the first.

The water race has survived and served its purpose well for a long time - it is low tech and maintenance is mainly done by the users of the race. It may well be inefficient but it works - and all water management in New Zealand is inefficient. There is no other currently available solution that will not mean huge capital expenditure for individuals - especially in a time of financial hardship.

The water race has become part of the heritage of the Wairarapa - a historic and ecologically unique (in New Zealand) part of our country.

To split off the Opaki scheme from all the other water races in the Wairarapa seems to me fundamentally unfair, we do not have the resources alone to fund all the work for application of extension of our consent.

I would propose a delay in closure until we can be included in a broader scope of consent with all the other water races - and rather than individually closing bits of the Wairarapa water race, to postpone this until it can be properly considered in a water management plan that encompasses the whole of the Wairarapa. The need for water is recognised by all, and a plan for the whole region would ultimately be far more cost effective than looking at small areas piecemeal. Obviously this will take a significant amount of time - but with global warming we can expect more water problems - it is shameful that more effort on a regional basis is not being made to maximise the resources we have rather than simply burying small users under a mountain of new regulations they are unable to deal with.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

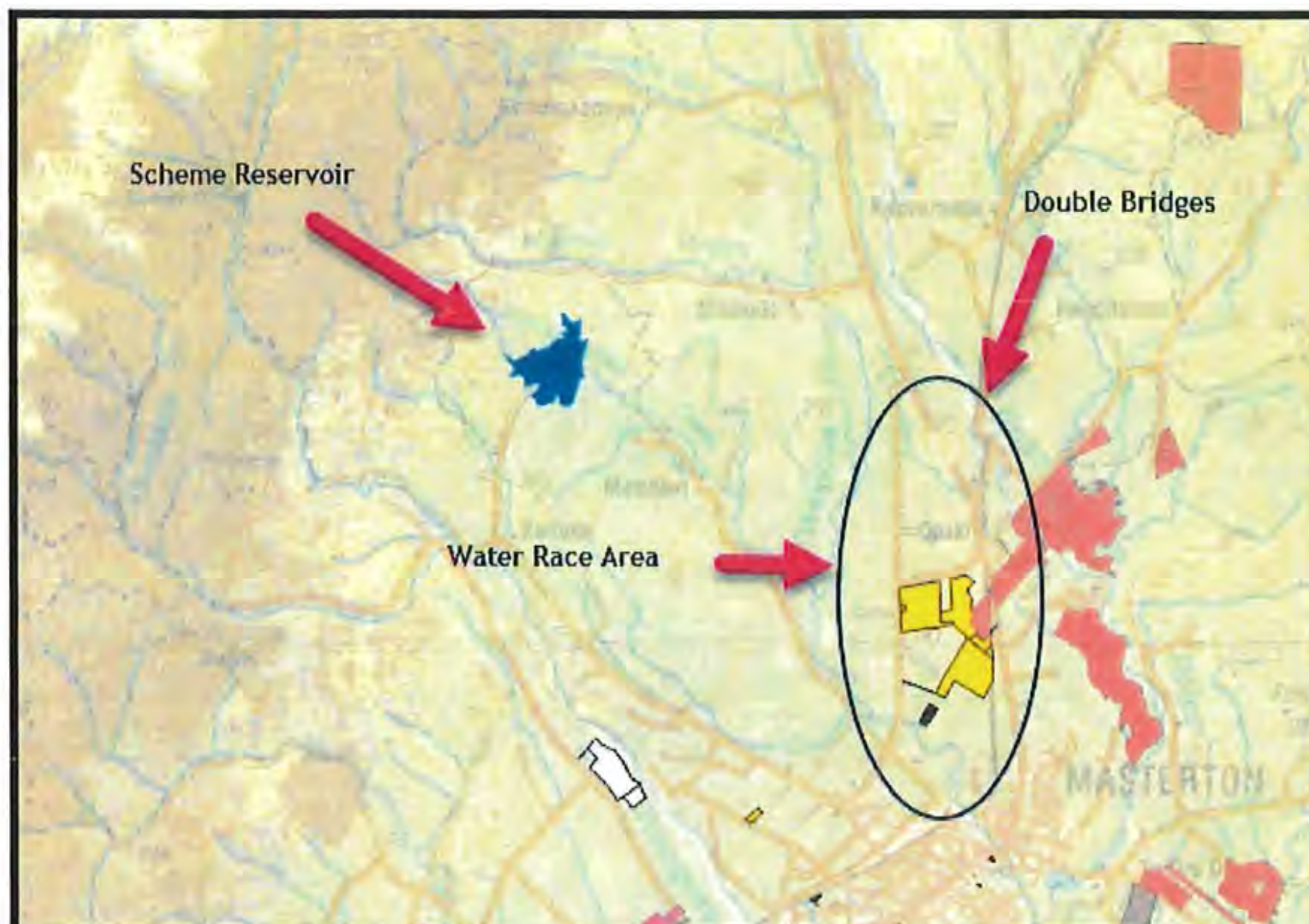
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

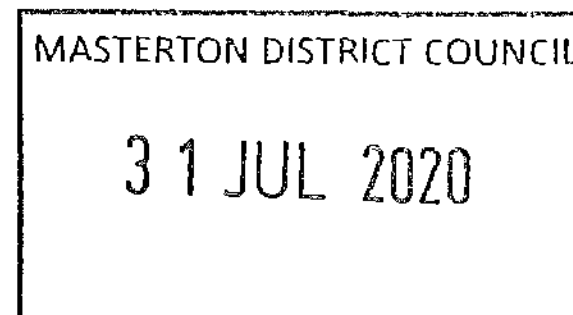
Signed Iain H. Thirsk

Name Iain Thirsk

Physical Address .. [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:46:33 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:52:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:27
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Stephen Davies Howard

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

I like having the water on my property and I willingly maintain it to a high standard. I am prepared to pay the rate levy at the current rate. However, I am not able to use the water; I have no stock. If I was able to use the water for limited irrigation for my olive trees I might support it remaining open at an increased cost. Given the costs presented by Council for the application process and the fact that my rates might increase 3 fold, regrettably, I see little option but to close it.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:00:35 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:42:12 PM
Time Spent: 02:41:37
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Steve Wilton

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

My wife and I own approximately 70 hectares at [REDACTED] with an estimated 2.5 kms of water race within our property.

Our rationale for SUPPORTING the closing of the Water Race is as follows.

We have been advised that the estimated cost for which the Users can probably get a 5 year resource consent is \$111,000 per annum, a total of \$555,000 over the 5 year term. This cost estimate is subject to the Users agreement to close the water race at the end of a 5 year term, which is a specific requirement of Fish and Game who have been identified as an affected party.

If we proceed without the support of Fish and Game, we may still get a consent, and this may or may not be for more than 5 years, however the cost to do so will be materially more than the \$555,000 estimated with the support of Fish and Game. This is because the process will require notification with supporting expert reports, plus possibly quite substantial legal and related costs.

Looking at the bigger picture, the water race is undeniably an inefficient use of water from the Ruamahanga River (or any water source) . With increasing pressure on all available water in the Wairarapa, it is clear that resource consents for inefficient water use will ultimately not be sanctioned, probably at the expiry of any consent which we MAY be able to obtain currently.

Given that future scenario, that ultimately a resource consent will not be granted hence the Water Race will be practically closed in the foreseeable future, in our opinion the Users are better to redirect the minimum of \$555,000 estimated cost for a short term solution to an enduring solution, either collectively or individually.

HOWEVER we believe it would be crucial (and reasonable for the Users to expect) that as part of the closure process that Council take responsibility to negotiate with the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) a reasonable transition period i.e. getting the agreement of the GWRC to allow the existing expired consent to run on for a further say 3 years. This time period is the minimum required for Users to be able to progress identification and implementation of an enduring efficient water solution, either collectively or individually.

The agreement negotiated with GWRC should also include preferential rights to the Users during the 3 year transition period to obtain a consent in respect of some of the water released from the closing of the Water Race for a collective alternative scheme to provide stock water plus water to continue irrigation use (existing volumes only) by the persons currently allowed to irrigate from the Water Race.

It would be reasonable to expect the GWRC to agree to such a transition period and preferential rights to a consent to some of the water, given the closing of the Water Race will result in the discontinuation of an existing inefficient use of water, plus release back to the river a material volume of water (much more than any alternative collective water scheme would require).

It is also important and reasonable to assume that Council would allow any collective alternative water scheme free use of road reserve land for the piped distribution of this water.

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

From: [Steve Wilton](#)
To: [Submissions Sub](#)
Cc: [Philip Evans](#)
Subject: Amendment to Submission on Closure of the Opaki Water Race
Date: Thursday, 30 July 2020 11:28:14 AM
Attachments: [Opaki Water Race Users Proposal Final.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Phil,

I have already lodged a submission in favour of closing the Opaki Water Race subject to a transition period.

I now wish to amend this submission to support of closing the Opaki Water Race subject to the Proposal set out in the attached document.

As there is no facility on-line to submit an attachment I have forwarded this communication to you.

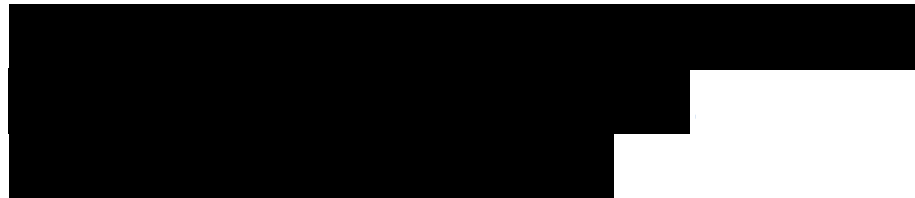
Please confirm receipt of this amendment submission and that my original submission will now be considered subject to this amendment.

Thanks.

Steve

SENDER DETAILS

Mr Steve A R Wilton; BBS, FNZIF



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are –

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme – www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion – Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it were suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation.

Conclusion – Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

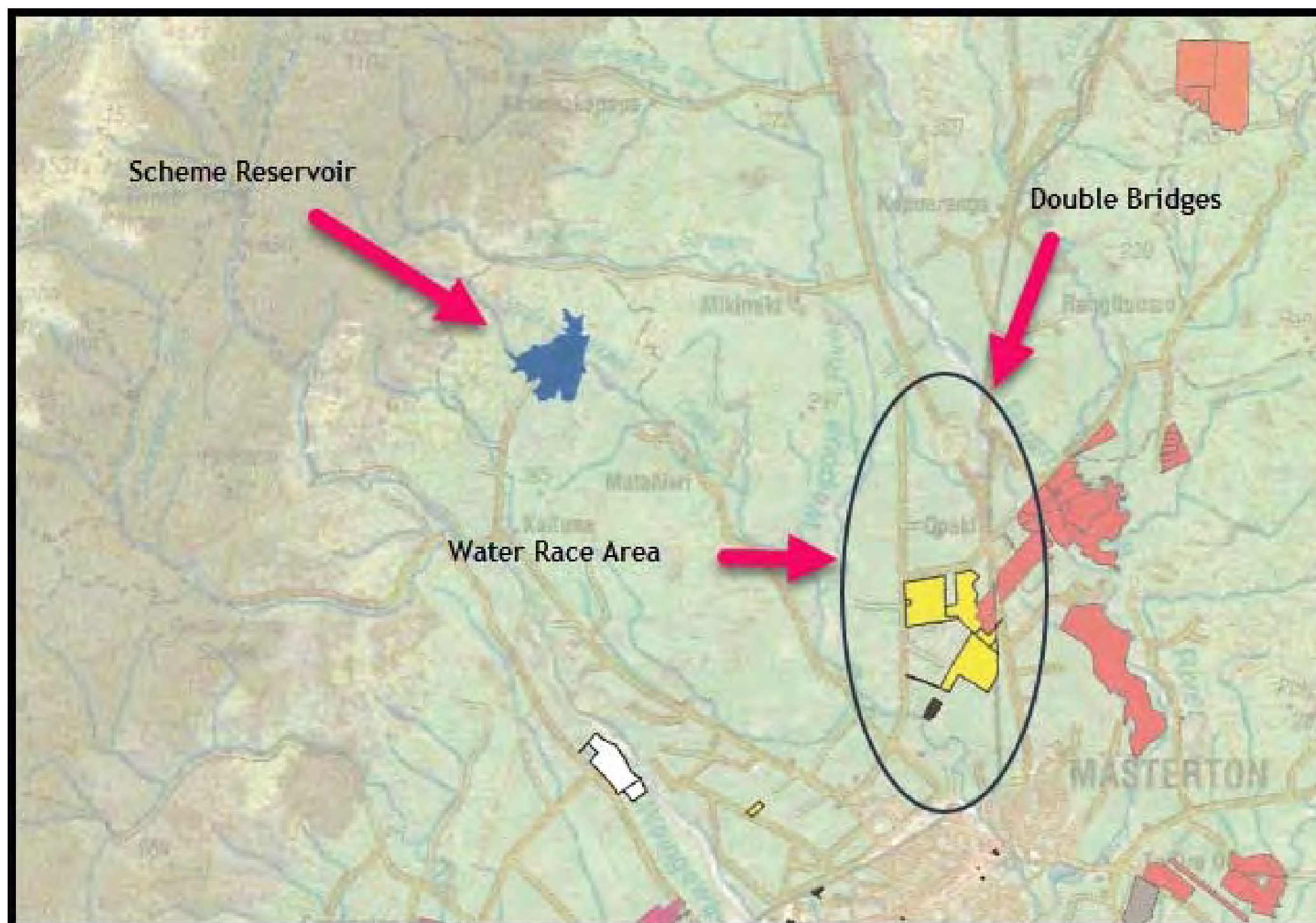
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the

present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion – the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion – Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

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The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Signed

Name

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email Phone

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:52:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:56:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:33
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Alastair Scott

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

To Masterton District Council

From Alastair Scott, Matahiwi Estate.

July 2020.

Submission

Opaki water race closure.

At Matahiwi we support the aim to maintain a minimum flow through the river system.

We support water storage projects that can contribute to minimum flows. We support storing water when river flow is high to release into the system when the levels are low.

We submit and agree that the water race closure will assist in increasing the river flow.

We submit that there are several options, but the best option is to close the water race when an alternate water supply is available (preferably via the Wairarapa Water Storage Project 'WaiWater') .

Being certain that the scheme will close is much better than prevaricating about the scheme. Certainty forces actions and plans to be made.

The need for a period of time, say 10 years, allows business to adjust, close, invest and plan for that inevitable closure. Less time puts unreasonable pressure on the businesses and will lead to suboptimal outcomes. Given the Government's aim is to increase primary sector exports, we should not be pursuing or forcing suboptimal outcomes as a community.

At the extreme, if the water race were to close tomorrow, the land could not support animals and so reduce the owners income and capital value. The same is true for grapes. Without water, our crop would be severely restricted/reduced.

If the water race was closed in one or two years time (before Wai Water storage or another alternative was completed), the farmers and grape growers must invest in interim solutions that may become permanent and likely to be suboptimal.

Interim solutions include, on-farm storage using shallow bores, or deeper bores. Forcing farmers to invest in multiple on-farm solutions is expensive, but necessary if there is no alternative.

These interim solutions would then become permanent solutions due to the investment required. Once the permanent solution is in place the farmer no longer has any interest in the cheaper more efficient WaiWater project, or any other alternative. That is a bad outcome for the local economy.

The worst case scenario is that the Opaki land becomes self-sufficient and reduces the demand side for the WaiWater project, so the WaiWater project fails.

The second worst case is that Opaki land users become self-sufficient and then the WaiWater starts to deliver water to the area soon after. There has been a massive overinvestment on farms as the interim solution is now redundant.

The alternate water supply could be:

The WaiWater storage project.

A user funded piped system from the Ruamahanga taking the same route as the water race. The water demanded/required would be restricted to say 40 litres per second and considered Class C water. This contrasts to the current take into the water race of 160-200 litres per second Class A. The piped solution gives a significant increase in the flow to the Ruamahanga in a short time frame.

Piping option dovetailing into WaiWater infrastructure.

An alternate supply is piping water from the river along the water race route. The volume would be much less than the current extraction. The piping would be funded by the users and the water would flow as if it was Class C water. (There is no point investing in the pipes only to have the water cut off in a drought). It could continue to flow by eventually connecting to the WaiWater flow. The piping could continue to be owned by the users or sold on to WaiWater.

The piping option could be executed fairly quickly, enabling the water race to be closed soon.

If the WaiWater project fails, there are other options listed below.

The RMA allows for Class A water to be taken for stock water. So when the river flow is low, water can continue to be extracted for the purpose of livestock health, but for no other purpose. The water extracted must be treated as if it was Class C, that is, the water is able to be extracted at below low flow limits.

Summary

So options are, from cheapest to more expensive:

Leave the water race open with existing constraints until WaiWater is operational. OR

Construct a piped system along existing water races to be owned by the users. Take water at the much reduced rate of (estimated, say) 40 litres/second as Class C water. Close the water race system. Merge with WaiWater when WaiWater is operational. OR

To assume WaiWater does not occur. Similar to option 2. Increase the volume of water allowed to be taken at low flows above the ‘stock water’ amount (treat as Class C), so that current users (including irrigators) are able to be added to the piped solution. The cost of the piping infrastructure can then be shared amongst more users. A resource consent will be required but should be easier to get if F&G are amenable. OR

To allow extraction at low flow to satisfy stock users only, but have an increased capacity in the piping infrastructure to allow greater flow when the river is higher. This will allow any on farm storage to be refilled for later use. This more expensive option will become the permanent solution and will reduce the demand for the WaiWater project.

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 24, 2020 3:47:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:01:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:47
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Caroline & Clem (Tui) Melville

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We do not use the water from the race. It is using valuable land on our property, which is only 2.2388 hectares (5 acres). We are paying for something that we are not using, nor getting any benefit from.

We have our own water supply - a 25,000l Aqua tank, which we installed shortly after we moved here in 2017. This is sufficient for the small flock of sheep we have on the place.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:44:43 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:58:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:30
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Will and Ruth Stokes

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We have no need for it. While I wouldn't mind continuing to support it for the benefit for those who rely on it, it's just too expensive.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:47:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:52:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:40
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Wendy Reynolds

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

The water race runs along the front of my property and then turns a right angle and runs along the boundary between my property and Matawihi vineyard. I do not use the water from the race.

I believe the continued running and maintaining of the water race is paramount to supporting the ecology of the area that has come to rely on it as a 'natural part of the environment'. For over 100yrs years farmers, businesses and lives have also become reliant on the water supply. The issue is that, while we have the ability to discuss, plan, vote on and submit our recommendations as to the outcome of the water race, the undefendable flora and fauna will have no input to their fate.

There are many native flora and fauna that rely on it's existence and I feel that there has not been sufficient studies done on assessing the impact on them should it close. Below are some notable inhabitants.

Karearea – New Zealand's native falcon

We are lucky to be able to provide an amazing environment in Opaki to New Zealand's falcon, 'Karearea'. Fundamental to its survival in this environment is the water race for it provides both drinking water and a plentiful hunting ground for the Karearea. The natural culling of rabbits and mice that it also provides is much appreciated.

Kōura – Freshwater crayfish

Kōura populations are decreasing. Predation by introduced species has also played a role in this as has harvesting for human consumption in some places. They are listed as a threatened species and their populations are in gradual decline.

Kōura have a special part to play in our freshwater lakes and streams. They are native animals and recycle some of the leftover materials by their scavenging, therefore helping to clean up our streams and lakes in their own small way.

It is a shame that our Kōura, a native crustacean, has to shelter from trout, a non-native predatory fish. Luckily, it has found shelter in the Opaki Water Race.

Watercress

Watercress is regarded as a 'luxury' feeder because it can absorb more nutrients than it needs to survive.

Tests conducted by NIWA over summer and autumn months showed that at a low flow rate the watercress was absorbing as much as 40% of the nitrate and phosphate from the water, effectively cleaning the water.

While it can be, at certain times of year, invasive it can also be easily controlled and eaten.

NB. I have no expertise in these field's but have attempted, through basic research, to try and highlight some considerations that must be made.

Can I ask that you delay this closure until proper and sufficient studies have been completed on the ramifications of such a closure, particularly on the ecology of the water race.

My background.

I am a 5th generation New Zealander born and raised in Masterton. My family, the Percy's, were one of the first settlers here in Masterton and the surrounding area. The water races, including the Opaki Water Race, which now runs through my property, have been part of my entire life, as was swimming at the 'crusher' at Te Ore Ore. One does have to question what damage the dredging of all that gravel did to the water levels of the Ruamahunga river?

Frustratingly, due to Covid-19, I am unable to leave my current country of residence to return back to Masterton and Opaki to attend the meetings.

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Website Collector (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:59:33 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:39:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:56
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Lisa Parkinson & Kieron Caveney

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We are a small property [REDACTED] and have approx 100mtrs of the water race running through it, we fully support the water race staying open in its current state as long as a user pay system was put in place. There are many reasons for our support of the water race staying open.

- 1. In the short time we have lived here we have found a small ecosystem in the water race, with many Koura and Eels living in the slower flowing water before the diversion structure in the front of our property where the water race splits off west down Opaki towards Matahiwi or carries on through our property towards Waipipi. We have been able to hand feed the Eels on numerous occasions with the Eels taking the food right out of our hands. If the water race was to close in its current state what happens to this very important wildlife?
- 2. We understand that there are many families and businesses that rely on the water from the water race for their livelihood.
- 3. Being a rural community in the event of any Fire the water would be used to help control the fire meaning that the water capacity is not limited to what the fire trucks can hold. We have heard that this has actually occurred and the outcome would have been drastically different if it wasn't for the water race.
- 4. We have spent a lot of time working on the water race and tidying it up as we feel it is a real feature of our property, we are concerned that if the water race was to close we would simply be left with a large unusable ditch that runs the full length of the property that could also be deemed as a safety hazard.

Our reasoning for the support of the user pay system is because we are legally not able to use the water in the water race as we do not meet the proposed resource consent criteria. If this was to change and any property could draw from the water race for other reasons then we would be more than happy to pay rates on the water race as a user.

Regards

Lisa and Kieron

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

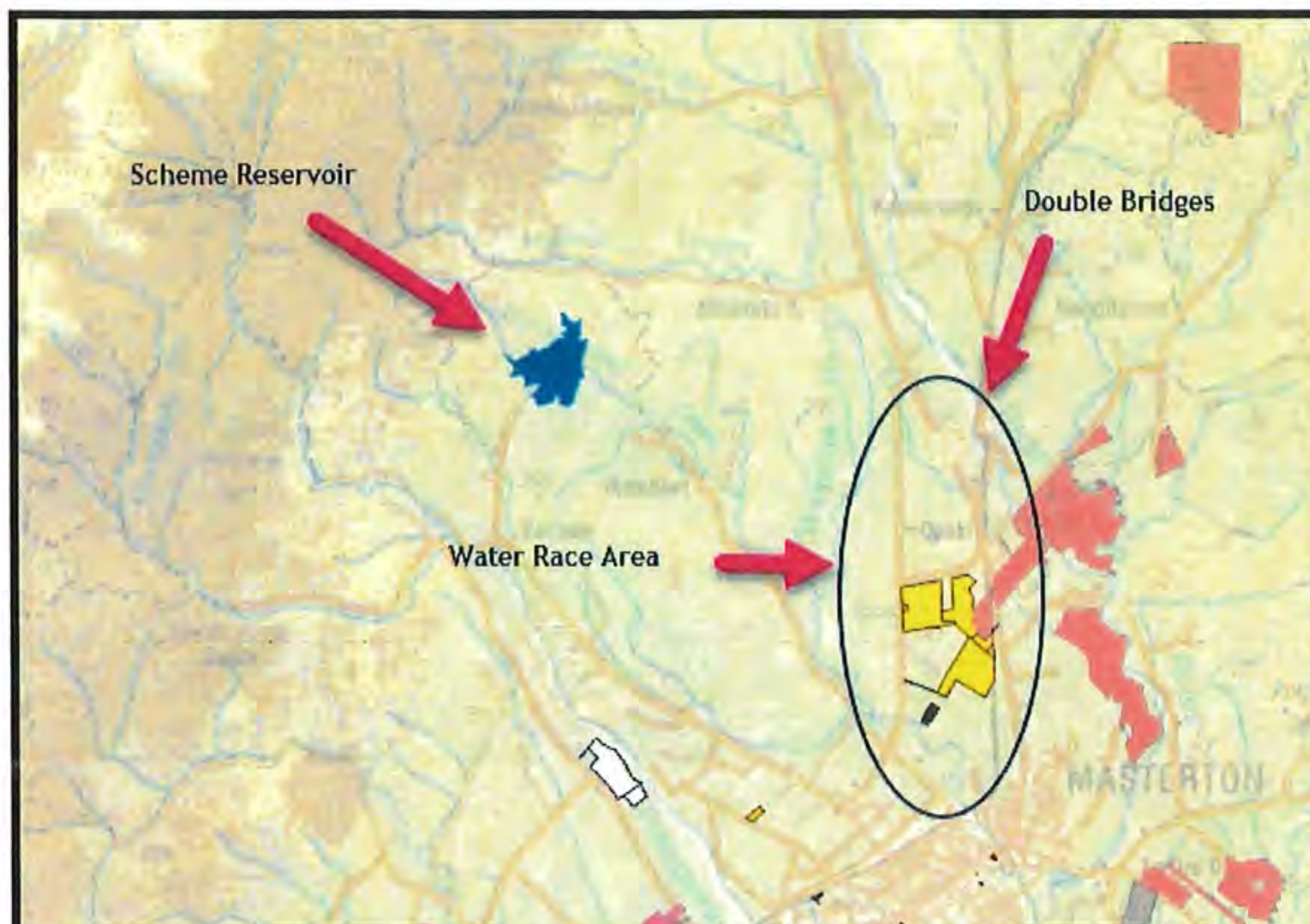
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

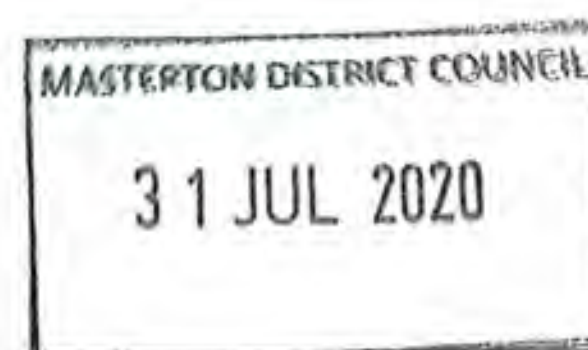
Signed 

Name  

Physical Address 

Postal Address 

Email  Phone 



#16

COMPLETE

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Started: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:03:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:23:41 AM
Time Spent: 01:19:52
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Richard & Carolyn Stevenson

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We are dairy farmers and own two dairy farms - one at Kokotau, Carterton milking 1,000 and the other at Rangitumau milking 500 COWS.

We currently lease a total of three properties (two on Paierau Road and one on SH2) totalling 170 hectares and these properties all use the Opaki Water Race as a source of water. We use these properties for wintering our dairy cows, grazing our young stock and making hay/silage .

If the water race is shut down, these properties are of no use to us any longer and we would have to give up our leases of them. I am not sure whether the Masterton District Council have thought about the effect on the land owners of shutting down the water races. As dairy farmers, we pay a premium for this type of land and if we weren't to lease these properties any longer, the value of the land would reduce and the land owners would not get paid a premium for their land. The properties that we lease in this area are ideal for wintering our stock and as such, we pay a premium for that.

We have real concerns that the likes of Fish & Game can have such an influence on the decision making of the Council as to whether they pursue a Resource Consent or not. I understand that one of the concerns for the Council of applying for a Resource Consent is that Fish & Game have indicated that they will appeal the application. I would like to point out that Fish & Game contribute nothing to the economy. The District Council should show more support for farming (and therefore the economy) especially in these times of uncertainty. The country needs our primary produce to try and help repay the billions of debt that our country is incurring.

By shutting down the water race, the Council are shutting down farming in the Opaki area - without water, there is no stock.

There are water races supplying the Carterton and Greytown areas (and in fact on the other side of Paierau Road where we lease another property of 160ha) and there is no talk of them shutting down. A water race is a very simple and cost effective way of conveying water.

We would like to see the Masterton District Council being more supportive of farmers and therefore the Opaki Water Race and not bow to pressure from minority organisations who contribute little to the economy.

Richard & Carolyn Stevenson

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

#17

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Started: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:47:52 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:56:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:43
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Mike and Ruth Wiley

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

The stream runs through our property. We would hate to think it would only have storm water going into it. We have eels living in it which our grandchildren like to feed. The last thing we need is a dried up smelly creek running through our property or would the council have to put storm water pipes in? The scheme has worked for 150 years now why change it now?

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#18

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:08:10 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:39:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:31:25
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Tim and Jen Bockhop

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

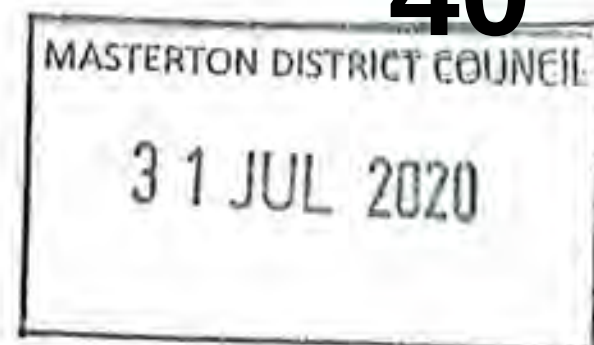
My reasons for this are:

I don't use it enough to pay to keep it open

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

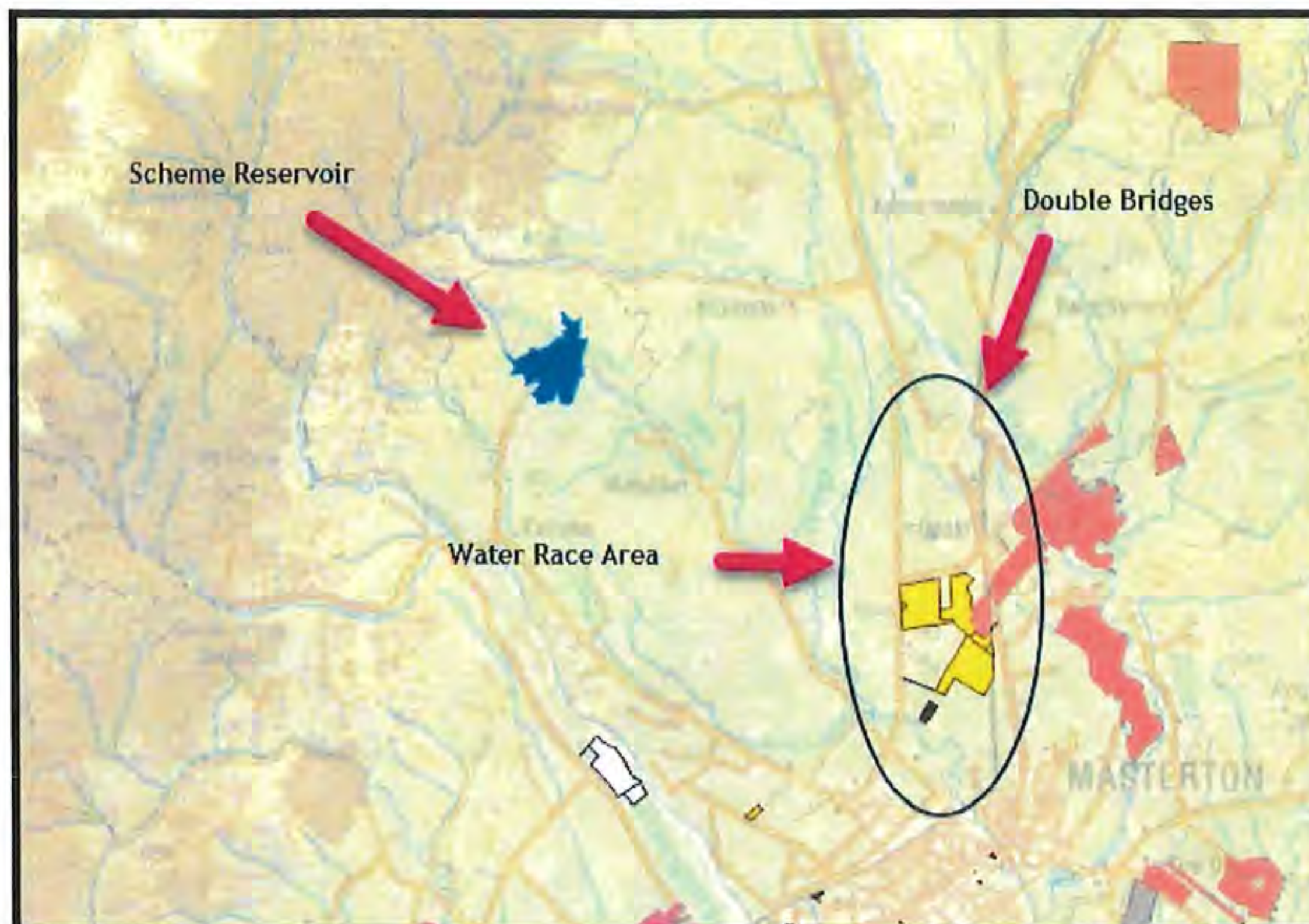
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Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

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Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

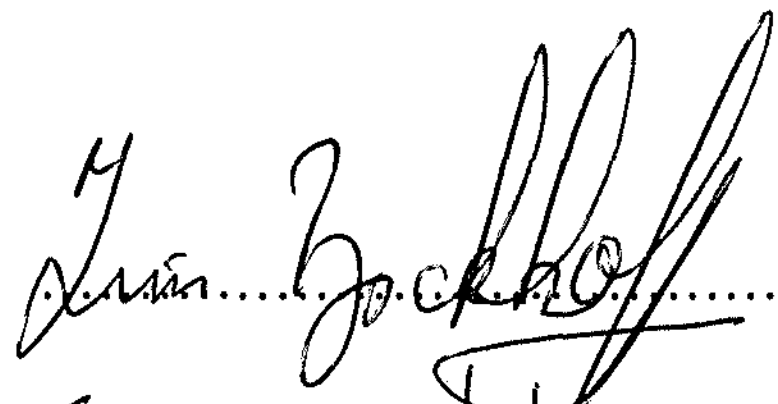
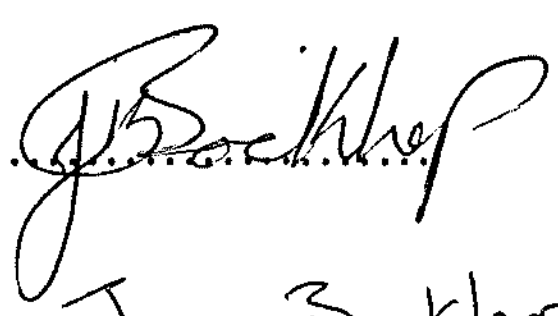
- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

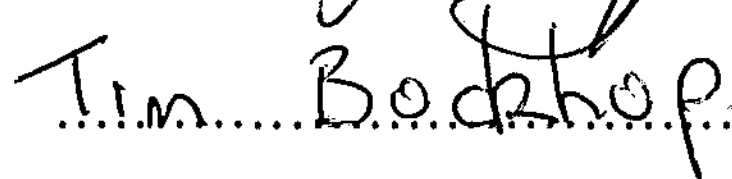
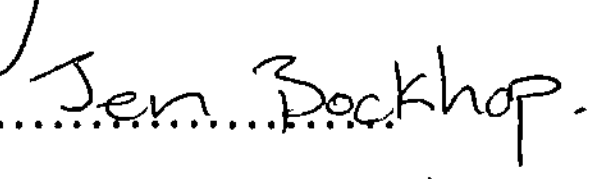
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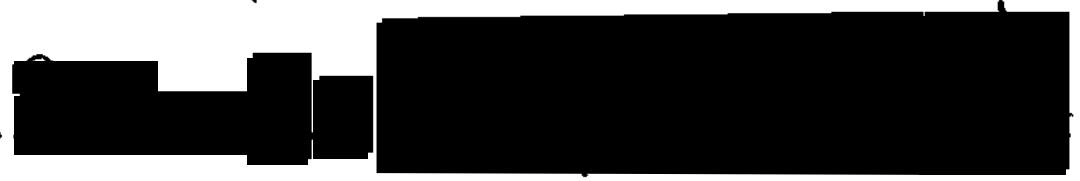
This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

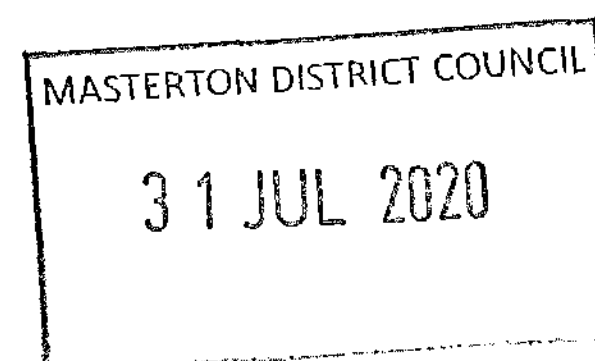
Signed  

Name  

Physical Address 

Postal Address 

Email  Phone .. 



#19

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:40:37 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:51:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:14
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

S Wyeth

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

It is a vital lifeline for stock survival on the Opaki Plains. It was installed as there were no other available water sources - clearly with testing, this has not changed. Should water be taken away, how will this affect my farming operation?? Well we have tried cerial crop and other mixed species crops to see if this land can be profitable with no stock - the net returns from growing crops; barley, wheat, oats, lucerine were all poor given the dry nature of the soil. Plants such as chickory and turnips do persist to feed animals, but with no water this is not an option. If we can't graze stock summer/winter, then how do we make an income to pay for the mortgage on our land? By removing water it directly renders this land unprofitable.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

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- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

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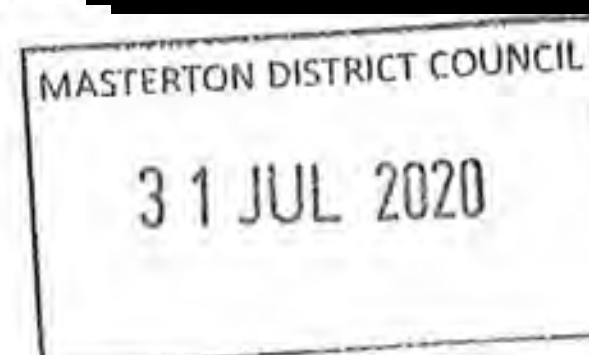
Signed

Name S. W. J. P. H.

Physical Address
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Postal Address

Email Phone



#20

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:52:10 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:59:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:45
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Jenni and Norman Johnston

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

- 1. Do not have water at the end when river is low. Had to buy water for stock water!
- 2. Been told that the race is diverted (illegally). Been told that there are thieves by Council.
- 3. Councils do not recognise/know that the race goes down to the flats below us. Never seen anyone in 12 years down there AND still charge rates.
- 4. As if you do why will you not fix the severe erosion that is occurring on our property (from erratic flows). No one will take responsibility.
- 5. Poor maintenance by some users results in all ratepayers having to pay for upkeep.
- 6. Now WRDC want all plantings within 5 meters pulled out.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#21

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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:06:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:32
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Graeme Butcher

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Our stock cannot access the water race on our property - therefore we do not use the water race.
The water race dries up in summer so we couldn't use it even if we have access to it.
GWRC and NZ in general is moving towards fencing off waterways to protect the environment, I support this goal, having stock entering water races is not environmentally sensible.
Leave the water in the Ruamahanga River, as that is a far greater asset to the Wairarapa than a few people in Masterton taking water from it for the race.
Protect the Ruamahanga River.
We do not want to keep paying rates on this water race because we are unable to have any benefit from it.
We recommend that the Opaki Water Race bylaw is removed if the closure of the water race occurs.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#22

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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:12:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:12
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Catherine Drysdale

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

No, we do not support the closure - this property was purchased knowing the water race was an asset and could be relied upon for water supply for livestock - and an aesthetic value - the value of the water was included in the suitability of the property, to strip this asset from the property would be quite improper and a huge change from what we understood at the time of purchase. To provide an alternative would be costly, and at whose cost.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Hard Copy (Web Link)
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Time Spent: 00:13:35
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

K Inder

Q2

Address

Address	Not supplied
Address 2	Not supplied
City/Town	Not supplied
ZIP/Postal Code	Not supplied
Email Address	Not supplied
Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

- 1. There an opportunity for MDC to support this community, aprticularly those still farming. This group have contributed much to the wider community over many years and are seeking support on a very important issue.
- 2. There has been a significant land use change to lifestyle blocks and they're less reliant on the water race. However there is still a significant number of farmers operating in the catchment.
- 3. It would make good sense to retain this water resource until such time as the region advances its water use project that would hopefully meet the necessary stock water and irrigation needs. This delay in closing down the consent for an additional few years past the current expiry date of 2023, while the new infrastructure is built, may come at some cost. The opportunity exists to discuss cost sharing that would enable this to occur.
- 4. Common sense and voting.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#24

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:29:09 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:36:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Caroline and Brent Eddy

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 N/A

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Owners of [REDACTED]

We are also aware that some users of the water race have put forward a proposal for a transition pathway from the water race to the Wakamoekau Scheme, under which the water race would remain open until late 2025/early 2026. This would allow users who depend upon the water race to transition to the Wakamoekau Scheme, or make alternative arrangements for water supply should the Scheme not proceed. We would not wish our support for the closure of the water race to count against our neighbours whose livelihoods depend upon the water supply, so we also support this proposal (or others similar) for a transitional period during which the water race remains open, as long as this can be achieved without material additional costs to users.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#25

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Collector: Hard Copy (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:37:06 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:46:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:20
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Graham McNae

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

I definitely want to see the Opaki Water Race close. I consider it expense water that I do not need. It currently costs me \$1600/year and as your proposal document states that will only increase. I have an alternative source of water from the Opaki Water Assn that in comparison is cheap reliable water.

In periods of low river flow the current race is unreliable. If some users elect to bear the huge costs of trying to renew the consent could closure of some sections be considered? Some property owners in near vicinity to me (S.H.2) don't use it and as we have access to the Assn scheme perhaps our section at least could close.

In summary,

- For me the water race is already too dear.
- It is unreliable.
- I have access to another water source.
- Those who haven't would be better spending money on an alternative rather than going through the consent process that is unlikely to succeed anyway.
- In 1900 the race was modern in 2020 its outdated.

Q5
Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my
submission

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal



Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

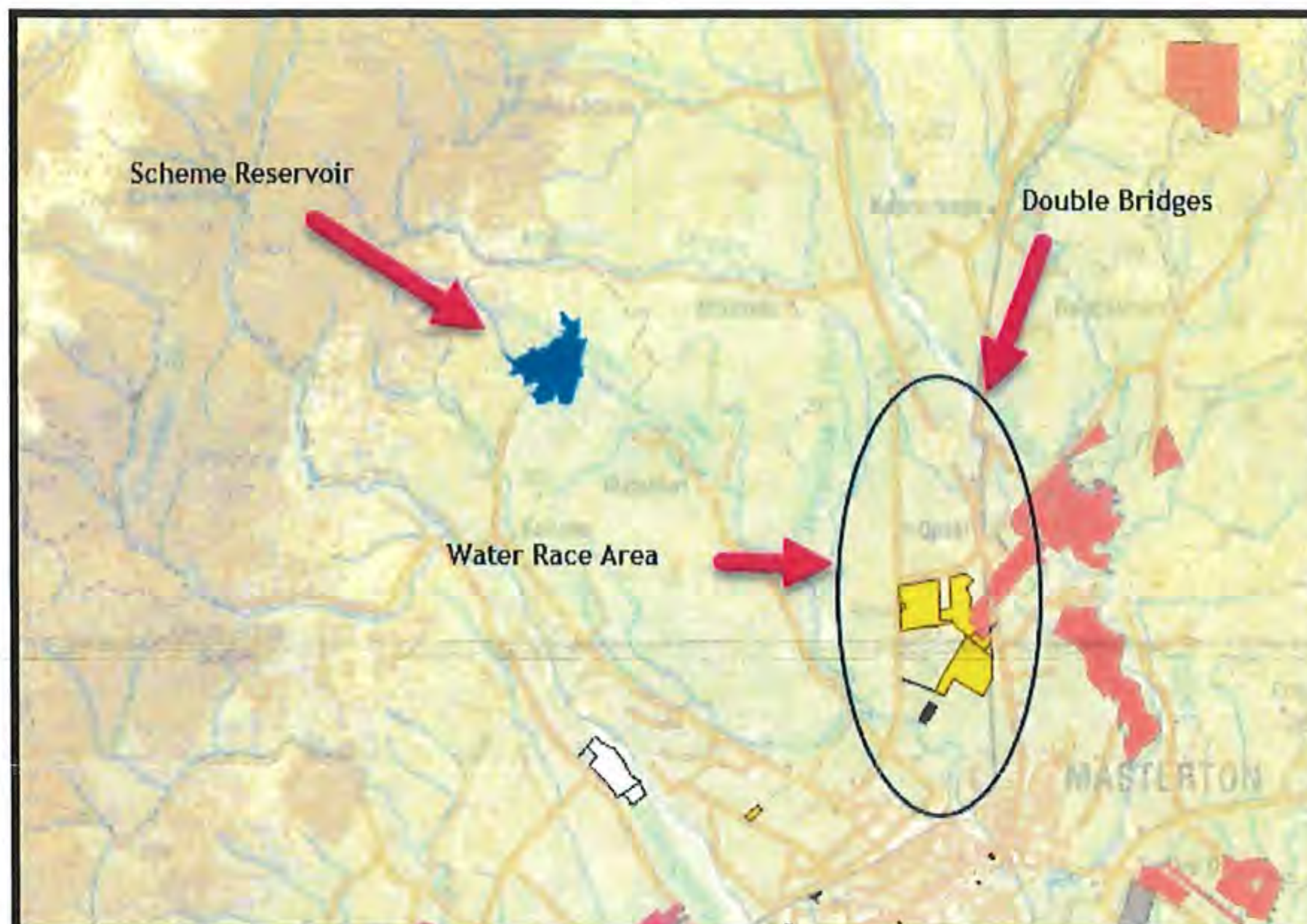
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

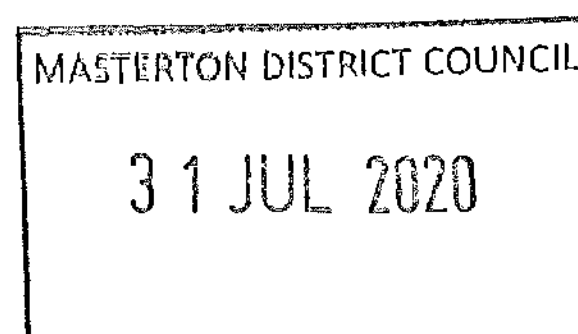
Signed *GAMNAE*

Name *Graham McNAE*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



#26

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:49:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:53
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Sarah Kaye

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

- Maintain water supply for stock to those properties with no water source.
- To provide/nurture a race that supports aquatic wildlife - eels, ducks, crawlies, fish, snails etc.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Garry + Sarah Kaye.

Signed

Name

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email Phone



#27

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 12:16:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:31
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Jill Penn and Tim Penn

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Yes, I support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Costs: The cost to us of the Opaki water race is already uneconomic for our 61ha lot. We currently pay \$3000 per annum in rates to the council and biannually our maintenance costs which ensure constant flow of the race are about \$1800. (For that cost we receive stock drinking water only.)

We are not in any way reliant on the Opaki water race, we have adequate alternative water supply.

Any resource consent application filed by the council on behalf of users, by the council's estimations as mentioned in their brochure, may double our rates to \$6000 per annum and at worst would go to \$9000 per annum plus the maintenance costs. (Way too much for stock drinking water only.)

Acquisition: Legislation is changing and we will soon be required to fence the water race off. This is another of our major concerns as we have approximately 1.2km of the race running through the centre of the property. Given that the race is up to 4m wide in places and probably averages between 2-3 metres, this would be a large and disproportionate land acquisition when compared to other utility services. In some places we would have to fence a strip up to 14 metres wide to comply with this new legislation. I cannot think of another situation in which this much land is acquired to conduct a service. Even pylons allow you to graze underneath them.

Stock units and irrigation: The race services only one vineyard "Matahiwi" for irrigation purposes and one for frost protection (for which there are alternative methods). It also provides stock drinking water for more or less 25,000 stock units. This is an incredibly inefficient water take from the Ruamahanga river given such a low number of stock units. Bear in mind these stock units are not all totally reliant on the water race. I do not know of any survey that has been undertaken to determine the actual number of units reliant on the race for their water.

Compliance and rating inequity: For many years we believe compliant ratepayers have subsidised a few uncompliant users. It is common knowledge and by their own admission that there are properties drawing from the race for irrigation and frost protection who are unable to obtain consents to do so lawfully. The council has turned a blind eye to this over a long period of time. This means they are not rated accordingly for their water take. This creates great inequity in a user pays scheme. This is an uncomfortable issue for everybody but needs to be addressed. I raise this issue because these users are lobbying to keep the water race open and if they are successful increased costs will fall on compliant users only.

Environmental: Future resource consent application would require the following condition to be met. That the water race will have to be closed when flow rates in the Ruamahanga are low. This means no stock drinking water for extended periods of time, so water storage infrastructure would have to be implemented regardless. The question then must be asked, should a 61ha block pay \$6000 a year in water rates for stock drinking water that is not available during those times when livestock are most reliant on it? We therefore ask that the council close the water race as soon as possible.

(Note - submitter included three photos of the water race with their submission.)

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

OPAKI WATER RACE SUBMISSION

Jill Penn and Tim Penn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Costs:

The cost to us of the Opaki water race is already uneconomic for our 61ha lot. We currently pay \$3000 per annum in rates to the council and biannually our maintenance costs which ensure constant flow of the race are about \$1800. (For that cost we receive stock drinking water only)

We are not in any way reliant on the Opaki water race, we have adequate alternative water supply.

Any resource consent application filed by the council on behalf of users, by the council's estimations as mentioned in their brochure, may double our rates to \$6000 per annum and at worst would go to \$9000 per annum plus the maintenance costs. (Way too much for stock drinking water only)

Acquisition:

Legislation is changing and we will soon be required to fence the water race off. This is another of our major concerns as we have approximately 1.2 km of the race running through the centre of the property. Given that the race is up to 4m wide in places and probably averages between 2-3 metres, this would be a large and disproportionate land acquisition when compared to other utility services. In some places we would have to fence a strip up to 14 metres wide to comply with this new legislation. I cannot think of another situation in which this much land is acquisitioned to conduit a service. Even pylons allow you to graze underneath them.

Stock units and irrigation:

The race services only one vineyard "Matahiwi" for irrigation purposes and one for frost protection (for which there are alternative methods) It also provides stock drinking water for more or less 25,000 stock units. This is an incredibly inefficient water take from the Ruamahunga river given such a low number of stock units. Bear in mind these stock units are not all totally reliant on the water race. I do not know of any survey that has been undertaken to determine the actual number of units reliant on the race for their water.

Compliance and rating inequity:

For many years we believe compliant ratepayers have subsidized a few uncompliant users. Its common knowledge and by their own admission that there are properties drawing from the race for irrigation and frost protection who are unable to obtain consents to do so lawfully. The council has turned a blind eye to this over a long period of time. This means they are not rated accordingly for their water take. This creates great inequity in a user pays scheme. This is an uncomfortable issue for everybody but needs to be addressed. I raise this issue because these users are lobbying to keep the water race open and if they are successful increased costs will fall on compliant users only.

Environmental:

Future resource consent application would require the following condition to be met. That the water race will have to be closed when flow rates in the Ruamahunga are low. This means no stock

drinking water for extended periods of time, so water storage infrastructure would have to be implemented regardless.

The question then must be asked, should a 61ha block pay \$6000 a year in water rates for stock drinking water that is not available during those times when livestock are most reliant on it?

We therefore ask that the council close the water race as soon as possible.



This photo demonstrates any riparian fencing will be a large acquisition of very usable land, given that a 5m distance on either side would be required, plus the cost of compulsory planting.



This photo gives you some idea of how much water is drawn from the Ruamahunga River. During summer, the water literally swirls from this culvert.



The bottom photo shows the water race entering our property [REDACTED]. This is a massive water grab, and I recommend the water race be closed. This water would be better left in Ruamahunga River to support a healthier river during this period of climate change.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Email (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 12:20:15 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:23:52 PM
Time Spent: 02:03:36
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Doug and Ann Lawrence

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

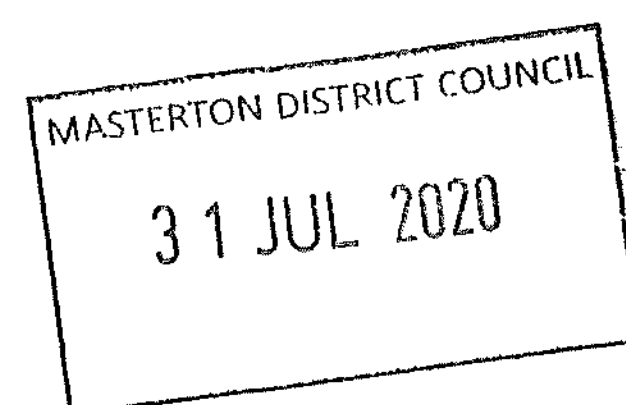
Q4

My reasons for this are:

Doug and Ann Lawrence are apposed to the proposed closing for the Opaki Water race. Our property requires the water from the water race for stock water. There is no other source therefore they are very important to us. According to M.P.I the water delivering system must be reliable and maintained to meet daily demand. In the event of a water delivery system failure, remedial action must ensure that the daily water requirements are met. On discussion with our vet we were told as we were paying for the water the MDC were required to provide the water. We believe there is a strong case to support a piped system which could be superior to this current water race. This could be laid along the bed of the current race to save the pipe being in the berm of the carriageway keeping away from Telecom, power and other ground services. This system could allow users to store water for the period in the summer when the river levels could be low. The Upper Opaki Aquifer could be explored as a possibility for the source of the water. The water race system could be allocated the remaining allocation of water from the aquifer which will possibly meet the full water requirements needed. We are making the submission as individuals.

Q5
Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

A map of the Water Race Area. The map shows a network of roads and a river. A large area is outlined in black and labeled "Water Race Area". Within this area, there is a smaller area labeled "Scheme Reservoir" and another area labeled "Double Bridges". Arrows point from the labels to their respective locations on the map.

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

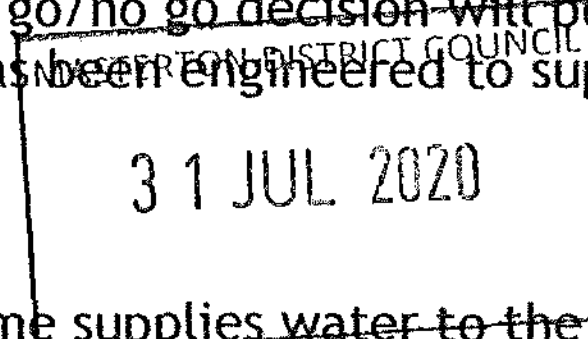
Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).



The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Signed Douglas Lawrence Ann Lawrence

Name Douglas Lawrence Ann Lawrence

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone .. [REDACTED] ..

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Hard Copy (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 3:03:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:37
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Kevin and Eileen Cunningham

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address N/A

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

- 1. We use the Opaki water race water for drinking water for our stock.
- 2. Putting in tanks for water for stock is not an option especially in a drought, everyone knows how the Wairarapa suffers during a drought. Imagine filling tanks to water stock. The water cartage is bad enough you could never leave the place. The water would more than likely come from the Ruamahanga river how stupid that. Do we have to stand by and watch our water flow past and finish up going through a dairy farmer's irrigation or straight out to sea. What about the eels, fresh water crayfish, mud fish and trout. Fish and Game don't seem to care about this. These fish have lived and bred in the water race for years except for the eels and trout. Some of the eels are pretty big, we feed the ones in our part of the water race, the grandchildren and their friends think they are great. There is a lot more we could say but the room is limited. At the end of the day the whole thing is about extracting money from the users.

(Sorry we did not realise we could write on the back of this page.)

The Carterton water race is at least 23 times bigger than Masterton's Opaki water race, as I stated on the other side of this page. [REDACTED] uses a digger to keep the Carterton water race in good working condition. I know people who have properties with the water race running through it. They say they could not manage without it. [REDACTED] does a great job and is employed by the Carterton District Council. Surely we could have just as good a water race as Carterton does. Could the council have one paid man to take care of the Opaki water race with the use of a council digger.

Fish and Game don't live here they don't realise what the Wairarapa is like in the summer time during a drought. We need our water race for our stock water.

The water flow through our land is extremely good, I think the water race could possibly need cleaning with a digger. The race isn't that long in comparison to Carterton's, this might help the flow of water.

How about diverting the water not used in the water race back into the river instead of Henley Lake. We agree with Mr Andrew Donald, his own opinion which he wrote in a column in the Times Age which was on the 29th this week. Mr Andrew Donald is spokesperson for the Waipoua Catchment Community Group, I think what he has written makes a lot of sense. I have written what really effects ourselves and that is not having water for our stock and would really like it to stay also for the eels, freshwater crayfish, mud fish and trout. Also would like it to stay in place for all the other users along the water race. Also we have two bridges we cross to use one for vehicles and stock and the other is a foot bridge, so no stock goes in our part of the water race at all. When the County Council owned the garage out at Te Ore Ore, they employed one of these workers, a man by the name of [REDACTED]. He kept the entrance of the water race open after a flood. I believe he was very good at his job and it didn't take that long to do.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

1. Join the Opaki Water Supply Association.
2. Install their own well and associated infrastructure.
3. Look to the medium-term option to buy water from the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme being pursued by Wairarapa Water Limited
(Wakamoekau Scheme - www.wwl.net.nz)
4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

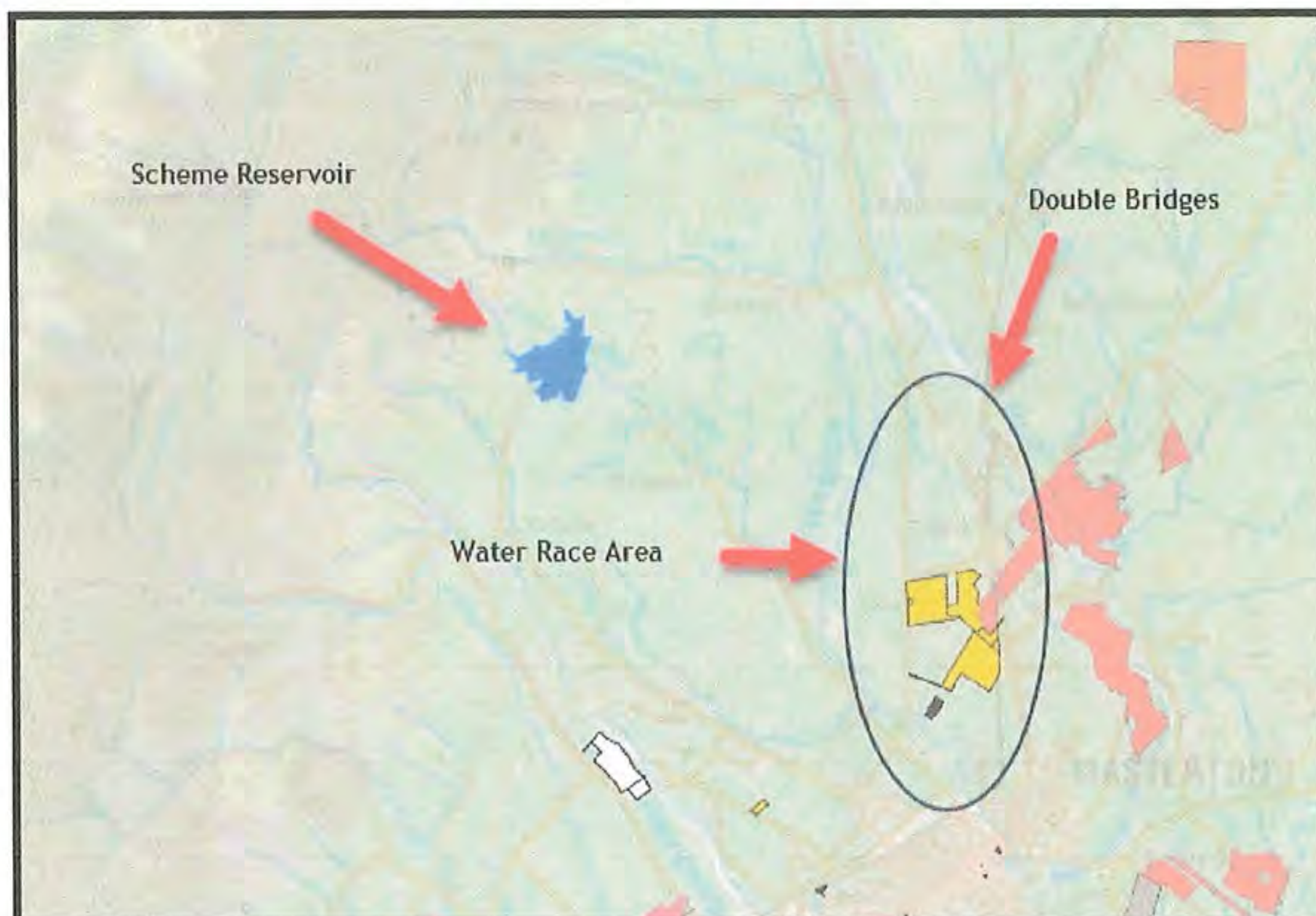
The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

Ruamahanga River is likely to be in the vicinity of Double Bridges (arrowed on map), which is where the present intake for the Water Race is located. This makes connection of the Users to the Wakamoekau Scheme a real possibility as the first off take from the distribution network arising from the Wakamoekau Scheme.

A possibility could be to gravity feed (or pump) this water in pipes along the length of the present (some or all) water race channel depending upon indicated demand from Users. The use of road reserve, or other land, for distribution may be a more economic option. Users would however agree to make available the present water race channel if this is the preferred option.

Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

Given that the Users require an alternative to the Water Race and also that the Wakamoekau Scheme is the only option which would satisfy the present and future water needs of the Users, the Users therefore need a transition pathway from the Water Race to the Wakamoekau Scheme.

The timetable for the Wakamoekau Scheme has it operational late 2025/beginning of 2026. The required consents are on schedule to be lodged by the end of this year (2020). In January 2020, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$7 million of funding to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application, and prepare for start of construction targeted for 2023.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, the governance and management now in place to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable would have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, which is a similar date to that achieved were the Users water needs satisfied by the scheme.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this proposal which will also require the support of the GWRC in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

Signed

[Handwritten signature]

Name

Kearna Ekers Cunningham

Physical Address

.....

Postal Address

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

Phone

[Redacted]



#30

COMPLETE

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Started: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 3:04:06 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 3:11:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:37
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Dave and Susie Hilliard

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

I do not support the closure of the Opaki Water Race until such time as an alternative water source is available to the users of that scheme.
All future maintenance of the Opaki Water Race should be bourne by the water race water users and no cost attributed to property owners that do not take water from the water race even though it flows over their land.

Q5

Hearings

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

#31

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Started: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:40:26 AM
Last Modified: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:49:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:23
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Kevin Wilson

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]

Address 2 [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Phone Number Not supplied

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Potentially expensive consent process? Significant costs? Should not be a prohibitive factor in applying for same.
If it is linked to ground water, it would have a drastic effect on existing springs and domestic bores effecting flora and fauna.
No compliance analysis of effect on flora and fauna.
Been there 115 years, not broken! Don't try to fix.

Q5

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

#32

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Last Modified: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:07:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Brian Geary

Q2

Address

Address	Acting Chair, Opaki Water Race Committee
Address 2	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Q3

Do you support the closure of the water race?

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Q4

My reasons for this are:

Ecology
Potable water use for horticulture
G.D.P
Recreation use
Viable alternatives, if any
Suggestions on attached sheet
Signed by B Geary, Barry Gleeson and D Woodhouse

Q5

Hearings

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

31 JUL 2020

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Background

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

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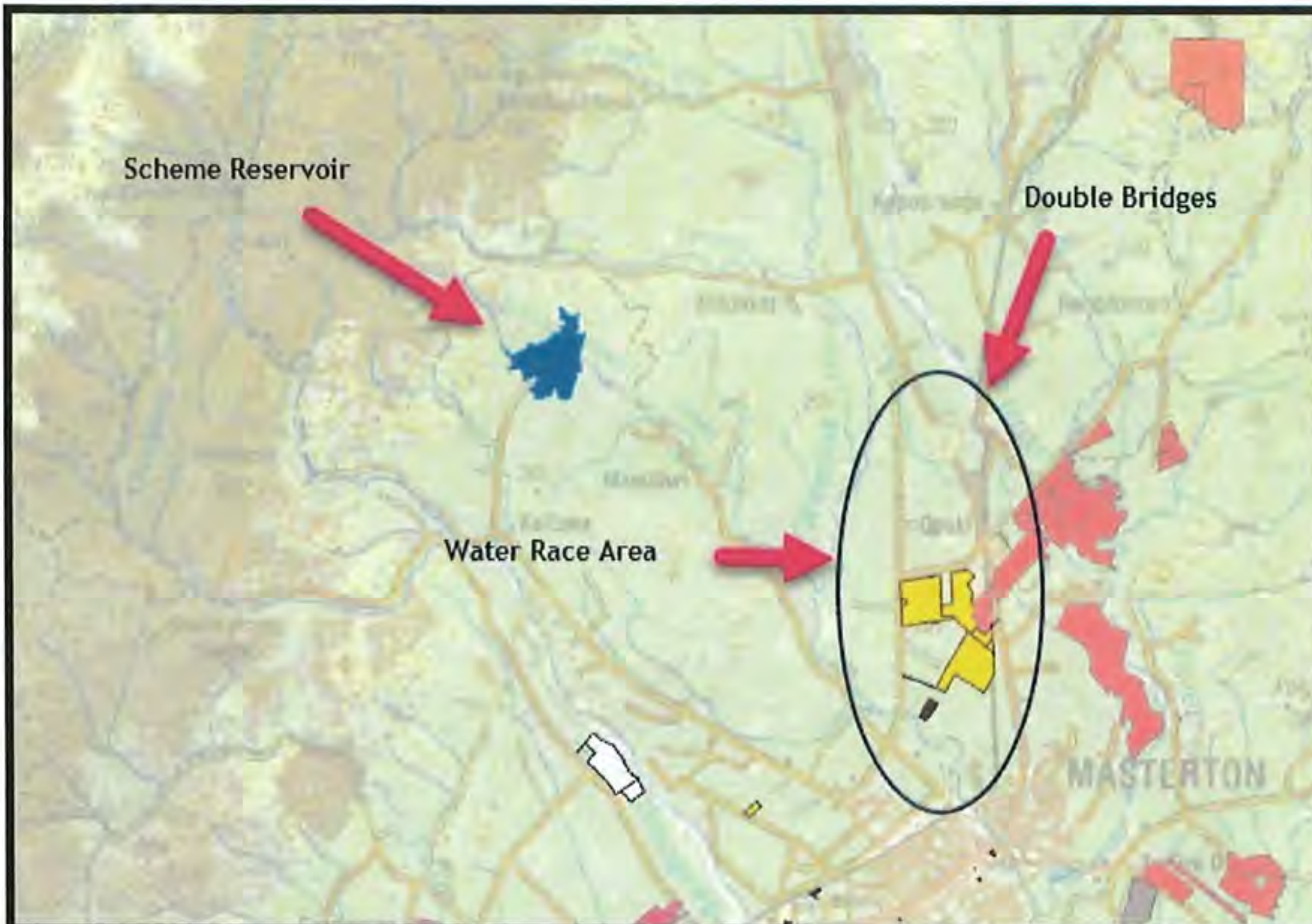
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Opaki Water Race Steering Committee 2020

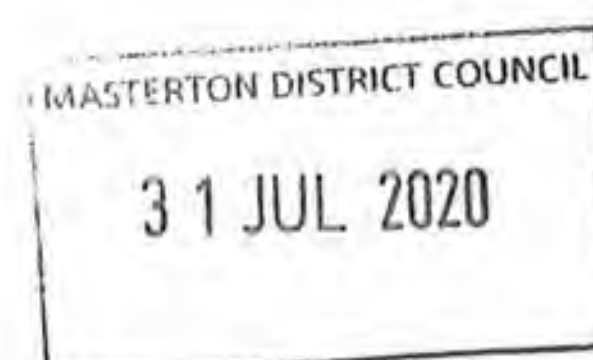
Signed Brian Geary

Name Brian Geary

Physical Address

Postal Address As above

Email Phone



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opaki water race
Date: Friday, 14 August 2020 5:05:33 PM

From: Andrew Donald [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 4:05 pm
To: MDC Submissions <submissions@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Opaki water race

Phil, As a member (spokesperson) of the Waipoua Community Catchment Group that is in the early stages of trying to help the summer dry problem in our river, I submit the following: That my opinions expect to be modified/ improved after the debates that our group (including David Hopman) has on this subject on the 18th of August. I believe in the collective constructive brain power of our experienced group. We meet from 10.00 until 2.00 and I would hope that you would be available for at least some of that time.

That we should negotiate at the highest possible level to have Fish and Game give us more time for an extended (non notified) consent, because of the information that the magnatron survey will give us. After testing the electronic data with test bores, a wealth of information will be available for individual farmers (or groups) to put down bores to feed their farming needs. I suspect that there will be an area at the top of the Opaki that will still be problematic. Possibly the first part of the race could be used for only feeding infiltration swales that could have 400? litres / second put into them for 300 to 330days per year. GWRC could determine (as they do for irrigators) when to reduce or stop any take.

Individual farmers in that area could then put down shallow? wells that a magnatron survey would be able to guide their placement, thus saving them cost.

Some arms of the race may be wanted to stay open? long term, but these decisions should be made by a rate payers committee combined with an expert group from GWRC, MDC, Iwi and WCCG, all guided by the survey results.

No decisions should be made until after the election as the Provincial Growth Fund may not exist after that. The implications of that could mean that the money will not be available for large dams and ground infiltration swales and small dams may be a more practical solutions for the Wairarapa.

The huge ground movement from earthquakes in the Black creek proposal is a major concern. 13 metres ground shift at the last big quake there is noteworthy. Cost overrun burden on rate payers of such large projects is also a worry.

We need water for nz's evolution into more horticulture, (Too many eggs in the dairy basket) and as a community we should be able to work openly together in a collaborative way to facilitate our 'growing ' businesses.

Whatever we do decide as a group (NOT MDC only), our Waipoua is suffering badly with summer dry and we need more water in our upper catchment to leach into the river to save the aquatic life etc. The Waipoua can end up a fabulous park for Summer long use by the Masterton residents.

My last two letters to the Times Age are also part of my submission.

I may want to talk to my submission, but wouldn't want to waste anybody's time if we have already Talked at the WCCG meeting.

--

Cheers

Andrew Donald

#33

COMPLETE

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Started: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:26:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:29:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1

Name

Barry & Christine Gleeson

Q2

Address

Address [REDACTED]
Address 2 [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
ZIP/Postal Code [REDACTED]
Email Address Not supplied
Phone Number Not supplied

Q3

No, I do not support the closure of the water race

Do you support the closure of the water race?

Q4

My reasons for this are:

We Barry & Christine Gleeson of [REDACTED] Masterton hereby submit our reasons for NOT SUPPORTING THE CLOSURE of the OPAKI WATER RACE.

Our reasons are based on the following key points:

1. The only two options being considered by the Masterton District Council that are presented for consultation and hence consideration and outcomes would appear to be closure or open.
2. Given the fact that the use of the land was a major part of our initial purchase some 27 years ago now and continued investment in the properties with water accessibility being a key factor we feel very let down by Council in the options of consideration they are offering.
3. We are not satisfied that a comprehensive impact report has been carried out to allow meaningful discussions to occur to allow for consideration of acceptable outcomes for all interested parties.
4. It would appear Masterton District Council have not considered the impact of closure within their own annual reports.
5. We believe water is such a vital component of both urban and rural life that Council should be implicit in ensuring good water usage at a fair price to all users.
6. Land use would alter significantly if the Council was to allow the Opaki Water Race to close as landowners who currently have the water race channelled through their respective properties would then be either acceptable to a variation for transferring water or against which in turn would see considerable angst and cost to try and allow.
7. We support the Race staying open to allow more consideration of the benefits of closure as it stands now but with the driver being finding a cost effective and efficient manner in which the present land can still be productive land with good water accessibility.
8. In supporting the continuation of the race we do accept we may have greater periods of restricted flow however for the greater number of days the race would support greater flows to enable more take off that could be used to on land store for dry periods to ensure the Ruamahanga had reasonable flow.
9. On the same hand when there is no or very little flow at the end of the Opaki Water race (we are at the very end where the raced frof into the Waipoua) and the Waipoua has no flow of its own, then the only water flowing into the Waipoua is from the residual from the races.
10. We as a family have on numerous times then taken fish from isolated rock pools to bigger rock pools to allow the fish to survive. These fish have included trout, eels, cockabillies and crawlers. In addition our children and their friends have enjoyed many a time spent playing, roaming and studying the water race so its more than just a race.
11. The Council refer to the water race however the life of the race is more of a creek given its age and the habitat that uses the races including birdlife and other.
12. If the race was to close what options at what cost to the individual will occur that could or would will result in even more layers of compliance with no real benefit to the supply of water.

In summary we believe a collective and supported approach to reviewing the existing water race should be insisted upon with acceptable time frames to allow for consideration of the above points and other points individuals such as neighbours etc. may have. Our concern is the limitation thrust upon us as individuals to them be in a position to counter any support for closure such as no doubt will be forth coming from rate payers organisations such as Masterton District Council, Wellington Regional Council and other with access to Government funds such as Bird and Game. We believe those that want the Opaki Water Race to close should present their case to us land owners and users so as we can the consider the merits of their points first. Not be given the opposite it would seem from Masterton District [REDACTED] Council who simply are proposing to close the Opaki Water race. We wish to be heard to raise points around our submission.
Signed Barry Gleeson Christine Gleeson

Q5

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Hearings

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Wakamoekau Scheme

The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

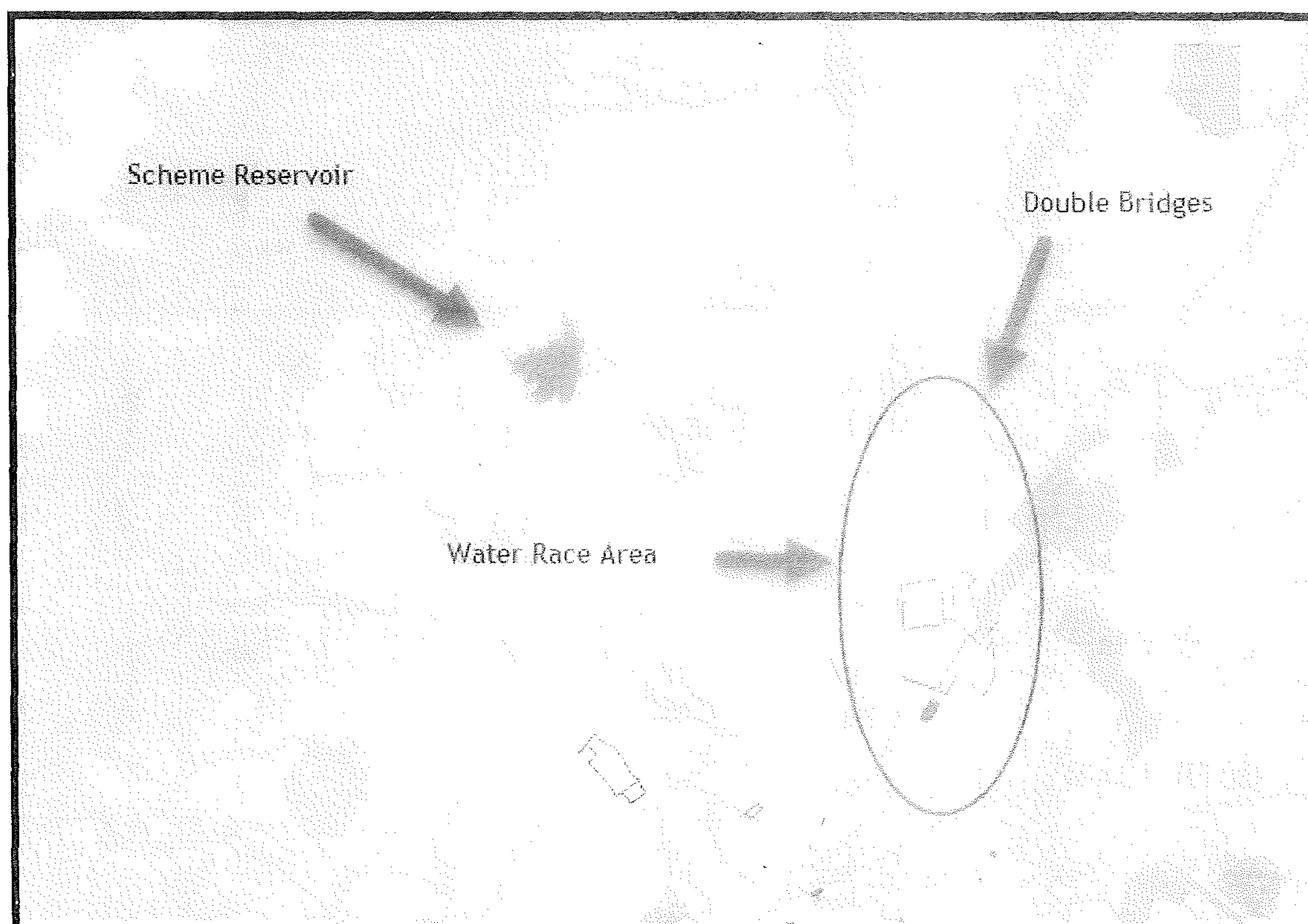
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24 JUL 2020

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Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

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Signed

Andy Pottinger

Name

ANDY POTTINGER

TINKS POTTINGER

Physical Address

[Redacted]

Postal Address

AS above

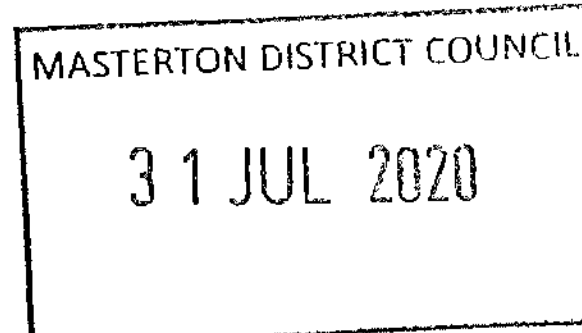
Email

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Phone

[Redacted]



Signed *B.J. Amundsen* on behalf of G. Foston
Name *B.J. Amundsen*
Physical Address
Postal Address
Email Phone

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
31 JUL 2020

Signed



Name

DARRY TUKRAM

Physical Address



Postal Address

As above

Email



Phone



WE HAVE READ THESE NOTES WITH RESERVATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO MORE DETAIL.

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 JUL 2020

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

The Opaki Water Race (Water Race) has been operational since the early 20th century. For the decades since, the landowners with water race within their properties (the Users) have had the benefit of and come to depend upon this reliable supply of water for stock purposes (one irrigation User and one frost protection User), especially during summer. The lack of water in this summer dry area of the Wairarapa is the historical reason for the Water Race's establishment. Currently the Water Race water continues to be used for its historical stock water purposes, however over the years two Users have received consent to extract water for irrigation of grapes.

The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

The critical point is that almost every User is currently dependent upon the Water Race, and should it be closed (or a water right not granted), these Users must have an alternative water source. Their current options are -

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4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

This option, even if it was suitable and achievable by all Users, is probably not one favoured by the GWRC who would be inundated with Resource Consents applications and consequently probably unable to satisfy all applicants from the water available for allocation. Bearing in mind, that the Opaki Water Races were originally installed because there is no worthwhile underground water in this area.

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Wakamoekau Scheme

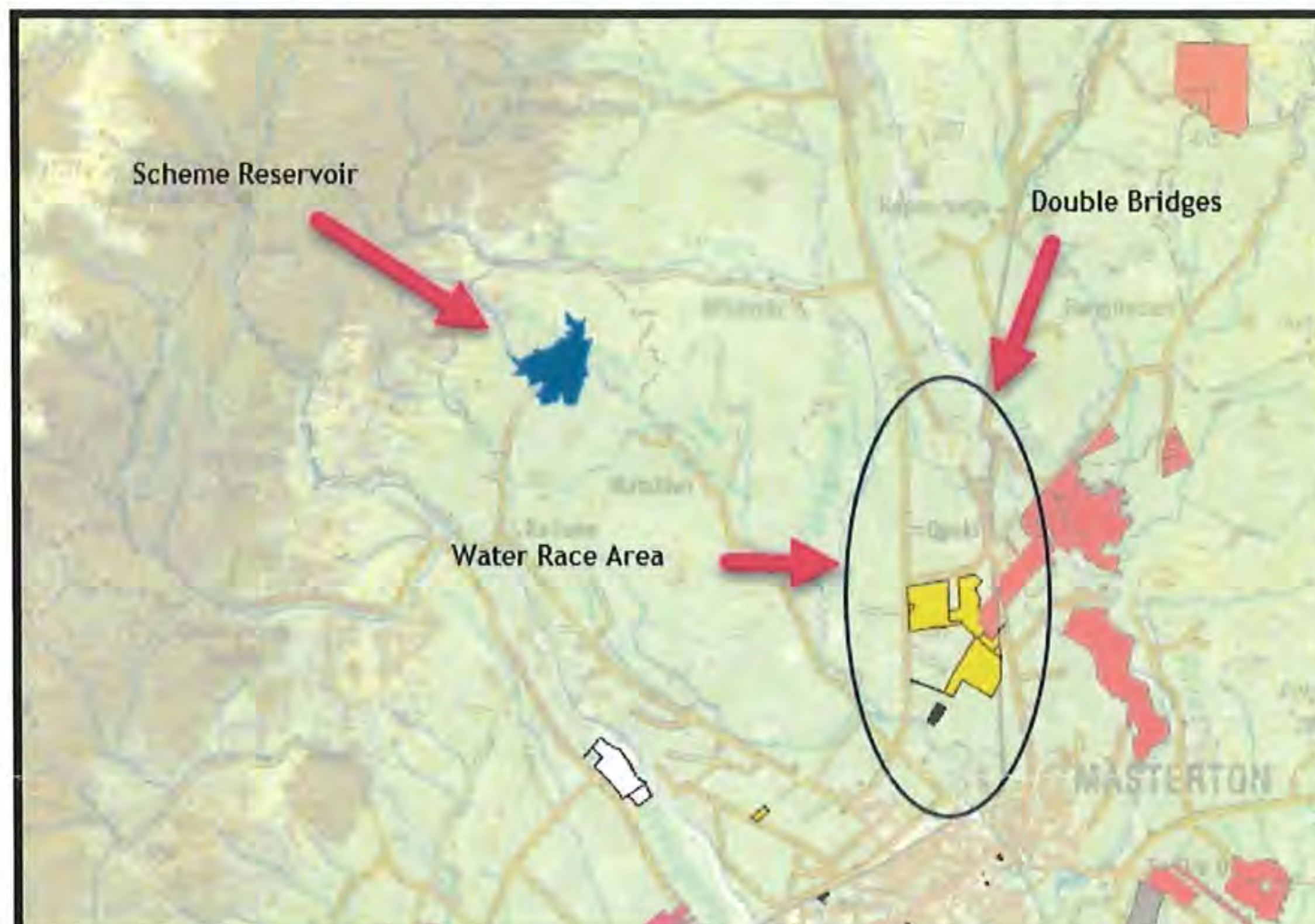
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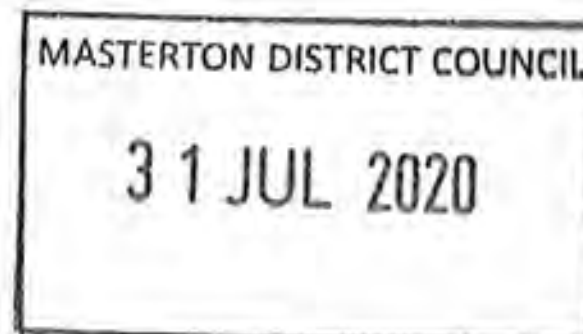
Signed *Ben Bruce*

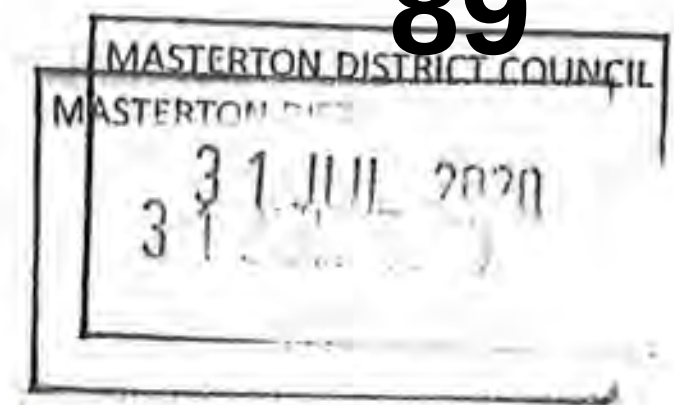
Name *Ben Bruce*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address *Same*

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]





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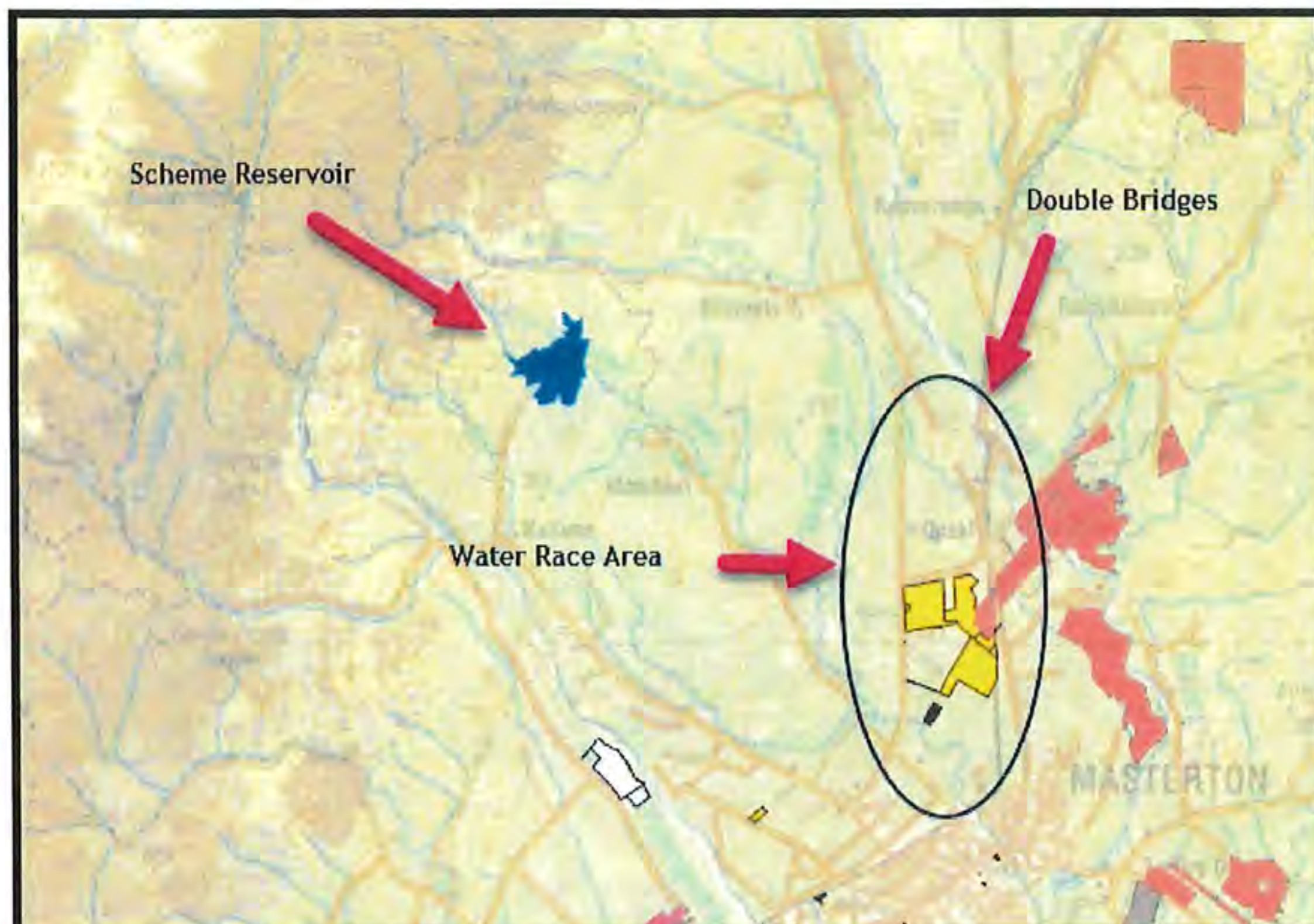
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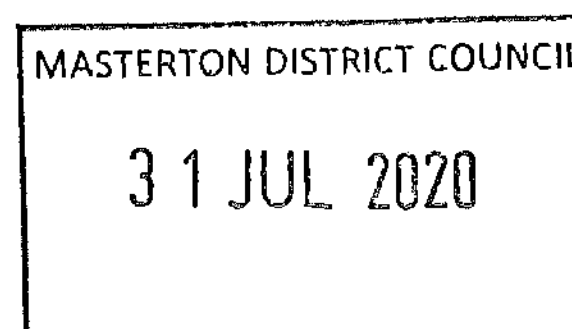
Signed Mr Brian Geary

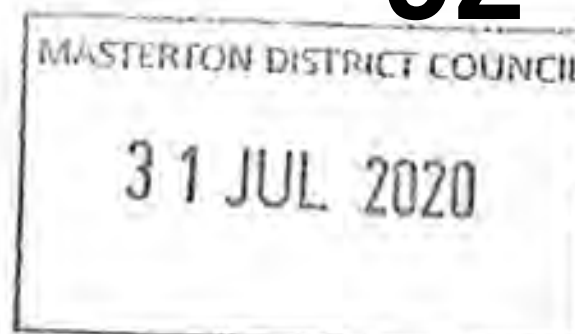
Name Mr B Geary

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address As above

Email [REDACTED] Phone . [REDACTED]





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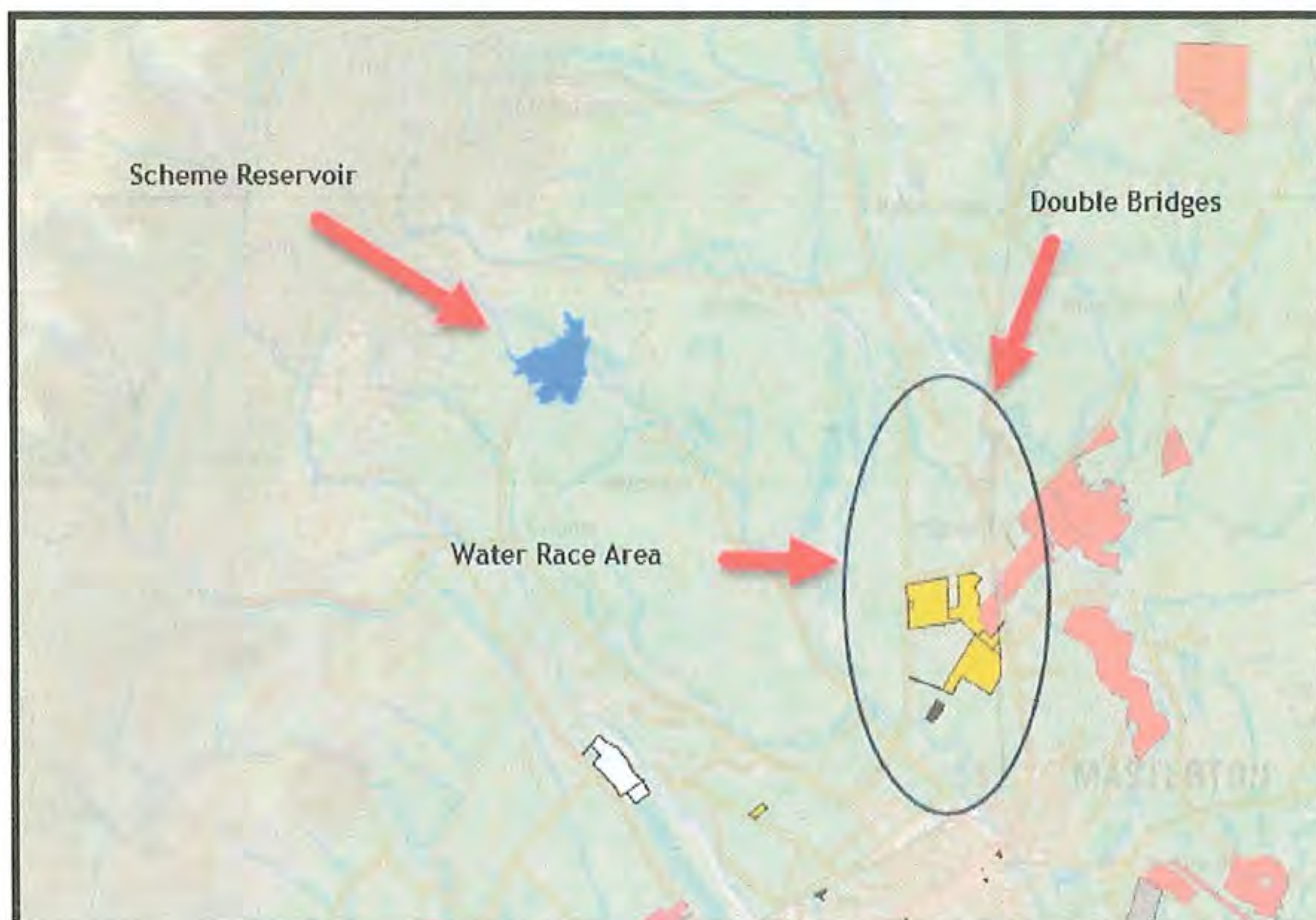
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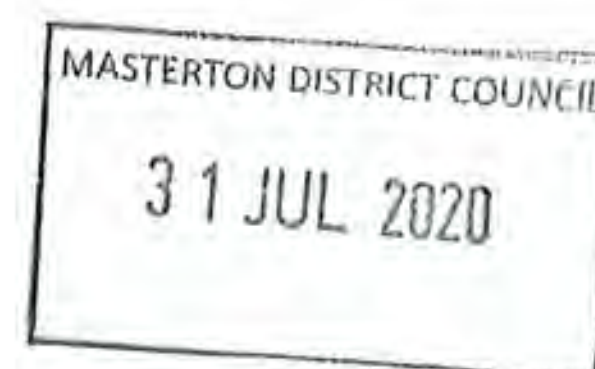
Signed *B. Patrick*

Name *Bruce Patrick*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



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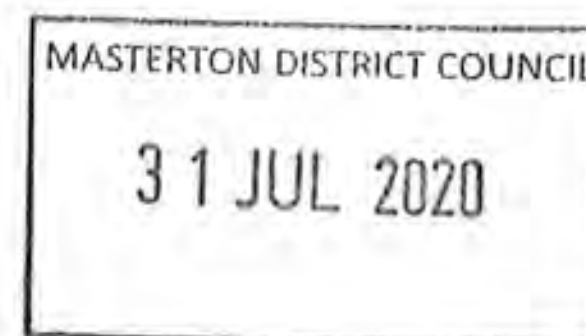
Signed *El Rufford* 

Name *Christie Rufford* *Tom Rufford*

Physical Address 

Postal Address *As above*

Email  Phone 



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4. Look to a standalone medium-term option for bulk supply of water.

Potential Options

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We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

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Wakamoekau Scheme

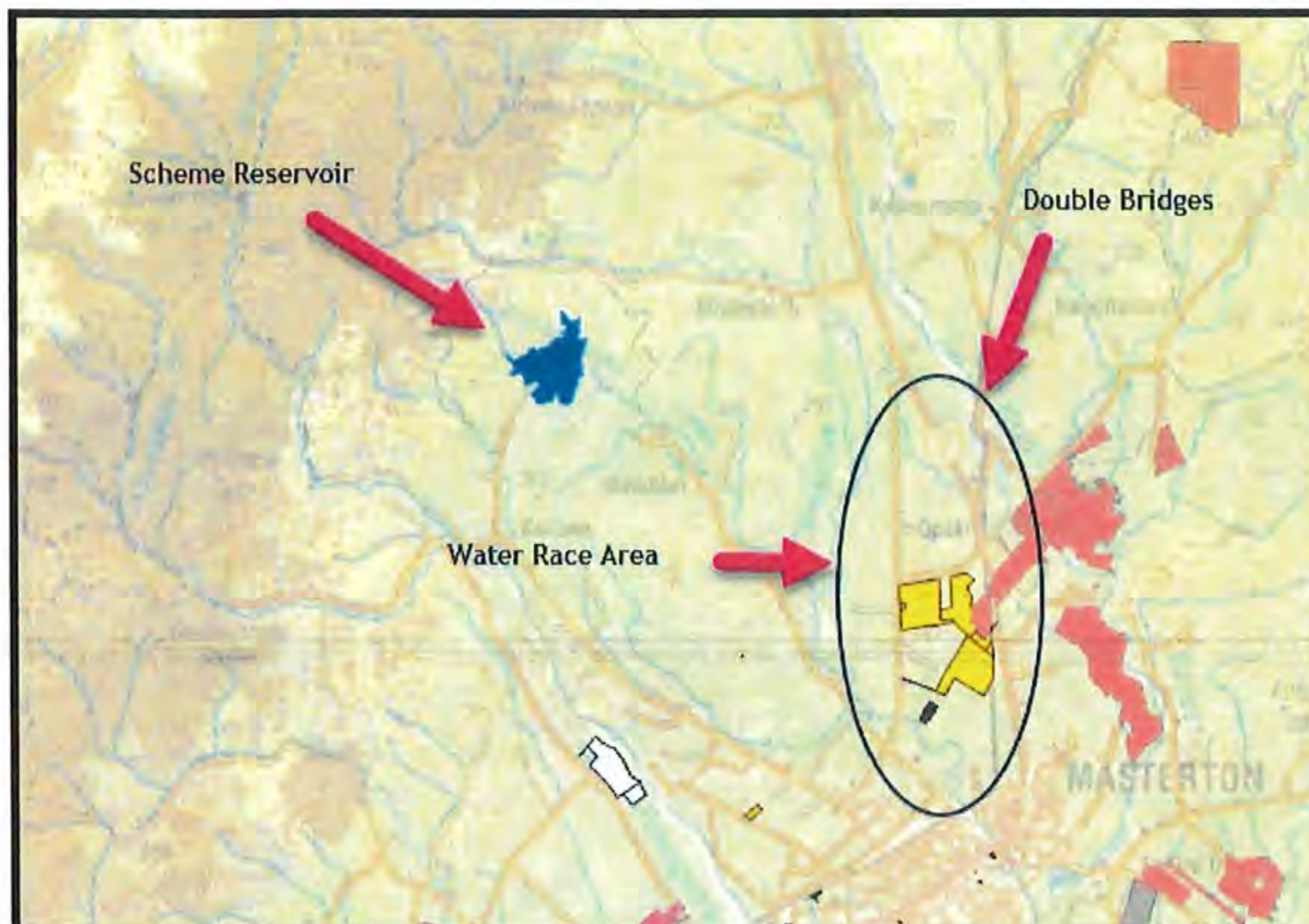
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The Wakamoekau Scheme reservoir is to be located where arrowed on the map on the next page. The current thinking is to use the Ruamahanga River as the method of distribution of the stored water. Connection to the

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Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



Stand-Alone Bulk Water Supply Scheme

The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

Users Proposal re Wakamoekau Scheme

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The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

D.K. Woodhouse

Signed

D. Woodhouse

Name

DAVID WOODHOUSE & DEB WOODHOUSE

Physical Address

[REDACTED]

Postal Address

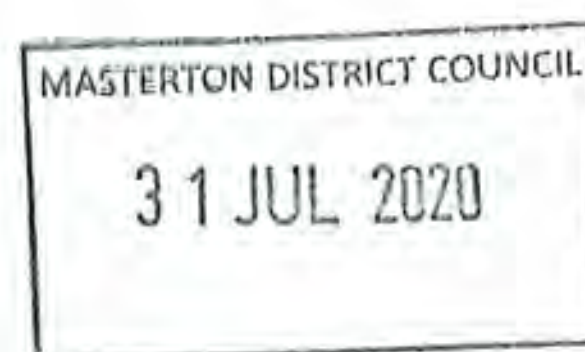
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Email

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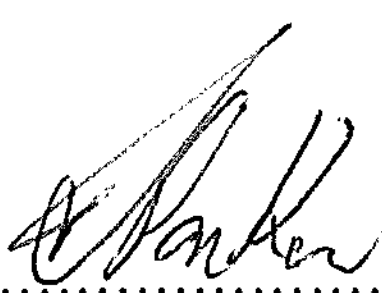
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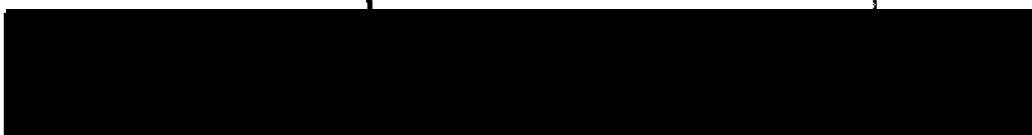
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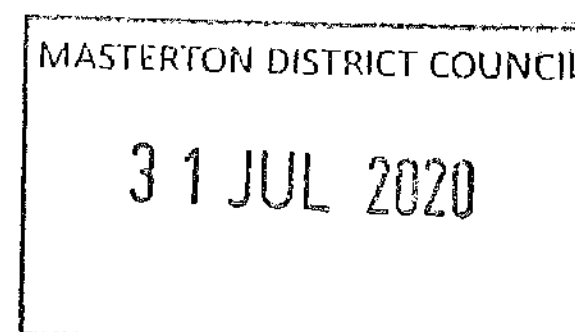
Signed 

Name Frank Parker Barice Parker

Physical Address 

Postal Address 

Email  Phone 



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Signed *Guy Fomer*

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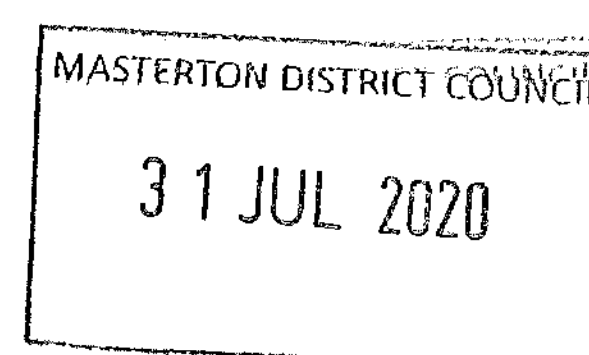
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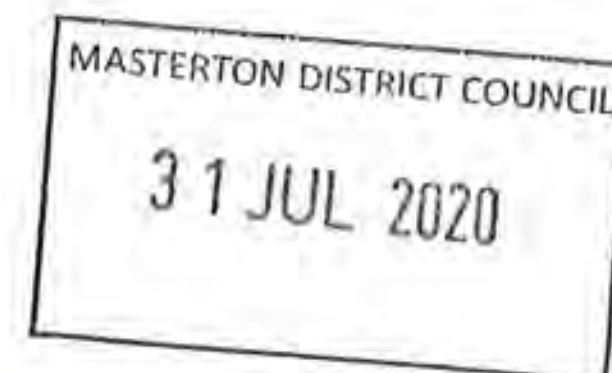
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* Be good to know more about the proposed costs of each of the options.



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Wakamoekau Scheme

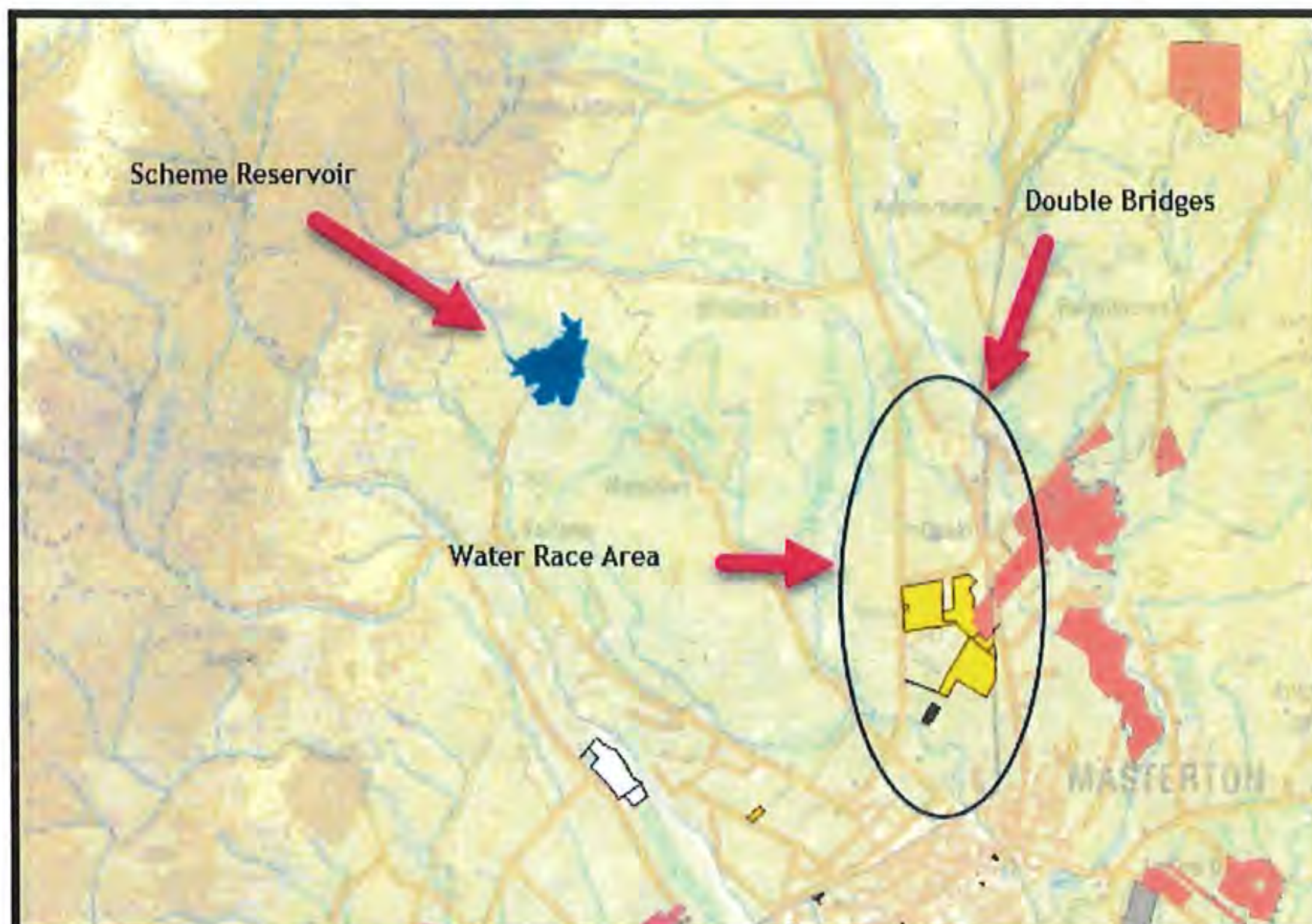
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Signed *J E Wyeth*

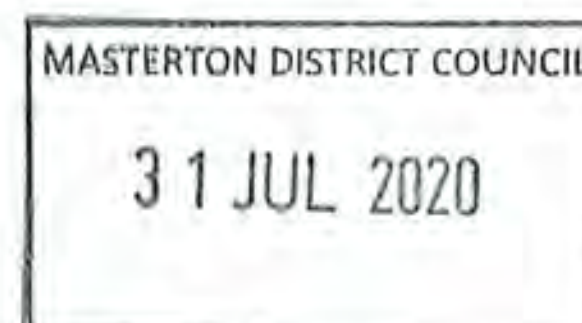
Name *Jan Wyeth*

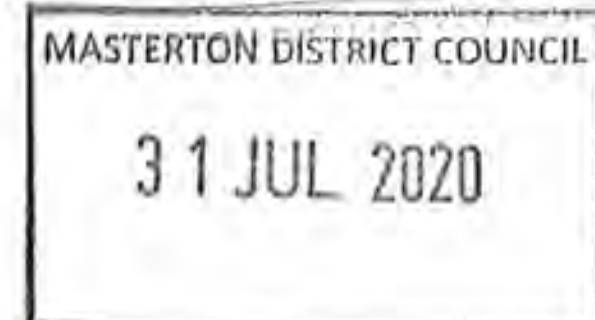
Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

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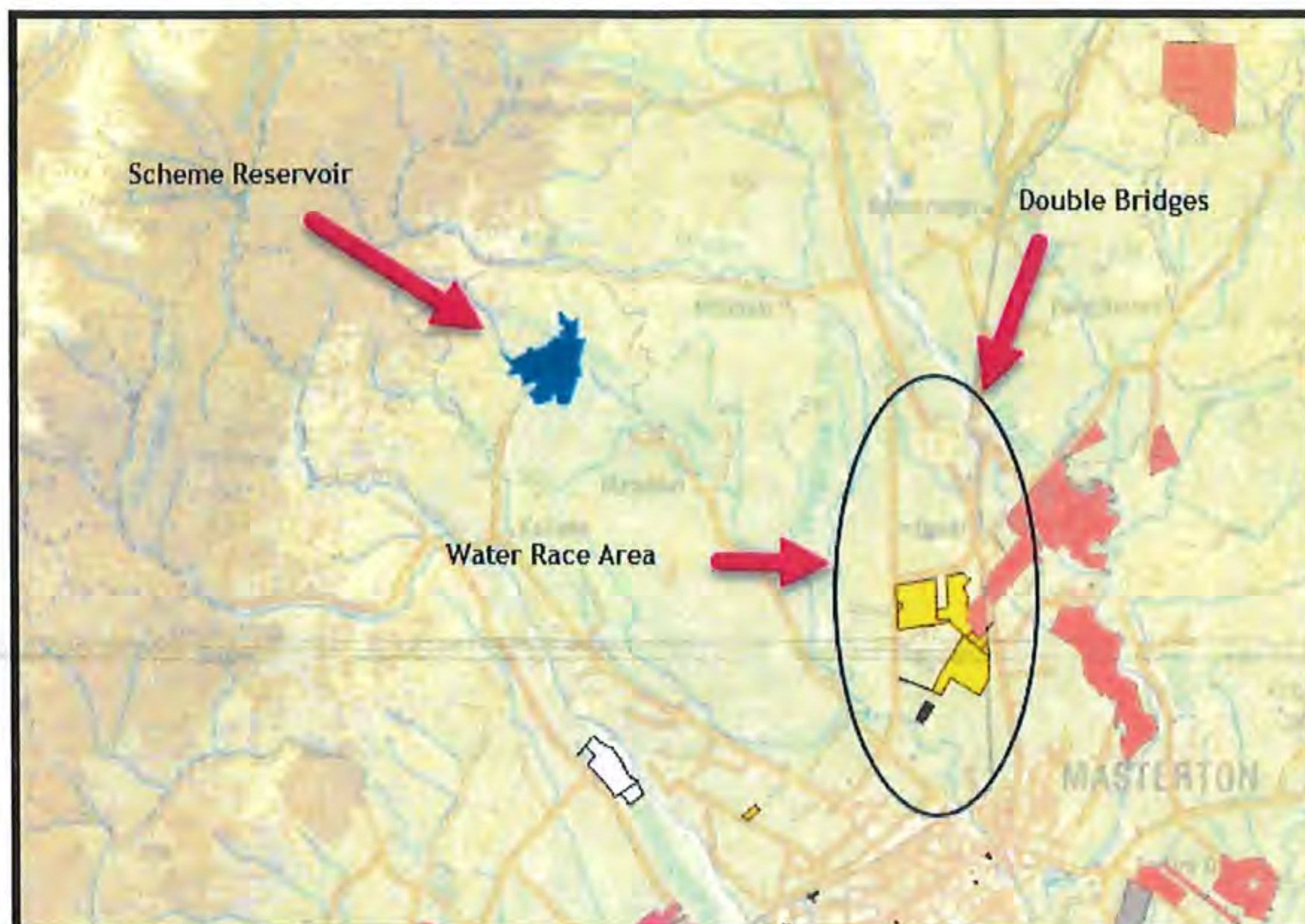
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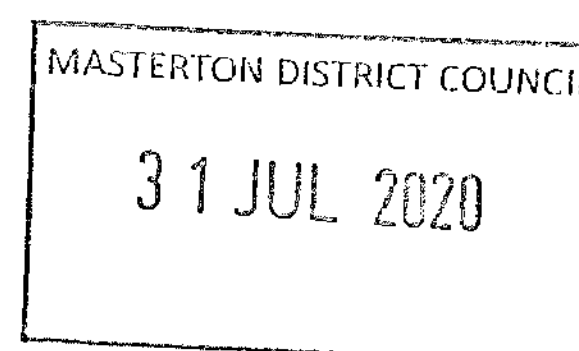
Signed *(Signature)* (Director)

Name *RAHIRAKI PUNAUAH KD* -

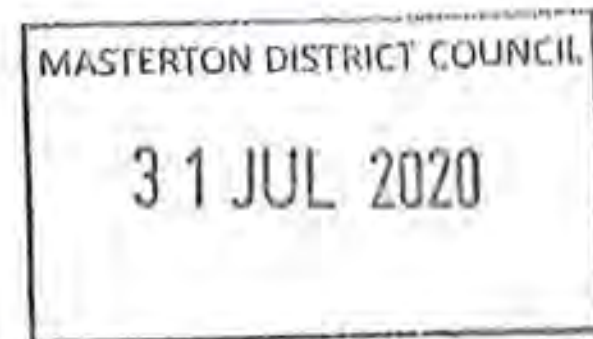
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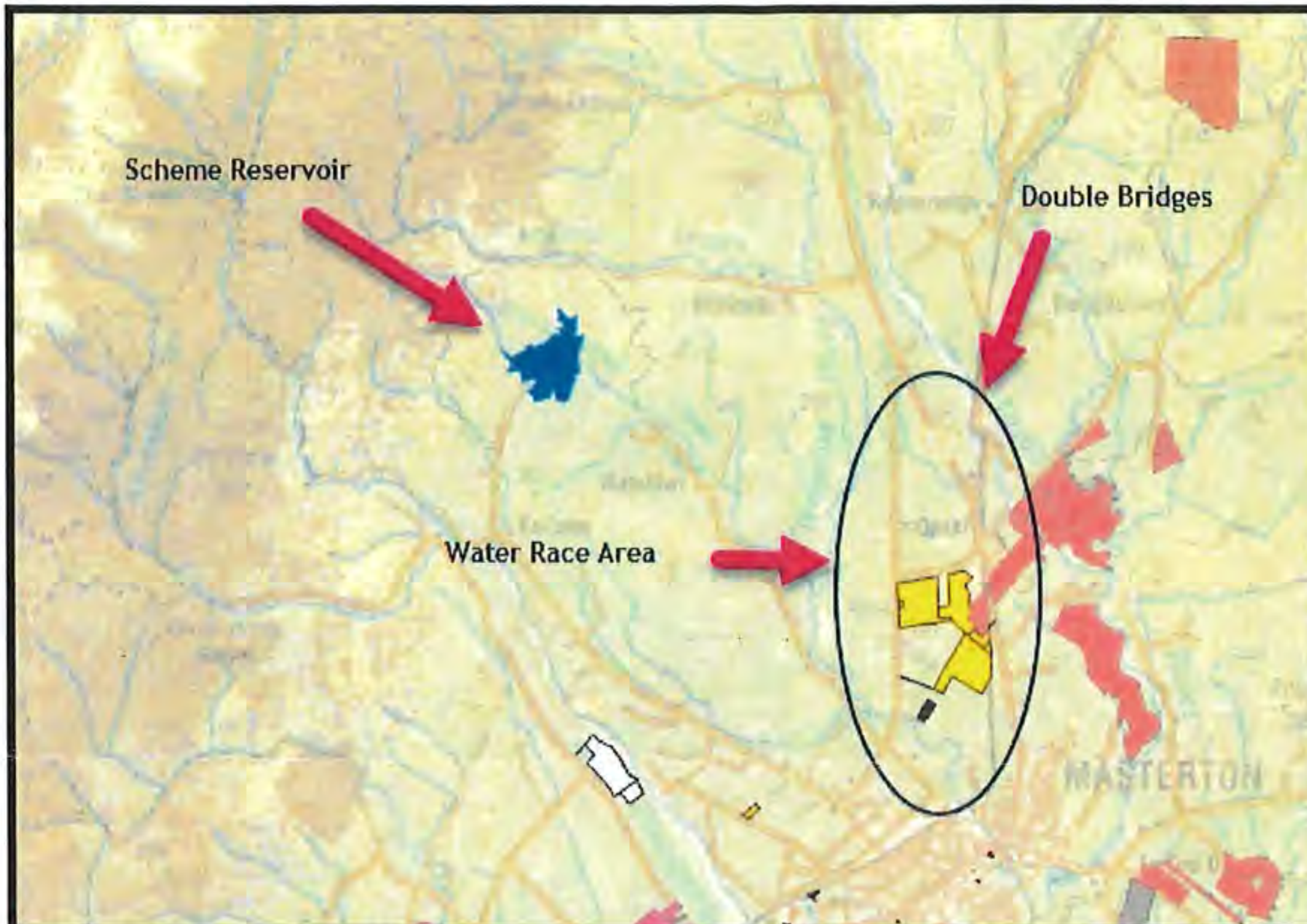
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31 JUL 2020

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The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

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Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

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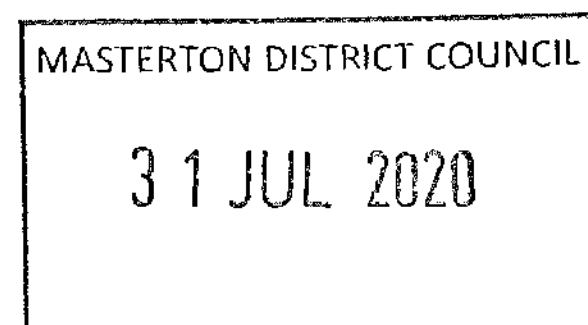
Signed

Name SIM BARLOW

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email Phone



31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

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Potential Options

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

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The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

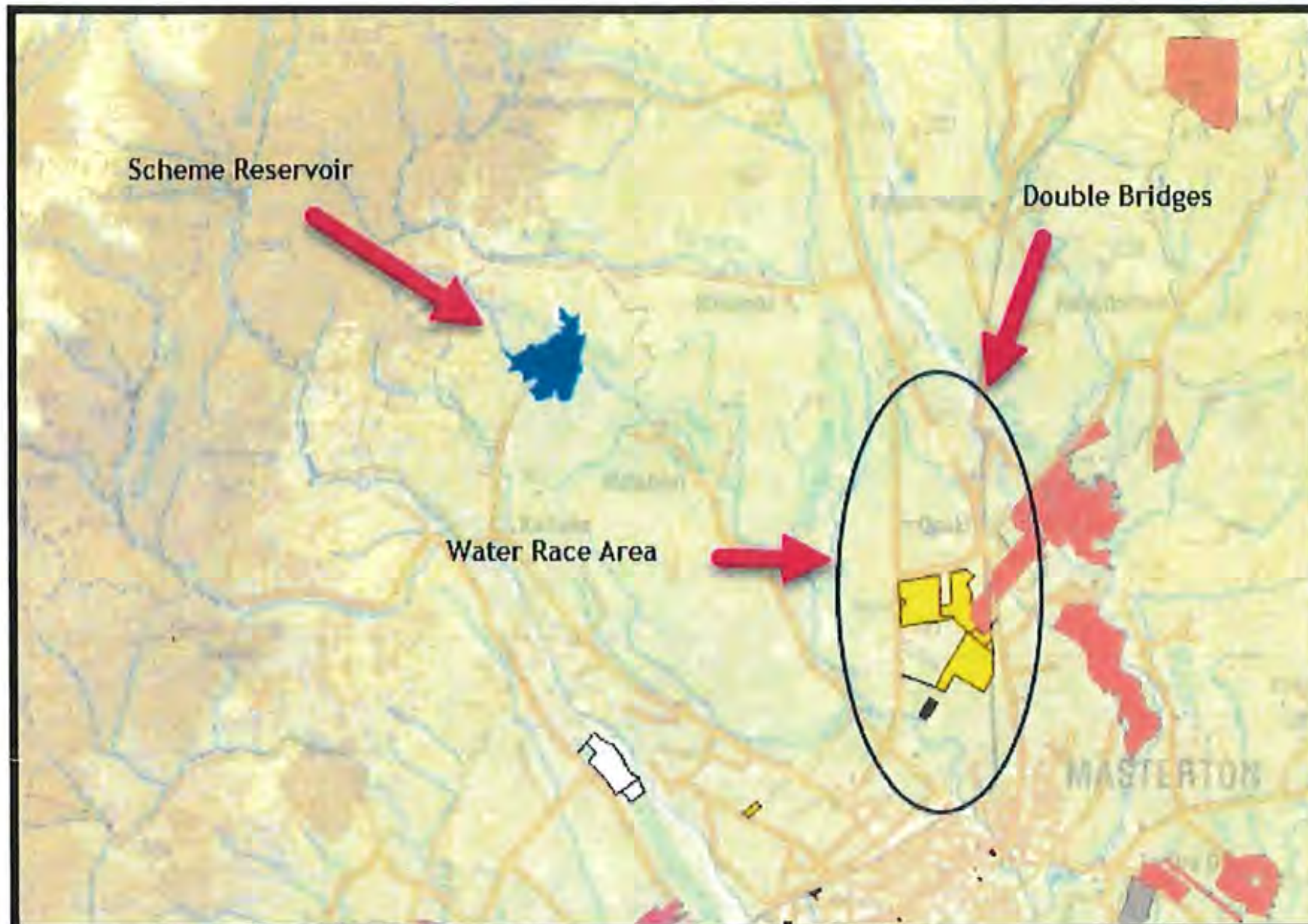
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Signed 

Name 

Physical Address



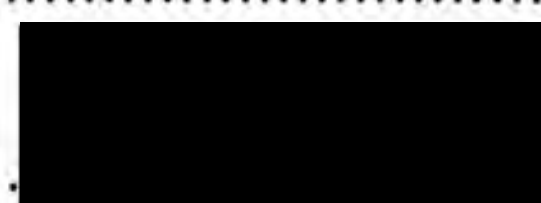
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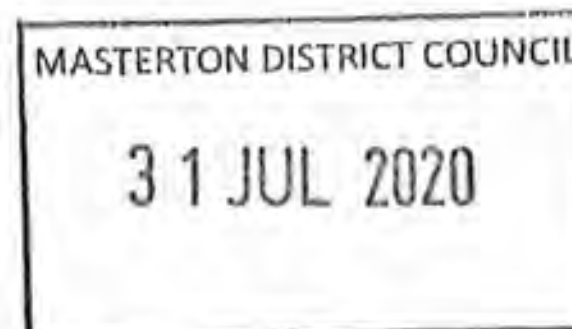


Email

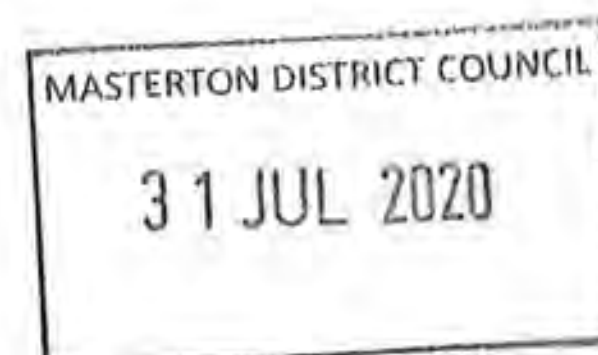


Phone





Opaki Water Race Users Proposal



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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

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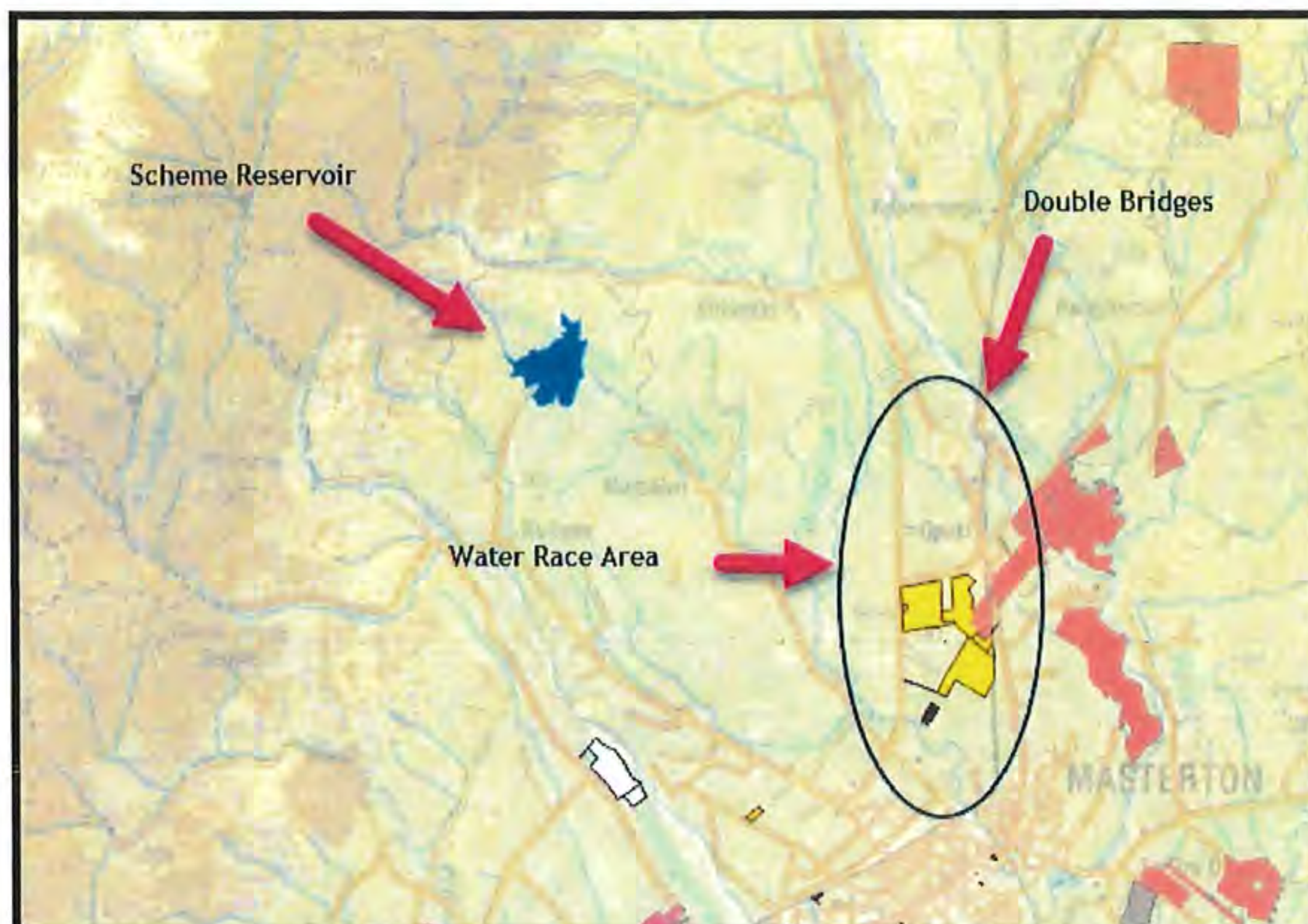
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Signed

Name

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email

Phone

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 JUL 2020

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Wakamoekau Scheme

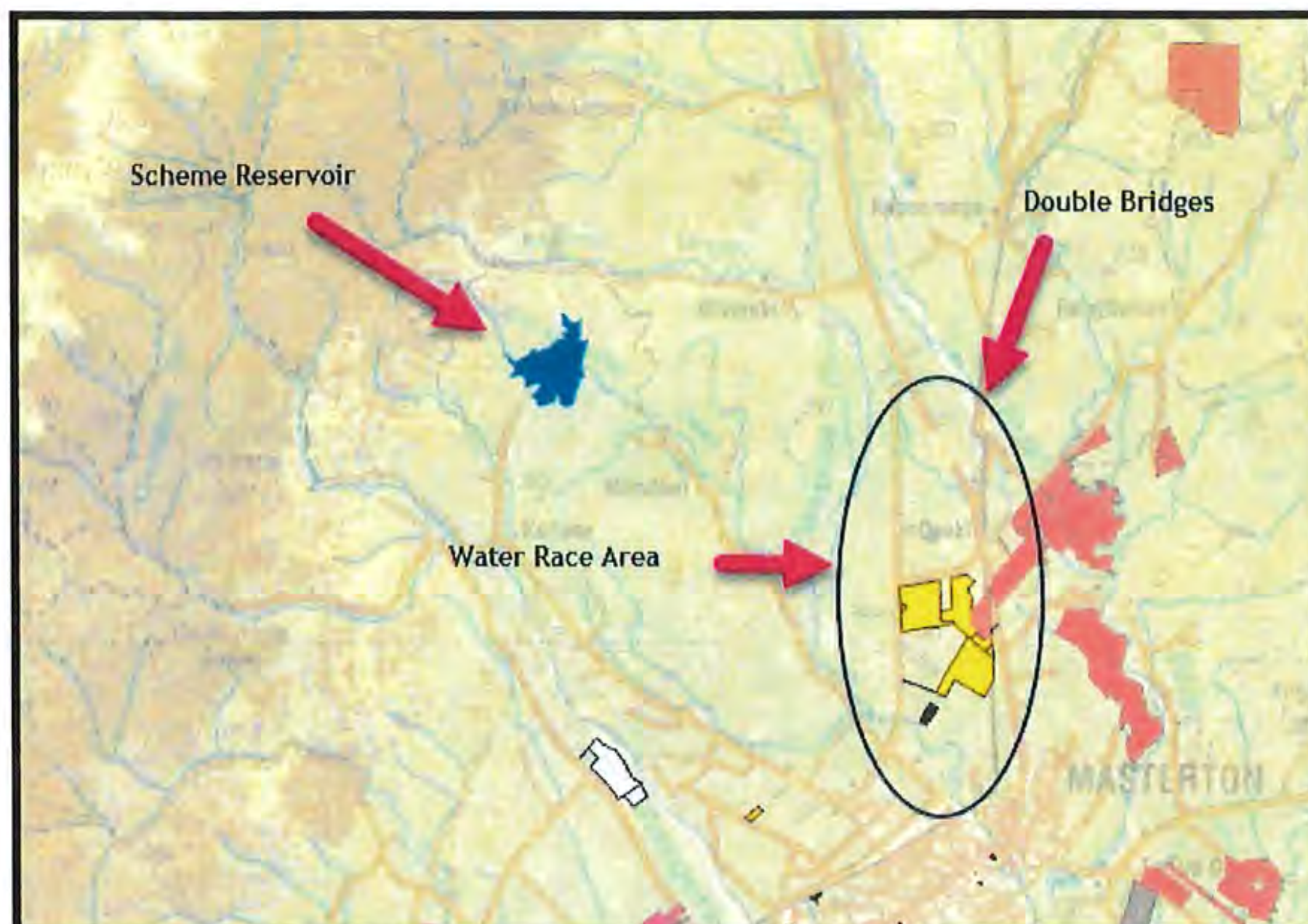
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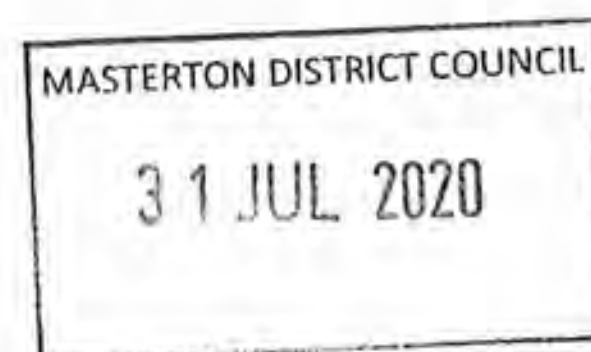
Signed *John Le Grice*

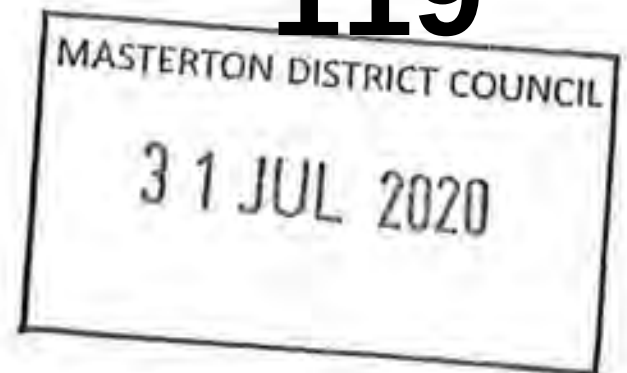
Name *John Le Grice*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]





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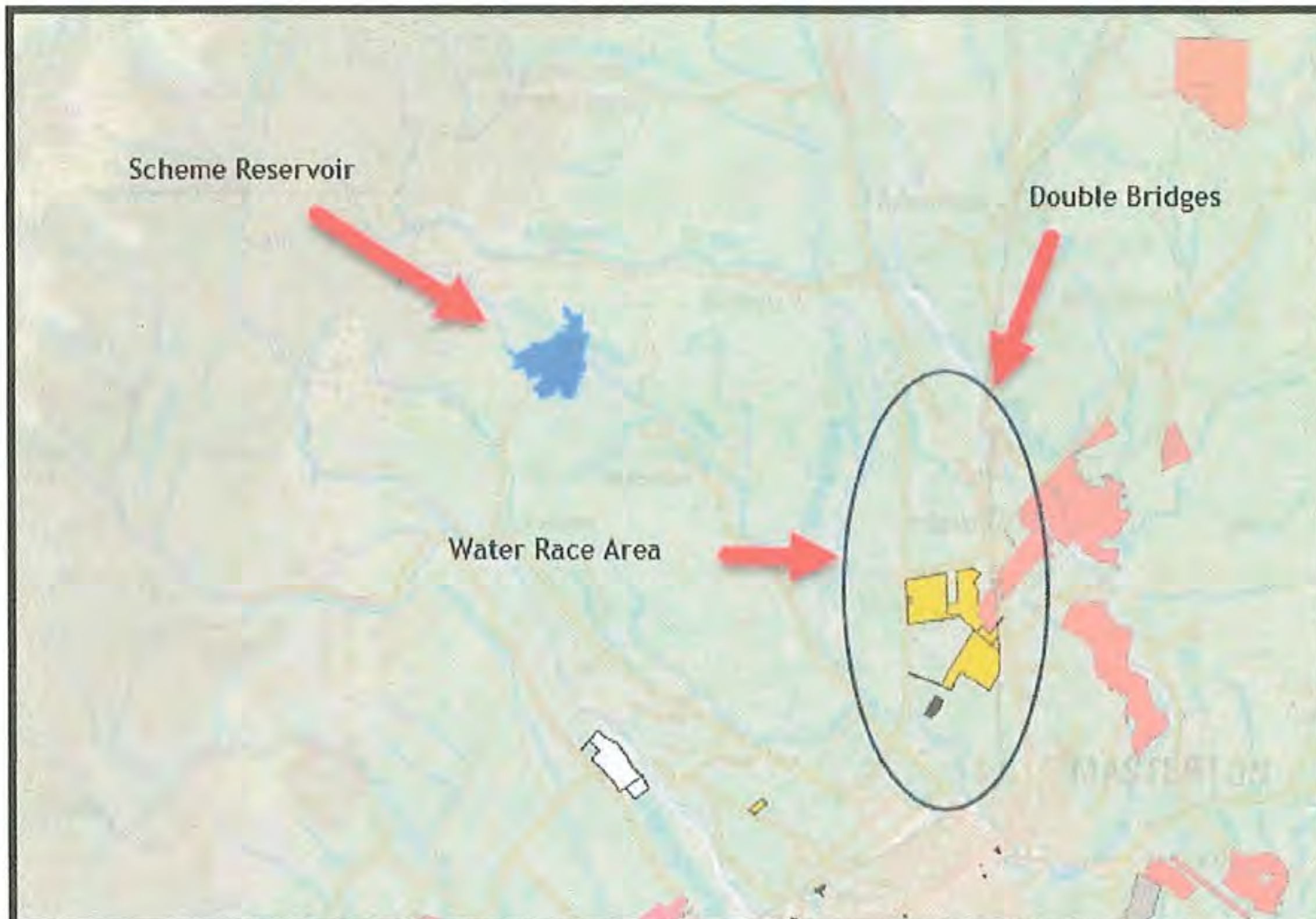
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The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

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The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

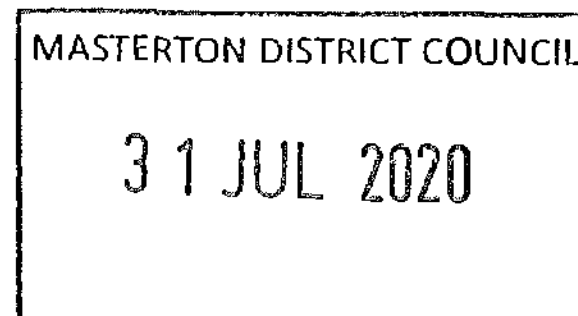
Signed *K. M. Aitkenhead*

Name ... *KAREN AITKENHEAD*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



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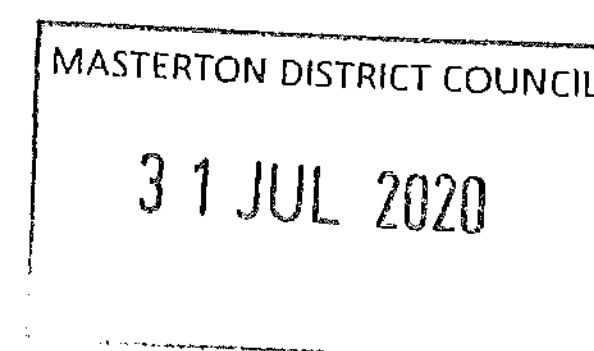
Signed Kanna Southey

Name Kanna Southey Matahiwi Vineyard

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



31 JUL 2020

Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

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The majority of the present 53 property owners with water race through their land recognise that with the ever increasing pressure on the available water resource in the Wairarapa that the Water Race is an inefficient mechanism to reticulate the volume of water actually used, and that ultimately an alternative must be identified and implemented.

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Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

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Wakamoekau Scheme

The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

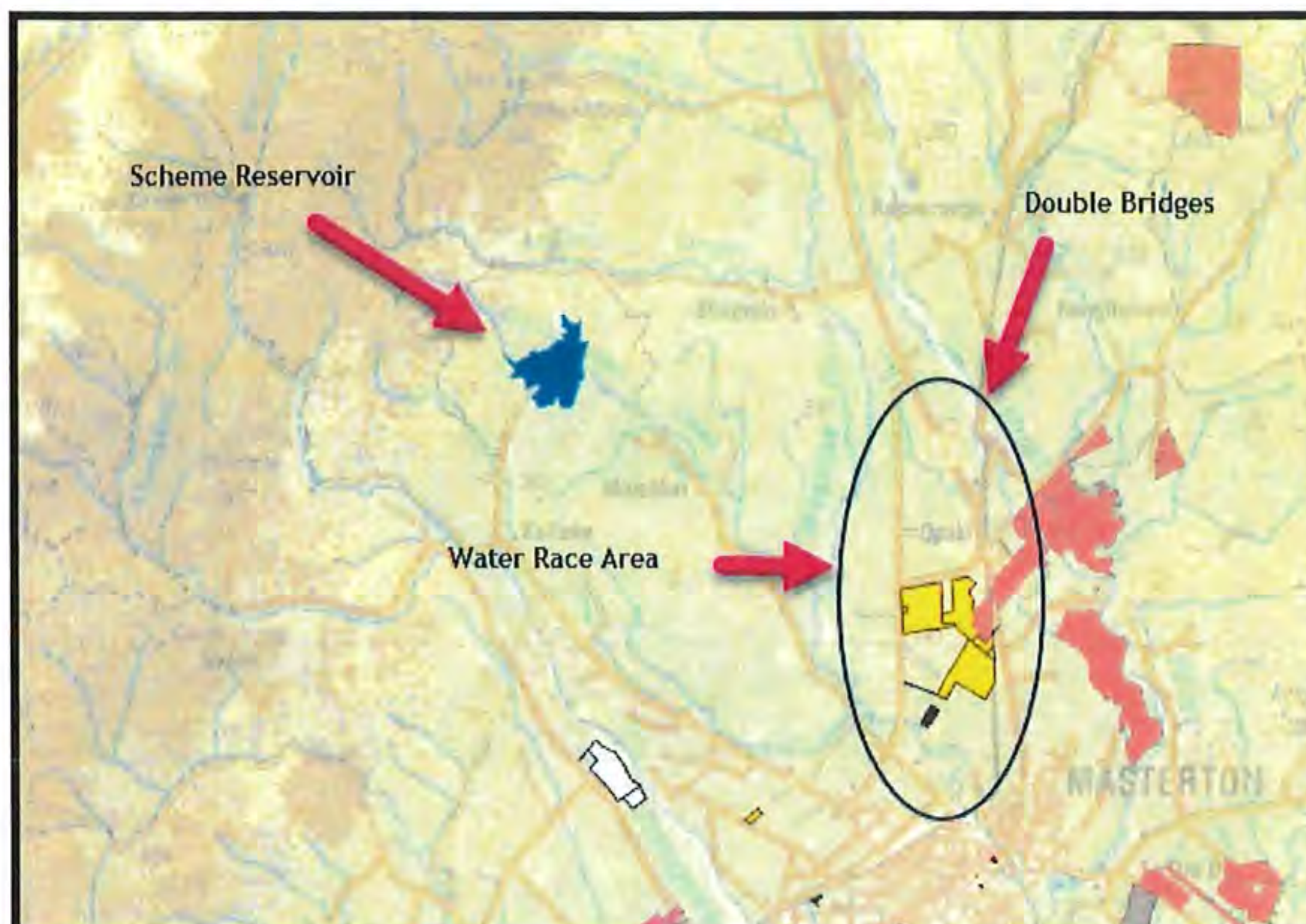
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31 JUL 2020

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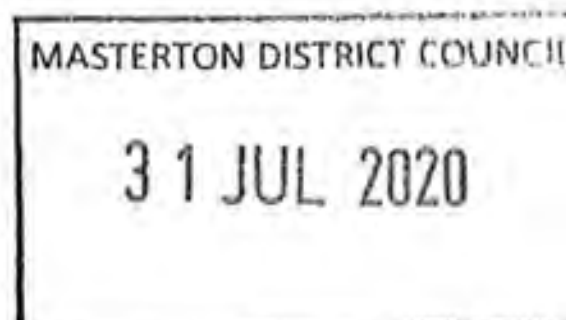
Signed Kelly

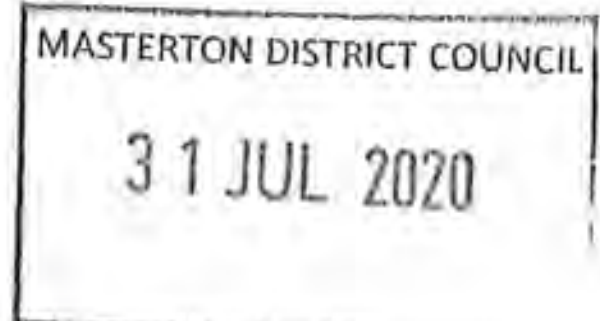
Name Kim Oakley

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]





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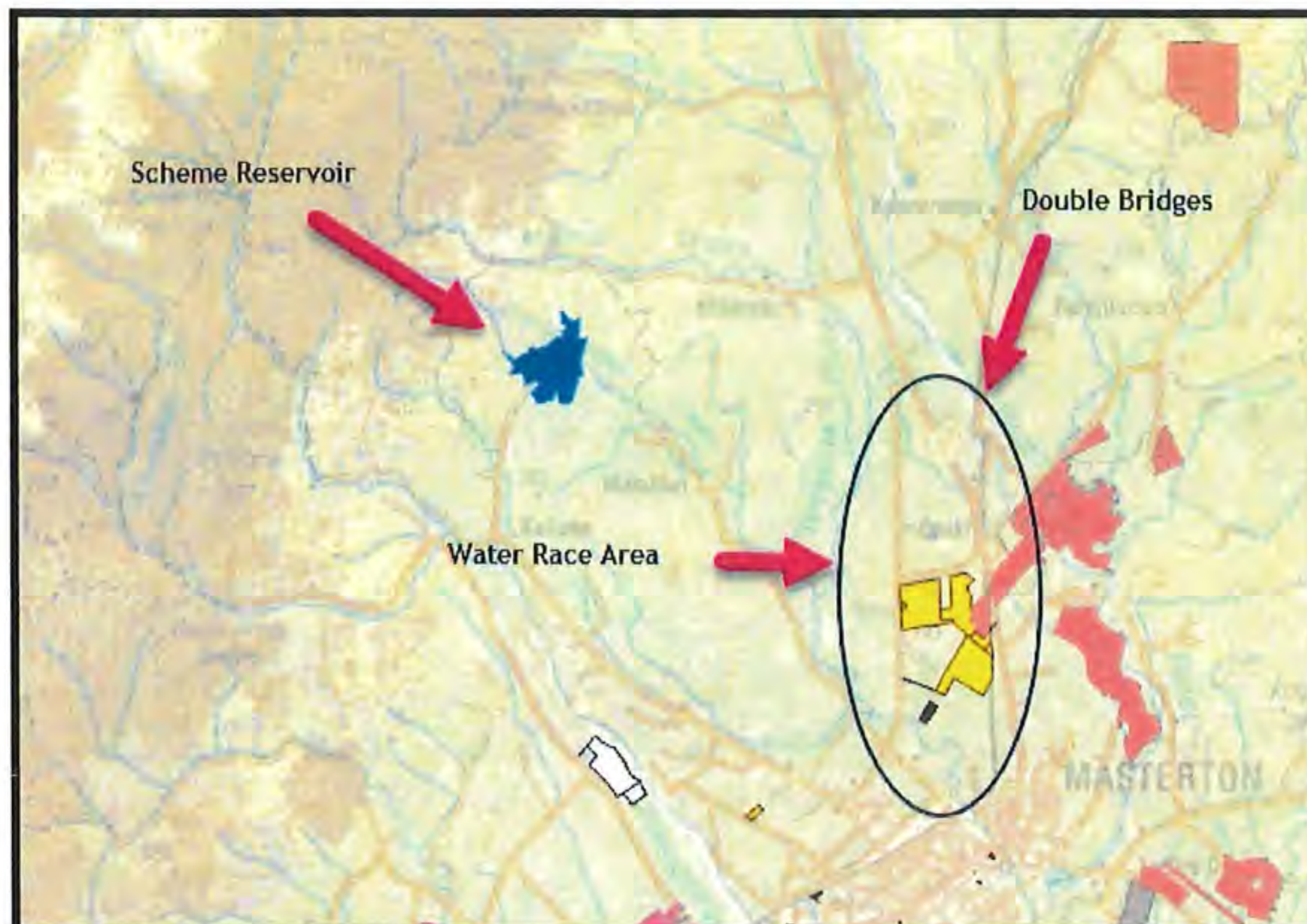
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Signed L.D. Cheetham EL Cheetham

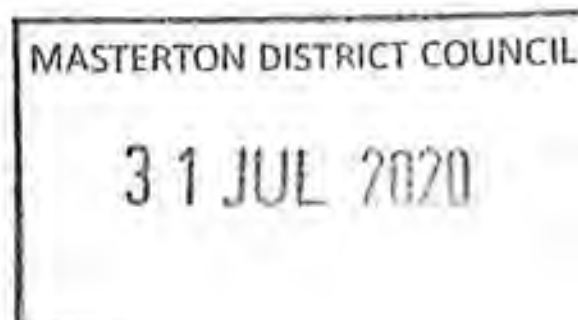
Name Lawrence Elisabeth Cheetham

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]



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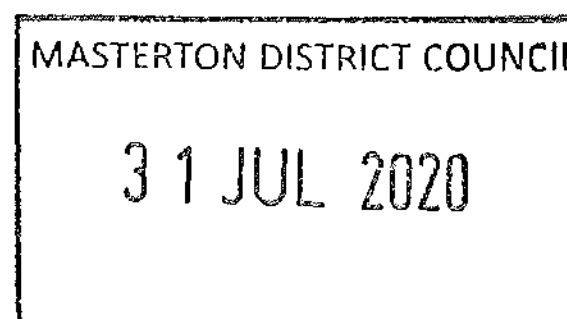
Signed *R. Jackson*

Name *house Jackson*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



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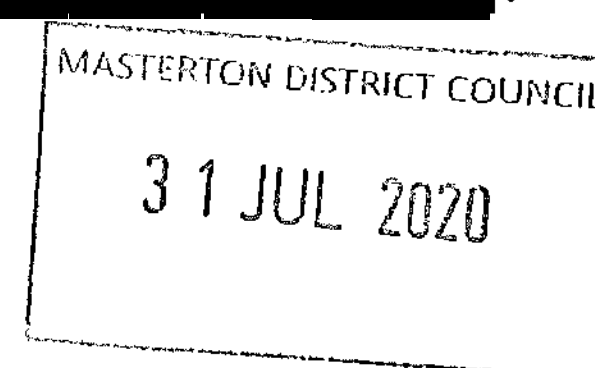
Signed 

Name M I McKay

Physical Address 

Postal Address 

Email  Phone 



31 JUL 2020

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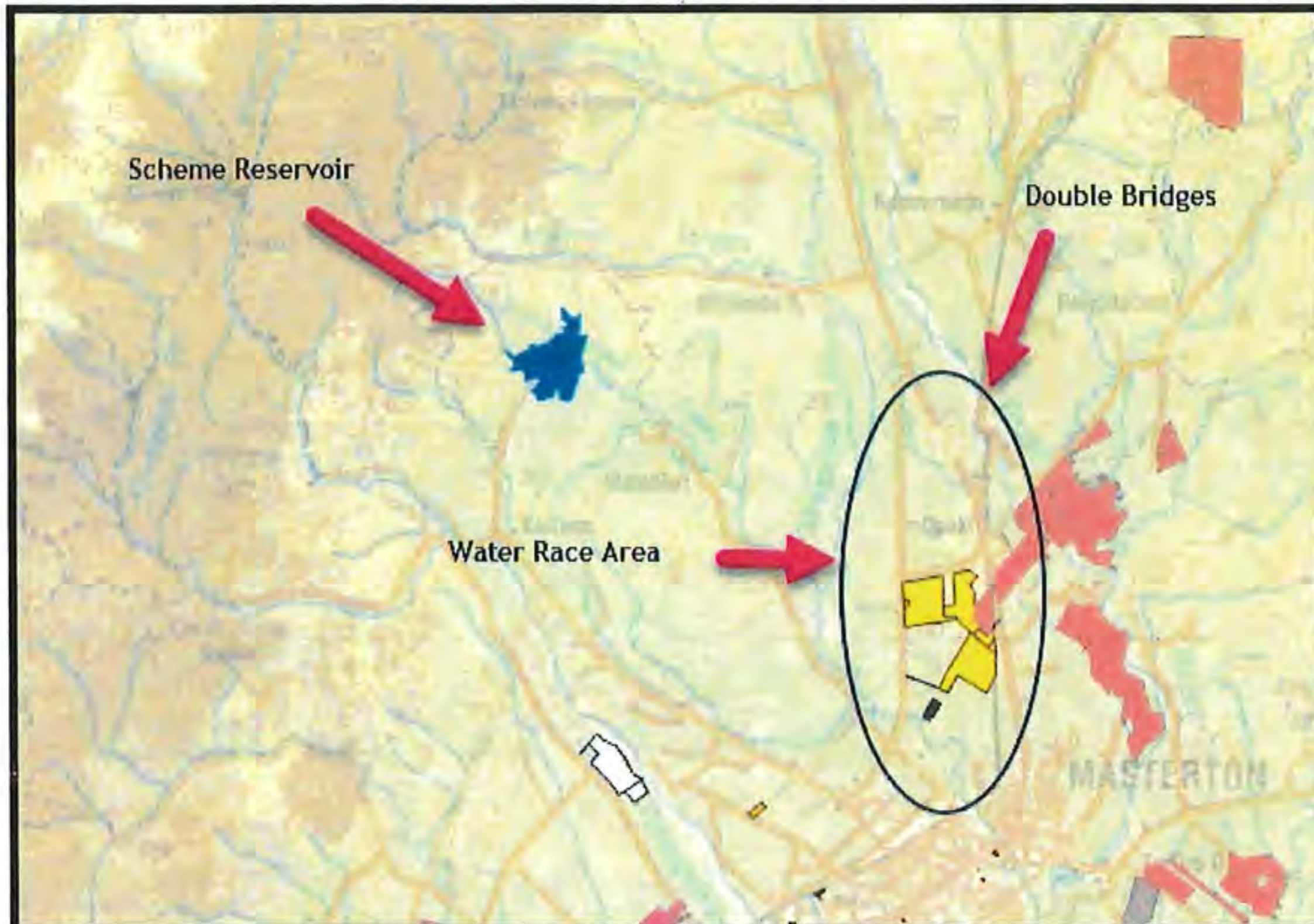
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Signed *MA ALL*

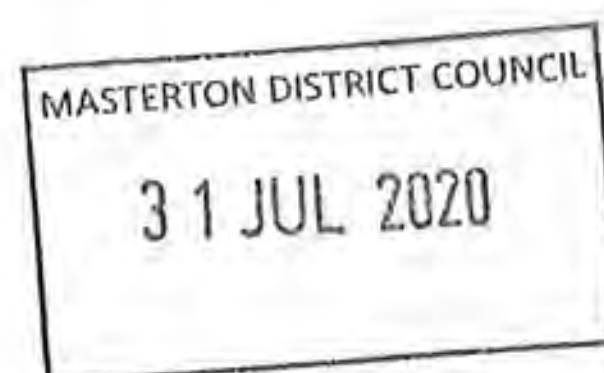
Name *MARK ALLAN*

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]



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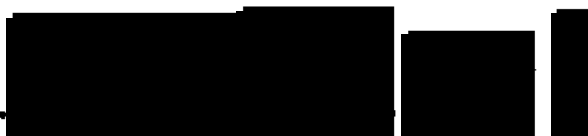
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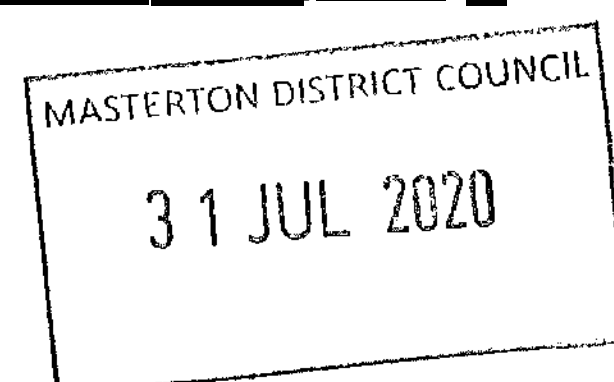
Signed  

Name Michelle & Ian Allmand

Physical Address 

Postal Address 

Email  Phone 



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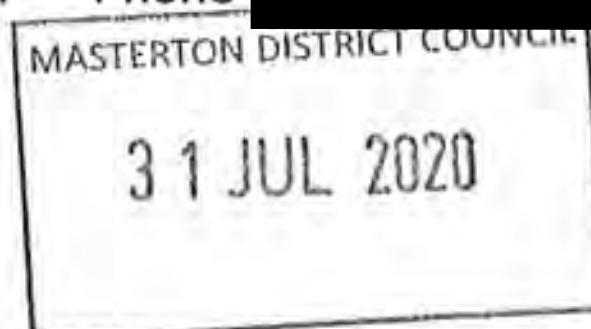
Name Mike Aitkenhead

Physical Address ... 

Postal Address as above

Email 

Phone 



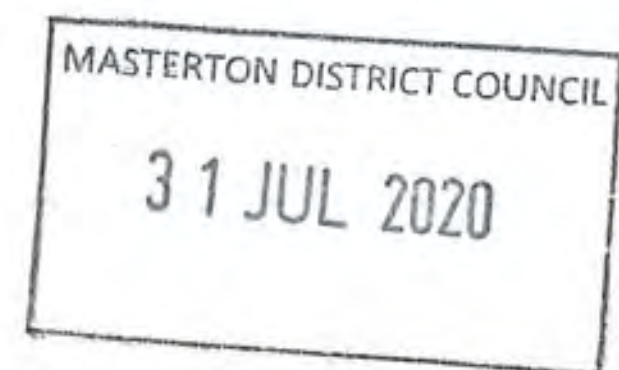
Signed O. Bensaud

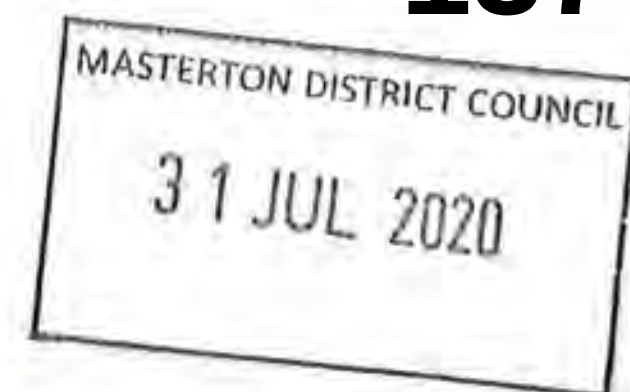
Name OLIVIER Bensaude

Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email Phone [REDACTED]





Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

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Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

Assuming consent is granted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and assuming that water is found within a User's property, potentially Users have the option of installing their own well and associated infrastructure. This is an option for most of the Users but is not necessarily an option for the irrigation Users (may not be able to find sufficient water economically let alone obtain resource consent).

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Wakamoekau Scheme

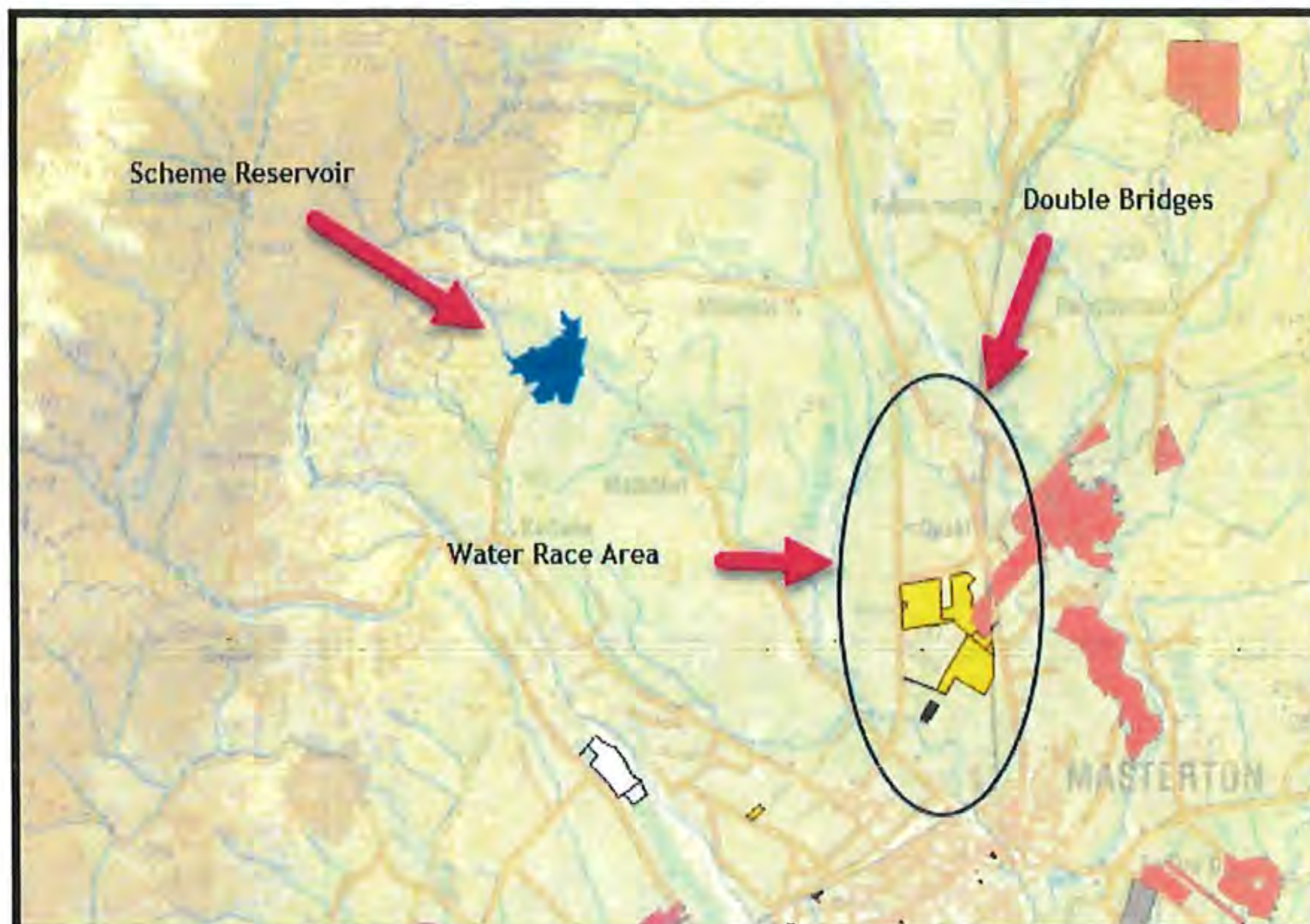
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Conclusion - the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users.



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Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

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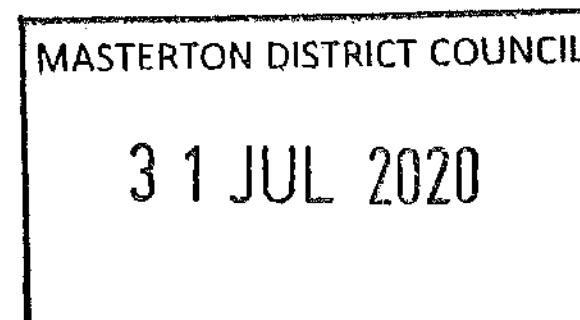
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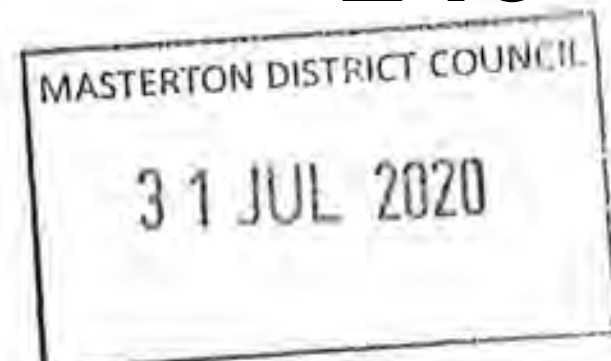
Name PHILIP ISAAC

Physical Address

Postal Address

Email Phone





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Background

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Potential Options

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Wakamoekau Scheme

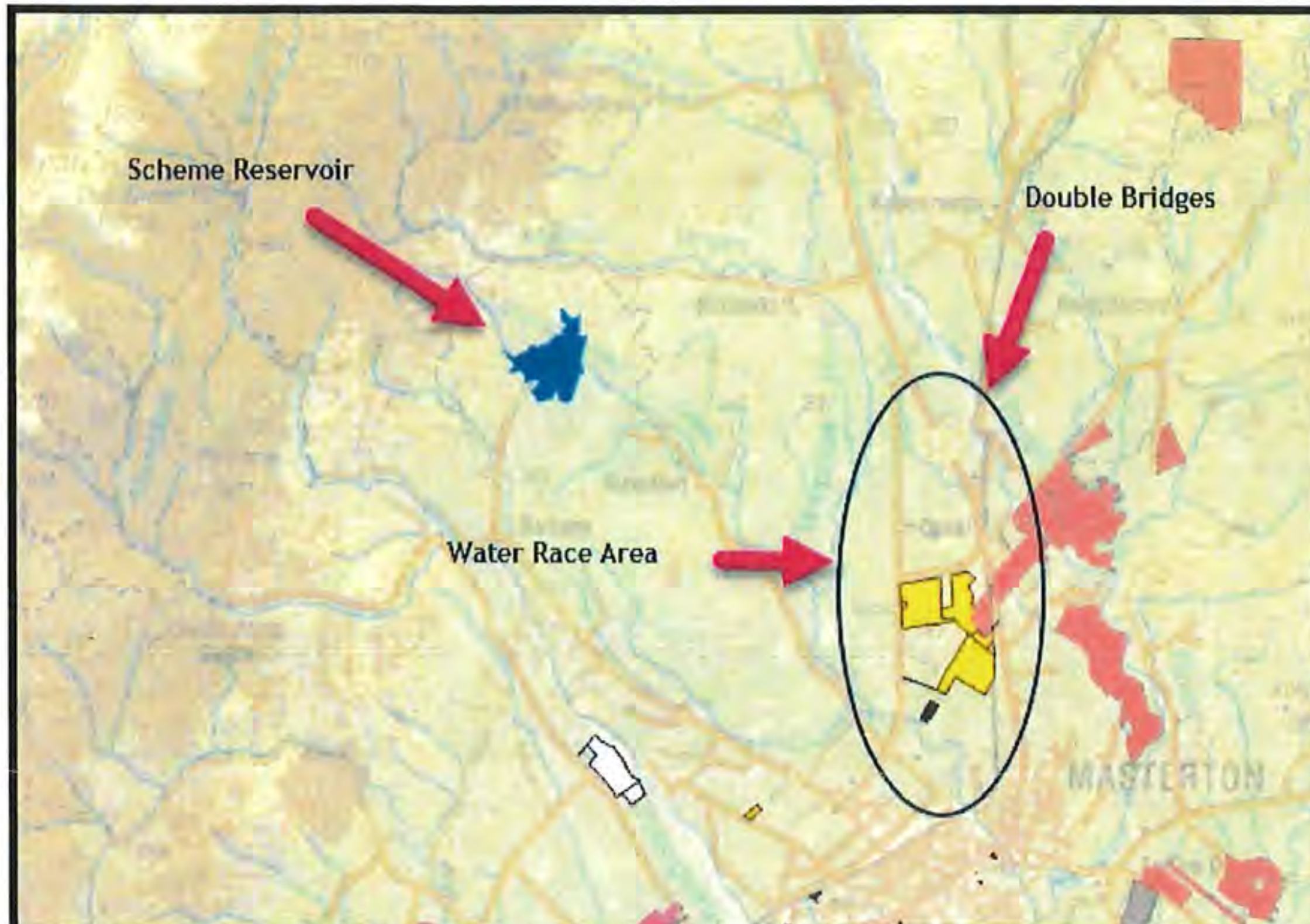
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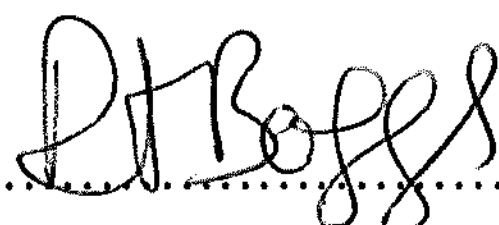
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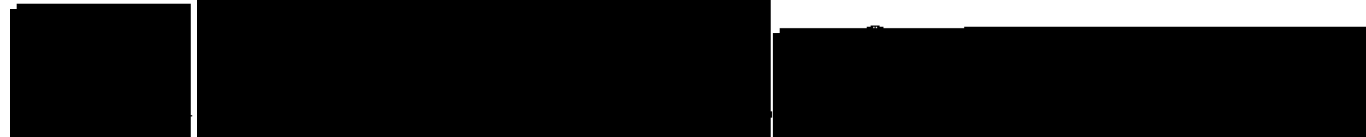
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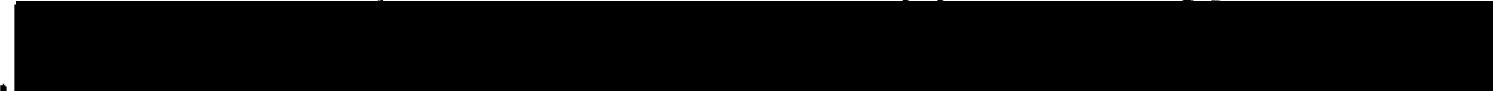
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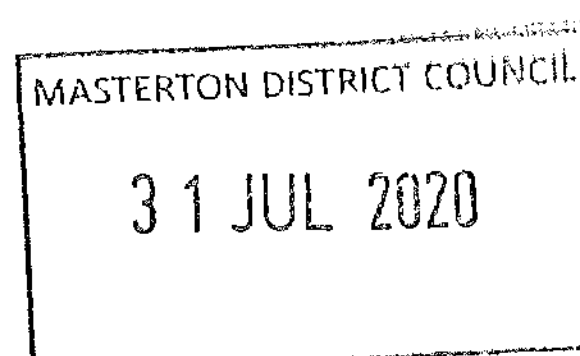
Signed 

Name REBECCA BOGG

Physical Address .. 

Postal Address .. 

Email ..  Phone 



31 JUL 2020

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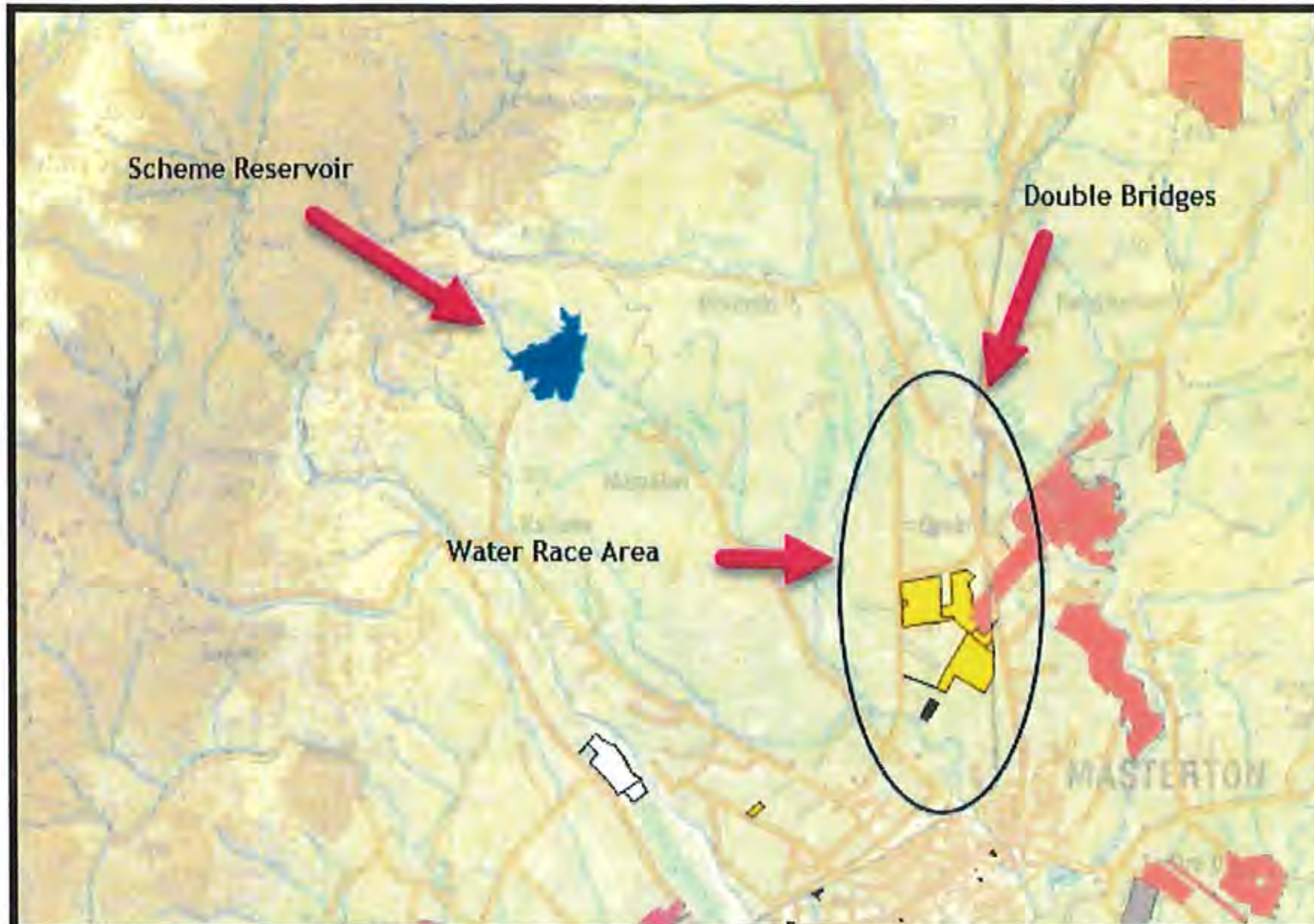
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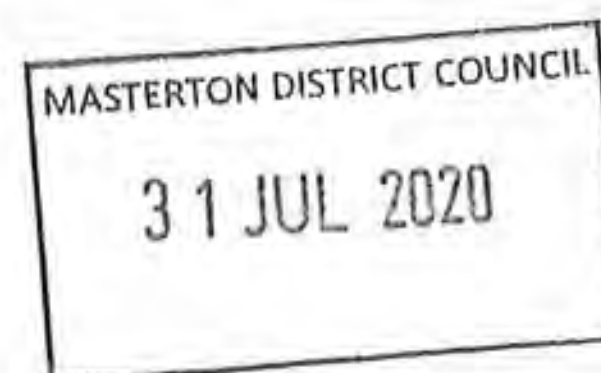
Signed 

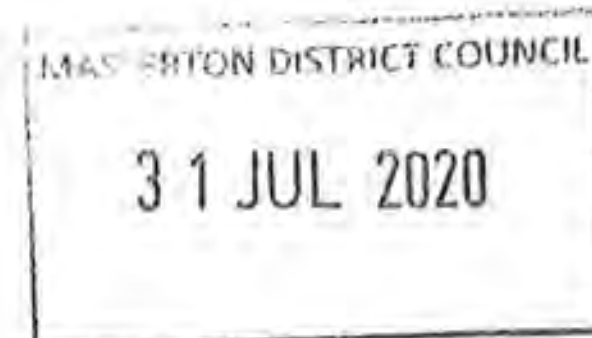
Name SHANE WILSON

Physical Address 

Postal Address

Email  Phone 





Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

Background

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Potential Options

Opaki Water Supply Association

We understand that this scheme has some capacity to take new connections. However as the scheme's focus is on house water supply for domestic use, the 1440 litres allowance per unit per day is simply not enough to provide stock water for bigger properties. Those property owners would need to purchase multiple units and provide huge water storage capacity which would still not provide sufficient stock water, therefore making this solution unfeasible. Nor is this a solution for the one present irrigation User and one present frost protection User.

Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

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Wakamoekau Scheme

The Wakamoekau Scheme is an option which has only recently become a possibility and is still under development. It is however an option with the real potential to satisfy all the needs of the existing Users, plus the broader objective of the scheme, namely, to enhance the land use capability of the Wairarapa.

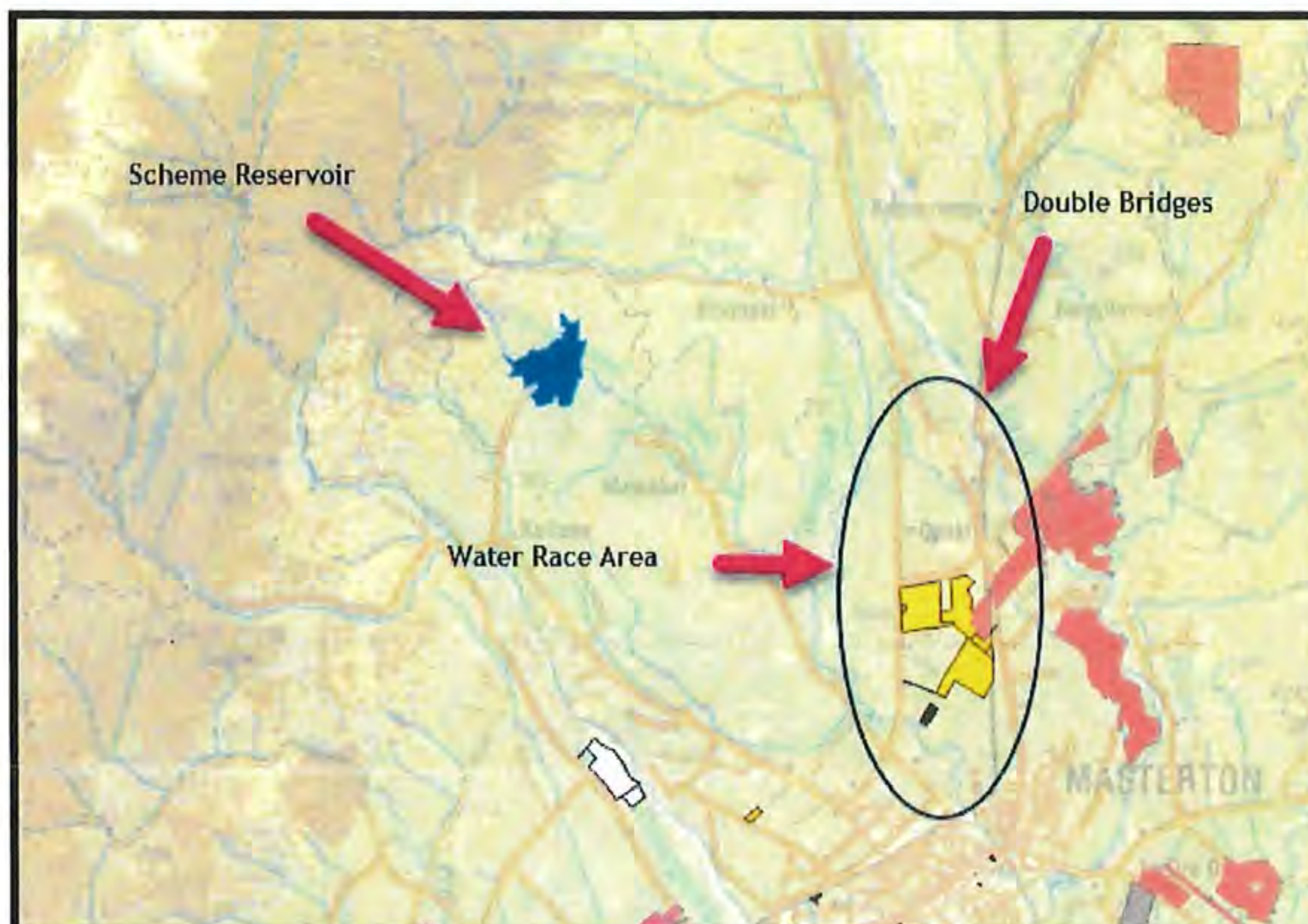
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31 JUL 2020

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The fourth option is for the Users to implement a stand-alone bulk water supply scheme (Users Scheme) to meet their present and future needs.

Given the current status and momentum of the Wakamoekau Scheme, it would be illogical and potentially counterproductive to the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, for the Users to pursue this option, even if they were able to muster the resources to do so (which would be very challenging) and obtain the resource consents.

Conclusion - Users Scheme is not a satisfactory option.

Overall Conclusion re Options Available to Users

Of the four potential options, only the Wakamoekau Scheme is a solution which would satisfy all the present and futures water needs of the Users

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Signed

[Signature] *[Signature]*

Name

Trevor and Jeanne Jackson

Physical Address

[Redacted Address]

Postal Address

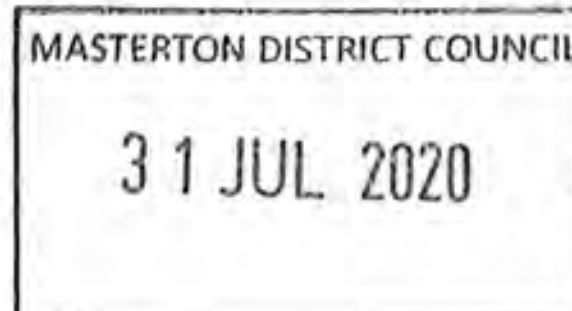
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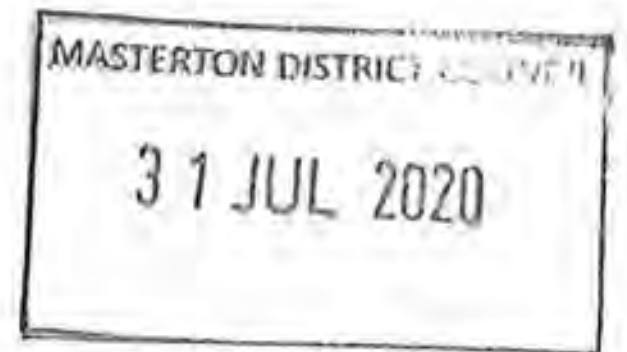
Email

[Redacted Email]

Phone

[Redacted Phone]





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Potential Options

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

Install Own Well and Infrastructure

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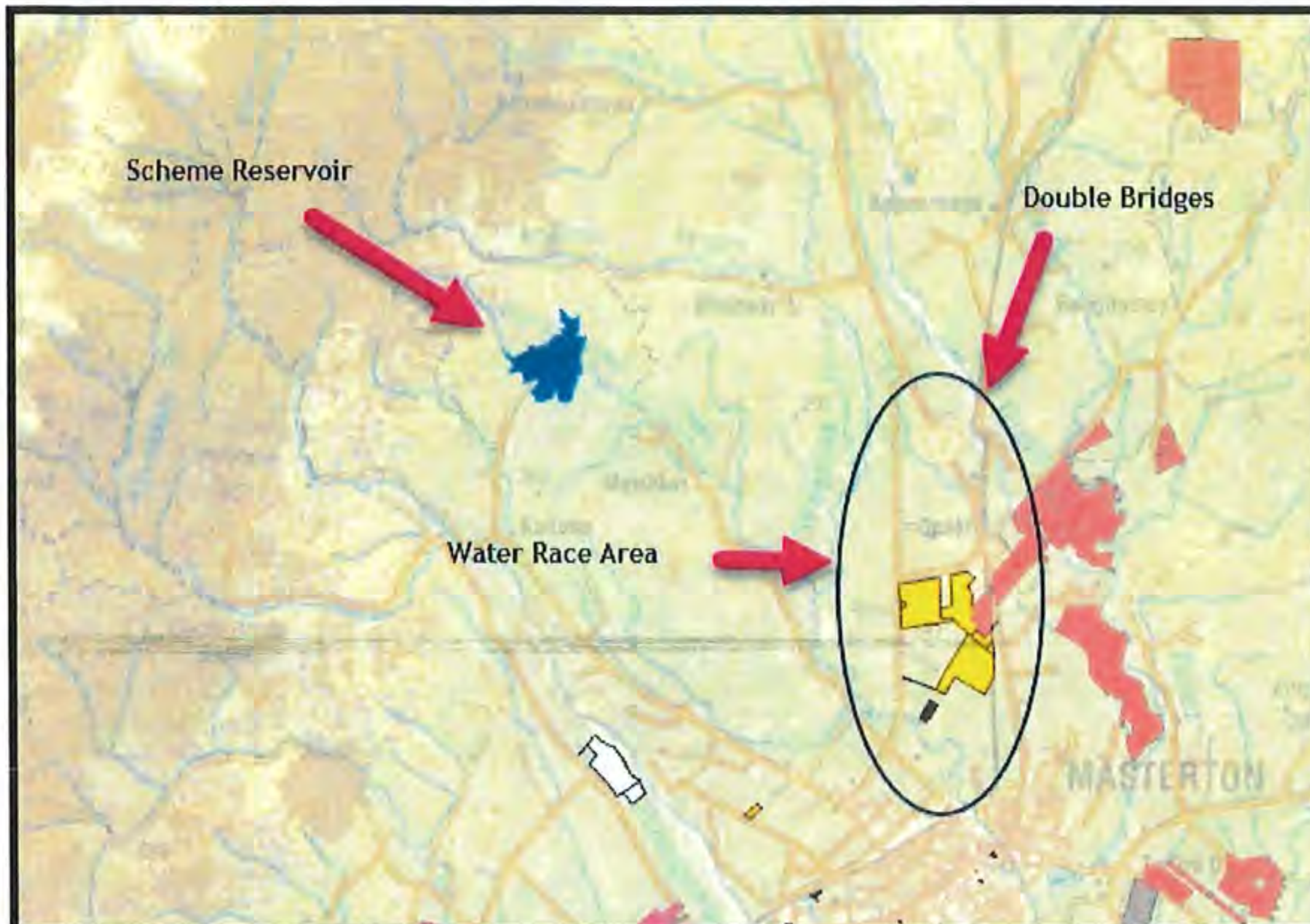
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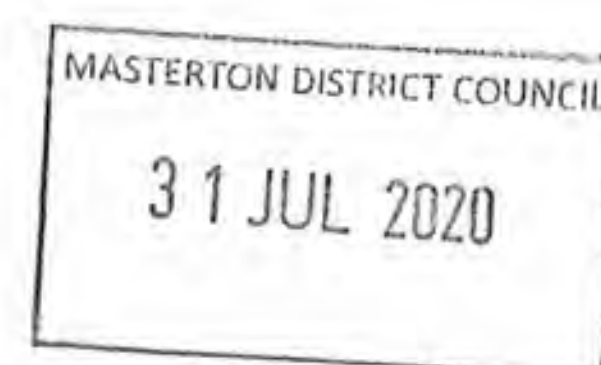
Signed *W. M. Totman*

Name *Wendy Marie Totman*

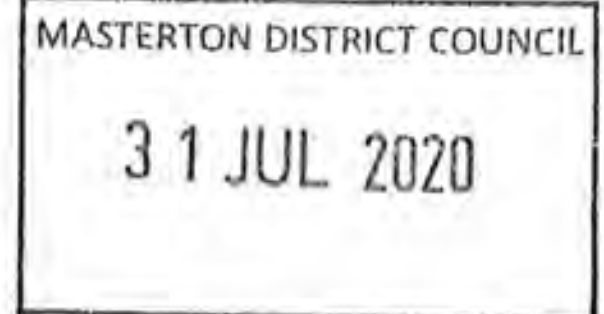
Physical Address [REDACTED]

Postal Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal



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Wakamoekau Scheme

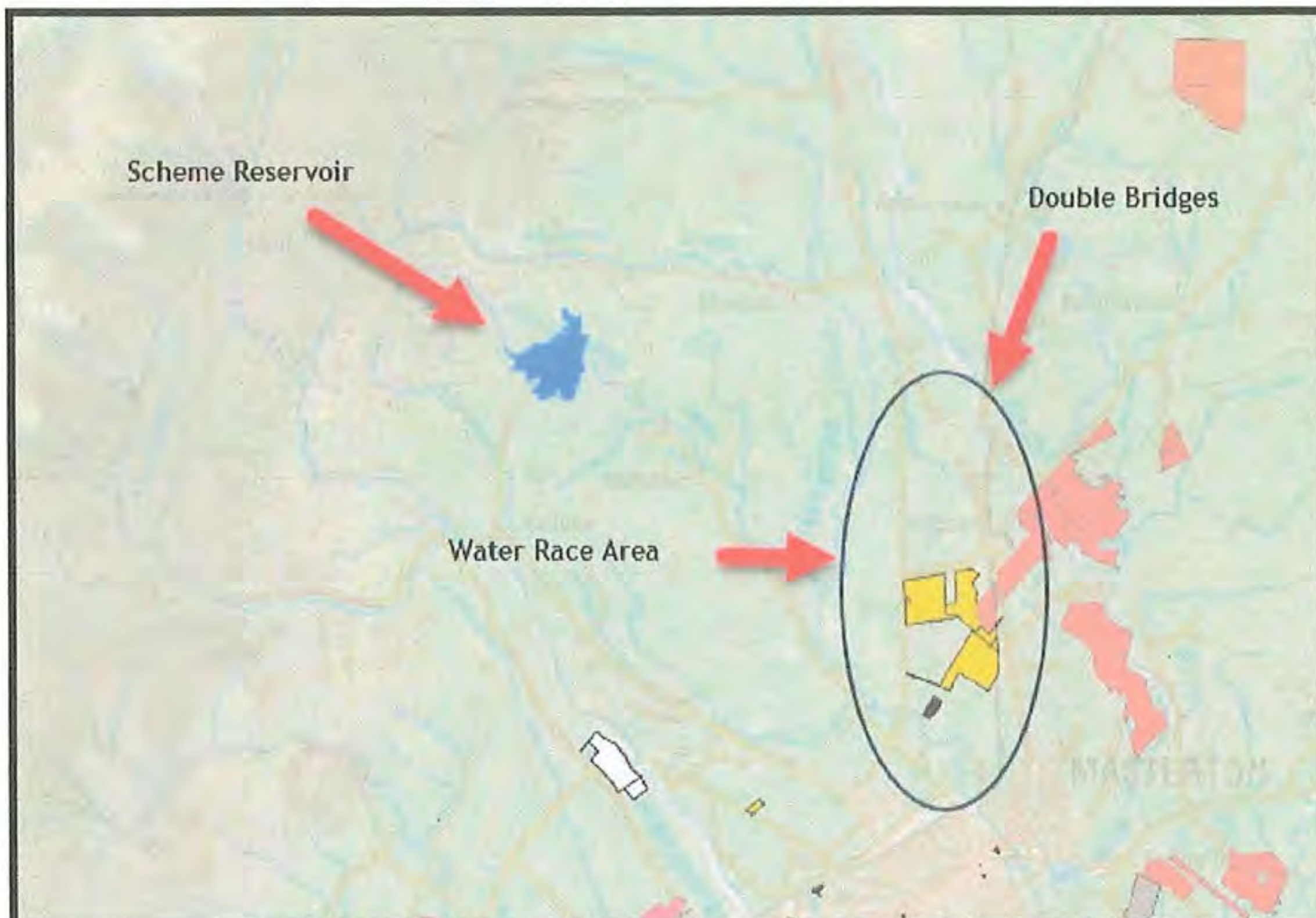
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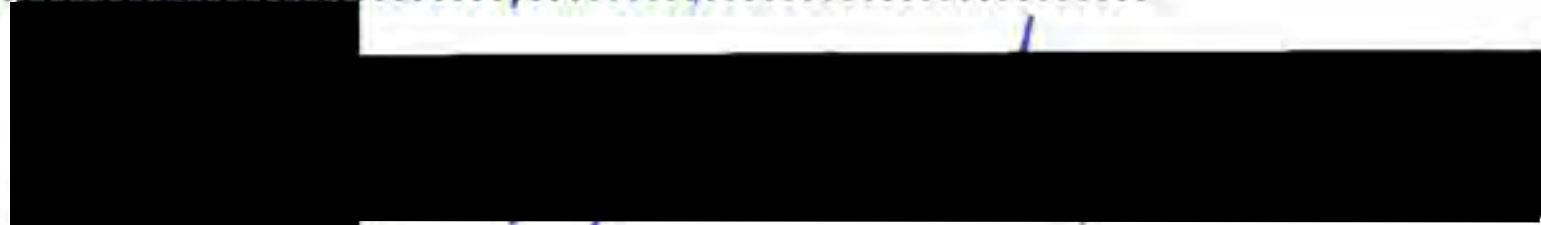
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Signed 

Name William Bicknell

Physical Address 

Postal Address as above

Email  Phone ... 



Opaki Water Race Users Proposal

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 JUL 2020

Background

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Conclusion - Not a satisfactory solution

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Wakamoekau Scheme

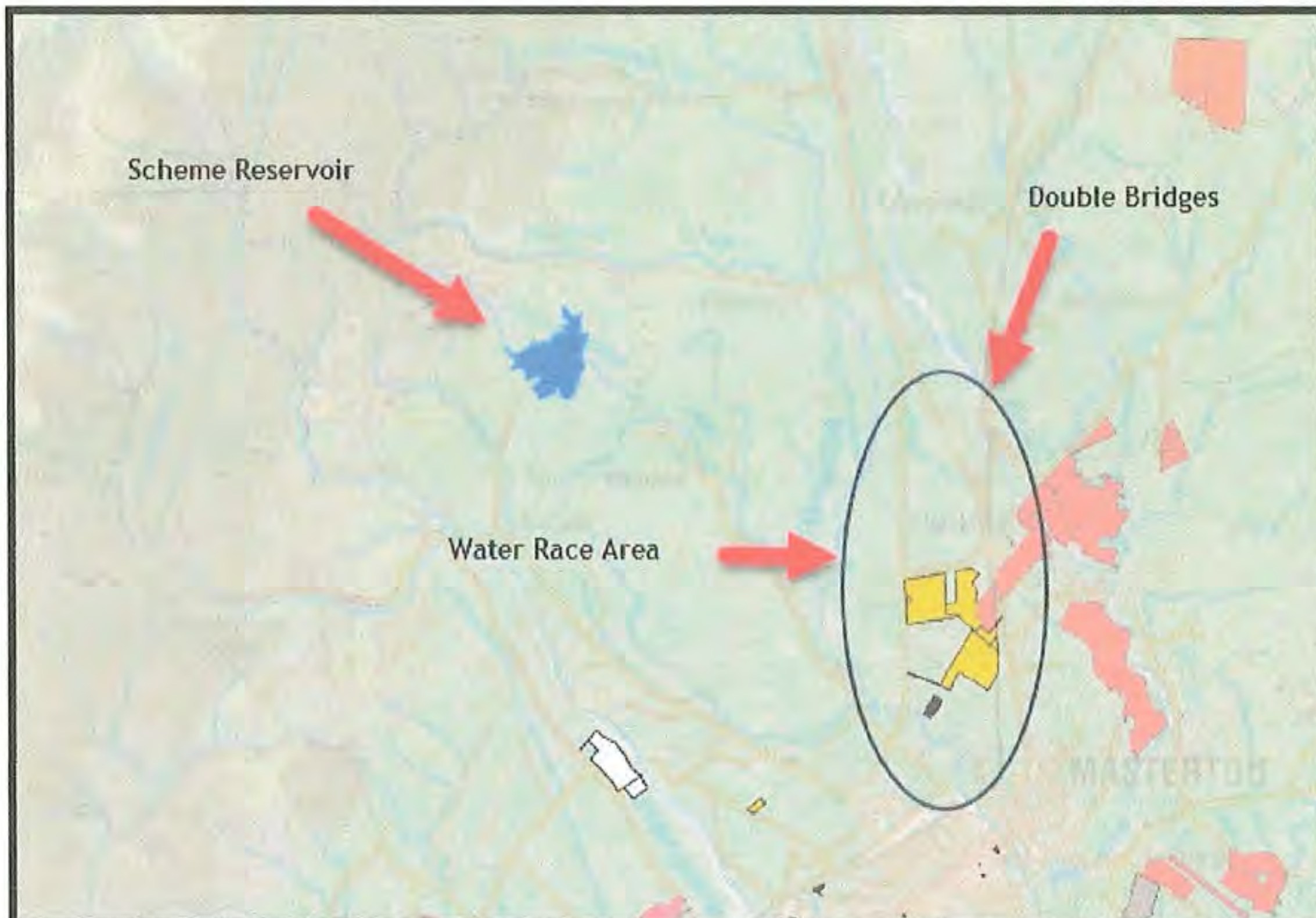
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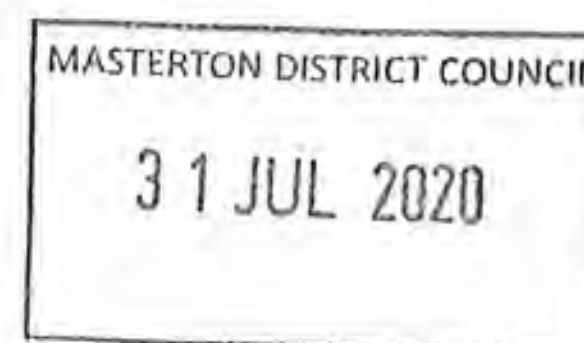
Signed 

Name William Patrick

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Postal Address

Email  Phone 



**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE - OPAKI WATER RACE
SUBMISSIONS - HELD AT WAIATA HOUSE, 27 LINCOLN ROAD ON WEDNESDAY 2
SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT

Councillor F Mailman (Chair), Mayor L Patterson, Councillor D Holmes, Councillor T Nixon, Councillor C Peterson, and Councillor S Ryan.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor G McClymont, Chief Executive, Manager Assets and Operations, Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance, Senior Communications Advisor, Governance Advisor, one media representative and 20 members of the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

**HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE OPAKI WATER RACE
(123/20)**

The Hearings Committee heard from the following submitters:

Time	Sub #	Name
10:10am	11	Karina Southey and Fleur Nicol – Matahiwi Vineyard
10:20am	27	Tim Penn
10:30am	10	Steve Wilton on behalf of Opaki Water Race Users Committee
10:45am	33	Barry Gleeson
10.53am	39	Brian & Nicky Geary
10.39am	42	David & Deb Woodhouse
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11.11am	34	Andrew Donald

With the agreement of the meeting the recommendation was amended to reflect that the final number of submitters who wanted to be heard was 8 instead of 5.

Submitter #10 and Submitter #39 provided copies of their presentations. These are attached as Minutes Attachments 1 and 2.

Moved by Councillor S Ryan

That the Hearings Committee

- a) **Receives the submissions on the Opaki Water Race proposal**
- b) **Notes that of the 66 submissions received, eight submitters requested to be heard.**

Seconded by Councillor C Peterson and CARRIED

The meeting closed at 11.28 am

Notes for 2 September Water Race Hearing relating to the ***Opaki Water Race Users Proposal***

Firstly, we would like to thank the Council and Council officers for bringing the matter of the future of the Opaki Water Race to a head, culminating in today's hearing.

Before looking forward it is important to reflect on the history of the water races of the Wairarapa of which the Opaki Water Race is 1 of 5 (and the smallest) still operational (refer to A3 Map). The Water Races are extensive. Looking back around 100 years when they were constructed, they were an innovative solution to a real problem, namely the lack of accessible summer water for stock.

Today, most of the 53 property owners serviced by the Opaki Water Race still depend upon this water both for stock and more recently for irrigation and frost support by two vineyard property owners.

It is also important to note that most of the 53 property owners purchased their properties in reliance on this water and for many their purchase decision included the aesthetic of a water course and the associated ecology running through their property during the dry Wairarapa summers. Some have even built their houses oriented to the aesthetic created by the water race.

However we acknowledge that times have changed, but the problem of lack of accessible summer water for stock remains plus there are new and increasing demands on the Ruamahanga River for summer water putting the spotlight on the water use associated with the Opaki Water Race.

In the same way that the Wairarapa landowners came up with the innovative solution of the present water race system, now is the time for a modern equivalent solution. Today the rural water requirement objective is much broader than just for stock purposes, reflecting the modern land use options available on the plain when water is also available.

It is also appropriate to note that the current and future need for summer water is not just a rural demand, the urban population of the Wairarapa, domestic and commercial, is also in increasing need of summer water.

The process we are now engaged in has forced the Opaki Water Race Users to think through the issues, look outside of the interests (some might say selfish) of their own properties and focus seriously on the future and what is fair and reasonable.

I am proud to report that through the efforts of many Water Race Users, most of whom are present today that 45 plus of the 53 Opaki Water Race Users are united in their view of the future and all put their name to this Proposal which you have a copy of the ***Opaki Water Race Users Proposal***.

Before going into the detail of the Proposal we wish to highlight the material sacrifice the supporters of the Proposal are prepared to make in the interests of the greater good. Currently they have adequate summer water via the water race, plus associated aesthetic benefits, all at a price they are comfortable paying under the present Users pay system. The alternative water source proposed will result in each landowner having to make a material financial investment in infrastructure, the first \$25 per hectare contribution having already been requested. The alternative water will also be delivered by a pipe

buried in the ground which means they will no longer have the aesthetic benefit of a water course and associated ecology running through their properties.

Our Proposal Document set out the options believed to be available to the Opaki Water Race Users and identifies that only the proposed Wakamoekau Scheme would satisfy all the present and future water needs of the Users.

Unlike previous water scheme proposals for the Wairarapa, this scheme has the funding, plus the governance and management in place today to achieve a successful outcome. In any event, the go/no go decision will be made probably in early 2022, and also by this date it will be known if the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users (in place of the Water Race).

The Users Proposal is therefore as follows -

- That the Water Race remains operational until the Wakamoekau Scheme supplies water to the Users expected to be late 2025 or early 2026 at which date the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga.
- In the event that the Wakamoekau Scheme does not proceed, or if it proceeds but is unable to supply water to the Users, the Water Race will close and the Resource consent lapse for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga 3 years from the date that this is known.

The go/no go status of the Wakamoekau Scheme, plus whether the scheme has been engineered to supply the water required by the Users, will be known in 2022.

This timetable will have the Water Race closing, and the Resource consent lapsing for the water currently taken from the Ruamahanga by late 2025, regardless of which alternative water supply is sourced for the Opaki Water Race Users.

The Users therefore request that the Masterton District Council work with them to implement this Proposal which will also require the support of the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) in respect of the present expired resource consent for the water required for the transitional on-going operation of the Water Race.

The Users hope that with the support of the Masterton District Council, the agreement of the GWRC and the other persons affected by the operation of the Water Race, that the Water Race can continue to operate during the transitional period without incurring material additional costs. The Users believe that their interests, and the interests of the broader Wairarapa, are better served by investing in the success of the Wakamoekau Scheme, the permanent solution, rather than the transitional arrangement.

The Opaki Water Race Users believe that our request that the Masterton District Council support our Proposal is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.

In brief, a Water Race is a water service under the Local Government Act. Section 130 obligates the Council to maintain the water service (the water race). Section 131 sets out the power of Council to close a water service (water race) which it can do if -

- the water race services 200 or fewer persons (which it does); and
- the proposal to do so is supported by 75% or more of the Users.

In conclusion, Council has the power to close the Opaki Water Race with our support.

The overwhelming majority of the Opaki Water Race Users who we represent support the ultimate closing of the water race by late 2025, in around 5 years. By this date we anticipate having replaced our present water race water needs with water from the Wakamoekau Scheme, or worst-case scenario from one of the other options set out in our Proposal.

We need the support of the Masterton District Council to transition to the Wakamoekau Scheme without incurring excessive costs related to the interim continuation of the existing expired water take consent. Should the Wakamoekau Scheme not proceed, we also need the Councils support to enable the Users to implement one of the alternative water supply options set out in our Proposal Document within the same 5-year timeframe.

We believe supporting our Proposal is consistent with Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act, but more importantly will result in a fair and reasonable solution to a real water problem for all parties, and is support for Wairarapa Water who aim to create a modern day innovative solution to a similar problem which the Wairarapa Water Races addressed decades ago.

Presented by Steve Wilton a member of the Opaki Water Race Users Committee

Contact – [REDACTED]

2 September 2020

Ko Rangitumau te māunga
Ko Ruamahanga e Te Opaki Water race te awa
Ko Basil and Helen Schofield tōku tīpuna
Nō Whakaoriori ahau
Ko David rāua ko Joan Schofield ōku mātua
Ko Nichola tōku ingoa

Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Tena Koutou katoa

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I want to say that we as a family support the group submission but wanted people here today to understand the personal value of the water race to us as a family.

You have heard from my husband today about our financial wellbeing being dependant on the Opaki water race and if we do not have a replacement water option before it is closed we will be forced to close our business as we are dependent on being able to protect our crop from frost with water from September through to very early November.

I will now speak on the second reason for us standing here today asking that the Opaki water race remain open until there is a suitable replacement source, and that is for our families mental and physical wellbeing – or as we see it the healing powers of the Opaki water race for our daughter Orlaith.

We moved back to the Wairarapa 1 year ago yesterday. To get to this point you need to hear a bit about our journey back home.

Orlaith was born 10 years ago and when she as 18 months old she, while visiting my parents and family here in Masterton, had a Grand Mal seizure and our world was turned upside down.

She was diagnosed with a rare medical condition called Tuberous Sclerosis – this condition means she grows tumors in all her vital organs and the ones that cause her the most concern/pain/loss of mental wellbeing at the moment (she has a hard road ahead) are those in her brain – she had 27 tumors when she was first diagnosed.

Since then she has had two operations - the first one they removed 4 tumors, was not successful and her learning and development and mental well-being was deteriorating.

She had to undergo further surgery and the second time the 16th of August 2019 (the same day we took over 42 Loop line Opaki) they removed 4 more and post-surgery we came to Opaki to heal – and healing is what she is doing. As well as the wonderful community we find ourselves living in and calling home it is the Opaki water race that Orlaith turns to often when she is having ‘one of her days’.

We, more than most, understand the value of ‘it takes a village to raise a family’ and that is why we decided to return home to Masterton. When we looked around Masterton for a place to call home we visited 42 Loop line and it was ‘her river’ the Opaki water race that drew Orlaith in every time we viewed. Since moving here she has found calm, fun, healing and overall better mental wellbeing when she is in her AWA playing, sitting and contemplating life, splashing with her dog, feeding the eels and koura, watching her wild duck family grow and so much more – **Te Mana o te Wai – the power of water.**

The power of this body of water has more of an impact on just the local GDP and peoples lively hoods, its flora and fauna it has helped restore our little girl when she needed it most and it is for that reason I stand here today appealing to you all that you don't close the water race or at the very least leave it open until we have a replacement source and this gives us as a family time to work out another way of providing her a healing calming space to call her own with the same natural 'mana' the race gives her.

No Reira, kia mihi koe mo to wa i tenei ra - Tena koutou, tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa.

Nicky Geary


Opaki, Masterton
1st September, 2020

To Whom it may Concern:

We are writing this letter in support of our submission to support the Opaki Water race staying open in its current state.

We moved into our current residence in December 2018 and one of the big attractions was the Water race as we loved the look and sound of the water running through our property.

Our main reasoning for this submission is due to the Ecosystem we have uncovered in our little stretch of the water race. We discovered many Eels living in the race, and we began feeding them our scraps to the point where we can feed them directly out of our hand. The summer just past we cleaned the water race out by shoveling the silt out to unearth the gravel bottom. In doing so we found many Koura inhabiting the junction at the entrance point of the race where it splits West down Loopline towards Matahiwi or continues through our property, there is a small dam structure here which creates a gentle water flow enabling the Koura to live here easily. We have recorded footage of the Koura found that day along with several Eel and the Geary's have this to show on our behalf. We have also in the past year witnessed a Kingfisher in our trees and a mating pair of Mallard ducks who we have seen with ducklings in the water race.

We understand that to date there has been no consultation or discussion around the Ecosystem in the Water race, as this is the case the original reasoning put forward by Fish & Game to close the Water race to prevent the rivers levels being effected and in turn putting the wild life in the river at risk seems to make absolutely no sense as an entire Ecosystem will be lost through the closure of the race.

If the Water race was to be closed in its current state, we would expect the current wildlife to be removed and relocated.

Sincerely,

Your Name

To Whom it may Concern
1st September, 2020
Page 2

Morning Brian, I have put something together if anyone wants to read it out.

I oppose the closure of the Opaki water race/ creek. Lifestyles and businesses were built around the availability of the water race providing water to them as well as providing a home to native fish such as eels and koura while also bringing in other wild life to the area. The creek also helps by providing a small flow to the Waipoua instead of completing drying up in summer and adds life to Lansdowne reserve area.

Closure of the race will Impact on the well-being of the families and businesses the race runs through impacting on friends, family and the local Opaki community.

Regards Ivor

Sent from my iPhone

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

HEARINGS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER AT 2.00PM

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Cr F Mailman (Chairperson)

Her Worship

Cr T Nixon

Cr S Ryan

Cr D Holmes

Cr C Peterson

Quorum: Three

Noce` is given that the meeng` of the Masterton District Council Hearings Commiee` will be held on 30 September 2020 at Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton commencing at 2.00pm.

**RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL
POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED**

22 September 2020



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AGENDA ITEMS

1. Conflicts of Interest (Members to declare conflicts, if any)
2. Apologies
3. **Report of the Hearings Committee meeting held 2 September 2020 (126/20)**
Pages 601-609

FOR RECOMMENDATION

4. **OPAKI WATER RACE DELIBERATIONS (142/20)** Pages 610-617

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Contact – [REDACTED]

2 September 2020

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Nicky Geary

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1st September, 2020

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We understand that to date there has been no consultation or discussion around the Ecosystem in the Water race, as this is the case the original reasoning put forward by Fish & Game to close the Water race to prevent the rivers levels being effected and in turn putting the wild life in the river at risk seems to make absolutely no sense as an entire Ecosystem will be lost through the closure of the race.

If the Water race was to be closed in its current state, we would expect the current wildlife to be removed and relocated.

Sincerely,

Your Name

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Closure of the race will Impact on the well-being of the families and businesses the race runs through impacting on friends, family and the local Opaki community.

Regards Ivor

Sent from my iPhone

To:	Hearings Committee
From:	Phil Evans, Senior Advisor Wastewater Compliance and Projects David Hopman, Assets and Operations Manager
Endorsed by:	Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive
Date:	30 September 2020
Subject	Opaki Water Race Deliberations
RECOMMENDATION	
Recommendation: That the Hearings Committee: a. Receives Report 142/20; b. Determines that it has followed consultation requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002; c. Having considered the requirements under Local Government Act 2002, recommends that Council approves the closure of the Opaki Water Race by 30 June 2026.	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

1. present Council with a summary and analysis of the submissions received on the statement of proposal to close the Opaki Water Race; and
2. propose a solution for the closure of the Water Race.

CONTEXT

Background

Masterton District Council (Council) adopted a statement of proposal (SOP) to close the Opaki Water Race (OWR) on 24 June 2020. The proposal was driven by changes to the legislation around water use. This includes changes to the Regional Plan, but also the proposed National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standard for freshwater being developed by central government. The expiry of the existing Resource Consent to take water for the race, concerns about the increased costs of compliance facing the users and a lack of a clear mandate from the users on how to proceed have brought these issues to a head.

The Local Government Act 2002 (Act) allows Councils to consult with the community on the provision of water services to an area. The water race is a water service under the Act and may be closed or modified following the consultation procedure.

Any changes to the level of service require consultation through the special consultative procedure.

Background information was provided to Council ahead of the formal consultation period and explains why the closure was proposed. The Council adopted the Statement of Proposal (SOP) for the closure of the water race in June 2020.

The SOP proposed that the Water Race be closed but made no recommendation regarding the timing for this to occur.

Next steps

The next part of the process is for the committee consider the submissions that have been received and make a recommendation to Council on the closure of the water race.

CONSULTATION

Consultation process

Council was required to follow the Special Consultative Procedure, as prescribed.

The SOP was adopted by Council on 24 June 2020.

The submission process opened on 30 June, with an email going to users of the water race advising them of the proposal.

A copy of the SOP and the submission form was provided via the Council website on 30 June. This was available to all members of the public to view and download.

All users of the water race were provided with a written copy of the SOP and a submission form. This was mailed directly to the rateable owner of each property on the race. Hard copies of the SOP and submission form were provided for the general public and located at the Council's main administration office on Queen Street, Masterton.

Council staff attended one consultation meeting held with the users to present the SOP and answer questions. This occurred on the evening of Thursday, 16 July.

The consultation period closed on 31 July 2020.

Submissions

Number of Submissions

The Council proposal to close the water race had the effect of incentivising a group of property owners to form a user group. This group used the submission period to draft and lodge an alternative proposal. Support for this alternative from the wider users was sought by the group, and consequently a number of submissions were made in support for the alternative.

In total MDC, received **77** submissions.

Hearings

The Hearing was held on Wednesday 2 September 2020. **Eight** submitters were heard as part of the hearings process:

- Matahiwi Vineyards (Karina and Fleur)

- Tim Penn
- Steve Wilton on behalf of the User Group – alternative proposal
- David and Deb Woodhouse
- Barry and Christine Gleeson
- Brian and Nicky Geary
- Frank Parker
- Andrew Donald

SUBMISSION RESULTS

Council proposed to close the Opaki water race. The reasons for this were detailed in the SOP.

Submitters were asked to indicate their support for or against the proposal and were invited to provide comments.

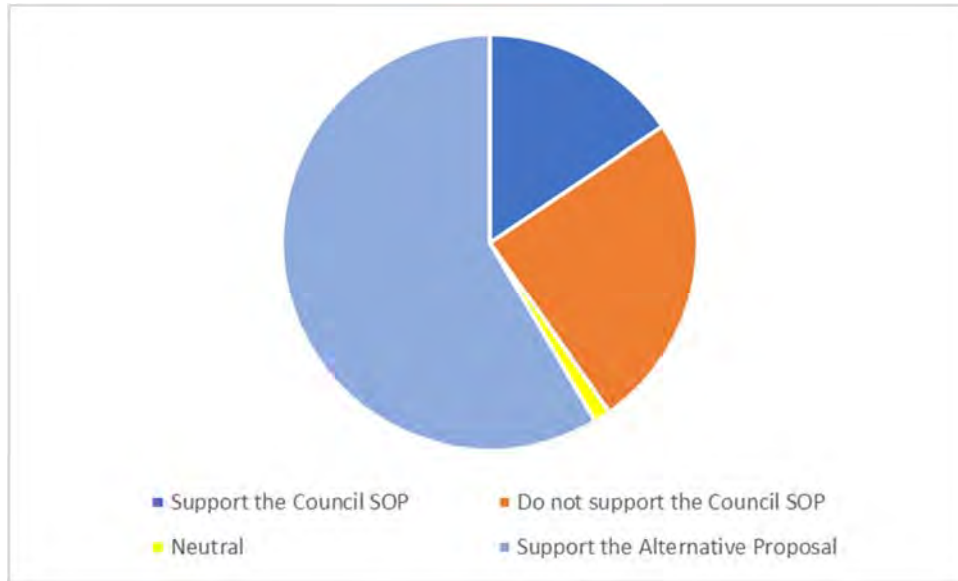
A summary of the feedback received via submissions and the hearing process follows:

- 12 submissions supported the Council's proposal to close the water race.
- 19 submissions did not support the Council's proposal.
- 1 submission was neutral.
- Submitters who supported the closure were concerned about future costs of operating the race, that the race was an inefficient use of water, the future costs of fencing and planting the race, and that the water was generally only available for stock water – not irrigation.
- Submitters who did not support the closure saw value in the water for stock, were concerned about access to water for firefighting, were concerned about the lack of alternatives and the loss of the ecology / aesthetic values of the race.

Alternative Proposal

45 submitters supported the Alternative proposal. This proposes to maintain the water race for a period until an alternative water supply – specifically the Wakamoekau storage dam being developed by Wairarapa Water Ltd – is available. The expectation is that the Wakamoekau scheme will reach a go/no go decision point in 2022. The proposal is that the users would then have 3 years to either move to the scheme or to find their own solutions. In either event, the water race would close in 2026.

Note that the Wakamoekau scheme is also referred to as the Wairarapa Water Ltd (WWL) scheme in submissions.



Summary of verbal submissions

Verbal Submissions	
Speaker	Issues / Comments
Matahiwi Vineyard	Has limited on-site storage, supports user proposal, seeks a time frame of 10 years, close when the alternative is available. Need to support WWL option and not undermine it with temporary options that become permanent.
Tim Penn	Some scepticism about WWL option, OK for stock but expensive for irrigation. 6 years too short a timeframe for that project. His costs associated with the existing water race are around \$3K per annum, possibly increasing with new requirements. Acknowledged it was an inefficient system and alternatives should have been looked at before now. He will have to fence 5km of the race, too much cost. Agrees that people need time to make changes and find alternatives.
Steve Wilton	Talking to the alternative proposal. Most of the users are reliant on the race for stock water. There is an aesthetic value to the race. Some have purchased properties based on the added value of the race. Acknowledges the impact on the river, the inefficiencies of the race and the constraints around water. They support the alternative proposal and see that they are making a sacrifice by closing the race over a period, but willing to do this for the greater good. Mr Wilton noted that the Council had the power to close water supplies with less than 200 users if 75% of the users voted to close. This provision of the Local Government Act relates to the closure of drinking water supplies and does not relate to water races.

David and Deb Woodhouse	Concerned about loss of bore water if the race closes as it may be recharging the shallow ground water. Fire service has used the race for fight fighting, and the local winery uses it for frost protection. Opaki is a successful area for a range of uses including dairy, vineyards and horticulture. Limited inground water. Water races are also the 'last bastion' of wetlands across Wairarapa.
Barry and Christine Gleeson	Support the users group, seeking a collaborative way forward, sustainable, future proofing. WWL is a viable, workable, sustainable option. Can individual users build infrastructure on their sites to store winter water? Are looking for support for the transition period. Concerned that the loss of water will affect the Waipoua River.
Brian and Nicky Geary	Support the previous speakers, are looking for a transition period. Need frost protection for their vines. Race has aesthetic values and provides therapeutic value for their daughter.
Frank Parker	Race provides frost protection water for the vineyard. Supports keeping the race open until the WWL scheme online. Concerned about his share of the costs over next few years, and wonders if people who need the race could pay his share? If the race closes, who relocates the eels and fish life.
Andrew Donald	Agrees with what has been said. Not personally affected as has springs on his property. Comments on the wider hydrology of the area, importance of hydrological survey. Asks if MDC will meet with head of Fish and Game, doesn't accept MDC cost projections and believes that MDC should have a 'generous' view on the costs. Noted that the Waipoua Action Group, which he is part of, desires more summer flows in the Waipoua River.

Summary of comments and staff advice

Theme	Summary of comments	Staff advice
Function of the Water Race	The race was initially established to supply stock drinking water to this area and many sites still rely on this for stock water.	This is acknowledged. If the race were to close, an alternative water supply will be required for those landowners that have stock.
	Some users do not support the closure of the race due to the value added by the water for stock supply, irrigation and frost protection.	This is acknowledged. Note that irrigation and frost protection are secondary to the primary function of supplying stock water.
	Some users support the closure of the race due to the existing costs, projected future costs and the inability to use the water for any other purpose.	This is acknowledged.

Non-functional values	The water race has ecological value which needs to be recognised and/or further researched.	While the water race provides a habitat for a range of species, there is no acknowledgement of this in proposed Regional Plan rules. The race is an artificial channel, which is prone to running dry at times, while the Plan prioritises the values of natural river systems. The proposed Regional Plan has identified a method where GWRC will seek to work with Councils to manage the races, and this includes looking at retaining ecological values. No action has been taken by GWRC to progress this.
	The race has aesthetic values that need to be acknowledged.	While the water race does provide aesthetic value to properties, the primary function remains one of providing stock water. Aesthetic values of a water race are not recognised in the Regional Plan.
	The race has value as a firefighting resource and has been used as such in the past.	While the water race does provide fire protection, the primary function remains one of providing stock water. Fire fighting or fire safety values of a water race are not recognised in the Regional Plan.
Apportionment of costs	Costs are being borne by users who do not want, or cannot, use the race.	The water race is a community scheme servicing a specific area of the district and as such all properties serviced by the water race need to contribute. Rates are determined on a land value basis. No financial contribution is made to the water race from properties beyond the serviced area of benefit.
	The costs of maintaining the race makes it uneconomic.	Costs are apportioned based on land valuation under the rating process. Owners of larger properties therefore pay more. Indications to date are that these costs are likely to increase over time, while restrictions on access will also increase.
	Would Council contribute to costs?	Council's Revenue and Financing Policy notes that Council has no general rate and that targeted services charges will be used to charge properties connected or able to receive a specific service.
Alternative schemes	The WWL scheme will provide an alternative projected to be on-line by 2026. A significant	Indicative timeframes from WWL are that a decision will be made in 2022 as to the viability of the proposed scheme. If the

	number (45) of the submitters support an option to move to either move to this scheme or decide on an alternative when this scheme reaches a go/no go decision.	decision is to proceed, then their timeframe has the water storage online by 2026. The proposal from the users is, from 2022, the water race users will either migrate to the new WWL supply or find their own solutions. In either scenario, the water race would close in 2026.
	Concerns that the Opaki Water Scheme – a private, potable water scheme operating in the same approximate area as the race – will not have capacity to supply all stock water needs.	Discussions with the Opaki Water Scheme suggest that stock water needs could be provided, however individual users may need to install storage tanks and reticulation on their sites. Upgrades to the Scheme's main line may also be required.

Discussion

Discussions have been had with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Fish & Game since the application for renewal of the consent was made in 2018. Staff believe that there will be support from these agencies for a phased move to closure over a short timeframe and that it is therefore likely a resource consent for this transition would be approved.

This alternative proposal is not widely different to the Council's statement of proposal. What it does do is to add in a clear timeframe for moving to the closure to give people time to find alternatives where necessary.

On that basis, there is a clear majority who support the closure of the water race;

- 45 support the alternative proposal
- 12 support the Council SOP to close the race
- 19 do not support the Council SOP
- 1 submission did not indicate support either way.

A total of **57** of the submissions support the closure; with **19** submissions in support of keeping the water race.

The outcome of the submission process has provided a mandate for the phased closure of the water race. This will require Council officers to obtain a resource consent from GWRC for a continuation of the water take until 2025/2026.

The second option is to pursue the current consent that has been lodged and to seek the continuation of the race. The indications we have had to date suggest that this is likely to be a complex consent with no surety of outcome.

Costs associated with either option are ringfenced to the users of the race and recovered via the targeted rate. Any changes to the funding would require a change to the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy and public consultation.

The Committee should note that if the race is kept open for 5 to 6 years, the users will continue to bear the costs of operating the race for that time, but it is anticipated that these will not increase significantly above the current level if there is a clear timeframe to close.

The Committee should also note that, for those submitters who have indicated that they do not want the water race to close, that there may be no realistic or cost-effective alternatives available to them.

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145/20

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE - OPAKI WATER RACE
DELIBERATIONS - HELD AT WAIATA HOUSE, 27 LINCOLN ROAD ON WEDNESDAY
30 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2.03PM**

PRESENT

Councillor F Mailman (Chair), Mayor L Patterson, Councillor C Peterson, and Councillor S Ryan.

IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Assets and Operations, Manager Finance, Manager Community Facilities and Activities, Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance, Senior Communications Advisor, Governance Advisor, one media representative and eight members of the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nixon declared an interest as a recent member of the Wairarapa Regional Irrigation Trust and did not attend the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor F Mailman

That the apology from Councillor Holmes for non-attendance be received.

Seconded by Councillor S Ryan and CARRIED.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE – OPAKI WATER RACE
SUBMISSIONS – HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2020 (126/20)**

Moved Councillor F Mailman

**That the Report of the Meeting of the Hearing Committee – Opaki Water Race
Submissions – held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 be received.**

Seconded by Councillor C Peterson and CARRIED

OPAKI WATER RACE DELIBERATIONS (142/20)

The report presenting Council with a summary and analysis of the submissions received on the statement of proposal to close the Opaki Water Race and proposing a solution for the closure of the Water Race was presented by the Manager Assets and Operations and the Senior Advisor Wastewater Compliance and Projects.

The flow from the water race into the Waipoua River was raised. Staff advised that only minor volumes of water reached the Waipoua directly, with an unknown volume lost to ground along the length of the race. It is not clear that the race is increasing the flows in the Waipoua River in any meaningful way.

Provision for the koura and eels present in the race after closure was also raised. Staff advised that the race did dry up at certain times of the year already but that there would be a management plan relating to the closure as the race channel would still need to be maintained to provide an overland flow path in heavy rainfall events. The issue of ecology would be part of the closure plan, but ultimately the habitat would no longer be available.

The Mayor thanked submitters and noted that it was a difficult decision however the recommendation from staff was a good compromise which allowed users time to find alternatives.

Moved by Mayor L Patterson

That the Hearings Committee:

- a. Receives Report 142/20;**
- b. Determines that it has followed consultation requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002;**
- c. Having considered the requirements under Local Government Act 2002, recommends that Council approves the closure of the Opaki Water Race by 30 June 2026.**

Seconded by Councillor C Peterson and CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.12 pm

To:	Mayor and Elected Members
From:	Phil Evans, Senior Advisor Wastewater Compliance and Projects David Hopman, Assets and Operations Manager
Endorsed by:	Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive
Date:	28 October 2020
Subject	Opaki Water Race Deliberations – Supplementary Report
DECISION	
Recommendation: That Council: a) Resolves to Work with the Opaki Water Race Users Committee i) in a constructive and inclusionary manner to achieve the closure of the Opaki Water Race. ii) to assist them to find alternative water supply options before the closure of the Opaki Water Race.	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to clarify the role of the Opaki Water Race Users Committee in the closure of the water race.

CONTEXT

Background

Having heard the submissions to the Statement of Proposal, the Hearing Committee resolved at its meeting held on 30 September 2020:

That the Hearings Committee:

- a. Receives Report 142/20;**
- b. Determines that it has followed consultation requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002;**
- c. Having considered the requirements under Local Government Act 2002, recommends that Council approves the closure of the Opaki Water Race by 30 June 2026.**

This resolution is included in the agenda for adoption by Council.

Council has now been approached by representatives of the water race users who are concerned that the resolution is not detailed enough and does not involve them in finding an alternative going forward.

During the submission period, a group of users drafted a proposal to close the race, subject to time frames around the Wakamoekau water storage scheme. This proposal was promoted by the user group to the wider community and convinced a significant number of water race users to agree to the closure.

While the wording in the recommendation in report 145/20 captured the intention of the submissions, the group of landowners have expressed concern that the resolution does not provide sufficient detail about a role for them going forward. The group – who have self-organised into the Opaki Water Race Users Committee – were under the impression that the Local Government Act provided them with a formal role in the decision-making process. However, this is not the case and their belief arose from a misunderstanding.

In fairness to this newly formed committee, and in order to progress the matter, it is recommended that the Hearing Committee resolution be supplemented to confirm the Council's commitment to work with the Opaki Water Race Users Committee throughout the closure period.

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155/20

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD AT
WAIATA HOUSE, 27 LINCOLN ROAD, MASTERTON, ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER
2020 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Lyn Patterson (Chair), Councillors G Caffell, B Gare, D Holmes, B Johnson, G McClymont, F Mailman, T Nelson, T Nixon, C Peterson and S Ryan.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Manager Finance, Manager Assets and Operations, Manager Strategic Planning, Communications and Marketing Manager, Policy Manager, Senior Advisor Wastewater Strategy and Compliance, Governance Advisor, two media representatives and 15 members of the public.

KARAKIA

Councillor Bex Johnson led the karakia.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- In relation to the application from People First referred to in the report of the Awards and Grants Committee, Councillor Ryan declared an interest as the People First National Funding Manager.
- Councillor Nixon declared an interest in relation to the item on Hood Aerodrome as her partner is the Aerodrome Manager and leases land for a hangar at the Aerodrome.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Peter Knighton, Millie Ogg and Erin Cavanagh from People First spoke about accessibility issues in Masterton: the door into the Rec Centre is not accessible; park benches and picnic tables don't accommodate people who use a wheelchair; disability swings are needed; Council need to show they recognise people from all communities; would like to see Council information be made into easy read - does Council have a policy?; safety on footpaths - a speed limit for mobility scooters; what is Council's policy around making sure community spaces are safe and accessible for people with disabilities.
- Mary Byrne and Eleanor Harper provided a handout and spoke against fluoridation.
- Youth Council and SADD – Cherie McNamara attended on behalf of the Youth Council and provided feedback on the proposed Solid Waste Bylaw: they agreed with the proposed bylaw and with the overall purpose and added that there needed to be more education, a definition of the word 'waste' and separation in the town bins.

LATE ITEMS FOR INCLUSION UNDER SECTION 46A(7) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

The meeting was advised of a late item for inclusion in the public excluded agenda:

- Contract 1-20/22 - Sealed and Unsealed Rehabilitation 2020-2022

This item had not been available for inclusion with the agenda and could not be held over until a later meeting.

Moved by Councillor B Johnson

That in terms of section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the items be dealt with at this meeting.

Seconded by Councillor D Holmes and CARRIED.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SECTION 48(1)(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

- Minutes of the Council meeting held with the public excluded on 16 September 2020
- Appointment to Council Organisation – Destination Wairarapa
- Contract 1-20/22 - Sealed and Unsealed Rehabilitation 2020-2022

Moved by Councillor T Nixon

That in terms of section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the items be dealt with at this meeting.

Seconded by Councillor G McClymont and CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 (141/20)

Moved by Councillor B Johnson

That the minutes of the meeting of the Masterton District Council held on 16 September 2020 be confirmed.

Seconded by Councillor T Nelson and CARRIED

REPORT OF THE AWARDS AND GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 AND 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 (132/20)

The report of the Awards and Grants Committee meeting held on 9 and 16 September was taken as read, noting that the public excluded report was also included as the resolutions had been brought out of public excluded on 30 September 2020. The following items had been considered:

- 2020 Community Wellbeing Grant and Community Events Fund Applications (124/20)
- 2020 Community Wellbeing Grants and Community Events Fund (125/20PE)

Moved by Councillor G Caffell

That the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 19 August 2020 (118/20) including the following resolutions be confirmed:

2020 COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANT AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND APPLICATIONS (124/20)

That the Awards and Grants Committee receives and notes the following:

- 1. Community Wellbeing Grants;**
 - a. receives the applications for the 2020 Community Wellbeing Grants
 - b. notes that 35 grant applications were received, requesting funding over \$3,000
 - c. notes that of those grant applications received, 30 applicants have requested to speak to their applications
 - d. notes that 9 grant applications were received, requesting funding \$3,000 and under, for assessment by Community Development staff.
- 2. Community Events Fund;**
 - a. receives the applications for the 2020 Community Events Fund
 - b. notes that 5 grant applications were received, requesting funding over \$3,000 and all 5 applicants have requested to speak to their applications
 - c. notes that 7 grant applications were received, requesting funding \$3,000 and under for assessment by Community Development staff.

2020 COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND (125/20PE)

That the Awards and Grants Committee:

(a) receives the information in Report 125/20PE

(b) allocates funding for the 2020 Community Wellbeing Grants listed below:

No.	File ID	Organisation	Awards and Grants Committee Allocation
2	110264 1364	Age Concern Wairarapa WOOPs Incorporated	\$3,000.00
3	110217 1363	Alzheimer's Wairarapa Inc	\$0
4	110369 1379	Autism Wairarapa Charitable Trust	\$500.00

No.	File ID	Organisation	Awards and Grants Committee Allocation
5	109980 1356	Community Budgeting Trust (Wairarapa) Inc	\$1,000.00
6	110463 1391	Community Networks Wairarapa	\$2,500.00
7	110367 1377	Connecting Communities Wairarapa	\$0.00
8	110368 1378	Connecting Communities Wairarapa	\$0.00
9	110370 1380	Digital Seniors	\$3,000.00
10	110315 1370	Every Body Is A Treasure Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00
11	110218 1366	Henley Mens Shed Incorporated	\$0.00
12	110319 1371	Hospice Wairarapa Community Trust	\$1,000.00
13	110146	House of Science Wairarapa Charitable Trust	\$2,500.00
14	110465 1392	Joy for Generations	\$2,500.00
15	110260 1367	Kidz Need Dadz	\$1,500.00
16	109225 1350	King Street Artworks Inc	\$5,000.00
17	110085 1358	Life Flight Trust	\$3,000.00
19	110358 1374	Masterton Community Patrol	\$3,000.00
20	110503 1393	Masterton District Brass Band	\$5,000.00
21	110415 1387	Masterton Senior Citizens and Beneficiaries Association	\$0.00
25	110372 1384	Masterton Young Citizens Club Inc	\$5,000.00
24	110270 1369	Motuoru Development Services	\$0.00

No.	File ID	Organisation	Awards and Grants Committee Allocation
26	110326 1372	Oasis Charitable Trust Wairarapa	\$0.00
27	110409 1386	Oxford Street Community Garden	\$1,000.00
29	109634 1353	Parkinson's NZ Charitable Trust - Wairarapa Action Group	\$500.00
28	110200 1361	People First NZ Incorporated	\$2,000.00
30	110371 1385	Rainbow Wairarapa	\$2,000.00
31	110328 1373	Riversdale Surf Lifesaving Club	\$8,000.00
33	110359 1375	Shelter Masterton Incorporated	\$10,000.00
34	110266 1365	(SPCA) Royal NZ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	\$10,000.00
35	110416 1383	Te Awhina Cameron Community House	\$5,000.00
37	109719 1354	Wairarapa Community Centre Trust	\$12,000.00
39	110330 1381	Wairarapa Free Budget Advisory Service	\$0.00
40	110444 1389	Wairarapa Healthy Homes Steering Group	\$10,000.00
41	109581 1352	Wairarapa Search and Rescue	\$3,000.00
42	110462 1390	Wairarapa Youth Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00
43	110417 1388	YETE Partnership	\$0.00
44	110268 1368	YMCA Central Incorporated	\$5,000
			\$117,000.00

(c) allocates funding for the 2020 Community Events Fund listed below:

No.	File ID	Organisation	Event	Awards and Grants Committee Allocation
1	109848	All Kiwi Sports Club	34th NZ International Cycle Classic	\$10,000.00
4	112344	Eastside Community Group	Spring Festival	\$2,770.00
9	110466	Vintage Car Club (Wairarapa Branch)	National Motorcycle Rally	\$5,000.00
10	110448	Wairarapa Arts Festival Trust	2020 Programme - a Kokomai non-festival year	\$2,500.00
12	111025	Wairarapa REAP	Virtual Kapa Haka Festival 2020	\$3,000.00
13	110195	Wings Over Wairarapa	Wings Over Wairarapa Air Festival 2021	\$5,000.00
				\$28,270.00

(d) notes the funding allocations by staff, for the \$3,000 and under applications received for the Community Wellbeing Grant and Community Events Fund as listed in Attachments 1 and 2 to Report 125/20PE.

Seconded by Councillor B Gare and CARRIED

REPORT OF THE HEARINGS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2020 (145/20)

The report of the Hearings Committee meeting held on 30 September was taken as read, noting that the following items had been considered:

- Opaki Water Race Deliberations (142/20)

Moved by Councillor S Ryan

That the Report of the Hearings Committee meeting held 30 September 2020 (145/20) including the following resolutions be confirmed

OPAKI WATER RACE DELIBERATIONS (142/20)

That the Hearings Committee:

- Receives Report 142/20;**
- Determines that it has followed consultation requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002;**

- c. Having considered the requirements under Local Government Act 2002, recommends that Council approves the closure of the Opaki Water Race by 30 June 2026.

Seconded by Councillor C Peterson and CARRIED

OPAKI WATER RACE DELIBERATIONS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (158/20)

A supplementary report was provided in relation to the staff recommendation on the Opaki Water Race Deliberations. The recommendation had captured the intention to close the water race but hadn't provided a role for the Opaki Water Race User Group going forward so it was recommended that the Hearings Committee recommendation be supplemented by the recommendation in the officer's report.

Members supported the recommendation.

Moved by Councillor Mailman

That Council:

- a) **Resolves to Work with the Opaki Water Race Users Committee**
 - i) **in a constructive and inclusionary manner to achieve the closure of the Opaki Water Race.**
 - ii) **to assist them to find alternative water supply options before the closure of the Opaki Water Race.**

Seconded by Councillor B Johnson and CARRIED

REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2020 (146/20)

The report of the Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting held on 7 October 2020 was taken as read, noting that the following items had been considered:

- Infrastructure Update
- Community Facilities and Activities Infrastructure and Services Update
- Three Waters Programme Application Update.

Moved by Councillor Ryan

That the Report of the Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting held 30 September 2020 (146/20) including the following resolutions be confirmed

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE (143/20)

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee notes the information contained in Report 143/20.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE (144/20)

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee notes the contents of Report 144/20.

THREE WATERS PROGRAMME APPLICATION UPDATE (147/20)

That the Infrastructure and Services Committee receive the information contained in Report 147/20.

Seconded by Councillor B Johnson and CARRIED

PROPOSED WAIRARAPA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION BYLAW 2021 (154/20)

The report presenting the proposed Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021 Statement of Proposal for Council's adoption for public consultation was presented by the Manager Assets and Operations.

The Youth Council public forum comment about the need for education in the waste minimisation area was discussed. Staff advised that the bylaw was about regulation but the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan itself had a section about education. Clarification would be provided to the Youth Council.

Moved by Councillor S Ryan

That Council

- a. **Adopts the proposed Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021 Statement of Proposal in Attachment 1 to Report 154/20 (including the draft bylaw and bylaw controls) for public consultation in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedure, as set out by the Local Government Act 2002, and subject to adoption by the Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils;**
- b. **Approves the consultation timeframes and approach described in Report 154/20;**
- c. **Notes the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-23 specifies that the eight councils agree to investigate and if feasible develop, implement and oversee monitoring and enforcement of a regional bylaw, or a suite of regionally consistent bylaws;**
- d. **Notes that in an effort to promote regional consistency across solid waste management and minimisation, bylaw content was collaboratively developed by the eight councils in the Wellington Region. Staff from each Council propose to submit one suite of regionally consistent bylaw provisions for approval to each council for public consultation;**
- e. **Notes that the proposed Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021 will replace the Masterton and South Wairarapa District Council Solid Waste Bylaw 2012;**
- f. **Agrees that, in accordance with section 155 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002, the proposed bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived waste management and minimisation issues;**
- g. **Agrees that, in accordance with sections 155(2) of the Local Government Act 2002, the proposed Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021 is the most appropriate form of bylaw and is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990;**

- h. **Agrees to delegate authority to the Wairarapa Policy Working Group to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations back to the three Wairarapa Councils on the final Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021;**
- i. **Agrees to include elected members from the three Wairarapa District Councils who are appointees to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Joint Committee to support the Wairarapa Policy Working Group to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations back to the three Wairarapa Councils on the final Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021;**
- j. **Agrees to appoint Councillor Frazer Mailman as the Chair to the Wairarapa Policy Working Group for the Wairarapa Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2021 review; and**
- k. **Delegates responsibility to the Chief Executive to amend the proposal to include any amendments agreed by the Council and any minor consequential edits.**

Seconded by Councillor B Gare and CARRIED

MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL RURAL ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTMENTS AND MEETING FEE (133/20)

The report informing Council of appointments made to the Masterton District Council Rural Advisory Group and seeking Council's agreement to the meeting fee to be paid to appointed members was presented by the Manager Strategic Planning.

Moved by Councillor Holmes

That Council

- i. **notes the following appointments to the Masterton District Council Rural Advisory Group for the remainder of the triennium:**
 - **Mark Buick**
 - **Alan Emerson**
 - **Richard Fairbrother**
 - **Todd McIlvride.**
- ii. **agrees that the fee to be paid to each appointed member per meeting is \$150.**

Seconded by Councillor T Nixon and CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE 2020/21 (149/20)

The report seeking Council approval to amend the 2020/21 Fees and Charges Schedule to correct an error identified in the Schedule adopted on 25 June 2020 was presented by the Manager Strategic Planning.

Moved by Councillor F Mailman

That Council:

- a) **approves an amendment to the 2020/21 Fees and Charges Schedule to correct an error identified in the Building Consent Fee section, as follows:**

Amend the fee for Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural consents with a value >\$1,000,000 to \$7,356 plus \$421 per \$100,000 value.

Seconded by Councillor B Johnson and CARRIED

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021 (151/20)

The report seeking Council approval of the proposed schedule of ordinary meetings of Council and its Committees for 2021 was presented by the Manager Strategic Planning.

An amended schedule was tabled, due to changes in the first two dates set for the Audit and Risk Committee meetings to from 24 February to 3 March and from 26 May to 12 May.

Moved Councillor B Gare

That Council approves the schedule of Council and Committee meeting dates for 2021 as set out in Attachment 1 to Report 151/20 as amended.

Seconded by Councillor D Holmes and CARRIED

WAIRARAPA VINTAGE AVIATION CENTRE – PROGRESS REPORT (152/20)

The report providing a progress update on the Wairarapa Vintage Aviation Centre and asking Council to agree to extend the Memorandum of Agreement until February 2021 was presented by the Chief Executive.

Whether the MOA should be extended further than the recommendation was discussed. Members agreed that the proposed date of February 2021 would remain as that would allow the matter to be reassessed then.

Moved by Councillor B Gare

That Council

- a. **Receives Report 152/20 the 'Wairarapa Vintage Aviation Centre – progress report'**
- b. **Agrees to extend the Memorandum of Agreement with the Wairarapa Vintage Aviation Hub Community Trust (the Trust) until February 2021, and notes that Council staff will work with the Trust to ensure pragmatic advice and solutions are provided for.**

Seconded by Councillor Caffell and CARRIED

Councillor Nixon abstained from voting.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (153/20)

The report providing Council with an update (as at 16 October 2020) on Council operations and changes in the national and regional context for Council since the last CEO report to Council dated 16 September 2020 was presented by the Chief Executive.

The growth in the rabbit population, which had now been impacting Queen Elizabeth Park, was discussed. Staff would follow up and report back on how the rabbit situation was being addressed.

Moved by Mayor L Patterson

That Council notes the information in the Chief Executive's Report 153/20.

Seconded by Councillor B Gare and CARRIED

MAYOR'S REPORT (156/20)

The report from the Mayor was taken as read.

Moved Mayor L Patterson

That Council receives the information in the Mayor's report (156/20).

Seconded by Councillor G McClymont and CARRIED

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED **COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020**

MOVED BY: Councillor G Caffell

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting of the Masterton District Council:-

Confirmation of Minutes

18 Minutes of the Council meeting held with the public excluded on 16 September 2020

General Business

19. Appointment to Council Organisation – Destination Wairarapa

20. Contract 1-20/22 - Sealed and Unsealed Rehabilitation 2020-2022

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:-

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Confirmation of Minutes of the Council meeting held with the public excluded on 16 September 2020	Refer to page 109	Refer to page 109

Masterton District Council Appointment to Council Organisation – Destination Wairarapa	7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).	s48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
Contract 1-20/22 - Sealed and Unsealed Rehabilitation 2020-2022	7(2)(i) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	s48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7

SECONDED BY: Councillor S Ryan and CARRIED

The meeting moved into public excluded at 4.27 pm

The meeting moved out of public excluded at 4.40 pm

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm