

Motueka Community Board
Water Allocation Appeal

1. Board members met Environment and Planning Manager Dennis Bush-King and Policy Manager Steve Markham on Monday 1st November to brief members on the water allocation issue, the appeal and mediation process and to answer any queries.
2. At the 13th September 2010 mediation, the various parties agreed to a 'status report' being filed by the 1st November 2010. For the Community Board, because of the elections, this date was not achievable. The court subsequently granted an extension until 3rd December 2010. Nevertheless, it is expected that the Community Board's response will be notified to the court following the 9th November meeting.
3. The Board's basis for it's appeal were:
 - Process and procedural matters relating to the application and to the hearing in September 2009.
 - Allocation is greater than is required and disadvantages Motueka users; transfer to "out of zone" areas unnecessary.
 - Failure to consider the growth needs for Motueka
 - Concern re the 'health of the aquifer'; the "precautionary principle" not sufficiently applied to environmental consequences.
 - Concern re lack of compensation for those affected by draw-down impacts.
 - Climate change factors; river-bed degradation
4. Following the "Briefing" on Monday 1st November, the consensus was that the appeal be withdrawn and the matter settled with the District Council. The Council has instituted some policy amendments and provided assurances and safeguards for the Motueka community supply and for full irrigation of the areas in Motueka served from the Central Plains Zone. The board's anxiety regarding 'out of zone' transfers remains, particularly for the rural and rural residential areas, whose residents currently are required to provide for their own domestic water and fire fighting needs.
5. Recommendation
 - That the Motueka Community Board settle it's appeal with the Tasman District Council and notify the Environment Court accordingly

OR

 - That the Motueka Community Board continue the mediation and appeal process regarding it's appeal of the water allocation rules in the Tasman District Council's resource management plan and that the environment Court be notified accordingly.

David Ogilvie
Chair, Motueka Community Board