

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee  
**FROM:** Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager  
**REFERENCE:** E551  
**DATE:** 4 July 2006  
**SUBJECT:** **NEW HEALTH (DRINKING WATER) AMENDMENT BILL**

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### 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee of the pending Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill and its introduction to Parliament.

### 2 COMMENT

The intention of the new Bill is to make the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 mandatory (DWSNZ2005). Currently it is only voluntary for water suppliers to comply with the DWSNZ2005. Under the legislation water suppliers will need to take "all practicable steps" to provide an adequate supply of drinking water that meets the DWSNZ2005.

Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs) will also become a requirement of the standards.

It is also Government's intention to budget \$136.9 million (plus GST) spread over ten years to provide a subsidy assistance to water suppliers to achieve the standards. The basis for this subsidy is at present being worked through and submissions to the subsidy scheme close on 28 July 2006. (Please refer to the additional report regarding the Drinking Water Assistance Programme).

#### **Subsidy Applications**

Staff are intending to make a submission to the subsidy scheme as detailed in my later report.

There are several steps required to achieve consideration for a subsidy application. At present staff are working through the issues with Ministry of Health staff and PHRMPs are being completed. This will place Council in a position of readiness for if, and when, we do wish to make a subsidy application.

## **Reading in Parliament**

The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill is to get its first reading in Parliament in late July.

### **3 ATTACHMENT**

Please find attached “Drinking Water in New Zealand” Proposed legislation – The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill. These notes are the explanatory notes relating to the proposed Bill.

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT this report be received.**

Jeff Cuthbertson  
**Utilities Asset Manager**