

Public Water Meeting - Dannevirke Impounded Supply



Welcome to the Public Water Meeting about the Impounded Supply in Dannevirke

In an Extraordinary Meeting on 31 October 2023, Councillors and the public were updated on the detailed design for repairs to the dam and the outcome of peer review workshops.

In this meeting Council passed the following recommendations to reduce risk to Dannevirke's water supply in the short to medium term, while also adding long-term resilience to the impounded supply:

- Funding of \$3.2 million for raw water or water from source pre-treatment and \$400,000 to purchase a raw water storage Kliptank and a further \$2.5 million for a 6 Mega litre treated water storage tank.
- Delay the decision on the physical works that were previously earmarked for starting January 2024, due to outstanding geotechnical investigations, supply challenges with sourcing a pre-treatment facility, and issues relating to the liner system.

This Public Water meeting about the Impounded Supply is held to provide the community with an update on the Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply, and to answer your questions.

This meeting will be recorded and made available on Council's Facebook page and website.

This information pack consists of:

- **Agenda**
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**
- **An article explaining what decisions were made about the Dannevirke Impounded Supply in the Extraordinary Council meeting on 31 October 2023**
- **A graphic which shows the Impounded Supply and what is being planned**

Agenda for the Public Water Meeting (6.30pm - 8.30pm) at the Hub:

- Opening and Introductions
- History of the Impounded Supply
- Leaks and Temporary Repairs
- What is the Problem?
- Water Supply Risk Mitigation Measures
- Extraordinary Council Meeting (Key Outcomes including Funding Model)
- Detailed Design of Remediation Works
- Expectations for Summer 23/24
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Dannevirke Impounded Supply

What was decided at the recent extraordinary Council meeting about the Dannevirke Impounded Supply?

Council passed resolutions that included funding of \$3.2 million for raw water pre-treatment and \$400,000 to purchase a raw water storage tank and a further \$2.5 million for a 6 million litre treated water storage tank. Council also decided to delay the decision whether to repair the Impounded Supply. This was due to outstanding geotechnical investigations, supply challenges with sourcing a pre-treatment facility and issues relating to the impounded supply liner system.

Why was pre-treatment and additional storage recommended?

The purpose of pre-treatment is so we can continue to treat water from the Tamaki River, even when the water becomes murky during heavy rain events. This should reduce the need to issue boil water notices. The extra water tanks will provide additional storage and resilience in periods of high water turbidity and low river flows.

Why was it decided to delay the decision to repair the Impounded Supply and when will the repairs happen?

This is because we are unable to deploy pre-treatment before May 2024, and we still need the stored water in the Impounded Supply until that time. In addition, we don't have all the information yet to make an informed decision as to whether to repair or not.

Will the community have the opportunity to have their say on this issue?

A public water meeting was held on Tuesday 28th of November which was recorded and made available on the council website and facebook. The focus of this meeting was to answer questions from the community.

Due to the urgency of this issue, Council did not formally consult on installing the recommended pre-treatment and storage. However, Council expects to consult with the community next year to make decisions on the future of the Dannevirke Impounded Supply.

What will treating water directly from the Tamaki River involve – will the water still be safe to drink?

Yes, the water continues to be safe to drink. Samples are taken every week from different locations across Dannevirke and tested. Installing raw water pre-treatment will provide greater resilience during extreme weather conditions.

Could the impounded water supply fail?

After the temporary repairs in June this year, the impounded supply was stabilised, however, it has continued to present some deterioration and it is possible the volume of water held in the impounded supply will have to be reduced further. That is why Council has decided to install raw water pre-treatment and additional treated storage capacity. Our teams are monitoring the impounded supply daily to watch out for any further deterioration. The impounded supply is physically inspected every day and electronic data is monitored daily.

How do we pay for it?

The purchase and installation of the pre-treatment plant and storage tanks will be funded through a loan. This will reduce Council's debt headroom. The principal amount of the loan and the interest will be repaid over time by ratepayers that are connected to Council water schemes in our district.

How long will it take to repay this loan?

This debt is intergenerational – paid over the minimum of 20 years or the life of the assets.

Why will ratepayers connected to Council waterschemes that do not live in Dannevirke pay for this?

Council has multiple water and wastewater treatment facilities for communities in our District. It is not affordable for properties connected to these schemes in each town in Tararua to pay for these costs themselves. That is why the operations, maintenance and improvement to these schemes are cross-subsided and prioritised based on needs.

How much rates will I have to pay because of the decisions made to date about the Dannevirke Impounded Supply?

If the \$6,100,000 loan is spread out over 20 years, the annual repayment will be around \$368,190 (this includes GST and interest). That equates to about \$63 annually for ratepayers connected to Council waterschemes.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Dannevirke Impounded Supply (continued)

What is the full rates impact for all decisions made to date about the Impounded Supply?

\$1.085 million was previously approved in September 2022 – this debt and rates impact has been factored into the rates increase in the 2023/2024 Annual Plan.

In July 2023 an additional \$900,000 was approved for the remedial works that had been carried out in May/June 2023 and for detailed design work for the repairs to be conducted.

Together with the \$6,100,000 which was approved at the extraordinary Council Meeting of the 31 October that equates to a total of \$8,100,000 funding approved.

If interest costs (approx. \$196,000 for first year and \$392,000 second year onwards) and depreciation costs (approx. at \$140,000 per year) are factored in, the estimated rates increase is \$100.33 per year for ratepayers connected to Council water schemes.

Will we have extra water restrictions this summer?

Yes, it is likely there will be water restrictions this summer because of predicted dry weather conditions and low river flows. Our current resource consent requires Council to limit water extraction from the Tamaki River if it runs low. That means that Council cannot take enough water from the river to meet the town's water demands, which could result in water restrictions.

What is the Council doing to ensure Dannevirke will have enough water supply through a possible drought?

The likelihood of a long dry summer is one of the considerations leading to the recommendation not to dewater the Impounded Water Supply this November as was initially planned. This means that this summer, we can expect to have the stored water in the dam as a contingency backup. Work is also underway to investigate potential underground water sources, and we are looking at options for making available 200L rainwater tanks for the public to purchase at cost. We will update the community in the near future about this initiative.

Is there anything I can do to be more prepared this summer?

The best way to prepare for an El Nino summer and any potential drought is to have a plan, harvest rainwater and think about water conservation in our daily lives. Council will also be providing regular updates and information on how to conserve water. Please remember to fill up swimming pools, and tackle those outdoor cleaning projects like water blasting now, while there is less pressure on our water supply.

Could the Tamaki River run dry? What's the contingency plan if that happened?

Although this has not happened since records began, there is a risk that the river could run dry. This is also one of the reasons to delay the planned repairs now so we can still rely on the impounded water supply as a contingency backup throughout dry weather conditions this summer. It is also a reason why additional treated water storage has been recommended.

If you have questions about the Impounded Supply that have not been answered in these FAQs or during this public meeting please contact us on: info@tararua.govt.nz

On Wednesday, 29 November there will also be Facebook live session from 6.30pm-7.30pm. Tune in to ask your questions and have them answered by our Elected Members and Project staff.

**For more information please refer to:
www.tararua.govt.nz/damrepair**

Decisions made on the Dannevirke impounded water supply

This is a media release which was sent out on 1 November - after the Extraordinary Council meeting took place.

Tararua District Council met on Tuesday 31 October to progress solutions for Dannevirke's impounded water supply.

In this Extraordinary Meeting, Councillors and the public were updated on the detailed design for repairs to the dam and the outcome of recent peer review workshops. Funding of \$3.2 million was sought for raw water or water from source pre-treatment and \$400,000 to purchase a raw water storage Kliptank and a further \$2.5 million for a 6 Mega litre treated water storage tank.

Another key focus of the meeting was for councillors to consider the recommendation to delay a decision on the physical works that were previously earmarked for starting January 2024, due to outstanding geotechnical investigations, supply challenges with sourcing a pre-treatment facility, and issues relating to the liner system.

The paper prepared for the meeting by the Project Team working on the Impounded Supply proposed these improvements be considered under urgency to reduce risk to Dannevirke's water supply in the short to medium term, while also adding long-term resilience to the impounded supply.

All these recommendations were passed by Council. However, the decisions weighed heavily on the Councillors as they had to strike a delicate balance between community safety and the financial impact on ratepayers. There were divided opinions among the Councillors, with Councillor Johns, Long, and Wallace, opposing the purchase of the treatment plant and Kliptank. Councillor Long also voted against allocating \$2.5 million for the treated water storage tank.

Council expects to go out to the public to consult on options for the physical works to the Impounded Supply next year. A public meeting has been planned to provide an opportunity for the public to discuss the decisions. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 6.30-8.30pm at the Hub.

Tararua District Council Mayor Tracey Collis says that while a delay to the physical works is frustrating for the team and community: "We have to take seriously the latest recommendations from our technical advisors, because we have to get this right."

At the same time, work continues on options for permanent repairs to the dam. "Because of the significant amount of investment needed for permanent repairs we will need to consult with the community on those options. By the time we consult, we will know whether supplementary sources are viable."

Two test bores are being drilled at sites on Laws Road this week to explore the potential for drawing water adjacent to the Tamaki River underground, which could potentially provide a supplementary source, further increasing resilience. Council expects to have an indication of the viability of the bores by the end of the year.

"The pre-treatment facility we are looking to purchase could be installed in May 2024 and the extra water storage operational in six months. A silver lining to the delay to physical works on the dam is that we won't have to dewater the dam this year as previously thought. This means we should have the impounded supply as part of our water supply system throughout the El Nino summer, which is forecast to see dry conditions across the district."

The pre-treatment facility won't just be for Dannevirke - it is intended to be transportable so if it is needed in other parts of the district in the future, it can be relocated. "We are also actively looking into making available 200L rainwater tanks at cost to the whole Tararua community, and expect to be able to update you soon on this initiative."

"We know the long-term problems with the impounded supply are still there and the project team is working incredibly hard to get all the information we need to enable a decision to be made on a permanent fix, while concurrently fast tracking the water treatment and storage measures that will increase resilience in both the short and long term."

The report says the latest advice Council has been given after the temporary repairs in June 2023 is that the impounded supply has continued to deteriorate but the risk of imminent failure is less likely.

“While this is reassuring we are doing everything we can to mitigate against the risk of dam failure in the coming months. This includes dam safety monitoring to provide early warning of any further deterioration – providing the best chance to act to maintain the dam and keep it operational and operating the dam at a maximum depth of 8m.”

“The biggest threat to water supply at the moment is the coming weather. If there is little rain we will still be able to draw water from the Tamaki River but at a low take – however, this would mean water restrictions and boil water notices at times if there is high turbidity. It is important that we are realistic about this as a community and take collective and individual action now.”

“We all need to be thinking about fixing leaks, getting the water blasting done and filling up home emergency water supplies in November and being ready to start conserving from December or as soon as the weather turns.”

Dannevirke Water Supply



