

Council's Long Term Plan and you



Council is currently asking for public input into its draft 2012 - 2022 Long Term Plan. The plan outlines what the Council intends to provide to the community over the next ten years and beyond.

We want your opinion on the preferred option for:

- Water supply upgrades to comply with current standards.
- Required sewerage system renewals (this affects those in Runanga and Dunollie who are connected to the network).

Water and sewerage are funded from targeted rates, which means the choices made here have a direct impact on the rates payable by you

This flyer contains information on only a small part of what is contained in our complete draft Long Term Plan. You can view a copy of the full plan or summary version of the full plan by either:

- Visiting our website: www.greycdc.govt.nz
- Picking up a printed copy from Runanga Service Centre or Council's main office in Greymouth

A written submission can be made on the draft Long Term Plan up until 5.00 pm on 28 May 2012

Water Supply

Background

Recent contamination (E-coli) of the water supply has highlighted that we are not really providing a water service that can be expected in this day and age. Also, under the latest *Health (Drinking Water) Act* a supplier of water, such as GDC, providing water to a community the size of Runanga/Dunollie/Coal Creek/Rapahoe has to comply with the Act by 1 July 2014. This includes a duty for us to:

- Take all practical steps to ensure that the drinking water complies with the drinking water standards (DWSNZ);

- Take reasonable steps to contribute to the protection of the **source** of drinking water; and
- Take reasonable steps to supply *wholesome* drinking water.

Wholesome water is defined as water that does not have any contamination that are above maximum accepted values.

The Drinking Water Standards are aimed at providing multiple levels of protection through:

- Minimising contamination of the source;
- Removing small particles;
- Disinfection to make any micro-organisms harmless; and
- Protecting the water in the pipes from any subsequent contamination after treatment.

The most practical options for the Runanga/Dunollie/Rapahoe/Coal Creek scheme to meet Drinking Water Standards are set out below.

Each option has a capital cost (i.e. new plant required) and an operating cost to run and maintain the system. The capital cost is funded from a loan and then repaid over 30 years. A subsidy from the Ministry of Health is likely to be available towards the capital cost, however they will only subsidise the most practical option. The annual loan repayment plus annual operating and maintenance costs are funded from the targeted rate.

The costs signalled below are additional to the current water rate paid.

options and costs	additional cost per year per ratepayer	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1. Upgrade the existing source to meet new standards and continue with no chlorination	\$230	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water at the source will be protected from contamination • No chlorine added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher cost (unlikely for any subsidy to upgrade) • Network can still become contaminated after treatment at the source, as with no chlorine in the water there is no protection once it leaves the source (i.e. no protection from contamination in the pipes). Boil water notices will be required from time to time and temporary chlorination to clear contamination
2. Connect to the Greymouth scheme (water sourced from Grey River - Coal Creek Plant) and accept chlorinated water	\$152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower cost (likely to attract a subsidy) • Water source and network fully protected from contamination (a boil water notice should be rare) • Same level of protection as other Council supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorine permanently added to water*
3. Connect to Greymouth scheme and remove chlorine from water before distributing to Runanga/Dunollie/Coal Creek/Rapahoe	\$307	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water at the source will be protected from contamination • Chlorine removed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher cost (unlikely for any subsidy to upgrade) • Network can still become contaminated after treatment at the source, as with no chlorine in the water there is no protection once it leaves the source (i.e. no protection from contamination in the pipes). Boil water notices will be required from time to time and temporary chlorination to clear contamination

*

* NOTE: if a chlorinated option is implemented, residents can still chose to install their own filter that would remove most of the chlorine taste

Sewerage



The Runanga sewer treatment plant is in need of upgrading in order for Council to meet the operations and discharge requirements in its Resource Consents.

Also, the pipe network in Runanga needs to be replaced in order to fix the historical system failures that are becoming more evident. This includes pipes collapsing and ground water entering into the system through cracks and holes in the pipes and results in sewage overflows during heavier rainfall.

In the draft Long term Plan Council is signalling to:

- upgrade the treatment plant in year 2 (2013/14); and
- begin the pipe replacement from year 3 (2014/15) and stage over 12 years.

This is the maximum time that Council believes the replacement can be extended over. Total expenditure is approximately **\$3.2 million**.

Under this proposal, the targeted rates would increase by an average of **\$45 per year** over the 12 years (\$70 in the first year and then less after that)

OPTIONS FOR SEWERAGE RENEWALS:

1. As signalled above, upgrade treatment plant and then replace pipes over 12 years

PROS: rate increases are spread out over a longer period

CONS: system failures may become more frequent and serious

2. Upgrade treatment plant and then replace pipes sooner (over 6 years)

PROS: any serious failures of system less likely

CONS: rates will increase sooner - average increase of \$85 per year over 6 years

Other funding

There is currently approximately \$475,000 in the Runanga Area Infrastructure Reserve. Part of the renewal of the sewerage or upgrade of the water supply could be funded from this reserve. For each \$100,000 of the capital cost funded from the reserve, the **targeted rate** required would reduce by **\$15.00**.

(None of the costings provided here account for usage of the reserve funds).

Public meetings

To have further discussion on these issues and to answer any questions you may have, public meetings will be held as follows:

- 3.30 pm Tuesday 08 May 2012: Runanga School Hall
- 7.00 pm Thursday 10 May 2012: Runanga School Hall

Draft rates search

You can search what your draft rates will be for 2012/2013 on our website: www.greydc.govt.nz

Note: They don't include any increase for water supply upgrade or sewerage renewal as this would not affect rates until 2013/2014.

Make a submission

You can make a submission to Council's draft Long Term Plan on this and any other relevant issue. You can also speak to your submission at a Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 13 June 2012. Please indicate clearly on your submission if you would like speaking rights.

Submissions must be received no later than **5.00 pm on Monday 28 May 2012**. Please send your submission to:

- Grey District Council, PO Box 382, GREYMOUTH 7840 or
- Email submissions@greydc.govt.nz

Council will also be polling the ratepayers in the area on their preferred option