



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

Contact: Paul Wheatcroft, Communications Manager, 027 24 33 064

Date: Friday 18 November 2011.

COUNCIL AND CONTRACTORS WORK LATE TO RETURN WATER TO 24 HR BUSINESSES ON HAKIAHA ST

Water Services staff from Ruapehu District Council (RDC) and its water contractor Veolia Water (ex United Water) had a long day yesterday (Thursday 17 November) responding to a mains outage on Hakiaha St that supplied both of Taumarunui's two 24 hour businesses.

RDC Team Leader Environment, Anne-Marie Westcott, said that council's after-hours service was alerted around 9:00pm last night by a vigilant member of the public who reported a water leak on the main road outside the BP.

"Unfortunately the leak affected both McDonalds and BP who were without water for around three hours while the repair work was undertaken," she said.

"Before any repair work could get underway the surrounding area needed to be isolated, other services such as phone and power located, and traffic management established."

Ms Westcott said that the repair crew found that the an 'elbow coupling' on a 50mm pipe that ran off the 375mm water main had split along the 45^o elbow join.

"The split was most probably due to the increased traffic volume on Hakiaha St which is also part of State Highway 4."

"Veolia replaced the split elbow coupling with a brass one which is more likely to be able to withstand the increasing traffic volume along Hakiaha St/SH 4."

Ms Westcott added that Veolia and RDC were assisted by the local representatives of other contractors from EDI Downers, Telecom and The Lines Company who all did a fantastic job in returning the water supply to normal in the shortest possible timeframe and with the least disruption.

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW



Council contractors at work repairing the water main outside Taumarunui's two 24 hour businesses - McDonalds and the BP on Hakiaha St.