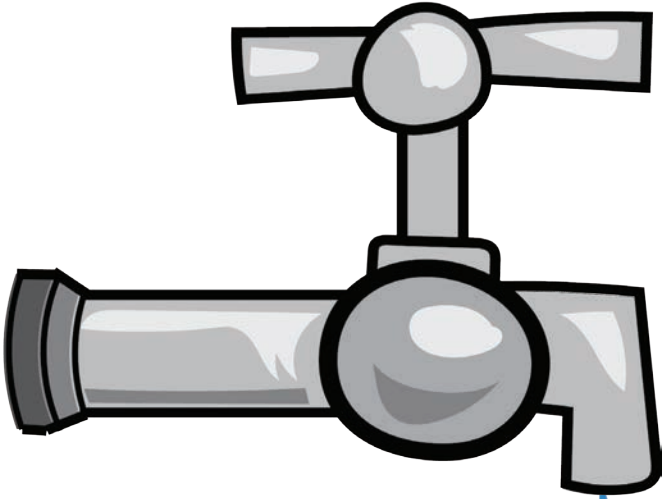
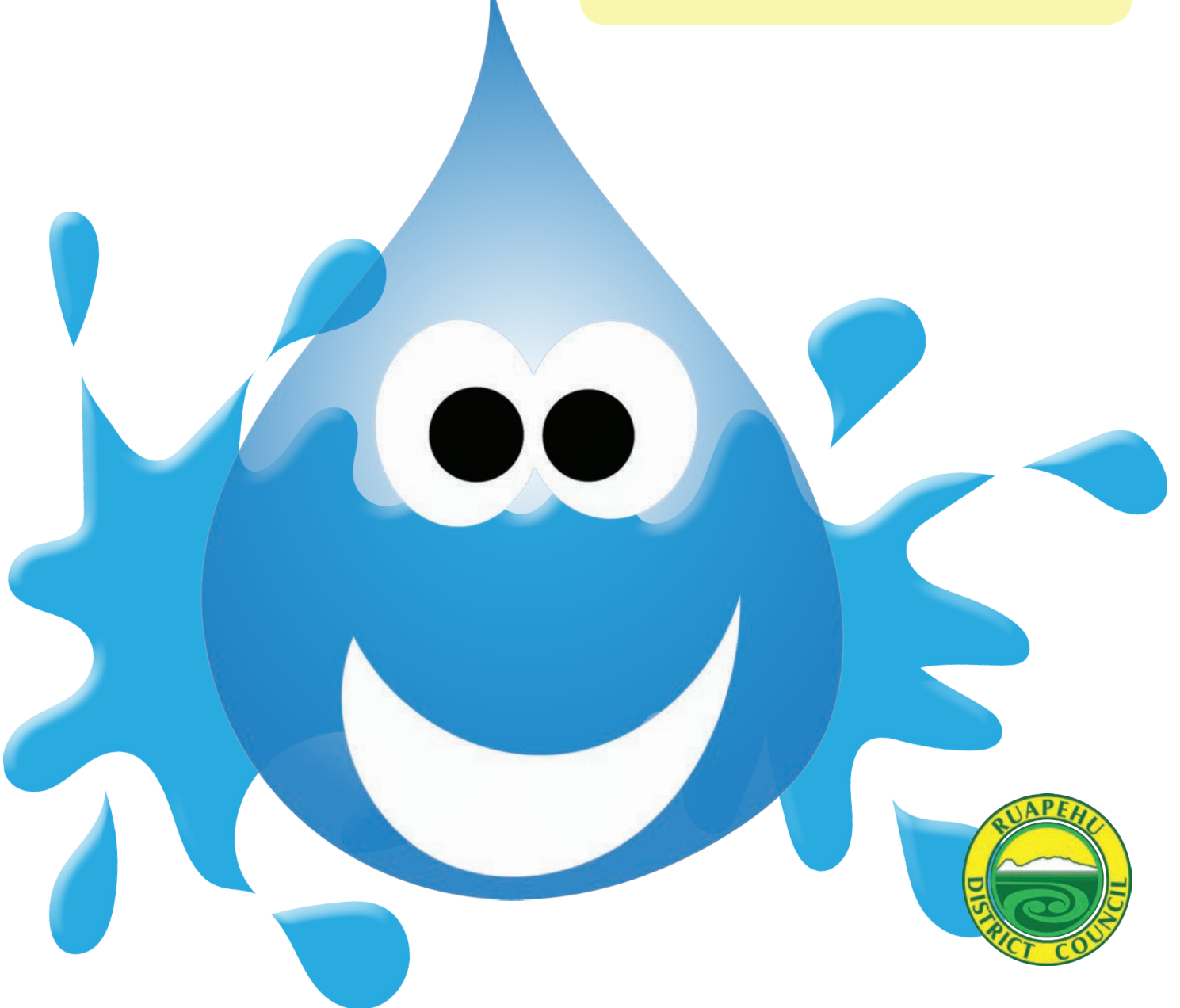


# OHURA

# DRINKING WATER SUPPLY REFERENDUM



- The (referendum) question
- Who can vote?
- What Ohura residents and ratepayers need to consider before they vote



# The question



On 27 November 2014 residents and ratepayers of Ohura will be asked in a **binding postal referendum** whether they support, or do not support, the proposal to close the current Water Treatment Plant and scheme that supplies drinking water to Ohura. The voting period for this poll will be from Wednesday 5 November to midday on Thursday 27 November 2014.

**The question that will be asked in the referendum is:**

***Do you want the Ohura Water Treatment Plant and Scheme which provides drinking water to the township to be closed?***

**There are two answer options:**

**YES – I agree.      *The Ohura Water Treatment Plant and Scheme should be closed.***

**NO – I disagree.      *The Ohura Water Treatment Plant and Scheme should not be closed.***

If you answer YES, this means you agree that the Water Treatment Plant should be closed.

If you answer NO, this means you want the Water Treatment Plant to stay operating.

# Who can vote?



## Residents of Ohura

Residents over 18 IF they live in a property that is connected to the Ohura Water Scheme and they are registered on the parliamentary electoral roll (General or Maori electorates).

Or

## Non-resident Ohura ratepayers

Any person paying rates on a property connected to the Ohura Water Scheme who lives outside the defined area for the Ohura Water Scheme, provided they are enrolled on the Ruapehu District Council's ratepayer roll.

## Examples of these situations:

- One or more enrolled electors over 18 in a house connected to the Ohura Water Scheme - They can all vote as residential electors (regardless of who owns the property).
- A ratepayer owns a property connected to the Ohura Water Scheme and lives outside of the Ohura Water Scheme area - They can enrol as a ratepayer elector.
- A husband and wife own a property connected to the Ohura Water Scheme and live outside of the Ohura Water Scheme area - one of them can be nominated as a ratepayer elector to vote on behalf of the partnership.
- A husband and wife own several properties connected to the Ohura Water Scheme and live outside of the Ohura Water Scheme area – If the properties are all listed under the same name, one of them can be nominated as a ratepayer elector to vote on behalf of the partnership. Note only qualify for one vote, irrespective of the number of properties owned.
- A business or trust owns a property connected to the Ohura Water Scheme and the owners or trustees live outside of the Ohura Water Scheme area – a representative of the business or trust can be nominated as a ratepayer elector to vote on behalf of the entity.

**No person is entitled to vote more than once at the same election or poll.**

If you are not sure if you are on the ratepayer roll, or have any questions regarding your right to vote, call Electionz.com on 0508 666 100.

# Things to think about?



Whether or not the Ohura Water Treatment Plant closes is a decision that the Ohura Community needs to make. Whatever the community decides in this referendum is what will happen going forward.

**The vote is binding.** All the options have their pros and cons. You need to weigh up the increasing costs of council providing water through the water treatment plant, against the costs of installing a water tank, and the ongoing costs of maintaining the water tank.

## **Some of the issues that need careful consideration include:**

- What is affordable and sustainable?
- Ohura's declining population: Under the current scheme means the cost of water for the remaining properties goes up as users drop-off (less people paying).
- The age and condition of the current water pipes: The high cost of on-going maintenance, and capital replacement (of pipes) in the town and scheme.
- The cost of installing and maintaining water tanks.
- Potential health issues.
- Dry summers: How much water will you need if you switch to tanks?

These are just some of the important issues that need to be considered before voting in the referendum. In the run-up to the postal referendum in November council will continue to provide information on a regular basis to help the community make their decision.

**In the interim if you have any questions whatsoever please call council on 07 895 8188.**