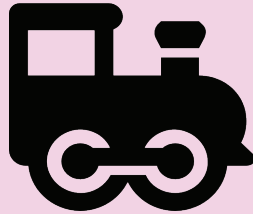


Alternative water supply options

Ohura river?



Railway dam?



Golf course water bore & other bores?



- Other water supply options
- Railway dam cost of access
- How much \$\$ will I save on a water tank?

Alternative water sources & respective issues



There are three alternative water source options besides the current scheme and roof fed tanks being; Ohura River, Railway Dam and the Golf Course bore or others.

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) has had a Water Engineer investigate all identified water source options as part of this referendum process.

The analysis of each option investigated whether it was a 'viable and economically sustainable' solution.

What are the issues?



Ohura River

The water in the Ohura River has a similar chemical profile and other properties to the current water source (Mangapare Stream). This is one of the significant issues which adds to the high costs of the current water scheme being the low quality of the water and the amount of treatment it requires.

This means that a high level of technical skill is required to operate the Ohura Water Treatment Plant making a local resident run scheme as in Piriaka unfeasible. Costs for treating water from the Ohura Stream would be the same as current scheme. The Ohura River is not a cheaper, cost saving option.



Golf Course bore or others

The Golf Course bore is not a reliable water source. Over the summer period it dried up completely and therefore is not a viable option. Locating a sustainable water source with another bore would be an expensive process with no guarantee of success. This option will not lower the overall cost of supplying water to Ohura.



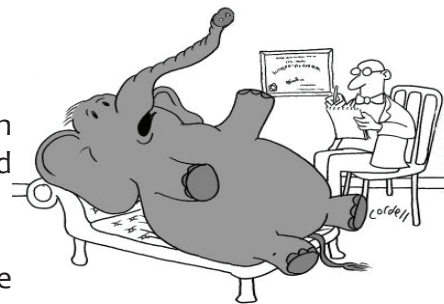
Railway Dam

The Railway Dam dried out during the 2013 drought and has been dry over several other periods since 2005. The other significant issues associated with the Railway Dam as a water source are the costs of relocating the Water Treatment Plant, installing piping to town and upgrading the current reticulated (water pipe) network. These would be in the vicinity \$3.2 million and as such severely unaffordable for the community.

The findings of the Water Engineer investigation into the Ohura River, Railway Dam and bore options has found that they are not viable economic solutions. The risk of the Railway Dam and the Golf Course bore drying out in summer means they are not reliable water sources for year round supply.

Falling population & rising costs not water source key issue

The ‘elephant in the room’ with any solution is Ohura’s falling population and the rising costs of supply. This fundamental problem is not addressed by changing the water supply source.



"Whenever I walk in a room, everyone ignores me."

The costs associated with investigating and changing the water source will only make the issues of economic sustainability significantly worse.

Railway Dam - why is it not a good option?

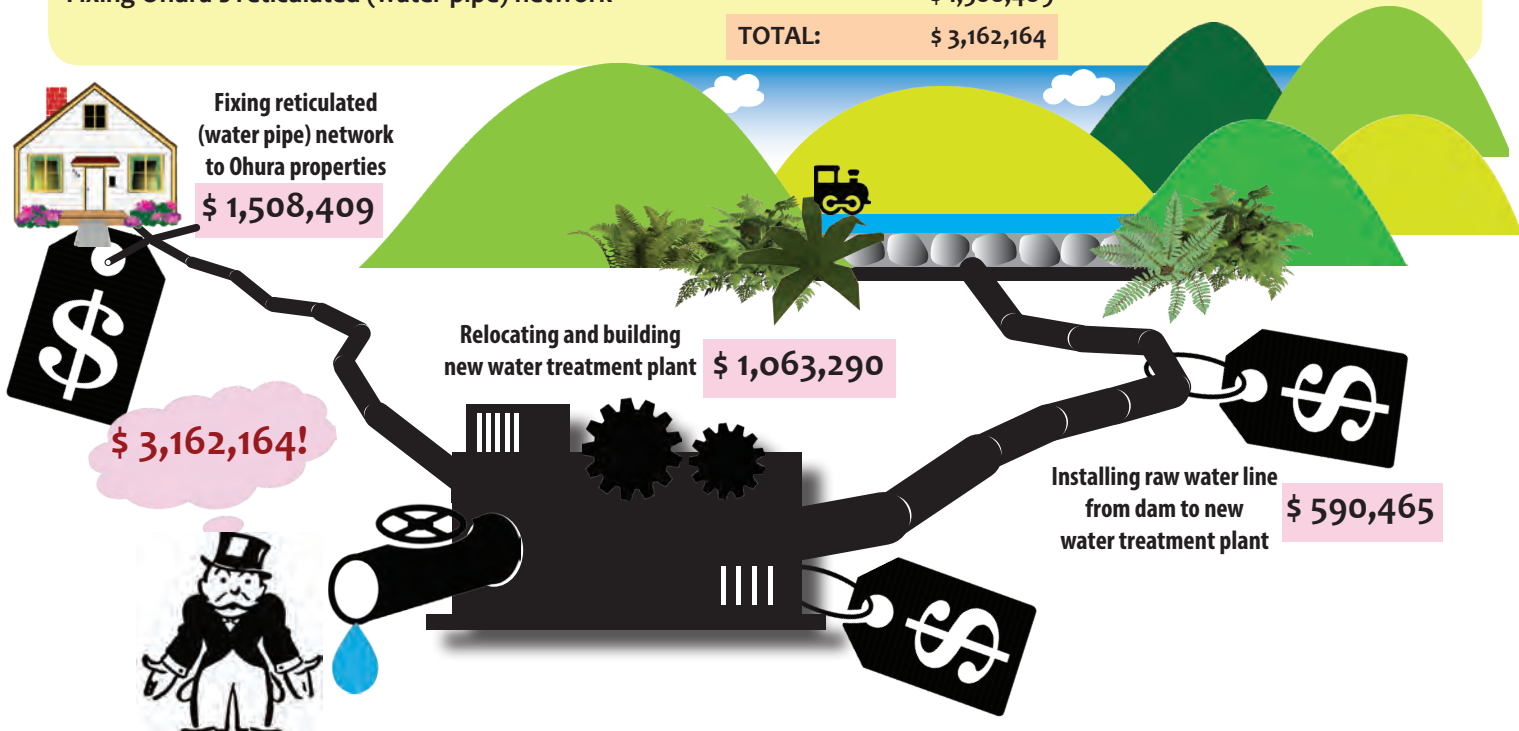
The unsustainability of Ohura’s current water supply arrangements has seen Council consider and investigate all potential options including the Railway Dam as a water source. To this effect a detailed report on Ohura water supply options including the Railway Dam was presented to Council on 27 October 2000.

At the time the report highlighted that moving Ohura’s water source to the Railway Dam was the most expensive of all the options. In addition to its high cost the Railway Dam is not a reliable water source over dry periods. The dam was inspected during last year’s (2013) drought and was found to be dry.

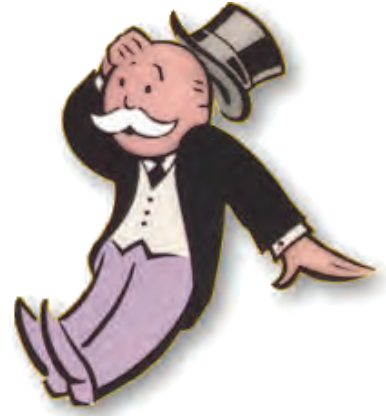
Council has had the costs associated with moving Ohura’s water source to the Railway Dam updated. Putting the issue of the Railway Dam as a reliable water source to one side the costs related to developing it would include; building a new water treatment plant, laying piping from the dam to town, and fixing Ohura’s old reticulated (water pipe) network.

Current cost estimates of using the Railway Dam as a water source

Relocating and building new water treatment plant	\$ 1,063,290
Raw water line (piping) from dam to plant/township	\$ 590,465
Fixing Ohura’s reticulated (water pipe) network	\$ 1,508,409
TOTAL:	\$ 3,162,164



How will **not** closing the water treatment plant impact financially on individual ratepayers?

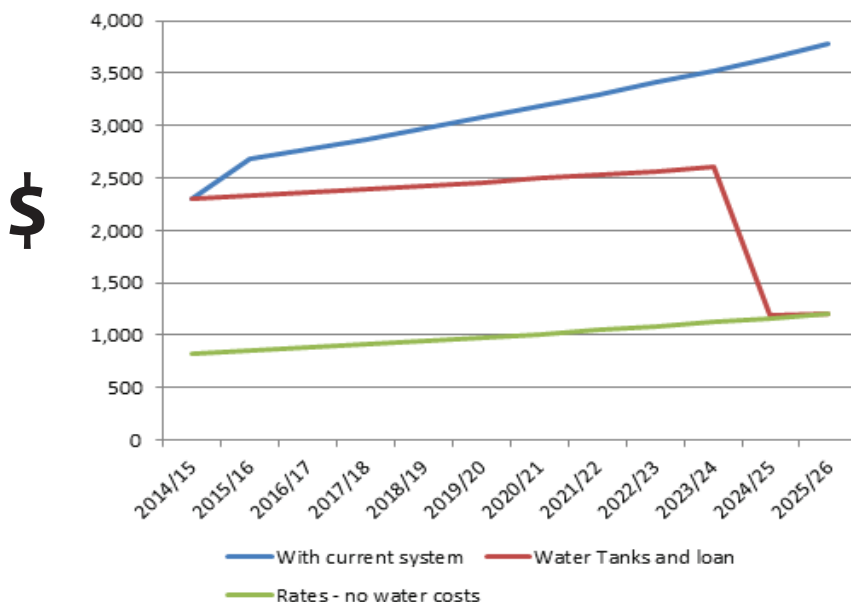


Not closing the Ohura water treatment plant will mean significant increases in water rates for residents and ratepayers on the scheme. A comparison showing the next ten years of Ohura rates with the current system compared to what costs would be on water tanks shows significant personal savings.

- Over ten years rates without any changes to the current system will total **\$37,111**.
- Over ten years rates with changing to water tanks, and taking a loan with council **\$26,894**
- Over ten years rates with no water charges rates will be **\$12,032**
- Cost of installing water tanks will be (for most properties) **\$12,000**
- Water rates set to go up **\$300** next year to cover depreciation

In addition the current water treatment plant and reticulated (water pipe) network require remedial work. This will further increase costs for ratepayers.

Difference in costs over 10 years



Note!

Mayor Don will be out & about in Ohura over the next few weeks to answer any questions. More details will be advised as soon as they **are confirmed**

Next Public meeting

Wednesday 29 October
Ohura Club
4.00pm

Please note that council staff are happy to meet personally with whoever wants to do so. If however you have a specific question you need answered please do not hesitate to contact council directly. You can also:



Email a question to: info@ruapehudc.govt.nz with 'Ohura referendum' in the subject line



Phone Pauline Welch at council on 07 895 8188