



Ref: OIA #20-014
#7398865
David Down
David.down@porirua.govt.nz

25 February 2020

Chris Marshall

Via email: chris.marshall@fairfaxmedia.co.nz

Dear Chris Marshall

Response to official information request for rainwater tank use and Council's regulations and practices

I refer to your request for official information received 30 January 2020 relating to rainwater tank use and Council's regulations and practices. We have processed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987.

The questions you specified have been included as numbered headings in bold below, with our response following each heading.

1. Does your council allow the collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use?

- Porirua City Council have no rules prohibiting or requiring collection and use of rainwater. The homeowner is free to collect rainwater if they wish, however the regulated use of rainwater for permanent potable supply is confined to rural areas where there is no public water supply.
- Porirua City Council requires that a residential property within the urban water supply area is connected to the urban supply.
- Porirua City Council does however encourage the installation of small rainwater tanks on urban properties to provide an emergency supply for use in the event used in the event of water shortage or total loss of water.

2. Does the council set limits on what this water can be used for? Such as...

- No, however if the homeowner wished to use the rainwater supply for potable domestic purposes the pipe work would have to be separate from the pipe work carrying the public supply.

3. How actively is the collection of rainwater encouraged – including via tools like bylaws?

- Porirua City Council does not have any formal regulation encouraging the use of rainwater.

4. What concerns does the council have about a homeowner collecting and using rainwater – other than health concerns (contamination from animal or birds of their faeces)?

- Porirua City Council doesn't have any specific regulations regarding tanks except as required by the Building Act for safe installation.
- Regarding health concerns an additional major concern would be potential for cross-contamination from an unprotected rainwater source to a public supply where the two plumbing systems were to be connected.

5. How much money does the council intend to spend on upgrading water supplies (reticulation infrastructure, treatment stations etc) for domestic household use in the next five years?

- The current Long-term Plan 2018-38 sets aside \$19.3 million over the next five years for water supply upgrade (additional capacity and increased level of service). We have recently received an update from Wellington Water advising that we will need to budget significantly more in the next Long Term Plan.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact David Down, Water and Waste Manager on telephone: 04 237 1503 or email: david.down@porirua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Wendy Walker
Chief Executive
Kaiwhakahaere Matua