

Investments to enhance and protect our Environment:

The Council proposes significant investments to enhance and protect our environment over the next 10 years to:

Fulfil obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 at a cost of \$1.2 million over the next three years, including \$197,000 operating expenditure and \$95,000 capital expenditure for 2021-2022

Process remaining environmental data to realise the benefits from seabed mapping at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million over the next six years

New Zealand's and New Zealanders haphazard and past uncoordinated approaches to water use and waste management [of all kinds] often lagged behind best international practice. When the "she'll be right" attitude is combined with the country's slow pace of preparedness for climate change induced water shortages, the Government's new rules for freshwater management are a worthy and important step towards correcting past damage.

Monitoring and scientific collection of; use, discharge and quality parameters are essential if accurate baseline data is to be established. Necessary controls can then be enforced. If we as a Region want to encourage growth within our key economic sectors, understanding each's water demand now [and in the future] along with each sector's impact on quality and quantity of supply, is essential.

Water storage:

While discussing water I believe that Marlborough's new build resource consents should require the installation of grey water recycling systems and the collection of rooftop rain water for garden and green space irrigation.

Not only do we need to collect water data and monitor this resource's use and quality, we all need to value the commodity.

The Marlborough Sounds:

I appreciate that balancing of expenditure priorities is required to keep the overall rate rise within Council's desired range. However is 2029 [deferred to 2023+6years] soon enough to be generating data required to help settle the Marlborough Environment Plan and to have up to date data available for NZ's scientific communities?

The nature of the Region's topography requires stewardship of the coastline and the sea bed within the Sounds. Process remaining environmental data, like pipes under the ground is not an immediately "visible" activity, but represents the completion stage following the physical mapping process.

The contentious issue of the negative effects of forestry generated harvesting sediments and the impacts of seabed ecology have been well canvassed as have nitrogen [and other nutrient] land run off in to the Sounds.

The LTP proposes increasing investment in our environment. Without developing the knowledge that monitoring generates, there is no wisdom produced to understand and promote the best environmentally sustainable pathway/s forward.