



Submission on the Notice of Requirement for the Proposed Prince of Wales Park – Omāroro reservoir

Introduction

The Newtown Residents' Association, an Incorporated Society since July 1963, is the association for the people of Newtown and surrounding suburbs of Wellington. The Association has previously supported the initiative to build the Prince of Wales – Omāroro Reservoir subject to the mitigation of concerns about the impact of construction on the environment and on neighbouring properties. Our views are that these two issues continue to be very important to the successful completion of this infrastructure.

Submission

Our concerns relate principally to the design and construction of the reservoir. The impact on Mt Cook residents and particularly those in Rolleston St will be substantial over a long period of time. Therefore the hours for trucks coming and going from the site should be subject to further discussion by residents, Wellington Water and the contractors. Close liaison with affected residents is extremely important and will assist them to manage this disruption. The liaison undertaken in relation to the construction of the Arras tunnel and Pukeahu Park provide a good model for this.

The Waitangi Stream tributary and the Papawai Stream need to be protected from silt. The latter stream is a restoration area where native fish and koura could be at risk. The excavation and the stockpiling of dirt and the possibility of the presence of DDT in soil in the top field means that these piles of dirt need to be contained and not be subject to run-off. The public also needs to be effectively excluded from this area.

Alternative pedestrian routes through the Town Belt will also be needed along with good signage for walkers, as was done reasonably effectively during the construction of the Mt Albert reservoir. The plan to plant over the buried reservoir is one that we support, however the native bush near the site will need to be protected during excavation and construction.

Conclusion

We support the building of this new reservoir subject to mitigation of the issues raised above.

Jane Patterson
Treasurer
Newtown Residents Association
25th October 2017