Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region

May 2007

Changes to water allocation provisions

Proposed plan change provisions

Contents

1. Introduction

A change is proposed to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region. The change is set out in full in this report. It amends provisions for the allocation of water from groundwater zones and identified rivers in region.

An accompanying document *Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region: Background (section 32) report* provides background information on the proposed plan change, the reasons for the proposed plan change and an evaluation of the proposed plan change, to meet the requirements of section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991. The consultation that has occurred during the preparation of the proposed plan change is described in that report.

The operative Regional Freshwater Plan can be viewed on our website www.gw.govt.nz/RFP. There also are copies available in the public libraries or copies can be obtained from the library at Greater Wellington.

2. New policy and rule on allocation limits for fully-allocated streams

2.1 Add new policy 6.2.1A

6.2.1A To manage the allocation of water in the rivers and streams listed in Table 6.1A, and their tributaries, so that the capped allocation limits identified are not exceeded.

Table 6.1A: Capped allocation limits for identified rivers and streams

River/Stream and tributaries	Capped Allocation limit (litres per second)
Makoura Stream	40
Otukura Stream	60
Papawai Stream	200
Parkvale Stream	160
Stonestead (Dock) Creek	210
Tauweru River (upstream of Kourarau Stream)	50
Booths Creek	100
Makahakaha Stream	50

Explanation: Method 8.5.5 of the Regional Freshwater Plan directs Greater Wellington, where practicable, to obtain more information on rivers and streams listed in Table 6.1A to establish minimum flows and approaches to water allocation such as those used in Policy 6.2.1. The addition of Policy 6.2.1A to the Plan on 20 May 2007 (date of notification of Plan Change 3)

recognised that these rivers are fully allocated but minimum flows have not yet been established. Policy 6.2.1A will be reviewed when Method 8.5.5 is fully implemented for the rivers listed.

The term "capped allocation limit" refers to the total amount of water allocated by resource consents.

2.2 Add new Rule 19A

The taking of water from the Makoura Stream, Otukura Stream, Papawai Stream, Parkvale Stream, Booths Creek, Stonestead (Dock) Creek, Tauweru River (upstream from Kourarau Stream), Makahakaha Stream and their tributaries that would result in the amount of water allocated by resource consents to exceed the capped allocation limits in Table 6.7 is a **non-complying activity**.

Table 6.7: Capped allocation limits for identified streams

River/Stream and tributaries	Capped allocation limit (litres per second)
Makoura Stream	40
Otukura	58
Papawai Stream	200
Parkvale Stream	160
Stonestead (Dock) Creek	210
Tauweru River	50
Booths Creek	100
Makahakaha Stream	50

3. New policy and rule for over-allocated groundwater areas

3.1 Add new policy 6.2.3A

6.2.3A To manage the allocation of groundwater in the groundwater areas in Table 6.5A so that the capped allocation limits identified are not exceeded.

Table 6.5A: Capped allocation limits for identified groundwater areas

Groundwater area	Aquifer depth (metres)	Allocation limits (million cubic metres per year)
Parkvale groundwater area (the Parkvale groundwater zone)	Greater than 15	2.62
Martinborough Eastern	All depths	0.42

Terraces groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)		
Kahutara groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Lower Valley groundwater zone)	All depths	4.58

Explanation: The addition of Policy 6.2.3A to the Plan in (date of notification of Plan Change 3) recognises that the groundwater areas (zones and sub-zones) are over-allocated. Policy 6.2.3A is an interim measure and will be reviewed once investigations of the sustainable allocation of groundwater in the Parkvale, Martinborough Terraces and Lower Valley groundwater zones are complete.

The term "capped allocation limit" refers to the total amount of water allocated by resource consents.

3.2 Add new rule 19B

The taking of water from the Parkvale, Martinborough Eastern Terraces and Kahutara groundwater areas that would result in the amount of water allocated by resource consents to exceed the capped allocation limits in Table 6.8 is a **non-complying activity.**

Table 6.8: Allocation limits for identified groundwater areas

Groundwater area	Aquifer depth (metres)	Allocation limits (million cubic metres per year)
Parkvale groundwater area (the Parkvale groundwater zone)	Greater than 15	2.62
Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)	All depths	0.42
Kahutara groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Lower Valley groundwater zone)	All depths	4.58

Note: Policy 6.2.3A provides allocation limits for these groundwater zones.

Note: Figures 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 in Appendix 9 map these groundwater areas.

4. Changes to Policy 6.2.3

4.1 Change the unit of "safe yield" unit from cubic metres per day to cubic metres per year.

In column 3 of Tables 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5:

- amend the unit of safe yield volume from "cubic metres per day" to "cubic metres per year"; and

- replace daily safe yields quantities with annual quantities (multiply the daily quantities by 365), with the exception in Table 6.5 of the Battersea, Rathkeale, Martinborough Terraces, Huangarua (aquifer depth 0-10 metres), Huangarua (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) and Parkvale groundwater zones.

These changes are shown in Appendix 1 of this report (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined in italics).

4.2 Amend safe yields of the Battersea, Rathkeale, Martinborough Terraces, Huangarua and Parkvale groundwater zones as follows.

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Battersea groundwater zone of "14,500 cubic metres per day" (5,292,500 cubic metres per year) with "2.4 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Rathkeale groundwater zone of "12,300 cubic metres per day" (4,489,500 cubic metres per year) with "3 million cubic metres per year" .

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone of "21,400 cubic metres per day" (7,811,000 cubic metres per year) with "1.8 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Huangarua groundwater zone (aquifer depth 0-10 metres) of "5,500 cubic metres per day" (2,007,500 cubic metres per year) with "0.9 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Huangarua groundwater zone (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) of "1370 cubic metres per day" (500,050 cubic metres per year) with "1.2 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Parkvale groundwater zone (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) of "11,200 cubic metres per day" with the words "refer to Rule 19B".

In the Lower Valley groundwater zone in Table 6.5, replace "Kahutara 1" with "Kahutara" and delete "Aquifer 2" and "Aquifer 3". Replace the safe yield quantities for these aquifers with "Refer to Rule 19B".

These changes are shown in Appendix 1 of this report (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined).

4.3 Amend the explanation of Policy 6.2.3.

Amend the explanation of Policy 6.2.3 as shown in Appendix 1 of this report (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined in italics).

5. New maps for the Parkvale, Eastern Martinborough and Kahutara groundwater areas.

Add the maps in Figures 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 to Appendix 9 of the Plan.

Figure 9.5: Parkvale groundwater area (Parkvale groundwater zone)

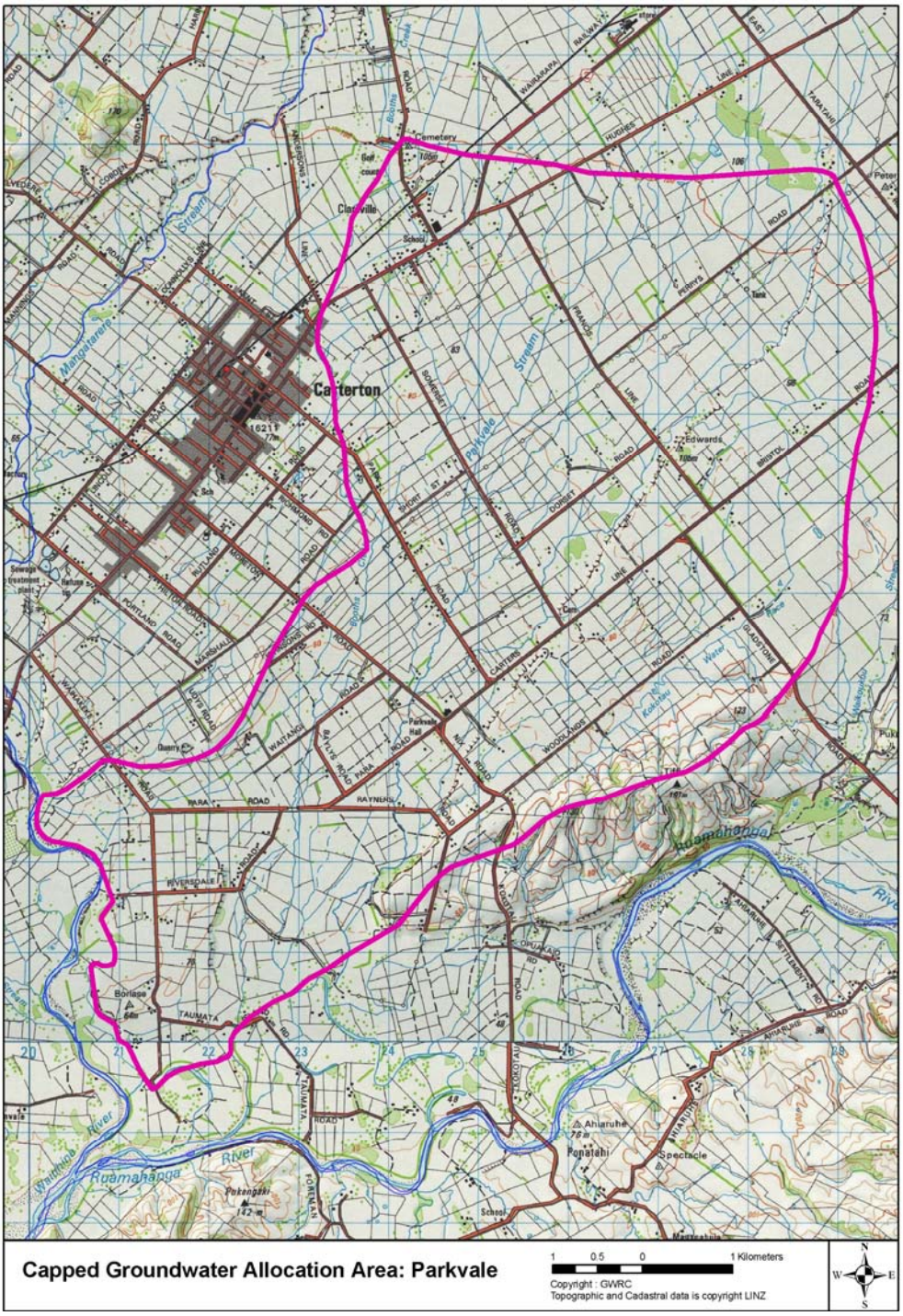


Figure 9.6: Kahutara groundwater area (within the Lower Valley groundwater zone)

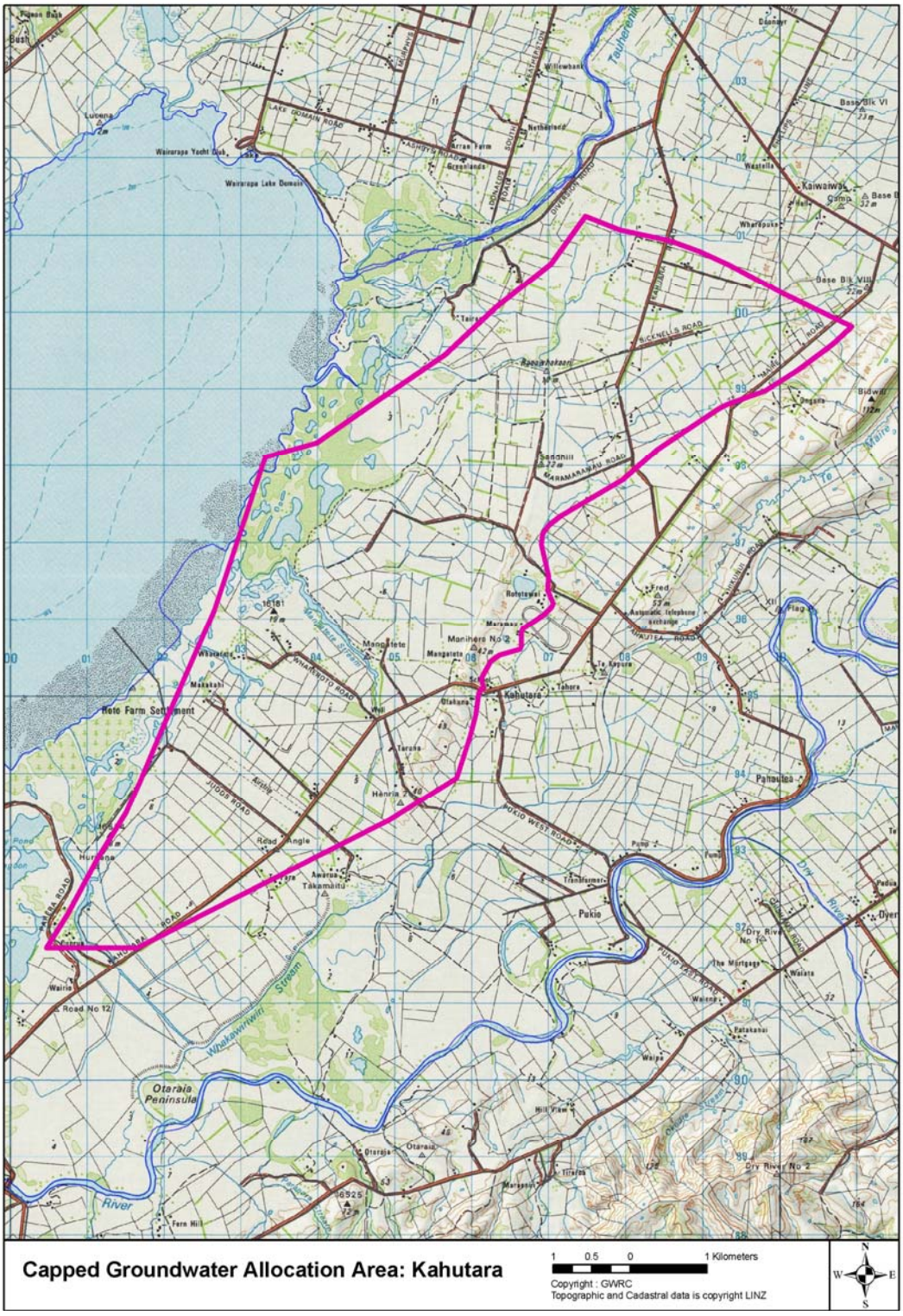
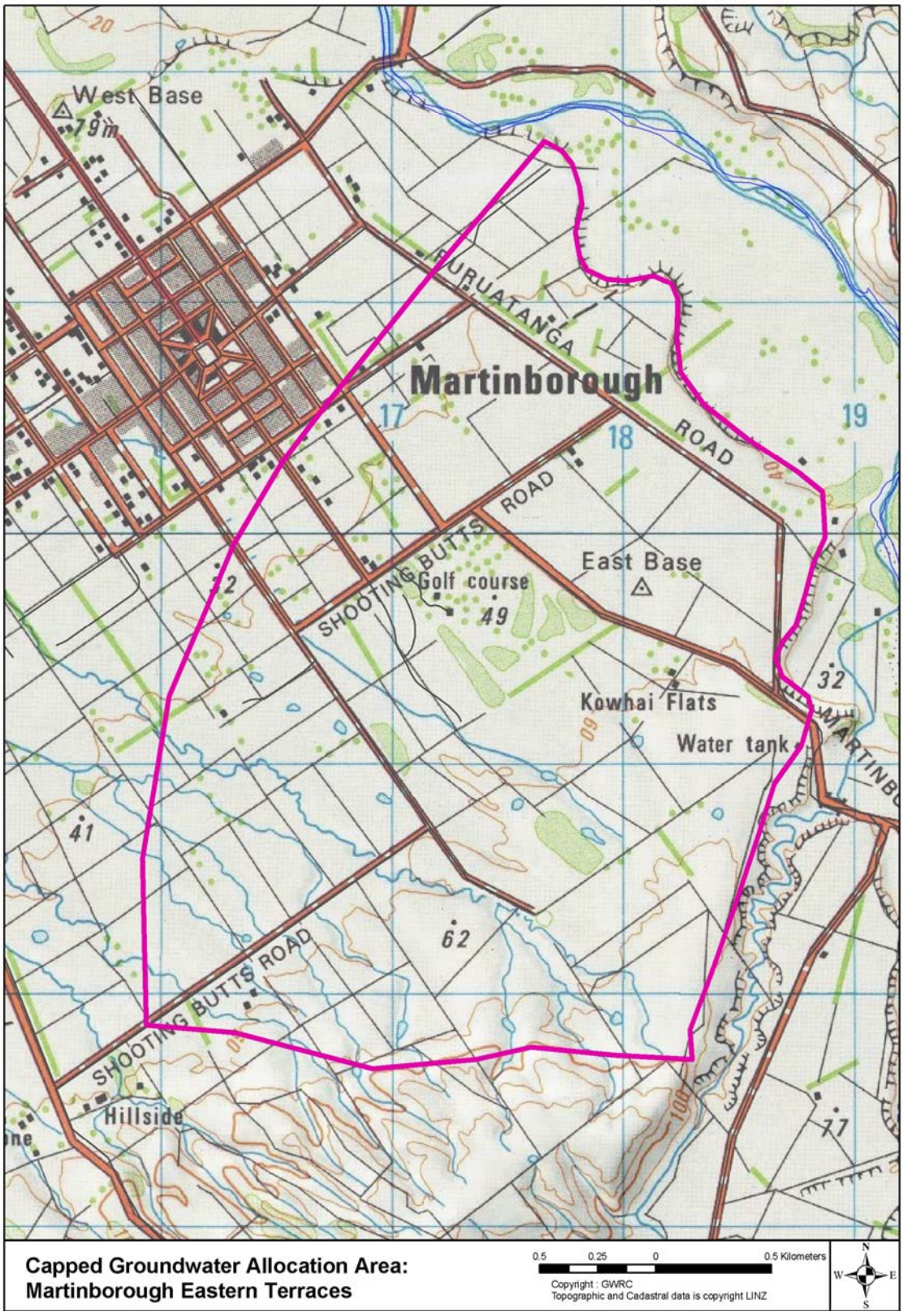


Figure 9.7: Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater area (within the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)



6. Consequential amendments

6.1 Amend Rule 16 as follows (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined):

Rule 16 Taking, use, damming or diversion of water, or the transfer to another site of any water permit to take or use water.

The taking, use, damming, or diversion of any fresh water, or the transfer to another site of any water permit to take or use water:

- that is not specifically provided for in any other rules in this Plan; and
- which cannot meet the requirements of those rules; and
- that, for takes of water from the Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone (Taita Alluvium/Waiwhetu aquifers), would not cause the maximum rate of takes authorised by resource consents to exceed 32.85 million cubic metres per year; and
- which is not a non-complying activity in Rules 17, 18 ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B

is a **Discretionary Activity**.

6.2 Amend 6.4.2 as follows (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined):

6.4.2 Application for a resource consent for an activity described in Rules 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B.

An application for a resource consent for an activity described in Rules 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B to take, use, dam, or divert water or to construct a bore shall be made on the prescribed form, and shall, where relevant, include: …

Appendix 1

Amendments to Policy 6.2.3

Amend policy 6.2.3 as follows (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined. Amounts in **bold** are changes made by section 4.2 of this Plan Change).

6.2.3 To manage the aquifers in each groundwater zone in Tables 6.2-6.5 (below) using the safe yield shown and to maintain discretion over the allocation of aquifers not identified in the Tables.

Table 6.2 Aquifer Allocation Limits - Kapiti Coast

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Waitohu	2-10	~~8,020~~ 2.9
	20-30	~~4,390~~ 1.6
	50-60	~~5,150~~ 1.9
Otaki	4-11	~~18,250~~ 6.7
	19-35	~~12,470~~ 4.6
Coastal	5-30	~~6,630~~ 2.4
	35-56	~~4,740~~ 1.7
	100-107	~~4,740~~ 1.7
	164-172	~~2,840~~ 1.0
Hautere	10-30	~~7,380~~ 2.7
	40-70	~~5,430~~ 2.0
	90-150	~~5,430~~ 2.0
Waikanae (Sand Aquifer)	0-45	~~14,450~~ 5.3
Waikanae (Gravel Aquifer)	10-17	~~4,200~~ 1.5
	> 40	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Raumati/Paekakariki	0-6	~~5,980~~ 2.2
	> 6	~~7,090~~ 2.6

Table 6.3 Aquifer Allocation Limits – Wainuiomata

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Black Creek	31-34	~~1,400~~ 0.5
	55-59	~~1,400~~ 0.5
Wainuiomata Stream	8-12	~~950~~ 0.3
Wainuiomata River	5-20	~~8,300~~ 3.0

Table 6.4 Aquifer Allocation Limits - the Hutt Valley

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Lower Hutt (Taita Alluvium/Waiwhetu) Aquifer	5-80	~~90,000~~ 33
Moera Aquifer	100-120	~~4,000~~ 1.5
Upper Hutt	0-50	~~48,500~~ 17.7
	65-90	~~25,100~~ 9.2
Mangaroa (Whitemans Valley)	0-15	~~9,400~~ 3.4
Mangaroa (Lower Mangaroa)	0-30	~~41,200~~ 15.0
Akatarawa	5-20	~~9,800~~ 3.6
Pakuratahi	0-20	~~16,300~~ 5.9

Table 6.5 Aquifer Allocation Limits - the Wairarapa

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Fernridge	0-15	4,100 1.5
Upper Plain (2 aquifers)	0-15, 35-50	46,600 17.0
Upper Opaki	0-10+	12,300 4.5
Opaki (3 aquifers)	0-17, 12-28, 48-52	6,300 2.3
Masterton	0 -35+	8,800 3.2
	15-30	6,300 2.3
West Taratahi	0-25+	14,500 5.3
East Taratahi	10-15	38,400 14.0

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
	30-35	4,700 1.7
Fernhill	0-25	12,900 4.7
Parkvale	10-15	12,300 4.5
	15-30, 35-50	~~11,200~~ refer to Rule 19B
Rathkeale	0-6+	~~12,300~~ 3.0
Te Ore Ore (3 aquifers)	0-14, 0-50+, 40-50	~~29,000~~ 10.6
Middle Ruamahanga	0-12	~~20,000~~ 7.3
	15-30	~~6,000~~ 2.2
Riverside	0-15	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Tawaha	0-30	~~30,100~~ 11.0
Huangarua	0-10	~~5,500~~ 0.9
	15-30	~~1,370~~ 1.2
Matarawa	0-15+	~~27,400~~ 10.0
Mangatarere	0-15	~~20,800~~ 7.6
Hodders (2 aquifers)	0-10, 0-12+	~~11,000~~ 4.0
Carterton (2 aquifers)	0-12, 15-30	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Greytown	0-15	~~54,800~~ 20.0
Ahikouka	0-10	~~9,000~~ 3.3
Tauherenikau	0-15	~~54,800~~ 20.0
South Featherston (2 aquifers)	0-12, 60-70	~~14,500~~ 5.3
Battersea (3 aquifers)	0-20, 30-40, 90-100	~~14,500~~ 2.4
Moroa	0-10	~~1,800~~ 0.7
Woodside (2 aquifers)	0-35+, 50-60	~~43,800~~ 16.0
Lower Valley	Turanganui 1	~~3,000~~ 1.1
	Tauanui 1	~~2,200~~ 0.8
	Whangaehu 1	~~1,400~~ 0.5
	Kahutara ~~1~~ (all aquifer depths)	~~2,400~~ Refer to Rule 19B
	~~Aquifer 2~~	~~37,000~~
	~~Aquifer 3~~	~~21,100~~
Martinborough Terraces	10-25, 30-55	~~21,400~~ 1.8
Pironoa Terraces	15-25	~~49,600~~ 18.1

Explanation: Groundwater zones are shown in Appendix 9.

Policy 6.2.3 provides the safe yields of aquifers that will ensure environmental effects are minimised. These safe yields will guide the Council when it is issuing consents that allocate water from these aquifers. The safe yields shown in Tables 6.2 to 6.5 are derived from the available information held by the Council on 25 January 1997 (the date of public notification of the Proposed Plan and on (the date of public notification of Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Plan).

The ~~"daily~~ safe yields~~"~~ in the tables are based on the estimated sustainable yield of the aquifer system which is calculated from annual water balance information. The ~~"daily~~ safe yields~~"~~ are, therefore, conservative estimates based on the precautionary approach.

~~Greater daily or instantaneous take than provided by the "daily safe yields" may be allowed by a water permit if the applicant can demonstrate that the sustainable yield of the aquifer is not compromised in any way, other users of the resource are not unduly affected, and there are no significant affects on surface water. Such use of an aquifer will only be allowed where there is sufficient information available to describe the behaviour of the aquifer system to confidently predict the potential effects of the proposed abstraction~~

~~If an applicant wants to take water from an aquifer at greater than the daily allocation limit then takes based on annual allocation figures will be measured from 1 July to 30 June in the following year.~~

Satisfying the safe yield identified in the tables does not necessarily ensure that all the water sought in an application for a water permit can be taken. Other matters such as the potential effects on other users and potential adverse affects on surface water must also be taken into account.

Different parts of an aquifer often have variable yield capabilities. For this reason all bores will need to be pump tested to provide detailed "at site" information on the sustainable abstraction rate and to ensure that adverse effects on existing users or on surface waters are identified.

Groundwater zone boundaries should be regarded as a guide and, for any consent application, consideration needs to be given to the interaction of the groundwater zone at the location with adjacent groundwater zones and aquifer characteristics as a result of pump testing.

The aquifer depth shown in the tables should be regarded as a guide. Depths have not been measured at all locations in these aquifers. For any given groundwater zone, the upper and lower limits can be variable.