

## **Awatere Water Supply Treatment - Update 2**

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### **Installation**

Installation of the MIOX treatment system was completed in late June and since then has been operating in automatic mode. We are currently engaged in a program of testing and monitoring of the whole network. This testing and monitoring is to ensure the treatment is effective throughout the network and to gather data for applying to lift the permanent boil water notice.

### **Treatment**

Effective treatment means making sure that water treated to the required standard is reaching all parts of the water network, which extends from Blairich to Castles Road, Ballochdale Road and Marfells Beach. The Awatere Water Network Map gives an overview of the network extent. As previously discussed with residents we are starting with just the treatment plant at Blairich, however if testing and monitoring proves that a single dosing point is not enough, additional dosing points may be added at critical points within the network. Because of the system being untreated to date there will be bio-film present in the pipelines and to start with the chlorine will be used up by the bio-film. Once the bio-film is gone the true extent of the treatment can be measured. There is no set period of time for the bio-film to disappear.

### **Permanent Boil Water Notice**

Applying to lift the permanent boil water notice involves gathering data on water quality over a period of time and submitting it to the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) for them to consider. Council is currently in discussions with the NMDHB about the length of time NMDHB require data for.

### **Aesthetics**

Most individuals are able to taste or smell chlorine in drinking-water at concentrations well below the Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) of 5 mg/L, with many people able to detect the odour of chlorine at around 0.2 mg/L and the taste at around 0.4 mg/L. Some consumers may object to the taste and odour of water between 0.6 and 1.0 mg/L.

We are currently achieving an average residual at Blairich of 0.7 - 0.9 mg/L (full range 0.2 - 1.6 mg/L). These residuals vary depending on the flow and the quality of the raw water, and reduce as the chlorine moves through the network. We are required to have a minimum residual of 0.2 mg/L to achieve disinfection, and to date this has been occasionally achieved at the network extremities.

### **Health Concerns and Other Issues**

If you have any health concerns regarding treatment of the Awatere Water, in particular the chlorine, please refer to your GP for assessment.

Fish are sensitive to treated water and most fish care experts advise using un-chlorinated water for fish tanks and ponds. Chlorine can be removed from water by letting the water stand in a bucket for 24-48 hours, using a 'water ager' (generally available from your local pet store), or using an appropriate filter on your tap. We recommend you seek advice from local pet store as to the specific requirements of your fish.

### **Further Updates**

Further updates will be posted as this project progresses.

Any change to the status of the Boil Water Notice will be advertised on Council's website and in the Council Thursday page in the Marlborough Express.