

From: [Kristy Rusher](#)
To: [lgoima](#)
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request
Date: Monday, 25 September 2017 02:32:42 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Kristy Rusher
Sent: Friday, 22 September 2017 11:29 a.m.
To: 'info@nzdrillersfederation.co.nz'
Subject: LGOIMA request

Hi Debbie,

You submitted an information request about a variety of water bore issues. We have provided our responses in red text adjacent to the questions that you have asked below.

Regards,
Kristy Rusher
Manager Civic and Legal, Corporate Services
Dunedin City Council/*Kaunihera-a-rohe o Otepoti*

Need legal advice? Go to [LawVu Legal Advice Request Form](#)

50 The Octagon, Dunedin; P O Box 5045, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058, New Zealand
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MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY BORES IN NEW ZEALAND

This document is in relation to the basic tenet that safe drinking water is crucial to public health. This is a fundamental service provided by local councils.

Hopefully, either through Local Government New Zealand or the media, you are aware of the situation that arose in Havelock North last year.

BACKGROUND

In August 2016, there was an outbreak of gastroenteritis in Havelock North. Some 5,500 of the town's 14,000 residents were estimated to have become ill with campylobacteriosis. Some 45 were subsequently hospitalised. It is possible that the outbreak contributed to three deaths, and an unknown number of residents continue to suffer health implications.

In September 2016, the NZ Government established an Inquiry into the outbreak.

The ensuing Report of the Government Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water was published in May 2017. The August 2016 outbreak was traced to contamination of drinking water supplied by two bores.

The second stage of the Inquiry will address the lessons learned for the future and steps to be implemented to reduce the likelihood of such an outbreak occurring again.

NEW ZEALAND DRILLERS FEDERATION

Present and past members of the New Zealand Drillers Federation hold information pertaining to town water supply bores within individual company files. Due to local government restructuring over the last four decades, some of this information may have been "lost" from council files.

The New Zealand Drillers Federation wishes to be proactive in assisting councils to protect possible sources of contamination from bore water.

Initially, we need to determine the general extent of municipal bore water supply to the NZ drinking system through conducting an initial survey. After the release of the Stage Two report there may need to be expansion of the details required.

Please note the following is an OIA request under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982. At this stage, we do not require detailed answers and most of the questions only require Yes / No responses. However, additional commentary can be made if you wish.

1. Were you aware of the Havelock North incident in August 2016? **Yes**
2. Have you, or one of your officers, read or reported on, the May 2017 Inquiry Report? **Yes**
3. Does your council have any underground bores that come under your direct operational control that can, or do, form part of a public water supply? Please note this survey is directed towards the authorities that have direct physical control of the bores rather than the consenting entity. **Yes**

If you have answered NO to question 3 then it is not necessary to complete the rest of this survey.

4. Please indicate the number of bores that form part of your water supply network? At this stage, we only need an approximate number

- a) One
- b) Two to five
- c) Six to ten **Nine**
- d) more than ten

5. Has there previously been a recorded instance of E coli contamination and / or campylobacter outbreak that could POSSIBLY been attributable to a defect in the underground supply system? **Yes - possibly. But none have been conclusively traced back to contamination of groundwater.**

6. Do you have "as-builts" for ALL the bores under your authority? **Yes**

7. Do any of your bores have sub-surface well head completions (eg. in chambers below ground level)? **Yes**
8. Do you have Animal Exclusion Zones around wellheads? **Yes - they are in a locked chamber/pit.**
9. Do you conduct regular bore water quality testing, and if so, how often? **Yes – monthly testing and annual testing.**
10. Would you be able to produce, if requested, bore and well head maintenance schedules? **Yes**
11. Can ANY of the bores be connected directly into the reticulation system prior to water treatment? **DCC relies on the secure status of the aquifer for microbial protection. Water is treated only to protect plumbing from corrosion. One bore is dosed with soda ash before entering the reticulation network, while the other eight bores run into treatment plants for aeration of the water and are then dosed with soda ash to achieve the required pH level, before entering the reticulation network.**
12. Do you have a protocol for determining if there are insecure wells or bores near water supply uptake bores? **No – the Regional Council is responsible for controlling the installation of bores. DCC is beginning a piece of work in collaboration with the Otago Regional Council to better understand the consent process and existing private bore status. This work will be used to reassess the aquifers "secure" status.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance. The Havelock North incident raised serious questions about the safety and security of New Zealand's drinking water."

Regards,
Kristy Rusher
Manager Civic and Legal, Corporate Services
Dunedin City Council/*Kaunihera-a-rohe o Otepoti*

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