

Michelle van Straalen

From: Michelle van Straalen
Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 10:19
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: official information
Subject: LGOIMA 20019 - Rainwater tank use and your council regulations and practices

Record Number: D-003221773

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your information request of the 30 January 2020 in respect to water use and territorial authorities, I am now able to provide Hamilton City Council's response.

You requested:

"I am interested in how authorities regard the collection of rainwater from household roofs for subsequent use by that household. I want to know where [HCC] sits regarding the actions of its officers and its bylaws or regulations on the spectrum, from prohibiting, to requiring, the retention and use of rainwater for domestic use. Of course, you might also list active discouragement or encouragement and specify that your council, for example, does not allow rainwater collected from a roof to be listed as a house's potable supply but allows it to be used for the garden/laundry etc."

More specifically you have asked:

1. Does your council allow the collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use?
2. Does the council set limits on what this water can be used for? Such as...
3. How actively is the collection of rainwater encouraged - including via tools like bylaws?
4. What concerns does the council have about a homeowner collecting and using rainwater - **other** than health concerns (contamination from animal or birds or their faeces)?
5. How much money does the council intend to spend on upgrading water supplies (reticulation infrastructure, treatment stations etc) for domestic household use in the next five years?

Furthermore, you have stated *"any other info [HCC] thinks relevant to the topic of reducing the need or reliance on large engineering solutions for water supply by dispersing some of the responsibility to homeowners to reduce their water draw (and possibly increasing resilience for an area as a whole). Such things as water meters, water charges, fixed water rates vs a water use charges etc may all come into what you think relevant to the topic."*

Our response:

Hamilton City Council encourages our communities to always look for ways to implement sustainable water practices in their homes. Please go to www.smartwater.org.nz to check out the initiatives our teams are working on across the region.

Responses to your question are as follows:

1. Does HCC allow the collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use?

Yes. Hamilton City Council allows for the collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use purposes. This is provided for through the Council Operative District Plan 2017 ("The Plan"). The Plan however, does not require collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use purposes.

For new developments and/or subdivisions, the applicable policy requirements under the Plan are that:

- ‘Water-sensitive techniques shall be incorporated into new subdivisions and developments to reduce demand on water supplies, wastewater disposal and to manage stormwater’;
- The Plan also requires at least one water sensitive technique for relevant new buildings. Techniques could include rainwater reuse systems, low-flow fixtures, leak resistant fixtures, automated greywater reuse systems and drought-resistant landscaping;
- The Plan requires the development of Integrated Catchment Management Plans (“ICMP”) and Water Impact Assessments. Development must implement any recommended water sensitive techniques in the ICMP to comply with the Plan rules.

For further information relating to the Operative District Plan 2017, please go to www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-council/council-publications/districtplans .

2. Does HCC set limits on what this water can be used for? Such as...

No. Hamilton City Council does not set limits on what this water can be used for. If rain/greywater reuse were to be installed, it should be noted that these systems would require specific design by a suitably qualified Engineer, and a resource consent by the Council’s Building Consent Unit.

These requirements address health risks and consider constraints of use and requirements for maintenance of reuse systems.

3. How actively is the collection of rainwater encouraged - including via tools like bylaws?

The collection of rainwater is encouraged but not actively pursued by Hamilton City Council within our Smart Water educational programme delivered by our Sub Regional Shared Services. There are educational initiatives in place which promote smart water codes of reduce, repair, replace, retrofit and reuse. This information can be found at www.smartwater.org.nz.

There are no bylaw requirements that specifically address the collection of rainwater and its use.

4. What concerns does HCC have about a homeowner collecting and using rainwater - other than health concerns (contamination from animal or birds or their faeces)?

Hamilton City Council does not have any concerns about homeowners collecting and using rainwater. Any concerns would be addressed through the engineering and consenting phase as outlined in point 2 above.

5. How much money does the HCC intend to spend on upgrading water supplies (reticulation infrastructure, treatment stations etc) for domestic household use in the next five years?

Through the Hamilton City Council 10 Year Plan 2018-2028, Council has indicated a spend of \$306 million over the next 10 years towards water supply (treatment, storage and distribution). For further information relating to the Council’s current capital and renewals program, you can find Hamilton City Council’s 10 Year Plan 2018- 2028 at www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-council/10-year-plan .

Kind Regards,

Michelle van Straalen

Official Information Advisor | Legal Services

DDI: 07 974 0589 | Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz

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From: official information**Sent:** Monday, 3 February 2020 12:55 PM**To:** [REDACTED]**Cc:** official information <officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz>; Natalie Palmer <Natalie.Palmer@hcc.govt.nz>**Subject:** HPE CM: LGOIMA 20019 - Rainwater tank use and your council regulations and practices

Kia ora

I write to acknowledge your information request of 30 January 2020 in respect of *rainwater tank use and your council regulations and practices*.

Please be advised that your request has been passed on to the relevant team within Council and you will be informed of the outcome.

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requires that we advise you of our decision on whether the Council will provide the requested information or not "as soon as reasonably practicable", no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. We will respond to you no later than **28 February 2020**.

Kind regards,

Michelle van Straalen

Official Information Advisor | Legal Services

DDI: 07 974 0589 | Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz

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From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** Thursday, 30 January 2020 11:48 AM**To:** "info@adc.govt.nz" <info@adc.govt.nz>, "info@bdc.govt.nz" <info@bdc.govt.nz>, "info@cdc.govt.nz"

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Subject: rainwater tank use and your council regulations and practices

Dear first receiver - please forward to relevant council officer

Water restrictions have come into force in a number of areas in New Zealand - or have been in place for some time already this summer, to varying degrees.

I am trying to gather information about water use and territorial authorities - principally I am interested in how authorities regard the collection of rainwater from household roofs for subsequent use by that household.

I want to know where each authority sits as regards the actions of its officers and its bylaws or regulations on the spectrum, from prohibiting, to requiring, the retention and use of rainwater for domestic use.

Of course you might also list active discouragement or encouragement and specify that your council, for example, does not allow rainwater collected from a roof to be listed as a house's potable supply but allows it to be used for the garden/laundry etc..

To help could you please answer these questions with a reply email:

- 1.
2. Does your council allow the collection and retention of rainwater from a house roof for domestic use?
- 3.
- 4.
5. Does the council set limits on what this water can be used for? Such as...
- 6.
- 7.
8. How actively is the collection of rainwater encouraged - including via tools like bylaws?
- 9.

- 10.
11. What concerns does the council have about a homeowner collecting and using rainwater - **other** than health concerns (contamination from animal or birds or their faeces)?
- 12.
- 13.
14. How much money does the council intend to spend on upgrading water supplies (reticulation infrastructure, treatment stations etc) for domestic household use in the next five years?

Any other info the council thinks relevant to the topic of reducing the need or reliance on large engineering solutions for water supply by dispersing some of the responsibility to homeowners to reduce their water draw. (And possibly increasing resilience for an area as a whole.)

Such things as water meters, water charges, fixed water rates vs a water use charges etc may all come into what you think relevant to the topic.

Cheers



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