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## Connections and Charging Policy for the Three Waters

### Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this Policy is to provide clear guidelines for, service connections to the city's water, wastewater and stormwater networks for private properties within and outside Hamilton City's boundary; and charges for these services.
2. The objective of this Policy is to provide administrative certainty in the way that Hamilton City Council ('Council'):
  - a. manages requests for new service connections to the water, wastewater and stormwater networks;
  - b. manages requests for new bulk water supply connections to the water network by Waikato and Waipa District Council; and
  - c. charges for water, wastewater and stormwater network connections and services.

### Definitions

Definition	Detail
Gravity service connection	This is a connection, operating under gravity, to the city's wastewater system. If the city's wastewater system lies within a customer's property, then the <b>gravity service connection</b> for that property shall comprise only the pipe fitting forming the junction with the city's wastewater system. However, if the city's wastewater system lies outside the customer's property, the <b>gravity service connection</b> includes the pipe fitting forming the junction with the city's wastewater system and a wastewater pipeline with diameter not less than 100mm that extends from the city's wastewater system to the boundary of the customer's property being serviced.
Restricted flow supply	A type of water supply connection where a small flow is supplied through a flow control device, and storage is provided by the customer to cater for demand fluctuations.

## Strategic Alignment

3. This policy assists in the delivery of Council’s outcomes and goals as follows:

Prosperous and Innovative	Outstanding City Leadership	People Love Living Here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hamilton has a strong, productive economy and we build on our economic strengths.</li> <li>▪ We have a thriving Central Business District (CBD).</li> <li>▪ It’s easy to do business here.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Our city grows and prospers in a sustainable way.</i></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The city is led by effective, open and responsive governance.</li> <li>▪ Council’s finances are sustainable for the long term.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>We operate efficiently and provide exceptional service.</i></b></li> <li>▪ The city takes a leadership role regionally and nationally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>Hamilton embraces the Waikato River and it is the focal point of our city.</i></b></li> <li>▪ We value, preserve and protect Hamilton’s natural, green environment.</li> <li>▪ Our city is attractive, well-designed and compact with outstanding architecture and distinctive public spaces.</li> <li>▪ Our city is a fun place to live with a vibrant arts scene.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Hamilton is a safe city.</i></b></li> <li>▪ It’s easy to get around.</li> <li>▪ We celebrate our people and many cultures.</li> </ul>

Note: *Primary contributions are italicised.*

## Principles

4. The guiding principles for this Policy are:

- a. Council is the water supply, wastewater and stormwater service provider for the city.
- b. Council shall work collaboratively with Waikato and Waipa District Councils with respect to the provision of three waters services in the sub-region.
- c. Council shall respond consistently to requests to connect properties outside the city to its water supply, stormwater or wastewater systems.
- d. Council shall charge for these services.

## Policy

5. Connections to Council’s water<sup>1</sup>, stormwater<sup>2</sup> and wastewater<sup>3</sup> networks within and outside the city boundary:
  - a. Council shall undertake the physical works to provide all connections to, and disconnections from, the city’s operational water, stormwater and wastewater networks.
  - b. Council may approve private wastewater pump stations where there are no practical alternatives for gravity flow discharge to the city’s wastewater network. Any such station approved shall remain in private ownership and comply with the requirements of the Building Act and the New Zealand Building Code, and its owner shall be responsible for its maintenance and operation.

<sup>1</sup> All water service connections shall comply with Council’s *Water Supply Bylaw 2008*, or subsequent amendments.

<sup>2</sup> All stormwater connections to Council’s stormwater network shall comply with Council’s Comprehensive Stormwater Discharge Consent and any relevant catchment management plan or integrated catchment management plan.

<sup>3</sup> All wastewater service connections shall comply with Council’s *Trade Waste Bylaw 2006*, or subsequent amendments.

6. Three Waters services to private properties outside the city boundary:
  - a. Council shall not accept new requests from owners of private property outside the City boundary for service connections for such property to Council's water, wastewater or stormwater network.
  - b. Council shall continue its services to individual properties outside the city boundary that have an existing connection to Council's water supply or wastewater network, provided that any change to the nature, intensity or extent of the development or landuse serviced by the connection does not increase the volumes or rates of water supplied or wastewater generated.
  - c. Council shall consider requests from Waikato or Waipa District Councils for a bulk water supply connection between the district council's water network and Council's water network only if the requested connection will service development that is consistent with the Future Proof Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan 2009 and subsequent amendments.
  - d. Any bulk water supply from Council's water network to Waikato or Waipa district councils' water networks shall be undertaken in accordance with a specific agreement between Council and the relevant district council.
  - e. Unless agreed otherwise in an agreement specified in 6(d) above, all water supply connections outside of Hamilton city receiving water from Council's water network shall be limited to restricted flow supply.
  - f. Unless agreed otherwise, all wastewater connections outside of Hamilton City receiving wastewater shall comply with Council's Trade Waste Bylaw 2006 and subsequent amendments.
7. Charges<sup>4</sup>
  - a. All charges shall be in accordance with Council's Annual Schedule of Fees and Charges.
  - b. Council shall charge for the physical works it undertakes to provide a service connection to, or disconnection from, the water, wastewater or stormwater network, except for any part of the connection provided under 7(c) below<sup>5</sup>.
  - c. Where practicable, Council shall provide free of charge a gravity service connection, up to 30m long, to the Council's wastewater network for properties within the City boundary that are serviced by an existing septic tank.
  - d. Council shall charge for water supplied to, or wastewater received from, existing individual properties outside the city boundary that are not covered by a specific water supply or trade waste agreement.

## Monitoring and implementation

8. The General Manager, City Infrastructure shall monitor the implementation of this Policy.
9. The Policy shall be reviewed every three years or at the request of Council, in response to changed legislative and statutory requirements or in response to any issues that may arise.

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<sup>4</sup> In addition to the charges listed in this section, Council shall also charge for an industrial and commercial water supplies in accordance with *Hamilton City Water Supply Bylaw 2008*, and for trade waste in accordance with Council's *Trade Waste Bylaw 2006*.

<sup>5</sup> Council shall also charge these owners for contributions in accordance with Council's *Development Contributions Policy*.

## References

The following documents and any subsequent updates or amendments to them are relevant to this Policy:

- Hamilton City Water Supply Bylaw 2008
- Council's Trade Waste Bylaw 2006.
- Council's Development Contributions Policy.
- Future Proof Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan 2009.
- Water supply agreement between Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council August 2007.
- Council's Comprehensive Stormwater Discharge Consent.
- Building Act 2004.
- New Zealand Building Code.
- Council's Annual Schedule of Fees and Charges.