



HURUNUI

District Council

MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2009

CHEVIOT WATER

The Hurunui District Council at its meeting in Hanmer Springs yesterday, voted to move forward with urgency the treating of Cheviot's town water supply.

In response to a prior directive from CDHB Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Alistair Humphries, council officers recommended that a chlorination treatment plant be installed immediately, to treat the supplies serving the Cheviot and Gore Bay townships. The Council endorsed the officers' recommendation and furthermore agreed that the cost of the plant itself should be met by the district as a whole, leaving the Cheviot Water Scheme account to pick up the additional running costs and also the cost of a small length of additional pipework required to isolate the rural and urban areas.

Council officers will continue to investigate longer term options for a new high quality source of water which will meet the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards before the 2011 due date. These plans were already signalled in the draft Long Term Council Community Plan, but Dr. Humphries was not prepared to wait that long, given the higher than average incidence of enteric disease notification rates in the Cheviot area compared with the New Zealand average.

Dr. Humphries is concerned that with the large numbers of vehicles travelling along State Highway One through Cheviot (100,000 in January alone), that the risk of illness to people without immunity to E. coli is too great.

The Council's decision will be conveyed to Cheviot residents at a public meeting to be held on Tuesday night; work will commence immediately after.

Ends.

For further information contact:

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