

Temporary Bulk Water Extraction Connection Information Sheet

Under new legislation, the extraction of water from fire hydrants for construction purposes is **no longer permitted** and anyone caught drawing water from a fire hydrant that is connected to any Council owned and maintained water reticulation may be fined up to \$20,000 as prescribed by the Water Bylaw.

From January 2023 all new construction sites will be required to apply for a temporary Bulk Water Extraction (BWE) connection prior to construction commencing on site as part of the Engineering Approval process. In the interim, all active sites must apply for a temporary BWE connection to help prevent any potential disruption to construction activities. If a temporary BWE connection is not necessary, an exemption will be issued in writing.

A temporary BWE connection will be a point of extraction used to deliver bulk volumes of water for construction activities that is not a permanent structure of the Council vested reticulation network. Once a project is complete the temporary BWE connection shall be decommissioned, unless otherwise agreed with Council.

The purpose of the temporary BWE connection application will be to either convert a properties existing water connection to a connection that is used for construction purposes or to install a new water connection that is fit for construction purposes. In either instance approval of the temporary BWE connection will be subject to the constraints listed below:

- The connection always be metered
- Always protected by an RPZ that is located property side of the water meter
- Located such that Council can read the meter as and when necessary
- Charged to the property owner/developer directly on a user pays basis in accordance with the appropriate water rates policy
- Used to fill onsite storage to buffer water use needs as required

All temporary BWE connection applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis based off the information supplied in the application and in conjunction with the current capacity of the water scheme. Approval of a temporary BWE connections is not guaranteed and in areas where the water scheme is restricted, or capacity is limited an alternative source of water for construction purposes will need to be investigated.

Applications for temporary BWE connections are to be made online and have the following information included with the application:

- Resource Consent number
- Development and Developer Details
- Map showing the proposed location of the BWE connection
- Details of the proposed connection
- Water Use Management Plan
- RPZ information – photos, serial number and current RPZ calibration certificate

RPZ calibration certificates must be renewed annually and will **not** be accepted if the expiry date is within three months of the date of applying for a temporary BWE connection application. The only exception to this rule will be projects that are expected to be completed prior to the calibration certificate expiration date.

The water use management plan is a new requirement but will become an integral part of the temporary BWE connection approval process. All new temporary BWE connections will be sized according to the information presented in the Water Use Management Plan. It is important the Water Use Management Plan is detailed and reflects reasonable use for construction activities at the various stages of the developments programme. Underestimating expected water use may result in an undersized temporary BWE connection being approved and, alternatively, overestimating expected water use may require more onsite storage to be utilised.

The Water Use Management Plan shall detail the following:

- Development size
- Generic outline of construction programme
- Expected approx. water use for each stage of the construction programme – including a contingency for seasonal affects
- Alternative sources of water investigated/available for use to compliment water use requirements
- Strategies that will be used during construction to minimise water use requirements
- Amount of onsite storage available/required

Once an application is reviewed, all questions are resolved and successful, an approval letter will be issued that details the approved size of the temporary BWE connection. Selwyn District Council's Network Management Contractor, CORDE Ltd, must supervise any connection to the live drinking water reticulation network, including the installation of the new temporary BWE connection.

In the situation where a temporary BWE connection cannot be approved the applicant will be informed in writing. However, the use of onsite wells may be permitted, if proposed it is the applicants' responsibility to ensure compliance with any water take consent requirements.

Please note that in areas where there is intensive development or water restrictions in place, the effects of a temporary BWE application will be assessed across the whole water scheme to ensure there are no negative impacts on water service delivery. If the status of a water scheme changes throughout the course of a project the existing temporary BWE application may also be reassessed to ensure that there will be minimal negative impacts on the drinking water service delivery, while allowing for construction to progress. The applicant will also be subject to any temporary demand management requirements implemented on that scheme.

Developments that install Council vested water reticulation are encouraged to complete the physical connection of new infrastructure to the existing network as late in the construction programme as practicable. A water commissioning plan should be issued to Council as soon as possible (ideally at Engineering Approval) so that all water connection requirements can be discussed.

Once new infrastructure is connected to the existing network it is subject to the new legislation regardless of the developments level of completion. If watermains within an active construction site have been livened and connected to the drinking water network, then drawing water from any other metered connections for the purpose of striking new grass will no longer be permitted and anyone caught doing so may be fined up to \$20,000 under the water bylaw.

To enable developments that install Council vested water reticulation to complete all their testing requirements with minimal disruption, it is recommended that the location of the temporary BWE connection be positioned such that it can be utilised for testing purposes.