

FERNRIDGE WATER SUPPLY ASSOCIATION INC

1. ***What is the Fernridge Water Scheme?***

It is a private water supply scheme in Upper Plain that is owned by you and approximately 100 other member of the Fernridge Water Supply Association. The Wairarapa Catchment Board, who is now the Wairarapa Division of the Wellington Regional Council, facilitated the establishment of the Scheme in 1987. The day to day operation of the Scheme is the responsibility of the Association's Management Committee, which is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is usually held at the end of May of each year, and is held in the Fernridge Primary School Hall on a Sunday afternoon and starts at 3:00pm.

2. ***Where does the Scheme Water come from, what happens before it gets to you?***

The Scheme draws water from the flood plain of the Waingawa River through a shallow well that is situated off Upper Plain Road. The drawn off water passes through a fine filtration system (which removes 99.9% of protozoan cysts e.g. giardia and cryptosporidium), is dosed with caustic soda (which softens the water) and is sterilised by an Ultra Violet light (to deactivate bacteria and viruses). The water is then pumped up to the reservoir, which consists of a 100k Litre timber tank and 4x 25k Litre plastic tanks that are situated up on a hill on the northern side of Upper Plain Road.

Although micro filtration and U.V. light treat the water, the water is not chlorinated and therefore sensitive to E-coli contamination should it enter any part of the Scheme.

From this reservoir the water is gravity fed into the Schemes PVC pipe reticulation system to the properties of Association members. The reticulation system covers Tararua Drive, part of Upper Plain Road, Burnetts Road, Evans Road and Skeets Road. Each property that receives Fernridge water has a toby unit, which contains a restrictor valve and a flow meter, and is required to have the water fed into a storage tank. The storage tank should have a minimum 25 mm air gap between the bottom of the incoming supply pipe and the top of the overflow pipe. The overflow should also be screened with fine gauze to prevent entry of airborne contaminant.

3. ***How much water are you entitled to?***

Most properties in the Scheme get one unit of water. There are 167 units within members on the Scheme with no further expansion. One unit is a rate of flow of 1000 litres of water every 24 hours. The quantity of water you receive is controlled by a restrictor valve, which is contained within the toby unit. This valve ensures each property is receiving its correct level of supply. The viability of the Scheme is dependent upon each property taking only the flow of water to which that property is entitled.

4. ***How much do I pay for my water?***

The water rate levy for each connected unit is determined annually at the AGM and currently (Year 2016) is \$256.79 + gst per connected unit and \$120.18 + gst per unconnected unit. The Treasurer processes the accounts and collects the levy on behalf of the FWSA. This levy is used to pay for the Water Scheme operation with some placed in reserve for replacement costs. The Management Committee members are all volunteers, with an honorarium available to the Secretary/Treasurer.

5. ***What is the water quality of the Fernridge Water Scheme?***

Members must understand that no one can give any guarantee over the quality of water supplied in a scheme like that of the Fernridge Scheme. The FWSA is to use its best endeavours to ensure continuity and quality of supply. This is achieved by regular checking of the Scheme and testing of the water.

The Fernridge Scheme needs to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005. The finalising of some administrative matters, and a decision by the authorities on the routine monitoring of the fine filtration plant, will enable the Scheme to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Standard for New Zealand 2005.

We monitor according to the Standard of a minimum of 12 bacteriological water samples per year taken from test points within the reticulation zone. The Environmental Health Officer of the Masterton District Council independently has water samples tested monthly. The Management Committee acts upon instruction of the EHO in matters of water contamination.

A pro-active FWSA Management Committee and members will enable us to meet the enduring challenge of an affordable and safe drinking water supply.

6. ***How can I prevent contamination of the Fernridge Water Scheme?***

Check for and report any breaks in the reticulation lines on your property. Do not install illegal connections. Report any illegal or suspected connections you may become aware of. All Fernridge Water is connected directly to the approved storage tank. If you are mixing rainwater or well water with the Scheme water in your holding tank you risk contamination. (Under the Building Act you are required to have two separate systems if collecting water this way)

7. ***What is the Supply Agreement?***

The Supply Agreement is a condition of supply. It is a vital administrative means to assist the Management Committee in ensuring proper and safe operation of the Scheme. Such as being aware of breaks in the reticulation lines, change in membership, or unauthorised use of water. These matters all relate to the health and safety of the water and the fairness between members.

8. ***What does the Management Committee do?***

- Administer Fernridge Water Supply Scheme - meet monthly.
- Weekly monitoring checks at Treatment Plant
- Periodic check of Reservoir
- Annual check of member's restrictor valve, connection and storage tank.
- Outside building and ground maintenance.
- Co-ordinate contractors
- Follow up on reticulation line break remedial action.
- Plan to implement Drinking Water Standard for New Zealand 2005 when this Standard is implemented.