



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Growing strong communities.

05 October 2022

New Zealand urban water pricing data Query

Information request

The hypothesis is that pricing reduces water consumption, but data would be useful to help tell this story and to point to opportunities where pricing could be used to help deliver more efficient and effective outcomes for communities and the environment. Thus, for each water supply managed by your council, we are requesting data and information on:

<i>Water Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Type and number of water sources used, for example storage dams, river extraction, groundwater aquifers etc.</i>• <i>Number of households serviced from each source</i>• <i>Population serviced from each source</i>• <i>Volume of water available/produced at each source</i>• <i>The fixed costs of water supplied per meter cubed or per litre</i>• <i>The variable and/or marginal costs of water supplied per meter cubed or per litre and any details on how these are calculated</i>• <i>Storage capacity where storage is used</i>• <i>The proportion of recycled water (if any)</i>• <i>The proportion of leakage if any (loss in transit from suppliers to water consumers)</i>
<i>Water Demand</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Volume of water consumption from each source for household, industry, and commercial use</i>• <i>Number of households using water tanks and retention tanks</i>• <i>Information on the dates and restrictions imposed on households during any recent periods of low supply or drought (especially how much water restrictions could reduce the consumption)</i>• <i>Information on how much water demand varies between drought years and wet years</i>
<i>Metering</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Have water meters been installed for all water users?</i>• <i>Are water meters in use for all water users?</i>• <i>Have smart meters been installed for any water users, how many, and are there any plans for installing smart meters in the near-future?</i>

<p><i>Water charges and pricing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How are water charges structured?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>No charge</i> ○ <i>Flat rate or charge</i> ○ <i>Volumetric pricing (price per unit)</i> ○ <i>Dynamic or scarcity pricing (price per unit changes based on available supply)</i> ○ <i>A combination of the above (for example, volumetric charging only for use in excess of a specified amount)</i> • <i>Details on fixed and variable charges for water users, and whether these differ for household and commercial water use</i> • <i>Details on whether a separate charge is used for water coming in and water going out</i> • <i>When was water pricing introduced?</i> • <i>Information on the rationale for introducing pricing (or the rationale for not using pricing) the goals of water service provision, and the goal of water pricing</i> • <i>Who sets the water pricing? Is long run marginal cost (LRMC) pricing being used?</i> • <i>The number of water users in each pricing scheme (if there are more than one)</i> • <i>Volume of water consumption under each pricing scheme</i> • <i>Do household, commercial, and industry water users pay different prices per unit of water? If so, what are these prices?</i>
<p><i>General institutional conditions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Information on any incentives in place for households to collect rainwater</i> • <i>Information on any financial assistance for low-income households</i> • <i>Information on any co-governance considerations, such as whether there is engagement and input from local iwi in the decision-making process of water pricing</i> • <i>Evidence of monitoring and enforcement in cases where metering is not present</i> • <i>Example document of a bill sent to households and commercial water users</i>

Please only provide information that is relevant to you. For example, if you do not use volumetric water pricing then you do not need to provide information for water pricing or consumption specific requests.

We are seeking data as far back as records permit and ideally in monthly frequency, so that we can observe seasonal variation and trends over time. Household level data is preferred, if available.

Our preferred data format is an excel spreadsheet and we prefer all information to be provided electronically.

Please provide the data and information.

Data storage and use

- *The data will be used in the investigation of urban water pricing on user behaviour in New Zealand*
- *The data sources will be acknowledged in any papers published*
- *The data will initially only be accessed by researchers involved in the project from Motu Economic and Public Policy Research*
- *The intention is for the data to be cleaned and held in a database alongside data provided from other councils, which may be made publicly available in the future through the Motu website for use by other researchers, policymakers, and the general public*

Attached is the requested report.

Kind regards,

Information Management Officer