

Cardrona Drinking Water Supply Scheme

UPDATE FOR CARDRONA RESIDENTS

This info pack provides an indicative summary of a proposed project to provide a new Cardrona Village public drinking water scheme. We invite residents to read through the information that follows and provide feedback on the proposals by 23 October.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Safe drinking water is a necessity for good health and wellbeing. QLDC's 3 waters asset management strategy objective for Cardrona is to have zero illness attributable to drinking water supply and to enable growth and development whilst protecting the environment.

In response to the 2016 Havelock North incident The Central Government's inquiry has signalled significant changes in drinking water legislation. As part of a three-pronged approach to ensure drinking water safety outcomes, Taumata Arowai - the new drinking water assessor has been established, a new water services bill (2020) introduced, and new models for territorial/regional authorities are being considered. Compliance with these legislative changes will require significant upgrades and increased operational costs to all existing and new scheme operators.

The proposed scheme outlined in this document aims to meet the QLDC objectives, changing legislation and drinking water standards. The goal is to deliver a timely and affordable solution that can sustainably scale with growth for the future whilst protecting and improving the sensitive Cardrona environment.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

- > The investors of Mount Cardrona Station have proposed a new drinking water supply scheme for the Mount Cardrona Station Village using pre-existing ORC-consented water permits and land-use rights. This presents an opportunity for the wider Cardrona village.
- > Queenstown Lakes District Council is proposing to participate in the scheme by way of agreement with the investors of Mount Cardrona Station to design and build a significantly improved drinking water supply scheme and treatment plant and associated infrastructure, that will also service the wider Cardrona village.
- > QLDC and the investors of Mount Cardrona Station have jointly met with the Cardrona Residents and Ratepayers Society to begin community discussions on the proposal.
- > An outline plan has been developed indicating that the scheme could be operational from March 2022 if approved.
- > QLDC has initiated an outreach programme to various other third-party and private scheme operators to engage and welcome possible integration into the proposed public scheme on a best for Cardrona basis.

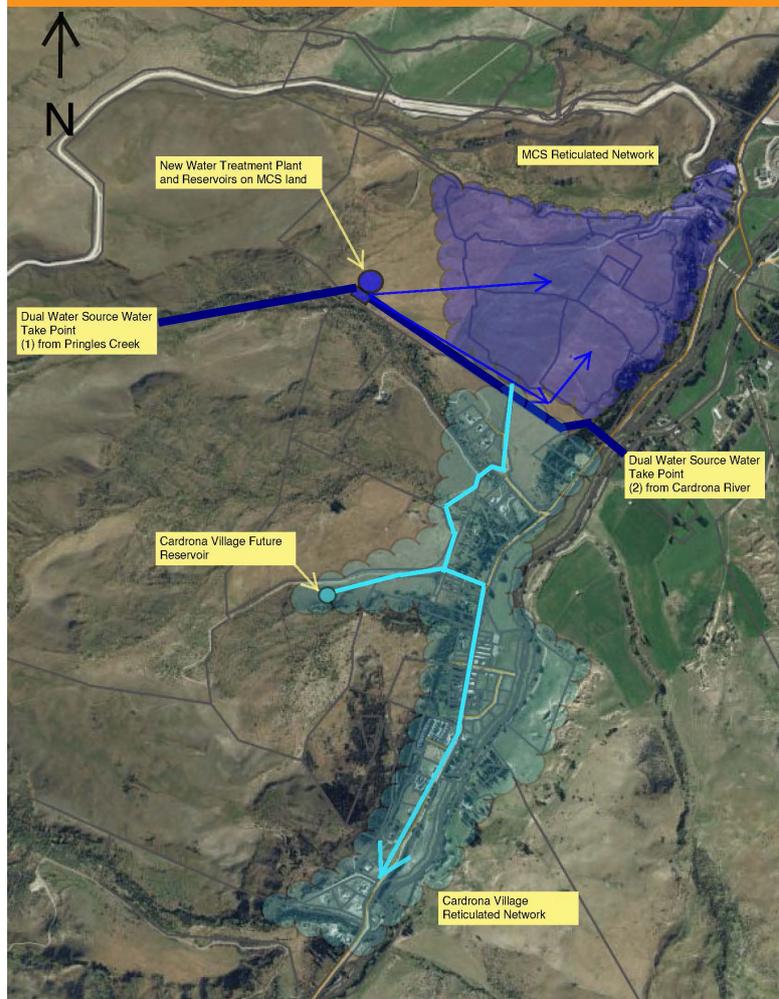
PROPOSED SOLUTION

Design, procurement and construction of a new drinking water supply scheme will start as soon as possible following Council approval. The intention is to have the new scheme operational by March 2022.

The drinking water supply scheme will be constructed by Cardrona Valley Infrastructure Limited (the project delivery vehicle formed by the investors of Mount Cardrona Station to deliver drinking water infrastructure) and vested in QLDC upon completion to serve the long-term water supply needs of the Cardrona Valley. The intention is that this scheme provides a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable drinking water supply that will cater for growth for the entire Cardrona village.

The Cardrona-wide scheme will invoke modern water demand management and targeted rating via volumetric flow meters to preserve the fragile catchment, ensuring essential stewardship of an increasingly scarce resource. Central management of a public drinking water scheme can ensure issues such as leaks or contaminations are minimised and/or quickly identified and resolved; with end-to-end consistency of water supply through frequent compliance testing, something not easily or affordably achieved with certainty for public health and safety when access to drinking water is managed by various private schemes.

[Click here to view the Proposed Water Scheme](#)



WHAT WILL IT COST?

The cost to connect to the new water supply scheme is still being finalised but will be similar to other small community water supply schemes.

Affordability measures include a small-scheme subsidy of 20% funded by the district-wide general rate for new reticulated water supply schemes in small communities.

The operation and maintenance costs will be informed through further stages of design, which will inform the rating costs. These will be charged on a targeted rate and volumetric metered basis.

A pay per-use basis saves low water users money and encourages high users to change their behaviour.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The proposed Cardrona-wide public scheme developed by QLDC and the investors of Mount Cardrona Station offers the most affordable solution in providing safe, secure and Drinking Water Standard NZ compliant drinking water with economies of scale where the costs are spread across a larger user network. Partnering for success to deliver a public drinking water supply scheme for the whole village can command much better pricing from contractors and suppliers than individual households or small collectives could.

ARE THERE PAYMENT OPTIONS?

While the costs are comparable to other small community schemes, the Council acknowledges that some property owners may find it difficult to cover. Two payment options will be available for existing dwellings and vacant lots. Households can choose the option that best works for them:

- 1. Lump sum upfront. No interest charges will apply to this option**
- 2. Payment Plan with payments spread out over 30 years (including interest)**

Further detail on costs will be available when design is completed.

The proposed scheme also offers a solution to supply all households within the Cardrona Village with a clean and safe compliant and sustainable water supply, thereby reducing the risks of drinking water contamination to achieve zero illnesses attributable to drinking water supply.

Email your feedback to letstalk@qldc.govt.nz by 5.00pm on Friday, 23 October.