



31 January 2024

Byron Cummings



Dear Byron Cummings

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (the Act) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 12 January 2024 for Information about Hutt City Council water tanks. We will respond to each of your questions in turn.

Answer:

Question A. What was the cost of the water tanks to HCC per tank?

The 200 Litre emergency water tanks are purchased for \$121.68 delivered.

Question B. Are HCC making a profit on the tank units? How much per tank?

No. The overall cost of the tanks are subsidised, with staff and storage costs also absorbed by HCC.

Question C. When was the decision made to supply the tanks for the public to purchase?

200 Litre Emergency Tanks have been available for sale to the public for the past nine years as a joint regional Civil Defence Emergency Management and Councils initiative.

Question D. When these tanks are provided – what is the rationale in regards to filling them during said water crisis?



The Tank Guy Emergency Water 200 Litre tank and kit has been developed as an affordable tank solution to provide a way of capturing and storing rainwater for an emergency event. Once connected to a downpipe, water can be collected before and after an event for basic survival until domestic water supplies are restored. The design was reviewed by The Massey University Roof Water Research Centre and evaluated in a year-long GNS research project – both provided recommendations for improvements which have been adopted.

Question E. Does HCC actually have enough water to fill the tanks? Given - avg household 4+ persons - even old data states circa 11.5K so that is 6.44 MILLION litres of water expected to be used to fill tanks if every household takes up the deal.

The Emergency Water 200 Litre tank and kit has been developed as an affordable tank solution to provide a way of capturing and storing rainwater for an emergency event.

Question F. Whose brainchild is this idea?

200 Litre Emergency Tanks have been available for sale to the public across the Wellington region as a joint regional Civil Defence Emergency Management and Councils initiative for the past nine years. The initiative aims to put more water storage into households which can then be used in an emergency, during disruptions to service (such as during outages or repairs), or to help minimise consumption during water restrictions. The original driver for the initiative was to have a supply of water in households following a large earthquake.

Question G. Is this project a flag of HCC poor performance on water management and how to charge the public more going forward?

No. The overall objective of the 200 Litre emergency water tanks initiative has been to improve household and community resilience to emergencies.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link:
www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy