

WDC approves new Mokau dam

CONSTRUCTION has begun in Mokau to double the capacity of the town's drinking water.

Mokau's current dam holds approximately 10,000 cubic metres of water.

But to meet future demands for the coastal community, Waitomo District Council has given the green light to a new dam with the same capacity at a cost of \$810,000 which includes a \$764,000 Ministry of Health subsidy.

The spring-fed dam is expected to be completed in April.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says the upgrade will "future-proof" Mokau during times of population growth or drought.

"The current dam is on top of a cliff. The new one will be built below on David Black's farm, and gravity fed to a nearby treatment plant.

"Once completed, the new storage facility will be filled during surplus times and Mokau will be assured of a good water supply for the next 50

years or so.

"It's all about having a vision for the future and we (council) expect, because of Mokau's beautiful seaside location and phenomenal views, population numbers will only continue to grow."

CONSUMPTION

Statistics show that during the Auckland Anniversary Weekend, Mokau residents consumed between 80-95 cubic metres of water per day compared to Piopio's 250-280 and Te Kuiti's 2800-4000.

One cubic metre of water is equal to 1000 litres of water.

Mr Hanna says Mokau residents have been very co-operative when asked to conserve water, especially during the summer drought of 2012/2013, and he is confident the second dam will provide an adequate water supply during peak demand periods.

"The problem Mokau has faced in the past is that during the warmer



WATER SOLUTION: Waitomo District Council has approved the construction of a new dam in Mokau which will double the capacity of drinking water for residents. The existing dam (above) holds 10,000 cubic metres of water. PHOTO SUPPLIED

months when the spring slows down and demand increases, there hasn't been enough storage capacity to meet everyone's needs.

"That's what this second dam will remedy.

"The Ministry of Health has approved the project, and all the geotechnical testing has been satisfactory, so all that's left now is construction."

KCE joins major sponsors of WWAA



ON BOARD: King Country Energy is now one of eight major sponsors of the new \$4.5 million Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter. PHOTO SUPPLIED

KING Country Energy (KCE) has shown its support for the new Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter by becoming a major associate sponsor.

The electricity generator and retailer will join seven other main funders (Trust Waikato, Wel Energy Trust, Waikato Federated Farmers Trust, Rodmor Charitable Trust, Farmlands, Gallagher Group, and Forlong and Maisey Group) and have its logo proudly displayed on the rear of the air ambulance.

"HONOURED"

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter is operated by the Philips Search and Rescue Trust (a charitable entity responsible for the five rescue helicopters based in Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo and Palmerston North) with KCE specifically contributing to the operational costs of the Hamilton-based

chopper.

KCE retail business manager Helen Peacock says the company is honoured to support a service that promotes the health, wellbeing and safety of its customers and the wider King Country population.

"The King Country region is remote, with many residents being a long drive away from the nearest hospital and therefore, access to emergency services is vital to the region," says Mrs Peacock.

"The Westpac Rescue Helicopter provides a fundamental 24/7 emergency response link to our more geographically isolated region so it is important to us that this service is empowered to function to its full potential and we look forward to being a part of that."

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This week's Super Specials!

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\$8.99 kg

New Season Royal Gala Apples



\$2.49 kg

Sanitarium Weet-Bix 1kg



\$4.99 each

Just Juice Fruit Juice 2.4-2.8L



\$3.99 each

Coke/Sprite/Fanta/LiFi/L&P 1.5L



\$2.00 each

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