

FRIENDS of Banks Peninsula Inc.

Akaroa's Community Environment Society since 1990



Akaroa Reclaimed Water Beneficial Reuse, Treatment and Disposal Options Submission

FAQs

Q: Why not just put it back out to sea?

A: Akaroa has water shortages in summer, which puts pressure on the local streams from the volume of water taken. Putting the treated water back into the harbour wastes a valuable resource and does not help solve this issue, and its offensive to Ngāi Tahu.

Q: Why are you in favour of watering gardens in Akaroa, but not properties in Takamatua and Robinsons Bays?

A: Re-use in Akaroa would be voluntary, meaning residents would make use of the water only when they need it. If the wastewater is used for irrigation in Takamatua or Robinsons Bay it would be disposed of – these areas do not need the water – and it would be at whatever (higher) rate the Council believes the land can take, rather than what it needs. The water is essentially being wasted, and places the local streams at risk.

Q: What is the difference between drinking water and water treated to salad crop standard?

A: Water treated to salad crop standard may be safely ingested, but would not necessarily be desirable to drink because of residual taste. It is expected that salad crops would be washed before being eaten.

Q: Is a purple pipe network practical?

A: We believe it is a viable option if installed over time when streets are being dug up for other reasons, to minimise costs. There may be other ways the reclaimed water could be used in Akaroa too, such as groundwater recharging (by watering the upper slopes of the catchment), establishing biodiversity reserves, horticultural enterprises – or other ideas we haven't thought of yet. Please put your thinking caps on and see where else there might be a beneficial need for water to suggest to Council.