

Welcome to the second issue of WATER for 2016.

WATER is published five times a year, and we welcome contributions of technical and general news items across the spectrum of the water and wastes industry on the following areas:

- Policy and legislation
- Water quality demand management
- Wastewater
- Project news
- Modelling
- Stormwater
- International Training
- Trade waste
- Industry news and Technical topics/papers

The next issue of 'WATER' will be published in July, the themes are Innovation in Wastewater, Mobile Technology and Trade and Industrial Waste.

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The deadline for the July issue of Water is Monday 27 June.

To view the themes for 2016 visit: www.waternz.org.nz

Clean water for Winston victims

The Waves For Water charitable organisation is helping with disaster relief in Fiji by providing clean water systems. After Cyclone Winston hit the island in February, leaving tens of thousands homeless, the company teamed up with Australia-based wastewater treatment specialist For Earth to provide 20L buckets that are fitted with filters to provide drinkable water.

Aid workers have warned that potential outbreaks of viruses carried by mosquitoes could further devastate the nation, with dirty stagnant water remaining in many areas. Waves for Water executive director, Christian Troy is spearheading the effort transporting water filtration supplies to the affected areas. The filters are supplied by Waves for Water and funded by donations from the public and private enterprises. If you wish to get onboard and donate please visit www.wavesforwater.org



Buckets full of relief - Harley Sofield, general manager For Earth and Christian Troy executive director from Waves for Water.



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How best to value water?

Protest over the water consent that will give a bottled watered company free access to a local aquifer in drought-prone Ashburton has pushed the issue of how water is valued into public prominence.

The consent, which allows NZ Pure Blue to extract 40 billion litres of pure artesian water over 30 years as part of its lot purchase in the Ashburton Business Estate, prompted a local "bung the bore" petition and well-attended protest rally. Those opposing the lot sale argue that a private company should not be able to profit from a scarce public resource that it is getting for free.

That has prompted wider discussion as to why the creation of a tax or charge on water use is not part of the freshwater management reform process. Proponents of such a charge say that putting a price on water does not imply ownership but it does create an environment in which water use is better regulated and therefore more efficient.

Also heating up is the discussion of water "ownership" with right-wing think tank NZ Centre for Political Research running full-page ads in local newspapers asking whether 'one race' should control freshwater and urging people to make submissions to the "next steps" water reform which recognises Iwi rights in freshwater management.

Submissions to the reform process closed on Friday 22 April.

