

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water charges

I rang the KCDC service centre to inquire about water charges. I was told although they are not confirmed until June/July 2013 the approximation is: 50 per cent of charge will be \$235, a set annual rate and 50 per cent will be what is used "over your set allocation".

Now I see why a few residents are welcoming meters! Unfortunately they have been misinformed by KCDC.

The Charging Regime Advisory Group (CRAG) recommendation, which received unanimous support by council on April 5, allows for no allocation of water.

All residents will pay the set annual rate and then be charged for every litre of water they use.

Based on figures produced by council (Water costs — what you need to know) a single person in a standard residential property using water efficiently will pay \$512.30 per year for water received. Please note this figure does not include the charge for waste water disposal, that is charged for separately.

JEAN KAHUI
Waikanae

Terms of marriage

"Gay" used to mean happy, now the only time you hear the word is when it's applied to the homosexual community. Marriage is defined as "the legal union of a woman and man as wife and husband". Same sex unions are catered for in the Civil Union Act. If same sex unions want the same legal rights, benefits and responsibilities as married couples, I suggest they lobby for a law change to the Civil Union Act, not for a change in definition regarding the word marriage. Call your same sex unions what you like but don't interfere with the terms of my marriage.

DAVID MORRIS
Paraparaumu
(abridged)

Flood zones

I attended the August 30 council meeting that was rubber stamping its Listing of Coastal Properties as being in flood hazard zones. I went to try to convince council the way forward was to avoid hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal and expert fees by being forced to go through the courts. I believe no sensible ratepayer wants money spent unnecessarily.

Unfortunately this council, which has apparently enjoyed swimming in the gushing swimming pool cost increases from the original \$3 million to the now \$25m, is equally enthusiastic about getting into the shark infested waters of expensive litigation. This is evidenced by council manager Ebenhoh's comments in the *Dominion*, Sept 5, that the council will stand up to legal challenges. In other words "bring it on".

The mayor and council seem to believe that lines drawn on a map are as real as earthquake fault lines detected by scientific instruments. They are not, according to scientists. The mayor and councillors with their superior knowledge in all things will undoubtedly have their own dismissive answer saying the science is wrong.

The council has accepted a report which categorically states properties 3 metres above high water are subject to potential flooding, without any evidence.

Is it not time that a mayor and council that appear hellbent on making Kapiti have NZ's highest rates are brought to heel before we are all rated out of the district.

CHRISTOPHER RUTHE
Kapiti