Montalto Water Supply Consultation – Summary of feedback

To support hearings and deliberations 2nd September 2026 date

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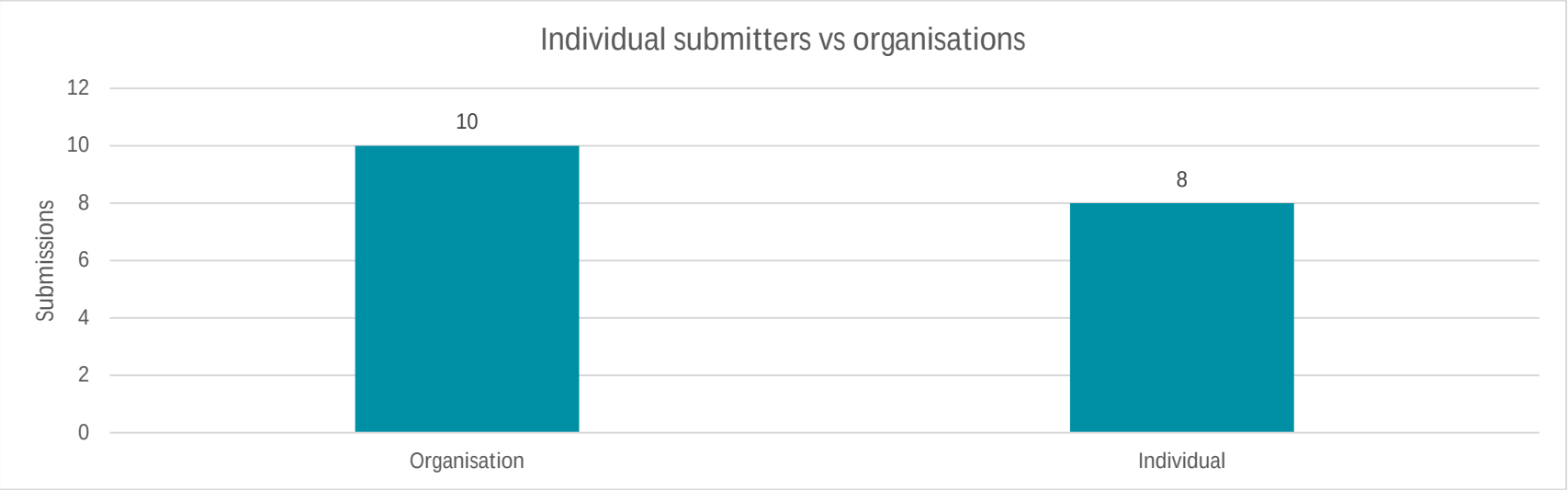
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1.1 Summary of feedback received

Public consultation on Montalto Water Supply was undertaken from 22nd July 2026 to 12 August 2026

- 17 submissions received on time.
- There was 1 late submissions received.
- 10 submitters indicated they wanted to be heard at the hearing on 2nd September 2026.



1.2 Which option do you prefer most?

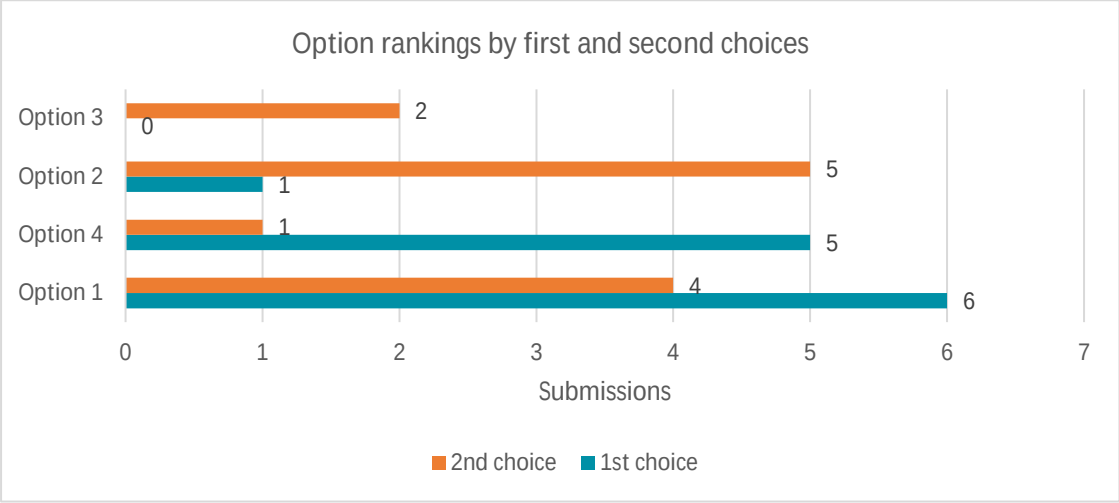
Submitters were asked to rank the following options in order of preference, with 1 being most preferred and 4 being the least preferred option.

Option 1: Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household and gradually renew existing network
Option 2: Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household
Option 3: Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council (Council's preferred option)
Option 4: Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing network

Number of submitters who answered this question: 11

OPTION RANKINGS — MOST TO LEAST FIRST PREFERENCES

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice
Option 1	6	4	1	1
Option 4	5	1	2	4
Option 2	1	5	3	3
Option 3	0	2	6	4



1.2.1 Submitter comments on preferred option

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Option One			
Athey Price (Amberside Farming Limited)	10-11	This is the only option which safeguards the domestic water supply to the 34 houses in an affordable manner. Stock water can be managed by the farmers. Individual treatment at point of consumption is safest.	
Athel Price (R.A Price) (R.A Price Amberside Farm)	8-9	This is the only option which safeguards the domestic water supply to the houses in an affordable manner. Stock water can be managed by the farmers, individual treatment at point of consumer is safest.	
Athel Price tenant of C and G Weis (Amberside Farms)	6-7	This is the only option which safeguards the domestic water supply to the 34 houses in an affordable manner. Stock water can be managed by the farmers. Individual treatment at the point of consumption.	
Ben and Victoria Morrow (Country Downs Farm & Montalto Farm)	22-23	It has been frustrating to have paid high rates (per property and per hectare) and to see the waste of resources, by many years of patching, rather than targeted repairs and upgrades. We have continued to pay these high rates despite an unreliable system and a continuous boil water notice. By the Councils own admission, even boiling the water does not make the water potable, due to backflow chemical risk and Chlorine disinfection by-products (DBPs). The upgrade should include trimming the scheme and ensure a single take to each property to avoid contamination of the main line. The landowner would be responsible for repairs, maintenance and pipe design on their land. Council must not abandon the scheme and take responsibility for providing potable water to the community, who include business owners, staff, visitors and tenants. The alternative options devalue our properties and degrade our quality of life.	
Mark Greenslade	32-33	This in my view make sense as with the rainwater only option not every house would meet standards to be able to collect enough water to run the household. We (Montalto Water Scheme) have a consent to take perfectly good water so should use it. So by upgrading/building a new drinking only water scheme we future proof our properties	
Mark Marrow	12-13	We need a stock scheme as much as clean water. No need for council to be involved.	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Option Two			
Sol Yezerski	34-35	We already have a storage tank, pressure pump, and end point treatment consisting of an off-the-shelf domestic cartridge filtration setup (In the kitchen sink) We do not have an end point treatment at the household. Our Montalto water supply is unreliable as it depends on storage tanks in the Klondyke farm on the hill, plus water is often cut off when stock disrupts the supply	
Option Four			
James Wright (Montalto Water Users Group)	4-5	Under the management of a community body I believe we could affordably build a new mixed used rural supply with single point of entry to each farm and back flow prevention to comply with regulations of Taumata Arowai.	
Ewan & Judith Moore	30-31	The community should be allowed to choose their own destiny.	
Eric Duff (Thornycroft 2018 ltd)	28-29	we want an opportunity to rebuild the scheme on our own.	
Fraser Alister McKenzie	16-17	Any other property in the district can choose its own water supply without council	
Mike Medlicott (Hamish McCormick Family Trust)		As a trustee of the family trust that owns this property, I am making this submission in support of our position. Over the years, the scheme has experienced a number of issues and challenges. Given the relatively small number of participants, the associated costs and compliance requirements have been substantial when compared with the benefits received. Our property has undertaken several upgrades to its farm water system. As a result, we believe that managing our own domestic water supply is the best option for the property, both financially and from a health standards perspective.	
Didn't rank an option			
E Wallace	24-25	The only fair and reasonable option is option 1 PROVIDED the Montalto Community can take over the scheme and engage the contractors/work to be done. Rain water from a roof is TOTALLY unacceptable given the fact rain is not guaranteed (Global Warming), stored rain water will be stagnant and the high level/concentrated of pollutants that come off roofs (dust, e-coli from birds, chemical residual etc) will mean the amount of treatment needed at each tank will far exceed what is done with the current system and trialed end point treatment systems (which are fantastic). For drinking water and stock water the only	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
		acceptable solution is to replace the pipework with modern pipes and at each property a separate line (with back flow valve) goes to the house. Anything else will be unfair and unreasonable to the Montalto community where human physical and mental health is completely dependent on water for lives and livelihoods. Rainwater is a 3rd World solution and huge step backwards.	
Cameron Moore (Belvedere Montalto ltd)	26-27	I am not in favour of any of the above options! That is why i have not ranked any of them! My preferred option is for the Montalto Community to take full control of the Montalto Water Scheme and run it ourselves as a mixed-use rural water supply. With us renewing the pipe work in the current scheme to single point entry to each property. With a dedicated household line with a non-return valve off the single point entry to household only tank that is then run through an acceptable solution provided by Taumata Arowai - in this case end point treatment unit (as being trialed at 3 properties in Montalto with excellent water quality results this year). As the old water scheme has reached its end of life the option to upgrade is pointless. Secondly to put in separate drinking water only pipework is neglecting the fact that the stock water system needs replacing at the same time. Household rainwater is not appropriate due to inconsistent rainfall due to climate change.	
Glynn O'Rourke (NPHS Te Waipounamu)	18-19	NPHS Te Waipounamu does not have a view on which option should be preferred for the delivery of drinking-water services for the Montalto water supply. We acknowledge that meeting regulatory requirements will have a positive impact on public health for the local community.	
J & J Harrison	20-21	"We feel the council has an obligation to provide drinking water to all. We have been paying very large water rates and there have been no upgrades to the scheme that have been undertaken and we have been on a boil water notice for many years. Had the upgrades been undertaken over the years we would not be in this position. Now that the councils hand is being forced they are in turn forcing the Montalto community into a huge decision that affects not only our households but also our businesses and we do not feel that we have had enough time to make a fully informed decision. While we cannot make an informed choice on what path we should take, rainwater is not an option we would want and is very much a backwards step. A new scheme is the way forward but this should not be a cost that the community fronts alone as any further increase in our rates would be un-viable for our businesses."	
Unnamed submission	14-15	We need more time as a community to investigate how we go forward, we need to do a feasibility study and come back with a plan that will suit all our users. We also have a farm	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
		under sale agreement with over100% of the land who have no idea about this, and will need time.	
Zeke Stringer	2-3	Option 4 - I believe each house can set up and maintain our own supply for less than council can. For me this is the only affordable option.	

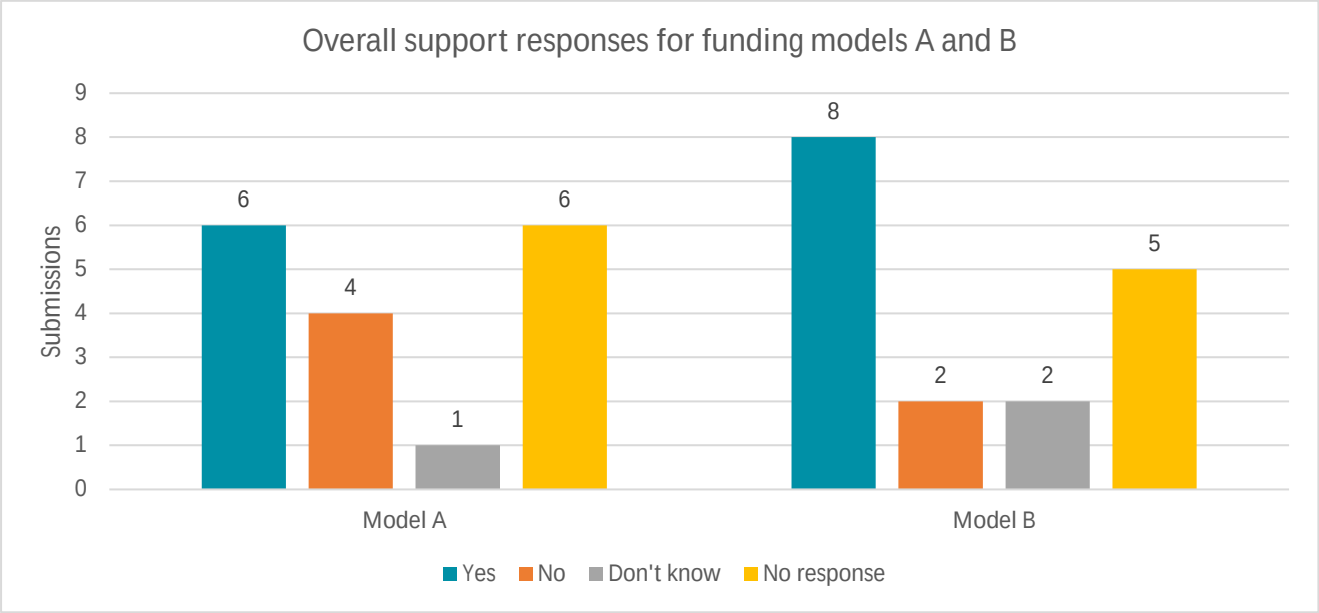
1.3 Based on your preferred option, which funding model do you support?

Submitters were asked to select their preferred funding model based on their preferred option

Funding Model A: Only Montalto water users pay
Funding Model B: Costs are share across the wider water group

Number of submitters who answered this question: 15

	Model A only	Model B only	Neither / unclear
Option 1	1	5	0
Option 4	4	1	0
Option 2	0	1	0
Option 3	0	0	0
No preferred option selected	1	2	1



1.2.2 Submitter comments on preferred option

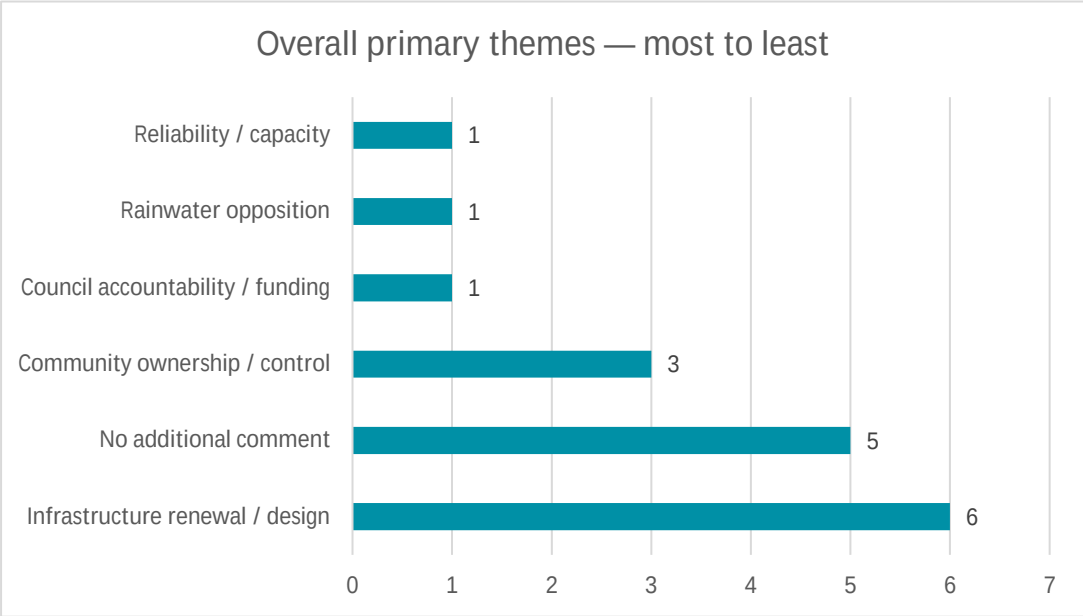
Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Funding Option A			
James Wright (Montalto Water Users Group)	4-5	Only users pay will be less expensive away from Council control	
Zeke Stringer	2-3	After scheme is closed cost will be on us	
Fraser Alister McKenzie	16-17	to be self-funding	
Mark Greenslade	32-33	As Montalto rate payers are the only ones using it they should pay some form of contribution to it. This could be metered and at point of entry each ratepayer pays a an agreed amount on water used. If there are 5 households on that property they pay for what is used	
Ewan & Judith Moore	30-31	The community chooses its own destiny and pays for it.	
Eric Duff (Thornycroft 2018 ltd)	28-29	user pays is fair, and the community plan on upgrading scheme which gives everyone the opportunity of either good drinking water as well as stock water at single point of entry and non return valves	
Funding Option B			
Athel Price (R.A Price) (R.A Price Amberside Farm)	8-9	This is the only affordable way to share the costs with the other rate payers in the district. $50.62 is a small price to pay across the whole group	
Athey Price (Amberside Farming Limited)	10-11	This is the only affordable way to share the costs with the other rate payers in the district. $50.62 is a small price to pay across the whole group	
Athel Price tenant of C and G Weis (Amberside Farms)	6-7	This is the only affordable way to share the costs with the other rate payers in the district. $50.62 is a small price to pay across the whole group	
Ben and Victoria Morrow (Country Downs Farm & Montalto Farm)	22-23	We have historically paid high rates for a scheme that does not deliver. Sharing costs among the wider group would facilitate investment in an upgraded system which would ultimately be more efficient to run. Funding model A costs are prohibitive.	

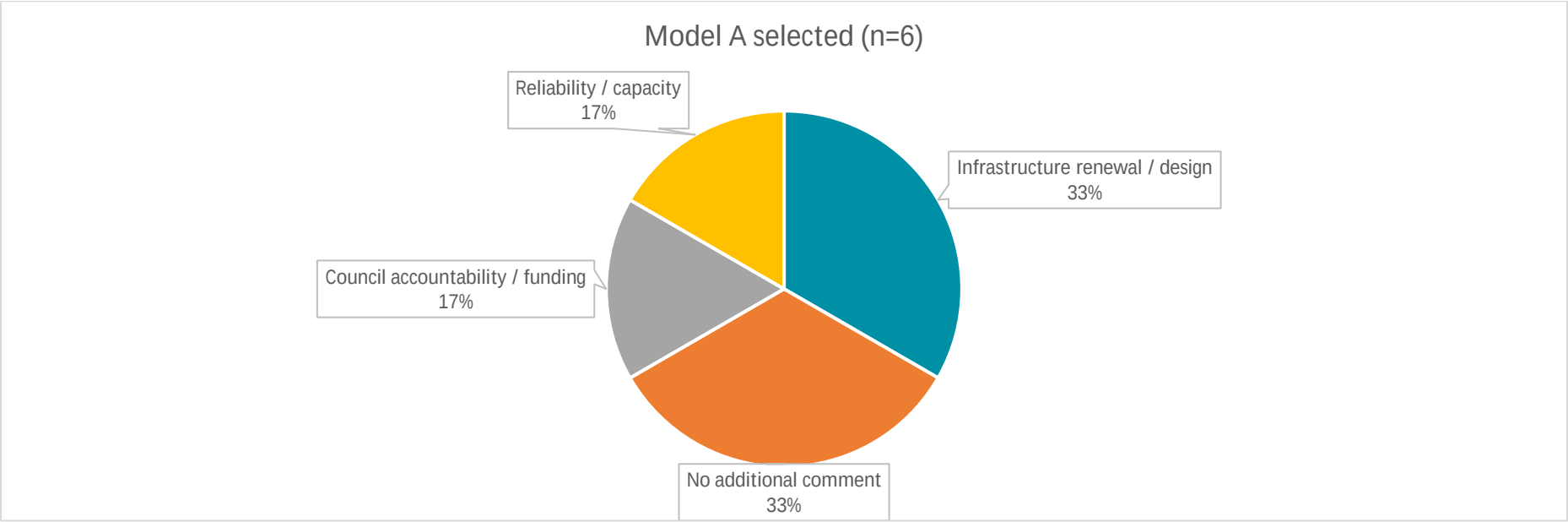
Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
J & J Harrison	20-21	This should not be a cost for the community alone.	
Sol Yezerski	34-35	I don't see why we should not be included in the general rates which we pay to Ashburton Council as all the other rate payers	
Mark Marrow	12-13	or some help from the Council	
E Wallace	24-25	Given that you spent $6.1 million on a water treatment facility for Mount Sommers where there is a very small population of residents and have decided to reduce the cap for the development contributions in Mt Sommers to only $12,500 (down from $20,503) clearly indicates that you have plenty of funds in the budget for water to communities and given the amount that the Montalto Residents have paid over the years the Council should ensure their contributions are refunded so they can take over the scheme (given the Council has spent Montalto Rate Payers money on other water schemes in Ashburton and no doubt on non water related items such as leaking Art Galleries and other non-essential Council fluff. The Montalto Residents have asked for a full set of accounts from the Council for the water scheme and their water rates but the Council has failed to provide any accountability to date.	
Mike Medlicott (Hamish McCormick Family Trust)		It's cheaper	
Uncertain / did not select a funding model			
Cameron Moore (Belvedere Montalto ltd)	26-27	We want to run a funding option that is not stated here. That is that the Montalto Community takes over full ownership of the Montalto Water Scheme for mixed-use rural water supply. Due to the Councils failing to provide a full record of accounts for the current Montalto Water Scheme, despite consistent requests from the Montalto Community for at least the last 30 years, there is no transparency as to how current funds are used so difficult to have a preferred option when information is not shared.	

1.4 What concerns do you have about the options?

Submitters were asked to provide feedback about any risks, costs, or practical issues Council should consider.

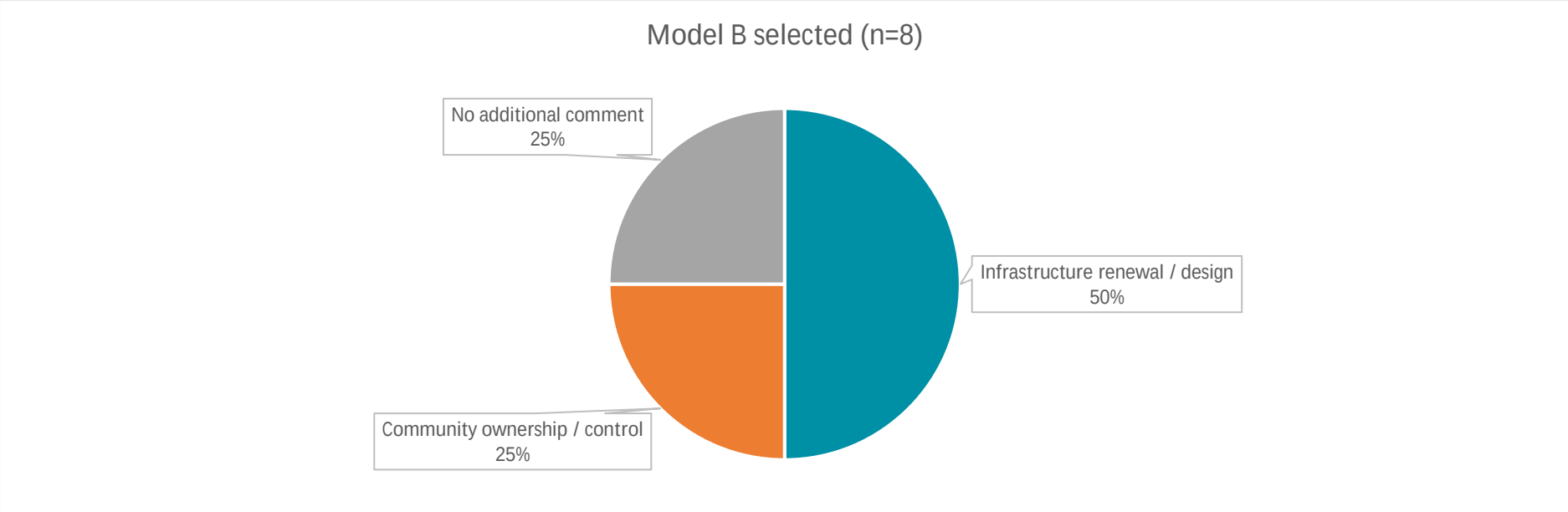
Number of submitters who answered this question: 15





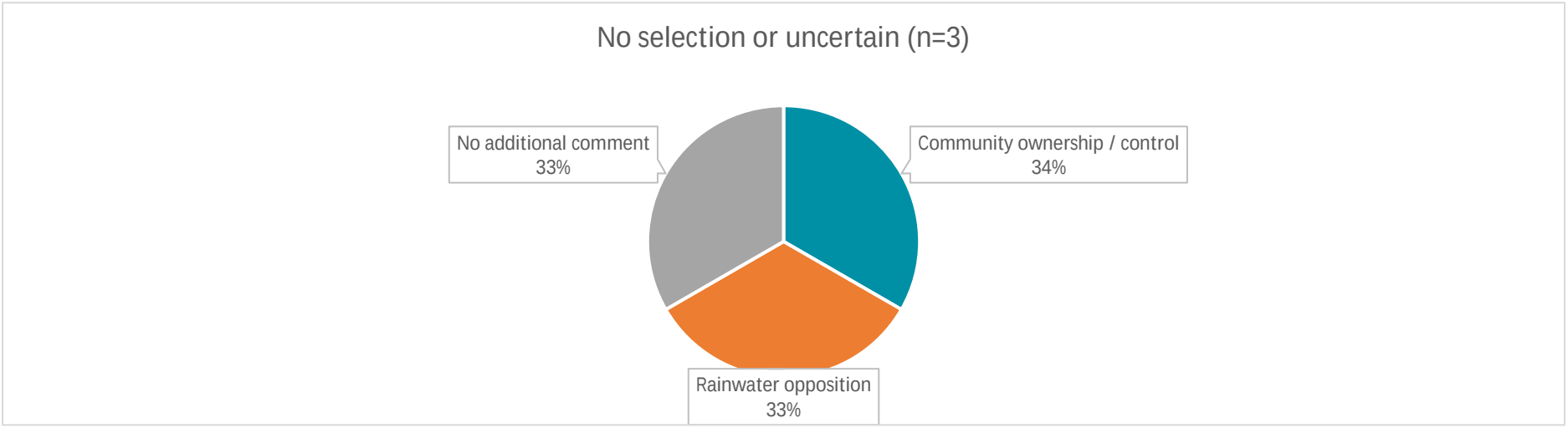
Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Funding Option A			
Fraser Alister McKenzie	16-17	Before the land owners take over the stock water scheme the fish screen needs to be addressed, the ADC has mismanaged this, they had 5 years to replace the fish screens after the consent (CRC 052628) was granted in 2010. It was budgeted in 2014/15 to replace at $136460+GST. This work was not done, now 12 years later we have been told the cost could be $500,00.00. The ADC needs to take responsibility for their mismanagement and incompetence The ADC cannot transfer the consent to the landowners group if it is non-compliant. Attached is Montalto water scheme info	
Zeke Stringer	2-3	Considering my property is a 0.5ha section and I am a wage earner option 2 would mean my rates/ water bill would be approximately 50% of my earnings and option 3 would be 12% of my annual income this is just unaffordable. I can deal with the one-off costs of setup but ongoing costs would be unmanageable if managed by Council.	
Mark Greenslade	32-33	No to rain water and the annual costs to this i find hard to understand when the initial setup 1 tank and treatment payed for in 1st year ongoing costs should just be replacement filters.	
Ewan & Judith Moore	30-31	Current trial is providing best quality household water ever.	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
		End point tank and filtration is essential regardless of source. Rainwater has multiple risks and health issues - vermin both furry and feathered etc. A Co-Op scheme owned by the Community would be the most cost efficient and successful model. A substantial pipe renewal with single entry to property will improve water quality.	
James Wright (Montalto Water Users Group)	4-5	Option 1 - good money chasing bad. - re back flow prevention. Option 2 - too expensive Option 3 - no appetite for rainwater connection in the community	
Eric Duff	28-29	people been left without a water source	



Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Funding Option B			
E Wallace	24-25	The Montalto Residents should have all of their water rate contributions refunded to use to take over the water scheme going forward so they can get good value for their money and not alot of waste that has occurred over the years with poor management by the Council.	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Mark Marrow	12-13	big commitment for upgrade	
Sol Yezerski	34-35	We need a more "bullet-proof" supply of water to our property, rather than relying on a flimsy pipe coming down over the bridge from Klondyke farm.	
Ben and Victoria Morrow	22-23	Option1: Funding model A cost prohibitive. Option 2: Funding model A cost prohibitive. Option 3: Backwards step. Concerns raised include drought, roof size, cleanliness of roofing including agrichemical drift, dust and bird contamination, asbestos, and lead head nails. Option 4: Inheriting a run down system. Liability falls onto scheme committee if a scheme is set up and residents take it for house supply. Well depth required in our area may be cost prohibitive for each household.	
Athey Price	10-11	opt 2 - Mind blowing cost opt 3 - Rain water harvesting is not preferred opt 4 - local water company could not cope the supply and service to 34 houses	
Athel Price (R.A Price)	8-9	opt 2 - Mind blowing cost opt 3 - Rain water harvesting is not preferred opt 4 - local water company could not cope the supply and service to 34 houses	
Athel Price tenant of C and G Weis	6-7	opt 2 - Mind blowing cost opt 3 - Rain water harvesting is not preferred opt 4 - local water company could not cope the supply and service to 34 houses	



Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
No Selection or uncertain			
Unnamed submission	14-15	The Montalto Water Supply main purpose is to provide stock water, it is well overdue for a upgrade. We feel Council has overrated and under resourced the scheme for years. We will need Council money, as all feel the four hundred thousand in kitty is disappointing. In my own thoughts I would like a new ring pipe to go around the scheme with two takes at each farm one for the stockwater and one for house all with backflows, and farmers take ownership of their pipes and that the community own the scheme.	
Cameron Moore	26-27	Risks 1. Household rainwater is not appropriate due to inconsistent rainfall due to climate change and will result in stored water that is stagnant for long periods. As such that water will be higher in potential containments (including e-coli from the roof) than water from the current water source where water is constantly moving. As such rainwater would involve more extensive treatment than the current scheme which is pointless. 2. Pointless to waste money on two systems when replacing the current system with single point entry to each property on a mixed-use rural water supply would be far superior for the Montalto Community. 3. Going to Rainwater collection for household water could have a negative impact on the land values in the Montalto District and limit the number of people who want to live and work in Montalto. This would also have a negative economic impact on the wider district. 4. New pipework will be more compliant with our consents and improve environmental outcomes.	

1.5 Do you have any further comments you'd like to make?

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Theme: Community Control / ownership			
Cameron Moore	26-27	We want to have full control of Montalto water as this is essential for our homes, our lively hoods and wider economy. As a community run water scheme we would implement a more sensible and practical water system that will provide better quality and quantity drinking water for the households. Historically the Council has not chosen the best system for Montalto water treatment (despite expert advice at the time) so we have little faith that the Council would choose the best water quality outcome for Montalto residents now. As the Council has made it clear that they want to withdraw from stock water supply it means that the Montalto Community has no option but to take over full control of the current Montalto Mixed-use water supply. Our proposed option to take over the ownership of the scheme with single point entry and water treatment systems at each house would more than satisfy the requirements of Taumata Arowai via the SMN-AS. In Summary: He pukenga wai, he pukenga tāngata!	
E Wallace	24-25	Na te whakarongo me te titiro ka puta mai te korero I was only first made aware of this current consultation by reading about in in the Ashburton Guardian Newspaper a week after it was published. Given there are only 35 houses the Council should have individually notified us. The matter that is being 'consulted' on is not a simplistic/easy topic to understand to be able to make informed and well considered submissions. The Council has not provided sufficient information to the residents. Given this is an extremely busy time of year for farmers, the timing of this consultation is extremely poor. The Council did not meet with the community until Monday 3 August 2026 (ONLY 8 DAYS BEFORE submissions are due!) The Councils timeline for this matter is totally unreasonable and unfair given the complexity and significant impact on residents. As such the consultation period should be extended or completely ceased until there is better community engagement by the Council to affected parties	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Mark Marrow	12-13	The main problem is the lack of capacity and reliability. The second problem is the quality; I would keep the scheme as a multi-use for houses and stock within most cases one take per farm and treated at the source of consumption. The scheme should be owned and run by the land owners.	
Theme: Council accountability / funding			
Mark Greenslade	32-33	Just feel a little pressure to make a decision in such a short time frame. I am dissapointed going for that the council has dragged its feet on helping look after this scheme with a fish screen need to go in which we/they knew about for the last 15 years The cost of going alone and the rules/legistation that need to be set up in this every changing environment with consents etc that have to be meet	
Theme: Infrastructure renewal / design			
Eric Duff	28-29	We have been well aware for some time that the scheme requires a major upgrade. We feel that the scheme has not been adequately maintained or updated by the Council over recent years, which has contributed to the situation we now find ourselves in. We are also concerned that the current timeframe is extremely tight. These are important decisions that will have long-term financial and operational consequences, and we believe we need sufficient time to properly assess all available options. If the preferred option is for us to leave the Council's umbrella and operate independently, we believe there needs to be appropriate financial assistance . We already have approximately $400,000 of our own funds committed to the scheme, and we do not believe it is reasonable to expect us to absorb the additional costs associated with transitioning away from the Council without some level of financial support. We are willing to work constructively with the Council to achieve this.	
Ben and Victoria Morrow	22-23	Scheme upgrade should include a gallery well with settling tanks at the source to reduce sediment load on filtration systems. The pipe network should be reduced to a single take to each property. Flow meters could be used to charge for water use. Delivery directly to the household with stockwater on a separate line within that farm. The landowner would be responsible for repairs, maintenance and pipe design on their land. Treatment at each household to be managed by Council.	
Athey Price	10-11	Option 1 gives every house access to clean water with individual filtration. Cost to the Council is affordable and home owners generally happy to manage their own filtration. Some new main line pipes will be required to houses with minimal back flow risks.	

Submitter name	Page number	Summary	Staff comments
Athel Price (R.A Price)	8-9	Option 1 gives every house access to clean water with individual filtration. Cost to the Council is affordable and home owners generally happy to manage their own filtration. Some new main line pipes will be required to houses with minimal back flow risks.	
Athel Price tenant of C and G Weis	6-7	Option 1 gives every house access to clean water with individual filtration. Cost to the Council is affordable and home owners generally happy to manage their own filtration. Some new main line pipes will be required to houses with minimal back flow risks.	
James Wright (Montalto Water Users Group)	4-5	To move to rainwater supply for households is regarded as a significant regression for Montalto households. A new scheme supplying stock water and household water would satisfy the quality concerns and stock water supply issues. Single point entry to tanks on property boundaries with back flow prevention and a physical break between in-tank valve and water would be a ""belt and braces"" approach to backflow prevention. Point of entry treatment at houses from separate pipes from the main lines should also satisfy quality requirements. Cost saving by installing new scheme using private enterprises could be significant.	
Theme: Rainwater opposition			
Unnamed submission	14-15	There is no households that 1st choice is to go to rainwater. Don't like sharing water with the birds (bird flu). Houses use more water and one not designed to save water than 60 years ago. Totally unreliable it often doesn't rain for 2 weeks or more	
Theme: Reliability / capacity			
Zeke Stringer	2-3	The existing scheme is poorly designed and unreliable and in my opinion beyond repair. As I do not have land for any stock I do not want any further involvement with this water scheme. The only option for me is option 4 and I will challenge this to the end.	