



Cook Islands NEWS

AS SOLID AS THE ISLANDS WE STAND FOR

\$2.10

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Govt unfazed by jump in TMV costs

AN EXTRA \$30 million above its initial budget of \$60 million is within the Te Mato Vai (TMV) project proposal design, Finance minister Mark Brown confirmed yesterday.

Brown was responding to a question from Titikaveka MP Selina Napa who asked in Parliament if the project aimed at delivering potable drinking water would now cost an extra \$30 million to complete.

Brown in his reply said the \$60 million referred to in the project proposal was a fifth-order estimate of what the project would cost. He said the fifth-order estimates have a plus or minus of 50 per cent.

"An additional \$20-\$30 million above this fifth-order estimate is within the project proposal design," Brown said.

However Brown said the government was confident they

would not have to borrow extra money to meet the additional expense incurring from the project.

"As the Honorable member correctly pointed out, this project is being now in its fourth year. However the implementation has only started this year so that the three year time delay has led to cost increases as we would expect in a project of this nature," he said.

"And I'm confident that the

additional cost increases can be absorbed by the government in the construction of our water intake without any further loans."

MP Napa also asked whether the households would be required to pay for the water service.

Brown reiterated water supply would be free for households, but would cost for businesses.

"The water that Te Mato Vai will provide for our domestic

household will not be charged.

However those who make money out of the water that we provide will have to pay for their water, and we are talking here about the businesses, hotels, any entity that uses our water to make money for themselves. They must be expected to pay the people of this country who provided this service," the deputy prime minister said.

Brown also said he held con-

sultations with the landowners of the intakes and they supported government's policy on the water charges.

"In addition, the landowners were also of the view and agreement that households that wasted water and allowed water to run needlessly should also be penalised in order to get them to either fix leaking taps or to modify their behaviour.

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Two house blazes in Titikaveka

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At the scene of the first fire he said: "Having a look at this we are not quite sure what the cause of this blaze is yet. It looks like the back of the kitchen and the washhouse area."

"It is fortunate that it is separate from the rest of the house. But we will get a team up here to have a look."

While pleased with the performance of the brigade crews Hagai was less than happy with drivers on the island.

"We still want to get back to

the people who are driving on the roads - please look in your rear-vision mirror.

"Emergency-response vehicles are coming up behind you and you are not veering away and it is causing big vehicles to swerve out of the way, which actually causes an opposite reaction for the traffic coming towards them.

"So if you can please look in your rear vision mirrors if you hear the siren then please make way.

"Our trucks are not small cars



A second fire yesterday afternoon was visible behind Titikaveka College.

- they're not utes - they are actually wide trucks that need to get to an emergency.

"If you don't think we should

be on the road then consider this - it could be your house we are responding to so think about that."

■ RM/JK

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"And it would be the job of the authority that we will establish to maintain and look after our water networks to be responsible for setting the appropriate rates for our water so that we can essentially recover the cost on maintaining our water supply system.

"And indeed the government is working with the landowners on a deed of agreement which

would outline the principles of our water system so that it is cost recovery and not profit driven."

The Te Mato Vai project is co-funded by the governments of the Cook Islands, New Zealand and China.

The project which started in 2014 has now progressed into stage two and is expected to be completed by 2020.

■ Rashneel Kumar

Grabbing children's interest on Climate Change



To know God is to seek Wisdom



St Joseph Primary School
Gala Day

28th September 2018

This Friday at the school grounds in Tutakimoa inviting families and friends of St Joseph School Tapiripiri mai, aere mai

Food stalls galore - Lucky spin the wheel and prizes - School raffle drawn, be in to win cash prizes!

Gala stalls begin selling after 8.30am until all sold

COME JOIN US!

