

How do the options compare for the future of water services in Lower Hutt?

Alongside the other cities in the Wellington region, we've been working hard to find the best option for delivering water services to our communities.


We're thinking about things like how much it will cost people, how well it will work, future needs and whether it follows new Government regulations. We're also looking at the long term effect on the environment and our communities.

Here's a comparison of our preferred of a multi-council-owned water services organisation, versus the status quo of a modified Wellington Water Ltd.

| | ★ Preferred New multi-council-owned water organisation | Modified status quo |
|--|---|--|
| Ability to Borrow to improve services | A higher borrowing capacity, so costs to replace and upgrade infrastructure could be spread over time. | Would require each Council to manage its own debt within existing borrowing limits, which would restrict investment and lead to higher costs for ratepayers. |
| Environmental, social and cultural impacts | A regional approach, allowing for better environmental protection, improved water quality, and Council continues to work with Iwi and communities for the best outcomes. | Keep decision-making with individual Councils, which may lead to inconsistent environmental management and make it harder to achieve long-term social and cultural goals across the region. |
| Impact on Household Costs | Expected to keep household water costs lower over time, with charges projected to be about a third less than the status quo. | Significantly higher running costs. |
| Transition Costs | Would involve upfront costs to set up the new entity, transfer assets, and establish new systems, but is expected to provide long-term savings through better efficiency and investment. | Lower transition costs since it builds on the existing system, but considerable investment is needed to improve systems. Less efficient funding and investment may lead to higher costs over time. |
| Influence over decision making | The board of the new water organisation would be appointed by and accountable to shareholders (the Councils), but financial decisions would ultimately be the responsibility of a governance board. | Individual Councils retain direct control over investment decisions, but this could lead to slower decision-making and less coordinated regional planning. |
| Iwi Involvement | For this reform Iwi have been around the table from the start and the new model will continue this practice. | Continue the current approach, where Iwi provide input but have less direct influence over water service management and decision-making. |

 **Find out more and have your say**
before 20 April 2025

 Go to: hutt.city/futurewater

 Visit any Hutt City Council neighbourhood hub to view the consultation document and fill out a survey form.