



Briefing: Local Water Done Well

Water service delivery model consultation

10 February 2025 – 3.30pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Barry, Cr Barratt, Cr Brown (via audio-visual link), Cr Dyer (via audio-visual link), Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis (via audio-visual link), Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Karen Yung (Petone Community Board); L Bingley (Wainuiomata Community Board via audio-visual link) and M Fisher (Petone Community Board).

Staff: A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive; J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; K Stannard, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office; B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor; D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance; N Twilton, Strategic Financial Advisor; H Singh, Advisor Strategic Planning and Business (via audio-visual link); W Botha, Corporate Planning Lead (via audio-visual link) and V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor.

Apologies

Cr Briggs, Cr Tupou and Cr Morgan.

Presenters

Bruce Hodgins, Strategic Advisor.

Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of this briefing is to review the consultation on the preferred model for water service delivery under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act, which was enacted on 2 September 2024. The Act requires councils to consult on delivery models as part of the development of a Water Services Delivery Plan.

Presentation by Bruce Hodgins, Strategic Advisor.

Slide 1 – Local water done well, Water services delivery model consultation.

Slide 2 – Background.

Slide 3 – Timeline.

Slide 4 – Partnership.

Slide 5 – Key shared messages.

Slide 6 – Consultation Options.

Slide 7 – Consultation question.

Slide 8 – Mana whenua partnership.

Slide 9 – Questions.

Slide 10 – Summary – Next steps.

Slide 11 – Questions.

Questions and discussion points

The Strategic Advisor explained that:

- Consultation documents would be distributed through standard channels, including Council's website, the 'Have Your Say' platform, flyers, information available in all hubs and libraries, social media posts and a Hutt News release.
- As a region, alignment was necessary. There was a risk of complications if some councils chose to stay with WWL while others opted for a new entity. However, all councils had agreed that Option 1 was the preferred option moving forward.
- The consultation material would outline both options and detail all the key differences. The fundamental distinctions were that the new organisation would own and have control over the assets, and under the legislation, it would have a significantly higher borrowing capacity than what was currently available.
- Consultation with all councils would commence around the same time.
- The consultation document would give the community a general idea of the relative costs of each option, but these would be subject to various considerations. Ultimately, the key factor was how much the new organisation was willing to invest. The main point to convey was that these figures could change. This information was being compiled and modelled as part of the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), but a newly established organisation may make different decisions.
- The consultation document would specify Council's preferred option and the reasons why. It would also include a table outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each option. It has been reviewed by Simpson Grierson in terms of the requirements of the Act to ensure that Council were meeting those specifically.

Next steps

- 20 February 2025 – Advisory Oversight Group endorses joint common consultation material
- 11 March 2025 – Council approves consultation materials
- 20 March – 20 April 2025 – Consultation
- 27 June 2025 – Council receives analysis of submissions and takes final decision in delivery model option
- 25 August 2025 – Council adopts final WSDP
- 3 September 2025 – Joint councils submit to Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: [Local Water Done Well Consultation](#)

The briefing closed at 3.50pm