

OPEN BRIEFING: THREE WATERS – RESULTS OF ENGAGEMENT AND REFORM PROGRAMME UPDATE

11 MAY 2022 – 5.00PM



ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Barratt, Cr Briggs, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Hislop, Cr Mitchell, Cr Shaw and Cr Sutton, Ms P Hanna and Mr F Vickers (Eastbourne Community Board).

Officers: Ms J Miller Chief Executive, Mr J Griffiths Director Strategy and Engagement, Ms H Oram, Director Environment and Sustainability, Ms A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities, Mr B Hodgins Strategic Advisor, Ms C Taylor Principal Advisor Research & Evaluation, Ms A Dowdle Senior Communications Advisor and Ms K Stannard Head of Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES

Elected Member apologies: Mayor Barry and Cr Rasheed

ABSENCE

Elected Member: Cr Milne and Cr Brown

PURPOSE OF THE OPEN BRIEFING

- Present the online engagement results from the Lower Hutt community on their thoughts on government's proposed three waters reforms.
- Update on the three waters reforms.

PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC ADVISOR

Slide 1 – Title slide - Briefing on 3 waters – online engagement results and reform programme update.

Slide 2. - Online engagement survey – overview.

Slide 3 - Most important water services – what are your priorities for water services?

Slide 4 - Overall view of proposed reforms – 773 individual responses – 46% opposition, 38% support, 16% neutral.

Slide 5. Top three priorities on the impacts of reform in Lower Hutt – Investment decisions are made transparency, water service entities are protected from privatisation, water services remain in community ownership.

Slide 6 - Text analysis of comments.

- Slide 7 - Of those who oppose reforms, most were concerned about: iwi influence, local influence and general concerns.
- Slide 8 - Examples of comments from those opposed to reforms and concerned about local influence.
- Slide 9 - Examples of comments from those opposed to reforms with general concerns.
- Slide 10 - There was no clear theme in the comments from those in support.
- Slide 11 - There was no clear theme in the comments from those in support (contd).
- Slide 12 - Those who responded neutral were less likely to leave a comment, but some representative examples included in the slide.
- Slide 13 - Overall key insights from Council's engagement.

PRESENTATION BY Dougal List , Programme Director – Water Reforms for Wellington Region

- Slide 14 - Title slide - Three waters reforms update.
- Slide 15 - Three waters reforms – recap.
- Slide 16 - Headlines – policy and legislation workstream.
- Slide 17 - Response to the governance working group report – next steps release of revised Bill and Select Committee process – expected mid 2022 – further legislation including economic regulation late 2022.

PRESENTATION BY Brent Manning, Engineering and Management Consultant, Crown Infrastructure Partners

- Slide 18 - Headlines – transition process – key updates and next steps.
- Slide 19 - Better off funding criteria and process.
- Slide 20 - Three waters reforms timeline.
- Slide 21 - Key challenges and risks.
- 22 Slide - Recap – what to expect.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- Increase key messages to help the Lower Hutt community understand the proposed three waters reforms and to stop misinformation.
- The process for billing residents is being worked through by Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs.
- Important that there is a good clear transition for staff at Wellington Water Limited.

- The Chief Executive advised that the regional Chief Executives meeting raised concerns with the funding agreement and the capital programme as Councils' Long Term Plans were already locked in. Taituarā to raise concerns with Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs.

NEXT STEPS

- The Chief Executive to update elected members after the discussions had been held with Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs.

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Attachment 1 – Slides – Three Waters – Online Engagement Results and Reform Programme Update

The briefing closed at 5.55 pm