

Wellington Water Committee

Three Waters reforms update

- Headline updates
- Key challenges

Wendy Walker and Dougal List, Programme Director – water reforms for Wellington region
18 March 2022



Headlines - policy

Key updates and next steps

- New Director – Hamiora Bowkett started 11 March
- Responses to 8-week letter process sent to councils
- Working Group [report](#) on governance released 9 March
- Cabinet response – expected by mid-April
- Release of revised Bill and Select Committee process – from May
- Further legislation including economic regulation late - 2022

Key policy mahi for councils next 3 months

- Council briefings / updates as required on Working Group report and legislation
- Select Committee process
- Council submissions – joint / individual councils
- Public information / engagement to support understanding and directing people to Select committee

Headlines - transition

Key updates and next steps

- NTU new Director – Heather Shotter + Board Chair Brian Roche
- NTU actively recruiting – risk of staff loss + WWL impacts
- Significant number of data / information requests
- Significant technical / transition programme
- Establishment of working / reference groups – including on people, asset transfer and finance
- Release of ‘better off funding’ criteria by March
- Development of ‘no worse off’ methodology inc. debt and assets from April
- Funding for transition costs

Key transition mahi for WWL and councils next 3 months

- Council updates - funding
- Resourcing
- Prepare for and response to data requests
- Better off funding process / criteria / applications
- Input to working groups

Key challenges and how we are meeting these

Key challenges

- Impacts on the business while also resourcing this work efficiently and effectively
- Approach to transition for WWL to mitigate business impacts
- Lack of funding and resources for work
- Timeline and requirements remain unclear
- Political decisions and process from Government
- Public understanding is low and significant misinformation

Meeting these challenges

- Shared resources / team across the 9 Wellington councils and WWL
- Transition lead / manager in each council to coordinate
- Specialist resources – external and internal
- Develop transition strategy for WWL with owners and NTU
- Build relationships and clarity of process with DIA and Transition Unit
- Involvement in working groups
- Clear public information
- Engagement and sharing of information across Entity C and other councils