



# Council Meeting

## Public Business Agenda

A Council meeting  
will be held in the Council Chamber,  
29 Bowler Avenue, Gore  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024  
commencing at 4:00pm

Our vision:  
*To provide an environment that allows people to enjoy the lifestyle  
and culture of their choice*

## Health and safety – emergency procedures

**Toilets** – The toilets are located in the corridor near reception.

**Evacuation** - Should there be an evacuation, please exit the chambers via the main door, then through the office front doors to the assembly point at the front of the building, near the road.

**Earthquake** - Drop, cover and hold. Once the shaking has stopped, evacuate through the chamber's main door, then through the office front doors to the assembly point near the road.

**Phones** - Please turn your mobile device to silent mode.

**Recording** - These proceedings are being live-streamed and will be available to share or download from the Council's YouTube channel. You consent to being filmed for public viewing by remaining in the meeting.

## Attendees

Members	Mayor (Chairperson)	B Bell
	Deputy Mayor (Deputy Chairperson)	K Hovell
Councillors		G Dickson
		A Fraser
		J Gardyne
		S MacDonell
		R McKenzie
		P McPhail
		R McPhail
		N Phillips
		B Reid
	J Stringer	
Staff	Chief Executive	D Lascelles
	General Manager (GM) Corporate	L Straith
	General Manager (GM) Critical Services	J Domigan
	Governance - minutes	S Jones

### Agenda confirmed by:



D Lascelles

**Chief Executive**

***Recommendations*** contained in reports are ***not*** to be construed ***as Council decisions***.  
Refer to the Council minutes for ***resolutions***.

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- 1. Welcome / Karakia**
  
- 2. Apologies / Leave of Absences**
  
- 3. Public Forum**
  
- 4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
  
- 5. Confirmation of Agenda**

## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Council meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, civic administration building, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 26 November 2024, at 4.00pm.

**Present** His Worship the Mayor (Mr B R Bell), Crs Dickson, Fraser, Gardyne, Hovell, McKenzie, P McPhail, Phillips, Reid and Stringer.

**In attendance** The Chief Executive (Ms Debbie Lascelles), General Manager Corporate Services (Ms Lornae Straith), General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan, via Teams), 3 Waters Operations Manager (Mr Aaron Green), senior Communications Officer (Ms Bonnie Mager), senior Facilities Officer (Mr Neil Mair), Mataura Community Board Chairperson (Mrs Nicky Coats) and 47 members of the public in the gallery.

**Apologies** Crs MacDonell and R McPhail apologised for absence, accepted on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Gardyne.

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#### 1. PUBLIC FORUM (SC3857)

His Worship advised there would be two speakers at the public forum. Groundswell would have 10 minutes for its presentation and Councillors would have five minutes to ask questions. Mr Hugh Gardyne would have 5 minutes for his presentation and Councillors would also have five minutes to ask questions.

Cr Hovell advised he and Cr Dickson were members of the District Plan hearings panel and as there were issues relating to the District Plan being raised in the public forum they would vacate the room while the presentations were given. He added the panel had issued a minute that day about the panel reconvening in February 2025 and confirmed it had been rescheduled from 10 February to 24 February.

*Crs Dickson and Hovell departed the Chambers at 4.03pm.*

Messrs Bryce McKenzie and Laurie Paterson from Groundswell NZ addressed the Council about SASMs. They believed the Local Government and Resource Management Acts (RMA) were a bureaucratic nightmare for the Council. Groundswell represented approximately 1,400 Gore District ratepayers. The

organisation was appalled by the Council having sites and areas of interest to Māori being inserted into the District Plan. There was no consideration of the property rights of its ratepayers. Ratepayers felt they were a cash cow for whatever “hair-brained” scheme the Council came up with. They had had enough. There had been a rates increase of 21.4% this year and it was likely there would be another 20% increase next year. Inflation was just 2.2%. The Council had a generous Charter of Understanding with Hokonui Rūnanga that covered things like speaking rights at meetings, the capital works programme, administrative servicing, travel and meeting allowances and payment for consultation for resource consents. Groundswell would be interested in a similar generous charter. There were also some Committees it would be interested in sitting on. It was noted staff numbers had increased from 130 in 2022 to 153 in 2023 – a 17.7% increase. The community had to cut its cloth to suit. For some ratepayers, who had been continual residents on their property in the District for 150 years, they felt betrayed and more than a little insulted by the exorbitant rates rise and the SASM proposal now morphing into Ngai Tahu cultural values. The Government was in the process of rewriting the RMA. The proposal was just another smoke and mirrors attack on property rights. It would create an administrative nightmare and more bureaucracy. What were the high risk activities that required cultural assessment? It was confusion and more cost. It was important to mention the Council was at fault. Ngai Tahu had reached a full and final settlement with the Crown in 1998. Groundswell questioned who would invest in the Gore District in the future. The Council needed to go back to the drawing board and produce a District Plan that protected property rights for urban and rural ratepayers. Ratepayers were paying close attention and the election was less than a year away.

There was concern about an elected member who was Chair of the hearings panel who had been a consultant before being elected and was now a Commissioner. Groundswell felt that was a conflict of interest. The organisation wanted to know what the Council was going to do about it. There was unrest in the community.

It was felt there would be more problems with the SASMs than it was worth. The question was asked where it had come from. Was it driven by the Council, the community or Iwi? It was not happening anywhere else yet. There were a lot of upset ratepayers. Groundswell asked for an explanation of what tikanga related activities actually were.

Cr Fraser noted there had been public consultation over the District Plan and an extension granted last year for submissions, following a request from Federated Farmers. Groundswell asked how the SASMs had got into the Plan in the first place. It was the ratepayers who paid the bills. Groundswell referred to the conflict of interest again and said there were many in the community who thought there was a conflict of interest. In their opinion, there only needed to be a perceived conflict of interest that would warrant the member being taken off the Committee.

His Worship acknowledged the presence of former Gore District Mayor, Mr Ian Tulloch and former Councillor Bret Highsted at the meeting.

*Crs Dickson and Hovell returned to the meeting at 4.18pm*

Mr Hugh Gardyne addressed the meeting following a statement in the paper about the Council being obliged to continue to work on its wastewater consents with Environment Southland. Staff had advised the Council had to continue under the existing RMA. He suggested to ignore what staff said and take the matter up directly with the Minister. There were concerns about affordability for ratepayers and the insistence of the Rūnanga that the application of discharge of wastewater to land was of questionable benefit. The costs for consent were exorbitant. A compromise was required for wastewater and a gold plate version promoted by the Rūnanga was not affordable.

Rating and funding review – Mr Garydne referred to the time when Owen O’Connor was Mayor of the District and said he and Councillors made themselves available for meetings at Waikaka, Kaiwera and Waimumu as part of the Annual Plan consultation process. The lack of detail in recent years and this year’s Annual Plan discouraged participation via submissions. For example, the multi-sports complex, parks and reserves and civic buildings were bundled into one, making it difficult to analyse. Another was solid waste and civil defence together. From his observation, submitters did not have enough detail, could not separate costs, could not submit clearly and were ignored anyway. He and others did not even bother. He referred to the lack of access to staff and mentioned his request for a meeting in Waikaka over a month ago and had still not received a reply. Rural ratepayers took account of their own stormwater and wastewater expenses. The Council sat around the table representing all ratepayers of the District and were going down the path of spreading specific costs across the District, that rural ratepayers were not the cause of, or the beneficiary of, in any way. Any talks of amalgamation needed to ensure costs rest where they were created.

Ngai Tahu cultural values (*Crs Dickson and Hovell departed the meeting again*). Mr Gardyne quoted a section from the Ngai Tahu Settlement Act. He asked if the Council had the final say over consents in the Plan or would it be recommendations from the Commissioners be the last word. If the Council wanted to divide the District, then keep going. The District Plan needed to reflect the needs and aspirations of the District. The Gore District Council should never forget to put local people and its ratepayers first.

*Crs Dickson and Hovell now returned to the meeting at 4.30.*

In response to Cr Stringer, Mr Gardyne understood that Ngai Tahu had customary rights to muttonbirds only. He suggested Ngai Tahu was being opportunistic for all



customary rights. Cr Stringer understood there had been a meeting held at Waikaka. Mr Gardyne could not believe the lack of detail Councillors had brought with them. Not one Councillor could tell him what the UAGC percentage was. The Council was supposed to be open and transparent, but it was anything but.

His Worship extended thanks to the speakers.

*The majority of the public gallery departed the meeting at 4.32pm. Four members of the public remained.*

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Fraser, seconded by Cr P McPhail, THAT the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 15 October 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.**

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stringer, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the minutes and recommendations of the ordinary meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 29 October 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.**

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne, seconded by Cr P McPhail, THAT the minutes and recommendations of the ordinary meeting of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee, held on Tuesday 5 November 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.**

## 3. NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT 2020 (NPSUD) MONITORING (SC0459)

A report had been received from The Property Group that informed the Council on urban environment development capacity and outlined the results of the annual reporting to identify:

- the demand for dwellings:
- the supply of dwellings:
- prices of, and rents for, dwellings:
- housing affordability:
- the proportion of housing development capacity that has been realised:
  - in previously urbanised areas (such as through infill housing or redevelopment);
  - in previously undeveloped (ie greenfield) areas; and
- available data on business land.

The NPSUD (Section 3.9) required the Council to monitor its urban environment development capacity and report annually.

Where monitoring indicated there was insufficient development capacity to meet expected housing and business land demand, changes to the District Plan were required to address it (Section 3.7 NPSUD). Changes to the Gore District Plan were underway as part of the District Plan review process to zone additional land to address future business and housing capacity issues.

The report was provided to meet the Council's ongoing monitoring obligations. A background summary and comparison with last year's data had been included to provide a picture of the change in development capacity over time.

A summary of key findings was as follows:

- a. Both housing supply and demand had remained steady over the past year, and housing supply was currently keeping up with demand.
- b. The Council had increased housing and business land supply as part of the District Plan Review in order to meet the housing and business capacity requirements of the NPSUD.
- c. After years of rapid increase and then decline, national housing prices had remained relatively stable in the past year. House prices in Gore had experienced a median 4.7% increase since June 2023.
- d. Rents in the district had continued to increase. Rents grew by around 5% in the 2023/24 financial year but were predicted to slow in the next financial year.
- e. There was still a need for affordable homes, but the number of people on the housing register had decreased over the past year. Despite rising house prices and rents, Gore was still a relatively affordable market compared with other areas of New Zealand.
- f. Recent resource consent data indicated a preference for greenfield development with rural living opportunities rather than residential infill. However, historically long-term population growth had primarily been residential infill development.

Ms Jo Skuse, Senior Planner with The Property Group was in attendance via Teams at the meeting and presented the report.

Cr Hovell asked in terms of demand what regard had been given to reducing household size, particularly as the population ages and the number of people living by themselves increased. Ms Skuse said through the District Plan review process,

feasibility reports had been completed about how the population of Gore would look in the next 10-20 years. From that, there had been feedback provided and statistics showing that 1-2 person households appeared to be the norm. In order to provide for that type of development, the proposed District Plan had a medium density zone which enabled a higher density of residential units per land area coupled with specific performance standards for buildings to encourage smaller dwellings to be built.

In response to Cr Stringer, housing demand was considered with travel to work data. There was travel from Invercargill and wider Southland into Gore for work. The monitoring report was based on household demand within the Gore District. In response to Cr Fraser, Ms Skuse said the estimated number of new dwellings was based on new industry being attracted to Gore which would increase the population. By rezoning industrial land and attracting new business, there would likely be a spike in housing demand through new dwellings in the Gore and Mataura areas. In response to Cr Gardyne, Ms Skuse said there had been a slight spike in lifestyle subdivisions in lieu of the District Plan coming into effect. The new Plan was proposed to increase the rural lot size from 2 hectares to 8 hectares and that was specially to discourage rural lifestyle living on highly productive farming land. To combat that, the Plan would recognise areas that had already experienced rural lifestyle growth, such as Whiterig and Reaby Roads. A rural lifestyle zone had been established and within those, where previously the minimum lot size was 2 hectares, it was proposed to be 1 hectare. It would still provide for rural lifestyle living whilst preserving productive farmland.

Cr Dickson referred to the businesses registered in Gore as “hiring and real estate”. She asked what hiring meant. Ms Skuse believed it related to hiring goods and services and maybe recruitment services. She would confirm.

Cr Gardyne said the report mentioned housing availability in Gore. Ms Skuse said the East Gore social housing development was at a standstill and on a permanent hold with a likelihood of being withdrawn. It would depend on how Kaianga Ora would prioritise its developments. She was unable to say whether it was based on statistics and who needed houses. The Chief Executive added one issue in Gore was the lack of social housing and the wait list was not very long.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Cr Fraser, THAT the Council receive and note the National Policy Statement Urban Development 2020 (NPSUD) monitoring report.**

**2024/110**

*Ms Skuse now departed the meeting.*

4. MAYORAL REPORT (SC3857)

A copy of the Mayoral report about activities over the month of October had been circulated with the agenda. His Worship added the meeting with the Minister Simeon Brown included a presentation from the Southland and Gore District Councils on roading and emphasised how unfair the Financial Assistance Rate (FAR) was. Discussion had also been had about 3 Waters.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Mayoral report be received and noted.**

**2024/111**

5. RURAL HALLS AND DOMAINS MEETING MINUTES (SC3869)

A copy of the minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 21 October had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Hovell asked about delegations the Sub-Committee had and what the implications were in terms of carrying over funding to the following year. The Chief Executive advised she would follow up on the delegations and ensure they were compliant.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Council receive and ratify the minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting, held on Monday 21 October 2024.**

**2024/112**

6. SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES (SC3945)

A copy of the minutes of the Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 had been circulated with the agenda.

**Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council receive and note the minutes of the Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 22 October 2024.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Dickson.**

Cr Hovell again raised the carrying forward to fundings and believed if the money was not spent in a financial year, it should be lost. The Chief Executive advised she would check the delegations for the Assessment Committee. The General Manager Corporate Support advised the funding for the rural travel fund was not provided by the Council, but by an external organisation, being Sport New Zealand.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

**2024/113**

**7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND FOUR MONTHLY REPORT (SC3860)**

A copy of a four monthly report from Local Government New Zealand providing an update and summary on its activities had been circulated with the agenda.

His Worship provided additional comments after attending the rural sector meeting the previous week.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stringer, seconded by Cr McKenzie, THAT the Council receive and note the four monthly report from Local Government New Zealand.**

**2024/114**

**8. STAFF WARRANTS AND AUTHORISATIONS**

A report had been received from the Governance Manager advising that Ms Veena Lal-Boon, an Environmental Health Officer with the Invercargill City Council, had been undertaking environmental health inspections for the Gore District Council and needed to be warranted as a Food Verifier. In addition, Amber-Marie Marsh, an Environmental Health Officer with the Invercargill City Council, also needed to be warranted as a Food Verifier.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Fraser, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT receive and note the staff warrants and authorisation report; and appoint and authorise Veena Lal-Boon and Amber-Marie Marsh of the Invercargill City Council as Food Verifiers under Section 294 of the Food Act 2014 (the Act) to carry out any and all of the functions and powers of food verifier in the territorial area of the Gore District in relation to offences under the Act, including without limitation:**

**1) access all areas, information and items used at the food premises, to open all items used and measure and verify the contents.**

**2024/115**

**9. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 (SC3702)**

A report had been received from the General Manager Corporate Support informing the Council on the 2023/24 Annual Report and Annual Report Summary for the year ended 30 June 2024. Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002 required the Council to completely and adopt an audited Annual Report and an

audited Annual Report Summary within four months of the financial year end. The Council had breached the requirement by proposing to adopt on 26 November.

An overview of the financial performance of the Council and explanations for significant variances from the 2023/24 Annual Plan had been circulated with the agenda, together with the draft Annual Report, Annual Report Summary and a draft letter of representation to the Council's auditors.

The Council achieved 44 out of the 55 non-financial performance measures. This was an 80% achievement rate which was consistent with the previous year.

The General Manager Corporate Support acknowledged the efforts of staff who had worked to ensure the annual report was completed so it could be adopted by the Council. She said over 1,000 hours of staff time went into producing the documents, along with a full audit by Deloitte. No significant concerns had been raised. She provided additional comments on the overall result contained within the Annual Report.

Cr Reid noted the Invercargill City had achieved 71% of its non-financial measures. She thought it was a pretty good effort for the Gore District to get 80% achievement.

Cr Dickson asked what would be done over the next few years as the financial result looked to be unsustainable. It was quite concerning. She understood a lot of extra costs had been incurred and hoped next year there would be more priority given to containing expenditure. The Chief Executive said as part of the Long Term Plan, staff were looking at accurately costing operational budgets and having them properly scoped. The Council would also need to look at how depreciation was funded over time. A deficit budget may need to be accepted over time while the Council worked its way back to a balanced budget.

Cr P McPhail concurred with Cr Dickson's comments. A lot of the public did not understand the costs in the District and Annual Plans which were unbudgeted. It was something everyone would have to work hard at. It looked bad on the balance sheet and could not carry on.

**Cr Fraser moved THAT the Council:**

- a) Approve the Gore District Council Annual Report and Annual Report Summary for the financial year ended 30 June 2024;**
- b) Delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to make any minor editing required to the approved Annual Report and Annual Report Summary for the year ended 30 June 2024;**

- c) **Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Statement of Compliance and Responsibility on behalf of the Council;**
- d) **Authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Letter of Representation to the auditor on behalf of the Council;**
- e) **Receive the Audit Reports on the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary for the year ended 30 June 2024; and**
- f) **Adopt the audited Annual Report and Annual Report Summary for the year ended 30 June 2024.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Hovell.**

Cr Fraser acknowledged the efforts of the General Manager Corporate Services. The Council needed to have a close look at its financial situation. There was an election next year and there were people who believed it could be done better.

Cr Hovell would like to see an addition made to the recommendation and moved as an amendment, **THAT the Council acknowledge the tremendous work done by staff to prepare the Annual Report and thanks them for it.**

**The amendment was seconded by Cr Dickson, was put and it was carried.**

Cr Gardyne referred to the list of Council related transactions, particularly the Otama water scheme of \$6,000. He questioned whether it was a credit or debit. The General Manager said figures without brackets were payments and those with brackets was income. Cr Gardyne asked how it related to the transactions with Cr Hovell. Cr Hovell confirmed he had received payments. Cr Gardyne said the Otama water scheme had received a bill. The General Manager said it was a typo and would be corrected by the motion to make minor editing changes. Cr Gardyne said there had been a huge increase in interest payments and rates were expected to drop. There had also been significant employment costs that he hoped would not be repeated. His Worship referred to page 109 and the \$642k reference due to an employment issue. He had asked for that figure to be split out further. The General Manager advised the auditors did not require the figure to be separated out and there was an explanation provided that indicated where the costs sat.

**The motion, including the amendment, was put and it was carried.**

**2024/116**

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne, seconded by Cr McKenzie, THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.**

**The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1)**

of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b><i>General subject of each matter to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Reason for passing this resolution</i></b>	<b><i>Ground(s) Under Section 48(1) for the passing of the resolution</i></b>
<p><b><i>4.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>4.2 Confirmation of the public excluded meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 29 October 2024.</i></b></p>		<p><b><i>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>5.1 Section 17a review of Parks and Reserves</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7 (2)(h)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>5.2 Phase 3 – detail required for public consultation on a Water Services Delivery Plan for an Otago Southland asset owning waters entity</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7 (2)(h)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</i></b></p>



**This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.**

**AND THAT those in attendance be permitted to remain at the meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 5.05pm

## 7. Reports for Information

### 7.1 Southland Warm Homes Trust

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Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Debbie Lascelles
Author Title:	Chief Executive
Report Date:	Wednesday, 11 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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#### Purpose

1. To inform the Council on activities undertaken by Southland Warm Homes Trust.

#### Recommendation

2. That the Council:
  - a) receives and notes *Southland Warm Homes Trust*.

#### Executive Summary

3. The Southland Warm Homes Trust wish to update the Council on its progress as part of its accountability for funding received each year.
4. The Trust will present the attached PowerPoint at the meeting.

#### Context

5. The Southland Warm Homes Trust receives an annual grant of \$15,000 from the Gore District Council as part of its commitment to clean air and in lieu of the clean air programme that used to be implemented in-house.

#### Attachments

Southland Warm Homes Trust PowerPoint presentation

Letter of support from Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority

# Southland Warm Homes Trust

creating healthy homes



Keith Hovell (Trustee)

Sumaria Beaton

(Awarua Synergy)

Allan Beck (PowerNet)

Administered &  
supported by:





# 16 Years – Subsidising Insulation & Heating

*Improving energy efficiency, health & wellbeing, and living environment of homes in Southland.*

- EECA programme introduced to Southland in 2009 – sub-contracted with Awarua Synergy
- **10,000** homes insulated, **2,000** WKH heating units
- **\$18 million** EECA funding claimed
- **\$9 million** Third Party funding raised
- Each \$1 generating \$4.70 saving in health costs\*



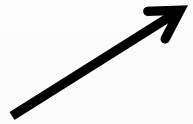
# Subsidised Insulation & Heating Programme



Insulation installation  
(approx. 500 homes/year)



95% Subsidised Insulation Cost  
(Low Income home-owner pays only ~\$160)



Heat Pump or Wood Burner installation  
(approx. 500 homes/year)



WKH Heating Installation Cost  
- 95% subsidy capped at \$3,562  
(EECA \$3,000 + SWHT \$562)

- HHI programme
- Health Subsidy
- Financial Hardship assistance
- General Income subsidy



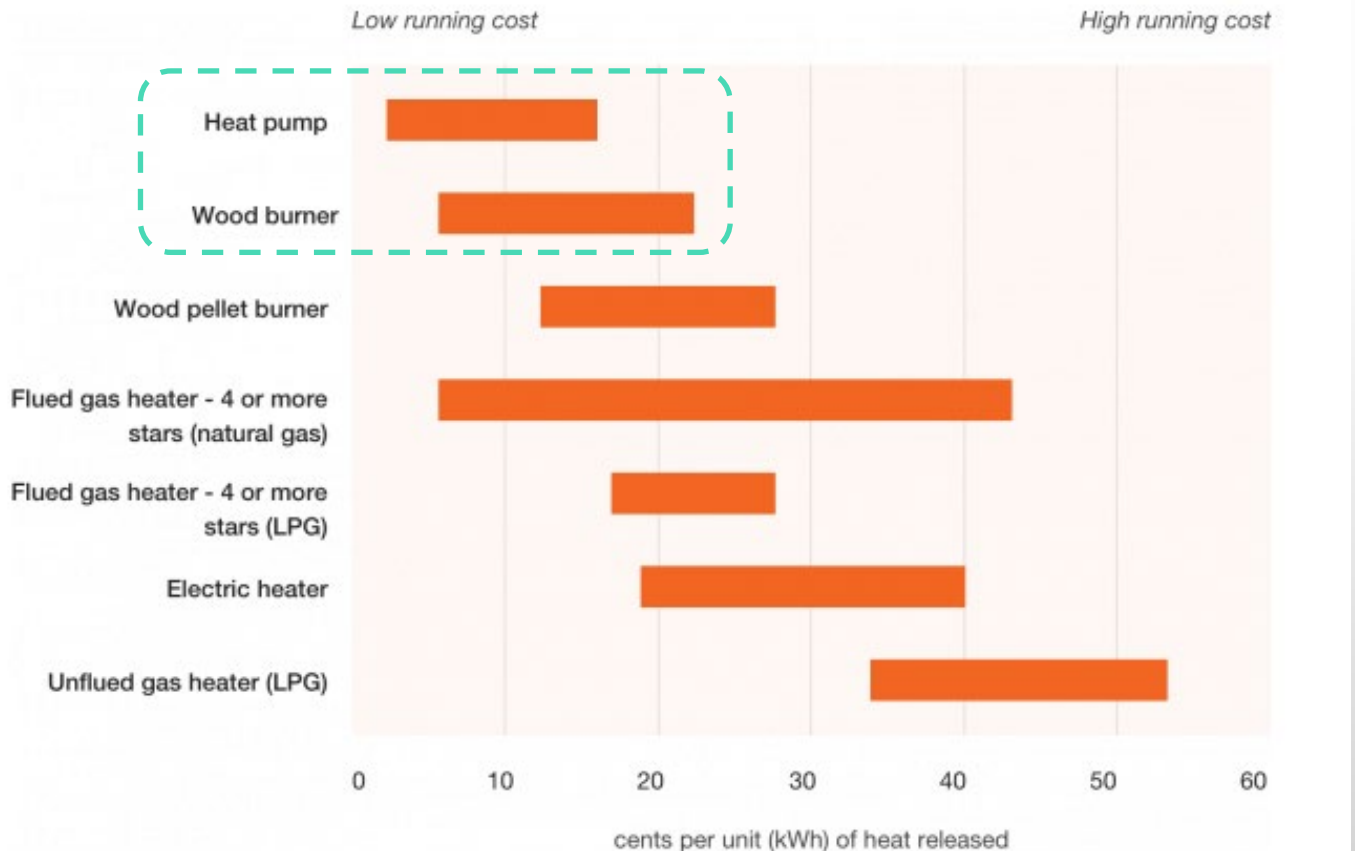
Other Trust Funding Initiatives

WKH Service Provider Contracts

# WKH – Heating Programme



## THE CHEAPEST WAYS TO HEAT A HOME IN NEW ZEALAND



## 2023/24 Performance

- WKH funding 80-90% install cost
  - SWHT funding 5-15% install cost
- } 95% subsidy
- 939 WKH insulation contributions (low-income homes)
  - 493 WKH Heating unit contributions
  - 116 Healthy Homes Interventions (medical referrals)

### Subsidised Programme Regional Breakdown:

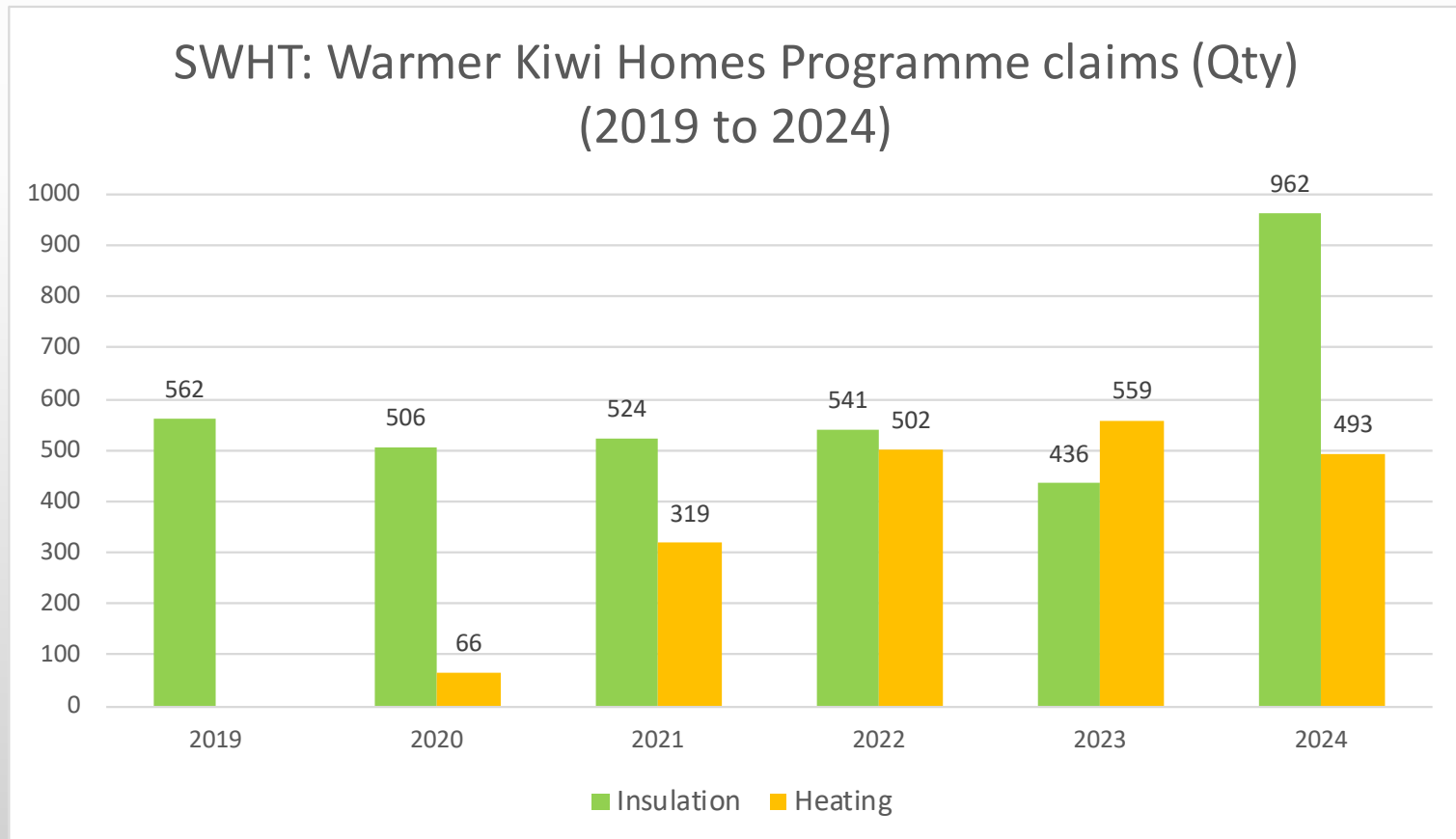
INSULATION	Clutha	Gore	Southland	Invercargill	Total
2023/24	9	146	171	613	939
2022/23	6	84	63	304	457

HEATING	Clutha	Gore	Southland	Invercargill	Total
2023/24	4	78	73	338	493
2022/23	2	63	84	410	559

## 2023/24 Performance

- Record Insulation claims received under WKH Pgrm
- 15% of SWHT claims – Gore District (224 claims)





## Looking forward...

- Continued WKH funding relationship
  - Installer contracts extended to 2027
  - Continued strong demand from Gore district for WKH subsidised insulation and heating.
- Additional SWHT funding initiatives
  - 'Healthy Homes Initiative' home interventions grants
  - 'financial hardship' grants
  - general income grants





Thank you for your continued support!



Administered & supported by:



## **Re: Southland Warm Homes Trust and Warmer Kiwi Homes funding partnership**

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) welcomes the opportunity to continue our highly successful partnership with the Southland Warm Homes Trust (SWHT). This partnership supported the delivery of the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme for the SWHT catchment areas of Southland. We are appreciative of the Trust's ongoing support.

This brief is designed to summarise the programme as delivered in Southland, the opportunities still ahead and the case for community funding for the programme through SWHT.

### **Insulation and heating retrofits through EECA in Southland**

Over 9,100 homes have been retrofitted with insulation and 1,773 homes with heating in the Southland region under the Warm Up NZ and Warmer Kiwi Homes programmes.

EECA has recently commissioned the combining of several datasets to create a list of properties which are likely to qualify for funding. We estimate approximately 4,600 such properties are in the Southland region, and the addition of deprivation zone 7 to the eligibility criteria will add to this. We have been working with service providers such as Awarua Trust to approach these homeowners.

Many of these will be hard-to-reach whanau, so partnering with service providers with strong local roots is an effective way to bring them in to the programme.

### **EECA and Warmer Kiwi Homes**

EECA is a Crown entity whose function is to encourage, promote and support energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable sources of energy. EECA achieves this through a variety of means including promoting energy efficient technologies and promoting product regulation, as well as offering funding programmes to help provide energy efficient homes and thereby warmer and healthier homes for New Zealanders.

Since 2009 EECA has managed retrofit programmes providing grants to households across the country to support the installation of insulation and heating. Warmer Kiwi Homes (WKH) and its predecessor Warm Up New Zealand (WUNZ) have insulated in excess of 375,000 houses and installed more than 69,000 heaters in the last 12 years. Although the numbers are impressive, there still remains many kiwi homes either under insulated or not insulated at all.

The 80% grants have proven to be very popular, and extension to 90% in some circumstances has been well received. Appendix 2 has the eligibility criteria. EECA is currently awaiting instruction from our Minister as to the future of WKH post the end of June this year, but we expect funding to continue in a similar structure to this year.

## **The outcomes of the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme**

The Warmer Kiwi Homes programme is a win-win for community focused trusts who have a heart for the people they represent and a desire to maximise their investment.

- There are multiple health benefits of living in warmer drier homes. See Appendix 1. Many studies have reached the same conclusion: that retrofitting insulation in homes is a priority when looking to make improvements to how a home performs.
- Although the health benefits are obvious, what is often forgotten are the mental health and social outcomes that living in a warm dry home can bring.
- A community benefits by the economic stimulus that the programme brings to local businesses. Apart from doing a well-meaning purposeful task, semi-skilled labour is continually employed.
- For every dollar spent on retrofitting insulation there is a \$4.70 return on investment to the community

## **Advantages of contributing through the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme**

Supporting Warmer Kiwi Homes leverages the existing network, rather than local interests trying to start from scratch and “going it alone”.

- EECA manages highly effective and well-resourced marketing campaigns to support the programme.
  - The Benchmark Pricing EECA uses to control the cost of installations gives better than market value and gives a higher return on investment.
  - Service providers go through a rigorous RFT process to vet capability, quality of installs and contract management.
  - EECA has very high customer care expectations and monitors service provider performances, through homeowner surveys and regular provider reporting
  - EECA has dedicated Contract Managers who keep close tabs with all the providers to make sure the operations are working within contractual requirements.
  - A percentage of all installations are audited by PAE under contract to EECA – this is an ongoing process with both insulation and heating. The rigour of independent audit ensures the quality of work done, and provides a base standard of service in the industry.
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## Appendix One: Evidence of Warmer Kiwi Homes effectiveness

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### **The case for Warmer Kiwi Homes**

Warmer Kiwi Homes addresses the barriers and market failures that prevent low-income owner-occupiers from insulating and heating their homes. Improving the energy efficiency and thermal performance of homes unlocks a range of health and financial benefits as well as increases the quality of life. The programme continues to have economic benefits with the creation of local jobs.

### **Insulation retrofits and clean heating device installations provide health benefits**

We have a growing body of evidence that show the benefits of living in a warm, dry home. A number of research projects and evaluation reports, tell us that uninsulated houses and inadequate heating lead to poor health outcomes, with low-income households being particularly vulnerable to diseases like asthma, rheumatic fever and other Chronic Obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD).

[Motu Retrofit Insulation and Heating Study](#)

[Motu Warmer Kiwi Homes Study](#)

## Appendix Two: Warmer Kiwi Homes eligibility criteria

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The Warmer Kiwi Homes programme subsidises insulation and heating in houses occupied by low-income owners. To be eligible for a grant you need to own the home you live in, and:

- Your home must have been built before 2008 **AND**
- You have a Community Services Card **OR**
- Live in an area identified as lower income.

To be eligible for a grant for a heater you will need to meet the criteria above, and:

- You must not have an existing fixed heater in the main living area (for example a heat pump, wood or pellet burner, flued gas heater or central heating system)
- Your home must already be insulated.
- Heating grant is 80% off the installed cost, capped at \$3000 gst inclusive.

## 7.2 Mataura Community Board meeting minutes

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Susan Jones
Author title:	Governance Manager
General Manager lead:	General Manager Corporate Support
Report date:	Thursday, 5 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### **Purpose**

1. To provide the Council with a copy of the minutes of a Mataura Community Board meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024.
2. To recommend that the Council receive the minutes.

### **Recommendation**

3. That the Council:
  - a) receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on Monday 18 November 2024.

### **Attachment**

Minutes of the meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on 18 November 2024.

Minutes of a meeting of the Maitara Community Board, held at the Maitara Elderly Citizens Centre, McQueen Avenue, Maitara, on Monday 18 November 2024, at 5.30pm.

**Present** Nicky Coats (Chairperson), Cr Phillips, Laurel Turnbull, Colleen Te Au, Darren Matahiki and Steven Dixon.

**In attendance** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Ben Bell, from 5.43pm), the Chief Executive (Ms Debbie Lascelles, from 5.37pm), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Keith McRobie), Roading Asset Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Principal Roading Engineer (Mr Henri van Zyl), Governance Manager (Susan Jones), senior Facilities Officer (Mr Neil Mair) and two members of the public.

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The Roading Asset Manager introduced Mr Henri van Zyl who had just commenced employment with the Council as Principal Roading Engineer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Laurel Turnbull, seconded by Steven Dixon, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Maitara Community Board held on Monday 23 September 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as a true and complete record.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT (SC3535)

A financial report had been received from the Governance Manager detailing balances of the discretionary account, the Maitara beautification account and the Coster Fund. Balances were as follows:

Maitara beautification account – as at 30 June 2024 - \$29,980

Coster Fund – as at 30 June 2024 - \$128,536

Discretionary account – as at 31 October 2024 - \$11,184

Board members asked for a transaction list of the beautification account for the past five years. The Governance Manager advised the purchase of the Nuffield Street properties had been met from that account along with the feasibility study for the railway station. A breakdown of the Maitara walkway account was also requested.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Colleen Te Au, seconded by Laurel Turnbull, **THAT** the Board receive and note the financial report.

3. CULLING TERRACE WALKWAY UPDATE (SC3274)

A report had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager providing an update on the Culling Terrace walkway project. A local contractor had been engaged to remove approximately 15 large problem trees. Another contractor had been engaged to install a 1.4 metre wide footpath along the south side of Doctor's Road. The path would extend

from the Kana Street corner to the lower Culling Terrace walkway, providing a safer and clearer pedestrian route to the base of the walkway.

A previous report to the Board detailed the works to date, including track formation and tree removal. It was intended that from mid-February 2025, the Mataura Men's Shed and Mataura Lions Club would be able to place fairy houses through the reserve, creating a trail. It was anticipated that native revegetation planting would start in the Autumn, working with community groups and the Mataura school.

**Laurel Turnbull recommended THAT the Board receive and note the Culling Terrace walkway update and receive and note the anticipated future revegetation and other enhancement works.**

**The recommendation was seconded by Steven Dixon.**

The Manager advised members of the public were unable to operate chainsaws on Council land due to health and safety risks. If community groups were interested in helping with chopping the trees for firewood, there needed to be a separate site for the logs to be removed to before they were chopped up. The contractor would load and cart to the site. The felling would occur in the next couple of weeks. D Matahiki said the rugby club would be interested in the wood and would liaise with the Manager directly about where the logs could be carted to.

**The recommendation was put and it was carried.**

#### 4. TULLOCH PARK DEVELOPMENT (STAGE 2) – NOVEMBER PROGRESS UPDATE (SC1570)

A report had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager providing a progress update on the Tulloch Park development (Stage 2) project. The final stages were underway with contracts let for the supply and install of the external safety fence, the supply and install of the splash pad, site plumbing, toilet/change room install and associated concrete works. Prices had been received for electrical supply and install. There had been a significant delay with the building consent which had been submitted on 30 August for the install of all buildings. Staff were working through a list of 25 requests for information queries to be able to meet building consent requirements. There was one remaining point to be resolved which was expected to be finalised in the next day or so.

A copy of an updated preliminary image showing the scaled location of the new buildings, splash pad and extent of concrete works had been circulated with the agenda.

**Steven Dixon recommended THAT the Board receive and note the Tulloch Park development (Stage 2) progress update.**

**The recommendation was seconded by Darren Matahiki.**

The Manager advised the lights that had been quoted were now no longer available. An equivalent type had been ordered and would be installed. Regarding the basketball court fence, he had asked the contractor to look at stabilising it with a permanent solution in the New Year. In response to the Chairperson, the Manager said the IT staff were aware that



cameras were to be installed and once the building had been erected, the cameras would be factored in.

**The recommendation was put and it was carried.**

Cr Phillips said there needed to be some consideration given to the current unfunded balance portion of \$40,326.84. The Council needed to have some indication as to how it would be balanced. He noted there had been no Coster Fund monies used for Tulloch Park. He would like to use the Fund as a last resort and noted there had been no ratepayer funding for the redevelopment project. The MLT had contributed to Stage 1. C Te Au suggested there may be other community funders who could be approached. Laurel Turnbull had previously suggested the Tindall Foundation.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steven Dixon, seconded by Nicky Coats, THAT the Mataura Community Board apply to the Coster Fund for the shortfall of \$40,326.84 for the Tulloch Park (Stage 2) redevelopment project.**

5. MATAURA WELCOME SIGNS NOVEMBER 2024 UPDATE REPORT (SC2696)

A report had been received from the Roding Asset Manager advising the Board on the programme for completion of the repairs and installation of the Mataura welcome signs. All issues identified during the manufacture of the signs had been rectified. The final steps needed to complete the installation of both signs would be undertaken during the coming week, subject to suitable weather. The Manager added Seddon's would be on site later in the week, depending on weather. They would install the replacement river inserts on the southern sign, repaint the river insert on the northern sign and attach the corten steel eel motifs on both signs. Preparation and painting of the steel letters could also be undertaken at that stage. K2 Contracting would place boulders around the base once the eel motifs had been attached.

The Chairperson asked if the lettering was to be painted by Seddon's or someone else. The Manager understood the Board would paint the lettering. The Chairperson said the southern side had some apparent leakage on the river motif. Cr Phillips said he had taken it on himself to paint the signs under McDonough Contracting's traffic management plan. He was able to undertake that work at no cost to the Board except for the cost of the paint.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Laurel Turnbull, seconded by Steven Dixon, THAT the Board receive and note the Mataura welcome signs November 2024 update report.**

6. MATAURA CAMPERVAN DUMP STATION FENCE (SC0613)

A report had been received from the Roding Asset Manager seeking guidance from the Board regarding the purpose, style and extent of the fencing requested at the campervan dump site. Construction of a campervan dump station had recently been completed at the eastern edge of the Coster Park carpark in Mataura. The Board had requested a fence to be installed, however, it needed to advise the purpose, size and style of the fence.

L Turnbull thought a solid wooden fence would offer some shelter, especially if there were people emptying their campervan waste tank. The Chairperson said the potholes in Coster Park needed attention. The Manager said they would be graded out. He referred to funding for the fence and where it may come from. The Chairperson said it was beautifying the area so probably the beautification account.

The Manager clarified the purpose of the fence was to beautify and screen the area and offer some shelter. He suggested a fence at 1.2m high by about 5 metres long. D Matahiki said there were seats along the river bank for people to sit at and a fence would separate that area from the parking area. The Parks and Recreation Manager suggested a site visit at the conclusion of the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Darren Matahiki, seconded by Colleen Te Au, THAT the Board receive and note the Maitua campervan dump station fence report,**

**AND THAT following a site meeting to consider the Board's intentions and options, the Board recommend to the Council that staff prepare a report on fencing options including costs for the supply and installation of fencing at the Maitua campervan dump station.**

7. MATAURA COMMUNITY GARDEN – REQUEST TO ERECT A “BLOKE’S SHED” (SC3535)

A report had been received from the Governance Manager following a request from the Maitua Community Gardens to erect a “blokes shed” on the land at 188 Kana Street, Maitua. The request had raised a number of questions over the informal use of Council owned land. There was no question the gardens were an important social and community outlet. With the pending lease for the current Maitua bloke’s shed due to end because the building was to be demolished, there was some merit in considering the prospect of having that facility domiciled at the garden property at 188-190 Kana Street, Maitua.

The Board could choose to support the request in principle, pending discussion and resolution over a number of issues that ideally should be formalised. Following a property review, the Council had asked that there be formal arrangements in place for land it owns. It was noted there had never been a Licence to Occupy or any other formal arrangement in place for the garden since it was established in 2009. The lack of formality could lead to uncertainty and confusion between the parties involved.

Copies of two quotes for a Blokes Shed received from Gore ITM and Baier Group Building Supplies had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr Mike Whale representing the Maitua Community Garden Committee and Mr John Ranstead representing the Bloke’s Shed were in attendance at the meeting. Both were members of the Bloke’s Shed. Mr Whale said the proposal was to erect a shed at 188 Kana Street (not 190 Kana Street) and for it to go as far as permitted into the south-east corner to take advantage of the hard surface.

In respect of the ownership-operating model – Mr Whale said in March he was asked to take over the management of the garden. The bank account name was Maitua Taskforce Events Committee.

Car parking – the garden’s main traffic time was Saturday morning. The Bloke’s Shed met on a Wednesday morning. By placing the shed on the preferred site, one car park would be lost.

**Laurel Turnbull recommended THAT the Board receive and note the Mataura Community Garden – request to erect a “blokes shed” report;**

**AND THAT the Board recommend to the Council that it support the request in principle from the Mataura community garden to erect a “blokes shed” on the property at 188 Kana Street, Mataura, subject to:**

- **seeking further information about the ownership, operating model and structure of the Mataura community garden;**
- **ensuring the site was going to provide a safe and workable parking area for the number of vehicles that may be present; and**
- **discuss the drafting of a Licence to Occupy between the Council and the community garden to clearly outline the responsibilities of both parties.**

**The recommendation was seconded by Steven Dixon.**

The senior Facilities Officer asked who ran the community garden. Mr Whale said it was the Taskforce Events Committee. The Officer advised the Council was unaware who had been running it and nothing had ever been formalised. L Turnbull said the community garden had never stopped. The Officer had been asked how much activity was going through the garden as there were some Mataura residents who were unaware of its existence. There was nothing formal in place and it was Council land. The Chairperson asked if there could be a Memorandum of Understanding created between the Council and the Taskforce Committee. Mr Whale said in 2021 there had been a few issues and patronage had dropped. Since then, there had been pretty high demand. L Turnbull said the Council had purchased the land for the garden. The Officer added 188 Kana Street had been purchased for carparking. There was nothing formal about the arrangement and there had been nothing forthcoming from the community garden. Cr Phillips said it would be a good time to get everything formalised with the Taskforce Committee. If the Blokes Shed was to be placed on the property, then there needed to be a formal arrangement.

In response to the Officer, Mr Whale said the men’s shed would be under the Men’s Committee. The Chief Executive suggested working out the detail of a licence outside of the Board meeting.

Cr Phillips was concerned about the location of the bloke’s shed being close to the boundary line.

L Turnbull said the current bloke’s shed was due to be demolished. Mr Whale said there was no other option for the group which was why it wanted to erect a new building.

**The recommendation was put and it was carried.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 27 January 2025.

The meeting concluded at 6.27pm

## 7.3 Mayoral Report

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Emily Mason
Author title:	Executive Assistant
Report date:	Tuesday, 10 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### Purpose

1. To inform the Council of the meetings/ events that Mayor Bell has attended during November 2024, and for the Council to ask questions or provide updates.

### Recommendation

2. That the Council:
  - a) Receives and notes the Mayoral Report.

### Mayor's update

3. Mayor Bell attended the following meetings/events during November:
  - 1 November – Zone 6 Local Water Done Well (Cr Stringer, Cr P McPhail, Cr Gardyne, Cr Phillips)
  - 5 November – MTFJ Performance Review
  - 5 November – St Peter's College visit
  - 8 November – Biking challenge at Hokonui FM
  - 8 November – Māruawai College visit
  - 8 November – SBS Tour of Southland
  - 8 November – Waikaka Fire Brigade Honours Night (Cr Stringer)
  - 9 November – Community Market Winner Presentation
  - 11 November – Armistice Day Ceremony (Cr Reid)
  - 12 November – Great South AGM
  - 12 November – Data & Insights Southland Hub launch
  - 12 November – Rotary Young Achievers (Cr MacDonell)
  - 14 November – Great South Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting
  - 14 November – Ocean Beach Tour with Minister Jones
  - 15 November – Murihiku Regional Growth Summit (Cr Hovell)
  - 16 November – Gold Star Presentation, Murray Wards (Cr Phillips)

- 19 November – Parliamentary Reception, Wellington
  - 21 November – Combined Sector Meeting, Wellington
  - 22 November – Rural and Provincial Meeting, Wellington
  - 24 November – Hokonui Pioneer Village Plaque Unveiling
  - 26 November – Murihiku Regeneration Expo
  - 27 November – Murihiku Regeneration Expo
  - 27 November - Lunch with Gore Association of Ministers
  - 27 November – Southland Wet Spring Stakeholders Coordination Meeting
  - 29 November – Young Elected Members Committee Hui
4. Mayor Bell attended the following formal governance meetings:
- 5 November – Assets and Infrastructure Meeting
  - 6 November – Long Term Plan Briefing 7
  - 13 November – Long Term Plan Briefing 8
  - 26 November – Council Meeting

### **Councillor updates**

5. Councillors may have attended the following meetings and may wish to provide an update:
- 5 November – Assets and Infrastructure Meeting
  - 6 November – Long Term Plan Briefing 7
  - 13 November – Long Term Plan Briefing 8
  - 26 November – Council Meeting

## 7.4 Rural Halls and Domains meeting minutes

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 26 November 2024
Author:	Susan Jones
Author title:	Governance Manager
General Manager lead:	General Manager Corporate Support
Report date:	Thursday, 7 November 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### Purpose

1. To provide the Council with a copy of the minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting, held on Monday 21 October 2024.
2. To recommend to the Council to receive and note the minutes.

### Recommendation

3. That the Council:
  - a) receive and ratify the minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting, held on Monday 21 October 2024.

### Context

4. The purpose of the scheme was to provide funding to rural halls and domains domiciled in the rural rating area of the Gore District. Halls and domains in the urban communities of Gore and Mataura were not eligible for funding.
5. The annual allocation for the 2024 year was \$18,419. There had also been an amount of \$22,544 carried forward from previous years, making the total amount available for distribution \$40,963.

### Attachment

Minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting.

**Report of a meeting of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee, held in the Gore District Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Thursday 4 December 2024, at 3.27pm.**

**Present** Cr John Gardyne (Chair), Crs MacDonell, R McPhail and Stringer.

**In attendance** The Governance Manager (Susan Jones).

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**1. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FROM KAIWERA RECREATION RESERVE AND HALL SOCIETY (SC3869)**

Applications received for the 2024 funding round had been previously considered at a meeting held on 21 October. The application from the Kaiwera Recreation Reserve and Hall Society was held over pending receipt of a second quote.

The Society had requested \$12,000 for assistance to reclad the east wall.

The second quote had been received. The first quote, from Roofcraft, was in the sum of \$12,990.80 plus \$1,581.46, excluding GST, for the supply and installation of batts insulation. The second quote, from Roofing Around, was in the sum of \$10,927.62, excluding GST, but did not include any insulation.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr R McPhail, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT a grant of \$12,000 be allocated to the Kaiwera Recreation Reserve and Hall Society,**

**AND THAT the remaining balance of \$17,565 be carried forward to the 2025 year.**

The meeting concluded at 3.31pm



## 7.5 Connected Murihiku minutes

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Debbie Lascelles
Author title:	Chief Executive
Report date:	Tuesday, 3 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### Purpose

1. To provide the Council with a copy of the minutes of a Connected Murihiku meeting held on 18 November 2024.
2. To recommend that the Council receive the minutes.

### Recommendation

3. That the Council:
  - a) receive and note the minutes of the meeting of Connected Murihiku held on 18 November 2024.

### Executive Summary

4. Connected Murihiku is a Joint Council Committee. The Council's representative is Cr P McPhail. The minutes are circulated to the three territorial authorities for information.
5. The Chairperson, Pania Coote, has advised this was the last scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee. It had been established in 2022 to operate for 18 months to support the development of a new Connected Murihiku project providing for resilience and growth for Southland's community organisations.
6. The Joint Committee has delegated members to an appointment committee for a new Trust, which is intended as the new governance structure of the project. The process to establish the Trust has commenced and is estimated to be completed by the end of March 2025.
7. The members of the Joint Committee have all agreed to continue to support the project in their individual capacity through this bridging phase. They look forward to getting together again with the community members who helped inform the project at the outset at the next face to face hui which is planned for 11 February 2025 (to be confirmed).

8. Rebecca Amundsen, the project lead, will continue to keep people updated via the Connected Murihiku newsletter
9. The Chairperson has extended her thanks to everyone – Councils, Rūnaka and community members – for their mahi in helping the Joint Committee get to this point.

## **Attachment**

Minutes of the meeting of Connected Murihiku held on 18 November 2024.



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**MINUTES OF CONNECTED MURIHIKU JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD IN THE  
COMMUNITY TRUST SOUTH BOARDROOM, 62 DON STREET, INVERCARGILL ON  
MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 1PM**

**Present:** Mrs Pania Coote  
Cr Steve Broad - ICC  
Cr Paul McPhail – GDC (teams)  
Mrs Jess Domigan – Community Representative  
Mrs Robyn Morris – Community Representative

**In Attendance:** Ms Rhiannon Suter – Manager Strategy, Policy and Engagement  
Ms Rebecca Amundsen – Project Lead  
Mrs Liz Williams – Team Leader – Governance and Executive Support

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**1. Apologies**

Mr S Hughes and Cr S Greaney.

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Mrs Domigan and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Nil.

**3. Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on  
5 August 2024**

A5485492

Moved Mrs Morris, seconded Cr Broad and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting Held on 5 August 2024 be confirmed.

#### 4. Connected Murihiku Project Administration

A5594806

Ms Suter spoke to the report and noted that this talked to the milestones achieved. It was noted that the Joint Committee had always been intended to be an interim group which would receive the funding, provide regional and sector coverage and enable time to develop a new more innovative community-led structure. It was recognised that starting a community group was challenging, that a decision point was written into the terms of reference around extending this group. She added that the need was to now look at the structure to carry the work forward.

Things to think about where if the four rūnaka and councils would be happy to continue with a different structure and whether the structure would be key around funding. If the Joint Committee were to be continued then would have to go back to the councils and the four rūnaka.

The decision also needed to be made at this meeting if wanted to extend from March to June 2025 and continue with the Project Lead contract.

A query was raised around the time, and it was agreed that eighteen months extension was longer than necessary and extension either to March or June was more appropriate.

During the meeting, a query was raised regarding the operation of an informal group and the implications of such a transition. It was raised that successfully passing on responsibilities is crucial for ongoing success. It was noted that endorsement from councils was highlighted as it lends significant credibility to funding applications. It was added that recruitment of new members was important.

It was queried if weather June allowed sufficient time for the transition and the specifics of what that timeline entails. A question was raised regarding the operational structure should the appointed group shift to an informal model. It was confirmed that the Council was happy to extend the employment contract, with funding maintained by Invercargill City Council (ICC).

A query was centred on the requirements for making funding applications, specifically the necessity of being a Charitable Trust. It was clarified that delaying the establishment of a Charitable Trust could hinder applications. However, it was noted that the ICC Charitable Trust met when required and so would not have to wait.

It was added that Ms Sandra James was also happy to work with the Committee on a Future Search hui to encourage people to get involved.

Three key areas for consideration were identified: structure, funding and council's involvement. It was emphasised that involving passionate individuals who can effectively communicate with councils is essential. Transitioning to an informal structure raises potential challenges for funding, there were pros and cons to be weighed up. It was also noted that one of the councils was not represented at the meeting, suggesting the need to obtain their feedback, although members present were generally supportive of transitioning to a Charitable Trust.

The hui concept was endorsed as a productive means of recruiting new members and facilitating workshops, with plans to schedule these activities and enhance the website

for early in the New Year. The present Joint Committee members agreed on the necessity of consulting Cr Greaney's views on the preference structure – formal or informal.

Emphasis was placed on maintaining alignment with the original mandate and the importance of effectively communicating the rationale behind potential changes. The timeline for council deliberations regarding contract extensions was uncertain; it could stretch into late January or February, which aligns with the goal of establishing the Charitable Trust by that time. If the decision to transition to an informal group is made, it was suggested that an appointments panel be designated during this meeting.

Clarity was sought on whether proposed changes would need council approval and what their stance might be. There is a risk that one or more councils may reject the extension. It was generally agreed that by June 2025, the group must have successfully transitioned to the new model and Trust, with necessary preparations to be finalised by March. It was added that the extension of the contract for the Project Lead is also critical to this process.

It was added that Christmas and the holiday season is approaching, so it was proposed to use the shutdown period until mid-January to engage key people who had been involved or wished to be involved with the idea to transition them as informal partners.

Note: Cr Greaney joined the meeting via teams to enable decision-making on this item.

A query was raised if the office space etc at Community Trust South (CTS) would still remain, it was noted that there was support from CTS for the project and this would need to be finalised.

It was felt that councils would not see maintaining a Joint Committee as a high priority, given their many other priorities and funding needs. It was added that ICC was the employer and held the funds, and so there was no legal risk to the Committee members personally, the risk was around ensuring that the project was kept on track and administration services etc.

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Cr McPhail and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Connected Murihiku Project Administration".
2. Note that the Joint Committee was established for an initial eighteen-month period with the Terms of Reference allowing for the group to recommend an extension in the circumstance that an ongoing governance structure had not yet been established.
3. Discuss the extent to which the governance needs of the group would be met by an informal structure in the short term and determine whether to recommend extension of the Joint Committee (Recommendation 5 below)
4. Request Invercargill City Council to extend the Project Coordinator contract beyond March 2025 within the budget allowance.

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Mrs Domigan and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

### **Agrees to recommend to Councils:**

5. That the advice of the Joint Committee is that its work is complete as a formal interim governance group for Connected Murihiku and that the members intend to continue for a term no longer than the end of June 2025 as an informal group in order to support the project in its bridging phase as the new Charitable Trust is set up. This is noting the continued employment and contract funding management role of Invercargill City Council will continue also until end of June 2025.

The current Joint Committee thanked the councils for the support provided to enable the project to get to this point and noted that the Project Lead would provide a report to councils in the New Year.

## **5. Connected Murihiku Project Lead Update**

A5615910

Ms Amundsen noted that the report talked about a way forward for the Joint Committee and noted that the website was a tool and the role of Connected Murihiku was to support organisations and that was more than the website alone. She added that the most clicks in the newsletters had been on the different funds available and noted that the clicks to the Environment Southland website that had the portal/information on funders were not as high.

It had been queried if the website could be hosted by a different organisation, it could be but still required someone to update.

MBIE funding should last till the end of June 2025, and noted that the Project Lead contract ended in March 2025. The report discussed a Charitable Trust and the steps required to complete that work.

It was felt using the Community Law Centre would slow the progress of setting up the Trust given the workload they had and private legal advice would be quicker and perhaps get a quote for this work.

A query was raised where savings had been achieved, it was noted the website was less than had been budgeted and there had been no need to hire a content creator. There were also savings as the Project Lead had come on later.

It was queried how to bring the work forward and supported that the website was just a tool and the need to have someone work with the community and for the community. There was a need to look at how this would be achieved without a person being in isolation and if could be located at other organisations or collective.

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Cr Broad and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Connected Murihiku Project Lead Update".

The link to Social Link was discussed and the similarities, it was asked if there were duplicating, the concept was the same and could mirror rather than reinventing.

It was queried there had been a need identified and if there were any obvious hurdles from stating the need to turning up to events and the taking advantage of opportunities available. It was noted that people may want things when they need it and so timing. The need to provide something time efficient and flexible. Another area discussed was templates and the need to have them easy to find and tailored for Southland, also the ability to talk to someone.

A query was raised if the Joint Committee had a funding strategy and it was noted that had presented a draft one earlier and that applications had been drafted but not submitted. It was noted could apply to DIA but needed a private bank account not a Council one.

It was noted that if went forward could invite others to be part of it and need to set them up to succeed and take over to take to the next stage.

There was discussion around having a subscription model.

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Mrs Morris and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

2. Considers the advice of the Project Lead in determining the next steps for the Joint Committee or alternative interim governance structure.
3. Agrees to established a Charitable Trust and confirms the draft preamble and objectives (Appendix 1) and requests that the Project Lead obtains a quotation for legal advice.

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Cr McPhail and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

4. Notes and provides feedback on the action points outlined in this report under Preferred Option for Governance.
5. Requests the Project Lead to work on an in person Future Search hui to be held in early 2025.
6. Endorses the appointment of Mrs Morris, Mrs Coote and Cr Broad with Cr Greaney as an alternate to the Appointments Committee.

Moved Mrs Morris, seconded Cr Broad and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

7. Confirms that the point of contact for Invercargill City Council would be Mrs Pania Coote.

## 6. Financial Report for Connected Murihiku

A5629739

It was noted that the main costs incurred were the website update and sending the newsletters out whilst the Project Lead was on leave. It was also noted that an article was written during that period and another would also be engaged.

A correction in the report was noted and YTD would be removed in the Purpose as that was total cost. Ensure that the correction was made to in kind that was from Council and Community Trust South.

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Cr Broad and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Financial Report for Connected Murihiku" for the four months ended 31 October 2024.

## 7. Public Excluded

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Cr Broad that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting; namely

- (a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2024

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
(a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2024	<b>Section 7(2)(a)</b> Protect the privacy of natural persons.	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b> That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 2.54pm.



## 7.6 Management Accounts to 30 September 2024

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Michelle Nicholls
Author title:	Senior Finance Manager
General Manager lead:	General Manager Corporate Support/Chief Financial Officer
Report date:	Monday, 9 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### Purpose

1. To inform the Council on the financial performance of the Council for the first quarter to 30 September 2024.

### Recommendation

2. That the Council:
  - a) receive and note the management accounts to 30 September 2024.

### Executive Summary

3. The Council has recorded a \$193k surplus as at 30 September 2024. This is favourable compared to a budgeted deficit of \$713k. The key drivers being higher than budgeted income of \$398k and lower than budgeted expenditure of \$508k.
4. The favourable variance in income relates primarily due to higher than budgeted fees received for trade waste, and the final financial contribution received from Mataura Valley Milk for the library redevelopment project.
5. The favourable variance in expenditure is due to employee related costs being favourable by \$473k. This figure includes a number of vacant positions (some long-standing vacancies) and employer superannuation costs also being favourable.
6. Other variances within the expenditure categories are made up of a number of favourable and unfavourable items of smaller value.

## **Context**

7. The detail discussed in this report is to keep the committee informed and up to date with the financial performance of the Council through the provision of monthly management accounts.

## **Discussion**

8. The management accounts to the 30 September 2024 contain the Council's overall position, and cost centres that have material variances that require an explanation.

## **Reference**

Annual Plan 2024/25 (<https://www.goredc.govt.nz/council/official-documents/annual-plan>)

Annual Report 2023/24 (<https://www.goredc.govt.nz/council/official-documents/annual-report>)

## **Attachment**

Management Accounts to 30 September 2024

**Gore District Council  
Management Accounts to 30 September 2024**

**Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the 3 Months Ended 30 September 2024**

	Actuals \$000	Current Budget \$000	Variance \$000	Fav/ Unfav	Annual Current Budget \$000	% of Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>						
Rates	6,805	6,789	16	F	27,158	25%
Subsidies and grants	1,398	1,350	48	F	5,401	26%
Fees and charges	1,306	1,196	110	F	4,455	29%
Investment income	128	81	47	F	323	40%
Other income	291	120	171	F	480	61%
Internal overheads	2,636	2,630	6	F	10,519	25%
<b>Income total</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>12,166</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>48,336</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Employee costs	2,207	2,680	473	F	9,822	22%
Finance costs	745	626	(119)	U	2,506	30%
Depreciation	2,349	2,311	(38)	U	9,243	25%
Other expenses	4,434	4,632	198	F	18,413	24%
Internal overheads	2,636	2,630	(6)	U	10,519	25%
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>12,371</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>50,503</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(713)</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>(2,167)</b>	<b>-9%</b>

**Commentary on significant variances**

Income

*Fees and charges*

Fees and charges are favourable \$110k. This favourable variance is mainly due to higher than budgeted trade waste charges of \$78k.

*Other income*

Other income is favourable by \$171k. This favourable variance is due to the financial contribution received from Mataura Valley Milk of \$196k for the Library redevelopment project.

Expenditure

*Employee costs*

Employee costs are favourable by \$473k. There have been a number of long-standing vacancies that were still unfilled at 30 September. The employer contribution to superannuation is also

favourable with a number of staff electing to contribute 3% as opposed to 4%, which the Council matches.

*Finance costs (interest expense)*

Finance costs are higher than budget by \$119k. The treasury advice received has indicated that interest rates have reached their current peak and should be starting to come back down.

*Other expenses*

Other expenses are favourable by \$198k which is spread across a number of areas and is mostly due to timing differences. Expenditure on chemicals is favourable by \$70k, IT related consultants are favourable by \$35k, the rest of the variance is made up of smaller amounts of less than \$20k.

**Income and Expenditure by Department  
For the 3 Months Ended 30 September 2024**

Department	Income						Expenditure						Totals				
	Current			Fav / Unfav	Annual	% of Annual	Current			Fav / Unfav	Annual	% of Annual	Current			Annual	
	Actuals	Budget	Variance		Budget		Actuals	Budget	Variance		Budget		Actuals	Budget	Variance	Fav / Unfav	Budget
\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	
3 Waters	2,681	2,603	78	F	10,541	25%	2,784	2,938	154	F	11,643	24%	(103)	(335)	232	F	(1,102)
Aquatic Services and Stadiums	624	612	12	F	2,449	25%	633	654	21	F	2,526	25%	(9)	(42)	33	F	(77)
Arts and Heritage	255	260	(5)	U	1,039	25%	289	272	(17)	U	1,050	28%	(34)	(12)	(22)	U	(11)
Corporate and IT	2,021	1,933	88	F	7,733	26%	1,721	1,988	267	F	7,733	22%	300	(55)	355	F	-
Libraries	329	323	6	F	1,295	25%	334	342	8	F	1,321	25%	(5)	(19)	14	F	(26)
Parks and Reserves	1,560	1,352	208	F	5,406	29%	1,397	1,404	7	F	5,498	25%	163	(52)	215	F	(92)
Property	614	650	(36)	U	2,601	24%	543	672	129	F	2,672	20%	71	(22)	93	F	(71)
Regulatory	1,239	1,059	180	F	3,777	33%	1,509	1,265	(244)	U	4,952	30%	(270)	(206)	(64)	U	(1,175)
Roading	1,865	2,058	(193)	U	8,230	23%	1,925	1,968	43	F	7,845	25%	(60)	90	(150)	U	385
Solid Waste	893	862	31	F	3,447	26%	851	862	11	F	3,447	25%	42	-	42	F	-
Other	483	454	29	F	1,818	27%	385	515	130	F	1,816	21%	98	(61)	159	F	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>12,166</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>48,336</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>12,371</b>	<b>12,880</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>50,503</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(714)</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>(2,167)</b>

## **Commentary on significant variances**

### *3 Waters*

The \$232k favourable variance for 3 Waters is largely due to higher than budgeted trade waste charges revenue of \$78k. Expenditure is favourable by \$154k across a number of areas, including chemicals.

### *Corporate and IT*

The \$355k favourable variance for Corporate and IT is largely due to higher than budgeted investment income of \$62k and lower than budgeted employee costs. Employee costs are \$196k favourable across the two areas. This relates to vacancies that were unfilled at 30 September.

### *Parks and Reserves*

Parks and Reserves is currently recording a favourable variance overall of \$215k. The favourable variance is largely to better off funding receivable taken up this year for the redevelopment of Tulloch Park \$213k. The income is offset by the capital expenditure.

### *Regulatory*

Regulatory is currently recording an unfavourable variance overall of \$64k. Income is \$180k favourable due to the financial contribution received from Mataura Valley Milk of \$196k for the Library Redevelopment project. Expenditure is higher than budgeted by \$244k due to higher than budgeted District Plan related expenditure of \$303k.

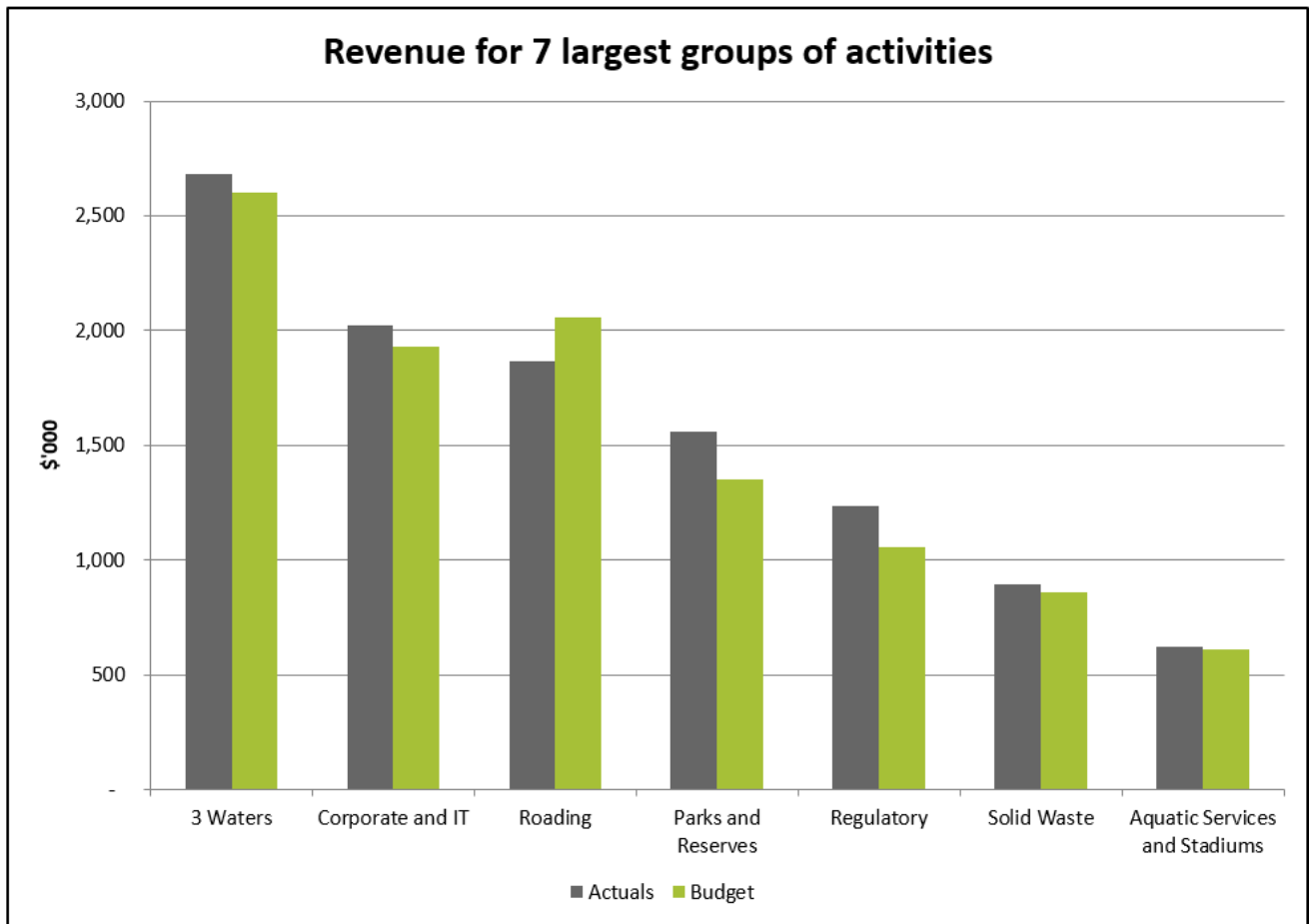
### *Roading*

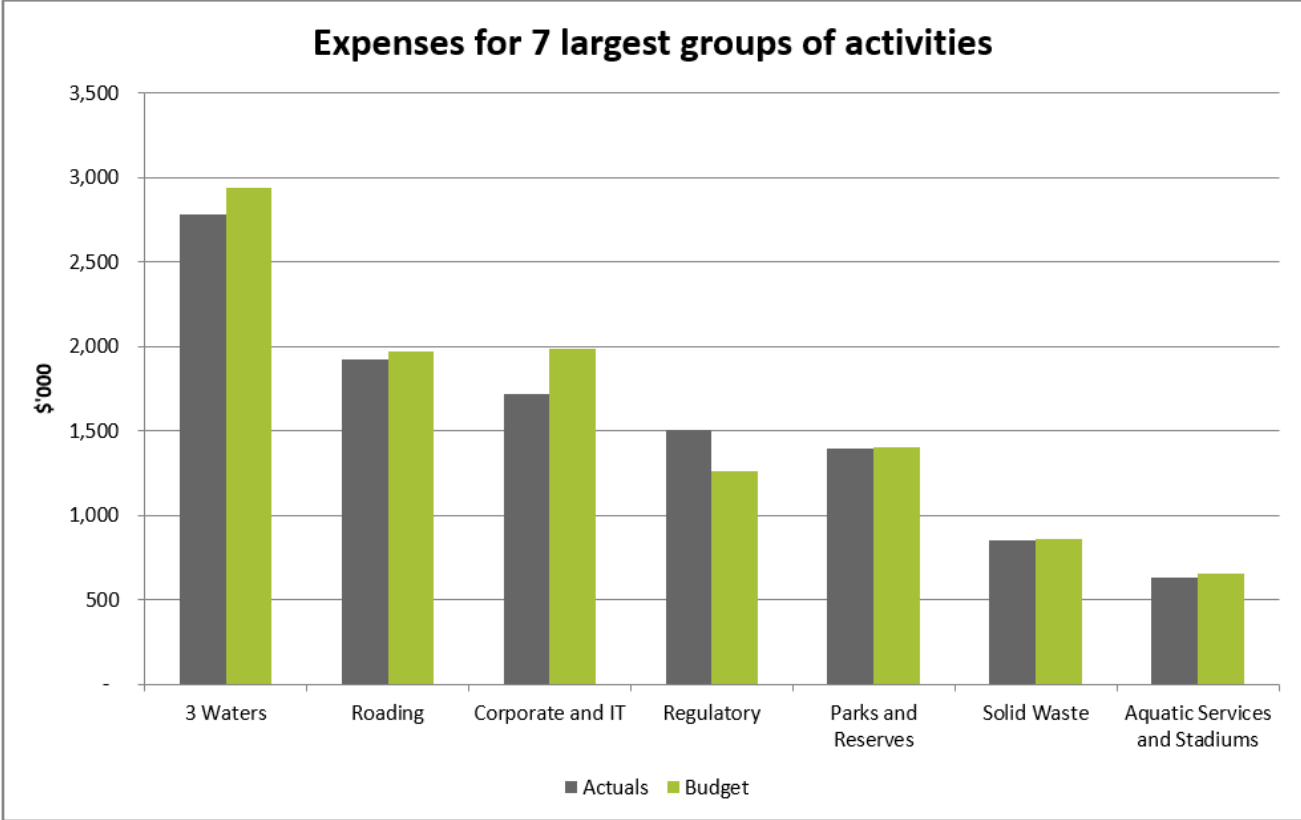
Roading is currently recording an unfavourable variance of \$150k. This is largely due to an unfavourable variance in income of \$193k. This is a timing difference and will come back as the roading programme of work comes into its busy period.

### *Other*

The \$159k favourable variance in Other is mainly due to lower than budgeted expenditure of \$130k. Of this, \$63k relates to a favourable variance in grants of \$63k due to timing differences.

**Additional graphs for information**







## 8. Reports for Decisions

### 8.1 Water Services Levy Report

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Jason Domigan
Author title:	General Manager Critical Services
Manager lead:	Chief Executive
Report date:	Friday, 6 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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#### Purpose

1. To inform the Council on proposed levies for Councils and their Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) to fund water services quality regulation and economic regulation.
2. To seek any feedback from the Council to include in the consultation response.

#### Recommendation

3. That the Council:
  - a) receive and note the Water Services Levy report;
  - b) request the Chief Executive to provide feedback on the consultation; and
  - c) request any key messages to be included in the consultation.

#### Executive Summary

4. The Minister of Local Government is proposing to implement a levy to recover most of the Authority's operating and capital costs from drinking water suppliers and wastewater and stormwater network operators.
5. The levy regime will commence from 1 July 2025.
6. The preferred option is that the levy be directed at territorial authorities or their Council Controlled Organisations that deliver water services.
7. It will be up to Councils to determine how best to recover the costs from consumers (ie rates, water charges etc) and how best to ensure these costs are recorded (ie whether to include levy charges as an explicit line in rates bills).
8. The cost of implementing the levy for the Gore District is \$52,588 + GST per year for the first three year cycle subject to any review changes during that period.

## Context

9. The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (the Authority) is New Zealand’s water services regulator established as part of the response to the Havelock North campylobacter outbreak in 2016, which led to an estimated 8,000 infections and was linked to four deaths following contamination of drinking water.
10. The functions and powers of the Authority are set out in the Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator Act 2020 and the Water Services Act 2021. The Authority was established in 2021. Its drinking water functions became fully operational with the enactment of the Water Services Act in November 2021. Its functions relating to the wastewater and stormwater commenced in October 2023.
11. As part of Local Water Done Well, the Government’s priorities are to put in place a framework for local Council ownership and control of water services, with clear rules for water quality and ongoing investment. The Water Services Authority’s role in Local Water Done Well is by regulating drinking water suppliers to ensure they meet quality standards and providing oversight of the environmental performance of water services networks.

### Implementing a levy to recover costs of the Authority

12. The Minister of Local Government is proposing to implement a levy to recover most of the Authority’s operating and capital costs from drinking water suppliers and wastewater and stormwater network operators. The levy regime will commence from 1 July 2025.
13. The Authority’s budget will be fixed at the current level of funding of \$25.30m for the next three years. There will continue to be Crown funding to the Authority of \$4.642m per annum, with the remainder funded by the levy. The Crown funding will mean that functions of the Authority that have a national-level or public benefit, such as setting drinking water or wastewater standards, are funded by the Crown.
14. Before recommending the levy-making regulations, the responsible Minister must:
  - consult the drinking water suppliers and network operators who will be affected by the levy, which is the purpose of this discussion document and targeted consultation;
  - determine the costs of the Authority, including the costs of collecting the levy, to be covered by the levy, and is covered in this discussion document and targeted consultation; and
  - request, and have regard to, advice from the Authority on the proposed levy.

### Who the levy will apply to?

15. The Water Services Act 2021 enables regulations prescribing a levy to be set for the purpose of recovering any or all of the costs of the Authority that relate to the exercise of its functions, powers and duties.
16. The levy may be directed at one or more of the following groups: drinking water suppliers, wastewater network operators, or stormwater network operators.
17. The preferred option is that the levy be directed at territorial authorities or their Council Controlled Organisations that deliver water services. The discussion paper states this is because territorial authorities, or their CCOs that deliver water services, currently provide water services to most of the population (approximately 84%). In addition, they manage most drinking water, wastewater and stormwater networks. As the Government works with Councils to deliver Local Water Done Well, the Authority will design the levy in a way that considers new and emerging CCO arrangements.

## Discussion

### Levy structure

18. The Minister’s preferred option for the levy is based on maintaining a Crown contribution of \$4.642m per year. This contribution would cover activities that the Authority delivers that have a significant public good. These activities include:
- Reporting, including producing the Annual Network Performance Report and Annual Drinking Water Regulation Report and annual reporting on environmental performance of networks and operators.
  - Regulatory system design and standard-setting, including developing acceptable solutions and class exemptions, verification methods and aesthetic values; contributing to setting wastewater and drinking water standards and rules; providing policy advice on legislative and regulatory changes, and monitoring effectiveness of legislation and regulatory practices.
19. The Minister is proposing that the Authority be funded through a levy on territorial authorities and their CCOs that deliver water services, that covers the remainder of funding over the Crown annual contribution of \$4.642m. The Authority would also continue to cost recover a small proportion of its costs through fees charged for the exercise of particular functions.
20. Levy efficiency is also a consideration as information about these suppliers is well known, easy to access and, therefore, easy to apportion. It is expected that a levy imposed on these suppliers and network operators will be factored into rates or water charges collected by Councils or their subsidiaries through existing local government mechanisms.
21. The table below shows the breakdown of proposed costs shared between Councils or their CCOs and the Crown.

\$ millions	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<b>Proposed funding to Water Services Authority (through levy contribution)</b>	\$20.658	\$20.658	\$20.658
<b>Crown contribution</b>	\$4.642	\$4.642	\$4.642
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>

22. It should be noted that the operating expenditure of the Authority is five times greater than the Council’s full operating expenditure across its 3 Waters activities.

### Levy apportionment

23. The Authority is proposing to levy based on a per-person charge, using 2023 Census data.
24. This would require the total average leviable cost of the Authority operations over the initial three-year levy period to be divided by the total population to derive the per-person cost. This

cost would then be multiplied by the number of people in each city/district to derive the levy for that supplier.

25. Drinking water suppliers or network operators would decide how to pass the costs onto their ratepayers, including for those it does not directly provide water services to. For example, it may choose to charge a lesser amount for domestic self-suppliers.
26. The table below outlines the apportionment across territorial authorities:

Territorial authority and Auckland local board area	2023 Census Population	Annual levy (GST exclusive)
Ashburton district	34,746	\$143,751
Auckland	1,656,486	\$6,853,184
Buller district	10,446	\$43,217
Carterton district	10,107	\$41,814
Central Hawke's Bay district	15,480	\$64,044
Central Otago district	24,306	\$100,558
Christchurch city	391,383	\$1,619,223
Clutha district	18,315	\$75,772
Dunedin city	128,901	\$533,287
Far North district	71,430	\$295,519
Gisborne district	51,135	\$211,555
Gore district	12,711	\$52,588
Grey district	14,043	\$58,098
Hamilton city	174,741	\$722,935
Hastings district	85,965	\$355,653
Hauraki district	21,318	\$88,196
Horowhenua district	36,693	\$151,806
Hurunui district	13,608	\$56,299
Invercargill city	55,599	\$230,023
Kaikoura district	4,215	\$17,438
Kaipara district	25,899	\$107,149
Kapiti Coast district	55,914	\$231,326
Kawerau district	7,539	\$31,190
Lower Hutt city	107,562	\$445,004
Mackenzie district	5,115	\$21,162
Manawatu district	32,415	\$134,107
Marlborough district	49,431	\$204,505
Masterton district	27,678	\$114,509
Matamata-Piako district	37,098	\$153,481

Territorial authority and Auckland local board area	2023 Census Population	Annual levy (GST exclusive)
Napier city	64,695	\$267,655
Nelson city	52,584	\$217,550
New Plymouth district	87,000	\$359,935
Ōpōtiki district	10,089	\$41,740
Ōtorohanga district	10,410	\$43,068
Palmerston North city	87,090	\$360,307
Porirua city	59,445	\$245,935
Queenstown-Lakes district	47,808	\$197,790
Rangitikei district	15,663	\$64,801
Rotorua district	74,058	\$306,391
Ruapehu district	13,095	\$54,176
Selwyn district	78,144	\$323,296
South Taranaki district	29,025	\$120,082
South Waikato district	25,044	\$103,612
South Wairarapa district	11,811	\$48,864
Southland district	31,833	\$131,699
Stratford district	10,149	\$41,988
Tararua district	18,660	\$77,200
Tasman district	57,807	\$239,158
Taupo district	40,296	\$166,712
Tauranga city	152,844	\$632,343
Thames-Coromandel district	31,995	\$132,369
Timaru district	47,547	\$196,711
Upper Hutt city	45,759	\$189,313
Waikato district	85,968	\$355,665
Waimakariri district	66,246	\$274,072
Waimate district	8,121	\$33,598
Waipa district	58,686	\$242,795
Wairoa district	8,826	\$36,515
Waitaki district	23,472	\$97,108
Waitomo district	9,585	\$39,655
Wellington city	202,689	\$838,561
Western Bay of Plenty district	56,184	\$232,443
Westland district	8,901	\$36,825
Whakatane district	37,149	\$153,692
Whanganui district	47,619	\$197,008
Whangarei district	96,678	\$399,974
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,993,254</b>	<b>\$20,658,000</b>

## Levy design

27. The Authority is proposing that functions relating to the different waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) be levied separately, but invoiced together.
28. This will mean that in practice there will be three separate levies for services covering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater that will be charged to councils depending on what services they provide.
29. The Authority will expend most regulatory resources on drinking water-related activities. Its role in wastewater and stormwater is more limited, so the Authority has weighted related activities across those two waters differently in the split of the levy.
30. The table below shows the levy split proposed.

Three waters percentage split	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Average
Drinking water	75%	75%	74%	75%
Wastewater	21%	21%	21%	21%
Stormwater	4%	4%	5%	4%

## Levy implementation

31. The levy will be payable from 1 July 2025 but not invoiced until after that date.
32. The Authority proposes to levy annually with levies payable quarterly in advance in line with most councils' rating processes.
33. It will be up to councils to determine how best to recover the costs from consumers (ie rates, water charges etc.) and how best to ensure these costs are recorded (ie whether to include levy charges as an explicit line in rates bills).
34. The Authority is proposing to monitor, evaluate and review the levy in an ongoing three-year cycle in accordance with usual practice for levy reviews, unless exceptional circumstances justify earlier review in any period. A yearly internal review is proposed to address any need for earlier review than the three-year cycle. The first levy review is proposed to be in 2027-28, before the next levy cycle begins.
35. Alternatively, the review period could be aligned to council long-term planning cycles to allow sufficient time for any design changes and cost implications to be factored into council planning. However, this would require the levy to be reviewed and any changes agreed during the 2026-27 financial year for incorporation into the next cycle of long-term plans.

## Options

36. The Authority has considered options under each of the four sections of the discussion paper and have given high level reasons as to why they have not been considered as the preferred option as recommended.
37. From a Council perspective, the most important option of consideration is the 100% Crown funded model which is discussed and disregarded in one sentence which is outlined below in its entirety:

*“Similarly, a 100% Crown funded model was considered but this would not reflect that those whose actions give rise to costs (i.e. through the act of delivering services in a regulated market) and those who benefit from regulation (ie through the consumption of improved quality of services), should pay most of the costs associated with service use and benefit consumption.”*

## Consultation (Internal and External)

38. The Authority, on behalf of the Minister of Local Government, is consulting on the proposed design for a levy to fund its work regulating drinking water suppliers for safety and quality and overseeing the environmental performance of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater networks under section 201 of the Water Services Act 2021.
39. In accordance with the Water Services Act, consultation is targeted to territorial authorities and their Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) that provide water services and Greater Wellington Regional Council, as it is a bulk water supplier.
40. It welcomes feedback from the sector to inform the final levy arrangements. This discussion paper includes some questions Councils may like to respond to in their submission. The questions are listed below. Councils are not required to answer all or any of the questions included. Where possible, Councils are asked to include evidence to support their views, for example, references to facts and figures, or relevant examples.

### Key consultation questions

- What are the most important issues that you/your organisation believe should be addressed by the Authority?
- How would you like the Authority to engage with you/your organisation?
- Do you/your organisation have views on the preferred option detailed in the levy structure section of the discussion document?
- Do you/your organisation agree with the focus, in the first levy period, on Councils?
- Do you/your organisation have any comments on the proposal to separate levies for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater?
- Would splitting the levy between drinking water, wastewater and stormwater result in any benefit for your organisation, or create any barriers (whether now or in the future)?
- Do you/your organisation have any comments on the preferred option of an apportionment approach of charging the levy on a per-person rate?
- Would the proposed apportionment approach create any challenges for your organisation?
- Do you/your organisation see any issues with your implementation of the levy (receipt of invoices, payment and passing the cost on as you may determine)?
- Would the proposed implementation approach create any challenges for your organisation?
- Do you/your organisation have a preference for when the levy should be reviewed next?

## Financial Considerations

41. The cost of implementing the levy for the Gore District is \$52,588 + GST per year for the first three year cycle subject to any review changes during that period. This will need to be included in the LTP budgets from 1 July 2025 and decisions made on how this is to be funded.
42. This is outlined in the levy apportionment section of this report and the Authority discussion paper.

## **Attachment**

Appendix 1 – Water Services Levy Discussion Document



# Consultation on the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai levy for 2025 – 2028

Discussion document on a proposed levy for council drinking water suppliers and network operators under the Water Services Act 2021



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Consultation on the Water Services Authority –  
Taumata Arowai levy for 2025 - 2028

Date: 10/2024

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## How to make a submission

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (**the Authority**), on behalf of the Minister of Local Government, is consulting on the proposed design for a levy to fund its work regulating drinking water suppliers for safety and quality and overseeing the environmental performance of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater networks under section 201 of the Water Services Act 2021.

In accordance with the Water Services Act, consultation is targeted to territorial authorities and their council-controlled organisations (**CCOs**) that provide water services, and Greater Wellington Regional Council as it is a bulk water supplier. We welcome feedback from the sector to inform the final levy arrangements.

This discussion paper includes some questions you may like to respond to in your submission. The questions are listed in boxes through this document and the full list of questions is provided in **Appendix 1**. You are not required to answer all or any of the questions included. Where possible, please include evidence to support your views, for example, references to facts and figures, or relevant examples.

You will find all the information on this consultation on the Authority website at [te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz/regulatory/proposed-levy](https://te-puna-korero.taumataarowai.govt.nz/regulatory/proposed-levy)

The consultation is open from 26 November 2024 until 24 January 2025. Please send us your written submission on the proposals and questions raised in this document by **5.00pm on 24 January 2025**.

You can make a submission via:

- our [online survey](#)
- sending your responses to [korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz](mailto:korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz) or mailed to Level 2, 10 Brandon Street, PO Box 628, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Please include your name, or the name of your organisation and contact details in your submission. **Appendix 2** explains how the Authority will use any information you provide in a submission or feedback form in response to this discussion document. We appreciate your time in providing feedback.

Please direct any questions you may have in relation to the submission process to: [korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz](mailto:korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz).

The Authority notes that some councils currently outsource supply activities to a CCO or other entity. The Authority encourages those councils to discuss the proposed levy settings and the questions in this discussion document with their relevant subsidiaries, contractors or other agents.

### **Next steps**

Following consultation and analysis of feedback, a final levy proposal will be developed for consideration by the Minister of Local Government. The intent is that regulations implementing the levy will come into effect on 1 July 2025.

## Introduction

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (**the Authority**) is New Zealand’s water services regulator established as part of the response to the Havelock North campylobacter outbreak in 2016, which led to an estimated 8,000 infections and was linked to four deaths following contamination of drinking water.

The functions and powers of the Authority are set out in the Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator Act 2020 and the Water Services Act 2021. The Authority was established in 2021. Its drinking water functions became fully operational with the enactment of the Water Services Act in November 2021. Its functions relating to the wastewater and stormwater commenced in October 2023.

As part of Local Water Done Well the Government’s priorities are to put in place an enduring and sustainable framework for local council ownership and control of water services, with clear rules for water quality and ongoing investment.

The Water Services Authority plays a critical role in Local Water Done Well by regulating drinking water suppliers to ensure they meet quality standards and providing oversight of the environmental performance of water services networks. The focus on ensuring supplies have adequate protozoa and bacterial protections means that the Authority, alongside councils, have supported substantial improvements in access to safe drinking water, with an additional 500,000 New Zealanders now on track to having safe drinking water.

The Government is proposing a range of changes that aim to reduce the cost and burden for drinking water suppliers in complying with the Water Services Act 2021. The changes are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the drinking water regulatory regime, and the approach the Authority takes to regulating this regime.

### *Delivering a reasonable, proportionate and pragmatic regulatory approach*

In its work, the Authority takes a reasonable, proportionate and pragmatic regulatory approach, providing advice and support to drinking water suppliers as they deliver and maintain cost-effective drinking water safeguards that fit the supply and local conditions.

For councils and other drinking water suppliers, reduced regulatory requirements – and changes to the regulatory approach taken by the Authority – will reduce the costs of compliance particularly for smaller, private and rural suppliers. The Authority will engage more actively with mixed-use rural schemes and larger suppliers and network operators and develop more regulatory solutions for suppliers and network operators to make compliance easier and cheaper.

The Authority is progressing a programme of activities to provide ongoing certainty and clarity for the sector. It will focus on six priorities over the next three years.

- Publishing New Zealand’s first national wastewater standards in 2025.
- Developing a range of practical solutions (such as end point treatments/acceptable solutions), technical guidance, information and advice that’s tailored for different types of supplies

- All council drinking water supplies having multi-barrier protections or a plan towards compliance in place by December 2025<sup>1</sup>.
- Reviewing one Drinking Water Safety Plan for each council and provide them with feedback on the outcome of that.
- Working alongside councils to collectively lift the quality of data and information that underpins public reporting on the performance of water services.
- Supporting suppliers in emergencies that impact drinking water.

Over the next 12 months, the Authority will seek sector input into major improvements to New Zealand’s Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and development of new wastewater standards that will reduce cost and increase efficiencies.

With a view to making compliance requirements for small and medium-sized supplies clearer sooner, the Authority is undertaking a review of the Rules in two stages, first seeking feedback on proposed changes to Rules for supplies that serve 500 or fewer people and then consult on proposed changes to Rules for supplies that serve 500 or more people next year. The aim is to make compliance more straightforward for drinking water suppliers and network operators.

Wastewater Standards will set nationally consistent requirements for all wastewater networks and operators to meet. They’ll also help to reduce regulatory burden, and enable efficiencies and standardisation, while providing councils with greater certainty of costs for their wastewater network investments.

The Authority will also be engaging regularly and proactively with drinking water suppliers, specifically councils and small suppliers, to ensure interventions meet risk-management requirements and can be addressed in a cost-effective manner and timeframe.

The Authority knows the next four years will be a time of significant change, particularly for local government and their CCOs, as the Government works with councils to deliver Local Water Done Well. The design of the levy seeks to provide as much certainty as possible, while remaining flexible enough to be resilient to system change.

### ***How the Authority has been funded***

During the establishment period, the Authority has been largely funded by the Crown, with a small proportion of its funding received through cost recovery fees charged for specific functions under the Water Services (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2021, for instance, for exemptions.

**Table 1: The Water Services Authority funding 2024/25**

2024/25	\$ millions
Crown Funding	\$21.32

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<sup>1</sup> Unless the supplier has an exemption from this requirement

Use of reserves and other revenue	\$3.98
<b>Total Funding Available</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>

### ***Implementing a levy to recover costs of the Authority***

The Minister of Local Government is proposing to implement a levy to recover most of the Authority’s operating and capital costs from drinking water suppliers and wastewater and stormwater network operators. The levy regime will commence from 1 July 2025.

The Authority’s budget will be fixed at the current level of funding of \$25.30m for the next three years. There will continue to be Crown funding to the Authority of \$4.642m per annum, with the remainder funded by the levy. The Crown funding will mean that functions of the Authority that have a national-level or public benefit, such as setting drinking water or wastewater standards, are funded by the Crown.

Before recommending the levy-making regulations, the responsible Minister must:

- consult the drinking water suppliers and network operators who will be affected by the levy, which is the purpose of this discussion document and targeted consultation
- determine the costs of the Authority, including the costs of collecting the levy, to be covered by the levy, and is covered in this discussion document and targeted consultation
- request, and have regard to, advice from the Authority on the proposed levy.

### ***Who the levy will apply to and when it will apply***

The Water Services Act 2021 enables regulations prescribing a levy to be set for the purpose of recovering any or all of the costs of the Authority that relate to the exercise of its functions, powers and duties. The levy may be directed at one or more of the following groups: drinking water suppliers, wastewater network operators, or stormwater network operators.

Our preferred option is that the levy be directed at territorial authorities or their council-controlled organisations that deliver water services<sup>2</sup>. This is because territorial authorities, or their CCOs that deliver water services, currently provide water services to most of the population (approximately 84%).

In addition, they manage most drinking water, wastewater and stormwater networks. As the Government works with councils to deliver Local Water Done Well, the Authority will design the levy in a way that considers new and emerging CCO arrangements.

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<sup>2</sup> Greater Wellington Regional Council presents a unique case because it has statutory responsibility for bulk water supply in the Wellington region. Other regional councils do not have this function. The Authority does not propose to impose a levy on Greater Wellington Regional Council, as this will result in Wellington ratepayers potentially being charged twice. This proposal is subject to any feedback received on this discussion document.

***Your feedback will help shape the structure and implementation of the levy***

The Authority welcomes feedback on proposals to understand councils and council-controlled organisations' views on the structure of a levy and to help identify the most workable option for both the Authority and potential levy payers.

The consultation proposes a preferred levy approach, but final decisions have not been made.

Once submissions have been received and analysed, a final levy proposal will be developed for the Minister of Local Government's consideration. The intent is that regulations implementing the levy will come into effect by 1 July 2025.

***Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) consultation on Commerce***

As part of Local Water Done Well, economic regulation and consumer protection will be delivered by the Commerce Commission. MBIE is also consulting on levy funding for the Commerce Commission's functions for FY 25/26 and beyond. Local water services suppliers should plan for those proposed costs alongside those covered in this discussion document. Information about MBIE's consultation is available on their website.

**Questions on this section:**

**What are the most important issues that you/your organisation believes should be addressed by the Authority?**

**How would you like the Authority to engage with you/your organisation?**



## Part 1: Levy structure

The Water Services Act 2021 enables a levy to be set through regulations to cover “any or all of the costs” of the Water Services Authority. This means that the levy can be set to cover 100% of the costs incurred by the Authority, or alternatively its costs can be split between levy payers and the Crown.

The **preferred option** for the levy is based on maintaining a Crown contribution of \$4.642m<sup>3</sup> per year. This contribution would cover activities that the Authority delivers that have a significant public good. These activities include

- **Reporting**, including producing the Annual Network Performance Report and Annual Drinking Water Regulation Report and annual reporting on environmental performance of networks and operators.
- **Regulatory system design and standard-setting**, including developing acceptable solutions and class exemptions, verification methods and aesthetic values; contributing to setting wastewater and drinking water standards and rules; providing policy advice on legislative and regulatory changes, and monitoring effectiveness of legislation and regulatory practices.

The Minister is proposing that the Authority be funded through a levy on territorial authorities and their CCOs that deliver water services, that covers the remainder of funding over the Crown annual contribution of \$4.642m. The Authority would also continue to cost recover a small proportion of its costs through fees charged for the exercise of particular functions.

Water service providers directly benefit from a well-regulated and efficiently managed water authority. Levying territorial authorities to fund the Authority ensures the Authority will be financially accountable to those it regulates. This also provides stable and predictable funding.

In the first proposed levy period of 2025 – 2028, the levy will be directed at territorial authorities or chosen service delivery organisations. Territorial authorities or their CCOs (that provide water services) currently provide water services to most of the population (approximately 84%) and manage most water networks. As new service delivery vehicles are available to councils as part of Local Water Done Well, these will also be liable to levy arrangements.

Levy efficiency is also a consideration as information about these suppliers is well known, easy to access and, therefore, easy to apportion. It is expected that a levy imposed on these suppliers and network operators will be factored into rates or water charges collected by councils or their subsidiaries through existing local government mechanisms.

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<sup>3</sup> This contribution includes funding transferred from Ministry of Health for their previous role in drinking water regulation (\$4m) and Public Sector Pay Adjustment funding approved Budget 2023 (\$0.642m)

The scope of the levy during this levy period does not include private/community drinking water suppliers or Crown suppliers/network operators. These suppliers mainly service dispersed populations and have limited ability to recover costs from users. Additionally, the cost of administering a levy to many private suppliers is likely to be greater than the amount collected. This will result in some cross-subsidy by councils that should be reduced by the Crown contribution.

It is proposed that the Chatham Islands Council is excluded from this levy regime since it receives much of its funding from central government and the benefits associated with regulation are unlikely to outweigh the costs. Additionally, it is expected that the Local Government Water Services Bill will exclude the Chatham Islands Council from the economic regulation regime.

All options involve some level of cross-subsidisation and under the Local Government Act territorial authorities are also the supplier of last resort. The Authority considers it is within territorial authorities interests to see these suppliers are well regulated.

This option provides the best balance of accountability, cost-efficiency, and stability.

**Table 2: Proposed total funding to Water Services Authority**

\$ millions	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<b>Proposed funding to Water Services Authority (through levy contribution)</b>	\$20.658	\$20.658	\$20.658
<b>Crown contribution</b>	\$4.642	\$4.642	\$4.642
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>	<b>\$25.30</b>

Part 3 of this document details the anticipated amount councils can expect to pay. Refer to **Appendix 3** for further detail.

***Other options considered***

Consideration was given to a 100% levy funded model where all funds are recovered by levy contributions. This is administratively more efficient as it does not rely on reconciling different functions/costs to different revenue streams, however this would not see any contribution from the Crown for services that provide a public good, and has the highest degree of cross-subsidisation.

Similarly, a 100% Crown funded model was considered but this would not reflect that those whose actions give rise to costs (i.e. through the act of delivering services in a regulated market) and those who benefit from regulation (i.e. through the consumption of improved quality of services), should pay most of the costs associated with service use and benefit consumption.

Consideration was also given to an option involving recovery of actual costs via additional fees in addition to a levy.

Fees and charges have been implemented for a small number of the Authority functions (assessing applications for exemptions and water supply to planned temporary events). These are provided for in the Water Services (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2021.

This option is arguably more equitable, as it ensures that those that cause certain costs must bear those costs and they are not spread across all levy payers. However, activities that lend themselves to fees would only result in funding for a small proportion of the Authority costs. When these costs are spread across anticipated levy payers the equity impact is negligible. The Authority will retain current cost recovery for specific functions under the Water Services (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2021, for instance, for exemptions.

The Authority also looked at alternative Crown funding / levy funding splits based on Treasury's *Guidelines for Setting Charges in the Public Sector*, which provide that, where there is a Crown – levy split, this be applied on a “beneficiary pays” basis.

A strict application of these guidelines would result in 74% of the Authority's ongoing funding being provided through a levy (\$18.814m), and 26% by the Crown (\$6.4955m), which is marginally higher than the preferred option. Other levy regimes have found that decisions about “who benefits” from a function of a regulator is not always clear, and allocation of funding arrangements to levy payers or the Crown often have to be made on the basis of approximation.

**Questions on this section:**

**Do you/your organisation have views on the preferred option detailed in the Levy Structure section of the discussion document?**

**Do you/your organisation agree with the focus, in the first levy period, on councils?**

## Part 2: Levy design

### *Separate levies for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater (preferred option)*

The Authority is proposing that functions relating to the different waters (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater) are levied separately but invoiced together where possible for ease of administration. This will reduce cross-subsidisation of drinking water-related activities and support transparency and accurate cost recovery, which might happen where one supplier delivers services across the three waters to consumers. This will mean that in practice there will be three separate levies for services covering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater that will be charged to councils depending on what services they provide.

Many of the activities of the Authority are specific to drinking water, wastewater or stormwater, for example, responding to notifications in relation to drinking water safety or compliance issues, setting environmental performance measures, targets, or standards for different kinds of networks, reviewing types of plans, and reporting on networks and network operators. The Authority expects that this is simpler for all parties in the context of different services being provided by different suppliers/network operators.

The Authority will expend most regulatory resources on drinking water-related activities. Its role in wastewater and stormwater is more limited, so the Authority has weighted related activities across those two waters differently in the split of the levy.

**Table 4: Costs the Authority can recover from a levy split across three waters**

Three waters percentage split	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Average
Drinking water	75%	75%	74%	75%
Wastewater	21%	21%	21%	21%
Stormwater	4%	4%	5%	4%

For example, using Option 4, Ashburton’s 2025/26 estimated levies of \$143,751 has the following components:

- Drinking Water      \$107,813 (\$143,751 x 75%)
- Waste Water          \$30,188 (\$143,751 x 21%)
- Storm Water          \$5,750 (\$143,751 x 4%)

Splitting the levy across the three different water services is intended to help councils that choose to separate the responsibilities for their water services delivery between themselves and a CCO. An example is where a council retains responsibility for wastewater and stormwater services but delegates or transfers drinking water operations to a CCO. In this instance, responsibility for the portion of the levy for wastewater and stormwater could be charged to the local authority instead of the CCO.

Levying each water service separately will also reduce cross-subsidisation of drinking water related activities for wastewater and stormwater functions, and support transparency, accurate cost recovery and reporting. It will also provide the strongest focus on each water.

### ***Other option considered***

As an alternative option to the proposed one, consideration was given to having a single levy across all three waters. This option was considered less appropriate because, through Local Water Done Well, some councils may choose to retain the operation of stormwater networks while drinking and/or wastewater management may be transferred to the new entities. This option would also likely end up with cross-subsidisation which is not a desired outcome.

#### **Questions on this section:**

**Do you/your organisation have any comments on the proposal to separate levies for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater?**

**Would splitting the levy between drinking water, wastewater and stormwater result in any benefit for your organisation, or create any barriers (whether now or in the future)?**

# Part 3: Levy apportionment

## *Levy based on per-person charge using 2023 Census data (preferred option)*

The Authority is proposing to levy based on a per-person charge, using 2023 Census data. This will allow the levy to be calculated by standardised and publicly available information.

To ensure drinking water suppliers or network operators bear equitable costs, the Authority proposes the total amount of the levy charged to each supplier/network operator is based on the population within the district or city council boundaries of that supplier.

This would require the total average leviabale cost of the Authority operations over the initial three-year levy period to be divided by the total population to derive the per-person cost. This cost would then be multiplied by the number of people in each city / district to derive the levy for that supplier. For example:

$$\frac{\$20,658,000}{4,993,254} = \$4.14 \text{ per person (rounded)} \times 52,584 \text{ (Nelson City)} = \$217,550$$

This would mean the average cost would be \$4.14 per person (GST exclusive) per year, based on 2023 census population data.

Under this option, the same number of suppliers will be levied as other options considered. This option, however, ensures that calculation of the total amount of a levy more closely reflects the size of the population each council serves, and thus the relative proportion of people who benefit from the services provided by the Authority.

Drinking water suppliers or network operators would choose the best approach for them about how to pass the costs onto their ratepayers, including for those it does not directly provide water services to: e.g., it may choose to charge a lesser amount for domestic self-suppliers.

**Table 5: Per-person and per-household cost (per annum)**

	Annual cost (GST exclusive)
Per person	\$4.14
Per household (2.7 people <sup>4</sup> )	\$11.17

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/family-and-household-projections-2018base-2043>

Table 6: Proposed levy across councils calculated on per-person charge using 2023 Census data

Territorial authority and Auckland local board area	2023 Census Population	Annual levy (GST exclusive)
Ashburton district	34,746	\$143,751
Auckland	1,656,486	\$6,853,184
Buller district	10,446	\$43,217
Carterton district	10,107	\$41,814
Central Hawke's Bay district	15,480	\$64,044
Central Otago district	24,306	\$100,558
Christchurch city	391,383	\$1,619,223
Clutha district	18,315	\$75,772
Dunedin city	128,901	\$533,287
Far North district	71,430	\$295,519
Gisborne district	51,135	\$211,555
Gore district	12,711	\$52,588
Grey district	14,043	\$58,098
Hamilton city	174,741	\$722,935
Hastings district	85,965	\$355,653
Hauraki district	21,318	\$88,196
Horowhenua district	36,693	\$151,806
Hurunui district	13,608	\$56,299
Invercargill city	55,599	\$230,023
Kaikoura district	4,215	\$17,438
Kaipara district	25,899	\$107,149
Kapiti Coast district	55,914	\$231,326
Kawerau district	7,539	\$31,190
Lower Hutt city	107,562	\$445,004
Mackenzie district	5,115	\$21,162
Manawatu district	32,415	\$134,107
Marlborough district	49,431	\$204,505
Masterton district	27,678	\$114,509
Matamata-Piako district	37,098	\$153,481
Napier city	64,695	\$267,655
Nelson city	52,584	\$217,550
New Plymouth district	87,000	\$359,935
Ōpōtiki district	10,089	\$41,740
Ōtorohanga district	10,410	\$43,068
Palmerston North city	87,090	\$360,307
Porirua city	59,445	\$245,935
Queenstown-Lakes district	47,808	\$197,790
Rangitikei district	15,663	\$64,801
Rotorua district	74,058	\$306,391
Ruapehu district	13,095	\$54,176
Selwyn district	78,144	\$323,296

South Taranaki district	29,025	\$120,082
South Waikato district	25,044	\$103,612
South Wairarapa district	11,811	\$48,864
Southland district	31,833	\$131,699
Stratford district	10,149	\$41,988
Tararua district	18,660	\$77,200
Tasman district	57,807	\$239,158
Taupo district	40,296	\$166,712
Tauranga city	152,844	\$632,343
Thames-Coromandel district	31,995	\$132,369
Timaru district	47,547	\$196,711
Upper Hutt city	45,759	\$189,313
Waikato district	85,968	\$355,665
Waimakariri district	66,246	\$274,072
Waimate district	8,121	\$33,598
Waipa district	58,686	\$242,795
Wairoa district	8,826	\$36,515
Waitaki district	23,472	\$97,108
Waitomo district	9,585	\$39,655
Wellington city	202,689	\$838,561
Western Bay of Plenty district	56,184	\$232,443
Westland district	8,901	\$36,825
Whakatane district	37,149	\$153,692
Whanganui district	47,619	\$197,008
Whangarei district	96,678	\$399,974
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,993,254</b>	<b>\$20,658,000</b>



### Other options considered

The Authority considered the option of equal shares where each drinking water supplier or network operator would be charged the same levy amount regardless of any factors that may differentiate them. This would be the most efficient approach for the Authority and would be the simplest approach to administer. However, the Authority recognises that requiring smaller suppliers or operators to pay the same levy as a larger supplier could have a substantial impact on their financial viability and would not be equitable.

**Table 7: Example of equal shares levy, indicative amount payable (not preferred option)**

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Yearly Average
Levy	\$20,658,000	\$20,658,000	\$20,658,000	\$20,658,000
Territorial Authorities	66	66	66	
Levy per Territorial Authority	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000

Another option the Authority considered was using population bands. This approach would see drinking water suppliers and network operators placed in bands based on the size of the population they serve. Each band would be assigned a levy rate with the rate increasing as the population served grows. This approach would be more complex as well as less equitable than the preferred approach. It would also create boundary effects between bands and have no obvious advantages.

**Table 9: Example of indicative population-based bands and amount payable (not preferred option)**

Band	Population supplied	# in band	Council	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Yearly average
1	> 1,000,000	1	Auckland	\$7,737,841	\$7,737,841	\$7,737,841	\$7,737,841
3	350,000 – 500,000	1	Christchurch City	\$1,832,647	\$1,832,647	\$1,832,647	\$1,832,647
9	5,000 – 10,000	12	Hurunui District Carterton District Gore District Central Hawke's Bay District Ruapehu District Kawerau District South Wairarapa District Buller District Stratford District Westland District Wairoa District Waitomo District	\$30,544	\$30,544	\$30,544	\$30,544
10	2,000 – 5,000	5	Waimate District Ōpōtiki District Kaikoura District Ōtorohanga District Mackenzie District	\$10,181	\$10,181	\$10,181	\$10,181

The Authority also considered a serviced population charge. This would be like the preferred option, but with the general population data adjusted to reflect the population who receive water services from each council or CCO. This option is more equitable in some cases but not in others, as it recognises that, particularly in regional/rural areas, a significant portion of the ratable population may be on self-supply and as such, not subject to regulation from the Authority.

The greatest challenge with this option is information is not readily available at a national level, meaning this option cannot be consistently applied. It would also not achieve the 'simplicity' objective given that it would make calculation of individual levies more administratively difficult.

Lastly, the Authority considered connection numbers as the basis for apportioning levy. This option would see levies calculated based on the number of connections a supplier or operator is responsible for. The Authority does not recommend this option because:

- some suppliers currently do not have an accurate view of how many connections they have (we expect this will be addressed by the time of the second levy period)
- connections are treated in different ways by suppliers, e.g., a 50-unit apartment in one area may be treated as a single connection, while a 50-unit apartment in another supplier's district may be treated as 50 connections
- stormwater networks are open systems that are not generally based on "connections" to a service
- there may be an incentive for suppliers to underreport the number of connections as this would result in a lower levy.

**Questions on this section:**

**Do you/your organisation have any comments on the preferred option of an apportionment approach of charging the levy on a per-person rate?**

**Would the proposed apportionment approach create any challenges for your organisation?**

## Part 4: Levy implementation

### *Plan to implement and review the levy*

The levy/levies<sup>5</sup> will be payable from 1 July 2025 but not invoiced until after that date.

The Authority will work with drinking water suppliers and network operators (including their CCOs that deliver water services) to support implementation, including how they would like to be invoiced and how best to do that.

The Authority proposes to levy annually with levies payable quarterly in advance in line with most councils' rating processes. This will support the Authority cashflow and the cashflow of smaller drinking water suppliers and network operators without being administratively burdensome. A bespoke approach may be necessary for the first invoicing period to accommodate the start of the levy regime. The Authority will use e-invoicing to make payment as easy as possible for suppliers.

Under the proposed model, councils and their CCOs will have flexibility to decide how best to fund payment of the levy/levies. A CCO that provides drinking water and wastewater services, for example, may choose to charge the households and businesses connected to its networks an equal amount.

Alternatively, a territorial authority that provides drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in its district may choose to charge for the levy through a targeted rate directed at connected properties for drinking water and wastewater services, and a targeted rate directed at ratepayers who own properties in an urban area for stormwater services.

It will be up to councils to determine how best to recover the costs from consumers (i.e., rates, water charges, etc.) and how best to ensure these costs are recorded (i.e., whether to include levy charges as an explicit line in rates bills).

### *Monitoring and evaluation of the levy*

Due to the changing nature of the water services operating environment and strategic context, it will be necessary to regularly review the levy and ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The three-year cycle provides cost predictability for councils, at least for each three-year cycle. Cost recovery does, however, mean that the levy could increase or decrease in the future depending on the functions of the Authority and its operating costs.

The Authority is proposing to monitor, evaluate and review the levy in an ongoing three-year cycle in accordance with usual practice for levy reviews, unless exceptional circumstances justify earlier review in any period. A yearly internal review is proposed to address any need for earlier review than the three-year cycle.

The first levy review is proposed to be in 2027-28, before the next levy cycle begins.

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<sup>5</sup> Invoicing is proposed to include three separate levies for services covering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater depending on what services are covered by each organisation.

Alternatively, the review period could be aligned to council long-term planning cycles to allow sufficient time for any design changes and cost implications to be factored into council planning. However, this would require the levy to be reviewed and any changes agreed during the 2026-27 financial year for incorporation into the next cycle of long-term plans.

The Authority is interested in perspectives on the ongoing monitoring of the levy and when the next review should take place.

**Questions on this section:**

**Do you/your organisation see any issues with your implementation of the levy (receipt of invoices, payment and passing the cost on as you may determine)?**

**Would the proposed implementation approach create any challenges for your organisation?**

**Do you/your organisation have a preference for when the levy should be reviewed next?**

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Consultation questions

This discussion paper includes some questions you may like to respond to in your submission. The questions are listed in boxes through this document and the full list of questions is provided below.

Q#	Part	Question
1	Tell us about yourself	What is your name?
2		What is your email address? <i>Your email address will only be used if we need to communicate with you about your submission.</i>
3		Where do you live? <i>(If you are a member of an organisation that is based in more than one region – please select ‘National’)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside New Zealand</li> <li>• National</li> <li>• Northland / Te Tai Tokerau</li> <li>• Auckland / Tāmaki-makau-rau</li> <li>• Waikato Bay of Plenty / Te Moana-a-Toi</li> <li>• Gisborne / Te Tai Rāwhiti</li> <li>• Hawke’s Bay / Te Matau-a-Māui</li> <li>• Taranaki</li> <li>• Manawatū – Whanganui</li> <li>• Wellington / Te Whanganui-a-Tara</li> <li>• Tasman / Te Tai-o-Aorere</li> <li>• Nelson / Whakatū</li> <li>• Marlborough / Te Taihu-o-tewaka</li> <li>• West Coast / Te Tai Poutini</li> <li>• Canterbury / Waitaha</li> <li>• Otago / Ōtākou</li> <li>• Southland / Murihiku</li> </ul>
4		Are you providing feedback as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?
5	Information about your organisation	If you’re providing feedback on behalf of an organisation, please enter the organisation’s name and your position/title within the organisation.
6	Publishing submissions and Official Information Act 1982 requests	Do you give us permission to proactively publish your submission? <i>We’re committed to transparency. For this reason, we:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>intend to proactively publish submissions made as part of this consultation on our website but only if we are given permission to do so</i></li> <li>• <i>may also publish a summary of submissions; this summary would be aggregated so that individual submitters can’t be identified.</i></li> </ul>

7		<p>Do you approve including your personal details in response to any related future Official Information Act requests received by the Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai?</p> <p><i>Your submission will be subject to requests made under the Official Information Act (even if your submission is not published). Please respond to the question below to let us know if you would like your personal details removed from your submission if it is included in any future OIA response.</i></p>
8	Introduction	What are the most important issues that you/your organisation believes should be addressed by the Authority?
9		How would you like the Authority to engage with you/your organisation?
10	Part 1 – Levy structure	Do you/your organisation have views on the preferred option detailed in the Levy Structure section of the discussion document?
11		Do you/your organisation agree with the focus, in the first levy period, on councils?
12	Part 2 – Levy design	Do you/your organisation have any comments on the proposal to separate levies for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater?
13		Would splitting the levy between drinking water, wastewater and stormwater result in any benefit for your organisation, or create any barriers (whether now or in the future)?
14	Part 3 – Levy apportionment	Do you/your organisation have any comments on the preferred option of an apportionment approach of charging the levy on a per-person rate?
15		Would the proposed apportionment approach create any challenges for your organisation?
16	Part 4 - Levy implementation	Do you/your organisation see any issues with your implementation of the levy (receipt of invoices, payment and passing the cost on as you may determine)?
17		Would the proposed implementation approach create any challenges for your organisation?
18		Do you/your organisation have a preference for when the levy should be reviewed next?

## **Appendix 2: Use of information**

The information provided in submissions will be used to inform policy development, options analysis, and advice to the Minister of Local Government about the Authority's funding arrangements. If the submitter has agreed, the Authority may contact submitters directly if clarification of any matters in submissions or other feedback is needed.

Information provided in submissions may be shared with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Commerce Commission, to inform MBIE's policy development process for the Commerce Commission's proposed levy for the economic regulation of water services and related advice to Ministers.

### ***Publication of submissions***

Following consultation and analysis of feedback, a final levy proposal will be developed for the Minister of Local Government. The Authority may publish copies of submissions, and a summary of submissions, on its website. Submissions may also be the subject of requests under the Official Information Act 1982.

Please clearly indicate if you have any objection to the publication or release of your submission or any information within it, the parts of your submission you consider should be withheld, and the reasons for withholding. If you notify us of an objection, the Authority will take your views into account and will consult with you to the extent the Authority considers necessary before publishing your submission or responding to any relevant request for official information.

### ***Personal information***

The Privacy Act 2020 establishes certain principles with respect to the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies including the Authority. Any personal information you include in your submission will only be used or disclosed for the purposes set out in the 'Use of information' section above, for contacting you about your submission, or to advise you of the outcome of the consultation including any next steps.

The Authority may also use personal information you include in your submission for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act (e.g., with your consent, for a directly related purpose, or where the law permits or requires it). Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name, or any other personal information, to be included in any published copy of your submission or included in any summary of submissions.

The Authority will only retain personal information as long as it is required for the purposes for which the information may lawfully be used. Where any information provided (which may include personal information) constitutes public records, it will be retained to the extent required by the Public Records Act 2005.

You have rights of access to and correction of your personal information which can be found on the Authority website at <https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/privacy-copyright-and-disclaimer/>.



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## Appendix 3: Proposed levy charge across Councils

**Table 6: Proposed levy across councils calculated on per-person charge using 2023 Census data**

Territorial authority and Auckland local board area	2023 Census Population	Annual levy (GST exclusive)
Ashburton district	34,746	\$143,751
Auckland	1,656,486	\$6,853,184
Buller district	10,446	\$43,217
Carterton district	10,107	\$41,814
Central Hawke's Bay district	15,480	\$64,044
Central Otago district	24,306	\$100,558
Christchurch city	391,383	\$1,619,223
Clutha district	18,315	\$75,772
Dunedin city	128,901	\$533,287
Far North district	71,430	\$295,519
Gisborne district	51,135	\$211,555
Gore district	12,711	\$52,588
Grey district	14,043	\$58,098
Hamilton city	174,741	\$722,935
Hastings district	85,965	\$355,653
Hauraki district	21,318	\$88,196
Horowhenua district	36,693	\$151,806
Hurunui district	13,608	\$56,299
Invercargill city	55,599	\$230,023
Kaikoura district	4,215	\$17,438
Kaipara district	25,899	\$107,149
Kapiti Coast district	55,914	\$231,326
Kawerau district	7,539	\$31,190
Lower Hutt city	107,562	\$445,004
Mackenzie district	5,115	\$21,162
Manawatu district	32,415	\$134,107
Marlborough district	49,431	\$204,505
Masterton district	27,678	\$114,509
Matamata-Piako district	37,098	\$153,481
Napier city	64,695	\$267,655
Nelson city	52,584	\$217,550
New Plymouth district	87,000	\$359,935
Ōpōtiki district	10,089	\$41,740
Ōtorohanga district	10,410	\$43,068
Palmerston North city	87,090	\$360,307
Porirua city	59,445	\$245,935
Queenstown-Lakes district	47,808	\$197,790
Rangitikei district	15,663	\$64,801
Rotorua district	74,058	\$306,391
Ruapehu district	13,095	\$54,176
Selwyn district	78,144	\$323,296

South Taranaki district	29,025	\$120,082
South Waikato district	25,044	\$103,612
South Wairarapa district	11,811	\$48,864
Southland district	31,833	\$131,699
Stratford district	10,149	\$41,988
Tararua district	18,660	\$77,200
Tasman district	57,807	\$239,158
Taupo district	40,296	\$166,712
Tauranga city	152,844	\$632,343
Thames-Coromandel district	31,995	\$132,369
Timaru district	47,547	\$196,711
Upper Hutt city	45,759	\$189,313
Waikato district	85,968	\$355,665
Waimakariri district	66,246	\$274,072
Waimate district	8,121	\$33,598
Waipa district	58,686	\$242,795
Wairoa district	8,826	\$36,515
Waitaki district	23,472	\$97,108
Waitomo district	9,585	\$39,655
Wellington city	202,689	\$838,561
Western Bay of Plenty district	56,184	\$232,443
Westland district	8,901	\$36,825
Whakatane district	37,149	\$153,692
Whanganui district	47,619	\$197,008
Whangarei district	96,678	\$399,974
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,993,254</b>	<b>\$20,658,000</b>

## Appendix 4: How each option applied to the criteria in setting the levy apportionment approach

The below table shows the options we considered relating to the levy apportionment and how they were evaluated against the criteria.

Options	Rationale	Criteria		
		Equity	Efficiency & Effectiveness	Simplicity
<b>Equal shares:</b> Each supplier/network operator is charged the same levy amount regardless of any factors that may differentiate them.	Efficient and simple to understand. Recognises that there is a lack of information relating to how supplier/network operators' size and behaviours will drive our cost. However, raises fairness issues as the impacts would be felt more acutely by smaller suppliers e.g., Westland paying the same amount as Watercare.	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
<b>Population bands:</b> Suppliers and network operators placed in bands based on the size of the population they serve. Each band is assigned a levy rate with the rate increasing as the population served grows.	Administratively efficient but likely to cause cross-subsidisation issues. To avoid this, we would need a large number of population bands. This then reduces the administrative efficiency gains.	✓	✓✓	✓✓
<b>Connections:</b> Levies calculated based on the number of connections a supplier is responsible for.	Relies on supplies providing accurate information which they do not appear to have. There is no nationally consistent approach to what a connection is, e.g., multi-unit properties connected in different ways such as an apartment counted as one connection or many. Stormwater is not based on connections.	✓✓	✓	✓
<b>Per-person charge:</b> Levy charged to each supplier/network operator is based on the population within the catchment area of that supplier [ <b>PREFERRED OPTION</b> ].	Ensures calculation of the quantum of a levy more closely reflects the size of the population they serve, and thus who benefits from our oversight. Relies on third-party data (Stats New Zealand) which reduces reliance on council data. Potential equity issues if suppliers choose to pass costs to all ratepayers and not just those on town supply.	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
<b>Serviced population charge:</b> This option takes the population data required for the population band option and adjust it for the population serviced.	This option is more equitable than the population bands option as it recognises that, particularly in regional/rural areas, a significant proportion of the ratable population may be on self-supply and, as such, not subject to regulation from the Authority. The greatest challenge with this option is that data does not exist or is unreliable, meaning this option cannot be consistently applied. It would also not achieve the simplicity objective given that it would make calculation of individual levies more administratively difficult.	✓✓	✓	✓

## 8.2 Adoption of 2025 meeting schedule

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Report to:	Council
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Author:	Susan Jones
Author title:	Governance Manager
General Manager lead:	General Manager Corporate Support
Report date:	Friday, 6 December 2024
Confidentiality:	Public

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### Purpose

1. To provide the Council with a schedule of meeting dates for 2025. Additional meetings relating to the Long Term Plan will be scheduled once the timetable has been established.
2. To recommend that the Council receive and adopt the meeting schedule.

### Recommendation

3. That the Council:
  - a) receive and adopt the meeting schedule for 2025.

### Attachment

Meeting schedule for 2025.

## 2025 meeting schedule



<b>Council (Tuesdays) Start time – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Audit and Risk (Tuesdays) Start time – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Assets and Infrastructure (Tuesdays) Start time – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Community Wellbeing (Tuesdays) Start time – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Policy and Regulatory (Tuesdays) Start time – 4.00pm</b>
18 February	4 February	4 March		
18 March	6 May	3 June		
15 April	5 August	2 September		
20 May	2 December	11 November		
17 June				
15 July				
19 August				
16 September				
11 October – Election Day				
28 October – statutory meeting				
18 November				
16 December				

Waitangi Day Tuesday 6 February / Good Friday – 18 April / Easter Monday – 21 April / Anniversary Day – Tuesday 22 April / ANZAC Day – Friday 25 April  
Matariki 20 June

## 9. Confidential Business

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

### Resolution to exclude the public

*His Worship to move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution</b>	<b>Ground(s) Under Section 48(1) for the passing of the resolution</b>
<b>4.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024.</b>		<b>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</b>
<b>5.1 Connected Murihiku minutes of meeting held on 18 November 2024.</b>	<b>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded. To protect the privacy of natural persons – Section 7 (2)(a)</b>	<b>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</b>
<b>5.2 Mataura River Crossing project</b>	<b>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded. To enable the local authority holding the information to carry out, without</b>	<b>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</b>

	<i>prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7 (2)(h)</i>	
<b>5.2 Credit rating report</b>	<p><i>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded.</i></p> <p><i>To enable the local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7 (2)(h)); and to enable the Council to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees in the course of their duty – Section 7(2)(f)(i))</i></p>	<i>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</i>
<b>5.3 Report from Chief Executive Appraisal Committee</b>	<p><i>This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with section 46A (8) and 46A (9) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, being a report that the Chief Executive of the Gore District Council reasonably expects will be discussed with the public excluded.</i></p> <p><i>To protect the privacy of natural persons – Section 7 (2)(a)</i></p>	<i>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for it being withheld. Section 48(1)(a)</i>

***This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.***

***AND THAT those in attendance be permitted to remain at the meeting.***



## 10. Meeting closed

Council Mission
Ensuring a sustainable environment for future generations
Encouraging participation by the people
Providing efficient quality services and facilities that meet the affordable needs and aspirations of the people