

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025 commencing at 9.00am

<u>AGENDA</u>

#### **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS**

- 1. A period of thirty minutes is set aside for a public forum at the start of each Ordinary Council or Standing Committee meeting, which is open to the public. This period may be extended on by a vote by members.
- 2. Speakers may address meetings on any subject. However, issues raised must not include those subject to legal consideration, or be issues, which are confidential, personal, or the subject of a formal hearing.
- 3. Each speaker during the public forum is permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes. However, the Chairperson has the discretion to extend the speaking time.
- 4. Standing Orders are suspended for the duration of the public forum.
- 5. Council and Committees, at the conclusion of the public forum, may decide to take appropriate action on any of the issues raised.
- 6. With the permission of the Chairperson, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. Questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

# The Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025 in the Council Chambers commencing at 9.00am

#### <u>AGENDA</u>

- 1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Leave of Absence
- 4 <u>Declarations of Conflict of Interest</u>

Any member having a "conflict of interest" with an item on the Agenda should declare it, and when that item is being considered, abstain from any discussion or voting. The member may wish to remove themselves from the meeting while the item is being considered.

- **5** Meeting Notices
- 6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements
- 7 Public Forum
- 8 Receipt of Submissions and deliberations for the Local Water Done Well consultation and confirmation of preferred structure for the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan (Chief Executive Officer) (110555)

Pgs. 1 - 56

Attached is a report from the Chief Executive Officer covering the Receipt of Submissions and deliberations for the Local Water Done Well consultation and confirmation of preferred structure for the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan.

#### Recommendations

- 1. That the report "Receipt of Submissions and deliberations for the Local Water Done Well consultation and confirmation of preferred structure for the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan" be received.
- 2. That Council resolve to hear submitters who have indicated they wish to be heard and deliberate on the submissions.
- 3. That Council resolve to confirm the preferred structure to deliver water services to the Kawerau community via:
  - a) Option 1 an internal or in-house business unit in the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan

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b) Option 2 - Joining a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation in the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan

# 9 Adoption of the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 for public consultation (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (406230)

Pgs. 57 - 83

Attached is a report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering the Adoption of the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 for public consultation.

#### Recommendations

- 1. That the report "Adoption of the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 for public consultation" be received.
- 2. That Council adopts the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 as presented for commencement of the special consultative procedure, with submissions closing at 5.00pm on Friday 18 July 2025.

#### 10 Exclusion of the Public

#### Recommendation

That the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

#### 1. Community and Regulatory Services Tender

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

General Subject of the	Reason for passing this	Ground(s) under section 48(1)
matter to be	resolution in relation to	for the passing of this
considered	each matter	resolution
1. Community and	Maintain the effective	That the public conduct of the
Regulatory Services	conduct of public affairs	relevant part of the proceedings of
Tender.	through the free and frank	the meeting would be likely to
	expression of opinions.	result in the disclosure of
		information for which good reason
		for withholding exists.
		Section 48 (1) (a) (i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7 (2) (b) (i) of that Act.

#### 11 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

M Godfery

**Meeting**: Extraordinary Council

Meeting Date: 18 June 2025

Subject: Receipt of Submissions and deliberations for the Local

Water Done Well consultation and confirmation of preferred

structure for the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan

**File No.**: 110555

#### 1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the report and submissions to the Local Water Done Well consultation and engagement process undertaken by Council from 11 April to 23 May 2025, and provide the opportunity for submitters to present their submissions to the Council.

#### 2 Background

The coalition government's legislative changes in February 2024, enacting the Water Services Acts Repeal Act 2024, gave Council the option to progress an enhanced Annual Plan in 2024-2025. Therefore, Council is progressing a Long Term Plan for a nine year period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2034.

Following several Council workshops on 27 November, 4 December and 18 December 2024, the adoption of the preferred and alternative structure models for the delivery of three waters services to consult with the Kawerau community was formally adopted by Council on 26 February 2025. Council adopted the Local Water Done Well comprehensive consultation document on 14 May 2025.

Local Water Done Well covers drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and is split into three legislative parts:

- a). Councils must establish a corporate structure to deliver water services with an:
  - Internal (in-house) business unit OR
  - Single-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Council and Consumer Owned Organisation
  - Consumer trust
- b). Councils must demonstrate financial sustainability with the preparation of a Water Services Delivery Plan

c). The third part establishes the Commerce Commission as the economic regulator of water services in New Zealand

The consultation and engagement process for Local Water Done Well was run concurrently with the Mahere Iwa Tau | Long Term Plan 2025-2034 which addresses operational changes required as part of the Local Water Done Well legislation. This comprised asking the community for feedback about the period to transition to targeted water and wastewater rates as required under the legislation.

The consultation and engagement process with the Kawerau community regarding the Local Water Done Well proposals commenced on 11 April and closed at 5pm on Friday, 23 May 2025.

In total, 107 submissions were received: with three submitters indicating they would present their submissions to the Mayor and Elected Members on Wednesday, 18 June 2025.

The Council's Water Services Delivery Plan must be submitted in draft in July, and formally adopted and submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

Under the LGA 2002, territorial authorities must adopt their Long Term Plans before the end of the financial year on 30 June. Kawerau District Council plans to adopt the Long Term Plan 2025-2034 at the Council Meeting on 25 June 2025.

#### 3 Significance and Engagement

Council completed a comprehensive consultation and engagement process utilising mixed modes of communications, a variety of Council communication channels and regional and local media.

Council provided a number of opportunities for face-to-face, kanohi-ki-te-kanohi engagement with the community at stakeholder, organisation and public meetings. Council wishes to thank Grey Power Kawerau and Districts for allowing Council to present to its members, and for opening the doors for the public to attend; Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau (ISK) for hosting an industry-forum, and Rautahi Marae for hosting a public hui.

Council sincerely thanks and acknowledges the representatives who attended the Council-led and ISK-led business forums, and members of the community who attended public meetings. Thank you all for your support and your time to attend, ask questions, give feedback, and to discuss your concerns.

Council also provided a drop-in session at a Kawerau Market, which despite the wet weather, attracted a number of residents who came specifically to ask questions or discuss areas within the Local Water Done Well consultation document.

Council prepared two documents for Local Water Done Well comprising:

- Summary Consultation Document
- Comprehensive Consultation Document

Supplementary information, including the comprehensive consultation document has been made available via the website and provided via regular updates on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and in the Council Pānui, in advertisements in the Beacon newspaper, the Echo and Eastern Bay radio stations.

#### Process for engagement and availability of consultation material

Communication regarding the upcoming consultation and engagement events for the Local Water Done Well proposals were completed via:

- Engagement meeting dates advertised in the Council Pānui on 20 March;
- Engagement meeting dates were advertised in the Echo and Beacon in late March and April 2025;
- Summary consultation document delivered to all residential households in the district during the first week of the consultation period from 11 May;
- Local Water Done Well Comprehensive Consultation Document was printed and available at meetings, in the Council office, district library and isite;
- Website pages developed and relevant documents available to view, and the submission form;
- Council's Pānui 17 April (online) contained a summary of the Local Water Done Well proposals
- Council received submissions via all mediums;

Engagement meetings and events comprised a number of internal (staff) briefings, followed by external events with Council's valued stakeholders and community:

- 1 April, 2 April and 3 April Council staff engagement meetings with the Three Waters team, Council office staff and the Operations team;
- 11 April Grey Power Kawerau and Districts Meeting (attended by approx. 50 people).
- 14 April Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau (ISK) hosted hui with industry and business leaders at Mainstream Engineering Limited (MEL).
- 15 April Kawerau business forum hosted by Council at the Concert Chamber (approx. 30 people attended).
- 15 April 5:15pm evening meeting for the public at Concert Chamber (approx. 4 attendees).
- 17 April Morning meeting for the public at Rautahi Marae (approx. 6 attendees).
- 8 May Drop in session at the Kawerau Market, Circus Paddock.

Council wishes to acknowledge the interest and support of Council Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire, the community and organisations who attended the meetings and the support of the Mayor and Councillors, Chief Executive, Senior Leadership team and staff.

The number of submissions at 107, shows a considerable interest by the Kawerau community. The last time Council sought feedback from the Kawerau community about the delivery of Three Waters in three weeks during September 2021, we received 231 submissions of which 228 opposed Kawerau joining the government's reform model, and 3 submissions in favour.

#### 4 Consideration of Submission Topics

The special consultative and engagement process focused on explaining the Local Water Done Well legislation enacted by the coalition government and the ensuing requirements for territorial authorities.

After investigating and considering a number of options for the delivery of water services to the Kawerau community, Council resolved to adopt a preferred and alternative water services delivery structure. These are summarised below (with further details available in the Local Water Done Well comprehensive consultation document attached):

#### Option 1: Internal - An in-house business unit

This means we keep delivering water services with our internal (in-house) business unit. This is our preferred option.

Operationally, the most significant changes are in finance. All rates revenue from water must be "ring fenced".

For the three waters team, the focus will remain on maintaining excellent service delivery to the community.

There will be an increased reporting requirement. Council currently reports to Taumata Arowai, but it would also need to supply data to the Commerce Commission.

#### **Option 2: Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (Council's alternative option)**

Join with our neighbours Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes District Councils to form multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and deliver water services to our

districts. This would provide a greater debt ceiling for each of the respective Councils to borrow and upgrade or renew three waters infrastructure.

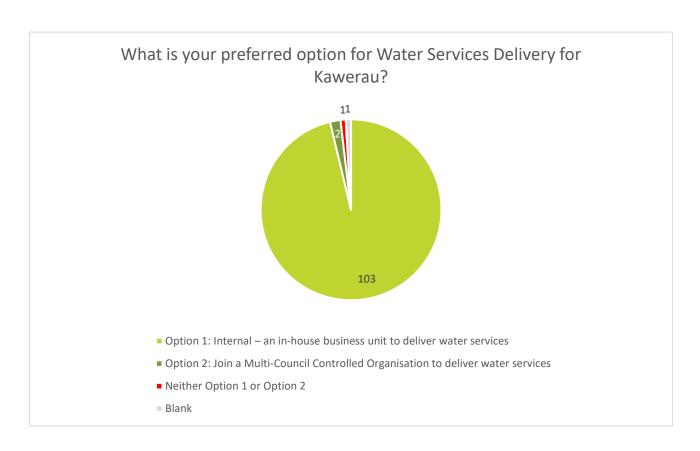
Pros and cons for internal vs multi-CCO		
Here's how our internal business unit stacks up against the multi-council controlled organisation…	In-house business unit	Multi Council company (CCO)
Jpgrade new drinking water infrastructure faster and cheaper	<b>②</b>	0
Complete an \$11.5 million upgrade of wastewater network using depreciation reserves over coming nine years	<b>②</b>	0
Maintain better value for ratepayers	<b>②</b>	0
laintain excellent service response	<b>②</b>	
leet the demand for growth in the district	<b>②</b>	0
dependent organisations monitor water quality and charges	<b>②</b>	0
ability to sell off water assets (privatise)	*	8
Elected Members keep decision-making and accountability authority of vater services delivery	<b>②</b>	8
Requires targeted rates for waters in 2025-2026 and beyond	<b>(</b> )	0

#### 5 Overview of Submissions Received

Council ensured that the community had a number of methods to have their say about Local Water Done Well, including printed submission forms and online mediums. The submissions were received as follows:

Submission Channels	Number	Percentage	
Email	2	1.87%	
Hardcopy	57	53.27%	
Survey Monkey	48	44.86%	
<ul> <li>Social Media</li> </ul>	• 19	• 17.76%	
<ul> <li>QR Code</li> </ul>	• 17	• 15.89%	
Website	• 12	• 11.21%	
TOTAL	107		

The submissions received from the community were overwhelmingly in favour of an in-house business unit delivering three waters services to the Kawerau community. 105 of the 107 submitters selected option one, the internal (in-house) business unit as their preferred delivery structure of three waters.



#### **Submission Results Overview:**

Option 1: 103 or 92.26% Option 2: 2 or 1.87%

Neither Option 1 or 2: 1 or 0.93%

Blank: 1 or 0.93%

In addition to the 107 submissions on how Council should deliver water services, submitters also provided 72 free text comments. These have been captured and grouped as follows:

Submitters' Comments - Local Water Done Well Number				
Retain water services in-house (option 1)				
Retain autonomy  • Maintain responsibility and accountability of water services  • Retain the 'mana of the wai in the rohe'				
<ul> <li>Invest in Our District –</li> <li>Kawerau infrastructure renewals underway (drinking water for example)</li> <li>Introduction of targeted rates positive</li> <li>Local control and responsibility will keep costs down</li> <li>Agree with investing in the manganese removal plant</li> <li>Do not burden Kawerau with other council's water problems</li> </ul>	20			
<ul> <li>Continue Delivering Excellent Services</li> <li>Organised and efficient service</li> <li>'Proactive and efficient water management'</li> <li>'Great job delivering water to community'</li> <li>Continue cooperation with other councils</li> <li>Join Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (option 2)</li> </ul>	16			
Joining a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation has positives 1  • Shared governance, pooled experience and greater resilience (albeit need safeguards to protect Kawerau's autonomy)				
Leave our council to sort out the problem they created. They have the ability to manage water inside our district.      Government and private enterprise stay in their lane				
General Comments				
<ul> <li>Remove fluoride (5) and/or chlorine from water</li> <li>Appreciate no water meters</li> <li>Ongoing communications about water</li> <li>Post renewals, find pathways to manage rainwater more efficiently for use</li> </ul>	7 1 1 1			
Free text comments from submitters	72			

#### 6 **Summary**

The community has been provided with robust financial data audited by Audit New Zealand (via the Long Term Plan 2025-2034) which shows Council is in a good financial position currently and has achievable and deliverable future plans.

Importantly, this includes the Council being able to continue to maintain and renew three waters infrastructure via depreciation funds and borrowing via Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) as required to complete the drinking water renewals. Prudent depreciation funding plans will enable Council to replace the wastewater reticulation (pipes) in the coming nine years with funds put aside via depreciation. A 30-year infrastructure plan provides further assurance of Council's ongoing focus on maintaining and renewing three waters infrastructure, including reservoir replacement.

Through the formal submission process, the Kawerau community has shown confidence in the ability of Council to continue delivering water services into the future. The reasons provided by the community for this confidence and for the selection of an in-house business unit, is largely that the Council is enacting a plan from 2021 to renew the three waters infrastructure to replace the entire drinking water network (now 50 percent completed) and remain well under the maximum debt levels allowable. The community has provided positive feedback about the financial modelling, service delivery and current and future plans for infrastructure renewals. Additionally, the community has noted the excellent service delivery of the three waters operational team.

In summary, as demonstrated via the submission process, Council has the backing and full confidence of the community to continue to provide quality provision of three waters service delivery.

#### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the report "Receipt of Submissions and deliberations for the Local Water Done Well consultation and confirmation of preferred structure for the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan" be received.
- 2. That Council resolve to hear submitters who have indicated they wish to be heard and deliberate on the submissions.
- 3. That Council resolve to confirm the preferred structure to deliver water services to the Kawerau community via:
  - a) Option 1 an internal or in-house business unit in the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan

OR

b). Option 2 - Joining a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation in the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan

Morgan Godfery

**Chief Executive Officer** 

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#### **Table of Submission to Local Water Done Well**

Thank you to all 107 submitters and those that wish to speak at the hearing 18 June 2025.

Council asked the community for feedback on the following consultation topic:

- 1. What is your preferred option (Option 1: Internal an in-hose business unit to deliver water services or Option 2: Join a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation to deliver water services?)
- 2. General Comments

#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
01	Patrick Condon Resident	YES	<ul> <li>Q1. Option 2: There are two possible sources of water that also be considered 1. Discuss with about using their water supply saving the cost of drill and setting up a pumping station. 2. Form a joint venture with Whakatāne District Council to look at buying the bottling plant to supply water to the larger area</li> <li>Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question</li> </ul>
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
02	Jane Richards Resident	YES	<ul><li>Q1. Option 1: We must stand up for our rights this is our town. If we let other Councils in to deal with local issues e.g. water, we will lose our town!</li><li>Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question</li></ul>
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
03	Bay of Plenty Regional Council   Toi Moana Councillor Kat Macmillan Chair, Strategy and Policy Committee	YES	Q1 – Q2. See appendix 2

	<u>-</u>		
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
04	Mark. A. Rattray Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
05	Paul G C M Waalwijk Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> Option 1: To stay in charge of our own three water regulations. National government has already too much input we do not need more.
			<b>Q2.</b> We do not want to have our money paying for other council's problems. Keep our money local.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
06	Paul Hoxford and Raewyn Luckens Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
07	David Marx Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
80	Heather Kuka Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> <i>Option 2:</i> Of the two current options, I reluctantly support the formation of a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO), recognising that shared governance and pooled expertise may offer more resilience. However, I am wary of the increasing number of "regional" arrangements

#	NAME	HEARING	being proposed across various service areas in local government. There appears to be a trend that risks undermining the long-term viability of Kawerau as an independent local authority. I currently and likely always will strongly oppose any future amalgamation with another council, i.e. Whakatāne. Maintaining our independence as a district is critical to ensuring our community's voice, priorities, and mana remain protected.  Q2. Neither option presented is without significant challenge, but if required to choose, I would favour the CCO model — with strong safeguards to protect Kawerau's autonomy and influence in any joint arrangement. While I understand the rationale for Council exploring an in-house business unit, I would be concerned about the long-term burden this could place on both Council and ratepayers. Kawerau is a small district with limited resources, and managing increasingly complex regulatory requirements, aging infrastructure and replacement investment, and service delivery alone may not be sustainable or affordable. Frankly, I believe the previous Three Waters model — with centralised management and funding — was a better option for not only Kawerau, but also the nation as a whole. The economies of scale and national oversight would have better supported smaller communities like ours in the long run. I understand we need to make decisions now, however if after a change of government, a centralised model became available again, I would urge consideration of that.
<del>#</del> 09	Michael Moffat	NO	Q1. Option 1: Stay within Kawerau Council
	Resident		
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
10	Robert Tripp	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
11	Sean Armstrong Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
	redident		Q2. Definitely keep it in house
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
12	Gerda Waalwijk	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		<b>Q2.</b> Keeping it local means keeping more control and independence in decision-making. It is bad enough that because of government
			regulations, I am forced to drive two times a week to tap into town for
4	NAME	HEADING	drinking water and, no, that is not by choice.
# 13	G.D and S Goodare	HEARING NO	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS Q1. Option 1
	Resident		,
			Q2. Keep Kawerau - All Kawerau. While financially viable
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
14	Roderick B Roozendaal Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: I am all for keeping our district independent
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
15	Michael Stevens Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
16	Siaosi George Kaafi Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question

17	Delyse Murphy Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
18	Elaine Florence McGlinchey Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Definitely maintain the status quo. It works well for us. In a CCO, (if one council were Whakatāne) we would lose our excellent service response among other things. We would then end up being like Edgecumbe - a forgotten/ignored suburb. (I know this from having lived in Edgecumbe a while ago)
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
19	Karen Glibbery Resident	NO	<ul><li>Q1. Option 1: I believe it is better for our community if our elected officials can make decisions about water delivery for us.</li><li>Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question</li></ul>
ш	NA BAT	LIEADING	,
#	NAME	HEARING	
20	Jacob Kajavala KAJAVALA FORESTRY LTD	NO	<ul> <li>Q1. Option 1: Kawerau District Council has done a good job of managing water services. Excellent response times compared to most other councils. Largely on target with maintenance and upgrade projects.</li> <li>Q2. I don't see any upside in sharing control or resources, only potential downside</li> </ul>
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
21	Colin James Churchill Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
22	Paula Te Rito Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Glad the water is no longer discoloured and appreciate we do not have water meters like other towns.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
23	Marlene L Kranz Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
24	JP and DL Semmens Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Wish to have fluoride removed from water like other countries around the world
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
25	Louise Wardell Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Please start to maintain your so called great excellent service response, by fixing water collection station at New World car park!
#	NAME	HEARING	
26	Hendrik Westeneng Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
27	Andy Petersen Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: More likely to keep costs in check and not become cogovernance
			Q2. RE: Option 2: No, likely to be taken over by co-governance
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS

28	John and Anne-Maree Fry Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Given the newly published research on the health, negatives of fluoride in drinking and washing water will the council be able to cease putting it in our water?
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
29	David and Jocelyn Griffiths Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> Option 1: We consider that the present Kawerau Council is doing a great job of delivering our water, and we pray that this will continue
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
30	Jacqueline McRae-Tarei Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. For Kawerau, by Kawerau.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
31	Vanessa Skipper Kawerau Fitness Community Trust Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		<b>Q2.</b> We would like to express our strong support for the Council retaining the ability to provide internal water services. It is vital that our Council maintains direct responsibility and oversight over water services to ensure that they are delivered in a way that meets the specific needs and expectations of our community.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
32	Mr Soames Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
33	Mrs Soames	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
34	M Godfery Resident	NO	<ul> <li>Q1. Option 1: This option is not only more sensible but in the long run will be cheaper for ratepayers.</li> <li>Best functional and Long term cost efficient scheme</li> <li>Q2. RE: Option 2: This is not good, as it allows autocratic leadership and obviously costs more and takes control away from local area</li> </ul>
			RE: Option 2: Too many people involved without doing stuff. Existing council plans
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
35	Allan Clarke Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> Option 1: The separate rate charge including the infrastructure depreciation to be ring fenced and to be used only for the purpose of water done well repairs, maintenance, replacement and administration
			<b>Q2.</b> For resilience, the pumphouse water supply asap to be recommissioned to filter out manganese elements in the water supply.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
36	Melodie Emery Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
37	Anneke Waalwijk Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
38	Michele Mackenzie Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS

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tion is the most suitable for our situation - stay within this rohe.
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strict Council - Option 1.
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#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
51	Virgina Law	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
52	Margaret Brierley	NO	Q1. Option 1
32	Resident		Q1. Option 1
			O2 Submitted did not been a managed to this question
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
53	Christine Jones	NO	
33	Resident	140	Q1. Option 1
			O2 Och will and the control of this mane time.
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
44	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
# 54	Neil G Day	NO	
54	Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> Option 1: We don't want our district to be burdened with other district councils water problems.
			·
			<b>Q2.</b> A lot of visitors good comments show how envious they are of what's going on in beautiful town. Keep up the good work.
#	NAME	HEARING	
55	Gail Dobbin Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME		SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
56	Krystel Coppin	NO	Q1. Option 1: It will be detrimental to the community to join with other
	Resident		councils when Kawerau District Council does such a great job of maintaining and upgrading our own water entities. Please keep the water
			with Kawerau District Council.
			<b>Q2.</b> Thank you for the great job you do for Kawerau, Kawerau District
			Council ©
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
57	Carole Dean	NO	Q1. Option 1: Our Council has planned well. Thank you
	Resident		
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
58	Sarlett Starr	NO	Q1. Option 1: Whilst some would argue the benefits of "economies of
	Resident		scale" - I believe the financial positions of the other councils (terrible)
			would work against Kawerau and mean the focus would concentrate on
			the larger local body areas - to our detriment
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
<del>#</del> 59	Colin Dennett	NO	Q1. Option 1
33	Resident		
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
			Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
60	Marjorie Dennett	NO NO	
00	Resident		Q1. Option 1
			O2 Submitter did not began a reamona to this superficie
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEADING	SUBMITTERS' DESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TODICS
# 61	Doug Large	HEARING NO	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS  O1 Ontion 1: We noted for it was keep it
61	Resident	NO N	Q1. Option 1: We paid for it - we keep it
			O2 Output Many Mid-set frames and the Mid-set
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
ш	NARAT	LICADING	CUDMITTEDS! DECDONOR TO CUDMICCION TODICO
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS

			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
63	Aurora and Stephen Doyle Resident	NO	<b>Q1.</b> Option 1: Please let residents know of any developments/projects about the water services
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
64	Tim and Vannessa Kurth Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
65	Mrs C J Godfery Resident	NO	<ul><li>Q1. Option 1: Best one for our district</li><li>Q2. Keep the government out of the decision making</li></ul>
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
66	Trevor Johnston	NO	Q1. Option 1
00	Resident		Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
	NAME	HEADING	OUDINITEDO: DEODONOE TO OUDINION TODIOS
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
67	Robert John Sterling Resident	NO	<ul><li>Q1. Option 1: The Kawerau District Council has done a good job of upgrading our water system, it would be a shame for it to be controlled by others.</li><li>Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question</li></ul>
.,	NAME	HEADING	OUDINITEDO: DEODONOE TO OUDINION TODIOS
#	NAME Dayle are Otention	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
68	Barbara Sterling Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1  Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
			, ,
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
69	Abbie Dods Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: Keep it local. Ngā mihi
			Q2. Same as above.
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
70	Anna Kelly Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
71	Kirsten Brown Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
72	Robert Brown Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
73	Trina Grbich Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question

#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
74	Wendy Bowden	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME Albert Oakes	HEARING	
75	Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
76	Lieth Roberts	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
ш	NAME	HEARING	CURMITTERS' DECRONCE TO CURMICCION TORICS
# 77	Stu Dillon	NO	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS Q1. Option 1
′ ′	Resident	NO .	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
78	Matt Brown	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEADING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
79	W.S. Matenga	NO	Q1. Option 1
19	Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Not paying for others water use
			at a series per a series and a
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
80	Richard Biggs Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
81	Chontel Polkinghorne	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		
			Q2. I would prefer for Kawerau ratepayers money to stay in house and
			be used for Kawerau and not another area. Hopefully we make the right
#	NAME	HEARING	choice for our community  SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
82	Kiri Karekare	NO	Q1. Option 1: We don't need to waste money funding other councils.
	Resident		Keep it Kawerau
			Q2. Make the right decision
#	NAME	HEARING	
83	Liisa Wana Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: Only way to go
	ROSIGOTIC		O2 Cub mittan alial and become a management of the
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
84	Barbara Anderson	NO	Q1. Option 1: The Council of Kawerau has done very well and works
	Resident		very efficiently in the town. We do very well by a well organised Council
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME Carel Viitakangaa	HEARING	
85	Carol Viitakangas Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
	<u> </u>		

			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
			casc. ala not have a responde to the question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
86	Heather Cassidy Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
87	Maureen Wilson Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Don't want to be part of a multi Council, look at Matata, nothing from Whakatāne which is their Council, huge rates, nothing for them
ш	NA BAT	LIEADING	
# 88	NAME Shirley Bartley	NO HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
00	Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
89	Roger Awhimate Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: Our dedicated water team consistently delivers exceptional results, ensuring the efficient management of our local water infrastructure. However, history has shown that multi-council-controlled organisations often prioritise larger councils, leaving smaller communities overlooked. Kawerau stands as a prime example of proactive and effective water management, having nearly completed its essential water projects while many larger councils remain behind. Yet, under a multi-council approach, Kawerau's progress would not be acknowledged—instead, it risks being penalised for its foresight and diligence. It is crucial that successful local efforts are recognised and supported, rather than diminished by broad, centralized governance structures that fail to account for the unique needs of smaller councils.  Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
90	Uswatte Liyanage Amila Chrisanthes Pereram	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
91	David Mitchell Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: Keep Kawerau District Council assets within Kawerau control. No privatisation ever
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
92	Denis Fahey Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
93	Desiree Fahey	NO	Q1. Option 1
	Resident		<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question
			and the state of t
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
94	Arona Paul Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
95	Shaun Dredge Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			<b>Q2.</b> I believe keeping our water services in-house will be most beneficial and cost effective solution for Kawerau.

#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
96	Keeley Jordan Scott	NO	Q1. Option 1	
	Resident			
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question	
ш	NI A BAIT	LIEADING	CUDMITTERS! RECONCE TO CURMICCION TORICS	
#	NAME	HEARING		
97	Bela Andrew Ughy Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1	
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
98	Deborah Semmens	NO	Q1. Option 1	
	Resident		•	
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
99	Michael Paul Burrell Resident	NO	Q1. Neither Option 1 or Option 2: Neither Leave our council to sort out the problem, which they created. They have the ability to manage the water inside our district. The government and; private enterprise need to stay in their lane; the mistakes made by the Kawerau District Council can and; should be rectified by the Kawerau District Council. Water is free and should never be marketed as a product - we should not have to pay for water. I understand that how the water is delivered comes with a cost, that been said we do not want an outside enterprise getting rich of water charges. We are not a city; we are a small community surrounded by fresh water sources. If we review the history of our water, you will see we have learned a lot about infrastructure and associated costs. The people know they are not stupid. I made sure of that. Also looking back at the history - our water now contains fluoride, chlorine and lime scale "You can't call that water anymore" it is a chemical cocktail. My advice - renew the infrastructure so it can last longer that 50years - spend the money. Get rid of the chemicals because you cannot use the word water in any time in regards to this matter  Q2. Read the above and remember we are people that care. (Submission redacted)	
ш	NAME	HEADING	. ,	
# 100	Jennifer Mary Thomas	HEARING NO		
100	Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1  Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question	
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
101	Miria King	NO	Q1. Option 1	
101	Resident			
			<b>Q2.</b> Submitter did not have a response to this question	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
102	Hayden Parks Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: We have spent a huge amount of money and time upskilling council staff to obtain their civil diplomas. Water works staff have amassed In ground local knowledge that should not be taken for granted, knowledge passed down within council waterworks since the borough days. Managers come and go but outside staff are the ones who get shitty jobs done in the trenches when it is needed. Being ex-Kawerau District Council waterworks myself and knowing how outside civil contracting firm's work I feel it is vital we retain Kawerau people to work on Kawerau infrastructure and the local Kawerau firms that support Kawerau District Council and where possible spending back into Kawerau.  Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	
	Kate Simons	NO NO		
103	Resident	INO	Q1. Option 1	
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question	
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS	

104	Diane Menso Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1
			Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
105	Angelique Aroha Maxine Butcher Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1  Q2. Submitter did not have a response to this question
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
106	Erica Valk Resident	NO	<ul><li>Q1. Option 1: Our Council has done well keeping our water well. It will keep people employed by our Council</li><li>Q2. I feel we would be let down by being involved with a consortium of towns</li></ul>
#	NAME	HEARING	SUBMITTERS' RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION TOPICS
107	Trish Brady Resident	NO	Q1. Option 1: OPTION 1: Makes Sense OPTION 2: Doesn't make sense  Q2. General Comments:  Due to the abundance of natural resources and assets in this area, it make sense to stick with the in-house, local management of them. However, it might be practical to keep an open-minded approach to this type of management, as there could be times or project where cooperation with other councils is needed.  Some other issues around water management:  Ideally, it would be great if we could get to the point where our resources were managed in a more environmentally friendly way, where discharges into waterways and the river achieve way above national standards, with little or next to no contaminants being discharged in the way that they have in the past. While I realise this is probably a regional council issue, it would be good if Kawerau District Council could develop a stronger stance in encouraging commercial users of our waterways to eliminate the need to discharge directly, and, or, decrease their run off into them. Rotoitipaku should never have happened, but let's use it as a mistake to learn from, and avoid revisiting for the sake of future generations.  Over the last few years, we have seen some full-on rain events, and I cannot help but think that we, as a nation, could be taking better advantage of the rain and finding ways to store it for the dry times in summer. Year in and year out, our farmers are put under stress due to drought conditions, yet we are having flooding events in the winter where we see our dams having to release thousands of litres of water, due to being full to over flowing. Here in Kawerau, the council put out notices this past summer, to reduce water usage due to hot, dry conditionsreally? We're surrounded by streams and the river, and the last couple of years we would have 2 to 3 days to get our washing and lawns done before it would rain, torrentially, again, and again; more than we've ever had, and yet we still had to conserve our water over summersomething is a bit off there. When



# Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana submission on Kawerau District Council water services delivery options under Local Water Done Well.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana welcomes the opportunity to submit on Kawerau District Council's water services delivery options under Local Water Done Well.

#### Strategic intent and guiding principles

Regional Council's approach is guided by the strategic intent and outcomes agreed by the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum on 3 May 2024, as highlighted in the *Delivery of Water Services in the Bay of Plenty* report (Martin Jenkins, 2023)<sup>1</sup>.

Regional Council supports water services delivery options that will achieve the strategic intent of 'safe and clean water, for everyone, now and into the future'.

The May 2024 Mayoral Forum agreed outcomes have been considered and extended as guiding principles that inform Regional Council's approach:

- a) Acting in the best interests of consumers and communities.
- b) Protecting and promoting public health and the environment.
- c) Delivering efficient and financially sustainable services in a manner that complies with regulatory requirements.
- d) Managing water services in a sustainable and resilient manner, including through partnership and alliances with other entities.
- e) Give effect to Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations.
- f) Recognise the importance and integrated nature of stormwater, the natural environment and flood management, and whole of catchment solutions.
- g) Support and enabling housing and urban development in alignment with the proposed introduction of regional spatial plans.
- h) Ensure transparency back to the community with future water service delivery decision-making and mechanisms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Martin Jenkins, 2023. *Delivery of Water Services in the Bay of Plenty: Shared challenges and opportunities*.

#### **BOPRC's Strategic Direction and Community Outcomes**

Regional Council's approach is aligned with the Strategic Direction and several Community Outcomes of our Long Term Plan 2024-2034:

#### • A Healthy Environment:

- o Goal 1 The region's diverse range of physical environments and natural ecosystems are in a healthy state.
- o Goal 2 Enabling Te Mana o Te Wai through healthy and improving waterways and their ecosystems.

#### • Future Ready Communities:

o Goal 7 - We seek to provide nature-based solutions as appropriate to enhance the environment and protect our communities.

#### • Connected and enabled communities:

 Goal 9 - We foster strong communities through engagement in decisions that are important to them

#### • Sustainable development:

o Goal 14 - Regional infrastructure is resilient, efficient and integrated

#### • Te Ara Poutama-The Pursuit of Excellence:

o Goal 18 - Partner with Māori to enhance delivery and share decision making.

Regional Council looks to add value regionally and we will continue to work alongside our council partners, stakeholders and the community to enable positive outcomes for the region's environment and our local communities.

We wish to be heard.

**Councillor Kat Macmillan** 

**Chair, Strategy and Policy Committee** 

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council | Toi Moana** 



# LOCAL WATER DONE WELL.

Kōrero mai Let's talk wai

Open for feedback || April - 23 May 2025

Councils must consult on their Water Service Delivery Plans and we want your feedback on the options.

# What is Local Water Done Well?

Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges.

Local Water Done Well covers drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and is split into three legislative parts:

- **1.** Councils must establish a corporate structure to deliver water services with an:
  - Internal business unit OR
  - Single-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Consumer trust
- 2. Councils must demonstrate financial sustainability with the preparation of a Water Services Delivery Plan
- **3.** Establishes the Commerce Commission as the economic regulator of water services in New Zealand

# The options

#### Option 1

#### Internal – an in-house business unit



This means we keep delivering water services with our internal (in-house) business unit. This is our preferred option.

Operationally, the most significant changes are in finance. All rates revenue from water must be "ring fenced".

For the three waters team, the focus will remain on maintaining excellent service delivery to the community.

There will be an increased reporting requirement. Council currently reports to Taumata Arowai, but it would also need to supply data to the Commerce Commission.

# **Option 2 Multi-Council Controlled Organisation**

Join with our neighbours Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes District Councils to form multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and deliver water services to our districts. **This is our alternative option.** 



#### Pros and cons for internal vs multi-CCO

Here's how our internal business unit stacks up against the multi-council controlled organisation	In-house business unit	Multi Council company (CCO)
Upgrade new drinking water infrastructure faster and cheaper	<b>₹</b>	
Complete an \$11.5 million upgrade of wastewater network using depreciation reserves over coming nine years	<b>•</b>	
Maintain better value for ratepayers	<b>V</b>	
Maintain excellent service response	<b>⊘</b>	
Meet the demand for growth in the district	<b>⊘</b>	<b>Ø</b>
Independent organisations monitor water quality and charges	<b>⊘</b>	<b>Ø</b>
Ability to sell off water assets (privatise)	*	8
Elected Members keep decision-making and accountability authority of water services delivery	<b>•</b>	8
Requires targeted rates for waters in 2025-2026 and beyond	<b>⊘</b>	<b>Ø</b>



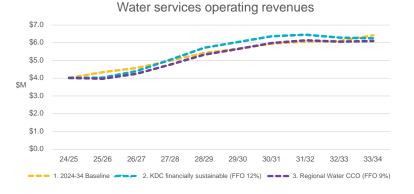


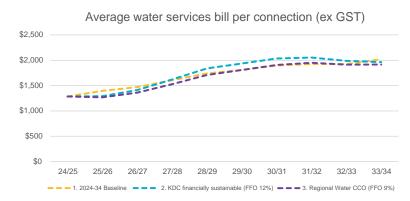
# Revenue and pricing requirements under proposed scenarios

The 2024-34 baseline financial projections shows water services revenue will increase from \$4.0 million in 2024/25 to \$6.4 million in 2033/34 (+60% over nine years).

This results in average charges per property increasing from \$1,285+GST in 2024/25 to \$2,020+GST in 2033/34 (+57% over nine years).

The revenue required to fund water service delivery internally (in-house) are in line with the minimum revenue requirements under a regional Multi Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). This modelling was provided by Internal Affairs.





#### **Our Plan**

By 3 September 2025, Council must submit its Water Service Delivery Plan to the government having:

- · Consulted on a preferred and alternative delivery model;
- Council decision to confirm business structure to deliver water services.

The Department of Internal Affairs then assesses Council's Water Service Delivery Plan to ensure it demonstrates "financial sustainability".

The Plan must demonstrate financial sustainability by 2028, and amendments to the plan can be made before September 2027.

#### "Financial sustainability" means:

- revenue sufficiency can Council or the CCO raise enough money for operations;
- investment sufficiency is Council or CCO planning to invest enough; and
- 3. financing sufficiency can Council or CCO raise enough debt for the required investment?

#### Internal business unit proposed plan - Council's preferred option

# 1. Revenue sufficiency Internal business unit: Targeted Water Rates

Our Long Term Plan 2025-2034 models an increase in the targeted water rate over 9 years. This increase helps remove the cross-subsidization from the general rate to the targeted.

See the Long Term Plan Consultation Document on our website.

#### 2. Internal business unit: sufficient investment capacity

Council is renewing the District's entire drinking water reticulation network. The drinking and wastewater network has capacity for a population of 10,000 people (significantly above what Infometrics predicts in population growth for Kawerau).

See the Infrastructure Strategy on our website for details.

# 3. Does an internal business unit have financing capacity and debt levels?

Council's debt-to-revenue ratio will remain below the maximum allowance as per the Local Government Funding Agency (the debt-to-revenue ratio for Councils without a credit rating is 175%).

See the Long Term Plan Consultation Document on our website.

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# Come and talk with us at one of our community engagement events

<b>11 April</b> 1:30pm–2.30pm	Grey Power / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
15 April 12noon–2pm	Business Forum / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
<b>15 April</b> 5.30pm–6.30pm	Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
<b>17 April</b> 10am-12noon	Public Meeting, Rautahi Marae
<b>8 May</b> 9am–1pm	Public Drop In Session, Kawerau Markets



23 May - Last day to have your say on Local Water Done Well (submissions close)

For more information check our website **kaweraudc.govt.nz** 

# SUBMISSION FORM



Name
Organisation (if applicable)
Postal address
Telephone
Email
Signature

Tick if you are a Kawerau resident.

Tick if you wish to speak in support of your submission on 18 June 2025.

Local Water Done Well			
TICK YOUR PREFERRED OPTION	SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS		
Option 1 Internal – an in-house business unit to deliver water services.			
Option 2 Join a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation to deliver water services.			
General Comments:			



Kōrero mai Let's talk wai

# LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT** 





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#### Introduction

#### From the Mayor and Chief Executive

Tēnā tātau katoa | warm greetings to you all, our community on behalf of Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau to the Local Water Done Well consultation document.

Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges. Local Water Done Well covers drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. This legislation requires all councils to establish a corporate structure to deliver water services that must be financially sustainable, which includes having enough debt head-room to renew infrastructure.

The Local Water Done Well legislation recognises the importance of local decision-making, outlines the framework for delivery of water services and aims to ensure a strong focus on investing sufficiently, ring-fencing funding for water services and meeting economic, environmental and water quality regulatory requirements.

For the past year, since the new coalition government announced the changes, all the Bay of Plenty Councils, including Kawerau, have been working on the viability of a Bay of Plenty model. Initially, this model comprised all the territorial authorities in the Bay of Plenty region. More recently, the model has been amended to comprise Kawerau, Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne and Rotorua Lakes District Councils. The multi-council model helps form a useful comparison for the community with our current in-house water service delivery.

Under the Government's Local Water Done Well legislation we must consult on our "preferred option" and an "alternative option".

In February, Council resolved to consult with our community about retaining water services delivery via an internal (in-house) business unit which is our preferred option. The alternative option we are consulting on is delivery of water services via a multi-council controlled organisation comprising Kawerau, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes Districts.

We welcome the community's feedback and input to shape Council's decision-making for Local Water Done Well.

Faylene Tunui Mayor | Kahika Morgan Godfery
Chief Executive | Tumu Whakarae



#### **Background**

Due to concerns about the water quality and asset management in New Zealand during the past 10 years and the high cost to communities, the previous Government started the three waters reforms.

Initially the Three Waters Reform proposed four large organisations across the country, which would work independently and take ownership of water assets, with some input from councils. That later changed to a proposed model of 10 entities. In addition, Taumata Arowai was set up as an independent water regulator that introduced national water quality standards and reporting to increase water quality for consumers.

Following the general election, the current coalition government repealed the Three Water Reform Bills and introduced Local Water Done Well legislation covering service delivery systems, economic regulation and consumer protection for water services and changes to the water quality regulatory framework. Taumata Arowai remains the national water quality regulator for all water standards.

Under Local Water Done Well legislation, councils decide on the delivery model, choosing from the five options that are available or developing their own. The five options suggested by the Department of Internal Affairs which is working with territorial authorities (councils) to enact the government legislation comprise:

- 1. Internal (in-house) business unit
- 2. Single-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)
- 3. Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)
- 4. Council and Consumer Owned Organisation
- 5. Consumer trust

With the new Water Service Delivery Plans, Councils must demonstrate that whichever structure chosen to deliver water services to its community must:

- Meet new financial and regulatory requirements, ensuring water services are ring-fenced (for example the financial administration of water services must be kept separate from the rest of council);
- Invest in infrastructure to address long-standing issues and set fair prices that reflect the cost of delivering water services;
- Develop a fit-for-purpose Water Services Delivery Plan by 3 September 2025 outlining how they will meet these requirements. These plans must cover 10 years.

In February 2025, Kawerau elected members directed council staff to start creating a water services delivery plan based on an in-house model while also continuing to explore other potential arrangements. Council decided the in-house option was its preferred delivery model to take out to community consultation, which is outlined in this document.

The alternative delivery model, which is required under the legislation, is the multi-council controlled organisation comprising Kawerau, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes Districts. More information about this model also follows. Although, it must be noted that as community consultation must take place prior to Council's finalising their water service delivery plans, operational and financial details of the multi-council controlled organisation are not yet fully scoped.

# **Engagement with Iwi**

Kawerau District Council is committed to an open dialogue and relationship with Māori, Tangata Whenua and Iwi and is working to grow these relationships.

Council acknowledges Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau as Tangata Whenua of Kawerau and as the official statutory organisation representing Tangata Whenua and Iwi in the rohe. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Rangitihi are also recognised by Council as Iwi consultation partners as both Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Rangitihi have a historical tribal interest and own land in the Kawerau District. A significant proportion of Māori residents in Kawerau are from other Iwi. Council enables those people to contribute to decision-making as Māori by engaging with the committee of Rautahi Marae, an urban Marae in the District. The Rautahi Marae committee is another of Council's consultation partners. Council considers Māori Investments Limited (MIL) a significant consultation partner, as the organisation is governed by Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau, and also because it is the kaitiakitanga and landowner of Umukaraka Spring that has long supplied wai | water to the Kawerau community. Council recognises and acknowledges Māori Investments Limited (MIL) for their ongoing support of Council and the community with this valuable resource.

In addition, Council considers Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora and Putauaki Trust as Iwi significant consultation partners within our rohe | district.

Council acknowledges that for Tangata Whenua, the health and wellbeing of the water is directly linked to the health and wellbeing of the people. The concept of kaitiakitanga | guardianship is a central relationship with water, emphasising the responsibility to protect and preserve its mauri | life for future generations.

Information has been shared with Iwi who could not attend the workshops. The Mayor and elected members, and Council staff are available to engage further on request. Council acknowledges the importance of Local Water Done Well and will endeavour to maintain an ongoing korero as we continue to develop the future delivery of water services.



#### **What Councils must do**

As well as deciding on how water services will be delivered (the service delivery model), as part of Local Water Done Well Councils must develop Water Services Delivery Plans that have to demonstrate their commitment to delivering water services, meet regulatory requirements, support growth and urban development and remain financially sustainable.

Through these plans, Councils will provide an assessment of the district's current water infrastructure, what investment is needed in the future and how we plan to finance and deliver these via the preferred service delivery model.

The plans are a requirement under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and must be submitted for approval by 3 September 2025.

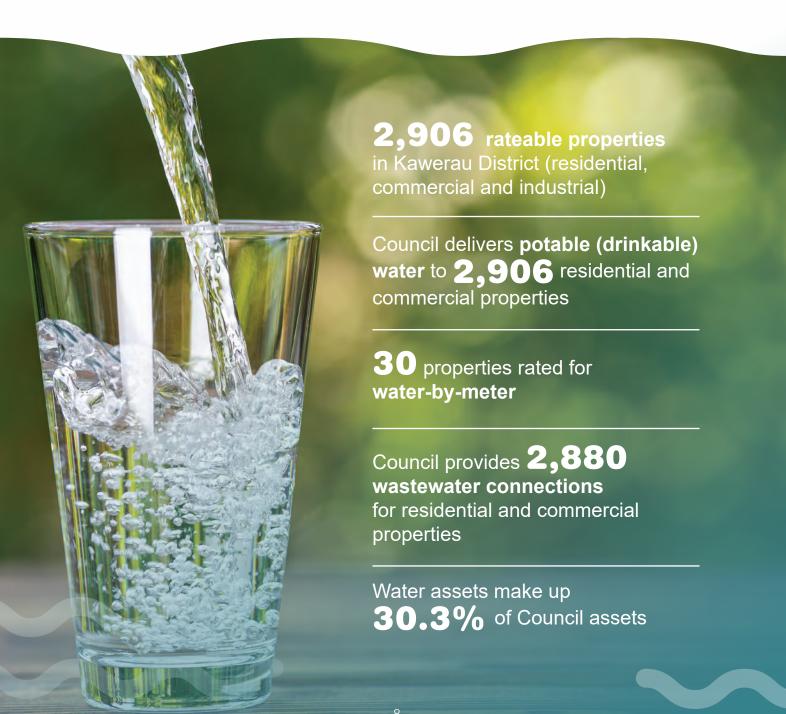
In addition, Council has developed its Long Term Plan 2025-2034 which outlines the move to targeted water and wastewater rates. Our preferred option is to transition over a longer-9 year timeframe, which has less impact on the community. The impact of transitioning more quickly moves the burden proportionately to lower-cost properties which has a higher impact. For more information about the move to targeted rates, which is also required under the Local Water Done Well legislation, please check the Council website or view documents in the Council Office, isite and Library.



# About our water services and infrastructure

Kawerau District Council owns and manages water services infrastructure assets valued at about \$36.3 million (current net book value as at 30 June 2024). These are listed as strategic assets and the Council funds depreciation for the ongoing future renewal of these assets. The replacement value of these assets is \$101,954,140.

The Three Waters assets provide essential water supply, wastewater and stormwater services to Kawerau residents and businesses.





31.5km stormwater channels

62.8km wastewater pipes

3 water sources

1 water supply treatment plant

2 water pump stations

3.2km of gravity pipelines

wastewater treatment plant (Capacity for population of 10,000)

**6** wastewater pump stations

# 24.7 hectares

Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) for wastewater disposal (zero discharge into waterways)

Total water assets \$36.3 million (net book value as at 30 June 2024)



**Drinking** Water \$15.96m



Wastewater \$14.33m



Stormwater \$5.97m

Over the next 9 years we plan to invest **\$24.19** million

# **INCLUDES:**

Water reticulation pipe renewal project 2021-2028:

- 39km new drinking water pipes already completed
- **38km** of drinking water pipes will be replaced

**22.8km** Wastewater pipes renewals 2025-2034 costing \$11.512 million



# Looking to the future - water infrastructure overview

Infrastructure is a priority for Council and the 2025 – 2034 Long Term Plan, especially continued investment in drinking water, wastewater reticulation (pipes) and assets.

The Local Water Done Well reforms may significantly change the way the three waters services are delivered and funded, with the potential that this change could result in significant funding and resourcing implications for the rest of the Council.

At 30 June 2024, the Annual rates revenue collected to maintain and renew the water comprises: \$1.4m for water, \$1.68m for wastewater and \$67k for stormwater.

The carrying value of Council's three waters assets as at 30 June 2024 was Water \$15.96m, Wastewater \$14.33m and Stormwater \$5.97m.

As the town is only 71 years old, Kawerau is unusual in that much of the reticulation infrastructure was constructed around the same time. Council's focus to date has been on maintenance, but as infrastructure ages, it needs to be replaced and due to the uniformity in age means that this will occur in large chunks and create expenditure 'spikes'. To reduce the burden of these large spikes on ratepayers, planning for renewals has prioritised drinking water renewals, then wastewater pipe renewals over a period of more than a decade.

Our forecast renewals for stormwater and wastewater have presumed the worst-case scenario using the minimum asset lifespan.

A planned programme of asset evaluation will continue to determine the actual renewal programme required for stormwater and wastewater.

We will continue to use this formal and informal knowledge to reprioritise replacement and preventative maintenance programmes, and to ensure we manage the risk of failure.

However, areas that are known to have accelerated deterioration rates, such as pipes in the geothermal areas, have been replaced according to the minimum asset lifespan, over the previous two years.

The purpose of Council's Infrastructure Strategy is to assist the Council and community make informed decisions about the major infrastructure decisions and investments required over the next 30 years.

### The Strategy outlines:

- Key infrastructure issues over the next 30 years
- · Best options for dealing with those issues
- Implications of those options for residents and businesses in terms of cost and service delivery; and
- Council's preferred scenario for managing the issues and implications.

# Planned Waters Infrastructure Renewals 2025-2034

# **Cost of replacement programme for water, stormwater\*\* and wastewater 2025-2034**

This forms part of Council's 30-year infrastructure strategy. The Three Waters renewals replacement costs are:

Renewal	Most likely scenario \$
Water: toby, valves and hydrant replacement (2025-2034)	\$1,606,550
Water (drinking) pipe replacements (2025-2034)	\$9,397,160
UV Plant (Ultra Violet water plant renewals, upgrades) (2025-2034)	\$678,306
Other water reticulation renewals (2025-2034)	\$266,282
Wastewater reticulation pipe replacement (2025-2034)	\$11,512,050
Wastewater Treatment Plant Renewals (2025-2034)	\$2,508,160
Installation of manganese removal plant for Te Wai o Marukaa	\$1,072,460

<sup>\*</sup>These other water reticulation renewals exclude the drinking water pipe replacements which will be funded from loans projected to total \$12 million.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Stormwater renewals and investment is planned from 2034.
Further details available in the Council Infrastructure Strategy via **kaweraudc.govt.nz**.



# **Local Water Done Well delivery model options**

After investigating the various delivery models, Council agreed that there are two potential delivery models which are viable and these have guided the two options we are consulting with the Kawerau community about.

To model the potential costs there have been a range of assumptions made including, the levels of inflation and interest rates. The Department of Internal Affairs has completed the financial modelling for the two options, using data extracted from Kawerau District Council and the other councils that form part of the multi-council controlled organisation option.

# **Financial levels of service impacts**

Given the magnitude and complexity of the scenarios the content provided in this document is indicative only. It may change as we work through further implications, finalised legislation, compliance requirements, investment priorities and affordability for the community.

# **Targeted Water and Wastewater Rates**

The new Local Water Done Well legislation requires Council to ring fence the finances collected via rates and invested into three waters activities and infrastructure.

In addition, the legislation requires a move to targeted water and wastewater rates to fund the total delivery of water and wastewater services. Council proposed increasing the targeted water and wastewater rates gradually over a nine-year period in the recent the Long Term Plan 2025-2034. This is Council's preferred option as it has a lower rates impact overall (see below for the different options that Council consulted with the community). The alternative is to increase the targeted water and wastewater rates over a five year period.



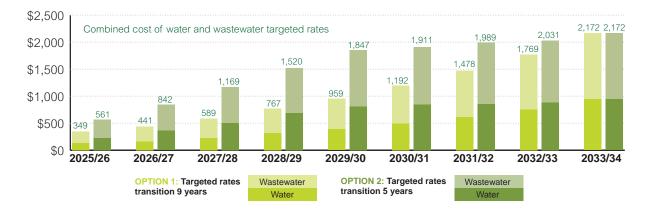
Submissions for the Long Term Plan 2025-2034 close on 12 May 2025, with the hearing taking place on 28 May. Any impacts of changes following the Long Term Plan submission and hearing process will be fed back into Council's Water Service Delivery Plan.

# Overview: Moving to targeted water and wastewater rates

- Longer transition preferred over nine years to fund the delivery of water and wastewater services means a gradual impact on lower value properties.
- In 2024-2025, Kawerau residents pay \$84.50 per property for drinking water and \$170 for wastewater services. This is only 15% and 23% of the total cost (respectively) with the rest funded from the general rate.
- Increasing targeted rates moves to 'user pays' so that the properties using the service are paying for that service.

Note: the increase in the targeted rates for water and wastewater is offset (in both options of nine or five years) by the decrease of the funds used from the general rate to fund these services.

# Transition to targeted water and wastewater rates per property



# **Potential delivery models**

Potential delivery model 1: In-house business unit (Council's preferred option) page 15 Potential delivery model 2:
Multi-Council Controlled
Organisation
(Council's alternative option) page 17

# Potential delivery model 1: In-house business unit (Council's preferred option)

Ownership	Wholly council owned, operating as the in-house three waters business unit for Council and serving the Kawerau district.		
Governance	Kawerau District Council has direct operational and governance, decision-making and oversight.		
Relationships	Council will work with Tangata Whenua and the owners   kaitiaki of the water sources.		
Strategy	Council will prepare a water services delivery strategy that meets all legal requirements and consult with its communities before adoption and implementation.		
Accountability	<ul> <li>In-house three waters business unit will report to Council as per existing processes including with a Statement of Intent and Audited Annual Report.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Water service delivery will be subject to the usual local democratic processes and performance accountability expectations established through Long Term Plans.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>In-house three waters business unit will adhere to Taumata Arowai water quality operational standards and reporting.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>An annual water services' report will include financial statements on water supply, wastewater and stormwater. These will continue to evolve and be adjusted as required to enhance and/or improve currently known requirements.</li> </ul>		
Borrowing	Council is currently borrowing from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) to replace the drinking water pipes. This will result in \$12 million in loans to renew the 77kms of drinking water pipes across the district.		

#### The financials

Council will set the price and invoice customers. Pricing will be subject to regulation from the Commerce Commission.

# Projected Average Annual Water Charges per Residential Household

\$1,200	
\$1,300	
\$1,500	
\$1,600	*Financial projections have been
\$1,800	supplied by the Department of
\$1,850	Internal Affairs.
\$1,900	Note: Financial data will be updated
\$1,950	once the Long Term Plan is confirmed
\$2,000	and adopted on 25 June 2025.
\$2,050	
	\$1,300 \$1,500 \$1,600 \$1,800 \$1,850 \$1,900 \$1,950 \$2,000

### **Debt capacity**

#### 175% of total council revenue

Under this option, debt continues to be measured at a total council level and debt servicing costs are limited to 10% of council revenue under Council's Liability Management Policy, which is a council-set limit.

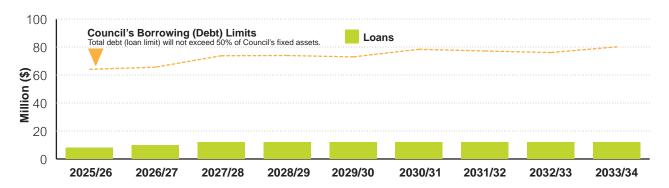
Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA)\* borrowing rules allow council to borrow up to a maximum of 175% of its revenue.

Council's debt is forecast to be 1.6% of its revenue at 30 June 2025.

Council is limited in its ability to borrow to fund any investment outside of projects already funded in its Long Term Plan.

The graph shows there is considerable room for additional borrowing should Council require further loans. However, the \$11.5 million renewal of the wastewater reticulation will be funded from depreciation reserves during the next nine years.

### **Proposed borrowing and debt levels**



\*Council joined LGFA in 2021, after the community and council agreed to progress the renewals of all the district's drinking water pipes (reticulation). This entails borrowing \$12 million from LGFA. LGFA provides council with better lending rates than traditional banks.

# Potential delivery model 2: Multi-Council Controlled Organisation

# (Council's alternative option)

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Ownership is shared across member councils. Councils will retain ownership via shares in the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation. Only councils will own shares. Privatisation is not possible.

#### **Governance**

An Appointed Board will comprise independent, professional directors accountable to the elected members of the owner councils. A professional board based on skills will oversee the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation rather than elected members. Elected members provide direction to the Board annually via a Statement of Intent.

# **Relationships**

The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation will be required to work with Tangata Whenua. Existing formal agreements between councils and lwi would be honoured by the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation.

#### **Strategy**

Shareholding Councils agree the process for issuing a combined statement of expectations to the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation.

The Board will prepare a water services strategy and consult with shareholding Councils before adoption and implementation.

### **Accountability**

- The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation Board directly manages operations, is accountable to council shareholders and will report regularly on performance (shareholder councils are accountable to their communities).
- The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation will be required to work to a statement of expectations agreed by all shareholder councils and meet relevant statutory requirements.
- Shareholder councils (Kawerau, Whakatāne, Rotorua Lakes and Ōpōtiki District Council in this instance) retain the ability to dismiss or replace the Board of Directors for unsatisfactory performance, subject to collective agreement to take such action.
- The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation would provide an annual report, including financial statements and information on performance against the agreed statement of expectations, and any other matters outlined in the adopted water services strategy.
- The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation will adhere to Taumata Arowai water quality operational standards and reporting.

### **Borrowing**

Borrowing arrangements and credit rating implications dependant on whether shareholder councils provide direct or guarantee financial support.

Higher borrowing levels and the impacts of financing costs will be reflected in the water services charges/rates.

The \*debt allocation for multi-council controlled organisations is yet to be finalised (i.e., how the 500% debt capacity is allocated to each of the member councils).

#### The financials

There is no requirement for price harmonisation where everyone across the districts covered by the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation would pay the same amount.

The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation will set the price and invoice customers directly. Pricing will be subject to regulation from the Commerce Commission.

The average charge per residential household would vary depending on which Councils partnered together. The following is based on four Bay of Plenty Councils.

# Projected Average Annual Water Charges per Residential Household

2024/25	\$1,200	
2025/26	\$1,300	
2026/27	\$1,500	*Financial projections have been
2027/28	\$1,600	supplied by the Department of
2028/29	\$1,800	Internal Affairs.
2029/30	\$1,850	Note: Financial data will be updated
2030/31	\$1,900	once the Long Term Plan is confirmed
2031/32	\$1,950	and adopted on 25 June 2025.
2032/33	\$2,000	
2033/34	\$2,050	

### **Debt capacity**

Multi-council controlled organisation debt capacity: approximately 500% of revenue of the combined councils\*

A multi-council controlled organisation will have a reasonable amount of borrowing capacity to fund future investment without the need to increase revenue significantly.

Kawerau District Council debt capacity: 175% of revenue

Council's current borrowing capacity of 175% of revenue after waters are removed would also increase debt capacity.

<sup>\*</sup>How the debt capacity may be allocated within the multi-council controlled organisation is yet to be finalised. I.e., How the 500% debt capacity is allocated to each of the member councils is not finalised.

# **Consultation options - what are** the choices for our community?

We are consulting the Kawerau community about the following options, which are guided by the potential delivery models.

# Option 1 Internal - An in-house business unit (our preferred option)

This means we keep delivering water services with our internal (in-house) business unit. This is our preferred option. Operationally, the most significant changes are in finance. All rates revenue from water must be "ring fenced". For the three waters team, the focus will remain on maintaining excellent service delivery to the community. There will be an increased reporting requirement. Council currently reports to Taumata Arowai, but it would also need to supply data to the Commerce Commission.

# Option 2 Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (our alternative option)

Join with our neighbours Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes District Councils to form multi-Council Controlled Organisation and deliver water services to our districts. This is our alternative option.

# **Preferred Option** Internal in-house business unit

# **Alternative Option Organisation**



# Advantages

Allows us to upgrade our infrastructure faster and cheaper.

- Maintains better value for ratepayers.
- Maintains excellent service response to the community.
- Meets the demand for growth in our district.
- Elected members keep decision making authority.
- Transition to targeted water and wastewater rates will mean users pay for the resource.

# **Multi-Council Controlled**

- Meets the demands of a growing
- Maintains better value for ratepayers.
- This option aligns with central government's expectations.
- Higher levels of debt up to 500% are available.
- Transition to targeted water and wastewater rates will mean users pay for the resource.



# Disadvantages

- This option does not align with central government's expectations that Councils pursue Multi CCO and may impact on the relationship that this Council wants to have with the government on a range of different issues.
- Give Kawerau District a lower debt ceiling of 175% of the total revenue.
- Kawerau may not fully realise leverage from purchasing power of multiple councils.

- Council will have less direct control over a Multi CCO than an internal business unit.
- There could be a level of disconnection from other Council planning.
- Our water service response to the community may be slower (depending on where the workforce is situated and other demands)
- Upgrading our infrastructure could be more expensive.
- Upgrading our infrastructure may not be prioritised in the same way with other councils' priorities taking precedence.



# Local Water Done Well - Frequently Asked Questions

# Charging for water by meter

In the Kawerau district 30 properties are currently metered but the majority of urban residential properties are not. Kawerau District Council's current policy is not to meter residential users.

Water meters may be introduced in future across Kawerau's urban areas, but this is dependent on future decisions.

Metering water is a way to reduce the overall volume consumed by the district which would be positive as Kawerau uses twice as much water as Napier with 60,000 plus people.

Water metering would mean that those who use the resource, would pay for it.

Lowering the overall use of water, would make Kawerau better stewards of the resource and would lower processing costs of the water just by lowering the volume consumed.

Under the Local Water Done Well legislation New Zealand's independent economic regulator, the Commerce Commission, will monitor the pricing of water under any delivery model adopted.

Water meters may be introduced in some areas of New Zealand that currently don't have these. Meters are a way to accurately measure water use, help detect leaks, increase awareness of water consumption and encourage water conservation and charge only for actual water used per consumer. It would invoke better environmental stewardship | kaitiatanga.

# Ownership of water assets under Local Water Done Well

Under the new legislation there are safeguards and requirements to ensure water assets can't be sold or transferred to private entities.

# Monitoring and regulation of water services

Under Local Water Done Well changes are being introduced to better monitor services, quality and cost.

The Department of Internal Affairs is overseeing the implementation of the new legislation and providing support to councils.

The Commerce Commission will have an ongoing role around pricing through economic regulation.

Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Authority ensures drinking water meets national standards and will also implement new wastewater discharge standards that will come into effect around August 2025.

Councils or their water entities will have to pay additional costs now for these regulators. This coming year that includes \$42,000 to the Commerce Commission.

A range of other proposed legislation changes would also influence water services, such as the Resource Management Act (RMA) and new standards for wastewater treatment which are expected to reduce costs.



# What are the pros and cons of the two options?

Here's how our internal business unit stacks up against the multi-council controlled organisation	In-house business unit	Multi Council company (CCO)
Upgrade new drinking water infrastructure faster and cheaper	<b>V</b>	
Complete an \$11.5 million upgrade of wastewater network using depreciation reserves over coming nine years	<b>⊘</b>	
Maintain better value for ratepayers	V	
Maintain excellent service response	<b>⊘</b>	
Meet the demand for growth in the district	<b>⊘</b>	Ø
Independent organisations monitor water quality and charges	<b>⊘</b>	<b>Ø</b>
Ability to sell off water assets (privatise)	*	8
Elected Members keep decision-making authority of water services delivery	<b>~</b>	8
Requires targeted rates for waters in 2025-2026 and beyond	<b>⊘</b>	<b>⊘</b>

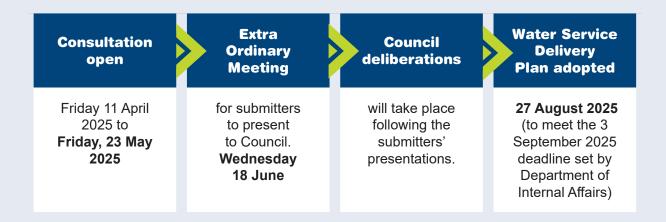








# **Timeline**



# How to have your say

Do you support the preferred option of Council continuing to provide water services in-house or our alternative option of joining a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation with four Bay of Plenty Councils? Why/why not?

There are various ways you can provide feedback for the Council to consider in its decision making:

- Go online to: www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/local-water-done-well
- Send your submission or feedback to Kawerau District Council:
   Chief Executive Officer, Kawerau District Council, Private Bag 1004, Kawerau 3169
- Drop off a submission or feedback to the Council Offices, isite or District Library
- Email us at submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz with the subject line 'Local Water Done Well'
- Direct message us on Facebook @KawerauDistrictCouncil
- Phone us on 07 323 9009
- Talk to us at one of our community events keep an eye out on Kawerau District Council channels for event information.

You are welcome to also share your views in any way that suits you.

Please add your name and contact details and email it to us or submit it online.







Kawerau District Council, Ranfurly Court, Kawerau

Waea Phone 07 306 9009

Īmēra Email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Pukamata Facebook KawerauDistrictCouncil

Pae Tukutuku Website kaweraudc.govt.nz

#### **Local Water Done Well 2025**

### **CONSULTATION FAQS**

- 1. What is the process for consultation?
  - We (Mayor and elected members, CE and leadership team) are talking with staff first (Three Waters Team, Operations Team, Council staff) and then holding meetings with the community. It is important to talk with our own people first about Local Water Done Well, and also the Long Term Plan that we are consulting on at the same time.
- 2. Why do we have two options to consult on? Can't Council just choose what is best for the community?
  - Council must prepare a water services delivery plan that creates a sustainable structure to deliver services to the community. This plan must consider at least two options and requires councils to talk with our community.
  - Under Council's current Significance and Engagement Policy, the delivery of water services has high significance and therefore, Council requires the views of the community to inform their decision-making.
- 3. What is the reason for having a preferred option when going out to consult?
  - After investigating all options available (there were five different structures that
    were tabled as options by central government) Council believes that continuing to
    provide quality services by our in-house team is the best way forward. Mayor Tunui
    summed this up as "Continuing to deliver services for Kawerau, by Kawerau as
    we have done for 71 years".
- 4. What is the process from here with consultation and the overall water services delivery plan to the government?
  - The consultation period to obtain views from our community continues until 23 May 2025
  - People can choose to present their feedback directly to the Mayor and Elected Members at the Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 18 May 2025.
  - A report containing all the feedback (submissions) will be presented to the Council and will form part of the final water services delivery plan that Council will adopt.
  - As requested, Council will submit the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan to the Central Government (DIA) once community feedback is completed.
  - Once the plan is finalised and adopted, Council will submit this to the government (via the Department of Internal Affairs and the Commerce Commission) by 3 September 2025.
  - The plan will be scrutinised by the government to ensure that the plan is:
    - o Financially sustainable
    - o Allows for sufficient investment in water infrastructure
    - Enables sufficient debt levels for reinvestment
- 5. After all the consultation, could you re-negotiate with whom you go with so you can just go with the Councils that align with you?
  - As per usual governance and operations, Council will review the Water Services Delivery options in the coming years. With regard to the parties within a multi-Council Controlled Organisation, there has been considerable work completed with regard to the parties to date. However, in future, Council could consider during these reviews other parties (territorial authorities) that could be partnered with.

#### **COST RELATED QUESTIONS**

- 6. Are we 'healthy enough' to go alone and manage residential, industrial and business growth in our district?
  - Yes thanks to the prudent management by former Councils over the years, Kawerau is in a good financial position with sufficient capacity for borrowing and sufficient depreciation reserves to manage an internal (in-house) water services delivery.
- 7. So if the industries won't be taking the water, will they be paying the targeted rate
  - Targeted rates is user pays. If industry does not use the water they will not pay for the targeted rates. As targeted rates are a set amount per property this does impact lower value properties more than it affects higher value properties.
- 8. Who pays for new infrastructure, such as drinking water and wastewater pipes and infrastructure with new development?
  - Developers must pay for the infrastructure required for any new residential, industrial and commercial growth. What this means is that the developer puts in the roads, wastewater and drinking water reticulation (pipes) during the development stage and pays for that. These costs and all applicable resource consents and building consents must be met, and costs covered by the developer.
  - Once the infrastructure is in place, the developer then 'vests these assets into council ownership'.
  - When the physical asset (i.e., the drinking water pipes) is in place, the Council becomes responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.
  - The annual rates that these new residents or commercial tenants pay then pays for the ongoings maintenance of those assets.
- 9. Is there any funding from central government for setting up and the ongoing compliance costs of an internal business unit or a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation?
  - No, under this new legislation, each council will contribute towards the cost of compliance with Taumata Arowai (the regulator) and the Commerce Commission which will oversee.

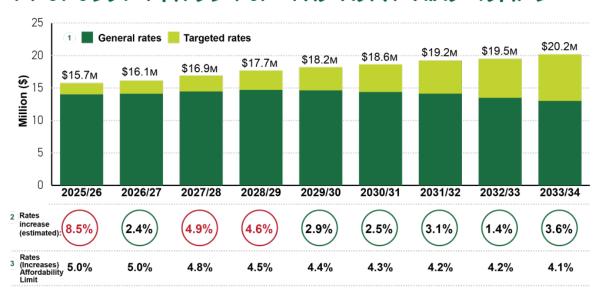
### 10. What is it going to cost?

- Yes, there will be a cost. Council has put \$42,000 into the budget for the operational compliance with Taumata Arowai and another \$40,000 for the 2205-2026 budget.
- 11. What does 'ringfencing' mean when you are talking about financing?
  - Ringfencing means that all the costs required to run three waters operations are covered by targeted water and wastewater rates for that purpose.
  - Once Council rates properties for water and wastewater rates, that money must then be kept and used for the purposes of three waters operations and infrastructure only. Currently, only a portion of the actual costs to provide water services are paid for via targeted water and wastewater rates.

# 12. How does the targeted rates for water rates work?

• Our Long Term Plan 2025-2034 models an increase in the targeted water rate over nine years. This increase helps remove the cross-subsidisation from the general rate to the targeted rate as shown. Moving to targeted water and wastewater rates helps to 'ring fence' the financial requirements to deliver water services to the Kawerau district. When the transition is completed, the targeted rates will reflect the actual costs to deliver water services. The graph below depicts the transition of the targeted rates increasing, the general rate proportion decreasing. (NB: The overall increase in rates reflects the future increase in costs overall across all services):

# PROPOSED RATES FOR THE NEXT NINE YEARS



13. Am I correct when you looked at the Bay of Plenty model, Council would not be responsible for other Council's debt?

The debt allocation for multi-council controlled organisations is yet to be finalised (i.e., how the 500% debt capacity is allocated to each of the member councils). There is no requirement for price harmonisation where everyone across the districts covered by the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation would pay the same amount. The Multi-Council Controlled Organisation will set the price and invoice customers directly. Pricing will be subject to regulation from the Commerce Commission. The average charge per residential household would vary depending on which Councils partnered together.

- 14. Via the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation would the 500% debt limit (debt ceiling) apply to the group or each individual Councils?
  - The actual workings of a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation are yet to be clarified via central government legislation. However, the understanding is that the 500% debt ceiling applies to the total group. Therefore, if one Council uses 400% the other three councils would only have 100% to use.
- 15. What is the debt ceiling for an internal (in-house) business unit?
  - Depending which model is chosen, depends on how much each council is permitted to borrow. As an internal (in-house) business unit, the debt ceiling is 175% per LGFA based on total rates revenue as Kawerau District Council is a nonrated Council (as Council has lower levels of borrowing). Rated Councils can have debt up to 240% and with Multi CCO it would go up to 500% which is required in some instances by other councils to complete their water infrastructure renewals.

# **IN-HOUSE BUSINESS UNIT**

16. To confirm, the internal business unit means that the Mayor and Elected Members retain the decision-making for the delivery of water services?

- Yes the internal (in-house) business unit would be governed by the Kawerau District Mayor and Elected Members who would continue to have the responsibility and accountability for decision-making of all three waters services.
- Conversely under the Multi-Council Controlled Organisation, the governance of water services is managed by an independent board of directors (of which elected members or council staff are not part of).
- 17. What would be considered the best value in retaining in-house (internal) business unit to deliver water services?
  - The level of service provided by our in-house Three Waters' team has significant value to our community. With urgent water call-outs response times of 30 minutes this provides excellent service 24/7.
  - In addition, the Council is already completing renewals of the drinking water reticulation (pipes) and 50% of those pipes are already completed. Plans are also in place for wastewater pipe renewals via depreciation funding over the next nine years, and other major infrastructural renewals over the 30-year infrastructure strategy (available online kaweruadc.govt.nz)
- 18. What are the benefits of keeping an in-house business unit?
  - Best serves Kawerau to continue providing high-quality, fast responses (30mins for urgent water requests)
  - Keeping services in-house means we make the decisions that are best for our own rohe | district.
  - Council has the borrowing capacity to service the full amount required to replace the drinking water pipes (\$12 million)
  - Council can replace the wastewater pipes over the coming nine years using \$11 million of depreciation reserves funding that Council is prudently putting aside and will be available
  - Other water infrastructure renewals are planned in the short and longer-term, including a manganese removal plant for Te Wai o Marukaa Spring in 2026-2027 and replacing the smallest reservoir in the following 10-year plan
  - Council doesn't believe that 'bigger is better' in this instance, although we are not isolating ourselves, and will continue to talk and work with our neighbours to strengthen relationships
- 19. If going alone, with an internal (in-house) business unit will we (our Council) still be able to cooperate with our neighbouring councils for spares, equipment etc.?
  - Yes it makes sense for the relationship and cooperation between councils to continue even if we provide our own water services internally.
  - There are already cooperative relationships between the Bay of Plenty councils, such as BOPLASS at operational levels of councils in the Eastern Bay and Bay of Plenty area
  - Also, the relationships set up for training purposes with suppliers like IXOM etc should of course continue as they benefit our three waters' team, and all the staff working in three waters for other councils.
- 20. If it's an in-house model that is chosen, will there be any difference to how we operate now and the service provided to the community?
  - In terms of what happens on the ground, not so much as the three waters team will still aim to provide quality service and fast responses to meet the performance targets set in the Long Term Plan. This means responding to urgent water call-outs within 30 minutes and non-urgent within three hours. In terms of reporting, there will be a lot more for the finance team and engineers.

- The changes of operations via this new legislation, will be noted within the financial reporting systems and teams.
- 21. Do we want to lose our independence?
  - No, the preferred option of keeping the in-house internal business unit means we
    continue to control the governance and operational aspects of three waters in the
    Kawerau District. This feedback has been received in the past from the Kawerau
    community in surveys completed for three waters delivery in 2021.

### **MULTI COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION**

- 22. Does the multi-council controlled organisation include all the other councils in the region?
  - Yes, the proposed Multi-Council Controlled Organisation would likely include Kawerau District Council, Öpōtiki District Council, Whakatāne District Council and Rotorua Lakes District Council.
- 23. If the multi-council controlled organisation, where would the central hub or main operations be situated?
  - The details of any multi-council controlled organisation have not been finalised or negotiated yet. However, a central location or one of the larger districts may be ideal for the centre of operations.
- 24. So what are the benefits of joining a multi-council controlled organisation?
  - The biggest benefit is the debt levels or borrowing capacity. However, this is not something that Kawerau requires now or within the next period of the Long Term Plan 2025-2034 that will be adopted on 25 June 2025.
  - In addition, there may be purchasing and operational savings with additional leverage. However, these savings may be somewhat offset by the costs of a new organisation that must be governed by an independent board of directors.
- 25. Does the multi-council controlled organisation or the Internal Business unit need more people to operate?
  - The operations team for three waters would likely be the same number for our internal business unit. However, the reporting requirements by Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission will probably require more finance reporting and possibly an additional staff member.
  - What the team structure would look like under a multi-council controlled organisation has not been fully scoped yet.
  - Yes, it would likely include Kawerau District Council, Ōpōtiki District Council, Whakatāne District Council and Rotorua Lakes District Council.
- 26. Why does Whakatāne want to go Multi CCO over in-house
  - Check out their district council website and consultation material of our neighbours here via their website whakatane.govt.nz
- 27. Can the DIA (Department of Internal Affairs) direct us into a multi CCO
  - The requirements of this legislation and processes are that territorial authorities have been advised to enter into discussions and negotiations with other councils. However, Bay of Plenty councils have been talking right from the outset of the former government's proposed Three Waters Reform.
  - Under this new Local Water Done Well legislation, there has been ongoing discussions with the Mayor and Chief Executives from each of the Bay of Plenty councils about a multi-council controlled organisation.
  - At one point, the councils were looking at the multi-council controlled organisation including all the Bay of Plenty councils. However, Tauranga City Council and

Western Bay of Plenty District Council have signalled their preferred option is to join together and set up a council controlled organisation to deliver water services.

### **WATER METERING**

- 28. Is it likely that Council will have to introduce water meters as part of Local Water Done Well?
  - This is an uncertain space at present within legislation and there has been discussion that water meters may become mandated for all territorial authorities (councils).
  - Kawerau District Council's current policy is not to meter domestic users in the urban areas. Currently only commercial and industrial properties in our district are metered. Whether meters may be introduced in future across the urban areas is dependent on future decisions.
  - Part of the new legislation, outlines that pricing of water services will be monitored by the Commerce Commission, New Zealand's independent economic regulator.

# 29. Are there benefits to water metering?

- All water users, including Kawerau District Council, have maximum water takes
  under respective resource consent limits. Kawerau has a new lower limit of 12,000
  cubic metres per day for the community. At times, the district's water use is higher
  than it could be and Council implements a system of communicating water
  reduction reminders, which would if need-be, escalate to water restrictions.
- Water metering has been shown to encourage individual households to lower their water use as charges are based on the volume used.
- Using less water as a district, would lower our operational costs to process every litre of water.
- It would make us better stewards of the resource and this is important as kaitiakitanga, especially as, last summer we were fortunate to be able to source drinking water from privately owned Umukaraka Spring from Māori Investments Limited.

#### **OTHER**

- 30. Where are we planning to source water from as our district grows in the future with Stoneham Park and other developments?
  - Now we are into the cooler months, the Tarawera Bores is providing sufficient water for the district. Fortunately, during December we had permission from Māori Investments Limited (MIL) to obtain additional water from Te Umukaraka Spring under an emergency resource consent permitted by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Council's infrastructure has the capacity to supply and process water for a population of 10,000.
  - To ensure future water resilience and capacity, Council has put money into the budget for a manganese removal plant for the water at Te Wai o Marukaa Spring (at the River Road pumphouse). This combined with the other water sources will ensure Kawerau has a resilient supply of potable drinking water.
  - The district's use of water during the hot summer months (and Kawerau can often record a national high temperature) can be very high per person. For example, Kawerau recording usage of more than 700 litres per person per day in December 2024. In comparison, Napier, was asking their residents to reduce their water consumption from 500 litres per day per person to 200 to 250L/pd. As stewards,

Council will require a reduction in the overall consumption of water per person to become better stewards (kaitiakitanga) of the resource.

# 31. What is a strategic asset?

- Strategic water assets include the water pipes, pumphouse infrastructure, wastewater treatment plant, and all wastewater pipes and stormwater infrastructure.
- Strategic assets are important as the council funds depreciation for the renewal of these assets over time.
- Council currently funds depreciation at 65% for strategic assets and plans to increase these funding levels by 3% each year from 2026-2027 over the next 12 years back to 100%.
- These depreciation reserves are the equivalent of a savings account, to replace important assets. Council will fund the renewal of \$11.5 million of wastewater pipes in the district during the next nine years using depreciation reserves (which is good as it means we do not have to borrow money to renew this strategic asset).
- 32. Does local industry in Kawerau take potable (drinking) water from the council water supply or do they take it from the Tarawera River?
  - Some large industries use the potable water as their drinking water for their staff only and this is metered and charged by the Council already.
  - However, water for industry's operational use (manufacturing processes) is taken from the Tarawera River under separate resource consents obtained via the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. These water consents include take and discharge.
- 33. Why are we doing this at all given we are already renewing the drinking water pipe network (reticulation)?
  - This is a mandate by central government for all councils (territorial authorities) and follows on from the initial Three Waters Reform proposed by the former government.
  - These three water reforms have stemmed from a serious incident in August 2016 in the Havelock North region drinking water incident where 5,500 people became ill with campylobacteriosis due to the drinking water being contaminated Report-Havelock-North-Water-Inquiry-Stage-1.pdf
  - More details are documented here in the government review <u>Government Inquiry</u> <u>into Havelock North Drinking-Water - dia.govt.nz</u>
  - A government review of all councils in Aotearoa, following this incident highlighted that infrastructure renewals and operational issues were not always being completed as required and as a result water standards were being impacted.
  - There are more details online at <u>Water Services Policy legislation and process</u> -<u>dia.govt.nz</u>

**Meeting**: Extraordinary Council

Meeting Date: 18 June 2025

**Subject**: Adoption of the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation

Plan 2025 for public consultation

**File No.**: 406230

# 1 Background

Council is mandated under the Local Government Act of 2002 to provide sanitation services and develop a comprehensive waste management plan. Officially known as the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), this document is required by the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008. Council adopted the previous WMMP on April 14, 2012, and it must be reviewed every six years. However, evaluations conducted in 2018, along with a Waste Assessment in 2020, indicated no significant changes in the District's waste management needs, which led to a delay in the WMMP review.

It is now essential to update the WMMP and submit it to the Ministry for the Environment to ensure compliance with legal obligations and secure ongoing funding through the waste levy. The WMMP requires a Waste Assessment to accurately evaluate the waste management needs of the District.

Council staff have conducted a comprehensive review and update of the WMMP based on the recent Waste Assessment. The draft WMMP is attached for discussion during this meeting.

The draft WMMP must undergo consultation as required under Section 44 of the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008, following the "Special Consultative Procedure" outlined in Section 83 of the Local Government Act of 2002.

# 2 Significant changes

The demographics of the Kawerau District and its waste management needs have remained consistent since the last Waste Assessment. Therefore, there are no significant updates to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).

The 2025 WMMP has been revised with the following inclusions:

- This version incorporates changes required by the updated waste disposal levy regulations established in 2021 and introduces improved reporting tools.
- Updates stemming from the Waste Assessment 2025 have been considered and included.
- The revised WMMP also includes new guidance from the Ministry for the Environment on Waste Management and Minimisation Planning, released in 2015.

# 3 Legal and Policy Considerations

Council is mandated under the Local Government Act of 2002 to provide sanitation services and develop a comprehensive waste management plan. Formally referred to as the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), this document is required by the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008.

Legislation requires the use of a special consultative procedure when developing and reviewing this policy.

The draft policy aligns with Council's other policies and plans.

# 4 Risks

No risks were identified during the review of this Policy.

# **5** Financial Considerations

There are currently no significant financial considerations.

# 6 Significance and Engagement

The draft policy will adhere to the special consultative procedure outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. This approach will enable community members and industry representatives to actively participate in the policy-making process.

Consultation is set to begin on Thursday, June 19, 2025, with submissions closing at 5:00 PM on Friday, July 18, 2025. Council plans to review and consider all submissions related to the draft policy during its meeting on July 30, 2025.

Following the consultation process, the revised WMMP will be submitted to Council for formal adoption.

The projected timeline is as follows:

- Initial Workshop 4 June 2025
- Consultation 19 June 2025 18 July 2025
- Present for adoption 30 July 2025

# 7 Conclusion

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (Appendix A) for the Kawerau District has undergone a comprehensive review.

This review incorporates updates derived from the most recent Waste Assessment, adheres to Council's formatting guidelines, aligns with the Ministry for the Environment's classifications for disposal facilities, and considers the revised waste disposal levy regulations introduced in 2021.

#### 8 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That the report "Adoption of the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 for public consultation" be received.
- 2. That Council adopts the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025 as presented for commencement of the special consultative procedure, with submissions closing at 5.00pm on Friday 18 July 2025.

Riaan Nel, BTec (Eng), BSc Hons (Eng)

Group Manager, Operations and Services

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# KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

2025



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# **Version History**

Version	Date	Notes	Author
2012	13/04/2012	First WMMP	Tom McDowall
2020	04/02/2020	Management Review	Hanno van der Merwe
2025	30/05/2025	Management Review	Riaan Nel



# SECTION ONE Introduction



### 1.1. SOLID WASTE & THE WASTE MINIMISATION PLAN

Council is required through the Local Government Act of 2002 to provide sanitary services and under the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008 to have an operative waste management and minimisation plan.

The solid waste activity's primary goal is to provide solid waste services and maintain solid waste infrastructure and plant in the District in order to meet the social, cultural, and environmental requirements of our community. The overall aim is to minimise the presence of refuse within the District and to minimise the amount of local waste that goes to landfill.

In the long term, Council wants to work towards a circular economy where minimal unrecoverable waste is generated. This is a significant goal and will require a long-term commitment to waste minimisation. This plan is a further step building on the existing waste minimisation plan's goals and objectives.

Council plans to make a real and measurable improvement to the way its waste is managed. We need to prepare for ways in doing this while empowering our community to shift its way of thinking and doing, to encourage waste minimisation, resource recovery and avoid creating waste in the first place.

Council cannot solve the problem of waste minimisation alone and will action this waste minimisation plan in partnership with other Territorial Authorities (TAs) and work with our communities to take the next step on our journey to zero waste.

Currently, Council provides the provision of green waste and recycling collection services from all households and businesses, drop off services at the transfer station and processing sites, and processed solid waste sales services. Providing this service requires effective, efficient and sustainable infrastructure and plant, in order to collect, store, sort, process, sell reusable products, and transport of remaining materials to be processed elsewhere.

The green waste collection service allows all compostable organic waste, however not food waste. The recycling crate collection service allows all clean glass, plastics No. 1 and 2, paper and cardboard and all metal containers.

The transfer drop-off service allows all general household waste, recycling, green waste, wood, topsoil, other soils, concrete, tyres, oil and whiteware. Asbestos, chemicals, bio-waste and large items such as cars and tractor tyres are not accepted at the transfer station.

Processed green waste, as either mulch or compost, processed wood chip, crushed concrete, topsoil and clean fill are for sale at the transfer station.

The transfer station is open 7 days a week, from 12 pm to 4 pm. The facility is closed on Christmas day with reduced hours during staff annual events.

Bio-solids generated at the waste water treatment plant are processed through worm farming at the plant. The resulting product is blended with processed green waste and used as a soil amendment.

#### 1.2. WASTE ASSESSMENT

Kawerau District Council (KDC) prepared a Waste Assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA). The document provides background information and data to support the Council's waste management and minimisation planning process.

The document provides key information to help construct a picture of waste management in our district and larger region. This includes a brief overview of key aspects of the region's geography, economy, and demographics that influence the quantities and types of waste generated and potential opportunities. It also provides an overview of regional waste facilities, and initiatives that may be of relevance to how we manage our waste.

The assessment examines how waste is managed, where waste comes from, how much there is, its composition, and where it goes. A gap analyses is included that evaluates future demand of what is

likely to influence demand for waste and recovery services in the region and identifies key gaps in current and future service provision and in the Council's ability to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

A statement is made of options available to Council and states Council's proposed role to ensure that future demand is met, and that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations. From these options, a statement of proposals sets out what actions are proposed to be taken forward. These proposals were developed into this Waste Management and Minimisation Plan's (WMMP) actions.

The waste assessment also contains additional waste management data and further detail about facilities in each district. This additional data will enable territorial authorities (TAs) to "drill down" and access information about their district. This section includes the statement from the Medical Officer of Health as well as additional detail on legislation.

# 1.3. WASTE MANAGEMENT & MINIMISATION PLAN

This Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) has been prepared under the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008 (WMA). This is the second Plan for the Kawerau District Council. The vision of this plan is to minimise waste to landfill and continue the work towards zero waste of the 2012 WMMP. The Plan reflects Council's desire to make real, measurable and effective improvements to the way we manage our waste.

# 1.3.1. Previous Waste Management and Minimisation Plans

The previous Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was developed and adopted by Council on 14 April 2012. This Plan remains in effect until the adoption of the 2025 plan.

## 1.3.2. Purpose of the Waste Management & Minimisation Plan

It is a requirement under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 that Council must have an operative Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Describe Council's vision for solid waste management and minimisation and how Council will meet its long-term goals.
- Identify the objectives and policies to support the achievement of these goals.
- Outline actions for the next 6 years to achieve effective waste management and minimisation in the District.
- Develop measurable targets to evaluate progression towards our goals.
- Provide information on how Council intends to fund the waste management and minimisation activities over the next six years to 2031.

This meets the requirements of Section 43 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to include a summary of Council's waste management and minimisation objectives, policies and targets, and how these will be delivered and funded.

# 1.4. POLICIES, PLANS AND REGULATIONS

Council is required through the Local Government Act of 2002 (LGA) to provide sanitary services and a waste management plan.

The principal solid waste legislation in New Zealand is the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA). The stated purpose of the WMA is to:

"encourage waste minimisation and a decrease in waste disposal in order to

- (a) protect the environment from harm; and
- (b) provide environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits."

To further its aims, the WMA requires Territorial Authorities (TAs) to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within their district. To achieve this, all TAs are required by the legislation to adopt a WMMP.

Council's existing Waste Assessment was reviewed and adopted in 2025, and the WMMP was adopted in 2012.

Over and above the WMA and LGA, the following legislation, plan and policies were considered in preparing this WMMP:

- New Zealand Waste Strategy 2023
- Emissions Reduction Plan 2022
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Climate Change (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008
- Health Act 1956
- Litter Act 1979

There may also be changes coming to above legislation, policies and plans that may have a potential impact on Council's waste operation.



# SECTION TWO NZ Waste Strategy



### 2.1. OVERVIEW

The New Zealand Waste Strategy – Te rautaki papa (NZWS) is the Government's core policy document concerning waste management and minimisation in New Zealand. It sets the national direction for changing how we make, use, manage and dispose of things. The Strategy is guided by the vision that by 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society, build upon a circular economy.

Everyone plays a role in achieving this vision, with specific expectations for local government.

#### This includes:

- Applying the strategy to guide our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.
- Collaborating with other councils to progress circular economy opportunities.
- Supporting local community groups and organisations with their initiatives to reduce waste.
- Work with behaviour change programmes to support waste-related activities.
- Consider waste management infrastructure within planning and consenting processes.
- · Identify and manage vulnerable landfills and contaminated sites.
- Monitoring and reporting on the amount of waste being diverted from landfill.

As well as reflecting these expectations within our action plan, this WMMP is aligned to the first phase of the Waste Strategy which focuses on the goal of embedding circular thinking into our systems by 2030.

The flexible nature of the NZWS means that councils are able to decide on solutions to waste management and minimisation that are relevant and appropriate to local situations and desired community outcomes.

The direction of the New Zealand Waste Strategy, the supporting actions, and the suggested targets all have clear implications for the future direction of waste management and minimisation in this country:

- The overall direction of the Waste Strategy is towards a circular economy;
- There are specific actions relating to reducing a wide range of waste streams, and specifically and particularly organic waste – in concert with work to reduce emissions; and
- The targets focused on reducing waste generation and waste disposal by 2030 by quite significant proportions.

# 2.2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy and employing circular thinking means keeping materials in use. At a point, where items would traditionally become waste at the end of a product lifecycle, they are instead able to be used as an input into a new product.

The following diagram from the Ministry for the Environment shows the linear economy model we currently follow. We take materials from natural resources, whether it is through mining, agriculture or forestry, and turn them into products we consume and use. At the end of the products useful life, we dispose of it in landfills and other final disposal facilities.

This creates waste and adds to the issue of what we are trying to combat. At the same time energy used to manufacture, transport and dispose products, come from finite sources.



Figure 1: Linear Economy

In the circular economy model, there is minimal or no waste at the end. Everything feeds back into the economy to be reused. The energy required to capture waste and convert it back into useful materials is sourced from renewable energy sources.

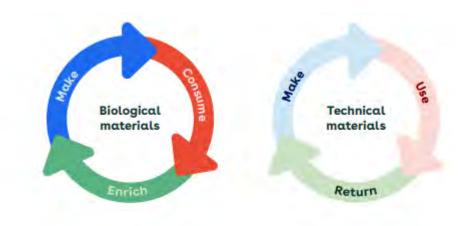


Figure 2: Circular Economy

### 2.3. WASTE HIERARCHY

The Waste Hierarchy illustrates the different methods to reduce and manage waste. It is listed in the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 in order of importance, from reduction to disposal.

To permanently minimise the amount of waste being created, it is important to focus higher up the waste hierarchy. This focuses on changing behaviour to redesign existing systems and ensure less waste at the output.

We know this is not possible for every item or process, and change won't happen instantly, so the hierarchy also includes methods to better manage waste – rather than disposing straight to landfill.

This Waste Management and Minimisation Plan reference each of our actions against the waste hierarchy to show how our action plan aligns with the different methods to reduce and manage waste.

We reduce unnecessary waste by prioritising paperless communication, and replacing single use plastic bags. We repurpose concrete by crushing it into gravel to be used in roading and footpaths. We compost green waste and biosolids into soil amendments and recycle paper, cardboard, certain plastics and glass into similar products. We recover energy from woodwaste that cannot be recovered or reused and are continuously thinking how we can move our waste up the Waste Hierarchy.

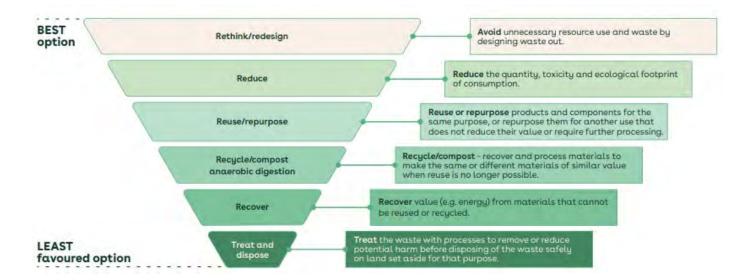


Figure 3: Circular Economy



# SECTION THREE Development of the Plan



### 3.1. PREPARING THE PLAN

In preparing this WMMP, we have:

- Considered the New Zealand Waste Strategy Te rautaki papa.
- Referenced our actions against the Waste Hierarchy in the Waste Strategy.
- Assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act to make decisions on the best options for addressing the communities waste management needs.
- Deliberated the findings and feedback from the Waste Assessment in the development of the action plan.
- Thought through and included the effects on existing services, facilities, activities, and resourcing.

### 3.2. MATAURANGA MĀORI

The te ao Māori worldview considers that people are closely connected to the land and everything on it. Closely aligned with the principle of a circular economy, we must prioritise the highest parts of the waste hierarchy to restore and preserve the resources of the natural world for future generations.

Local iwi and hapū across the Bay of Plenty regions have identified key areas to support waste minimisation. This includes the investigation into new regional infrastructure and services, the need for a focus on education at a community level and giving effect to the natural world and te ao Māori principles.

It was also acknowledged that there is a need for advocacy for more waste minimisation and zero waste initiatives at a regional and national level to drive behaviour change.

### 3.3. COMMUNITIES

In order to achieve our actions in this plan, we will work with all local communities including our local iwi to help shape our activities to transition towards achieving a circular economy and zero waste.

Ideas from residents to solve issues are always welcomed and will be considered when we investigate and implement new options to best service our community.

### 3.4. OUR REGION

Council partners with other Territorial Authorities, industries and businesses to develop waste infrastructure and service solutions that best benefit our region. This includes working collaboratively with other councils and supporting industry led initiatives that will help address our waste streams.

As a provider of waste services, Council is leading waste management and minimisation efforts in the region and commits to continuously improve its processes for managing waste from our its district and to support efforts in the wider region.

### 3.5. MONITORING PROGRESS

We monitor our progress through annual reporting and waste assessments.

### 3.5.1. Annual Reporting

We measure collections of refuse, recycling and green waste from our kerbside collection service, as well as all the materials delivered to our transfer station. We weigh and measure material that we divert from landfill and send to processing sites.

We also weigh and measure material that we process and sell to the public or use for Council's own needs.

All results are evaluated against our key performance indicators, which includes resident satisfaction with the solid waste service through the 3 yearly resident survey. These results are included in the Annual Reports.

### 3.5.2. Ministry for the Environment

Council pays a waste to landfill levy for each tonne of waste sent to landfill. Half of all collected levies are available for waste minimisation actions and activities and half of the levies are provided to Territorial Authorities to support waste minimisation plans.

Council reports to the Ministry for the Environment all its waste minimisation expenditure and the resulting waste minimisation achieved.

### 3.5.3. Waste Assessments

Every six years, Council is required to complete a Waste Assessment to report on the progress made against the current Waste Management and Minimisation plan. Council's most recent Waste Assessment was updated in 2025 and is attached to this Plan. The next Waste Assessment is planned for 2031/32.

### 3.6. WASTE REDUCTION TARGETS

The New Zealand Waste Strategy has set national targets to be achieved by 2030. This includes:

- Reduce waste generation by 10% per person.
- Reduce waste disposal by 30% per person.
- Reduce biogenic methane emissions from waste by at least 30%.

The Ministry acknowledged that existing waste data has a high degree of uncertainty, and that a key focus of ensuring these targets are achievable lies in improving the methods of collecting and measuring this data.

From diligent transfer station weighbridge data and information from our waste processing and disposal service providers, Council is able to generate a good approximation of our progress towards these targets.



## SECTION EIGHT The WMMP



### 4.1. REVIEW OF THE 2012 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN

The last WMMP for Kawerau District was prepared in 2012. The Waste Minimisation Act requires that each Waste Assessment include a review of the last WMMP, including an assessment of data, key issues from the last WMMP, any other issues not addressed, and an update on the action plan from the last WMMP including progress.

The attached 2025 Waste Assessment review of the 2012 WMMP is summarised below.

### 4.1.1. Data

Although Council strives to collect data as accurately as possible, it is fair to assume that errors and omissions exist. Where information is unknown, estimates have been used based on previous SWAP and NZ Statistic data.

### 4.1.2. Key Issues

- How to achieve further waste reductions in a way that is affordable to the Community
- Encouraging people to recycle more and more people including businesses, to recycle, so as to reduce the volume of recyclables going into residual waste streams
- Reducing the amount of putrescible material going to landfill. (This is an issue because it has negative environmental impacts.)
- Develop options and methods to remove food waste from the waste to landfill stream.
- Finding a viable reuse option for composted green waste
- Discouraging fly-tipping

### 4.1.3. Other Issues not Addressed

No issues were identified, other than discussed in the previous WMMP.

### 4.1.4. New Guidance

New guidance from MfE on Waste Management and Minimisation Planning was released in 2015. The 2012 WA and WMMP, while consistent with the guidance at the time they were written, do not fully align with the new (2015) MfE Guidance. The new guidance places more emphasis on funding of plans, inclusion of targets and how actions are monitored and reported. The 2012 documents also did not provide data in accordance with the National Waste Data Framework, as suggested by the new guidance.

### 4.2. SCOPE

This Plan sets out how Council will continue to reduce the volumes of solid waste from the Kawerau District that goes to landfill. The Waste Assessment conducted before writing this Plan is included as Appendix A.

The Act defines waste as "material that has no further use and is disposed of or discarded". Waste minimisation is described as reducing waste, and increasing the reuse, recycling, and recovery of waste and diverted material. 'Diverted material' is anything that is no longer required for its original purpose, but still has value through reuse or recycling.

This Plan does not include liquid and gaseous wastes, except where these are considered to have implications for solid waste management.

Council does not have direct involvement in the management of all solid waste generated in the district, but has a responsibility to at least consider all such waste in this Plan.

### 4.3. VISION

The fundamental purpose of Council providing solid waste services is to minimise the potential for harm to human health and the environment.

Council adopted the vision of working towards zero waste to landfill in 1999 and in 2002, set a target to reduce the amount of waste in the District going to landfill by 70 percent.

The target was achieved in 2010 and further major reductions are unlikely without significant additional cost. Council still retains this vision however, and over the period of this Plan, will investigate and implement new initiatives to achieve further reductions.

### 4.4. ACTIONS

### 4.4.1. Council Role

- Develop educational material.
- Retain kerbside collection.
- Continue to operate a transfer station.
- Collect residual waste for disposal to landfill.
- Process recyclable materials for disposal or sale.
- Improve quality of recyclable collection and storage for processing.
- Collect litter in the district.
- Advise public how to dispose of hazardous and e-wastes.
- Work with the community to achieve waste minimisation goals.

### 4.4.2. Key Initiatives

Improve recovery of material from residual waste.

Residual waste is delivered to the transfer station predominantly by one of the following methods:

- Council kerbside collection
- Contractors servicing businesses
- Individuals (residents and business) by truck, trailers and vehicles.

Each deliverer is encouraged to separate recyclable material and this material is then put into one of the recycling streams.

Investigate kitchen waste collection and other joint initiatives with other councils and businesses.

Council is collaborating with other councils and businesses to develop methods to collect and process food waste and hazardous wastes. Council participates in the Bay of Plenty Regional waste working group and is an active member in other national waste working groups.

### Update solid waste bylaw 2008

The Solid Waste Bylaw 2008 will be reviewed, updated and adopted in 2025.

### 4.4.3. Targets

The Council set two targets for itself in the 2012 WMMP. These were:

Target 1: Reduce the volume of residual waste for disposal to landfill by 10% by 2028

Target 2: Increase the volume of recyclable materials collected at Council by 10% by 2028

The actions and targets in the plan focused around maintaining existing operations and services and making incremental improvements. The Waste Assessment had not identified substantial strategic issues that required a significant change of direction. These targets will remain in the 2025 WMMP.

### 4.5. FUNDING

The initiatives and actions proposed in this WMMP will be funded as follows:

- General rates
- Uniform annual charges on residential properties
- Transfer station fees
- Waste levy contribution funding

### 4.6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The WMMP implementation plan is listed in the following tables:

**Table 1: Communication and Education Plan** 

Objective	Specific actions	Status	Implementation timeframe
Community and Council working together.	Provide information about waste services, waste prevention and waste reduction, including potential risks to the Community.	Ongoing	Ongoing – Council is lead agency
Lead waste reduction initiatives	Engage directly with the community (including businesses) and encourage a 'cleaner production' approach.	Ongoing	Ongoing – Council is lead agency
	Continue to work with schools through the 'Paper 4 Trees' programme.	Ongoing	Ongoing – Council supports financially
	Continue to build partnership working with other local councils and the regional authority.	Existing	Ongoing – Council is lead agency
	Lead waste projects, proactively offer waste minimisation advice to the community.	Existing	Ongoing

**Table 2: New Ideas and Initiatives** 

Objective	Specific actions	Status	Implementation timeframe
Community and Council work together	Work with BOP councils advocating for a regional approach in waste facility provision by participating in Waikato and Bay of Plenty Waste Liaison Group	Existing	Ongoing
New, local initiatives and infrastructure	Review service delivery options for collections of recycled, residual and green waste by:  looking at costs level of service offered alternatives	Existing	Ongoing – currently under review
	Review methods of disposing of refuse delivered to transfer station by:  Reviewing costs disposal options increasing recycling at transfer station	Existing	Yearly - currently under review
	Review disposal of recycled material by:  • investigate how other TLAs dispose of recycling  • evaluating costs and income	Existing	Ongoing – currently under review
	<ul> <li>investigating the creation of a regional resource recovery and recycling facility</li> </ul>	New	WWMF application for funding
	Sponsor initiatives by organisations or individuals that may reduce residual refuse	Existing	Yearly
Consider environmental impact	Continue to take action to reduce fly tipping by:	Existing	Ongoing
Use resources more efficiently	<ul> <li>fencing off easy disposal points</li> <li>prosecuting identified offenders</li> <li>increasing monitoring</li> <li>removing rubbish quickly</li> <li>assessing complaints received</li> </ul>		
	Continue to be aware of alternatives for refuse disposal	Existing	Ongoing

**Table 3: Monitoring and Evaluation** 

Objective (s)	Specific Actions	Status	Implementation timeframe
Community and Council work together	Review other options for increasing source separation of non-household waste.	Existing	Ongoing - Council is lead agency
Use resources more efficiently	Review pricing at the transfer station facility annually to ensure true cost of residual waste disposal is recovered, and reuse/recycling is encouraged.	Existing	Completed and reviewed annually
Consider environmental impact	Increase monitoring to provide more information, especially regarding non-household waste composition, how those not using waste collection services are managing their waste disposal.	Existing	Ongoing – Council holds a monitoring role. Post COVID- 19 review August 2020
Use resources more efficiently	The Council will regularly review progress on this Action Plan and towards achievement of our goals, objectives and targets.  Progress will also be reported annually through the Annual Plan, and regularly through Council newsletters and the website.	Existing	Ongoing - Council is lead agency
Community and Council work together Consider	Provide additional education for home composting of food and garden waste.	Existing	Ongoing - Council is lead agency
environmental impact Use resources more efficiently	Investigate how composted material can be used beneficially at no cost to Council.	Existing	Under review
	Continue to monitor actions occurring outside district with green and organic waste.	Existing	Ongoing

Table 4: Recycling

Objectives	Specific Actions	Status	Council's role
Community and Council work together	Continue the kerbside recycling collection: encourage householders to put out additional recycling.	Existing	Council is lead agency
Consider environmental impact	Recycling collection: investigate whether additional materials can be included in the kerbside recycling collection with recycled processing company.	Existing	Council is lead agency
Use resources more efficiently	Work with community (including existing private collection providers) to improve the recycling collection services available to industry and businesses.	Existing	Council is joint lead agency
	Work with business and industry to encourage more recycling and waste reduction at source.	Existing	Provide expertise to business to reduce waste
	Council is exploring options to recycle glass, paper and cardboard at transfer station	New Action	WWMF application for funding

Table 5: Hazardous/liquid/gaseous wastes

Objective	Specific actions	Status	Council's role
Community and Council work together	Advise residents on the disposal of hazardous materials, e.g. lead-based paints and chemicals.	Existing	Council is lead agency
Consider environmental impact  Use resources more efficiently	Continue to treat Bio-solids from wastewater treatment plant using vermiculture.	Existing	Ongoing
	Provide information to residents and contractors on appropriate disposal of asbestos through newsletters.	Existing	Council is lead agency

### 4.7. PROGRESS

Most of the identified actions related to ongoing operations. These are planned to be carried out over the term of the plan.

The key element is to review the solid waste bylaws and implement changes in 2025.



### SECTION 10 Appendices



### 5.1. WASTE ASSESSMENT 2025

The 2025 update of the 2020 Waste Assessment is attached to this Plan.