



Three Waters Reforms

What you need to know

- » The Central Government proposal would see responsibility for the delivery of New Zealand's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services shift from 67 councils to four publicly-owned Water Service Entities (WSEs).
- » Under the proposal, councils will be written into law as owners of the assets but will not be financial shareholders. All financial aspects will be managed by a Governance board.
- » Under the current proposal NPDC would join a WSE serving 800,000 people spanning Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, plus Whanganui, Ruapehu and Rangitikei.
- » According to Department of Internal Affairs analysis, the average household three waters cost in our WSE is estimated at \$4300 without reform but \$1220 with the reforms.
- » NPDC will get \$31.5 million from a \$2.8 billion fund the Government has established to help make the changes.

Next steps

- » Councils across Aotearoa have given feedback on the proposed reforms.
- » NPDC is digesting all of the information so that we fully understand what is being proposed by the Department of Internal Affairs and why.
- » Central Government is the decision maker for these reforms, Councils have been asked for input.
- » NPDC has not come to a collective view on the reforms yet.





Frequently Asked Questions

» **Who is behind the proposed 3 Waters reforms?**

The Department of Internal Affairs has developed the Government's proposals for four new water entities. Councils across Aotearoa, including NPDC, need to give feedback by 1 October. The Government will decide next steps after that.

» **Will the WSEs be privately run or sold off?**

Under the proposal, councils will be written into law as owners of the assets but will not be financial shareholders. All financial aspects will be managed by a Governance board.

» **So why did NPDC provide for \$248million of investment in water infrastructure in the 10-Year Plan?**

Our aging three waters network is in serious need of upgrading and the work needs to be done regardless of if it is Council or a WSE under the reforms. Our Council wishes to be responsible stewards of our assets. This means planning for and fixing the problems that we are aware of.

» **How will this affect existing NPDC Three Waters staff?**

Our Three Waters staff and infrastructure would move into the new WSE, but the Government has assured us they'll keep working in our district for the foreseeable future.

» **How will you invest the \$31.5 million in Government support funding?**

It's too early to say.

» **Is there a question mark over which WSE Taranaki is in?**

Taranaki and the northern part of the Manawatu/Whanganui region, along with Coromandel and top of the South Island, are areas where the Government is open to further feedback from iwi/hapū and local councils before making a final decision on the WSE's.

» **It's a big call, shouldn't there be a referendum where ratepayers can have their say?**

At this early stage there are far too many variables and unknowns to hold a well-informed referendum.

» **Why hasn't NPDC declared its position publicly on the proposed reforms?**

It is early days and the Council is keeping an open mind as it works through a large amount of information. The Council will consider a substantive report (in an open meeting) later in September. Any resident is welcome to attend that meeting.