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# Assessment of water and sanitary services





The last full assessment of the water and sanitary services plan was completed in 2005. There has been significant uncertainty in the waters sector over the last few years with the proposed transition to a '3 Waters' framework under the previous government. This has been replaced by 'Local Water Done Well' under the current government, with the introduction of new legislation in mid-2024 that will establish a new water services system. This system will require councils to develop Water Services Delivery Plans to demonstrate their intention and commitment to deliver water services in ways that are financially sustainable, meet regulatory quality standards for water network infrastructure and water quality, and to unlock housing growth. Through the development of these plans' council will provide an assessment of their water infrastructure, how much they need to invest, and how they plan to finance and deliver it through their preferred service delivery model, which has yet to be identified.

A comprehensive condition review has been completed of the 3 Waters Networks across the district and council has allocated additional funding in the Long-Term Plan to renew pipework and supporting infrastructure.

Applications will be processed to address water consents that have expired or will expire shortly. Water supply consents are coming under greater scrutiny as the demand for water from multiple sources continues to increase. Several interventions are being investigated to reduce demand including leak detection, pressure management and universal metering.

The Water Safety Plans for each of the seven water supplies across the district have been reviewed and updated recently. Source Water Risk Management Plans have been drafted for all the large water supplies and work on the smaller supplies will be completed in 2024. A Drinking Water Compliance Technician will be employed to assist with the monitoring of the councils' compliance with the Taumata Arowai Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and the Water Services Act 2021.

Six of the districts seven wastewater treatment plants require upgrading to be compliant Concurrently, the volume of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) occurring during weather events will be investigated to enable a reduction in the capacity requirements of the new wastewater treatment plants. To support this and other critical waters infrastructure development a district 3 Waters Advisory Group with representation from a variety of stakeholders is being established to consider options and provide recommendations to council.

A stormwater strategy will be developed to address the immature and ad hoc nature of the current network. Only essential maintenance will be conducted on the stormwater network in the short term until this strategy is completed.



# Waste management and minimisation plan

Council is consulting on a Draft 2024 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), as required by the Waste Management Act 2008.

The draft 2024 WMMP signals an increased focus on efficient management, waste minimisation and waste diversion now that transfer stations and recycling facilities are in place. Council provides urban kerbside collections in the larger towns that meet the mandated government standards, while a glass recycling facility in Dannevirke enables consolidation and transporting of sorted glass to Auckland for reuse. New initiatives will include increased education in the community on reuse and waste reduction, as well as improvements to facilities that increase Council abilities to reduce waste to landfill.

Council is facing some major decisions around the management, operations and disposal of waste for Tararua. Waste disposal costs have increased significantly in recent years placing high costs on the community. Council faces challenges to reduce waste to landfill, including the high proportion of organic waste in the waste stream. Proposed government mandated urban food waste collections may not now be imposed. Costs of urban kerbside organic collections are high, and similar waste reductions may be possible through more education and subsidised composting products. Increased waste reduction grant funds from Ministry for the Environment are now available to fund these and other improved recycling / diversion facility initiatives.

Council is signalling a major review of Solid Waste services in the 2024/25 year through a s17A process. This will deliver to Council recommendations on management and operational changes that would best achieve the goals and objectives from the adopted 2024 WMMP in an affordable manner.

Council operates a landfill at Pongaroa. The consent for this has expired with Council lodging intention to renew this consent. The future of this facility will be included in the s17A business case work.

Overall, Council considers that this Long Term Plan is consistent with the strategies and major issues contained in the Draft 2024 WMMP.