

**From:** [Allie Dunn](#)  
**Subject:** Response to request for information relating to Water Services Organisation  
**Date:** Friday, 26 September 2025 3:36:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 24 September 2025 regarding the following matters:

- The current status of water services assets
- The assessed condition and estimated lifespan of each town's pipeline infrastructure
- Projected upgrade costs and timeframes for each town's pipelines
- Governance and oversight arrangements for the new Water Services Organisation
- Prioritisation of works across the four member Council districts

I understand you have received a link to the Water Services Delivery Plan, which was adopted by Council at its extraordinary meeting on 20 August 2025. This document is available for download via the meeting agenda at the following link:

[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2025/08/C\\_20082025\\_AGN\\_4064\\_AT\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2025/08/C_20082025_AGN_4064_AT_EXTRA.PDF)

From page 17 onwards, the Delivery Plan outlines the status of the three waters assets and details the projected capital expenditure required to maintain and improve water services over the next decade.

Regarding the operational structure of the new Water Services Organisation—Wairarapa Tararua Water Ltd (hereafter referred to as “the Company”)—the diagram below illustrates the governance and oversight arrangements in place for the Company. Under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (section 45), the Water Services Organisation is deemed to be a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1993:



The four member Councils, Tararua, Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa, will appoint one representative each to the Stakeholders' Forum.

The Stakeholders' Forum is responsible for developing a Statement of Expectations, which will be issued to the Company's Board of Directors. Defined under the Local Government Act, the Statement of Expectations outlines how the Company is to manage its relationships with the shareholding Councils, their communities, and iwi, hapū, and other Māori organisations. It requires the Company to operate in alignment with the statutory obligations of the shareholding Councils and may also include additional expectations—such as fostering community engagement, collaborating with shareholders, and ensuring effective service delivery.

Each Council's appointed representative on the Stakeholders' Forum will play a key role in monitoring the Company's performance and providing guidance on shareholder-related matters.

The Board of Directors must govern the Company in accordance with the Statement of Expectations. It is also responsible for setting the Water Services Strategy, which will prioritise infrastructure and service needs across the districts of all four Councils. The Company will be subject to regulatory oversight by the relevant Regional Councils, Taumata Arowai (New Zealand's Water Services Regulator), and the Commerce Commission.

In addition, the Company must comply with the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. This legislation mandates that water services be reliable, resilient to external pressures such as climate change and natural hazards, and of a quality that meets consumer expectations. Services must also meet all regulatory standards, including the provision of safe drinking water.

The Act further requires the Company to deliver water services in a cost-effective and financially sustainable manner. This includes long-term infrastructure planning, efficient use of water resources, and sharing the benefits of operational efficiencies with consumers—particularly when setting service charges.

Ngā mihi



**Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer**  
**Democracy Services | Tararua District Council**

Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626  
Email: [Allie.Dunn@TararuaDC.govt.nz](mailto:Allie.Dunn@TararuaDC.govt.nz)  
Address: 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115  
Website: [www.tararuaDC.govt.nz](http://www.tararuaDC.govt.nz)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tararuaDC](https://www.facebook.com/tararuaDC)



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