



Internal Affairs
Te Tari Taiwhenua

31 October 2025

Malcolm Alexander
Chief Executive
Taranua District Council
[REDACTED]

45 Pipitea Street
Thorndon
PO Box 805
Wellington 6140
www.dia.govt.nz

Dear Malcolm,

Thank you for submitting your water services delivery plan (Plan) for Taranua District Council on 29 August 2025. As your Plan proposes a joint council-controlled organisation, with South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils, the Department has assessed your Plan alongside the plans submitted by those Councils.

The Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) has assessed your plan in accordance with s 20(1)(b) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act). The assessment process for your plan included:

- a financial and technical assessment, to confirm the plan meets the financial sustainability requirements outlined in the Act, and
- a legislative assessment, to ensure that all requirements set out in the Act have been met.

The assessment was considered by a Panel consisting of senior representatives from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited, the Local Government Funding Agency, the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority, and the Department of Internal Affairs. The Panel also included an external observer, whose role was to ensure the integrity and consistency of the Panel discussion. The Panel was chaired by Department's Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme.

Conflict of interest assessments were undertaken for all individuals involved in the assessment process.

Following the Panel discussion and on the recommendation of the Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme, I am pleased to inform you that I have accepted your plan under s 20(1)(b) of the Act.

Next steps

As soon as is practicable, the Plan for Taranua District Council must be published on the relevant Council websites. Once this has been confirmed, the acceptance decision and plan assessment report will be shared with you and subsequently published on the Department's website.

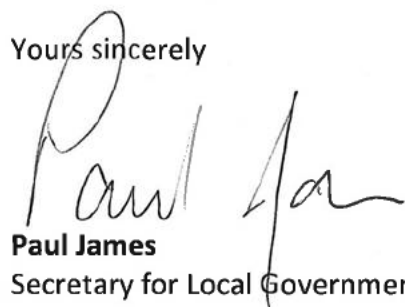
The Department will be in contact with you over the coming months regarding next steps for monitoring the implementation of your Plan.

The Department would like to highlight the following aspects of your Plan that will be monitored during implementation:

- early engagement with LGFA regarding financing for the joint water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO);
- the projected water services charges for the Tararua District;
- the delivery of the capital programme for the joint WSCCO and consideration of critical assets in the Tararua District; and
- the pricing structure and strategy for the joint WSCCO.

I would like to acknowledge the level of detail and time that Tararua District Council has put into developing its Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul James
Secretary for Local Government