



Late Reports

Tararua District Council

Wednesday 29 January 2025

1. Reports

- L.1 Appointment of representatives to the Local Waters Done Well - Wairarapa Tararua - Advisory Oversight Group (AOG)**

3



Report

Date : 29 January 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Peter Wimsett
Chief Advisor

Subject : **Appointment of representatives to the Local Waters Done Well -
Wairarapa Tararua - Advisory Oversight Group (AOG)**

Item No : **L.1**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 ***That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 29 January 2025 concerning the Appointment of representatives to the Local Waters Done Well - Wairarapa Tararua - Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) be received.***
- 1.2 ***That Council receives the report.***
- 1.3 ***Notes that Council is making use of the alternative decision-making and consultation arrangements provided in the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.***
- 1.4 ***Notes that the Local Government (Water Services) Bill which will establish the enduring settings for the new water system including the economic and regulatory oversight functions has been introduced into Parliament.***
- 1.5 ***Notes that the three Wairarapa district councils of Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa, and Tararua District Council have agreed to consult their communities on the Wairarapa + Tararua “Wai + T” water services delivery option alongside their enhanced status quo options.***
- 1.6 ***Confirm that Tararua District Council membership of the Advisory Oversight Group to be the Mayor and the Chair of the Infrastructure and Climate Change, Emergency Committee; and***
- 1.7 ***To delegate to the Tararua members of the Advisory Oversight Group to develop a draft consultation document for the Wairarapa + Tararua water services delivery option for later adoption by Council; and***
- 1.8 ***Agrees that the Wairarapa + Tararua water services delivery model will be a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation; and***
- 1.9 ***Agrees to progress the Wairarapa + Tararua water services delivery option to include stormwater.***

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Tararua District Council is collaborating with the Councils of the Wairarapa to develop a Consultation Document.
- 2.2 We now seek confirmation as to who the Tararua representatives will be.
- 2.3 Council is also legislatively required to consult on Stormwaters inclusion or exclusion from transfer to a Water Council Controlled Organisation. This was a matter included in the reports dated 12 December 2024, for which we can now seek public views.

3. Reason for the Report

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement on matters to further the development of the Wairarapa + Tararua water services delivery option for consultation with the community in March/April 2025.

4. Background

- 4.1 Officers reported to the 11 December 2024 council meeting on the progress of the Government's Local Water Done Well programme and sought direction on options for the delivery of water services. Council agreed to continue the development of the Wairarapa and Tararua (Wai + T) water services delivery joint arrangement for three waters for consultation with the community.
- 4.2 The Chief Executives of the three Wairarapa District Councils and Tararua District Council have now recommended to their respective mayors to reprise a committee formed last year named the Advisory Oversight Group Committee. Its purpose concluded with the respective decisions made by each council over November and December 2025, to agree to consult on the Wai+T option alongside their enhanced status quo option.

There is a very short timeframe to develop a consultation document following these decisions to ensure a decision can be made following consultation at the earliest opportunity, prior to the end of June 2025. This may also necessitate a need for extraordinary meetings over the coming months, if so required. Ideally, the draft consultation document will be prepared for the Council meeting on 26 February 2025.

All councils need to have a common position on the content of the consultation document. A practical approach therefore is for respective Councils to delegate this drafting for oversight by each of their committee representatives.

5. Description

- 5.1 We have been requested to consider an extraordinary item of business for decision at this meeting. The item is to agree to appoint two Tararua District Council representatives on a committee that formed on 28 January 2025. A Consultation Document with jointly agreed content by each Council needs to be developed over the next two to three weeks for the respective Councils to adopt for consultation. This matter cannot be delayed until then the next February Council meeting where the document is intended to be presented. Therefore, the Council is asked to agree to take this item as an extraordinary item of business.

6. Options

- 6.1 A draft Terms of Reference is being developed with legal advice from solicitors Russell McVeigh for the AOG Committee. Councils have been asked to nominate two members for the Committee along with a representative from each Iwi.
- 6.2 Mayor Tracey Collis has attended the previous Committee meeting, but this is now a reprise of the previous Committee to address matters arising over about the next six to eight months regarding the reform.
- 6.3 It is suggested that with a second elected member now recommended to be appointed by each Council, that as this matter directly affects Councils provision of infrastructure, that the Chair our Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee, Councillor Kerry Sutherland, be appointed to be Tararua District Council's second governance representative on the AOG committee.

7. Significance Assessment

- 7.1 This is not considered a matter of significance because the Council will receive recommendations from the AOG Committee on a draft Consultation Document on Local Waters Done Well reform and Council will be the decision maker of its adoption.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The timelines for this process remain constrained. It is expected that a Consultation Document on Local Waters Done Well will now be developed through the AOG Committee, and this will then be provided to Council for resolution.

Attachments

Nil.