

Help shape the future of water delivery in Ōpōtiki

Help us decide how drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services will be delivered here in the Ōpōtiki district.

**Have
Your Say**
Connect
Hono Mai
before 4pm
Tuesday 3 June

Like other councils across Aotearoa, we need to change the way drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services are delivered. This is called Local Water Done Well – LWDW for short.

What is LWDW?

LWDW is the government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing challenges with water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. It seeks similar outcomes to the previous-government's Three Waters with similar outcomes but moves the decision to councils and communities.

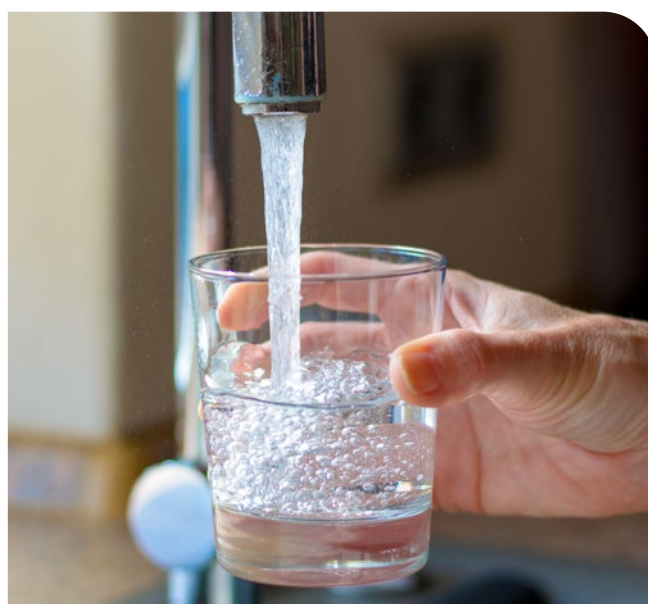
The legislation aims to make sure that water services are good quality and cost-effective and that whoever is providing water services (councils or Water Service Organisations) are investing sufficiently in infrastructure in the long term.

With the community's input, council needs to decide how water services will be delivered in our district in the future. We have to consult on at least two options, including a standalone inhouse model.

We are consulting on:

- In-house business unit while we explore our options for the best long term solution.
- Joining a new water services organisation with neighbouring councils.

Find out what these could mean for you.



Where to find out more



connect.odc.govt.nz – here you can find reports, FAQs, council papers and have your say when consultation opens.

Find out about the options at **odc.govt.nz**

OPTION 1: In-house business unit while we explore our options

**Council's
preferred
option**

Council's preferred option is to continue to deliver water services through the Council via a standalone internal business unit, while continuing to explore options for establishing a joint water services organisation.

What does this look like?

We would manage all day-to-day operations, maintenance, planning for future water needs, and repaying any water-related debt within council. However, we would 'ringfence' the water services, keeping their funding and management separated. We may share some services with other councils or contract some operations out where this was efficient, but this would not provide the same level of cost savings as being a part of a joint water services organisation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Main advantages	Main risks and disadvantages
• Decision-making stays local • Easier integration with other council responsibilities • Community and mana whenua accountability and engagement remains the same • Familiar structure reduces transition issues or confusion • Opportunity to share services were helpful (but unlikely to lead to significant cost savings).	• Higher prices – while average cost-per-connection would be similar, it is likely this option would be more expensive over the next ten years. • Limit borrowing flexibility (more borrowing in this area limits borrowing in other parts of council) • Doesn't easily address funding challenges 10-30 years out • Higher government regulations would have to be funded on our own • No efficiency savings from economies of scale.

Have Your Say Connect Hono Mai

You can read the full Consultation Document, ask questions, read reports and find out how you can talk to your local representatives on our website – connect | Hono Mai

Consultation timeline

6 May – 3 June 2025	Consultation is open
Early June	Summarise submissions for council consideration
Late June	Councillors decide approach to be pursued in the Water Services Delivery Plan
3 September	Council must have provided a Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs by this date

You can have your say online, email, submission form or write a letter. Visit www.odc.govt.nz

OPTION 2:

Join a new water services organisation

What does this look like?

Council would join with neighbouring councils to form a new water services organisation which would handle water services across the whole area, taking on each council's water-related debt and assets. It would have a professional board of directors appointed by the shareholding councils and the role of council would be to guide the board through a Statement of Expectations.

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Main advantages	Main risks and disadvantages
• Lower prices – it is likely this option would be cheaper than if we continued to deliver water services on our own. • Professional oversight through the board and CEO • Greater capacity and more specialised staff • Investment plan continuity over the long term • Long-term savings through combined resources • Efficient borrowing with similar rates to councils but more flexible financing approach • More flexibility for other council activities as water-related debts and costs are off its books.	• Decision making is less local • Transition challenges and costs • Stranded costs – some costs currently shared across council may not be able to be transferred to the organisation (leaving those with council) • Uncertainty with who we would partner with.

Comparing costs side-by-side

CURRENT	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
Approx current water costs per ratepayer per year	Preferred option – standalone business unit in council	Alternative option – water services organisation
\$2,254	\$4,210 to \$4,430 Costs are similar in the short term (around three years) but costs are projected to increase by 2034 depending on how much debt council takes on to specifically fund water services.	Up to \$4,230 per annum within 10 years Noticeably cheaper in the long term depending on the mix of councils involved and the agreed approach of the organisation to pricing.

Submission form

Privacy Act note: Submissions form part of the public consultation process so they will be copied and attached to a publically available agenda and stay on Council minute records.



Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

.....

.....

Phone (daytime):

Email:

**Submissions close 4pm,
Tuesday 3 June 2025.**

We will let you know that we have received your submission. All submissions will be made available to the Mayor and councillors, who will take them into consideration when finalising the Water Services Delivery Plan.

Your feedback For more information on each option please view the consultation document and/or the supporting information on our website. Please tick the option you support.

Local water Done Well

☐

OPTION 1

Delivering water services through a standalone business unit within Council, while we continue to explore establishing a joint water services organisation (preferred option)

☐

OPTION 2

Joining a new water services organisation (alternative option to continue exploring)

☐

OPTION 3

Don't know / Other

Other feedback

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

You can get this submission form back to us by:

POST

PO Box 44
Ōpōtiki 3162

DELIVER

Council office
or Ōpōtiki Library

SCAN AND EMAIL

info@odc.govt.nz

Thank you for taking the time to have your say

