

WHERE'S WATER @ RANGITIKEI?

Have your say on the future delivery
of drinking water, wastewater and
stormwater in Rangitikei.



KŌRERO MAI

We need to receive your
feedback by 5pm on
Wednesday, 2 April 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mihi

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rau
rangatira mā o te rohe nei o Rangitikei,
tēnā koutou katoa.

Mihi mahana tēnei o te
Kaunihera o Rangitikei kia tātou katoa e
noho ana ki roto i te rohe nei,
nau mai, whakatau mai rā

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga,
Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai,
E hī ake ana te atakura,
He tio, he huka, he hau hū,
Tīhei Mauriora!

The Rangitikei District Council
acknowledges all those who live
within our District.

We send a warm welcome to you all.

Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with
a sharpened air
A touch of frost, a promise of a
glorious day!

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When you spot a QR code in this document, just open your camera and hold it over the QR code, a link will pop up, click on it and it will take you to supporting information on our website.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER IN RANGITIKEI

Tēnā, tukuna mai ō whakaaro mō te karere wai-ā-rohe o Rangitikei, arā te wai inu, te waipara, me te wai ua.

Everyone who calls Rangitikei home is encouraged to participate in 'Where's Water @ Rangitikei?' by providing feedback on Rangitikei District Council's preferred future water services delivery model – as required by **Local Water Done Well**.

We are eager to hear feedback from everyone - all ages, ethnicities, and communities.



What's Local Water Done Well?
Find out on page 8.

IT'S EASY TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Anyone can make a submission on this Consultation Document by filling out the form online at www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-water or by completing a submission form.

Submission forms can be delivered to:

- **Marton Head Office**
46 High Street, Marton, 4710
- **Marton Community Hub**
31 High Street, Marton, 4710
- **Bulls Community Hub**
Te Matapihi, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls, 4818
- **Taihape Community Hub**
102 Hautapu Street (SH1), Taihape, 4720
- **Hunterville Village Bookshop**
16 Bruce Street, Hunterville 4730

Freepost to:

Rangitikei District Council - 172050
Private Bag 1102, Marton, 4741

Email: info@rangitikei.govt.nz

WHAT ARE THE THREE WATERS?

Drinking water



Drinking water is the water (usually from a tap) that is drunk or used for food preparation.

Wastewater



Wastewater is the used water that drains from your sinks, bathrooms, laundries and toilets.

Stormwater



Stormwater is the water that runs off surfaces like your roofs, roads, driveways and footpaths.

CONSULTATION MILESTONES

Ngā Kōrero Whakahiato

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



CONSULTATION OPEN

5th March 2025

This is your opportunity to provide feedback for Council to consider when making its final decision.



CONSULTATION CLOSED

2nd April 2025

Please provide feedback before this date to ensure it is considered.



HEARINGS

16th April 2025

You will be given the opportunity to speak to Elected Members directly about your feedback (If you would like this opportunity, please note this on your submission form).



DELIBERATIONS AND DECISION

22nd May 2025

Rangitikei District Council will consider your feedback and finalise its future water services delivery model.



Council officers will now finalise the Rangitikei District Council **Water Services Delivery Plan**. This plan will include an outline of how it will implement its future water services delivery model.



PROPOSAL

By 3 September 2025

Rangitikei District Council must submit its proposed **Water Services Delivery Plan** to central government.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find more information on any part of this process, or this document, you can:



Visit our website
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-water



Contact our Council staff by calling
0800 422 522 or contact one of our Councillors



Email us at **info@rangitikei.govt.nz**



Attend one of our **Community Meetings**.

- **Bulls @ Te Matapihi Hall**
6-7pm 11th March
- **Taihape @ Kokako Street Hall**
6-7pm 19th March
- **Marton @ Friendship Club Hall**
6-7pm 20th March



Submit a question for elected members and staff to answer in our Q&A video:
comms@rangitikei.govt.nz or
direct message us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/RangitikeiDC



KŌRERO MAI

We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Wednesday, 2 April 2025



Full **Local Water Done Well** timeline can be found on page 23.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Nā te Koromatua

Tēnā koe, Rangitikei residents deserve to have access to clean, reliable and sustainable water services for generations. Throughout my time as Mayor, I have witnessed successive governments grapple with the complexities of water services delivery about as steadily as critical water services infrastructure has declined in functionality. Council have invested considerably in working to improve Rangitikei water infrastructure, and we have made good progress. However, more work is needed.

Local Water Done Well is the next proposed central government solution to future proofing some of our most critical assets, ensuring their functional and financial sustainability for the future. It focuses on empowering local councils to determine their own destiny, whilst implementing increased central government oversight of the way we manage our water assets.

The Government has strongly indicated that collaboration is a vital component of **Local Water Done Well**, and we as Rangitikei District Council recognise working together with our neighbours should achieve the greatest efficiencies for the Rangitikei. The long-term sustainability of partnership with other councils cannot be underestimated. We are a small council who need to be smart and realistic about how we move forward.

I would like to acknowledge the extensive work done by Council Officers over the last 12 months, ensuring myself and elected members are as informed as possible to engage with this incredibly complex work – and navigating the ever-changing political landscape.

It is now over to you, the residents we serve, to have your say. Although understandably difficult to picture or quantify at this early stage, **Local Water Done Well** will directly impact the way you and your whānau access water in future – not least because from 2028, you will most likely receive a separate bill for water services from the new 'entity' in your mailbox.

Local Water Done Well

represents some of the most significant change to Local Government since 1989 and I strongly encourage you to engage in this important work.

Read and digest this document and talk with your community and whānau about what it means for you and the Rangitikei. If you are unsure or would like more information, Councillors and I would love to see you at one of the community meetings held across the district in the coming month:

- **Bulls @ Te Matapihi Hall**
6-7pm 11th March
- **Taihape @ Kokako Street Hall**
6-7pm 19th March
- **Marton @ Friendship Club Hall**
6-7pm 20th March

It is incredibly important we get this right. Understanding the perspective of the community we serve is always a vital component of our decision-making process. We are eager to hear the perspective of the Rangitikei community during this consultation.



Ngā mihi,

Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



RANGITIKEI WATER SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Te Ratonga Wai o Rangitikei



We currently have **12 staff** employed at Rangitikei District Council who ensure that when you flush your toilet, turn on your tap, and water your garden, everything works as it should.

Water infrastructure makes up

19%

of Rangitikei District Council's total asset value.



Drinking water



On average,

700M litres

of drinking water is supplied to residents each year.

Rangitikei District Council is currently responsible for

448km

of drinking water pipes.

Wastewater



On average,

140M litres

of wastewater is treated across our seven wastewater plants each year.

Rangitikei District Council is currently responsible for

152km

of wastewater pipes.

Rangitikei District Council's three waters infrastructure services

5000 connections

across the Rangitikei¹

In addition, the Rangitikei is home to

four rural water schemes

with our staff supplying support to these schemes to varying degrees.

Stormwater

Stormwater flows through

70km

of pipes and

85 km

of open drains that our staff manage.



How much of my rates bill goes to water services?

In the 2024/25 financial year, residential rate payers are paying an average of:

- \$1,220.00² for drinking water service,
- \$698.30 for wastewater service, and
- \$196.26 for stormwater service³.

That's on average, **50%** of your total 2024/25 rates bill.⁴



¹ This is an average: Wastewater is a little more at 5,518 connections. Drinking water is a little lower at 4,670 connections. Over the next 10 years, we expect the number of connections to grow at a rate of 0.5% per annum - that's 5% growth over a 10 year period.

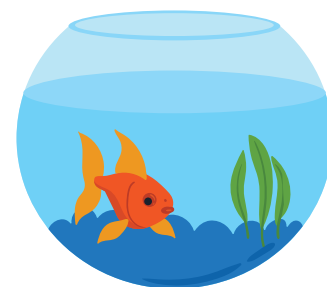
² where there are multiple units on a property this will increase.

³ This excludes volume water charges

⁴ This average is based on a resident connected to all three water services.

WHAT IS LOCAL WATER DONE WELL?

He aha te tikanga o 'Local Waters Done Well'?



Local Water Done Well is the Government's new plan for managing Aotearoa New Zealand's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

Local Water Done Well aims to:



Tackle Aotearoa New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges **by enhancing the quality, sustainability, and affordability of water services nationwide.**



Introduce new **economic and quality regulations** to improve service standards.



Ensure water services are **future-proofed and financially sustainable.****



Make water services delivery **more effective and efficient.**

** This means the revenue generated from water services meets the cost of delivering those water services.



Under Local Water Done Well, city and district councils must:

- **Meet new financial and regulatory requirements**, ensuring water services are ring-fenced (i.e. the financial administration of water services must be kept separate from the rest of council).
- **Invest in infrastructure** to address long-standing issues.
- **Set fair prices** that reflect the cost of delivering water services.
- **Develop a fit-for-purpose Water Services Delivery Plan by early September 2025** outlining how they will meet these requirements.

Like city and district councils across Aotearoa New Zealand, Rangitikei District Council is facing varied and increasingly critical challenges maintaining and future proofing its water services. Our infrastructure requires extensive upgrading to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and able to serve Rangitikei residents for generations to come.

A key feature of **Local Water Done Well** is that councils have the **flexibility to choose a water services delivery model that will best meet the needs of their community**, provided it also meets financial sustainability and compliance standards.

CHOOSING THE BEST WATER SERVICES DELIVERY MODEL FOR RANGITIKEI IS WHAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS IN THIS CONSULTATION.

WHAT IS A WATER SERVICES DELIVERY PLAN?

Water Services Delivery plans are a way for councils to demonstrate their commitment to deliver water services that meet regulatory requirements, support growth and urban development, and that are financially sustainable.

Under Local Water Done Well, Councils across Aotearoa New Zealand must submit their **Water Services Delivery Plan** by 3 September 2025. This plan is a one-off document that will outline Rangitikei District Council's path forward under **Local Water Done Well**, and act as a guiding document for the establishment of any multi council-controlled organisation.

More information about what is required to be included in the plan can be found at: www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation

Local Water Done Well

replaces the Labour Government's Affordable Water reforms (often referred to as Three Waters). To put it simply, while Three Waters and Affordable Water Reforms took a centralised view of the way water services should be managed, **Local Water Done Well** takes a more localised view – with central government oversight.



ACHIEVING SCALE IS IMPORTANT TO LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Since its election in October 2023, the Government has reiterated the need for councils to work together to achieve scale in the delivery of water services.

Basically, our modelling shows that the more people paying for water services, the better. More connections equal more efficient, effective, and sustainable water services delivery.

Adopting a Water Services Delivery Model with a larger scale – i.e. incorporating as many councils as possible – offers several advantages:

i

In August 2024, the then Minister for Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown, had this to say on multi-council collaboration for **Local Water Done Well**:
"Work together on joint water services arrangements where that makes sense to support financial sustainability, ease upward pressure on rates and provide for new infrastructure to support housing growth."



1. **Cost Efficiency:** Larger organisations reduce per-user costs for infrastructure investment, maintenance, and compliance with regulatory standards. This is because costs are spread across a larger ratepayer base.



2. **Shared Expertise:** Pooling resources allows access to a broader range of technical expertise, skilled staff, and operational capabilities, improving service quality and driving innovation.



3. **Enhanced Resilience:** A larger-scale model provides greater capacity to respond to emergencies, manage risks, and adapt to future challenges like climate change.



4. **Improved Investment Capability:** The bigger the entity, the greater the ability to leverage stronger financial positions to secure better funding, spread costs over a wider base, and invest in critical infrastructure upgrades.



5. **Regulatory Compliance:** Scaling up enables more efficient implementation of stringent health, environmental, and economic regulations. This means a greater focus on securing good environmental outcomes through more resourcing for compliance monitoring including consent conditions, and increased ability to meet or exceed compliance standards and targets.



6. **Equitable Financial Outcomes:** Multiple councils working together spreads costs more evenly, reducing financial pressure on smaller, rural communities with limited resources. It should be noted however that the approach to 'price harmonisation' – where all the water users serviced by the same water entity pay the same – still needs to be agreed on.

To put it simply, by achieving greater scale, councils can deliver more sustainable, affordable, and high-quality water services for their communities.

STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN SCALE AND LOCAL FLAVOUR

While scale is important to ensure the delivery of water services remains financially viable for residents, Rangitikei District Council has also spent time considering the need for local voice in any form of regional partnership.

Rangitikei is a large district with a small population and unique water services delivery considerations. We have a mostly rural population, many iwi who call Rangitikei home, and a challenging geographical landscape.

In delivering the government's **Local Water Done Well** policy, Rangitikei District Council thinks it is important to strike a balance between scale, economic efficiency, and local voice.

Your views will influence how Rangitikei District Council moves forward under **Local Water Done Well**.

Before writing a **Water Services Delivery Plan**, Rangitikei District Council needs to decide on the most practical water services delivery model for our district.

At its 12th December 2024 meeting, months of explorative research, collaboration with council's in the Manawātū-Whanganui region, and conversations with community members across the district culminated in Rangitikei District Council indicating its preferred future water services delivery model:

A multi council-controlled organisation with Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council.



IT'S NOW YOUR TURN TO HAVE YOUR SAY.

Who do you think should manage Rangitikei water services in the future?

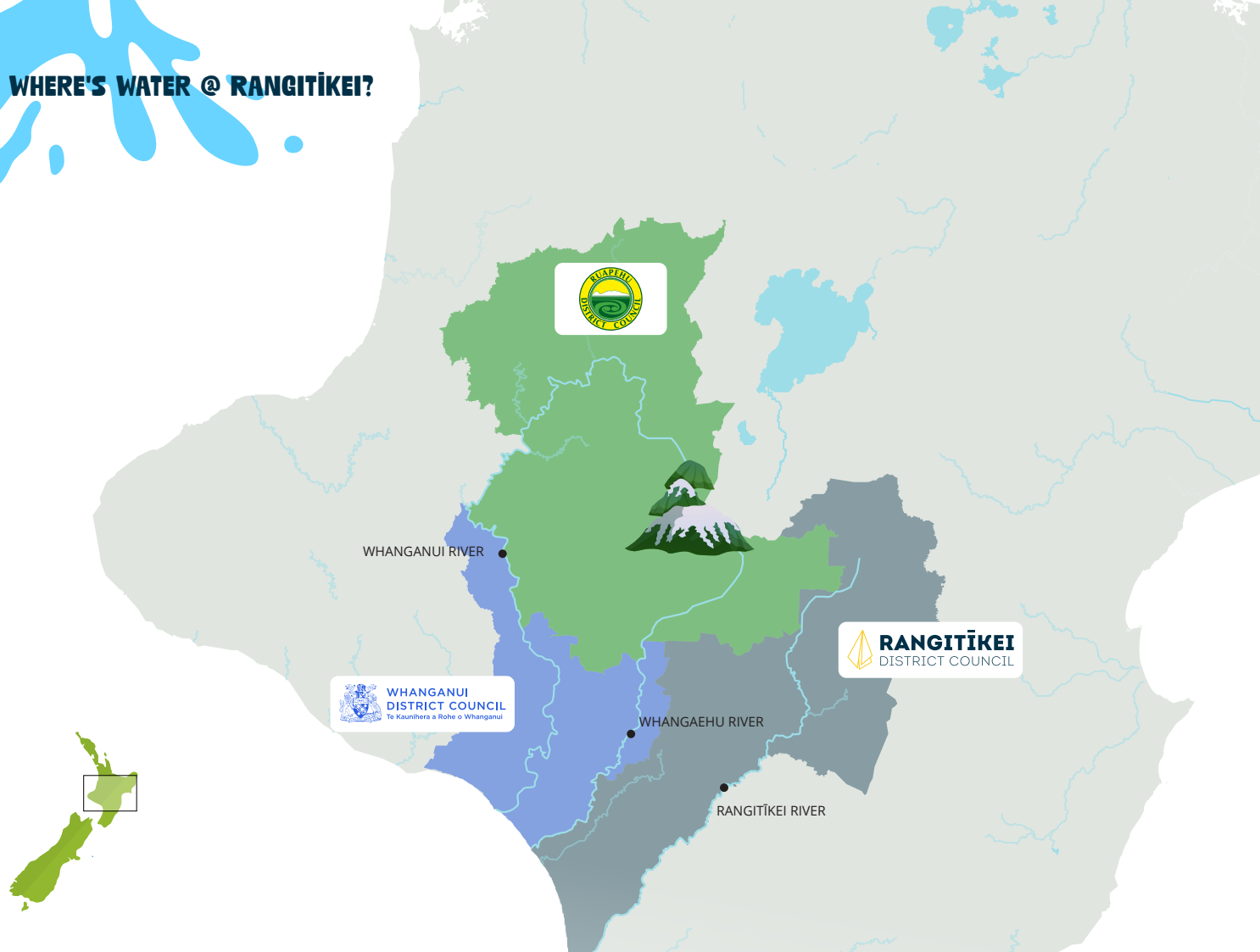
This consultation document outlines Rangitikei District Council's preferred future water services delivery model, and compares this with how water services are currently delivered in the Rangitikei (via in-house management).

For completeness and comparison, we have also included analysis of what it would look like if all councils in the Manawātū-Whanganui region joined together to deliver water services (we have called this Model 3).

KŌRERO MAI

We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Wednesday, 2 April 2025





MODEL 1 (COUNCIL'S PREFERRED OPTION)

Development of a multi council-controlled organisation with Rangitīkei District Council, Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council

WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

This model involves Rangitīkei District Council joining forces with Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council to form a multi council-controlled organisation.

Once established, this organisation would be responsible for the delivery of all water services for all three districts – managing approximately **31,000 water connections**.



Some key features to note about this model are:

1	Ownership	Our water assets would be owned by the councils who are the shareholders of the new multi-council controlled water organisation. This means water services would be charged by this organisation to those connected - not charged by Rangitīkei District Council as part of your rates bill.
2	Decision Making	A board of independent, professional directors would be appointed by the shareholding councils and be responsible for making decisions. The board would be informed by expectations which are set out and agreed upon by the three councils.
3	Community Involvement	The community would not be directly involved in decision making, although there would be consultations from time to time. However, councils could influence the organisation as shareholders.

Advantages of the Rangitikei-Ruapehu-Whanganui multi council-controlled organisation:

- With water services managed by a multi council-controlled organisation, Rangitikei District Council will have increased ability to focus on other community priorities such as roading, parks and reserves, and community hubs.
- Allows for the balancing of local voice and scale: This model achieves the scale required by government, whilst prioritising local voice at the decision making table.
- More political influence achieved through representing more people, more councils, and a bigger land mass.
- Rangitikei, Whanganui, and Ruapehu share natural catchments* (See map on page 12 for these natural catchments). This means this model allows for a shared-catchment approach to obligations to Ngā Awa**.
- The water organisation being divorced from election cycles enables longer-term relationship building with iwi/hapū and community.
- It also allows for recognition that rural water schemes are important to our rural communities. However until the legislation currently being considered in Parliament is finalised and passed into law, Rangitikei District Council remains uncertain about the best approach for safeguarding Rangitikei rural water supply schemes.

Disadvantages of the Rangitikei-Ruapehu-Whanganui multi council-controlled organisation

- More stakeholders involved in decision-making compared to status quo (in-house management - Model 2), could lead to risk of local voice having less influence.
- Higher set-up costs and complexities to develop an integrated water services delivery system than Model 2 (in-house management). However it is important to note these costs would be shared across the three councils.

* What is a natural catchment?

A natural catchment is a land area that collects and moves water, usually to a river, stream, or wetland.



**Ngā Awa

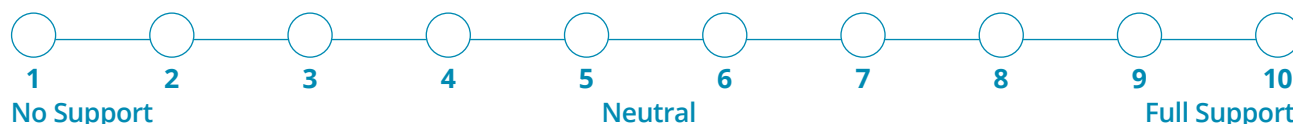
began in 2019 and is an extension of our existing work to slow the decline in Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity. It focuses on a diverse range of priority river catchments across the country.

KEY QUESTION 1*



Model 1 (Council's preferred option): A multi council-controlled organisation with Rangitikei District Council, Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council

1. How would you rate your level of support for Model 1?*



* Please record your response on the separate submission form.

MODEL 2

Maintain the current water services delivery model - in-house management*.

WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

This is essentially how water services are currently managed in the Rangitikei. Water services are included as part of your Rangitikei District Council rates bill.

Councils are legally required to demonstrate this model as a baseline, despite it being unlikely to meet legislative requirements for financial sustainability.

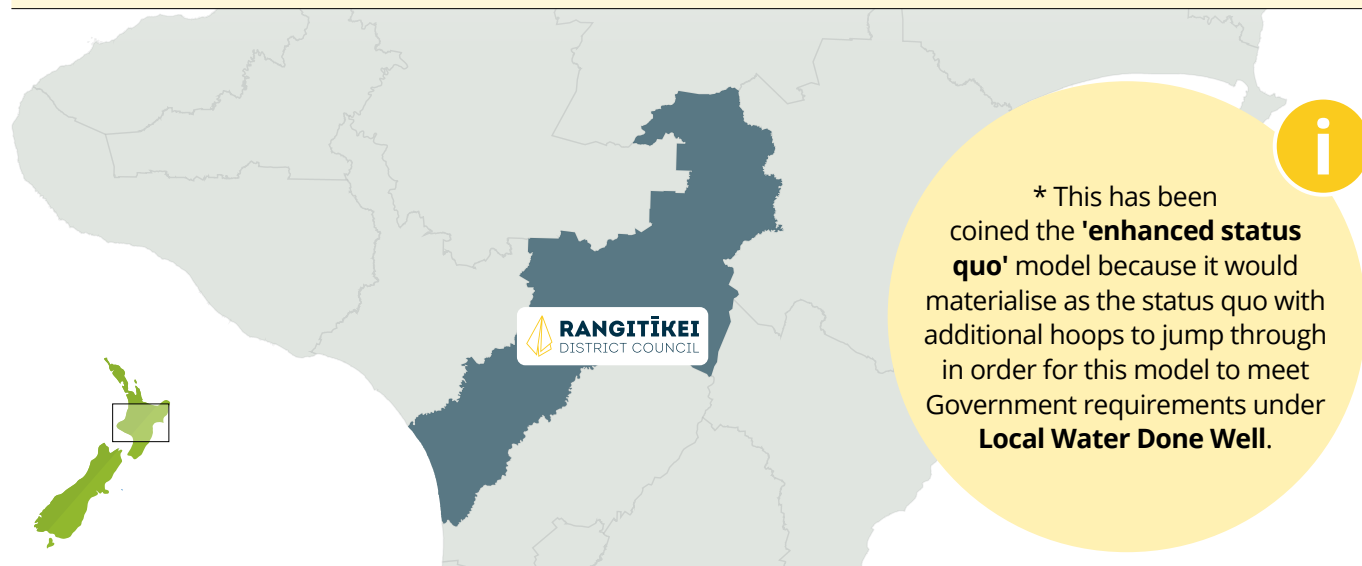


Advantages of in-house management

- Maintain total control of assets.
- Lower set-up cost compared to the establishment of a multi-council controlled organisation.
- Minimal change to rural water scheme management.
- Local voice is safeguarded.

Disadvantages of in-house management

- Under this model, Rangitikei District Council will not qualify for access to increased borrowing through the Local Government Funding Authority.
- This increased borrowing is required to ensure compliance and future sustainability of water infrastructure. Missed opportunity to work with neighbouring councils.

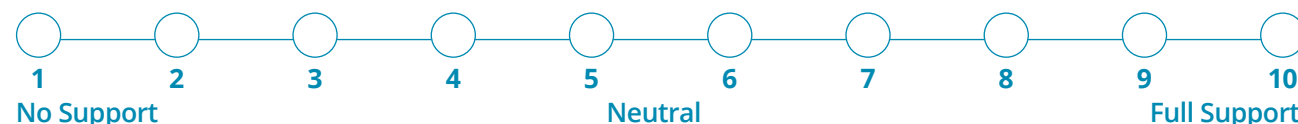


KEY QUESTION 2

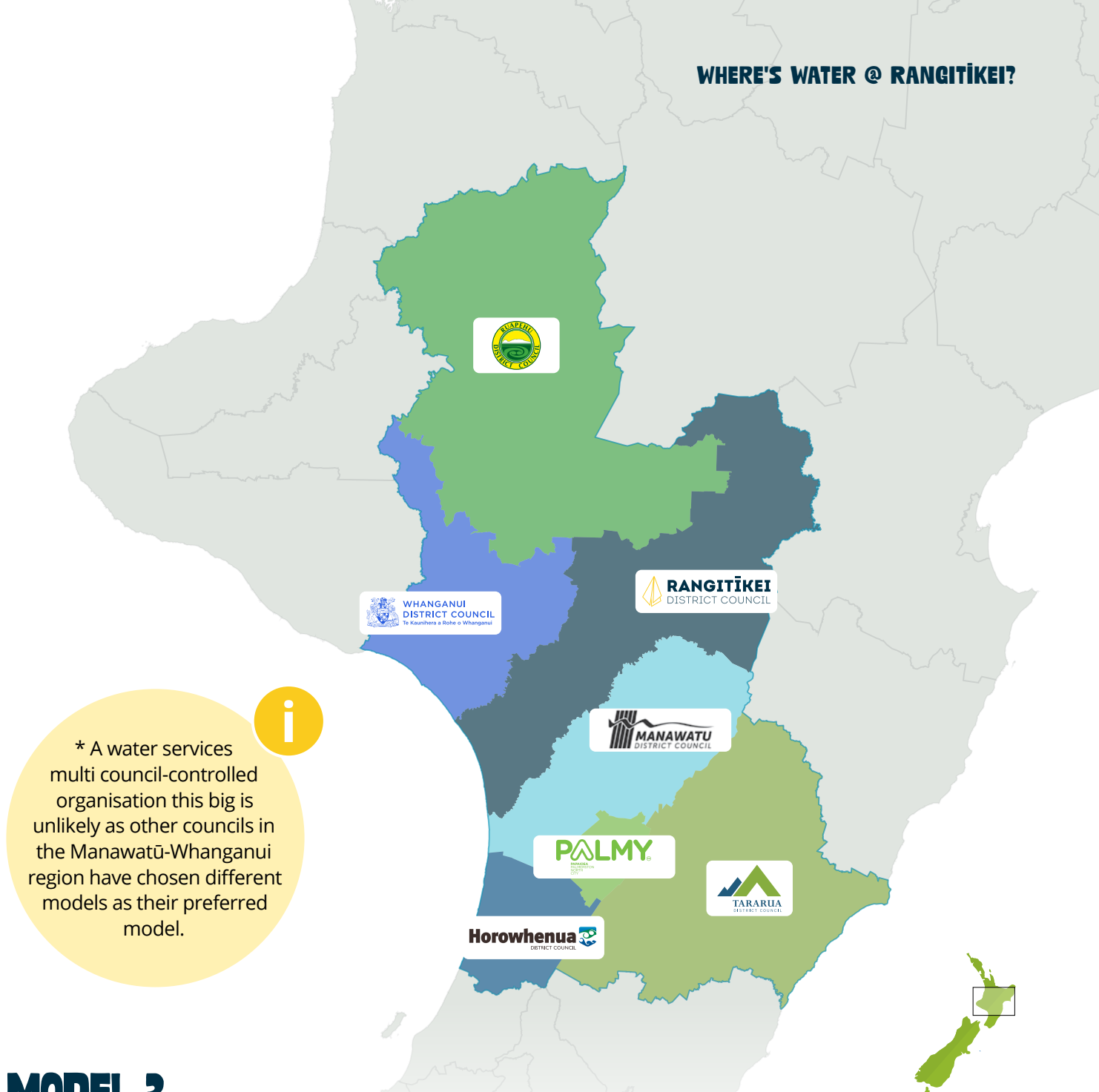
Model 2: Maintain the current delivery model, in-house management.



1. How would you rate your level of support for Model 2?*



* Please record your response on the separate submission form.



* A water services multi council-controlled organisation this big is unlikely as other councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region have chosen different models as their preferred model.

MODEL 3

A multi council-controlled organisation with as many councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible*

WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

This model is similar to Model 1, however, in addition to Whanganui/Ruapehu/Rangitikei District Councils, it could also include some or all of the following councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region: Tararua, Palmerston North, Horowhenua and/or Manawatu.

If created in its entirety, this regional multi council-controlled organisation could manage approximately 85,000 connections across all three waters.

The seven councils in the broader Manawatū-Whanganui region have been working together over the last year on the possibility of a regional multi-council approach to managing three waters.

While governance models and transitioning to a new organisation could be more challenging under this model (due to the sheer size of the region and competing considerations), delivering the best possible outcome for our communities is a shared priority and we recognise that the greater the scale of a new water entity, the greater the possible benefits for our communities (see page 10).



While Model 3 is not the 'preferred' option of any of the councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region, we are presenting this model to the Rangitikei community for completeness and comparison, to be transparent about our work to date, and in case some councils choose to re-enter discussions about this model.

Every other aspect of this model is the same as Model 1.

Advantages of Manawatū-Whanganui multi council-controlled organisations

This model has the advantages of benefits of scale (see page 10)

It also allows for:

- Greater efficiencies with larger number of councils, and costs spread over more ratepayers.
- The greatest political influence over government and regulators.
- A whole-of-catchment approach to obligations to Ngā Awa. i.e. The potential for an aligned strategy to care for natural catchments.
- Bigger organisations have more capacity to monitor the enforcement of users and their consents.

Disadvantages of Manawatū-Whanganui multi council-controlled organisations

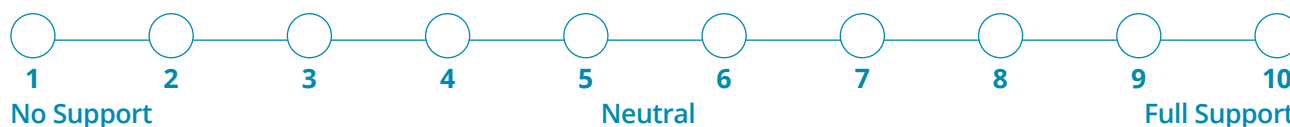
- More stakeholders involved in decision-making so less local influence.
- Higher set-up costs and complexities than in Model 1 to establish a multi council-controlled organisation.
- Potentially differing priorities between metropolitan and smaller district councils.
- Risk to rural water schemes not being proportionately considered.

KEY QUESTION 3



Model 3: A multi council-controlled organisation with as many councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible.

1. How would you rate your level of support for Model 3?*



* Please record your response on the separate submission form.

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

Aromatawai Ahumoni

We have made good investment decisions in the past and have budgeted for increased investment in three waters infrastructure in the Long Term Plan 2024-34. However, the new requirements of **Local Water Done Well** are expected to increase the cost to deliver water services in the future.

¹ The financial modelling for Model 3 was carried out as part of the 2024 Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Options Appraisal Project.

IMPACT ON RATES

Councils and the government agree that water will cost all communities a lot more in the future – regardless of what model we proceed with. That's due to a range of things like mitigation for climate change, population growth, ageing infrastructure, new standards increasing the cost of compliance, health requirements and government policy.

Below is a financial projection of what Rangitikei residents could expect to pay on average for water under our preferred future water services delivery model (Model 1). We have compared this with continuing to deliver water services via in-house management (Model 2), and our largest model option – all seven councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region (an idealist model that is not currently practicable as other councils have chosen not to put it forward for consultation – Model 3).

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	In 10 years	In 30 years
UNDER MODEL 1: Rangitikei, Ruapehu, Whanganui Council Controlled Organisation	-	-	-	\$2,274	\$2,884	\$3,811
UNDER MODEL 2: In-house management	\$2,387	\$2,609	\$2,846	\$3,081	\$4,160	\$5,467
UNDER MODEL 3¹: Manawatū-Whanganui Council Controlled Organisation (Rangitikei, Ruapehu, Whanganui Manawatū, Palmerston North, Horowhenua, Taranaki)	-	-	-	\$2,200	\$2,250	\$3,428



Until price harmonisation is introduced, the costs for bill payers in each district are expected to be similar to charges under Model 2.

Assumed point of price harmonisation*

Estimates include GST. The above numbers show the projected average cost for a resident connected to all three water services (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater). They include a provision for 'public good' charge. It is important to remember that the purpose of modelling is to provide a comparison between options, not a prediction of precisely what bill payers will pay in future.

Factors which impact why the development of a water-services multi council-controlled organisation is more financially viable than continuing under in-house management:

1. Water services charges are shared across everyone, including compliance costs (see page 10).
2. Access to greater debt facilities, with associated ability to spread cost over a longer period.
3. The cost of debt is lower as a multi council-controlled organisation will likely pay lower interest rates than individual councils will (this is because being financially rated and having scale gives lenders more confidence).

***Price Harmonisation** is where all water users would pay the same price, regardless of which district their property resides. It is important to note price harmonisation as a principle of Model 1 has not been formally adopted and therefore is not guaranteed. Price harmonisation underpins the benefits of a joint model, but the details and the point at which it would come into effect still need to be finalised. For the purpose of financial analysis, model 1 and model 3 have assumed price harmonisation from year 2028/29. This is when the Council Controlled Organisation would likely become fully responsible for water services delivery - and the first year you would likely see a bill from the organisation for water services connection.



What is a 'public good' water charge?

A 'public good water charge' refers to a fee charged to all rate payers for water that is accessible to the public. The charge is applied to cover the cost of water services in public places – i.e. public toilets, parks and reserves.



IMPACT ON LEVELS OF SERVICE

Rangitikei District Council already has an agreed levels of service for its three waters. This levels of service is committed in Long Term Plans and reported on annually. No change is forecast to levels of service for the short term under any of the proposed models. However, it is important to note that a multi council-controlled organisation established in response to **Local Water Done Well** may subsequently reprioritise or address levels of service to ensure alignment between the geographical areas serviced by the multi council-controlled organisation, meet new regulatory requirements, and could develop efficiencies through shared purchasing power.

Additionally, there will be advantages and efficiencies in coordinating response and recovery efforts to emergencies and natural disasters across the region by a single entity.

HOW DEBT WORKS UNDER LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Water infrastructure is expensive – more expensive than the amount of money we charge you annually for water in your rates bill.

One way councils can afford to pay for big improvements to water services infrastructure is borrowing money. Currently, Rangitikei District Council is signaling it will have \$73M of debt by the end of 30 June 2025. **\$43.6M of this is water services debt.**

Taking into account the key water projects in progress (see page 21), and improvements we need to make to our water infrastructure to ensure it is compliant and resilient, we anticipate we will need to spend \$253M in capital alone by 30 June 2054. Under the current model (in-house management), Rangitikei District Council does not have the capacity to raise that level of debt.

If we progressed with Model 1 or Model 3 (The development of a multi-council controlled organisation):

Local Water Done Well would allow the new water organisation to borrow more money to fund infrastructure projects than what councils can. Currently we can borrow 1.75 times our revenue (or up to 175% debt to revenue ratio). A new multi-council controlled organisation would be able to borrow up to five times its revenue (up to 500% debt to revenue ratio) for water construction projects, and at a lower cost.

If we progressed with this model, our current water services debt would transfer to the new organisation, along with the water-related assets.

If we progressed with Model 2 (In-house management):

Local Water Done Well requires any assets, revenue, expenses and debt associated with water services to be kept separate or 'ring-fenced' from the wider services of council.

We also would not have access to the ability to borrow up to five times our revenue (500%), and therefore we would be unable to deliver the extensive programme of works required to future-proof our infrastructure.

This model does not meet the Government's standards for 'financial sustainability' and therefore is not feasible for Rangitikei.



KEY QUESTION 4

What are they key factors influencing your rating of each of the three models?

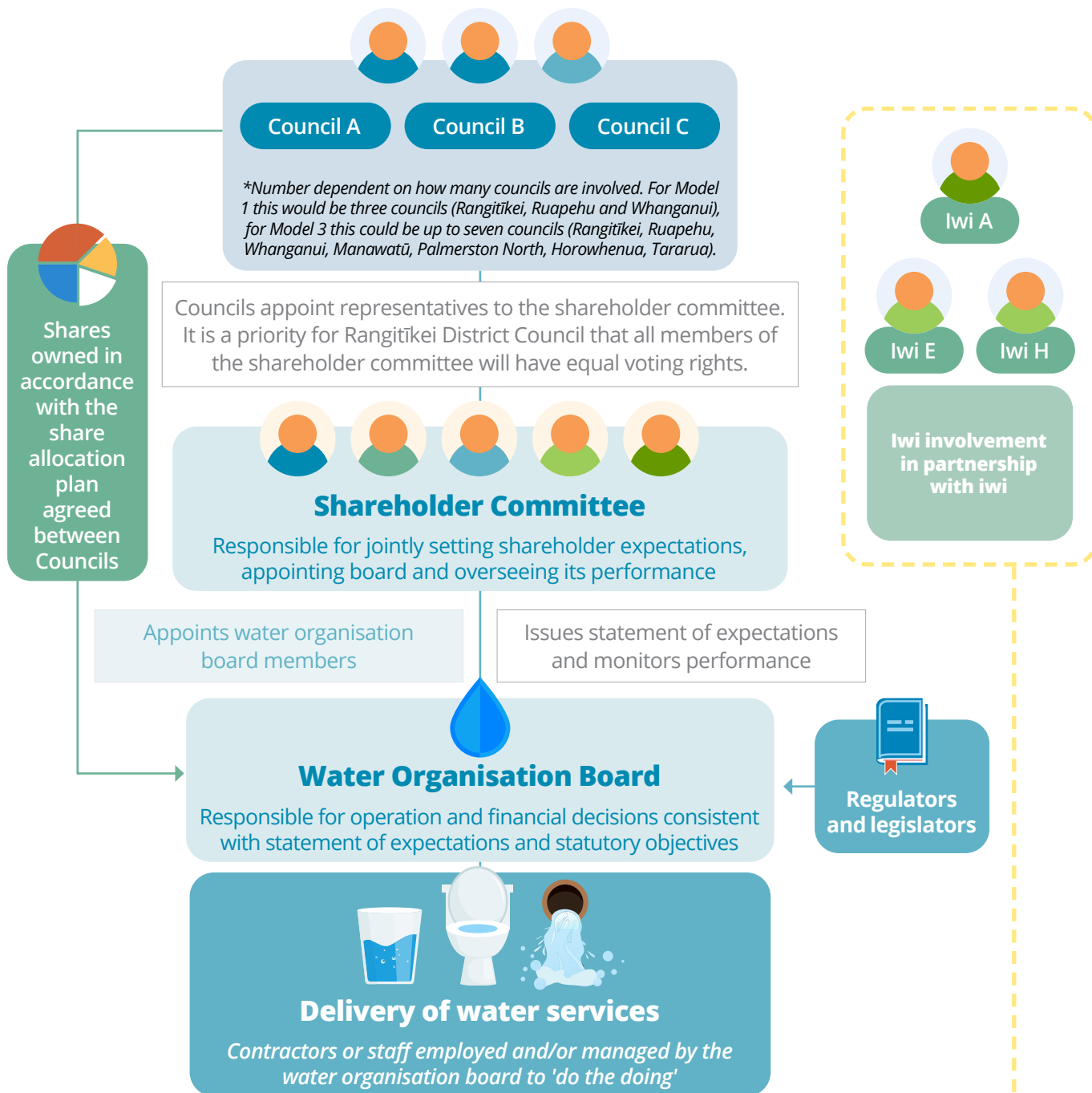
For example: cost, scale, local influence on decision making, shared connections to natural catchments.*

* Please record your response on the separate submission form.



Model 1 and Model 3 involve the development of a multi council-controlled organisation.

Sometimes it is difficult to provide your perspective on something that you cannot visualise. The following offers a graphic depiction* of what a multi council-controlled organisation COULD look like, and how it might function in relation to each council, iwi, and the actual delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.



*This is an example only.

Rangitikei District Council believes there is a role for iwi representation that brings a Te Ao Māori perspective to the shareholder decisions. The detail of iwi and hapū involvement should be addressed at the design phase of any water services council-controlled organisation, and draw on existing examples of good practice from local government and the water sector.



This sentiment is shared by both councils in our preferred option (Ruapehu and Whanganui). Once a model is decided by council (on May 22nd 2025), this involvement will be formalised in partnership with iwi and hapū. In the meantime, we will continue to work with iwi and hapū to identify meaningful opportunities for mana whenua input (for example through regular hui with Te Rōpū Ahi Kā).

OTHER MODELS CONSIDERED, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN THE MODELS PUT FORWARD FOR CONSULTATION

STAND-ALONE COUNCIL-CONTROLLED ORGANISATION

This would involve Rangitikei District Council developing its own council-controlled organisation for the management of water services.

Why this model is not proposed as a preferred model for consultation:

- Although a strong model in terms of local voice and setting local priorities, Rangitikei District Council agreed this model would be unlikely to meet the **Local Water Done Well** desirability for scale (see page 10).

CONSUMER TRUST

This would involve water consumers electing trustees (in a similar way to local body elections).

These elected trustees would play a role in appointing and monitoring performance of a water organisation board

Why this model is not proposed as a preferred model for consultation:

- The consumer trust model is not reasonably practical for Rangitikei due to cost and inability to access additional funding from the government.



KEY QUESTION 5

Do you have another model you would like Rangitikei District Council to consider?*

(Please note, your model should be one of the models mentioned already. While we will listen to any and all feedback, we are required to select from the following models: In-house management, Single CCO, multi-council CCO, or consumer trust).

I would like Rangitikei District Council to consider this model:

** Please record your response on the separate submission form.*



HOW WILL LOCAL WATER DONE WELL IMPACT WATER PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE RANGITIKEI?

Although the implementation of **Local Water Done Well** will likely impact how Rangitikei water services are governed, residents are unlikely to practically see this impact until 2028.

This is because the implementation of the future water services delivery model will take time to establish and be signed off by Government.

Local Water Done Well does not fundamentally impact key water projects in progress across the Rangitikei. Our teams are still working hard to deliver the water services upgrades agreed to as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE:



Marton Water Strategy:

This project began in 2019 and is due to be completed in 2025, with a six month transition period from the current reservoir water source to a bore water source. The strategy will ensure that Marton's water supply is more consistent for its end users. Eliminating the issues with taste and smell that residents have experienced over decades. It will also ensure that Marton's water supply is secured for future growth and development expected over the next 30 years.



Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation project:

Council officers have investigated a wide range of options to replace and upgrade the current system and have developed a shortlist of preferred options. A recommended option will be put forward to Council. You can expect to see consultation on this topic in mid-2025.



Upgrading Bulls Water Supply infrastructure:

Council are now in the process of commissioning a new quad pump for the Bulls water supply. Once the new supply is running, we will be decommissioning the Trickers Road Reservoirs, as they will not meet the necessary standards for drinking water and firefighting.



Lake Waipu Improvement and Rātana Pā Wastewater Treatment Project:

To improve the health and quality of Lake Waipu, Rangitikei District Council is working with Horizons Regional Council and the Ministry for the Environment to construct a new pipeline that will remove treated wastewater from Lake Waipu and discharge it to a piece of land near Whangaehu beach area. Once the treated wastewater is removed, Horizons Regional Council is looking into a restoration plan for Lake Waipu, including tree planting and ongoing quality monitoring.

You can read more about the progress of these projects on our website:
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/services/wheres-water-rangitikei



YOUR DECISION MAKERS - ELECTED MEMBERS

Ngā Kaikaunihera

This is your Council. You've elected representatives from across the Rangitīkei District to work alongside our community as we move towards making this place home.

We want to hear from you throughout this process. Get in touch with a Councillor from your ward if you would like to have a chat about this Consultation Document, or about **Local Water Done Well**.



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Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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- Central Ward
- Northern Ward
- Southern Ward
- Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward
- Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward

Scan the QR Code
to read more about
our Councillors →



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

He aha ka whai ake?



CONSULTATION OPEN

5th March 2025



CONSULTATION CLOSED

2nd April 2025.



HEARINGS

16th April 2025



DELIBERATIONS AND DECISION

22nd May 2025



Council officers will now finalise the Rangitikei District Council **Water Services Delivery Plan**. This plan will include an outline of how we will implement our future water services delivery model.



PROPOSAL

By 3 September 2025

Rangitikei District Council must submit its proposed **Water Services Delivery Plan** to central government.



APPROVAL

From October 2025

Government confirms if the Rangitikei District Council **Water Services Delivery Plan** is acceptable



IMPLEMENTATION

From November 2025

If accepted, Rangitikei District Council begins implementing its **Water Services Delivery Plan**.




ACTION

By 1 July 2028

Rangitikei District Council **Water Services Plan** is effective and proven to be financially sustainable.





COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Bulls @ Te Matapihi Hall
6-7pm 11th March

Taihapa @ Kokako Street Hall
6-7pm 19th March

Marton @ Friendship Club Hall
6-7pm 20th March

QUESTIONS?

Submit your questions for our online Q&A video to comms@rangitikei.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/RangitikeiDC

NEED MORE INFORMATION?



To find more information on any part of this process, or this document, you can:



Visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz



Contact our Council staff by calling **0800 422 522** or contact one of our Councillors



Email us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz



Attend one of our **Community Meetings**.



Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and information about Local Water Done Well.

KÖRERO MAI

We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Wednesday, 2 April 2025



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WHERE'S WATER @ RANGITIKEI?



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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