

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Associate Minister of Local Government



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PĀNUI PĀPĀHO
MEDIA STATEMENT

Government announces Three Waters transition funding

The Government is providing a further \$44 million to support councils transition to the Three Waters system, Associate Minister of Local Government Kieran McAnulty announced today.

“Since becoming Associate Minister of Local Government I’ve begun the process of meeting all rural and provincial councils and have heard consistently that councils are facing significant demand on their time and resources,” Kieran McAnulty said.

“Through this funding each council, regardless of their size, will receive \$350,000 over 12 months with further funding allocated based on the ‘Better Off’ funding method. This is the first of three funding instalments, with details of later instalments still to come.

“We recognise the challenges currently facing councils, especially rural and provincial councils who often have lower rating bases and limited resources. This funding will allow local authorities to draw in expertise to support councils through the Three Waters transition period.

“Councils are closely connected to their communities so it’s crucial they’re supported to contribute to ensure the Three Water system is positioned to meet the needs of New Zealanders.

“This transition funding is in addition to the wider Government support for the Three Waters Reform package, which includes \$500 million in Better Off funding to support councils to deliver wellbeing initiatives in their communities such as parks, gardens, and swimming pools.

“Throughout my visits I’ve heard a range of opinions on Three Waters, but despite where councils stand they understand the need to reform the current system as it is no longer fit for purpose. This transition funding will support Government and local councils to work together to ensure New Zealand’s three waters system meets the needs of our communities.

“Over the past two weeks I’ve met with 21 rural and provincial councils and the concern of resourcing has come through consistently, so I’m glad to support councils with funding certainty.

“I still have 34 councils to meet with and I’ll be looking for their insight as to the best way we can support councils as a Government, and how to target future transition funding support,” Kieran McAnulty said.

ENDS

Media contact: Elizabeth Mitchell 021 847 930