

Response ID ANON-8U4M-5B5F-Z

Submitted to National Engineering Design Standards framework
Submitted on 2026-09-11 09:00:25

Tell us about yourself

1 What is your name?

First name:

Rob

Last name:

Smith

2 What is your email address? Your email address will only be used if we need to communicate with you about your submission.

Enter your email address here:

rob.smith@rangitikei.govt.nz

3 Where are you located? If you are a member of an organisation that's based in more than one region – please select 'National'

Dropdown list of locations:

Manawatū – Whanganui

4 Are you providing feedback as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an organisation or group

Information about your organisation

5 If you are providing feedback on behalf of an organisation, please enter the organisation name and your position/title within the organisation.

Name of organisation or iwi/hapū:

Rangitikei District Council

Your position/title:

Development Manager

6 Which of these options best describes you?

Territorial Authority

If other, please enter here:

Publishing feedback and Official Information Act 1982 requests

7 Do you give us permission to proactively publish your feedback?

Yes, you may publish this feedback including my personal details (name, organisation, email address).

8 Do you approve including your personal details in response to any related future Official Information Act requests received by the Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai?

No, remove my personal details from responses to Official Information Act requests.

How would you like to provide feedback?

9 Would you like to provide feedback through the survey or by providing a document?

I would like to provide feedback through the online survey. (You will be directed to further questions in this survey with prompts and free-text boxes for your responses. You can save and come back to your responses at any time).

The proposed NEDS framework

10 Is the proposed NEDS framework clear, practical and usable for the sector?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option. Is there anything that would make the framework more practical?:

Having a nationally recognised and up to date set of engineering standards will be a significant improvement. It will provide greater consistency across the country and make it easier for contractors, consultants and developers to work across different regions without having to become familiar with a different set of local requirements for each council.

Being part of a smaller council, updating our engineering standards has always been on the wish list. However, due to the time, resources and technical expertise required to undertake a comprehensive review and keep the standards current, this has never really been able to take shape. I expect this is a challenge shared by a number of smaller councils across the country.

Having nationally developed and maintained standards will help address this issue by providing smaller councils with access to current, consistent and technically robust requirements without each council having to independently undertake the same work.

It will also provide greater clarity for contractors, consultants and developers around the standards expected for design and construction, giving all parties a clear understanding of the requirements they are expected to meet and be held accountable to. This should help reduce uncertainty, differing interpretations and unnecessary rework, while ultimately improving consistency in the quality of infrastructure delivered across New Zealand.

11 Do you think this framework will be enduring as the Authority regularly reviews, updates and adds to the standards and codes of practice over time?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option:

Discussed in my answer to question 10.

The common objectives

12 Do you think the proposed common objectives capture the most important outcomes that water infrastructure must support?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option. :

I think they are well rounded enough to cover the most important aspects of water infrastructure, allowing more detailed, technical requirements and performance expectations to be developed beneath them.

13 Are there any other objectives you think should be included in the NEDS?

Unsure

Tell us why you chose this option. :

From my area of experience, I consider the proposed objectives to provide good coverage. However, others with expertise across different areas of water infrastructure may identify additional objectives that should be considered.

How the codes of practice are structured

14 Do you think the codes of practice should be structured by component or lifecycle activity? Or both?

Component

Tell us why you chose this option. :

I prefer the component based approach, as I think it would better suit the land development side of things. However, there may be value in using a combination of both approaches, as this could provide greater flexibility moving forward.

15 Does the proposed structure for the codes of practice reflect how designers, developers, contractors, reviewers and water service providers use compliance pathways?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option. :

Yes, this is the format currently used in NZS 4404 and Council's own Engineering Standards, and in my view it is the most logical way to structure it. From my experience working with other councils, they generally follow a similar format, so I think this approach would work best.

How we will prioritise the first set of NEDS and codes of practice

16 Do you think question one above ("Would early national direction make a material difference?") captures the most important things we should consider when prioritising the first set of NEDS?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option. Is there anything else we should consider?:

17 Do you think question two above ("How quickly can the area be standardised and codified?") captures the most important things we should consider when prioritising the first set of NEDS?

Yes

Tell us why you chose this option. Is there anything else we should consider?:

18 Looking at the full life cycle of water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure (from design and construction through to operation, maintenance and decommissioning), what are the areas where you currently see the most challenges and inefficiencies?

Tell us your thoughts:

I'm mainly involved with the design and construction aspects, so I don't have as much involvement with the others. Decommissioning does raise questions from time to time, particularly around how redundant infrastructure should be treated and the most appropriate way for it to be disconnected.

19 Which areas do you think would benefit most from having a consistent national standard and code of practice?

Tell us your thoughts:

Design and construction.