

# TABLE DOCUMENT

Tablet at Council late item  
on 12 October 17

Who's  
putting local  
issues on  
the national  
agenda?

**We are.  
LGNZ.**

## Local Government Leaders' Water Declaration

As the leaders of their communities the Mayors and Chairs of New Zealand declare their continuing and absolute commitment to valuing and managing water as a precious resource. We want New Zealand to be world leaders in sustainable water management and will work with our communities and partners towards that goal.

Our water resource is precious and must not be taken for granted. The quality of our water and its abundance is fundamental to the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of New Zealand. Water is a taonga and our lifeblood. Iwi have a special relationship with freshwater and this is reflected in the statutes and in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM). Specifically, the NPSFM requires that freshwater is managed to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai, an integrated approach to fresh-water management that recognises the association of the wider community with the rivers, lakes and streams but also the relationship of iwi and hapū and their values with freshwater bodies.

Protecting our freshwater - lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater - is important because it ensures there is enough clean and safe water for all of our uses, now and into the future, and to ensure the health of freshwater ecosystems. Achieving this will require a collaborative effort from many parties – councils, communities, central government, Māori/Iwi, business and the primary sector.

Local government plays a central role in the management of our water resources, and because of this is uniquely placed to play a leading role in this long-term effort:

- Regional and unitary councils are responsible for managing water quality and quantity. They may permit some activities and require consents for others, such as taking water and the discharge of contaminants, and prevent certain activities.
- Territorial authorities are typically responsible for providing and managing infrastructure for drinking water, stormwater and sewage (although arrangements differ in some regions), and manage land use through district plans.

Councils work every day to deliver better water outcomes – it is core business and makes up a significant proportion of council work and expenditure. We engage with communities and by working together we have seen some good successes, but there is much more work to do. As well as our ongoing clean-up work, demand for water from businesses, the primary sector and growing urban communities are bringing greater challenges for us all and these are exacerbated by climate change.

As a result, in 2017 and 2018, local government will scope the costs of maintaining and/or improving water quality and its continued supply through its Water 2050 project. Water 2050 will underpin the need to think about water in a holistic way, raising the cost implications of investment in drinking, waste and stormwater assets and services to meet increased standards for water quality, and outlining the need for a national conversation on costs and new funding tools.

## **We, the Mayors and Chairs commit to:**

### **1. Continue to make water a key priority**

- Improve the water in our regions with, and for, our people and their descendants, asking our communities and stakeholders for their priorities for water and reflecting these in key planning documents.
- Respect the cultural values and special connections held by Māori to our water, honour our obligations to Māori and work with Māori to implement Treaty of Waitangi Settlements. This includes recognising Te Mana o te Wai in freshwater management which includes the relationship that iwi and hapū have with, and values for, water bodies. This will be expressed in our plans, and in the engagement processes with Māori used to develop these plans. It may also be reflected in our governance structures.
- Ensure that those people who have the privilege of using our water do so responsibly, by requiring and enforcing conditions of resource consent. We will lead work to change how people value water and consider their individual and collective impact. Provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water for our communities as a priority.

### **2. Work with our communities to improve our freshwater**

- Work with our communities to foster a sense of pride in the freshwater of New Zealand and maintain or improve water quality across our region and manage water use and consumption. This will include working to improve the quality of our stormwater by deterring the use of certain products, and initiatives to manage demand for domestic consumption.
- To lead, champion and support communities to take action to restore and protect water. For example, this might include setting nutrient limits across a catchment, riparian planting and fencing of waterways.

### **3. Provide information on the state of our freshwater**

- Provide information about the state of our freshwater, and make access to information about water easy for everyone by hosting information on the national website, LAWA (Land, Air, Water Aotearoa), and on our own websites.
- Issue a national report annually on the state of freshwater across our jurisdictions. This will provide New Zealanders with a “national state of water,” and a region-by-region summary, of key water quality measures.

### **4. Be clear about the costs of improving our water**

- Work with our communities so that the costs and priorities for investment in infrastructure to provide a secure supply of water and maintain and improve water quality are clearly understood. We will do this through our long term planning processes and as we change our resource management plans to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Water 2050 will also be critical work in creating the case for new funding and financing tools for water infrastructure.

## **We, the Mayors and Chairs call on the government of the day to:**

### **1. Take an integrated approach to water**

- Recognise the interlinked nature of all water, whether natural rivers, lakes, streams or groundwater and drinking water, stormwater or wastewater, and reflect this in coherent, integrated water policy.
- Recognise the impacts of climate change on our water resources and work with us to develop options to address these.

### **2. Quantify the costs of meeting increased standards**

- Quantify, with local government, the costs and trade-offs required to meet freshwater quality standards and limits for water quality. This includes understanding the cost implications for our infrastructure and the costs to meet water quality standards and limits such as restoration and mitigation.
- Identify, with local government, additional funding required to meet any increase in standards and targets, and provide local government with additional tools to fund maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure to meet both existing and new standards.

### **3. Work with us to meet the costs to improve water quality**

- Work with local government on a plan to meet these costs and develop new tools for funding and financing infrastructure.
- Increase funding where necessary to fund improvements in freshwater quality.

### **4. Work with us to be world leaders in water management**

- Give long-term cross-party commitment to improve water quality, manage water quantity and provide stability, to enable us to work toward New Zealand being a world leader in water management.
- Explore the role of economic instruments in water policy and in pricing for water services. Options include pricing water, taxing water consumption and setting a royalty for consumption.

The current state of our water is the result of impacts over many years. We believe there is now a consensus that as a nation we want better for New Zealand. This Declaration is local government's commitment to achieving the goals we all want – plentiful clean and safe water for generations to come.

**UNDERSIGNED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND:**

**Dave Cull**

President, Local Government New Zealand  
Mayor, Dunedin City Council

**Stuart Crosby**

Vice President, Local Government New Zealand  
Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**Hon Phil Goff**

Mayor, Auckland Council

**Justin Lester**

Mayor, Wellington City Council

**Lianne Dalziel**

Mayor, Christchurch City Council

**Doug Leeder**

Chair, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**Rachel Reese**

Mayor, Nelson City Council

**Jan Barnes**

Mayor, Matamata-Piako District Council

**Brian Hanna**

Mayor, Waitomo District Council

**Hon John Carter**

Mayor, Far North District Council

**Penny Hulse**

Councillor, Auckland Council

**Don Cameron**

Mayor, Ruapehu District Council

**Wayne Guppy**  
Mayor, Upper Hutt City Council

**Richard Kempthorne**  
Mayor, Tasman District Council

**Tracy Hicks**  
Mayor, Gore District Council

**THE FOLLOWING MAYORS AND CHAIRS ALSO SUPPORT THIS DECLARATION**

## Water 2050

LGNZ has recognised it is well placed to lead Water 2050. Local government is in a unique position as the managers of water quality/quantity and the owners/managers of infrastructure for the purposes of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Advocacy outcomes sought - a coherent policy and institutional framework that:

- recognises the interlinked nature of all water, whether natural rivers, lakes or streams and drinking water, stormwater or wastewater;
- leads to greater integration of policy, in particular reconciling the setting of outcome and asset standards with communities' ability to fund investments of all types to achieve those standards; and
- identifies a suitable institutional framework to govern water.

	Reference Group 1	Reference Group 2			Reference Group 3
Workstream	Allocation A	Water quality B	Infrastructure C	Cost/Funding D	Governance framework E
Outcomes sought	A coherent regulatory framework for water allocation that delivers communities' expectations, meets national standards and allows for an efficient allocation of water between competing uses.	A coherent regulatory framework for water quality (health and environmental) that delivers communities' expectations and meets national standards.	Three waters infrastructure that is fit-for-purpose, resilient and that affordably meets communities' expectations and national standards.	A comprehensive toolbox for funding and financing three waters infrastructure and meets national standards including for water quality.	A coherent governance and policy framework to manage water for central and local government.
Deliverables and timing	<p><b>Stocktake and gap analysis (approaches to water allocation) December 2017</b></p> <p>A stocktake of current approaches to water allocation across regional and unitary councils (within the current legislative framework).</p> <p>A stocktake of international approaches to allocation.</p> <p><b>Position statement (allocation) December 2017</b></p> <p>Present and recommend the different approaches and tools for allocation of our water resource that are likely to be most suited to New Zealand in preparation for responding to the TAG on allocation.</p> <p><b>Response to TAG's Government's recommendations TBC</b></p> <p>Examine the implications for local government, as regulators and as delivery agents of water, for Government's recommendations</p> <p>Examine the implications of different approaches for all users.</p>	<p><b>Stocktake and gap analysis (regulatory, non regulatory and institutional framework for water quality) December 2017</b></p> <p>A stocktake of the regulatory and institutional framework for water quality (health and environmental)</p> <p>A stocktake of non regulatory interventions to improve environmental water quality and information held regarding their efficacy</p> <p>Identify issues, gaps and overlaps in regulatory framework</p> <p>Identify whether any costings for implementation of regulatory changes have been done</p> <p><b>Report – (regulatory and institutional framework for water quality) June 2018</b></p> <p>Identify implications for local government and its communities of the current regulatory and institutional framework for water quality.</p>	<p><b>Stocktake (stormwater infrastructure) March 2018</b></p> <p>A comprehensive stocktake for stormwater.</p>	<p><b>Stocktake and gap analysis (funding and financing infrastructure) Dec 2017</b></p> <p>Present and evaluate the current options for funding and financing the maintenance and renewal of infrastructure including stormwater, increased capacity for resilience and costs to implement.</p> <p><b>Report (funding and financing infrastructure) June 2018</b></p> <p>Identify alternative options for local government and its communities</p> <p>Present and evaluate the recommended options for funding and financing infrastructure. Deliver with *</p>	<p><b>Stocktake (governance) December 2017</b></p> <p>A stocktake of the current governance framework for central government and local government</p> <p><b>Thinkpiece and position statement (governance) December 2018</b></p> <p>A thinkpiece and position statement that explores and recommends options for governance that delivers coherent policy and regulatory settings, infrastructure, funding and the institutional design to govern water.</p> <p>This will involve progressing design of a co-regulatory model, as recommended by LGNZ's 3Waters project.</p>
	<p><b>Water quantity/quality</b></p> <p><b>Stocktake and gap analysis (regulatory framework for water storage infrastructure (production) December 2017</b></p> <p>A stocktake of the proposals currently before the CIAL for water storage infrastructure.</p> <p>Scope issues/problems</p>	<p><b>Water quality/Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>Report (regulatory framework for infrastructure and water quality) June 2018</b></p> <p>Explore the implications of the findings of the Inquiry into the contamination of Havelock North's drinking water supply for regulating three waters infrastructure and water quality.</p>	<p><b>Infrastructure/cost/funding</b></p> <p><b>Report (infrastructure costs) June 2018</b></p> <p>Estimate the costs of upgrading and renewing infrastructure across NZ's TAs under various scenarios, including increased capacity for resilience. This will require developing a methodology for this deliverable. Deliver with *</p>		

Running alongside Water 2050 is a **communications/advocacy strategy**. LGNZ will position local government as leaders in the water policy debate. Specifically we aim to:

1. Show leadership on the key issues for NZ Inc and its communities, and the role local government plays in water policy and water management;
2. Raise awareness of the complexity we are dealing with and the urgent need to have a clear and common way forward; and
3. Advocate for an approach to water policy which brings together a coherent framework around health and environmental quality standards, rights to access and use water, and infrastructure and funding, recognising the implications of climate change and the need for resilience.