

Council Briefing Agenda

Date: Wednesday, 28 May, 2025

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitihi, 9 Rust Avenue

Elected Members: His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

1. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai
2. Reports / Ngā Ripoata
 - 2.1 Local Water Done Well update
3. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

2.1 Local Water Done Well update

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 28 May 2025
Reporting officer: Andrew Venmore

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

For Council to consider the 73 submissions received on the Consultation Document for the Local Water Done Well consultation.

2 Background / Horopaki

On 27 March 2025 Council adopted the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document, resolving to consult on the following options for the future of Whangarei's water services delivery:

- Option 1 (our preferred option): In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland councils
- Option 2: Northland Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Kaipara District Council and Far North District Council (drinking water and wastewater only)

Consultation document

The Consultation Document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 28 of the Local Government (Water Services) Bill. It explained the proposal and the reasons for it before providing context on how Whangarei's water services perform today. The two options were analysed, including information on how each could affect rates, debt, levels of service, any other charges for water services, as well as the potential implications of a CCO with Far North District Council and Kaipara District Council. It also noted which option was preferred by Council and its reasons for this.

This document was made available to the community for consultation between 2 April 2025 and 2 May 2025 and the public was encouraged to let Council know what they did and did not like about each option.

Communication and engagement

Awareness of this consultation was heavily promoted both prior to and during the consultation period via the Council's website, newsletters, rates insert and social media platforms, the local newspaper, local radio ads and interviews, online display ads, digital billboards, and Council advisory groups. A dedicated event for the district's resident and ratepayers associations, as well as three public drop-in sessions were also held early in the consultation period.

3 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Council must now consider the submissions received and provide any feedback before a recommendation on which option Council should choose is made to Council in June. This is a critical step in preparing the Water Services Delivery Plan and to reach formal adoption before it is submitted to Central Government before 3 September 2025.

Council received 73 submissions via its online form, email, post, in person and phone. Twelve submissions commented on water issues outside of Local Water Done Well and these have been passed to the appropriate Council staff for inclusion in the waters section of the annual plan consultation report. This consultation did not require hearings or deliberations under the Bill.

Staff have analysed all submissions identifying that overall, sentiment was weighted in favour of the Council's preferred option. Of the submissions related to Local Water Done Well, approximately 73% leaned towards option 1, while 19% leaned toward option 2, and 8% did not show a clear preference. A full report of submissions can be found in the appendices.

A regional elected members working group has been formed to help guide LWDW. It is intended that these consultation results, along with those from Far North and Kaipara councils, will be shared to assist the group develop the Water Services Plans.

Feedback on option 1

Common themes among those who leaned towards option 1 were that Whangarei has proven it can manage its water effectively, it will cost less to set up and result in less debt, it won't require cross subsidisation of neighbouring councils, it avoids increased bureaucracy, and that local (Whangarei) control and democratic processes are important.

Feedback snippets of those who leaned towards option 1 (verbatim):

- *WDC waters are performing well, and we do not need to pick up the known poor infrastructure, future costs and systems from these Councils.*
- *Increased collaboration with Northland councils not required you are elected to look after the Whangarei District only*
- *Gives more control to the local council and avoids potential for loss of control by extending out to multiple regions. I don't like the idea of including other councils in the plan as each geographical area is separate and should have a say on their specific water sources*
- *I like that there would still be the opportunity to collaborate with other Northland councils and that the CCO option isn't completely shut off.*
- *CCO's become big hollow pits that syphon funds into who knows where. Reserve funds currently held by WDC would be syphoned off in order to provide Kaipara & Far North councils funds meaning WDC would not have these reserves available to continue improving the infrastructure within WDC catchment. It would mean debt would be required to carry out these projects. This is not a scenario we want to enter into.*
- *I oppose option 2. If central government wants us to fund kaipara and far north districts water the local government minister should amalgamate northland*
- *In other parts of Northland, a lack of forward planning, in the past, has led to underinvestment in water infrastructure. This has led to problems that will require a lot of money to fix. I don't think it is fair that WDC ratepayers should have to shoulder that burden when they, through WDC, have invested heavily, over a long period of time, to build the water infrastructure we now have.*
- *Whangarei District has managed its water services very capably over many years. We are not having to do catch up. For this reason I feel that our water services should remain within Council as proposed in Option 1*

Feedback on option 2

Common themes among those who leaned towards option 2 were that Whangarei has a social responsibility to help its neighbours, borrowing potential would increase, and that elected Councillors currently have too much control over water services.

Feedback snippets of those in support of option 2 (verbatim):

- *An essential service like water infrastructure should not be a political decision. For the betterment of the community as a whole, decisions should be taken away from local politics, and election cycles. Decisions should purely be made on keeping people safe. A regional CCO enables this, and more long term certainty. We should do everything in our power to ensure our communities, including our wider community, have access to safe and secure water.*
- *I think that WDC should support the smaller (less populated) authorities through these changes. Recruiting any specialist staff in Northland is always challenging, trying to do this in triplicate is a poor use of resources. The CCO approach is the most pragmatic.*
- *Increased borrowing potential and less involvement on day to day issues from councillors.*
- *Professionals will be managing the system with less political interference. We have a social responsibility to support the other two districts to some degree. So has central govt.*
- *Two other councils do need help and we should help them by taking option two. Some of the areas have a small ratepayer base and low incomes. I think they should pay a greater share of the upcoming costs but be subsidized by WDC ratepayer to some degree. This option gives non professional councillors too much power. In the great fluoride debacle, pressure groups subverted the proven science, and our mayor and deputy went down the rabbit hole, costing ratepayers funds. To my knowledge, the councillors who voted against fluoridation have not admitted they were wrong or apologized for wasting resources. I have no faith in those six and mayor to make sound decisions, so I do not want this council or future councils following some conspiracy by ignoring the sound scientific information or being influenced by emotive people from down the rabbit hole.*

Given the nature of the feedback, and pending discussion at this Council briefing, an agenda item will be prepared for the Council Meeting in June, where it will be recommended that Council adopts option 1.

4 Financial/budget considerations / Ngā pānga pūtea/tahua

No financial implications at this stage.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

6 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Attachment 1 – Local Water Done Well submission report

Local Water Done Well consultation Submission Report

Volume 1 - Include All Attachments

From: Foster J - 00005
To: Email - 00077

Created: 06-05-2025

This document contains replicas of the submissions generated from the Submitters Register in the Local Water Done Well consultation site in Kete.

The original documents are retained in the Local Water Done Well consultation site and can be accessed via the link in the Submitters Register.

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Local Water Done Well consultation



Foster J - 00005

Submitted on	03-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Foster J - 00005
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-1

Submitter details

First name: Jeff

Last name: Foster

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 The in-house option is currently working well and should continue. It may pay to perform an external review to look at improvement areas, such as staffing, training and management.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 Nil

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 Nil

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 WDC waters are performing well, and we do not need to pick up the known poor infrastructure, future costs and systems from these Councils.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Symonds C - 00006

Submitted on	03-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Symonds C - 00006
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-2

Submitter details

First name:	Colin
Last name:	Symonds
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Submission for Water Consultation - He would like to have it noted that he has preferred option #1- Would rather water is controlled by Whangarei District Council rather than other Councils
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Marshall B - 00008

Submitted on	05-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Marshall B - 00008
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-4

Submitter details

First name:	Bruce
Last name:	Marshall
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Back to being in house not a separate bureaucracy
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Increased collaboration with Northland councils not required you are elected to look after the Whangarei District only

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	CCOs throughout NZ have proved to be low performing overpaid bureaucracies too removed from council control

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local body amalgamation for Northland was soundly defeated last time National government tried to bring in so concentrate on looking after only the area you are elected to administer

Local Water Done Well consultation



Mullin S - 00009

Submitted on	05-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Mullin S - 00009
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-5

Submitter details

First name:	Stuart
Last name:	Mullin
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Not becoming caught up in other councils' problems
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Potential for ratepayers who don't receive town supply water or wastewater, being socked for costs of town supply people. The council must be diligent at ring-fencing costs and revenue and not expect ratepayers who manage their own water and wastewater to pay twice.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Subsidising other councils

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Fluoridate the water and stop wasting my ratepayer cash on stupid stunts.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Krollmann O - 00010

Submitted on 07-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Krollmann O - 00010
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-6

Submitter details

First name:	Oliver
Last name:	Krollmann
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	It keeps cost and debt down, compared to option 2.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	While previous councils have shown foresight and wisdom when investing in our water services, the present council allowed ideology and misinformation to creep in and lead to irrational and wasteful decisions. I have lost my trust in our council that they will continue to make prudent decisions regarding our water services. Not wanting to support water services upgrades in our neighbouring district and adopting a "WDC first" stance feels callous and disrespectful to me. Limiting our borrowing headroom and kicking the can down the road with regards to efficiencies of scale and regional collaboration appears shortsighted if a CCO is on the cards within three to five years anyway. Also, councils don't provide other utilities, like electricity, gas or internet access, so why are we so obsessed with the idea that only councils can provide water services properly?

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils

(drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

In short, all of the listed potential pros for option 2 appeal to me, particularly removing decisions about water services from an increasingly polarised and potentially dysfunctional council. I was actually supportive of and looking forward to a “Northwater”; Entity A under the original Three Waters Reforms. While we won't be able to benefit from Auckland Watercare's scale and expertise now, a regional Northland CCO comes at least close to the original idea, and I appreciate that our neighbouring councils will benefit from that and eventually be able to enjoy similar high-quality water services that we take for granted in our district.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Cost and debt would go up under option 2, however, I am willing to support that with my water rates because a Northland CCO is worth it to me.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I deeply regret the division and loss of reputation our council have brought upon us with their vociferous opposition to the original Three Waters Reforms as well as their recent futile debates and legal challenges of drinking water fluoridation. I am very glad that we have been able to enjoy high-quality water services in our district (which was one of the reasons I decided to move here), and while I'm grateful to previous councils for that, I also want it to stay that way. Handing our water services over to a dedicated and much less political entity while they are in such good shape appears to be the much better option to me, particularly because central government expects regional collaboration. If a Northland CCO is likely to happen within three to five years anyway, I do not see any benefit in keeping the status quo for another political term. I'd rather get on with setting up a CCO right now, and I'm willing to contribute to that with my water rates.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Alchin R - 00011

Submitted on 07-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Alchin R - 00011
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-7

Submitter details

First name: Roger

Last name: Alchin

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By post

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 We (my wife and I) 100% agree with this option, and funding model. It gives us, the rate payers, control. Which will give us through council, a safeguard over any future moves to privatise our water. It also gives WDC full control to develop development of water services without the meddling of others from outside the district.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 Nothing.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Thompson N - 00012

Submitted on	08-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Thompson N - 00012
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-8

Submitter details

First name:	Nemo
Last name:	Thompson
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Water Services kept in-house.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Creating shared services with external Councils, dilution of local control/focus.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Fragmentation of water services. More disruption and costs incurred. More debt. Dilution of local control/focus.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

No

Local Water Done Well consultation



Colmer L - 00013

Submitted on	08-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Colmer L - 00013
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-9

Submitter details

First name:	Luke
Last name:	Colmer
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Maintains local control of our assets. They have been well managed for the last 10 years. Allows better borrowing power.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Lower ability of local residents and ratepayers to influence the changes we want.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

No

Local Water Done Well consultation



Alison J - 00014

Submitted on 09-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Alison J - 00014
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-10

Submitter details

First name:	Jessie
Last name:	Alison
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Less costs
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Is it even possible and should we just be planning to join other Councils as we will probably be made to by central government. It's not very neighbourly and it's not the values we have as northlanders.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	It's likely what we will be made to do anyway. Let's not waste time ignoring that this is going to happen. These are northlanders and northland issues, let's solve them together.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	That there's a whole layer of compliance and added costs. More money waste on pencil pushers and time delay on decision making. Central government is bloody annoying. Could have saved hundreds of

millions just following through with 3waters.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Northland Councils should be aligned and clearly we are not. It's water can't we share it if we have plenty. Growth in the other northland Councils has a flow on (positive) effect to Whangarei as well. Also, more lobbying of government should be taking place by our collective elected members. We could have worked together better earlier instead of worrying about ourselves and now look, have to anyway. Whangarei should be taking the lead here as the largest and most comfortable. You say you have reserves for water well you should have been doing something better with it than nothing, something innovative. Whangarei has not been doing anything strategic here and looks greedy. It's a central government directive that no one likes but no point looking like a sibling that has more lollies than the other not sharing.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Palcic S - 00015

Submitted on	11-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Palcic S - 00015
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-12

Submitter details

First name:	Steve
Last name:	Palcic
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Gives more control to the local council and avoids potential for loss of control by extending out to multiple regions. I don't like the idea of including other councils in the plan as each geographical area is separate and should have a say on their specific water sources
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Spreads the load too far. Different levels of infrastructure across the three regions. Would undo previous good work and budgeting by Whangarei council and would likely result in propping up the other
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two councils based on inadequate investment by them in their infrastructure over the years. I pay my rates for my local area, not to cover other councils

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Hathaway P - 00016

Submitted on	11-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Hathaway P - 00016
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-13

Submitter details

First name:	Piper
Last name:	Hathaway
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I like that there would still be the opportunity to collaborate with other Northland councils and that the CCO option isn't completely shut off.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Northland wide option
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	The cost
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Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Simon K - 00017

Submitted on 11-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Simon K - 00017
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-14

Submitter details

First name:	Katy
Last name:	Simon
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	I appreciate the Northland wide approach. I recognise that the other districts and more rural parts of our district may face significant challenges to maintain, renew and adapt services in a changing climate. CCO services enables stronger financial base.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	I don't like the risk of removing hapū and iwi engagement on waters infraction decision. The CCO would need to have structural and decision making protections in place safeguard this.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Rose M - 00018

Submitted on 14-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Rose M - 00018
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-15

Submitter details

First name:	Michelle
Last name:	Rose
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Maintaining current water services within WDC allows Council to keep their finger on the pulse of where the greatest need is for future improvements to the reticulation system. Through the consenting process WDC is well aware of where housing is being built and whether the existing water/sewerage system may need to be upgraded to carry the increasing capacity requirements. Water services funds MUST remain ringfenced in order to allow for continuous upgrading of the current assets. As from the statement in the consultation document it appears the WDC has funds in reserve these must be added to from water rates payments in order to carry out projects with little to no borrowing. We must not fall into a borrowing scenario in order to provide vital services.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	The creation of a CCO lends itself to increased costs with Council having little or no control where funds are spent and what projects are given priority. This is what has happened in Auckland Council with Auckland Transport who have become a run away train with large amounts of funds being spent on cycleways and raised pedestrian crossings rather than

actual transport infrastructure. We must not allow this to happen

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 Nothing.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

CCO's become big hollow pits that syphon funds into who knows where. Reserve funds currently held by WDC would be syphoned off in order to provide Kaipara & Far North councils funds meaning WDC would not have these reserves available to continue improving the infrastructure within WDC catchment. It would mean debt would be required to carry out these projects. This is not a scenario we want to enter into.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

We must fight Central Government in order to retain our assets within WDC. These assets are currently held by the ratepayers of Whangarei. All reserves must be closely guarded in order to continue improving and adding to the infrastructure currently held. Borrowing must be kept to a minimum as ratepayers pockets are NOT bottomless. Council's aim should be to keep all spending within funds received on an annual basis with concentration on infrastructure projects, such as roading, sewerage, water, wastewater and parks/reserves. Vanity projects must be kept to a minimum as the aforementioned are the Council's core business.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Sood A - 00019

Submitted on 14-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Sood A - 00019
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-16

Submitter details

First name:	Abha
Last name:	Sood
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Collaboration with Northland is a good option. Perhaps even a wider collaboration with Auckland could be mutually beneficial.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	We carry more individual risk. Large collaboration promotes wider prosperity and well being which will benefit local businesses.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Collaboration, sharing resources and risks!
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Redistribution of resources could be uneven.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Keswick J - 00020

Submitted on	15-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Keswick J - 00020
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-17

Submitter details

First name:	John
Last name:	Keswick
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I like option 1
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	I have no objections to option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	I don't want to cross subsidize kaipara and far north districts
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	I oppose option 2. If central government wants us to fund kaipara and far north districts water the local government minister should amalgamate northland

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Hill L - 00021

Submitted on 15-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Hill L - 00021
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-18

Submitter details

First name:	Luke
Last name:	Hill
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Costs are kept to a minimum and there will be less bureaucracy, more efficiency, more contactable and faster action.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Nothing

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	More costs due to more staff, more bureaucracy, Less effective, uncontactable, and probably more channels of communication to get 1 problem sorted

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

What ever happens choose option 1, don't want a Auckland or Wellington situation up here with a shambles of an organization running something a council can.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Gavin S - 00022

Submitted on 15-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Gavin S - 00022
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-19

Submitter details

First name: Sheryl

Last name: Gavin

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 I prefer to keep our three waters assets and operations within the hands of Whangarei ratepayers and disagree with subsidising other districts deficiencies.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 Subsidising other districts to make up for under investment.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Kumar Z - 00023

Submitted on	15-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Kumar Z - 00023
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-20

Submitter details

First name:	Zane
Last name:	Kumar
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Option 1 is best as it keeps it in house, and we do not end up cost subsidising other Councils and areas.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Nothing, I think this is the best option

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing. this is the worst option
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	The idea on paper sounds good, however Whangarei District and ratepayers will end up cost subsidising other areas of Northland. this is unfair and will place a much higher burden on Whangarei District residents.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Mitchell D - 00024

Submitted on	17-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Mitchell D - 00024
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-21

Submitter details

First name: David

Last name: Mitchell

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

This is where we are now. But I don't think that this is appropriate for where our water services want to get to, and the challenges ahead

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Increased borrowing potential and less involvement on day to day issues from councillors.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Hartnell-Brown J - 00025

Submitted on	23-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Hartnell-Brown J - 00025
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-23

Submitter details

First name:	Julie
Last name:	Hartnell-Brown
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Option 1 is my preferred option, as Whangarei residents have, for many years, invested in water management through their rates. I would like to see control of that investment retained by WDC.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	The FDC may struggle to finance the infrastructure needed in some parts of its district due to too few rate payers, or nonpayment of rates.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Not a lot. Not against co-operation, but do not want WDC to lose its independence.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	In other parts of Northland, a lack of forward planning, in the past, has led to underinvestment in water

infrastructure. This has led to problems that will require a lot of money to fix. I don't think it is fair that WDC ratepayers should have to shoulder that burden when they, through WDC, have invested heavily, over a long period of time, to build the water infrastructure we now have.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Fowler K - 00026

Submitted on 24-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Fowler K - 00026
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-24

Submitter details

First name: Kayden

Last name: Fowler

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Whangarei has an existing extensive water network that the district manages and operates well, the councillors have proven there willing to stand by what the public voted them in for; made evident by recent events surrounding the town water supply, although I would like to note I was impartial on that matter.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	It somewhat limits the possibility for future growth, by linking into the other councils networks, but Whangārei already by far has the largest portable water supply in comparison to the other councils who we would be paired with.
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Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Aside from being able to support the water supply's of the surrounding districts, I don't see any benefit for the people of Whangārei.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

It forces the Whangārei rate payer to subsidise other areas, when Whangārei already had a country leading water supply, given the current potential rate increases and economic climate in general, I don't like the idea that a further burden will be placed onto the Whangārei rate payer

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Overall, I think the whole scheme is government trying to interfere with local government; Whangārei already does water well, we don't have pipes bursting all over the place or a lack of funding. It seems like an unnecessary expense for both the local rate payer and tax payer in general, it should only be mandated onto councils who are struggling to get the fundamentals of water right.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Macken B - 00027

Submitted on 24-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Macken B - 00027
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-25

Submitter details

First name:	Briar
Last name:	Macken
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	<p>An essential service like water infrastructure should not be a political decision. For the betterment of the community as a whole, decisions should be taken away from local politics, and election cycles. Decisions should purely be made on keeping people safe. Less opportunities to do the work that is required with decreased lending available. Whilst yes there will be more costs involved with helping our neighboring councils, however we should do everything in our power to ensure our communities have access to safe and secure water. We will also be able to purchase things cheaper by more 'bulk buying'.</p>

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	An essential service like water infrastructure should not be a political decision. For the betterment of the
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community as a whole, decisions should be taken away from local politics, and election cycles. Decisions should purely be made on keeping people safe. A regional CCO enables this, and more long term certainty. We should do everything in our power to ensure our communities, including our wider community, have access to safe and secure water.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

No

Local Water Done Well consultation



Twyman J - 00028

Submitted on 24-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Twyman J - 00028
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-26

Submitter details

First name: Jonathan

Last name: Twyman

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 I believe that this is the best option for Whangarei. I think we could retain this option and also expand on it to help other councils in the region and this would remove any concerns about losing out on savings due to economies of scale. These other councils would be responsible for their own funding and then contract WDC to get the work done. This means that there is no need for Whangarei to borrow for further improvements and would keep funding completely separate so we don't end up subsidizing others.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

I don't like the idea of being lumped in with other councils who may not have invested in water infrastructure as well as we have. If those other councils do not have the capability to sort themselves out, we should not be buying into their problems. If we can help them out with services, then we should. But it has to be up to them to sort their own funding out. Kaipara have indicated that they are not interested in this option so we should let them do their thing and we should concentrate on doing what's best for us. If they want to manage without us, we have other options that don't involve them.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

The CCOs create another level of bureaucracy that is not needed and will further distance the supply of services from the ratepayers. If this is some kind of dodge to borrow more money, then it should be called out for what it is. I recognize that more favorable interest rates may be available through LGFA for water services CCOs, but this is simply central government manipulation. We should not be reinventing ourselves at the whim of the government - a government that has no consistency beyond the three-year election cycle.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Newton K - 00029

Submitted on	24-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Newton K - 00029
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-27

Submitter details

First name:	Kevin
Last name:	Newton
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I like that Council, and therefore the ratepayers, retain control of the assets they paid for. The water system in Whangarei is a lot better than those of neighbouring Councils, and Option 1 will allow the advantages of that better system to directly benefit ratepayers into the future.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Nothing

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Ceding control will simply create another bureaucracy with the ability to leverage additional costs to ratepayers, and Whangarei ratepayers will be forced to pay for upgrades for neighbouring Councils who

have not attained as high a standard in their water management systems.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Shoebridge P - 00030

Submitted on 24-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Shoebridge P - 00030
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-28

Submitter details

First name:	Phillip
Last name:	Shoebridge
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Its simple and less risk for the council
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	An independent organisation may be more efficient in delivering services and will have access to higher level of funding

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	An independent organisation may be more efficient in delivering services and will have access to higher level of funding
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Its more complicated and risky for the council

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I don't think amalgamation with the other councils will drive the synergies and consumer benefits for whangarei water users

Local Water Done Well consultation



Sandbrook J - 00031

Submitted on	24-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Sandbrook J - 00031
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-29

Submitter details

First name:	Jamie
Last name:	Sandbrook
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	No extra cost, we retain control
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Ape together strong
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Too much opportunity for councils to sell their shares and let someone else control our water.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Foster L - 00032

Submitted on	25-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Foster L - 00032
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-32

Submitter details

First name:	Logan
Last name:	Foster
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Keep the focus on our own infrastructure

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 I live rural and an age all my own water, waste, and storm water run off from the road onto my own property.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 It would benefit other districts

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 Costs us more

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I live rural and do not have access to any benefits of this plan, if I get charged I will be very annoyed for something I do not benefit from.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Read N - 00033

Submitted on	25-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Read N - 00033
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-34

Submitter details

First name:	Nathan
Last name:	Read
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Too much control from elected councillors who are unable to run a successful business, instead of controlling expenses they just increase rates. A case in point is the district wide stormwater rate, rural properties do not benefit from the stormwater infrastructure yet are required to pay the rate.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Larger entity so economies of scale. Moves control away from district councillors.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Should also include stormwater with a targeted rate on properties who are connected to the stormwater system rather than on all properties whether they have any stormwater infrastructure or not,

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

As above. Have the stormwater rate targeted to properties who are actually connected to the stormwater network, ie not on rural properties.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Morrison T - 00034

Submitted on 25-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Morrison T - 00034
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-35

Submitter details

First name:	Torben
Last name:	Morrison
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	It stays in council hands.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Unsure how the business unit manage it or who is running the business unit. Is it same same but different? Inconclusive.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Give an inch and they'll take a mile. Corporate shill's pushing the same line as 5 waters. A turd by any other name is still just a turd. Centralise power then use and abuse it down the track while justifying their jobs and big pays along the way. Just another phase in the corporate takeover of NZ. Go Woke, Go broke. I guess NZ learned nothing from its last horse faced mistake.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Get fluoride out of our water supply. For decades, drinking water fluoridation opponents were often portrayed as a fringe element and conspiracy theorists, but a federal ruling in the US may put an end to the practice and marks a pivotal point in their campaign to convince the public and policymakers of the substance's dangers for infants' developing brains. Armed with a growing body of scientific evidence pointing toward fluoride's neurotoxicity, public health advocates say the legal win shows they are overcoming "institutional inertia" and the unwillingness of federal public health agencies to admit they may have been wrong.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Balea M - 00035

Submitted on 25-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Balea M - 00035
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-36

Submitter details

First name: Mihai

Last name: Balea

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Whangarei has better water infrastructure than the other districts in Northland. Keeping the water management for Whangarei in Whangarei will ensure the lowest cost for ratepayers.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

The ratepayer base of Kaipara and Far North is much smaller than Whangarei, while their infrastructure needs are much bigger. Whangarei will end up contributing disproportionately to the new infrastructure investments.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

The purpose of the exercise is to decentralize the water management, why we are looking at alternative amalgamations? Local means local, anything other than Whangarei in the mix is not local anymore. We are paying already higher water rates and insane development contributions for the water infrastructure recently built, why we should raise the costs again for helping our neighbouring districts with their appalling water infrastructure? We are back to the Three Waters concept, only at a smaller scale with option 2.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Sutherland T - 00036

Submitted on 25-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Sutherland T - 00036
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-37

Submitter details

First name:	Tamsin
Last name:	Sutherland
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I am nervous about additional costs from neighbouring councils, having already paid for infrastructure costs as a WDC rate payer. This is the cheapest option.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	I think this option will do very little to improve water assets across Northland. The current asset management Northland wide is not good enough, WDC use doing nothing to support regional improvement in this option. There is always a lack of specialist staff available in Northland, this option will require three lots of expertise, which is going to be very hard to resource.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	I prefer this option as it will improve water quality and assets across the whole of Northland. It will be easier to staff one body with appropriately skilled staff.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Increased debt to provided the infrastructure changes, but this is unavoidable to improve water assets/quality.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I think that WDC should support the smaller (less populated) authorities through these changes. Recruiting any specialist staff in Northland is always challenging, trying to do this in triplicate is a poor use of resources. The CCO approach is the most pragmatic.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Cole R - 00037

Submitted on	25-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Cole R - 00037
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-38

Submitter details

First name:	Richard
Last name:	Cole
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	WDC has the expertise and this should be charged to other Councils. Kaipara should be paying the most as they seem to have deliberately avoided investing in water infrastructure for Mangawhai.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	It may be seen as selfish by the other Councils

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Seems more 'collegial' and helpful to these Councils
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	WDC has invested in their water for years so why should the other Councils be seen as being 'parasitic' on WDC resources. If we were going to assist one Council, I would assist the Far North

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Bennett P - 00038

Submitted on	26-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Bennett P - 00038
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-39

Submitter details

First name:	Paul
Last name:	Bennett
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	This is my preferred option. Different councils need to work on there own. Only come together if there is a joint need for something. We need less managers. We need experts in long time designed, infrastructure, tactical planning, brain storming ideas.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Keep it in-house and small to keep costs down
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Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Croskery D - 00039

Submitted on	26-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Croskery D - 00039
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-40

Submitter details

First name: Douglas and Pamela

Last name: Croskery

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Need to be fix update pipes....
Am not sure what about One Tree Point, Ruakaka,
Marsden Cove area to spread more pipes???

Please tell us what you don't like about
option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about
option 2 If choose this Option 2 will take a long way to sorting
Not want to pay more water rate if choose Option 2.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

All the best for Whangarei District Council Consultation
and try your best for Whangarei and others Locals...

Local Water Done Well consultation



Probert D - 00040

Submitted on	26-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Probert D - 00040
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-41

Submitter details

First name: Derek

Last name: Probert

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Retains controll of our assets.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments? No

Local Water Done Well consultation



Elson S - 00041

Submitted on	27-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Elson S - 00041
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-42

Submitter details

First name:	Sally
Last name:	Elson
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Best Ootion. Be in control of our own water.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 We should vote for clean water with no fluoride in it

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 Letting others decide for you, could lead to being completely taken over. NOT AN OPTION

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 I dont

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Time that councillors represent those that put them there

Local Water Done Well consultation



Laurence A - 00042

Submitted on 28-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Laurence A - 00042
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-43

Submitter details

First name:	Anthea
Last name:	Laurence
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Whangarei District has managed its water services very capably over many years.. We are not having to do catch up. For this reason I feel that our water services should remain within Council as proposed in Option 1
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Nothing.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Under option 2 Whangarei District would need to cross subsidise other areas in Northland. There would also be a lot of extra costs with this option.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

No

Local Water Done Well consultation



Morgan D - 00043

Submitted on	28-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Morgan D - 00043
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-44

Submitter details

First name:	Donna
Last name:	Morgan
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	It is owned by WDC . We need to remain independent. As long as we are smart and do what is necessary in ways of proper storm water and maintenance now. We won't end up a disaster like Auckland.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	N/A

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	There is no Auckland involved.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Being in with the other councils means that they will be a drain on WDC .

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Whangarei is a great little city. We need to preserve our kiwi culture here. It is fading fast all over NZ.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Geddes P - 00044

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Geddes P - 00044
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-46

Submitter details

First name:	Peter
Last name:	Geddes
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	<p>I consider that Whangarei District is large enough to not need additional economies of scale by enlarging the area of operation.</p> <p>There are more likely economic disadvantages in joining our 2 neighbours as their infrastructure is not as well developed as WDC.</p> <p>Northland wide initiatives generally suffer from parochial distrust.</p>
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	<p>I don't consider there are disadvantages. I am aware national scale consultants like larger organisations but that largely reflects their commercial benefit from them, where regional consultants are seen at a disadvantage.</p>

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	In my view there is a benefit to Northland overall but
---	--

not to Whangarei

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Dilution of responsibility results from larger entities that is reflected in lack of accountability.

I have had experience working with Waterare and found that organisation highly unresponsive to given local issues.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Water done well is a second attempt by Government to address dysfunctional water regimes such as in Wellington. I don't see WDC as having a broken system so see no need for radical change to benefit it.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Langdon K - 00045

Submitted on	29-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Langdon K - 00045
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-47

Submitter details

First name:	Karen
Last name:	Langdon
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Keeps it local, less debt

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	different areas have different needs -best to keep it small and local
---	---

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?	Fluoride is a toxin and is harmful to life - please stop adding it to our water supply. Please provide taps for
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fluoride-free water in town.

Local Water Done Well consultation



AYCRIGG D - 00046

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference AYCRIGG D - 00046
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-48

Submitter details

First name: DAVID

Last name: AYCRIGG

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

I value my health hugely, and thus do not want a neuro-toxin like the fluoride (industrial waste) in my water!
 I object to and reject the idea that any government entity has the right to dictate what I have in my city supplied drinking water!

If that is not respected, at least supply a public fluoride-free tap in Whangarei!

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

No thank you.

Local Water Done Well consultation



fullbright s - 00047

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference fullbright s - 00047
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-49

Submitter details

First name:	scott
Last name:	fullbright
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I can communicate by email and not required to do public speaking as I have a speech defect [stuttering] .
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	unknown

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	do not know enough about it to make a comment .
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

fluoride is a neurotoxin , it lowers a persons IQ and mine is at 70 . I cannot function well at this level and am having a hard time already . going any lower from this fluoride will do me great harm . I am already suffering from arthritis and this fluoride will only make a bad situation worse . fluoride does not benefit the teeth of adults and seniors - I am in my mid 80's . it only makes them yellow and makes them brittle for those that still have their teeth . for those that do not , it has no benefit even perceived . fluoride does not reduce tooth decay as we are told , that is just propaganda , after age 5 it only does harm . do not know if this has merit , but this is my personal observation recently . I have had mild arthritis in the past . since our water has been fluoridated , my arthritis has now gone into overdrive with serious pain and all joints are now affected with my legs / hips being the worst affected . I can hardly walk and no position is without pain . coincidence , I do not know , but is highly suspect .

Local Water Done Well consultation



Gwyn G - 00048

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Gwyn G - 00048
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-50

Submitter details

First name:	Greg
Last name:	Gwyn
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Whangarei business is Whangarei business. WDC should listen to what Whangarei people want and not be influenced what people or organizations outside Whangarei think or want.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	N/a

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	N/a
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Whangarei business is Whangarei business. WDC should listen to what Whangarei people want and not be influenced what people or organizations outside Whangarei think or want.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

WDC should listen to what we, the Whangarei people want and not be influenced by outsiders. For example, the people of Whangarei don't want Fluoride added to our water. Since we reluctantly do have fluoride (until the court case which will hopefully reverse) we should have fluoride free options. WDC is here to serve us, we the Whangarei people.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Godfrey C - 00049

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Godfrey C - 00049
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-52

Submitter details

First name:	Colin
Last name:	Godfrey
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Keeping ownership and direct control of the assets within the rate payers of Whangarei.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	The higher debt levels. The constant increases to the cost charges for water supply. Then to hear that the council has surplus would indicate over charging and under investment in on going maintenance of assets.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Everything

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I believe council should be doing everything it can to reduce water supply charges and waste water charges

Local Water Done Well consultation



Sloane D - 00050

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Sloane D - 00050
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-53

Submitter details

First name: Dan

Last name: Sloane

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Flouride is a poisonous neurotoxin. It is a criminal act to force medical treatment on those who refuse it. Do not flouridate the water with this proven POISON.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00051

Submitted on 22-Apr-2025

Submitter reference Email - 00051

Delivery method

Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Terry
Last name:	Archer
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Whangarei ratepayers have contributed to a relatively efficient water system over many years. Council has been fairly competent in managing the assets. Don't see the sense in contributing to other councils shortcomings in planning for water distribution and collection. Avoids costs of setting up a CCO
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Water assets generally have a longer life. Therefore a good reason to fund from longer term debt that annua rates

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00052

Submitted on 23-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Email - 00052
 Delivery method
 Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Elaine Joyce
Last name:	Mackintosh
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	The WDC is in a good position and would be able to fund much of the future needs of Whangarei district with the reserves already held. We would not need to carry as much debt and would not be using our past rates collected to fund the Kaipara area, who are in a poorer position
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	May not have the same stability due to differing priorities of elected councils.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	May be more efficient over the long-term and not tied to whims of council of the time. More ability to borrow, but not sure this is a good thing!
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Smaller Councils with lower populations spread over a greater geographical area will need to be subsidised

by Whangarei rate payers.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00053

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025

Submitter reference Email - 00053

Delivery method

Receipt number

Submitter details

First name: John

Last name: Allen

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Lower cost. Contained to our area

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 More debt

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Cawthorne D - 00054

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Cawthorne D - 00054
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-54

Submitter details

First name:	Denise
Last name:	Cawthorne
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I would suggest you have a non-fluoridated water supply in a few stations around the township. It will enable people to collect water they can drink, if they don't want FHA water. But also, many people cannot afford to install anti-fluoride machines to take it out, so this will help in a small way.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	I don't agree with fluoride or rightly known as hydrofluorosilicic acid (FHA) in our water supply.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	As above, don't put this poison in anyones water supply, wherever that may be.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I wonder if any of my opinions and many others re anti FHA will even be noted. let's face it, there were a few hundred fighting against it, and we still have it installed into our water supply. It sickens me, both literally and philosophically. But I still feel the urge to give my say in what happens in my district, because I care about the well being of us all.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Roy M - 00055

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Roy M - 00055
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-55

Submitter details

First name: Mary

Last name: Roy

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Don't trust it

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 Not applicable

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 NO fluoride in the water - it's a nasty chemical - hydrofluorosilicic acid (and no fluoride is safe) educate yourselves - go to 20 years of research fluoridefree.org.nz and USA Michael Connett who, after 7 years litigation and many years prior - has, October 2024, got it banned in the USA (Canada comprehensive study came out at the same time the USA Judge made his final summation) international current data - all banned worldwide - SO why are you hell bent on mass medication of the population - we want body autonomy and medical freedom - NOT THIS!! ...EVER!!!

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

READ ABOVE

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Our water belongs to all of us - clean and clear as a 'human right'..what's going on here, is accountable and culpable

Local Water Done Well consultation



Roy M - 00056

Submitted on	30-Apr-2025
Submitter reference	Roy M - 00056
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-56

Submitter details

First name:	Mary
Last name:	Roy
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	I want fluoride (nasty chemical hydrofluorosalicic acid - by product of South Island phosphate fertiliser production (where they have to wear Hazmet suits - because it's SO TOXIC!) ...I want it OUT of our community water. I can no longer go to my cafe (which I did every day) I can no longer eat of drink anything in Whangarei's (let alone anywhere) in Whangarei's hospitality sector - because when that chemical's heated - it's even more toxic!

I could list the damage it does to the body - but just go to the twenty years research on fluoridefree.org.nz to educate yourselves on the latest international data - you'll be horrified!! And check out USA Michael Connett's long 7 year fight - with a wonderful result (along with Canada coming out at the last minute of the 7 years of litigation - to say - YES! UNSAFE) just like mercury in our teeth and mRNA Vaccines - safe and effective ..NO!NO!NO!
and why did our 'Government' not want to meet with him when he had the 'latest data' to share with NZ??

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

WE WANT TAPS THAT DELIVER CLEAN DRINKING WATER ALL AROUND WHANGAREI - THEY EXIST ELSEWHERE - AND WE DEMAND IT!! WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS? INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND SO WRONG!!! Surreptitious Agenda to undermine the health of New Zealanders???

Local Water Done Well consultation



Bettesworth C - 00057

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Bettesworth C - 00057
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-57

Submitter details

First name: Christine

Last name: Bettesworth

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Expertise and experience can be shared, Whangarei doesn't subsidize other areas.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 There is nothing I dislike.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 Sharing experts is effective and efficient.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 Whangarei subsidized other districts.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments? No.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Gehring P - 00058

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Gehring P - 00058
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-30

Submitter details

First name:	Paul
Last name:	Gehring
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Option 1 will help keep costs of admin down and under one roof that makes sense. This will in turn keep living costs easy for local water rate payers.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	It looks good to me, except I reject the imposing fluoridation of our drinking water, coffee doesn't taste the same anymore, also a potential challenge to my natural immune system as it's an immune adverse additive. My water filter would need a triple system, sorry, but it's a rude wild slap at rate payers dished out by ignorant central govt control freaks.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	It's going to cost Northlanders more to go through a 3rd party co-governing organization, more overheads, more staff costs, travel costs, relayed communication down time costs, with higher costs passed onto us

rate payers. Most of Northland's population is in the Whangarei area.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Thanks for the effort for great councillors attempt to stop having to be forced to put fluoride in our water. I hope that one day soon the ruling will get over-turned. I dread that many elderly are drinking that into their natural immune system, while washing the natural immunity in their natural gut biome. Yet because they have good faith that you would serve them well and do good to them, so why not sneak in council based fluoride filter systems in your pipe line outlets here and there ? Also with all the cyclone weather we've had that's ruined roading, council needs to put more focus on the storm water engineering plans to accommodate larger volumes of potential flood water to protect what roading we have. It's possible cyclone weather will be a more frequent occurrence. Council needs to major on storm water engineering especially with more culverts and drains for preserving areas most vulnerable with hazardous unstable roading, across Northland. That in turn will serve the rate payers properties well, having reliable accessibility. Or it will be back to the horse before the road. Thank- you all for doing a good and proper job. I appreciate your hard work. Thanks from Paul Gehring

Local Water Done Well consultation



Mckay S - 00059

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Mckay S - 00059
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-31

Submitter details

First name:	Sally
Last name:	Mckay
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	We do not want to be liable for other Councils inadequate infrastructure costingbus more overall
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Already being done why reinvent the wheel and create another beaurecratic organistion

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	As option 2 above

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Rowlands G - 00060

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Rowlands G - 00060
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-58

Submitter details

First name:	Grant
Last name:	Rowlands
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I like that civil retains control over water services for our area. This option should be more cost effective I would hope, rather than creating another entity to administer.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Nothing I can think of currently

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing. It's not an option I would choose
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Extra cost re administration. Taking control outside our district.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I am totally opposed to having fluoride in our water supply. I want to register my anger at having to pay water rates to be poisoned by fluoride. The latest science shows that fluoride is a neurotoxin, damaging to health and reduces IQ. Because the council has caved in to pressure from the DGoH, I request that like the Rotorua and Hastings councils have done, that you provide a fluoride and chlorine free water tap so we can access clean water. It is costing more on my grocery bill because I have to buy water now. I'm also saddled with the cost soon, of buying a filtration system for my house, to protect myself from fluoride when showering. This extra cost is very hard to cope with as a superannuant, on very limited income.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Warren J - 00061

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Warren J - 00061
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-59

Submitter details

First name: Johanna

Last name: Warren

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 This sounds clearer to me it is the one I prefer

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

I think this might cost more to set up and be subject to more strains as it progresses.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Buhr M - 00062

Submitted on 01-May-2025
 Submitter reference Buhr M - 00062
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-60

Submitter details

First name: Michael

Last name: Buhr

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 Keeping ownership of assets as local as possible is important to me. I think this is a practical common sense approach.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

This allows funding to be re-prioritised away from my local community, so I could see even less benefit in my community compared to the status quo.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Harrington R - 00063

Submitted on	01-May-2025
Submitter reference	Harrington R - 00063
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-61

Submitter details

First name:	Riki
Last name:	Harrington
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	I like keeping the Whangarei resources for the Whangarei district
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	I dont like that the water is flouridated

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	I do not like this option because it means pulling resources from the Whangarei district
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	I do not like this option because it means pulling resources from the Whangarei district

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I do not like that the water in Whangarei is flouridated. I like the idea of establishing non flouride drinking water stations in Whangarei

Local Water Done Well consultation



van Roon T - 00064

Submitted on	02-May-2025
Submitter reference	van Roon T - 00064
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-62

Submitter details

First name:	Taya
Last name:	van Roon
I am writing this submission:	As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Stay local. Don't want to subsidise other councils Less potential interference from other Northland Councils and central government.
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Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	It doesn't include a source of water that is fluoride free available to the public.
---	---

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	n/a
---	-----

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	
---	--

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Please include a source of water available to the public
that is fluoride free

Local Water Done Well consultation



Skuse G - 00065

Submitted on	02-May-2025
Submitter reference	Skuse G - 00065
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-68

Submitter details

First name:	George
Last name:	Skuse
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Prefer to keep assets local, as WDC has done a great job with out water assets.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Hopefully this collaboration with other Councils isn't leading to a TCO.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	N/A
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	N/A

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

A fluoride free water source should be available for those that don't wish to have it in the water.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Buisman C - 00067

Submitted on 02-May-2025
 Submitter reference Buisman C - 00067
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-69

Submitter details

First name: Corina

Last name: Buisman

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 This option would see the delivery of water services remain within Council as a business unit, rather than the establishment of a new organization . The business unit would be responsible to the elected council members with a established council governance oversight and the delivery of services would be accountable to the public through usual local democracy practices. This option means we would retain local ownership and control of our assets.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about
option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I do not see the benefits of having fluoride in our local water supply for financial and more importantly health reasons. I have read many testimonials and stories where people have been adversely affected by water which has fluoride in it. Doctors and scientists from across the world have written about the ill effects of fluoride on people's health. Having fluoride in our water is financially wasteful. Much of household water consumption is used for bathing, showering, washing dishes, laundry and other cleaning as well as the flushing of toilets with means the fluoridated water literally goes down the drain. Madison Utilities in Alabama are removing this industrial waste from their water as it is costing too much money to purchase this chemical. Secondly they found the fluoride was hazardous to the employees as far as touch and inhalation. When they upgraded their old water system, it was brought to light the damaging effects it had on structures. If people want fluoride for their teeth, they can take fluoride tablets which would be more cost effective for the council. Education on a healthy diet would also be a key factor for the preservation of teeth. Countries from across the world who once had fluoridated water, have now banned it. It would be wonderful if fluoride could be removed from our water supply in the future. In the interim, I request that the council consider installing a fluoride-free water tap in Whangarei as other councils have done in New Zealand.

Local Water Done Well consultation



tattley j - 00068

Submitted on 02-May-2025
 Submitter reference tattley j - 00068
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-70

Submitter details

First name: julie

Last name: tattley

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 i do not like option 2. i have not read the document due to lack of time, I would like to state that I do not think WDC should pay fees to IWI for engagement on water, or anything else

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 WDC have been managing water for decades now without, i imagine , significant community engagement, i am concerned that this is going to make what should be a fairly simple task, using infrastructure that already exists into a very expensive burearacy.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 nothing.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 I worked for a large Auckland council CCO , they were like a fiefdom and a lot of energy was wasted fighting

auckland council, arguing over money. in fact Mayor Wayne Brown has been trying to bring Auckland transport back into line. I spend a lot of time working in Auckland, i tired to use public transport but it is too unreliable. I think infrastructure should be kept in council. all a CCO will do is add levels of governance, management - read excessive salaries- and beurocracy.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00069

Submitted on 29-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Email - 00069
 Delivery method
 Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Jan
Last name:	Allen
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Debt kept low. Ratepayers own the water. Water must stay with the taxpayer and rate payer not given to anyone else. Maintenance done on existing pipes. Careful spending done on improvements
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	Any wasteful costs on consultants, lawyers and consultants or any land stop. Normal people can't afford all the costs going up all the time.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	Nothing
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Extra costs

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



DISSANAYAKE M - 00070

Submitted on 02-May-2025
 Submitter reference DISSANAYAKE M - 00070
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-72

Submitter details

First name:	MARIAN
Last name:	DISSANAYAKE
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	<p>All the Potential pros listed in the document. They are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has day-to-day decision making and maintains total control of assets. • Local voice is safeguarded. Community input remains through Council's consultation processes. • Minimal set-up cost compared to the establishment of a Council controlled organisation. • No cross-subsidisation of water costs for all of Northland. • Lower amounts of debt than what would be anticipated in a multi council CCO. • Allows time for Northland Councils to work with Central Government to explore ways to address the region's infrastructure challenges.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	<p>I like Option 1, so there is nothing I don't like about it. However, I am concerned about the last item stated above ie. discuss with CG, FNDC & KDC, as it can lead to WDC having to eventually give up on Option 1. WDC should be able to stay with Option 1 long term and be proud/happy that 'Local water is doing well'. 'WDC drinking water is excellent'. Thank you WDC for</p>

that!

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

I don't like anything about Option 2. WDC should be able to stay with Option 1 and be proud/happy that 'Local water is doing well'. Urban areas of Far North District are widely dispersed. It will be unrealistic to bring them under a regional authority and very costly to operate. Worldwide the trend is 'Think Globally, act Locally' giving ownership and responsibility to the locals. That is basic principle of 'Sustainable Infrastructure'.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

I dislike everything about Option 2. Over the years WDC has built up a reserve fund to maintain 'sustainable infrastructure' in the district. Rate payers including multigenerational families have dug deep into their pockets to contribute to the fund via rates. Therefore, it is not ethical to suddenly jump into a conclusion that WDC fund should contribute to develop infrastructure in the two other districts in the region. Central Govt should assist FNDC & KDC via the Provincial Growth Fund.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Option 1 is the best option for WDC rate payers. It will be local, supported by the locals. WDC to continue with this principle of sustainable infrastructure in the future. FNDC can apply to the Provincial Growth fund to expand the reticulated sewerage area of Kerikeri so that there can be increased density of development. The FNDC water supply area in Kerikeri is limited. Other residents use roof water. Collecting roof water as potable water is a sustainable way of managing stormwater runoff in urban areas. A similar situation is likely to be applicable to Kaitia and Paihia. Here too the principle of sustainable infrastructure 'think globally, act locally' applies.

Local Water Done Well consultation



MURUPAENGA-IKENN C - 00071

Submitted on 03-May-2025
 Submitter reference MURUPAENGA-IKENN C - 00071
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-71

Submitter details

First name:	Catherine
Last name:	MURUPAENGA-IKENN
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Utilising/ adapting existing admin and bureaucratic structures (rather than creating new layers of the same). A CCO is still on the table as an option.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	Creates another admin/bureaucratic structure (rather than utilising/ adapting what's already in place currently). We might jump too fast to a CCO without exploring the benefits of how Option 1 might work just as well in terms of outcomes (if not better).

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Fluoridation of the water supply: I applaud Council's efforts to engage with the citizenry about our concerns, and the stand it has taken (including in the courts) to protect our health interests. Fluoridation as an issue will continue to be opposed: It has ongoing costs (which ratepayers resent); is an unnecessary policy measure (a convenient pollution-by-dilution distraction, considering the real and complex underlying causes of poor dental health which local and central government ought to be focusing on); and it has at best few - or at worst, harmful - net health impacts, including (as Council is aware) neurotoxicity of the brain, with mounting scientific research as to other detrimental health impacts as well. It's utterly disturbing that history is strewn with established health and scientific narratives that took too long to change for humanity's benefit, and fluoridation is another matter of this kind to stubbornly persist. But as a human rights violation, and regardless of the current state of jurisprudence on the subject, fluoridation's days are numbered. (For a more comprehensive explanation of my view, see my March 2025 article published at <https://dailytelegraph.co.nz/opinion/aotearoas-fluoride-faultline-democracy-science-and-trust-at-stake/>). Wai Māori is meant to be healing, not harmful. I urge and encourage Council to continue to promote and protect citizens' human right to access healthy water, and seek to land on the right side of history on this very important issue. Mauri ora ki te wai, toitū te mana o te wai.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Hansen S - 00072

Submitted on	03-May-2025
Submitter reference	Hansen S - 00072
Delivery method	Open Forms
Receipt number	LWDW2025-74

Submitter details

First name:	Stephen
Last name:	Hansen
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	All of it. It is the logical option. We are too far from the other councils to link water pipes.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	No way should we do this. We have maintained our water assets and they have not, so we must never subsidise them. They are too far away to move waters between council areas.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	All of it.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Mitchell C - 00073

Submitted on 03-May-2025
 Submitter reference Mitchell C - 00073
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-75

Submitter details

First name:	Casey
Last name:	Mitchell
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	
What is your preferred method of contact?	I do not want to be contacted

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	It good that this will maintain the level of Whangarei's current water infrastructure and will not incur the cost of set up.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	This necessarily improve water infrastructure across the region. Everyone deserve reliable, clean drinking water.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	I like that this will improve and create better water infrastructure across the region for everyone ensuring that all is kept at an equal quality. As a rate payer I dont mind helping to fund regional initiatives.
Please tell us what you don't like about option 2	This may create a situation where the quality of the infrastructure falls behind due to amount of available contractors vs amount of increased work with areas

now having the funding to bring systems up to spec.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Local Water Done Well consultation



Green F - 00074

Submitted on 03-May-2025
 Submitter reference Green F - 00074
 Delivery method Open Forms
 Receipt number LWDW2025-51

Submitter details

First name: Fiona
 Last name: Green
 I am writing this submission: As an individual
 Organisation name:
 What is your preferred method of contact? By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1 See further comments section
 Please tell us what you don't like about option 1 See further comments section

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2 See further comments section
 Please tell us what you don't like about option 2 See further comments section

Further comments

Do you have any further comments? Okay, here's a 3rd Option I've come up with which answers the previous sections: "Integrated Water

Partnership” that aims to be superior to both Option 1 (direct Council management) and Option 2 (Council-Controlled Organisation - CCO), along with a justification for why it's a better solution: My Option 3: Integrated Water Partnership This model creates a long-term partnership between the Council and a private sector water specialist, under a contract that is designed to incentivize both parties to provide the best possible water services at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers.

Key Features:

- Shared Ownership and Governance:** The Council retains ownership of all water infrastructure assets. A joint governance board is formed with representation from Council and the private partner, ensuring Council oversight and local input. The contract could be for 25 years.
- Performance-Based Contract:** The private partner is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and capital upgrades of the water and wastewater systems. A detailed performance contract outlines service level agreements (SLAs) for water quality, supply reliability, environmental compliance, and customer service. Payments to the private partner are directly tied to meeting or exceeding these performance targets.
- Phased Investment Approach:** A comprehensive capital investment plan is developed jointly, prioritising critical upgrades and leveraging the private partner's expertise in efficient project delivery. Investment is phased over time to minimise immediate rate increases, while ensuring long-term infrastructure resilience.
- Focus on Innovation and Efficiency:** The private partner is incentivised to implement innovative technologies and management practices to reduce operational costs, improve water conservation, and enhance service delivery. They are also tasked to look for other solutions that could benefit the community, such as using the treated water for irrigation, water recycling and turning the biosolids into a useable product.
- Community Engagement:** A robust community engagement process is established to provide ongoing updates on the partnership's performance, solicit feedback, and ensure that community values are reflected in decision-making. The council will have a dedicated officer to deal with any community issues that may arise.
- Guaranteed Savings and Cost Certainty:** The performance contract includes a mechanism for sharing cost savings between the Council and the private partner, ensuring that ratepayers benefit from efficiency gains. Fixed price contracts for major upgrades provide cost certainty and reduce the risk of budget overruns.
- Financial Transparency:** The financial performance of the partnership is transparently reported to the Council and the community. All revenues and expenditures are tracked and audited to ensure accountability.

Why this is Superior: Leverages Expertise: My Option 3 leverages the specialised knowledge and resources of a private sector water company, who can bring best practices, innovation, and economies of scale to the management of water and wastewater services. This leads to improved efficiency, reduced costs, and better service

quality compared to Option 1. Balances Local Control with Efficiency: Unlike the CCO model (Option 2), this approach maintains a strong Council presence through joint governance, ensuring that local priorities are considered and that the community has a voice in decision-making. This avoids the potential for the CCO to become detached from local needs. Reduced Financial Risk: By transferring operational and capital investment risks to the private partner, the Council is protected from unexpected cost overruns and financial liabilities. Performance-based payments ensure that the Council only pays for results. Long-Term Sustainability: The long-term partnership creates a stable and predictable funding stream for water infrastructure upgrades, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water and wastewater systems. The focus on innovation and efficiency ensures that the systems are continuously improved to meet future challenges. Increased Borrowing Capacity: Because Council have a partner with significant balance sheet capacity, that increases borrowing capacity substantially, as projects are seen to be in safe hands. Addresses Challenges of Option 1 and Option 2: My Option 3 addresses the limitations of both previous options: Option 1 Challenges (Council Direct Management): Overcomes the potential for bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of specialised expertise, and limitations on borrowing capacity. Option 2 Challenges (CCO): Mitigates the risk of reduced local control, higher short-term costs, and potential for cost overruns. In Summary The "Integrated Water Partnership" I've created as an Option No. 3 offers a balanced approach that combines the benefits of local control with the expertise and resources of the private sector. It is a superior solution because it delivers improved service quality, reduced costs, and long-term sustainability, while ensuring that the community remains at the center of decision-making. It is also more likely to result in the best of all worlds, access to more capital and access to a partner with more experience than Council.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00076

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025

Submitter reference Email - 00076

Delivery method

Receipt number

Submitter details

First name: Sharon

Last name: Belcher

I am writing this submission: As an individual

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? None

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I'm writing because there has been enough evidence that fluoridation of our town supply is harmful and

negligence to the public. Why would I pay my water rates when the council/government is adding this toxic waste to our water supply. I DO NOT WANT TO DRINK IT, SHOWER IN IT OR WATER MY PLANTS WITH IT. As for supporting your community for health this is neglectful. It's not about looking after children's teeth (take sugary fizzy drinks out of their diets is a no brainer and change their diets to a healthy supporting diet) would have been far less costly, this is about poisoning the public it's known fluoridation of water dumbs peoples IQ down, calcifies the pineal gland and more. Why should rate payers be lumped with this ridiculous cost once again! We won't be paying for it and mostly probably time to move to a country that cares for it's people.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00077

Submitted on 27-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Email - 00077
 Delivery method
 Receipt number

Submitter details

First name: Anna

Last name: Gray

I am writing this submission: None

Organisation name:

What is your preferred method of contact? None

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1

Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

I supply and pay to service my own septic system and provide my own water via tanks. No road lights or

stormwater drains on my road. I pay enough rates already and would object to having my rates increased even further. As a retired single person the last rate increase was a big hit considering we get so little in way of services where i live. Ive even got to drive rubbish bags to pick up point

Local Water Done Well consultation



Wilson S - 00007

Submitted on 03-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Email - 00007
 Delivery method
 Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Stephen
Last name:	Wilson
I am writing this submission:	As an individual
Organisation name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
What is your preferred method of contact?	By email

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	Less cost to local ratepayers
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	<p>Two other councils do need help and we should help them by taking option two. Some of the areas have a small ratepayer base and low incomes. I think they should pay a greater share of the upcoming costs but be subsidized by WDC ratepayer to some degree. This option gives non professional councillors too much power. In the great fluoride debacle, pressure groups subverted the proven science, and our mayor and deputy went down the rabbit hole, costing ratepayers funds. To my knowledge, the councillors who voted against fluoridation have not admitted they were wrong or apologized for wasting resources. I have no faith in those six and mayor to make sound decisions, so I do not want this council or future councils following some conspiracy by ignoring the sound scientific information or being influenced by emotive people from down the rabbit hole.</p>

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Professionals will be managing the system with less political interference. We have a social responsibility to support the other two districts to some degree. So has central govt.

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

We will have to pay more. I accept that. But overall, professional management is worth any extra cost, and maybe cheaper to manage per Northland ratepayer, than a bunch of elected amateurs who have proven they make mistakes.

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Overall, previous councils set us up well, but this mayor and six councilers have let us down. If a referendum has been held on that contentious issue, regardless of the outcome, I would have more faith in a council controlled water system.

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00075

Submitted on 02-May-2025

Submitter reference Email - 00075

Delivery method

Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Tim
Last name:	Robinson
I am writing this submission:	NorthChamber
Organisation name:	NorthChamber
What is your preferred method of contact?	None

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2	<p>NorthChamber provisional position; Select Option 2 Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils</p> <p>Reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show real leadership in improving the outcomes for all Northlanders • Ability to apply specific skills to governance of water infrastructure • Ability to employ more/better management, technical, project management resources with greater scale – with the advantages spread over the region
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-
- Opportunity for greater efficiencies over time - offsetting the potentially higher debt
 - Rather than being cast in a negative light, debt to build long-term assets should be considered a reasonable and necessary strategy. Debt spreads the cost of the assets over their lifetime
 - Potential for council to negotiate with Government to assist with offset unequal capital inequity at the offset
 - Structure should allow for differential charging in regions/areas
-

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

In respect of the Potential Cons raised by the council:

- Need to apply some innovative user-pays charging structures such as differential charges to overcome differences in needs and input capital
- Setup costs are a one-off and can be minimised with skilled management

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?



Submission on WDC annual plan and Water Done Well

Executive summary

NorthChamber is the champion and advocate for business across Tai Tokerau/Northland. WDC has published its proposals for the annual plan with rates options for 2025-26, along with Local Water Done Well. Given the tight timeframe for feedback on both consultations, NorthChamber is submitting on a broad premise, which is focussed on minimising costs to doing business, but also acknowledge that we are still working with our members to gain empirical feedback data.

At a strategic level, NorthChamber would challenge council to consider their cost structures, and project priorities, in the same manner that central government is doing currently. Given the increases being proposed to businesses, it would be helpful if the Council provided some detail in the consultation document about the cost saving measures that you have implemented, prior to concluding that further cost increases are necessary. At a micro level, NorthChamber seeks options that limit cost increases for businesses.

WDC Annual Plan 2025-26 consultation

Consultation topic 1. New stormwater targeted rate

Option 1 (WDC preferred option)

Introduce a District-wide universal rate of \$0.0003696 per dollar of land value. This would work out to be an average annual cost of \$180 per household.

Option 2

Introduce a District-wide universal rate of \$172 per separately used or inhabited parts (SUIP) of a rating unit. A SUIP refers to any part of a property that is used for a different purpose or inhabited by someone (i.e. if you had two homes on one property, you would be charged twice).

NorthChamber provisional position; Select Option 2

- Further rating on land value does not spread the load equally among ratepayers.
- The Consultation Document is silent on the effect on business or others. The document is misleading in that it states Option 1 in terms of a cost per household of **\$180 per household**. However, the rate is also applied to other categories including business, where the cost is likely to be much higher than \$180.
- Option 2 is a flat charge which spreads the cost equally among ratepayers.

Consultation topic 2, Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

Option 1 (WDC preferred option)

We reduce the UAGC from \$909 to \$500 for 2025-26 to relieve some of the rate burden for lower-value property owners.



Option 2

Leave the UAGC at \$909 in line with what was set in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. This would see the share of rates paid by lower- and higher-value properties remain the same as what we have today.

NorthChamber provisional position; Select Option 2

- The reduction in revenue is added on to all ratepayers who are not 'lower value property owners'.
 - o This is likely to include all commercial property owners and tenants.
 - o This could include superannuants who have held property for many years and whose property has increased over time, but who have no way to improve their income
- The document provides no rationale for favouring one group of ratepayers over another and does not recognise that the current economic climate is affecting all ratepayers, particularly business.
- This is another way for business to bear a higher load of civic costs than its land-value based share for no apparent benefit.
- The document ignores the concept of user-pays.

Consultation topic 3, Relief for farmed business-zoned land

Option 1 (WDC preferred option)

Increase Commercial & Industrial and Rural rates by 1.2% to provide temporary relief to owners of business-zoned property used for farming. Support will be available for a maximum of three years, after which landowners will transition to full business-zone rates.

Option 2

Do not provide temporary relief to owners of business-zoned property used for farming. This would mean properties would continue to be rated within their current zoning with no relief provided. Under this option, the additional 1.2% rate increase for Commercial & Industrial and Rural rates will not be needed to fund the proposed business-zone rates adjustment.

NorthChamber provisional position; Select Option 2

- Commercial and industrial ratepayers with high-value undeveloped land who are **unable to use it for farming** are in a worse position than those who can use it for farming. Farming assumedly generates income. There are commercial and industrial high-value undeveloped properties that are currently undeveloped for a raft of reasons such as:
 - o Land requires significant investment that is unjustified in economic environment
 - o Lack of demand for industrial tenancies
 - o Development process takes several years
- If the council is inclined to subsidise ratepayers who own high-value undeveloped land that has no income attached to it, then this subsidy should be applied evenly and fairly to all ratepayers in the category, not just those that are farming.
- A contestable fund sounds subjective. The Consultation Document has not provided any framework around how this fund will be allocated and who the decision makers will be.

NZ CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE North Chamber

While it is acknowledged that council has responsibility to zone sufficient land for future economic development, this requirement disadvantages many landowners through no fault of their own. All C&I zoned land should be rated 1:1 differential with other types of land to eliminate the underlying inequities created through the differential rating system.

Rationale for NorthChamber position

The option 1 proposals add significant additional costs to small businesses in particular. A landlord receiving a circa 30% increase in rates will pass this straight through to the tenant. Small businesses already financially stressed will find this a significant burden, to the point of considering whether to retain staff and keep the doors open.

The cumulative effect of all three matters for consultation is to further burden the commercial and industrial sector of ratepayers who are already disadvantaged through the differential rating policy and paying more than their share of rates based on land value.

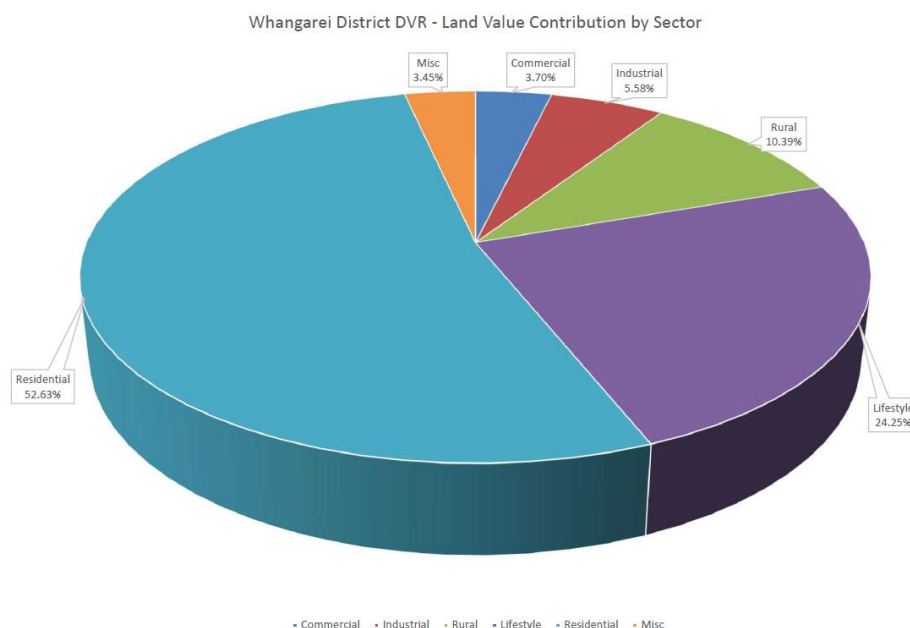
The land value of commercial and industrial (C&I) is 9.3% of the district's land yet the C&I sector pays 24% of the rates. The council has not justified the difference between the two or demonstrated why it believes that the C&I sector should pay 24% of the rates burden.

The increase in rates for industrial properties over the last few years has been extreme. For example, an engineering workshop in the Port Road area went from total rates of \$21,975 incl GST in 2019/2020 to \$36,089 in 2025/6. That is an increase of 64%, if the Council's preferred options are chosen.

The council's differential policy combined with their political stance that some sectors should not pay their share (primarily residential) significantly disadvantages business in the Whangarei District. The "preferred options" (Option 1 in each case) in this Annual Plan Consultation Document further disadvantage businesses (who don't have a vote) in favour of the voting public.

QUESTION: Can the Councillors explain why the Commercial & Industrial sector are to pay 24% of rates when they have 9.3% of the land value ie 15% more than their share?

Land Value by Sector 1 July 2025



NZ CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

North Chamber

	Land-based rates	%	UAGC (per SUIP)	%	TOTAL RATES	%	Share of Land Value	Over/Under
Residential	67,271,000	61.8%	20,812,000	89.3%	88,083,000	66.7%	76.9%	-10%
Multi-Unit	374,000	0.3%	22,000	0.1%	396,000	0.3%		0%
Misc	291,000	0.3%	74,000	0.3%	365,000	0.3%	3.5%	-3%
Rural	10,457,000	9.6%	999,000	4.3%	11,456,000	8.7%	10.4%	-2%
C&I	30,427,000	28.0%	1,398,000	6.0%	31,825,000	24.1%	9.3%	15%
	108,820,000	100.0%	23,305,000	100.0%	132,125,000	100.0%	100.0%	
Per Annual Plan 2025/26 Supporting Documents P26								

Local Water Done Well consultation

Option 1 (WDC preferred option): In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland councils

Option 2: Northland Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Kaipara District Council and Far North District Council (drinking water and wastewater only)

NorthChamber provisional position; Select Option 2

Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils

Reasons:

- Show real leadership in improving the outcomes for all Northlanders
- Ability to apply specific skills to governance of water infrastructure
- Ability to employ more/better management, technical, project management resources with greater scale – with the advantages spread over the region
- Opportunity for greater efficiencies over time - offsetting the potentially higher debt costs
- Rather than being cast in a negative light, debt to build long-term assets should be considered a reasonable and necessary strategy. Debt spreads the cost of the assets over their lifetime.
- Potential for council to negotiate with Government to assist with offset unequal capital inequity at the offset.
- Structure should allow for differential charging in regions/areas

In respect of the Potential Cons raised by the council:

- Need to apply some innovative user-pays charging structures such as differential charges to overcome differences in needs and input capital
- Setup costs are a one-off and can be minimised with skilled management

Local Water Done Well consultation



Email - 00066

Submitted on 30-Apr-2025
 Submitter reference Email - 00066
 Delivery method
 Receipt number

Submitter details

First name:	Jo-Anne
Last name:	Cook-Munro
I am writing this submission:	Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Organisation name:	Federated Farmers of New Zealand
What is your preferred method of contact?	

Option 1: In-house business unit with increased collaboration with Northland Councils

Please tell us what you like about option 1	
Please tell us what you don't like about option 1	<p>Refer to PDF</p> <p>Federated Farmers has concerns over the Council's preferred option. The Council does not appear to have considered that the services it provides come at the cost of the district ratepayers. Given that the proposed Annual Plan for 2025-26 proposes to increase rates for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 20 percent for residential lifestyle property with a land value of \$640,000 (b) 31 percent for a high value residential lifestyle property with a land value of \$3,400,000 (c) 19 percent for a rural property with a land value of \$970,000; and (d) 24 percent for a rural property with a land value of \$3,450,000 <p>2.4 The Council is acting like its ratepayers are a bank for the spending it has decided is necessary. The preferred option of staying in house for water services will increase Council's costs which it would then look</p>

to pass on.

2.5 Local Water done well provides the Councils in the Northland region with the opportunity to work together and share resources and costs. Yet this Council along with Far North District Council have chosen the opportunity to strengthen its in house delivery response as it does not want to cross-subsidise other parts of the Northland's region's water costs.

2.6 The Council needs to be a responsible corporate citizen and not place excessive financial burdens onto its ratepayers. Given the global instability in the world economy and the cost-of living crisis that continues in New Zealand, the Council should be looking to collaborate with other councils where possible to share resources and manage costs.

Option 2: Northland CCO with Kaipara and Far North District councils (drinking and wastewater only)

Please tell us what you like about option 2

Refer to PDF

2.7 The adoption of a multi council-controlled organisation would mean that the three councils would be able to share resources such as staff, information and technology. While it would initially be more costly to establish at first, resources and costs would be shared across the three councils which would help avoid duplication of roles and costs

2.8 It would also assist in increasing the collaboration between the three councils and hopefully reducing any duplication in the services provided. In addition, a multi council-controlled organisation would have a higher borrower ratio based on its water related revenue than an individual council which introduces a higher level of certainty for future investment

Please tell us what you don't like about option 2

Further comments

Do you have any further comments?

Refer to PDF

2.9 Federated Farmers requests that the Council
(a) commences discussions with Kaipara and Far North District Councils to establish a multi council-controlled organisation to deliver water services to the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei districts; and
(b) relook at the budget it has put aside for Local Water Done Well to see where costs can be cut so the burden on its ratepayers is reduced.

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Whangarei District Council
Via email: WaterConsult@wdc.govt.nz

Address for service: **JO-ANNE COOK-MUNRO**
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Federated Farmers of New Zealand
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northland Federated Farmers (**Federated Farmers**) appreciates this opportunity to submit on the Far North District Council's (**Council**) proposal as to how it should deliver water services (Local Water done Well). Federated Farmers has over 183 active members located in the Whangarei district area.
- 1.2 Federated Farmers acknowledge any submissions from individual members of our organisation.
- 1.3 Federated Farmers would like the opportunity to speak to Council about this submission.
- 1.4 Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of decision making under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002 to ensure farming and the rural sector are treated in an equitable manner. It submits on documents produced under these Acts across New Zealand and make helpful proposals when the opportunity is provided.
- 1.5 Federated Farmers also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government have the appropriate tools to conduct their functions.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 2.1 Federated Farmers is generally supportive of the Local Water done well programme as it will ensure many positive benefits for water users including:
 - (a) Water services remaining publicly owned.
 - (b) Stricter application of rules for environmental, safety and financial matters.
 - (c) The active involvement of communities and tangata whenua in decision-making.

- 2.2 The Council is required to decide on whether it will manage its water separately or combined with other Councils in a council owned organisation to provide water services. Whangarei District Council has indicated that its preferred option for providing its water services is an in-house unit with increased collaboration with the other Northland councils. The Council believes that it has shown that it has the capacity to build, operate and maintain great water services for the district. It sees that the retention of water service in-house would see its service delivery remaining strong.¹
- 2.3 Federated Farmers has concerns over the Council's preferred option. The Council does not appear to have considered that the services it provides come at the cost of the district ratepayers. Given that the proposed Annual Plan for 2025-26 proposes to increase rates for:
- (a) 20 percent for residential lifestyle property with a land value of \$640,000;
 - (b) 31 percent for a high value residential lifestyle property with a land value of \$3,400,000;
 - (c) 19 percent for a rural property with a land value of \$970,000; and
 - (d) 24 percent for a rural property with a land value of \$3,450,000.²
- 2.4 The Council is acting like its ratepayers are a bank for the spending it has decided is necessary. The preferred option of staying in house for water services will increase Council's costs which it would then look to pass on.
- 2.5 Local Water done well provides the Councils in the Northland region with the opportunity to work together and share resources and costs. Yet this Council along with Far North District Council have chosen the opportunity to strengthen its in house delivery response as it does not want to cross-subsidise other parts of the Northland's region's water costs.³
- 2.6 The Council needs to be a responsible corporate citizen and not place excessive financial burdens onto its ratepayers. Given the global instability in the world economy and the cost-of-living crisis that continues in New Zealand, the Council should be looking to collaborate with other councils where possible to share resources and manage costs.
- 2.7 The adoption of a multi council-controlled organisation would mean that the three councils would be able to share resources such as staff, information and technology. While it would initially be more costly to establish at first, resources and costs would be shared across the three councils which would help avoid duplication of roles and costs.
- 2.8 It would also assist in increasing the collaboration between the three councils and hopefully reducing any duplication in the services provided. In addition, a multi council-controlled organisation would have a higher borrower ratio based on its water related revenue than an individual council which introduces a higher level of certainty for future investment.

¹ (2025) Whangarei District Council *Water you say, Whangarei*, p8.

² (2025) Whangarei District Council *Annual Plan 2025-26 consultation document*, p12-13.

³ At n 1 above, p8.

Relief sought:

2.9 Federated Farmers requests that the Council:

- (a) commences discussions with Kaipara and Far North District Councils to establish a multi council-controlled organisation to deliver water services to the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei districts; and
- (b) relook at the budget it has put aside for Local Water Done Well to see where costs can be cut so the burden on its ratepayers is reduced.

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

