



Concerned Ratepayers Kapiti
Being proactive to create positive communities

Local Water Done WELL

Speaker: Chris Harwood, Chair, Concerned Ratepayers Kapiti
Date: 6 March 2025



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- **Getting a robust consultation process in place is important for Kapiti Ratepayers**
- **Decisions about how our water is managed and who will do this will affect us for generations to come.**
- We know change is required but...
 - The draft consultation document does not present enough information for ratepayers to make informed submissions
and
 - It is largely silent on some fundamental issues.



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Fundamental issue #1

Only two options were shortlisted- “The One”(in-house, essentially “status quo”) and “The Four” (a four council-owned organisation)

We understand other options were considered but...

- The draft document does not detail costs / benefits or provide an implications analysis for all options that were initially considered.
- The draft document does not explain in sufficient detail why only these two options are being consulted on.

The Council seems to be in breach of clause 26 of the Local Government (Water Services) Bill which requires consultation on the status quo, a change proposal, and “at least 1 further reasonably practical option”.



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Fundamental issue #2

The draft consultation document is light on financial detail. It says:

- *Councils will incur increased costs ...*
- *We must adopt a water services model that's financially sustainable for the future and able to fund investment requirements within applicable funding arrangements.*

(page 11)

- Some or possibly all options could lead to higher water charges offset by lower property rates, meaning lower KCDC debt levels. This could eliminate the current approach of increasing property rates each year to lower KCDC debt levels.

These possible associated effects are not spelt out in the document.



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Fundamental issue #3

The draft consultation document and the proposed processes do not meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 or the local Government (Water Services) Bill.

- *...persons...should be provided... with reasonable access to relevant information...*
(Local Government Act 2002 82 Principles of consultation)
- *(c) how proceeding with the proposal is likely to affect-*
 - (i) the authority's rates, debt, and levels of service; and*
 - (ii) any charges for water services:*
 - (iii) arrangements and mechanisms for the*
funding, pricing, invoicing and collection of charges for water services:(Local Government (Water Services) Bill, Clause 28)



We request that the draft consultation document(s) are revised so that ratepayers can understand:

- **Quantified benefits and costs for all options**
- **How property rates, water rates, debt levels and debt reduction strategies could be affected under all options**
- **We want to make sure that the processes used result in open and transparent decision making by Council that is understood and supported by ratepayers.**