

AGENDA/KAUPAPA



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Colin Alder, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhonda Tibble and Nick Tupara

COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA – LOCAL WATER DONE WELL HEARINGS and DELIBERATIONS

DATE: Wednesday 21 May 2025

TIME: 9:00AM

AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

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Council

Chairperson:	Mayor Rehette Stoltz
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga
Membership:	Mayor and all Councillors
Quorum:	Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the number is uneven
Meeting Frequency:	Six weekly (or as required)

Terms of Reference:

The Council's terms of reference include the following powers which have not been delegated to committees, subcommittees, officers or any other subordinate decision-making body, and any other powers that are not legally able to be delegated:

1. The power to make a rate.
2. The power to make a bylaw.
3. The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the Long Term Plan.
4. The power to adopt a Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, or Annual Report.
5. The power to appoint a Chief Executive.
6. The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the Long Term Plan or developed for the purpose of the Local Governance Statement.
7. The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.
8. Committee Terms of Reference and Delegations for the 2019–2022 Triennium.
9. The power to approve or amend the Council's Standing Orders.
10. The power to approve or amend the Code of Conduct for elected members.
11. The power to appoint and discharge members of Committees.
12. The power to establish a joint committee with another local authority or other public body.
13. The power to make the final decision on a recommendation from the Ombudsman where it is proposed that Council not accept the recommendation.

14. The power to make any resolutions that must be made by a local authority under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the appointment of an electoral officer.
15. Consider any matters referred to it from any of the Committees.
16. Authorise all expenditure not delegated to staff or other Committees.

Council's terms of reference also includes oversight of the organisation's compliance with health and safety obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Note: For 1-7 see clause 32(1) Schedule 7 Local Government Act 2002 and for 8-13 see clauses 15, 27, 30 Schedule 7 of Local Government Act 2002

3.1. Governance Work Plan

2025 COUNCIL						Meeting Dates										
HUB	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	30-Jan	27-Mar	9-Apr	21-May	18-Jun	26-Jun	14-Aug	2-Oct	30-Oct	12-Nov	11-Dec
Community Lifelines	Water	Local Water Done Well Hearings (May 21/22 2025)	Community supporting submissions on LWDW	Information (I)	Kim Gilman/ Kevan Scott											

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



25-106

Title: 25-106 2025 Local Water Done Well Hearings Overview Report

Section: Communications & Engagement
Finance & Affordability

Prepared by: Amy Shanks - Corporate Planning Advisor

Meeting Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Medium**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for information

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

This report outlines the Hearings process for Local Water Done Well and provides a full summary of community feedback received during the formal consultation period, held from 1 April to 1 May 2025.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The consultation sought community input on how Gisborne District Council (Council) should deliver and fund safe, reliable, and sustainable water services across Tairāwhiti from 2027 onwards, in response to Government's Local Water Done Well Policy.

Council presented two delivery options for Community feedback:

- Our Water, Our Way (Council-led service delivery with ring-fenced funding) and
- The establishment of a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

The objective of community consultation was to understand community preferences before preparing the required Water Services Delivery Plan, due by 3 September 2025.

To support informed engagement, the campaign included:

- A formal consultation document (available online and in hard copy).
- Online submission forms via Council's Participate portal.
- Promotional activity through radio, newspaper, social media and digital channels.
- A programme of community conversations and pop-in events led by councillors and supported by staff.

Council received 204 formal submissions, along with additional informal feedback during the consultation period.

Hearings are scheduled to be heard at this meeting. It will give the five submitters who requested to be heard an opportunity to present their views directly to councillors **(see Attachment 2 for their submissions)**.

A full summary of feedback - formal submissions and key statistics are **attached** to this report. Councillors will consider all submissions ahead of deliberations and the adoption of a final Water Services Delivery Plan on 26 June 2025.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.**

Authorised by:

Nedine Thatcher Swann - Chief Executive

Keywords: Local Water, Hearings, Consultation, Submissions, Our Water, CCO

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

What we were consulting on

1. The Local Water Done Well framework, adopted by Government in December 2024, returned water service delivery responsibilities to local councils, and repealed the former Three Waters legislation. Councils are now required to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025, with implementation of a new model by 1 July 2027.
2. The purpose of the consultation was to determine how Gisborne District Council should continue to deliver and fund drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services from 2027 onwards.
3. Two service delivery options were presented in the Consultation Document:
Option 1 – Our Water, Our Way: an in-house delivery model, where Council retains direct control and ownership of water services, using ring-fenced funding and targeted rates. Governance remains within the Council structure, supported by new regulatory reporting requirements.
Option 2 – Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO): establishment of a new entity governed independently of Council, with water services managed by a separate Board and funded through user charges and external financing.
4. Council's preferred option, Our Water, Our Way, reflects a model that retains local control, ensures affordability, and builds on existing staff capability. It also reduces the significant cost and governance complexity associated with establishing a CCO while meeting the compliance expectations of the new water services regulator, Taumata Arowai.
5. The Consultation Document supports the key principles of Council's adopted Strategic Framework and Recovery Plan, including community wellbeing, local decision-making, financial resilience, and climate adaptation. It aligns with the goals of sustainable infrastructure delivery and long-term affordability.
6. Community feedback was sought on the two options, with specific questions addressing:
 - Preferences for governance and delivery structure.
 - Willingness to pay for long-term water infrastructure upgrades.
 - Attitudes toward targeted water rates and future metering.
 - Views on local accountability and transparency.

Consultation Process, Engagement and Process

7. The Hearings and the subsequent Deliberations held at this meeting, conclude the formal consultation (special consultative procedure) for Council's proposed Water Services Delivery Plan under the Government's Local Water Done Well framework.

8. Summary of the attachments are:

- a. **Attachment 1** – Summary of engagement, consultation results.
- b. **Attachment 2** – Submissions from those wishing to be heard (five in total).
- c. **Attachment 3** – All submissions number in order they were received (including those wishing to be heard).
- d. **Attachment 4** – Summary of the Informal community feedback.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

9. The discussion that follows considers the consultation, engagement hearings process.

Consultation, Engagement Process

10. Formal consultation ran from Tuesday 1 April to midnight Thursday 1 May 2025. The consultation campaign consisted of:

- A Consultation Document titled “Local Water Done Well”, outlining Council's responsibilities under Local Water Done Well, options for future service delivery and our preferred model.
- Digital and hardcopy submission tools via a dedicated Participate webpage, downloadable PDFs, print copies in libraries, customer service centres and iPads at Gisborne District Council set up for submissions.
- Advertising and promotion through local newspapers, radio, social media, Participate, Council website and He Pānui eNews.
- Community drop-in sessions, community meetings in the city, Te Karaka, Manutuke, and Muriwai and one online webinar facilitated by Council staff and elected members.

11. Submission channels were via the online Participate page, email submissions and verbal feedback at drop-in sessions. A summary of engagement statistics is provided in **Attachment 1**, which includes:

- 250 printed Consultation Documents.
- 2 public drop-in events, 2 pop up events, four community events and one online webinar (total attendance approximately 267).
- 509 radio promotions across 11 channels.
- Nine print ads and one news article.
- More than 35,416 people reached via Facebook/ Instagram – stories, ads and events.
- 2012 visits to the Participate page and 93 downloads of the Consultation Document.
- One edition of He Pānui eNews sent to 426 recipients, one edition of Chamber of Commerce e-news and one edition of Trust Tairāwhiti e-news.
- 204 total submissions received online.
- Post card sent to approximately 17,000 ratepayers.

12. A total of 204 submissions were received, with initial analysis showing strong support for retaining direct Council control through the *Our Water, Our Way* model, citing affordability, trust, and ease of implementation. A full list of submissions is included in **Attachment 3**.
13. Community feedback shows strong support for maintaining control locally, a preference that aligns with Council's recovery objectives and the principle of local decision-making.
14. This matter has long-term financial and service implications for households, businesses, and communities in the region. Accordingly, a robust consultation process was followed (**Refer to Attachment 1**). Council now considers all the submissions during hearings and deliberations process before adopting the final plan in June 2025.

Hearings

15. Hearings allows those submitters who wished to be heard and gives them an opportunity to present their views directly to councillors. There are five submitters who requested to be heard (Refer to **Attachment 2** for their submissions).
16. Following hearings, Councillors will deliberate on the options and community feedback, with a final Water Services Delivery Plan scheduled for adoption at the 26 June 2025 Council meeting.
17. The final recommendation to adopt the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) will be considered at the Council meeting on 26 June 2025. Once adopted, the Plan must be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by 3 September 2025.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation.

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

18. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

19. Both options maintain Council ownership of water assets, with differing governance models: one retains direct Council control, while the other introduces independent oversight through a Council-controlled organisation (CCO), each with varying levels of tangata whenua involvement.

Rangatiratanga

20. Each option presents different opportunities for tangata whenua to influence decisions — the in-house model allows continued collaboration through Council, while a CCO could provide new structures for shared leadership and autonomy in water service delivery.

Oritetanga

21. Both options aim to improve water services and reduce health and infrastructure inequities; however, affordability and accessibility impacts may vary depending on the delivery model and funding mechanisms chosen.

Whakapono

22. Regardless of the model, Council must continue to uphold tikanga, support kaitiakitanga, and embed mātauranga Māori in water management with each structure offering different pathways for recognising cultural values.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

23. Leading up to and during the consultation period (1 April to 1 May 2025), Council hosted 14 hui across various communities and online, providing iwi and hapū with tailored opportunities to engage. Separate hui and invitations were also extended to each Mana Whenua partner to ensure direct and focused engagement.

24. Iwi and hapū were invited to participate in the Local Water Done Well consultation both in writing and through in-person hui. To support informed participation, additional background information was provided to iwi organisations, along with access to channels for feedback and engagement.
25. The Local Water Done Well consultation document was also presented to both the KIWA and Tangata Whenua Reference Group at a dedicated workshop held on 4 April 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

26. Community engagement to consult on the options was completed from 1 April – 1 May as outlined **(see Background and Attachment 1)**.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

27. The Local Water Done Well consultation and proposed programme have both mitigation and adaptation implications in relation to climate change. While infrastructure improvements may generate short-term emissions, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂) from construction and transport activities, these are balanced by opportunities for longer-term emissions reduction through improved water efficiency, leak reduction and energy-efficient operations.
28. The initiative supports mitigation by enabling more sustainable and efficient use of water resources, contributing to Council's goals under the Tairāwhiti 2050 emissions reduction pathway and New Zealand's net zero target.
29. The project is also a key adaptation response to projected climate change impacts in the Tairāwhiti region, including increased drought risk and more extreme rainfall events. Water supply and resilience are highly climate-sensitive areas, and the project strengthens long-term resilience across both urban and rural communities.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

30. For a full breakdown of the implications and assumptions under each section outlined below, refer to the **Local Water Done Well Deliberations Overview Report [25-107]**.

Financial/Budget

31. Financial impacts were a key concern raised through consultation. Submitters highlighted the need to ensure affordability for households and manage long-term financial sustainability. In particular, there were concerns around the potential for water metering or volumetric charges under a CCO model, which could disproportionately affect those already experiencing financial hardship.
32. Detailed financial modelling has been undertaken for both shortlisted options, including projections of future costs, borrowing capacity and impact on rates.

Legal

33. Both shortlisted models must comply with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, with associated legal considerations around LTP amendments, consultation requirements and rating system implications.
34. These include the potential need to amend Council's LTP if assets are transferred, as well as issues relating to the 30% rates cap under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 should a CCO be formed.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

35. The proposed delivery model will have flow-on effects for Council's policy settings, strategic documents, and internal systems. Submitters noted the importance of aligning any changes with long-term plans, infrastructure strategies, and regulatory obligations.
36. Both models will require updates to policies such as the Revenue and Financing Policy, Significance and Engagement Policy, and aspects of asset management planning.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

37. Key risks identified include:
 - **Affordability pressures** on ratepayers, especially under a CCO model.
 - **Implementation challenges**, particularly around system readiness, governance, and timeframes.
 - **Reputational risks** if the chosen model is not well understood or widely supported.
 - **Uncertainty in national policy settings**, which may shift again following future legislative changes.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Wednesday 21 May 2025	Local Water Done Well Hearings	As required and times to be confirmed.
Wednesday 21 May 2025	Local Water Done Well Deliberations following Hearings	Responses and recommendations on submissions (key points to the preferred option and key (common) themes arising) by Council hubs will be considered.
Thursday 26 June 2025	Adoption of the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP)	Council accepts recommendation for adoption of the plan.
July 2025	Response letters sent	To all submitters.
By Wednesday 3 September	Water Services Delivery Plan submitted	To DIA for approval.
Wednesday July 1 2027	New water services model takes effect	Implementation of new model, as part of the Long Term Plan process.

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Consultation Summary [**25-106.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - Hearings Speakers Submissions [**25-106.2** - 9 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Online Submissions [**25-106.3** - 49 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - Informal Community Feedback [**25-106.4** - 8 pages]

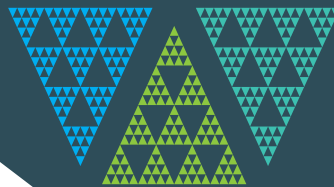
TE HUI ME TE UIUINGA Ā-HAPORI COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

CONSULTATION 1 APRIL – 1 MAY 2025

Attachment 25-106.1



**LOCAL
WATER**
DONE WELL



 **204**
Total submissions

Print



Printed document **250**
Print Ads **9**
Media releases **1**
Postcards to ratepayers
approx. **17000**



12
Static Billboards

Radio



Stations **11**
Interviews **2**

Face to face events



Option 1

90%

**%
10**

Option 2

Digital



Website

Website visits

2012

Document Downloads **93**



Social Media

Total Reach **35416**

Links clicked **7767**



Antenno App

Notification direct
to devices **171**



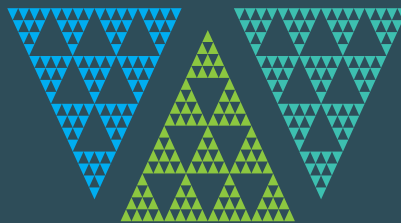
Electronic Direct Mail

He Pānui **4433**

Participate **430**



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL



TE KAUNIHERA O TE TAIRĀWHI
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEARINGS SPEAKERS SUBMISSIONS
MAY 2025

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
38	Deborah Tai		Yes	X		Given the way in which accountability is required and the lesser cost Option 1 is the choice. Given accountability would like to recommend consultation of ratepayers with their corresponding Ward to raise concerns within their area to develop robust planning. Maintenance is a current issue of what is currently in place for Storm Water and Waste Water given the climate and weather conditions changing. Some areas are definitely at continued risk of flooding and impacts to the rivers pending the waste water issues.
106	Les Stewart		Yes	X		The existing services are not maintained or set up to work efficiently as they are... Watereaming in Hughes volume from reservoir in Hillview Terrace. ... No storm water connections to existing properties in Childers Rd etc... What are ratepayers paying for??
182	Meng Liu Foon		Yes	X		Written response below
184	Beth Tupara-Katene	Maraetaha Incorporation	Yes		X	Written response below
188	Philadelphia Haerewa		Yes		X	Voting for option 2 to allow room for change/something new. The council has already had the water control under them and there has yet to be any progress with any upgrades whatsoever for years.

Meng Foon

mengfoon@outlook.com

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I support Inhouse control and management of our water services

It's good GDC have done the sums, CCO and private business are there for profit, as they are responsible to make a profit.

Local governments can directly oversee how water services are managed.

Easier to align decisions with public interest rather than profit motives.

Residents can hold their elected officials accountable for water service quality.

In-house management may have higher upfront costs (e.g., staffing, equipment), but avoids long-term private contractor fees or profit margins.

Avoids the risk of price hikes due to private providers increasing rates for profit.

Public agencies are subject to open records laws and community oversight.

Contracts with private companies often have confidential clauses, limiting transparency.

In-house staff develop deep knowledge of the local water system and infrastructure.

Long-term employees are more likely to be committed to community well-being.

Local governments can respond quickly to emergencies, changes in regulation, or community needs without renegotiating a contract.

They can also invest in sustainability or climate resilience without external pressure to cut costs.

People generally trust services more when they're delivered by non-profit, community-based entities.

Water is a public good—many believe it should stay in public hands to prevent exploitation.



Maraetaha -Toi tu te whenua, hei oranga mo te tangata

Growing a sustainable future.

**Response by Maraetaha Incorporation
on Gisborne District Council's Water Services Delivery Model
and Plan
(Local Water Done Well Consultation – April 2025)**

Date: 1 May 2025

Submitted and endorsed by: Maraetaha Incorporation (Māori Land Entity of Ngāi Tāmanuhiri shareholders)

Drafted by and Key Contact:

Beth Tupara-Katene (Trustee)

btupara.katene@gmail.com

021 032 4478

1. Introduction

Maraetaha Incorporation welcomes the opportunity to provide our response to the Gisborne District Council's (GDC) proposed Water Services Delivery Model and Plan. As a major Māori land entity within the Southern Gisborne rohe, Maraetaha Incorporation holds lands that are directly connected to critical water catchments and rural infrastructure systems that support both the city and wider region.

Our primary concern is the protection of the health and mauri of freshwater resources, the recognition of Māori landowner rights and interests, and the development of a delivery model that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are committed to a water services future that is resilient, equitable, and grounded in strong partnership between Council and tangata whenua.

2. Our Position

Maraetaha Incorporation supports a water services delivery model that embeds Treaty-based governance, not just engagement; upholds and operationalises Te Mana o te Wai; supports the aspirations of Māori landowners for whenua development and rural community wellbeing; and delivers long-term infrastructure resilience and transparency.

After reviewing the options presented, we believe Option 2 – Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) provides the strongest foundation for delivering these outcomes.

3. Why We Support Option 2: CCO

Treaty-Based Governance

Option 2 enables an independent governance structure that can accommodate formal Māori representation and co-governance, supporting partnership and shared decision-making consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Recognition of Māori Rights and Interests

A standalone entity with a dedicated focus on water services creates space for meaningful implementation of Te Mana o te Wai and for recognising mana whenua values, roles, and responsibilities.

Long-Term Resilience and Capacity

Although this model may involve higher short-term setup costs, its long-term financial headroom, borrowing ability, and dedicated investment potential provide a far stronger platform for climate-resilient and future-proof infrastructure.

Transparency and Operational Focus

A CCO structure allows for ring-fenced funding, improved financial accountability, and operational clarity — ensuring water revenue is invested back into water outcomes.

4. Balancing Short-Term Cost with Long-Term Value

While we acknowledge the initial setup costs associated with Option 2 (Council-Controlled Organisation), these must be considered in light of the long-term value, obligations, and efficiencies that this model offers.

Strategic Investment Prevents Higher Future Costs

Delaying investment in improved governance and infrastructure design increases the risk of greater expense in the future due to asset deterioration, non-compliance, or reduced public confidence. Option 2 provides increased borrowing capacity and a dedicated operational focus, enabling more effective long-term investment than what is possible under the current in-house model.

Failure to Meet Treaty Commitments Carries Significant Risk

Option 2 provides a clear opportunity to embed co-governance with mana whenua and give meaningful effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Mana o te Wai. Maintaining a Council-led model risks ongoing tension, reputational damage, and legal or regulatory challenge if Treaty expectations are not met.

Upfront Design Strengthens Trust, Transparency, and Efficiency

Although Option 2 may have higher setup costs, it delivers a ring-fenced structure with greater transparency, clearer accountability, and better alignment with long-term water management outcomes. It is a strategic investment that supports public trust, safeguards funding integrity, and ensures water services are fit for purpose in the decades ahead.

5. Key Priorities for Maraetaha Incorporation

We expect that any Water Services Delivery Model adopted by GDC will give effect to the following priorities:

- **Protect the Mauri of Freshwater**

Maraetaha Incorporation's whenua underpins Gisborne's drinking water security. The long-term resilience of the region's water services depends on the health of our catchments.

Te Mana o te Wai must be embedded into all infrastructure planning and decision-making — in practice, not only in principle.

- **Building on Existing Relationships**

Maraetaha and GDC are partners through an existing Memorandum of Understanding and the Maraetaha–GDC Strategy (2024). We are progressing a multi-year work programme focused on water catchment health and rural resilience.

The Water Services Delivery Plan must strengthen this partnership and embed Maraetaha’s role in governance, investment prioritisation, and operational delivery.

This is not a matter of consultation — it is about formalising our role in shaping a shared future.

- **Recognition of Māori Landowners in Water Allocation**

Water services planning must integrate water allocation decision-making. Māori landowners like Maraetaha must be at the table to shape equitable allocation frameworks.

Future models must enable water access for Māori land development, papakāinga, and sustainable whenua-based activities — giving effect to Te Tiriti obligations and unlocking long-stalled land use potential.

- **Guarantee Safe and Equitable Rural Drinking Water**

Our whānau and shareholders live in rural communities such as Muriwai, Tawatapu, and surrounding areas. These areas have long been underserved by water infrastructure.

The Plan must include direct investment in rural Three Waters upgrades — treating rural needs with equal priority to urban areas.

- **Deliver Targeted Rural Infrastructure Investment**

Water services must support Māori social and economic development.

Infrastructure upgrades must enable papakāinga development, marae connectivity, climate adaptation and resilience planning, and whenua-based enterprises.

Rural development must be prioritised — not deferred or sidelined.

- **Embed Financial Transparency and Accountability**

Water services funding must be ring-fenced, and annual reporting must be provided to Māori landowners and mana whenua partners.

Reporting should include investment outcomes by location; progress against Te Mana o te Wai; breakdown of funding allocations across rural and urban areas; and governance and engagement outcomes.

6. Conclusion

Maraetaha Incorporation firmly supports the establishment of a dedicated water services entity under Option 2 – the Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) model. We believe this option provides the strongest platform for delivering a future-ready, Treaty-honouring, and community-focused water system for Te Tairāwhiti.

Option 2 offers more than just structural reform — it enables a shift toward genuine partnership, transparency, and investment equity. It supports our aspirations as Māori landowners and kaitiaki, and it creates the governance space needed to embed Te Mana o te Wai and ensure all communities — including our rural whānau — are well served.

While the initial cost of establishing a CCO is acknowledged, this must be seen as a strategic investment in the long-term resilience, integrity, and fairness of Gisborne’s water services. Delaying reform risks higher costs down the line — not only financial, but also social, environmental, and Treaty-related.

Importantly, regardless of which model is ultimately adopted, Maraetaha Incorporation expects the commitments outlined in this submission to be embedded into Gisborne District Council’s Water Services Delivery Plan and operations. These include clear obligations to honour existing relationships, support rural Māori infrastructure needs, and involve Māori landowners in governance, allocation, and investment decisions.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with Council to co-design and implement a delivery model that protects our wai, upholds our responsibilities as kaitiaki, and builds a water system that truly works for all of Te Tairāwhiti — now and into the future.

Nāku iti nei, nā



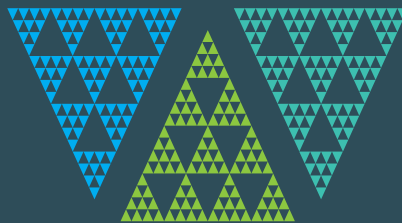
Bella Hawkins
Chairperson
Maraetaha Incorporation



Beth Tupara-Katene
Trustee
Maraetaha Incorporation



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL



TE KAUNIHERA O TE TAIRĀWHI
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS
MAY 2025

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
1	Stephen Nicholas Brown		No	X		After reading through the Local Water Done Well document, i initially viewed the CCO option as the better option in the "longer term" due to its ability to access more capital to complete urgent projects faster. However, reviewing the Cost to implement and operate the COO structure - i would have to vote for the 'Our Water Our Way" structure as it is projected to be less costly to Ratepayers at least in the first 7 years. Another advantage is that there appears to be provision to move to a COO structure in the future, as well as the possibility of combining with other regional councils - if that becomes a consideration of GDC, and in best longer term interests of ratepayers in future . (i.e. greater than the 10 year projections as indicated in the comparison of both options as presented in this consultation document to Ratepayers.
2	Julie Sandra Reichenbach		No	X		I feel that our region is truly unique in terms of our water supply and needs and I feel that having local council and community input are crucial to maintaining control of our local water requirements. I worry that Option 2 will see a majority of monies available spent of the larger cities and that One Water Council will not understand or address our unique needs.
3	Paula Renshaw		No	X		

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4	Peter Renshaw		No	X		User Pays Water Schemes generally seem to become very expensive
5	Huhana Tuhaka		No	X		Kia oraAs a rate payer for nearly forty years I initially support Option 1. I like that 'this option also doesn't lock us into one model forever, so we can adapt or change if another approach, like a joint arrangement with other councils or switching to a CCO if there's a better opportunity in the future'.... including seeking advice on the pros and cons of a joint arrangement approach with an appropriate CCO .H Tuhaka
6	Cyril Payn		No	X		Because you say so
7	Denzil Sonny Hitama		No	X		Our Water Our Way - Keeps local decisions local which best aligns with GDC's unique needs, priorities and long-term vision for sustainable and effective water services as informed by the community.
8	Ruth Quirk		No	X		Granted our "rates will go up" but it appears the cost to rate payers will be less than Option 2. (note: it's not clear how householders / rate payers will earn that extra money to meet the increases).
9	Stephen Newman		No	X		Less cost
10	Roslyn Powell		No	X		
11	Christine Sexton		No	X		Keeps it in control of the elected council

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12	Rena Kohere		No	X		
13	Jennifer Dawn O'Neill		No	X		I have read the information on both options and consider option 1 the best option. Our council knows our needs and how our water supply works, and I feel they manage it fine Thank you.
14	Johannes Willem van Eeden		No	X		Locally controlled, once out of local hands it becomes difficult for people in major centres to understand our rural issues.
15	Morgan Davis		No	X		Keep services in house. I believe the other way will lead to privatization of ratepayer's assets. Believe in long run, second option will create new extra costs. Just get some qualified skilled professional employees in council to manage and maintain. Believe in keeping rate payers assets
16	Arvin Lawler		No	X		We need to minimise costs. The Government and Councils cannot afford any more debt. The Economy will be facing head winds for the next 10 years or so. We cannot Mortgage our future generations. Council rates charges need to stabilise asap. The cost of living is already at critical levels. Gisborne Council currently provides an excellent service. They have amazing hard working staff. It's time to provide the basic's well at a fair price so Rate payers can fulfill their obligations. Cheers Arvin
17	Coralie Te Nahu		No	X		I think option 1 is the best option - I prefer it in-house.

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18	Sarah Gibson		No	X		Option 1 means no additional governance and admin structure to set up and pay for. My concern with option 2 is that you would be doubling up on jobs and spending money unnecessarily that way. And it sounds like setting up a CCO may not even be achievable before the central government deadline. Concerning water metering and rates – Option two sounds like it would be a bigger, faster change to the way, and how much, we pay for water – fairer in some ways but with potentially harmful consequences for low income households if they can't afford to pay their water bill. I'm also not sure whether ratepayers can actually afford to fund a CCO at the speed at which it is capable of upgrading the water system. If we can't, then what's the point of an entity that can get things done faster?
19	Albert James Ballantyne		No	X		
20	Ariana Ballantyne		No	X		
21	June Searle		No	X		We want to keep it local to benefit the local ratepayers and community.
22	Caroline Puketapu		No	X		Essential and simplicity. Continued services.

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23	James and Sue Burnett		No	X		We appreciate we pay for water in our rates. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT IN THE FUTURE WE STILL PAY FOR WATER IN OUR RATES.
24	Micheal Bevan Ellis		No	X		Prevent the chance of water supply infrastructure from being privatised or being operated as a commercial enterprise.
25	Anthony James Wilson		No	X		
26	Jenny Moran		No	X		The council owns the infrastructure around the water use, so providing the water services as well seems to make sense, it's a one spot for everything. We elect the councillors, so we can have some sway on what we want. It avoids having a separate entity who could potentially use water management for their own benefit not those of the community.
27	Georg Winkler	Fortitude Ltd	No	X		Option one is best pans most efficient. No need to have another layer of costs which could otherwise be used to improve infrastructure.
28	Suzanne Bull		No	X		
29	Teresa Covell		No	X		
30	Kevin Farmer		No	X		

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31	Jacqueline Ivyne Jones		No	X		I prefer that decisions on local infrastructure are taken at the local level to ensure best understanding and accountability. I realise that funding without central government assistance is a potential downside/weakness in this approach.
32	Nico Claassen		No	X		We need to take responsibility for managing our own water system. If we become part of a broader New Zealand network, we'll be expected to contribute to building infrastructure in the larger cities. It's better that we manage our own supply independently, rather than through a single council-controlled organisation (CCO).
33	Richard Stannard		No	X		I prefer councillors to make decisions on water/wastewater
34	Jacque Paull		No	X		
35	Stephen Lindsay Jones		No	X		
36	Seton William Clare		No	X		Wellington Water Care and Auckland are not good examples of separate organisations trying to manage all these services. What happens to our strategic assets already paid for by existing and past ratepayers?

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37	Kath Jones		No	X		Our Council is uniquely placed, RIGHT NOW, to understand the issues with water in their region. Our city water supply is vulnerable at the best of times. Council can directly attend to the issues this presents rather than needing another governing body to oversee it.
38	Deborah Tai		Yes	X		Given the way in which accountability is required and the lesser cost Option 1 is the choice. Given accountability would like to recommend consultation of ratepayers with their corresponding Ward to raise concerns within their area to develop robust planning. Maintenance is a current issue of what is currently in place for Storm Water and Waste Water given the climate and weather conditions changing. Some areas are definitely at continued risk of flooding and impacts to the rivers pending the waste water issues.
39	Bridgid Scott		No	X		I like Option 1. Option 2 - a Council Controlled Organisation; sounds to me like a business, which would be operating to make profits for it's shareholders or whatever other agenda it has. I would much prefer the delivery plan be made by local people whose specific interests here are providing the 3 waters for the benefit of those in the region. I think that lending local money to allow governance to whichever entity 'wins' the contract is unwise.

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40	Thomas Erich Dehmer		No	X		I believe that keeping our local water in house will be more beneficiary for the Gisborne Community, we have been in charge of our water for a long time, and we know best what Gisborne needs instead of an outstanding Entity which knows nothing about our water infrastructure.
41	Amy Shanks		No	X		Lower cost upfront, with room to move in future - it makes the most sense.
42	Paul Badger		No	X		We don't need another entity set up.
43	Vaughan Winton Plowman		No	X		Option 1 is in house and will not need to generate profit decisions, does not need corporate directors, nor add additional cost and other taxes, doesn't require directors expense payments,.Continuing option 1 retains direct flexible council control and decision making in house.Option 1 allows ratepayers to hold councillors directly accountable at election time.Option 1 which means continuing as at present is best choice. Water metering private residences is not favoured.
44	John Pennington		No	X		
45	Trevor Jukes		No	X		Hopefully you will keep to your word and provide a cost-efficient well managed service for future generations without the normal excuse of sorry we made a mistake in our budget.

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46	Valerie Bos		No	X		
47	William Jones		No	X		Local influence
48	Rebecca Streith		No	X		I think it is really important to maintain direct control of such an important asset, and the risk of part or even full privatisation in the future just seems quite high once if we move to a CCO structure.
49	Ian Tietjen		No	X		

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50	Peter Williamson		No	X		I see the CCO proposal as wasteful, and not a suitable solution for a resource that is essential to all and owned by no one. The infrastructure needs to function and be maintained to professional standards for the common good of the District and that requires a democratic approach which inherently gives greater control to all users. I want local control by democratically elected Councillors of these key assets put in place funded by previous generations of ratepayers. I trust, and expect democratically elected Councillors to discharge the essential role of ensuring we have the necessary infrastructure in place and to confidently maintain safe supply for industry and private property users. Water availability, and confidence in a safe supply, is essential for business and community wellbeing. I expect rigorous governance at Councillor level and professionalism at Executive management level to manage costs and confidence in both existing and planned infrastructural work.
51	Judith Hayes		No	X		I trust our council to give us the best option that they consider for our region
52	Louise Carlile		No	X		To keep it simple.

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53	Jacky Graham		No	X		I would rather keep our water system under the control of our local council. I would not want another entity set up made up of people who were not voted into that position. I would not want to see the rate payers responsible for yet another group of administrators costs. Water is too important to our community and must come directly under our local council so it is managed efficiently to provide safe drinking water.
54	Beverly Anne Bayliss		No	X		Keep it local. But I must add Gisborne is growing rapidly so this council needs to build more water storage tanks, so we always have lots of water and no more water restrictions
55	Anita Ewart-Croy	Thompson's Horticulture Ltd	No	X		In times of severe weather decisions need to be made quickly and transparently for the benefit of the residents of Gisborne. The water consent process is lengthy and convoluted enough for Gisborne Horticulture to then make it more complex with a separate board of directors would be extraordinarily frustrating for this business sector.
56	Gary Stevens		No	X		
57	Margaret Tuhaka		No	X		

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58	Robert and Marie Moffat		No	X		Have not seen any positives in other cities when water supplies have been privatised. It is always someone else's problem. There are too many people or companies to go through and often nothing gets done. Our street lights are a good example
59	John Moffat		No	X		Splitting off services and basically privatising them has never worked look at the mess our power is in to many power companies now and now power keeps going up same will happen with the water quality will decline and costs will increase keep our water completely under council control
60	Peter Swainston		No	X		
61	Nicholas Coyne		No	X		Local control and directly under control of council.
62	Mel briant		No	X		Control should stay within the region. Also, people using the water should be paying for it so when there are problems the council has funds to fix the issues. Hopefully if people are paying then we will have less wasted water, and with more money coming in more repairs get done, and less sewage ruining our beaches
63	Michael Mather		No	X		Whoever controls the water must be able to be held responsible. The council are elected by the rate payers and can be voted off.

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64	Rice Partnership		No	X		Stay with Option 1. The cost to set up a separate entity, governed and operated independently, with its own CEO and board of directors would use up financial resources that could be better spent on Option 1. I am not against Option 2, and see some long term advantages. It could be reviewed in a decade when the Tairāwhiti region has recovered from the last few years. FYI, from the 3 essential water services listed, the only possible benefit we receive is Stormwater drains and that's debatable.
65	Christine Page		No	X		It is preferable that the water resource is controlled by people who are directly accountable to the ratepayers, i.e. we can vote them out. Option 2 has the potential to lead us down the slippery slope towards privatisation.
66	Gavin Miller		No	X		local for locals, and locals choose council. Infrastructure already in place.
67	Don Niven		No	X		Because Option 2 requires CEO, usually means big salary etc. Too much money will go on salaries, director's fees etc taking money away from improving, maintaining the actual water assets. Council has done and is doing a great job with our water assets. Option 1 please.
68	Bryan Payne		No	X		

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69	Shane Vermeulen		No	X		Keep it under one umbrella, less overheads less lines of communication and less expenses.
70	Julie-Ann Terekia		No	X		It seems to be the option with less impact and more mana motuhake within our region.I do not agree with user pays/water meters because I think clean drinking water is a fundamental necessity of life, literally.I have concerns that whānau will risk health and wellbeing by limiting drinking water. With the added cost of water, on top of crazy mortgage/rent and kai prices this will cause more stress to the already strained affordability of living and will impact whānau especially in our rural and low income areas.I would be keen to hear of we have looked at alternatives to paying for water use, limits maybe? Business that use over a certain amount recycling & reusing that water? Rain water collection stations in urban areas? Ko te hauora o te tangata te mea nui e hika mā. Mauriora!
71	Helayna Ruifrok		No	X		Reduce set up costs for our community, who are already finding cost of living hard. People who already know our water systems are in place now, so no need to set up a whole new governance structure. I like that GDC have relationships with iwi and will honour te tiriti in the water process.

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72	Makahuri Thatcher-Wharehinga		No	X		
73	Chris Charrington		No	X		Council controlled will enable cost to be minimised. Do not spend more on waste water. Already spent a ridiculous amount
74	Stewart Peter Blair		No	X		
75	Russell Mancklin Holland		No	X		Hi, need to minimise the overhead cost of managing any and all services in the district..
76	Maire Vivien Overbye		No	X		Our council is in the position to know what are the most important issues facing Gisborne regarding water. With little money available it needs prioritising and careful management. Gisbornites are not able to absorb extra water charges.
77	Jacques Venter		No	X		
78	Jeanette Marie Houghton		No	X		There should be no other than the council who the rates are paid by the public and are elected by the public. A board whoever they may be can have an influence over the outcome and this is not a voted position from the public. So, I strongly say it should stay with the council.
79	Craig Green		No	X		Local water, local government control!

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80	Stephanie Brew		No	X		
81	Deborah Reeves		No	X		Second option would be more expensive employing council and CEO and ultimately passing on costs to community to fund it along with raising water costs.
82	John Charles Darkin		No	X		
83	Catherine Anne Craddock		No	X		
84	Anna Le Comte		No	X		more straightforward and transparent
85	Evie McInteer		No	X		
86	Karen Grimson		No	X		
87	Russell Rochfort Snow	Wainui Sports & Recreation Club Incorporated	No	X		It retains local decision-making with the lowest cost to set up with predictable rates increases. There is flexibility to make changes in the future if better options are available.
88	Russell Rochfort Snow		No	X		Option 1 has the lowest set-up cost, simple and easy to implement, with predictable rates increases and the flexibility to make changes in the future.

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89	Tim Allen		No	X		
90	Wilhelmus Jacobus M. Zwart		No	X		Maximum accountability to local rate payers. Water meters should reduce water waste. User pays.
91	Brian Hopkins		No	X		Local control
92	Paul McKinnon		No	X		
93	Robyns Smith		No	X		The council keeps control of our water
94	Dr Diane Helen Menzies		No	X		Gisborne is small and there is no clear economic, health, cultural or environmental benefit in having two governed entities managing waters. Gisborne currently has 5 Māori elected representatives: there is no clear indication that Māori residents would have representation on a separate board, albeit under GDC oversight. Experience from Auckland's CCO's is that while Watercare seems efficient, not all of the CCO's are so. Auckland Transport for instance is not, so for Gisborne a CCO seems an unnecessary and expensive gamble in management. The council representative who spoke to residents in Manutuke (Leo?) gave a clear outline of issues and he convinced me that the GDC preferred option is the one I should support.

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95	Brent Turnbull		No	X		as a generalisation the status quo would seem to be serving us as well as can be expected. Hopefully we can expect things continue to progress as technology and time will move forward regardless and the council continues to do what they do in our best interest. Brent Turnbull
96	Raechel Laing		No	X		
97	Carla Louise Pickett		No	X		
98	Jenny Marston		No	X		
99	Pauline Thompson		No	X		I want you to adopt option 1. The costs of setting up another organisation to manage this will be borne by the taxpayer. Another entity will be like a set of matryoshka dolls. Please keep it simple, older members of this community have trouble unravelling the complexities of the council as it is. We can not separate the truth from the lies.

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100	Kevin Thompson		No	X		I wish to record my preference for option 1. I don't want to see another entity created with it's own infrastructure, offices and vehicle fleet along with management, huge salaries and costs. We already have people paid to manage this and we don't need another empire built and paid for by the rate payers. Please note, there are far too many anecdotal stories about incompetence and bad decisions that are costing ratepayers excessively. The Council needs more transparency and independent reviewing and auditing of it's activities to ensure we are getting best value for our rates. The Council must stop being devious and dishonest about it's mistakes and have honest dialogue with it's ratepayers.
101	Warwick Robert Bell		No	X		As a Wainui property owner I am in my lifetime unlikely to see reticulated water services in Wainui. That aside, forming another entity to manage water is a cost added solution that is not justifiable when the GDC can as they do now manage water along with the myriad of other financial challenges they face.
102	Kevin Charles Morrell		No	X		We don't need another beauracratic entity we need council to step up and make not just water but all vital infrastructure priority #1.....There is too much rate payer money going towards unnecessary bureaucracy within council and vanity projects

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103	Karen Fletcher		No	X		Because we don't need and can't afford anymore bureaucrats on this council. Money needs to be spent on core infrastructure not feel good projects
104	Geoff Ward		No	X		
105	Eru Campbell		No	X		Lesser money to set up.
106	Les Stewart		Yes	X		The existing services are not maintained or set up to work efficiently as they are... Watereaming in Hughes volume from reservoir in Hillview Terrace. ... No storm water connections to existing properties in Childers Rd etc... What are ratepayers paying for??
107	Kevin Piper		No	X		As long as there is no unelected lwi involved at all. Race based control has no place in our region.
108	Marion Treloar		No	X		The water belongs to us all, it and or the infrastructure for it should not be sold off to anyone, be it iwi or another private owner. I also think if you are only utilising part of the reticulation you should only pay the portion you use, not for all.
109	Richard Flyger		No	X		To avoid extra layers of bureaucrats and consultants. Suggest encouraging new houses to collect rainwater for drinking etc.
110	Graeme Lawrence Card		No	X		

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111	Louise Clare August		No	X		I have read option 1 our council understands our community best and want council to move forward with the projects a head, we are already paying councillors and don't need more people to distribute our rate money that is a waste of tax payers money.
112	Ruth Shearar		No	X		
113	Neil Proctor		No	X		Locals are best to decide OUR water options. Hopefully open consultation continues and decisions are NOT made by elected representatives with a particular agenda after 'consultation' box ticking. Option 2 would mean locals would have less say with a board of directors that may not be local and have too much consideration of financial surplus.....= more cost to the rate payer.

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114	Peter Bryce Beck		No	X		<p>If you can say that Council is managing this asset well and will do so in future, why add a significant additional layer of costly management that could be used to resolve the challenges we face now. i.e. stormwater is getting into our sewage system resulting in pollution of our beaches and environment.</p> <p>Rainfall is not managed well in the district now and is not mentioned in the proposals. Bridge destruction and wood littered beaches are not a positive advertisement for Gisborne.</p> <p>Where in the proposals is there a plan to improve our water management?</p> <p>More of the same, with or without an additional layer of management, hardly defines a vision for our future.</p> <p>As to water metering, how would this work for all users? i.e. recently installed pipelines to Patutahi and Manutuke.</p>
115	Ron Davie		No	X		<p>Option 1 because of cost. Only drawback do we have people to run this who actually know what they are doing because the councils track record for managing their spending isn't great.</p>

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116	Susan Hurne		No	X		I would like to keep control of what happens with our water kept in Gisborne. We know what we have works and we know what we need. I would not like to lose control of our water to another source. I don't want to pay more for water than I have to. Setting up the CCO option looks to cost ratepayers more in the short term which a lot of people can not afford.
117	Karen Foster		No	X		Keep it local, local know best.
118	Antony Wellacott		No	X		Keep it in one system where the decisions are made with effects on everything considered. You don't need another organization to duplicate what the council is already doing.
119	Fred Subritzky		No	X		

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120	(Bob)Robert L Manderson		No	X		<p>Council has been doing it since councils were first started in NZ. Why duplicate what is already there. Secondly, Gisborne water has never made me crook. I trust it never will.</p> <p>Although from a town that used to have enough to see it through a hot summer back to water restriction. Is a puzzle. Where is it all going?</p> <p>Option 2: looks more like Gisborne Holdings jobs for the boy's/girl's where it seems everything costs more. And is out of councillor's oversight.</p> <p>Cheers Bob.</p>
121	John T Williams		No	X		Prefer to keep decisions in local hands.
122	Lauren Muir		No	X		Without question water is the single most precious resource and I feel it is important that the control of it belongs to the regions. This control is vital to ensure the use of our water and waterways are protected and provided to the whanau who live locally.
123	Mara Weiss		No	X		I think GDC has historically done a good job with water delivery and we should continue to trust our local authority to deliver these services. Creating a new entity will mean a whole new bureaucracy and big startup costs with staffing, office space, vehicles, equipment etc. Let's stick with what's working and not over-complicate things.

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124	Geoffrey Thomas Heyward Meade		No	X		Maintaining local control is paramount. We have too many examples of what happens when shareholders and profits become involved. Let us remain as the only shareholders.
125	Rita Lillian MacDonald		No	X		Iwi have known since they were born - rivers and roads don't mix. Neither does Tutai in our kaimoana.
126	Peter Richie		No	X		Less people, working harder
127	Barry John Foster		No	X		Things are uncertain, keep water in-house.
128	Erica Rutherford		No	X		
129	Kate Snow		No	X		It seems the most sensible and I think the council needs to retain control at this stage.
130	Glenn Bridle		No	X		
131	Gary Blair		No	X		If a separate entity is created it becomes its own empire with too many on fat salaries and huge price increases for consumers. Look at Auckland.
132	Hilary Sampson		No	X		Best if our water is controlled at a local level. ...we Gisborne people know our area and any problematic areas. we are able to apply for funding required and project manage any process we decide to take.... History has proved that the best decisions are made locally after considering all options and advice. We have the knowledge and the expertise.

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133	Louise Savage		No	X		This is core business for our Council and is interrelated to other functions
134	Tony		No	X		
135	Daniel Haverly		No	X		
136	PETER Mcconnell		No	X		I favor option one as the current set up works well and there are no set up costs and it is prudent to stay with the lower borrowing limit of council. Gisborne cannot afford the luxury of option two
137	Judith Hayes		No	X		I really prefer the idea of local control over local issues. This allows us (Te Tairāwhiti) the flexibility to control our water system as the weather and other unforeseen events occur which may seriously effect our water supply. I am opposed to having some bureaucrat in Wellington telling us what is best for US!
138	Roberto Sthory		No	X		I vote for option 1: Our Water, Our Way. Access to drinking water is a basic need. Our region has one of the highest rates of low income and deprivation in the country. It is common for several families to cohabit under one roof. Asking them to pay for water separately through a metering process will add further pressure on already stretched budgets. This will set back even further many in our community. I think this needs to be taken into consideration before a final decision is made. A

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
						Single Council CCO option would inevitably lead into it.
139	David John Sinclair		No	X		It would be cheaper for the rate payers , any other way requires setting up offices , admin expenses and uncontrolled salaries paid to the employees of that company as seen at the Eastland Network. Please keep it in house.
140	Garth Tattersfield		No	X		We do not need a separate entity - more executives on fat salaries, more overheads. Water is a direct Council responsibility, part of core business
141	Becky Macpherson		No	X		
142	Jason Patrick Coogan		No	X		

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
143	Ariana Horomona		No	X		Cheaper option now, as it's a struggle with high mortgage, high rates, high living costs. By 2035 onwards who knows what will happen, I could be dead, not my problem anymore with the costs, my house could have been damaged and unliveable, I could have sold up and moved to a home with a water tank, whom knows. The priority is to KEEP COSTS DOWN NOW, so we can live now, eat now, be warm now.
144	Tania Buchanan		No	X		I hope our local council will take into account the economic status and tikanga of our own region when making decisions for our communities in the whole Tairāwhiti area, rather than an outsider making those decisions. We should know what's best for our people.
145	Michael Walter Hockey		No	X		We don't need another layer of bureaucracy as it would probably have tangatūwhenua oversight.

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
146	Bryan McCavana		No	X		I have heard what the staff of other Council controlled organisations are getting paid here in Gisborne, and its way more than council staff. Instantly we will save money by keeping control of the water "in house" under option 1. It will be much easier to get, for example "fluoride removed" from our water supply from an organisation that is controlled by councillors (option 1), not a council controlled organisation (option 2). We can essentially "vote for change" under option one, but not under option 2. We have the ability to ask for a "one off rates increase" to get our water sorted, then lower rates again instantly under option 1. Under option 2 this would be much more difficult due to vested interests like 'more highly paid staff'. Option 1 has way less potential for corruption.
147	Robyn Hatwell		No	X		Our rates are high enough as it is, sending it to an external entity to manage will just incur more costs to ratepayers who are already sick to death of spending on projects that add no value to the district IE the Grey street debacle
148	Juliet Davis		No	X		

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
149	Babette Patricia Judy Drummond		No	X		I chose Option 1 because by keeping control of our water and waste systems locally, any problems that might arise, would be handled quickly. Option 2 would be less satisfactory as there might be several obstacles for the Single CCO to go through before they would be able to handle any problems that might arise. People living locally would have background information and knowledge of this district and would know how to handle situations when and if they arise. Keeping the cost down and not having to pay outsiders to research our area and then handle problems would be a waste of money. Option 1 is the most sensible choice for me.
150	Rosemary Pettigrew		No	X		Lower costs hopefully & more gradual rate increases
151	Sheridan Gundry		No	X		This will keep water services under direct council control and avoid possibly costly set-up costs of a CCO.
152	Lesley Hawkins		No	X		Short term cheaper. Keeps control in local hands No need to make a profit for shareholders or pay high salaries to CEOs? More democratic.
153	Glyn Williams		No	X		services such as this should always be controlled in house as with many others on the council's books

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
154	Vicki Lynaire Flavell		No	X		Local government is always preferable to NZ government control and in this case, private business. At least I can speak to someone when I need to. Elected officials always change, which is good if you get a bad/funny thinking one.
155	Daryl Mervyn Keast		No	X		Reduced bureaucracy hopefully More flexibility in disaster events
156	Sarah Gault		No	X		Please do not charge rural ratepayers for your water systems - we have our own drinking water, waste water and sewerage Water tanks to catch rain water should be installed on all suitable roofs
157	Muriel Warren		No	X		
158	Terence John Warren		No	X		Option 1 keeps it all local because we don't need out of town people deciding what's best for Gisborne.
159	Stewart Patrick		No	X		Having worked in Council in Rivers & Land Drainage 1998 to 2005, alongside other water services in Council, I believe there is no reason why that model will not work well. Our population base is too small for duplication of management boards etc.
160	Ross Noel Hannam		No	X		Cost.

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
161	Melissa Morrison		No	X		<p>I believe it should stay with our Council control as we citizens vote them in on confidence to operate these matters and they are local people, so they will be working for the best for themselves. Having to source an alternative operator could be anyone company from anywhere and that could pose problems although they will be in consultation and control by local council, it still is not as good as being a citizen effected by water needs and issues. I consider Cyclone Gabrielle with the effect it had on our region, they council were here on the ground and able to get the necessary things done. If the council outsourced it would not give them full control over operation needs.</p> <p>Keep it local, keep it in our hands, when you give it away it's not easy to get back.</p> <p>Please don't stray in to uncharted territory, don't fix what ain't broke, keep the work local controlled in the council.</p>
162	Ross Bishop		No	X		<p>Council already do a fairly good job with managing the city's waters.</p> <p>More emphasis is needed on future proofing and upgrading drinking water pipelines.</p> <p>Also need a consultation with the rate payers on taking fluoride out of the city water supply.</p>

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
163	Sam Spencer		No	X		Our local water system works reasonably well and is unique to Gisborne. Attempting to manage it centrally would be a disaster- particularly during a disaster when decisions need to be made quickly, and Gisborne is often cut-off from then world during these occasions.I have a cost saving suggestion- stop putting fluoride in the water. It's proven to be bad for humans
164	Diego Castaño Melville		No	X		I think -Our Water, our Way- seems like a better idea. As opposed to CCO, it doesn't use as much money, and that could be used to improve our community.
165	Angela Judith Stuart		No	X		If the experts believe this is the best option then I'm happy to go with that
166	Andrew Haughey		No	X		It will cost more in Option 2. CCO add layers not required
167	Hayle Baker		No	X		
168	Rebecca Dunning		No	X		If households can manage their own water, I'm hoping this will free up council resources to stop the sewage gates ever needing to be opened. It breaks my heart we still have waster going into our river and ocean... it's 2025 🙄
169	Barbara Nina Barwick		No	X		GDC does water well. option 2 would cost ratepayers far to much & achieve nothing but time wasting costs.
170	Glen Sutton		No	X		

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
171	Diane Bean		No	X		We are not users of reticulated drinking water and/or wastewater and storm water services so don't see why we should pay for such. Being pensioners it is a struggle to pay rates already.
172	Kudzai Mashiri		No	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No set up costs. - Feel like even if the new entity is set up, there won't be much change as far as managing assets will go, - GDC is already set up to handle this, no point in reinventing the wheel
173	Gael Alderton		No	X		Prefer to keep water services inhouse.
174	Tara Collins		No	X		Some videos explaining this would be better with voting options.
175	Tracey Chase		No	X		
176	Nicholas John Coyne		No	X		Option 1 allows for a future model if needed. In the long term there are a number of influences that could mean the CCO remains higher cost rather than reducing as predicted. Option 1 also allows greater control and under ratepayer scrutiny.
177	Ariel Chew		No	X		Keen to move into the system of paying per usage - which would encourage a shift in people's uses and habits (be it drinking or waste) and would be better for both our pockets and the environment!

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
178	Craig Shearar		No	X		Like the fact that a new entity is NOT established as I believe a new entity = higher costs
179	Peter Jones		No	X		GDC and it's planning staff are obsessed with growth. All options assume that more borrowing will be required to finance more growth. Spoiler alert. As soon as you all stop this ridiculous round of borrowing for net zero, climate change, water meters and the like, the local economy will contract. The only thing keeping the illusion of growth alive at the moment is GDC and related corporate body, borrowing. For projects that are ideologically driven and make no economic sense. Think renewable energy and bridges to nowhere. Grey St , bike paths and all your other BS. You are killing off small business and small scale farming. The hospital is being deliberately run down and Māori health is busy harming Māori health with vaccines. China is depopulating and our wood will not be required. In short GDC does not know it's arse from it's elbow. Good luck because you will need it. Rates rises will drain more liquidity. We can't all be planners! Option 1 gives you a chance to pull your heads in.
180	Lesley Parker		No	X		
181	Daniel Moran		No	X		Thanks for the opportunity to have my say ,I like local accountability and management , a line of management that goes straight back to elected councillor's. Written response below

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
182	Meng Liu Foon		Yes	X		Written response below
183	Anthony Covell		No	X		
184	Beth Tupara-Katene	Maraetaha Incorporation	Yes		X	Written response below
185	Brian Eddy		No		X	Written response below
186	D Hamilton		No		X	
187	Karen Hadfield		No		X	Feel it's the best option in the long run with the advantages of being able to borrow more for upgrades and getting the work done faster and more cost-effectively. Also if it's about the future, eventually it will be the cheaper option.
188	Philadelphia Haerewa		Yes		X	Voting for option 2 to allow room for change/something new. The council has already had the water control under them and there has yet to be any progress with any upgrades whatsoever for years.
189	Rob Atkins		No		X	Get a professional board running the organisation rather than elected officials with no direct knowledge or experience.

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
190	Kat Rihova		No		X	Why? You said it in the brief for Option 2: "Independent management and decision-making means less direct influence from elected councillors." Good. The water is an important and precious resource and its management must be beyond any political, personal, and racial interests. Setting up an independent Organisation which will employ experts and environmentalist (the real ones, not the iwi ones) who will make educated and professional recommendations and deliver the best outcomes for everyone living in Gisborne seems like the best option to me.
191	Anna-Liese Komene		No		X	Despite initial high set up costs. I believe the long term view is best way forward. Infrastructure is something that needs forward and long term planning. Reason:1) Ability to access greater funds to invest in Infrastructure and Upgrades 2) Faster project completion - time is money! Get the work DONE ✓ 3) User pays - People will be more mindful of their water usage if they have to pay. Leaks will be quickly tended too if it costs the user in the pocket!

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
192	Catherine T Rowell		No		X	Over the years we have had a loss of clean water supply when the pipes fail and we have to swap to the Waipaoa river. It has happened a number of times and it seems our local Council is unable to supply the infrastructure needed to maintain the proper supply. Releasing of sewage into our rivers and bay is not OK in this day and age. This too has happened on numerous occasions and, once again, GDC has failed to implement infrastructure that is able to cope with both storm and waste water situations. The Single Council CCO, through the information you provided, will be able to implement necessary changes at a quicker pace and in the long term the financial cost balances out, however the ongoing cost to our environment here in Te Tairāwhiti suffer if we don't make the changes sooner. We need people who have the energy, finances and resources available to them to make these necessary and long over-due changes.
193	Brett Wilson		No		X	Both will be missed managed at least with the second option new blood might come in and do a good job.
194	Bas van Luijk		No		X	Over time the council has voted down compulsory water tank installation with new build houses, lacked foresight in wastewater solutions and has not kept enough tabs on bore water use to name a few.

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
195	Josie Smith		No		X	
196	Phill Dodds		No		X	
197	Callum Thompson		No		X	Clear focus and cost on water, rather than hidden and absorbed into general rates with needed investment delayed by councillors not wanting to increase rates or sacrifice nice to haves for core infrastructure.
198	Jeanette Spencer		No		X	
199	Anna Davis		No		X	We deserve better water management than we've had to date so I'm opting for the CCO.
200	Michael West		No		X	A CCO will have the flexibility to concentrate on delivering top quality water services. Council operated services run the risk of Water services not being given the same focus as a CCO set up to only concentrate on water. I feel a CCO model will provide the best environmental outcomes as the CCO will have to look after its environment so the water it provides is clean.
201	Phil		No		X	Based on GDC track record of wasteful spending and miss information over the past two cyclones, i don't trust them to be honest about anything . i would prefer ,and advocate for the GDC to have independent administrator appointed . Further more it should be an option on the local body elections forms ..

Submitter ID number	Full name	Organisation [on behalf of]	Presenting submission in person	Preferred option		Comments
				Option 1 - Our Water, Our Way	Option 2 - Single Council CCO	
202	Sarah Grant		No		X	Lower while of life costs
203	Melanie Thornton		No		X	<p>I believe this option provides longer term benefits for the region as the CCO will be able to borrow sufficient funds to invest in the infrastructure needed to support the delivery of water services to ratepayers.</p> <p>The Option preferred by the Council will involve cheaper set up costs but Council will not be able to borrow funds for the sufficient delivery of services as multiple projects will compete for this borrowed money.</p>
204	Lois Easton		No		X	<p>I have watched the Council consistently underspend on the three waters over the 20 years I have lived in Tairāwhiti. Despite the fact that water metering was proposed over 20 years ago, Council continued to resist this for political reasons. Over the years I have seen the continuous Council cutting the 3 waters budget - against advice from the technical managers - in order to redirect funds to the frequent roading blowouts. Nothing gives me confidence that this will not continue. A CCO model whereby the "ring fenced" money IS actually ring fenced and that political changes don't result in cuts to the water budget is preferable because it removes the politicians and expedient decisions in the face of budget blow outs from other parts of Council.</p>

Submitter ID number: 181

Daniel Moran

Thanks for the opportunity to have my say ,I like local accountability and management , a line of management that goes straight back to elected councilors ,who can be contacted when options or thoughts need to be expressed , listened to and considered .

by setting up a new entity single council-controlled org ,to borrow more money is just another way to create greater inflation going forward, less council accountability in the long term .

I believe water is a basic human right in N Z and should be kept to as lower cost as possible for individual citizen always ,who do not profit from it , water rights ,should not be corporatized or set up in a way so they can be sold of in the long term , if management fails , as we see with so many publicly created assets over the years of my life ,

More care and diligence with decision making from our elected representatives ,and accountability and questioning of council staff charged with the management of our assets , especially with our greatest asset ,water , is what I would like to see with continued Local control of water .

Submitter ID number: 182

Meng Foon

I support Inhouse control and management of our water services

It's good GDC have done the sums, CCO and private business are there for profit, as they are responsible to make a profit.

Local governments can directly oversee how water services are managed.

Easier to align decisions with public interest rather than profit motives.

Residents can hold their elected officials accountable for water service quality.

In-house management may have higher upfront costs (e.g., staffing, equipment), but avoids long-term private contractor fees or profit margins.

Avoids the risk of price hikes due to private providers increasing rates for profit.

Public agencies are subject to open records laws and community oversight.

Contracts with private companies often have confidential clauses, limiting transparency.

In-house staff develop deep knowledge of the local water system and infrastructure.

Long-term employees are more likely to be committed to community well-being.

Local governments can respond quickly to emergencies, changes in regulation, or community needs without renegotiating a contract.

They can also invest in sustainability or climate resilience without external pressure to cut costs.

People generally trust services more when they're delivered by non-profit, community-based entities.

Water is a public good—many believe it should stay in public hands to prevent exploitation.



Maraetaha -Toi tu te whenua, hei oranga mo te tangata

Growing a sustainable future.

**Response by Maraetaha Incorporation
on Gisborne District Council's Water Services Delivery Model
and Plan
(Local Water Done Well Consultation – April 2025)**

Date: 1 May 2025

Submitted and endorsed by: Maraetaha Incorporation (Māori Land Entity of Ngāi Tāmanuhiri shareholders)

Drafted by and Key Contact:
Beth Tupara-Katene (Trustee)

1. Introduction

Maraetaha Incorporation welcomes the opportunity to provide our response to the Gisborne District Council's (GDC) proposed Water Services Delivery Model and Plan. As a major Māori land entity within the Southern Gisborne rohe, Maraetaha Incorporation holds lands that are directly connected to critical water catchments and rural infrastructure systems that support both the city and wider region.

Our primary concern is the protection of the health and mauri of freshwater resources, the recognition of Māori landowner rights and interests, and the development of a delivery model that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are committed to a water services future that is resilient, equitable, and grounded in strong partnership between Council and tangata whenua.

2. Our Position

Maraetaha Incorporation supports a water services delivery model that embeds Treaty-based governance, not just engagement; upholds and operationalises Te Mana o te Wai; supports the aspirations of Māori landowners for whenua development and rural community wellbeing; and delivers long-term infrastructure resilience and transparency.

After reviewing the options presented, we believe Option 2 – Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) provides the strongest foundation for delivering these outcomes.

3. Why We Support Option 2: CCO

Treaty-Based Governance

Option 2 enables an independent governance structure that can accommodate formal Māori representation and co-governance, supporting partnership and shared decision-making consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Recognition of Māori Rights and Interests

A standalone entity with a dedicated focus on water services creates space for meaningful implementation of Te Mana o te Wai and for recognising mana whenua values, roles, and responsibilities.

Long-Term Resilience and Capacity

Although this model may involve higher short-term setup costs, its long-term financial headroom, borrowing ability, and dedicated investment potential provide a far stronger platform for climate-resilient and future-proof infrastructure.

Transparency and Operational Focus

A CCO structure allows for ring-fenced funding, improved financial accountability, and operational clarity — ensuring water revenue is invested back into water outcomes.

4. Balancing Short-Term Cost with Long-Term Value

While we acknowledge the initial setup costs associated with Option 2 (Council-Controlled Organisation), these must be considered in light of the long-term value, obligations, and efficiencies that this model offers.

Strategic Investment Prevents Higher Future Costs

Delaying investment in improved governance and infrastructure design increases the risk of greater expense in the future due to asset deterioration, non-compliance, or reduced public confidence. Option 2 provides increased borrowing capacity and a dedicated operational focus, enabling more effective long-term investment than what is possible under the current in-house model.

Failure to Meet Treaty Commitments Carries Significant Risk

Option 2 provides a clear opportunity to embed co-governance with mana whenua and give meaningful effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Mana o te Wai. Maintaining a Council-led model risks ongoing tension, reputational damage, and legal or regulatory challenge if Treaty expectations are not met.

Upfront Design Strengthens Trust, Transparency, and Efficiency

Although Option 2 may have higher setup costs, it delivers a ring-fenced structure with greater transparency, clearer accountability, and better alignment with long-term water management outcomes. It is a strategic investment that supports public trust, safeguards funding integrity, and ensures water services are fit for purpose in the decades ahead.

5. Key Priorities for Maraetaha Incorporation

We expect that any Water Services Delivery Model adopted by GDC will give effect to the following priorities:

- **Protect the Mauri of Freshwater**

Maraetaha Incorporation's whenua underpins Gisborne's drinking water security. The long-term resilience of the region's water services depends on the health of our catchments.

Te Mana o te Wai must be embedded into all infrastructure planning and decision-making — in practice, not only in principle.

- **Building on Existing Relationships**

Maraetaha and GDC are partners through an existing Memorandum of Understanding and the Maraetaha–GDC Strategy (2024). We are progressing a multi-year work programme focused on water catchment health and rural resilience.

The Water Services Delivery Plan must strengthen this partnership and embed Maraetaha’s role in governance, investment prioritisation, and operational delivery.

This is not a matter of consultation — it is about formalising our role in shaping a shared future.

- **Recognition of Māori Landowners in Water Allocation**

Water services planning must integrate water allocation decision-making. Māori landowners like Maraetaha must be at the table to shape equitable allocation frameworks.

Future models must enable water access for Māori land development, papakāinga, and sustainable whenua-based activities — giving effect to Te Tiriti obligations and unlocking long-stalled land use potential.

- **Guarantee Safe and Equitable Rural Drinking Water**

Our whānau and shareholders live in rural communities such as Muriwai, Tawatapu, and surrounding areas. These areas have long been underserved by water infrastructure.

The Plan must include direct investment in rural Three Waters upgrades — treating rural needs with equal priority to urban areas.

- **Deliver Targeted Rural Infrastructure Investment**

Water services must support Māori social and economic development.

Infrastructure upgrades must enable papakāinga development, marae connectivity, climate adaptation and resilience planning, and whenua-based enterprises.

Rural development must be prioritised — not deferred or sidelined.

- **Embed Financial Transparency and Accountability**

Water services funding must be ring-fenced, and annual reporting must be provided to Māori landowners and mana whenua partners.

Reporting should include investment outcomes by location; progress against Te Mana o te Wai; breakdown of funding allocations across rural and urban areas; and governance and engagement outcomes.

6. Conclusion

Maraetaha Incorporation firmly supports the establishment of a dedicated water services entity under Option 2 – the Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) model. We believe this option provides the strongest platform for delivering a future-ready, Treaty-honouring, and community-focused water system for Te Tairāwhiti.

Option 2 offers more than just structural reform — it enables a shift toward genuine partnership, transparency, and investment equity. It supports our aspirations as Māori landowners and kaitiaki, and it creates the governance space needed to embed Te Mana o te Wai and ensure all communities — including our rural whānau — are well served.

While the initial cost of establishing a CCO is acknowledged, this must be seen as a strategic investment in the long-term resilience, integrity, and fairness of Gisborne’s water services. Delaying reform risks higher costs down the line — not only financial, but also social, environmental, and Treaty-related.

Importantly, regardless of which model is ultimately adopted, Maraetaha Incorporation expects the commitments outlined in this submission to be embedded into Gisborne District Council’s Water Services Delivery Plan and operations. These include clear obligations to honour existing relationships, support rural Māori infrastructure needs, and involve Māori landowners in governance, allocation, and investment decisions.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with Council to co-design and implement a delivery model that protects our wai, upholds our responsibilities as kaitiaki, and builds a water system that truly works for all of Te Tairāwhiti — now and into the future.

Nāku iti nei, nā



Bella Hawkins
Chairperson
Maraetaha Incorporation



Beth Tupara-Katene
Trustee
Maraetaha Incorporation

Submitter ID number: 185

Brian Eddy

Local Water Done Well - Feedback

Option 2: Single Council CCO

I'm somewhat sceptical that Gisborne District Council has the expertise required to undertake such a program.

Given the scathing report that Heika Parata delivered post Cyclone Gabrielle, Tairāwhiti can ill afford another body blow to this already suffering community. Our Rōading, Water, & Supplies in and out are fragile, the basics are being tested all too often.

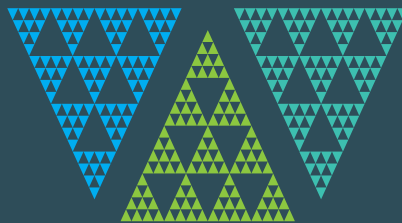
It is my feeling that we should be handing over such enormous responsibilities to authorities well-versed in running such major operations. Professionals with the skill sets, tools & knowledge. Which should prove to be more fiscally prudent.

This region, I believe, could benefit if we can compliment individual household water supplies. i.e. the Government in conjunction with local Councils explore the feasibility of approaching water tank manufacturers to negotiate a wholesale price for households to purchase water storage tanks. This would not be a financial burden to any authority. Just a facilitator for the betterment of all.

This without doubt would be a very proactive measure in the name of water conservation, domestically, and the education in how households use this precious resource.



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL



TE KAUNIHERA O TE TAIRĀWHI
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INFORMAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- ▶ Social media themes
- ▶ Community event notes

MAY 2025

Local Water Done Well – social media themes

This report summarises public feedback via Facebook and Instagram comments from ads regarding the Gisborne District Council's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) initiative. The insights presented aim to assist decision-making and demonstrate transparency in community consultation processes.

Sentiment Breakdown

A total of over 190 comments were analysed of those:

- 85% were negative
- 10% neutral
- 5% positive

Negative comments commonly reflected frustration with Council performance, cost concerns, and distrust in consultation outcomes.

Key themes

1. Infrastructure concerns:

- Repeated issues with sewage overflows and stormwater mismanagement.
- Calls to prioritise fixing existing systems before implementing new models.

2. Economic pressures:

- Strong opposition to water metering and increased household costs.

3. Governance and trust:

- Concerns about centralised or appointed control echoing prior Three Waters fears.
- Scepticism that consultation is meaningful or will influence outcomes.

4. Environmental and practical solutions:

- Advocacy for water tanks, filtration systems and rainwater reuse.
- Some support for decentralised approaches like household systems.

5. Fluoride and health:

- Several anti-fluoride sentiments, often linked with broader distrust.

Preferences: Option 1 vs. Option 2

Few comments explicitly referenced the two proposed options. However, **Option 1 (Council-managed services)** garnered limited support, often seen as the lesser evil. **Option 2 (Council-Controlled Organisation)** received no identifiable support and was generally viewed with suspicion due to its perceived bureaucratic complexity.

Sample supportive quote: "Clearly they want ratepayers to support Option 1. If there was an entity just focusing on our water, maybe the work would get done?" - Abbey McKenzie

Local Water Done Well - community event notes

Consultation 1 April – 1 May 2025

We concentrated our face-to-face engagement efforts in communities with reticulated water services, including Gisborne City, Te Karaka, Whatatūtū, Mākaraka, Muriwai, and Manutūkē. This approach ensured that residents directly affected by changes in water management had ample opportunities to participate and provide feedback. We coordinated with other teams to allow for communication of other location relevant Kaupapa for the communities in which we were engaging.

Library Live Stream Tuesday 8 April

A live-stream of engagement at the public library, with goal of increased accessibility.

Key engagements:

Local Water Done Well Presentation and Q&A: Live-streamed sessions to discuss the initiative and gather community feedback.

Q&A highlights:

- **Will the water plan be similar across all councils?**

Answer: No, plans vary from council to council due to different circumstances, such as the condition of water assets and the specific needs of each council.

- **Will the cost of water services increase?**

Answer: Yes, in most cases, the cost of water services is expected to increase. However, this will not be an additional cost on top of current rates but rather a reallocation within the existing rate structure.

- **Can councils borrow money for water infrastructure?**

Answer: Yes, councils can borrow money for water infrastructure, but this depends on their financial capacity and the specific delivery options they choose.

- **What is the impact of choosing a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) for water services?**

Answer: If a CCO is chosen, it would own and manage the water assets, and the council would have oversight. This option aims to provide better financial and operational management of water services.

- **How will stormwater be managed and charged?**

Answer: Stormwater management will remain at a separate rate within the council's billing system. If managed by a CCO, it would still be charged separately but managed under the CCO's oversight.

- **What does "ring-fencing" mean in the context of water services?**

Answer: Ring-fencing involves separating the costs and revenues related to water services from other council activities to ensure transparency and accountability.

- **Will people in reticulated areas be able to opt out and use their own water sources?**

Answer: Generally, no. People within reticulated areas will still be charged for water services even if they use alternative sources like rainwater collection.

- **What are the options for water service delivery being considered?**

Answer: The options include in-house provision, a single council CCO, a joint CCO with other councils, a community trust model, and a wholly community-owned trust model. The joint CCO option is currently the most appealing due to economies of scale.

- **How will the community be involved in the decision-making process?**

Answer: The community is encouraged to provide feedback through submissions and participate in consultations. The council will consider all feedback before making a final decision.

- **What is the role of the economic regulator and Taumata Arowai in water services?**

Answer: The economic regulator will oversee the financial aspects of water services, while Taumata Arowai will set and enforce water quality standards.

Farmers Market Saturday 12 April

Farmers markets play a crucial role in promoting community engagement and local agriculture, which ties to the Local Water Done Well interest.

Key engagements:

Local Water Done Well stall: Discussed the importance of sustainable water services and had staff available for questions and queries.

Q&A highlights:

- **Water Services Delivery:** Ensuring water services support local agriculture and community needs.
- **Wastewater discharge:** Clarified the process to community member

Muriwai Monday 14 April

The Muriwai community meeting combined Local Water Done Well and Freshwater Planning.

Key engagements:

- **Freshwater Catchment Planning:** Council staff explained the obligation under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) to develop freshwater plans.
- **Local Water Done Well presentation:** Community Lifelines Director Tim Barry presented the two options for water services delivery: **Option 1: Our Water, Our Way (Council-managed):** Council retains direct control, least disruption, lowest short-term cost. **Option 2: Council-controlled organisation (CCO):** Separate entity with its own governance, more complex setup, higher short-term cost.

Q&A highlights:

- **Why is there a contractor letting out the water out of the drinking water supply pipes?**

Answer: It's part of maintenance, where we flush out the water. Because of the retention time in the pipe, by the time that water reaches town, the water has gone stale and unsafe for drinking. Given the rain that we've had over the past few seasons and years, not much reticulated drinking water has been used.

- **Will Council consider re-using that water instead of letting it go down into the drains? The water could be used for irrigation or something else, as long as not wasted.**

Answer: Agree with concerns about wasting water. Council open to ideas from community to work towards a solution.

Manutuke Tuesday 22 April

The Manutuke community hui provided productive discussion on the Local Water Done Well Policy and its impact on the community, flood resilience work and a solid update on Wood Debris.

Key engagements:

- **Local Water Done Well Presentation:** Leo Kelso provided an overview of the policy and the decisions to be made with the community.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Status and capacity for growth.
- **Debt management:** Differences in debt cap between the Three-Year Plan and the project.

Q&A Highlights:

- **Governance and structure: Questions about the governance board of the CCO and its similarity to Watercare in Auckland.**

Answer: Yes, the entity would be similar to Gisborne Holdings, a Council-controlled organisation with a governance board. Directors on that board would be paid. Appointment to the board would be competency-based, requiring an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge, and experience.

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant: What's the status and capacity for growth?**

Answer: All city domestic wastewater is processed through milli screens, the biological trickling filter, then clarified with solids removed for composting, and ultra-violet disinfected. Growth was a factor in the design of the current wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

- **Debt management: Differences in debt cap between the Three-Year Plan and the project?**

Answer: The current cap Council has imposed for its debt to revenue ratio is 170%, while the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) allows rated Councils to borrow up to 280% of its revenue. Borrowing capacity, capped at 280% of revenue, is sufficient for the region's anticipated investment needs. Council must demonstrate borrowing is sustainable to the Department of Internal Affairs and the Commerce Commission, which will be the economic regulator.

- **Rates modelling: How will the separation of water charges from general rates and implementation in reticulated areas work?**

Answer: The three waters will be a separate section and itemised on your rates bill. Yes, there will be an incremental increase in charges to support the proposed Local Water Done Well capital works programme. Rural ratepayers, who are not within a reticulated boundary for water services, will see a reduction in their rates due to the removal of a general rate charge that has been applied to all rateable properties for water services. Only those in reticulated areas will pay for the water rates. Properties within the reticulated services boundary will see an increase in the charges for water services due to the redistribution of the general rate charge.

- **Climate change impact: What are the considerations for stormwater management and improvements from the DrainWise program?**

Answer: Climate change is a consideration factored into all three water services. Capital projects for stormwater incorporate climate change into their design. Stormwater network modeling includes different climate scenarios to help inform network design and

improvements. The DrainWise programme focuses on reducing wastewater overflows to rivers by minimising the impact of stormwater inflow and infiltration on the wastewater network. To date, 140 downpipes have been redirected to an approved stormwater outlet, equivalent to an extra 7000 homes connected to the network during a rain event. The programme includes stormwater network renewals, public drains on private property, wastewater network renewals, and on-property inspections. The capacity of the wastewater network during a rain event has doubled, reducing the risk of overflows.

- **Water cut-offs: What measures will prevent water cut-offs during major events like Cyclone Hale.**

Answer: Council is working on resilience projects to minimise impact on the community during major events. Projects to add reservoirs and pressure systems to areas directly connected to the Waingake main water pipeline are being considered.

- **Water Services Delivery Plan: How will this ensure affordability and sustainability of water services.**

Answer: Provision of sustainable water services is a requirement of Local Water Done Well. This includes affordability for the community, maintaining existing infrastructure, meeting regulatory compliance, investing in infrastructure to support growth, and ensuring financial sustainability. The Commerce Commission will act as the economic regulator, and either the "Our Water Done Our Way" or the CCO model will have reporting requirements to show continued financial sustainability.

- **Options for Water Services Delivery: What's the comparison of Our Water, Our Way vs a Single Council CCO model.**

Answer:

Option 1: Our Water, Our Way: Keeps water services in-house under direct Council control, avoids high set-up and transition costs, maintains local control, ensures financial transparency, and spreads costs of gradual improvements over time. Borrowing capacity is capped at 280% of revenue.

Option 2: Single Council CCO: Establishes a separate entity with its own CEO and board of directors, higher initial costs and debt, more borrowing capacity, faster and more cost-effective projects, but higher user charges in the short-medium term.

- **Subsidising water tanks: Will this be a potential future consideration by Council.**

Answer: Subsidising water tanks is a great resilience option for homeowners and the community to consider. This may be a possibility for future consideration by Council in long-term plans, with the impact on increased costs to ratepayers being part of that consideration.

- **Irrigation planning: How about management of water allocation through the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan?**

Answer: Water take permits are managed through the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). The TRMP has been under review, including freshwater management, which covers minimum flows for rivers and irrigation allocations. Representatives from the community, tangata whenua, mana whenua, industry, and local Council have been consulted through the Regional Freshwater Advisory Group and Waipaoa Catchment Advisory Group.

- **Infrastructure upgrades: What investment will be made in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure?**

Answer: The Water Service Delivery Plan (WSDP) covers projected investment in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to meet higher health and environmental standards over the next 10 years.

Kaiti Hub Market Saturday 26 April

The Kaiti community engagement focused on the Local Water Done Well initiative and its implications for the community.

Key Engagements:

- **Local Water Done Well stall:** Team available for queries and community input.

Q&A Highlights:

- **Water Metering:** Likely to be implemented, with potential usage charges.
- **Water Quality:** Addressed concerns about water quality and potential improvements.
- **Drainage** below Kaiti Hill a concern.

Te Karaka Thursday 30 April

The Te Karaka community hui discussed the Local Water Done Well, Te Karaka Infiltration Gallery, Te Karaka Oxidation Pond and flood resilience.

Key engagements:

- **Local Water Done Well presentation:** Leo Kelso provided an overview of the initiative and the decisions to be made with the community.
- **Water metering:** Likely to be implemented, with potential usage charges.

Q&A Highlights:

- **If a Single Council CCO is set up can we have local representation on the board?**

Answer: Council can't answer that right now, we need to wait on Government direction. Currently the Water Services Information contained on the Department of Internal Affairs site advises the requirements for a water services CCO is appointment to the board would be competency-based and Directors must have the appropriate mix of skills, knowledge, and experience.

- **It sounds like all properties needed to be metered?**

Answer: It is an indication coming from Government that meters go into properties and a usage charge be applied. But this is not finalised and will depend on Government and Local Council direction. If it did occur it could work in several ways. One example could be that each household is allocated a 'bulk' allowance, anything above the allowance would incur a charge. However, for the Te Karaka and Whatatutu communities, for water supply, you are on a supplementary water tank top up system that supplies a set volume per connection per day so metering may not be a requirement.

- **So [the installation of meters] is going to happen?**

Answer: not necessarily, but it's highly likely at some point in the non-immediate future. Installing meters would incur a cost for Council that we would need to budget for. We would need a fleet of meters that would need to be paid for and then maintained. One benefit of meters is that high water users do tend to ease off their use. As noted above for the Te Karaka and Whatatutu communities, for water supply, you are on a supplementary water tank top up system that supplies a set volume per connection per day so metering may not be a requirement.

- **Basically metering is another form of tax. I don't care if my neighbour uses more. It discourages tanks to go into areas. It would cost a lot.**

Response - It could be a smart thing to do overall for better water usage. Water is a vital resource that should be used mindfully. A good question is whether it is unfair or not for low users to pay the same as high users. Rural rate payers, who are not within a reticulated boundary for water services will see a reduction in their rates due to the removal of a general rate charge that has been applied to all rateable properties for water services. Only those in reticulated areas will pay for the water rates. Properties within the reticulated services boundary will see an increase in the charges for water services due to redistribution of the general rate charge.

- **Is it only available for reticulated users?**

Answer: – Yes.

- **What type of meters [would be installed]?**

Answer: In town the meters would most likely be installed at boundary/curb side of a property to allow easy meter reading to occur.

- **What about the quality of the water?**

Answer: The quality of the water meets national standards for the provision of safe and compliant drinking water. The water leaving our treatment plants for consumption is monitored/tested continuously. The Te Karaka and Whatatutu communities, for water supply, you are on a supplementary water tank top up system. The water that is delivered to the property boundary is compliant and safe. Gisborne City water comes from the Mangapoike Dams which is different. When we supplement city supply with treated water from the Waipaoa we receive similar comments about taste, colour and odour.

- **Community comment: Out here our water is cloudy and tastes dirty like river water. Who drinks water out of their tap? We buy bottle.**

Answer: Reticulated water in Te Karaka is drawn from the Waipaoa River, it is treated to national drinking standards but does have organics in it that can alter the taste, odour and colour - it's safe to drink though. Gisborne City water comes from the Mangapoike Dams which is different. When we supplement city supply with treated water from the Waipaoa we receive similar comments about taste, colour and odour.

In Te Karaka we supplement tank supply, tanks receive 1000 litres per day to 'top up' rain water supply.

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



25-107

Title: 25-107 2025 Local Water Done Well Deliberations Overview Report

Section: Water Manager
Finance & Affordability

Prepared by: Tim Muir - Senior Planning & Performance Advisor

Meeting Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Legal: No Financial: No Significance: **Medium**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the consultation process undertaken as part of the Local Water Done Well programme, summarise the feedback received from the community, and seek approval from Gisborne District Council (Council) on adopting the water services delivery model.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

As part of the Local Water Done Well programme, Council completed public consultation on two shortlisted delivery models for the future of water services in Tairāwhiti, as required under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024. The options were:

- **Option 1: Our Water, Our Way** – a modified in-house delivery model.
- **Option 2: Single Council CCO** – a standalone Council-Controlled Organisation.

Consultation was held from 1 April to 1 May 2025 and supported by a comprehensive engagement strategy involving direct mail to 17,000 households, digital and print advertising, hui, static displays, and radio outreach.

A total of **204** submissions were received, with **90%** of respondents favouring the modified in-house delivery model (Option 1 – *Our Water, Our Way*) and **10%** supporting the establishment of a Council-Controlled Organisation (Option 2 – *Single Council CCO*). The result represents a **90:10 split** in favour of Option 1.

93% of respondents identified as residents, with the majority connected to all three Council-managed services: drinking water (76%), wastewater (72%), and stormwater (65%).

The community showed a strong preference for retaining water services within Council through the in-house model. Submitters emphasised the value of local control (60 mentions), trust in Council governance (44), and concern over affordability (62). These were the most commonly cited reasons for preferring Option 1. Key reasons included:

- Avoidance of additional bureaucracy and executive overhead.
- Concerns about costs and equity under a user-pays or metered model.
- Confidence in the responsiveness, visibility, and accountability of elected councillors compared to an external board.

Affordability was a consistent theme, particularly for lower-income households. Some submitters raised concerns around the introduction of water metering or volumetric charges, noting these could disproportionately affect those already experiencing financial hardship.

A smaller proportion of submissions favoured the CCO model. These submitters were generally motivated by dissatisfaction with Council's past performance or the belief that a dedicated entity could deliver more focused investment, improved environmental outcomes, and better long-term planning. However, even within this group, concerns were expressed about governance complexity and transparency.

Common themes across all submissions included:

- Support for affordable and equitable water service costs.
- A desire for strong local governance and community accountability.
- Concern over environmental impacts, such as wastewater discharges and stormwater quality.
- Mixed views on water metering and fluoridation.
- Varied support for Māori partnership and Te Tiriti-based governance, often reflecting limited understanding.

Submissions reflected the unique context of Tairāwhiti, where affordability pressures are acute, service access varies between rural and urban households, and there is limited tolerance for additional governance overhead. Rural residents, in particular, expressed concern about paying for services they do not receive, while others voiced strong opposition to user-pays models and water metering, citing impacts on low-income whānau and multi-family households.

Consultation outcomes showed strong community support for retaining water services within Council control through the **modified in-house delivery model**. This provides a clear mandate for Council to proceed on that basis. Insights from the consultation will inform the preparation of the Water Services Delivery Plan, which must be submitted to the Secretary for Local Government by **3 September 2025**.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Acknowledges the outcomes of public consultation undertaken from 1 April to 1 May 2025 on the future delivery of water services under the Local Water Done Well programme.
2. Approves the Modified In-House Delivery Model as the preferred option for inclusion in the Water Services Delivery Plan.
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to prepare the Water Services Delivery Plan, based on the Modified In-House Delivery Model, for submission to the Secretary for Local Government by 3 September 2025.

Authorised by:

Nedine Thatcher Swann - Chief Executive

Keywords: Local Water Done Well, LWDW, Water Services Delivery Plan, WSDP, Deliberations

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 requires all unitary and territorial authorities to prepare and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by 3 September 2025. These plans must set out how councils will deliver drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services in a way that is financially sustainable and compliant with national standards.
2. To meet this requirement, Council assessed five potential delivery models and shortlisted two as viable for Tairāwhiti based on financial, operational, and legislative criteria:
 - **Our Water, Our Way** – a modified in-house delivery model that retains Council control and oversight within a ring-fenced business unit.
 - **Single-Council Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO)** – a standalone water entity owned by Council but governed independently.
3. These two options were approved for consultation by Council in December 2024 (**Report 24-348**).
4. Public consultation took place from 1 April to 1 May 2025, following the Engagement Strategy adopted in **Report 25-45**. The campaign included:
 - Distribution of the Local Water Done Well: Our Water, Our Way Consultation Document via Council offices, libraries, hui, and community venues.
 - Online information and submission access through the Council's Participate platform.
 - Direct mail to 17,000 households.
 - A supporting media campaign including billboards, radio, digital advertising, social media, and radio interviews on Tūranga FM, More FM, and Radio Ngāti Porou.
5. Council also held engagement hui and drop-in sessions across the district, with specific sessions focused on mana whenua and iwi partners. This engagement ensured broad access to information and enabled meaningful input from a diverse cross-section of the community.
6. Full details of the engagement, consultation process and the submission results are included within the Local Water Done Well Hearings Overview report **[25-106]**. This report and the submitters who wished to be heard, will be held just prior to Deliberations.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

What we discussed and consulted on

7. The consultation process has provided a clear indication of public preference for retaining local control under a modified in-house model. The two models are summarised below:

Option 1: Modified In-House Model (Preferred)

- Retains local control and direct Council oversight.
- Lower setup costs and minimal structural change.
- Aligns with community priorities for affordability and responsiveness.
- Allows for flexibility to adapt over time.

Option 2: Single-Council CCO

- Offers potential long-term borrowing and financial separation.
 - Higher initial establishment and governance costs.
 - Viewed with public suspicion due to perceived lack of accountability.
 - Not strongly supported in submissions.
8. It is important to note that the in-house model also provides for a future shift in approach, should the Council decide to explore shared service arrangements or a transition to a CCO at a later stage. This flexibility was a key factor in selecting the preferred option for consultation.
9. In adopting the consultation approach, Council also signalled that from 1 July 2027, all water service costs will transition to a fully ring-fenced funding structure. This will remove any general rates subsidy for water and instead apply targeted rates to only those who receive reticulated services. This transition was explained in the Consultation Document and is required under the Local Water Done Well legislation.

What Services Respondents Use

10. Most respondents are connected to Council's full suite of reticulated water services:
- **76%** receive reticulated drinking water.
 - **72%** are connected to the wastewater network.
 - **65%** have reticulated stormwater systems.
11. In contrast, 19% of respondents reported no connection to any Council-managed reticulated services. This group likely reflects the district's rural and coastal population, who rely on private tanks, bores, or on-site systems.
12. These figures highlight the diversity of water service arrangements across Tairāwhiti. While the consultation reached a predominantly networked, residential audience, it also captured the views of some rural and self-servicing communities. This mix reinforces the importance of considering both connected and unconnected users, and the varying expectations, constraints, and priorities they bring, when designing a future delivery model.

Who We Heard From

13. The majority of submissions were received from individuals identifying as residents (93%), with only limited responses from farmers, rural businesses, community organisations, and mana whenua. This suggests the feedback mostly reflects the views of people living in town or nearby areas, many of whom are directly connected to Council's water services and experience the day-to-day impacts of service delivery and costs.

Submissions, Preferred option and themes

14. Council received **204** submissions through the consultation process, including written responses via the Participate platform, direct email, paper forms, and engagement hui. The majority of feedback came from residents, with additional input from mana whenua, businesses, and rural ratepayers.

Community Rationale for Preferred Option

15. The majority of submitters selected Option 1: Our Water, Our Way **(90%)**, expressing a clear and consistent preference for retaining Council control of water services through a modified in-house model. The reasons provided reflected a mix of practical considerations, cost sensitivities, and community values.
16. A small proportion of submitters favoured Option 2: the Single Council CCO **(10%)**. These respondents were generally motivated by dissatisfaction with past Council performance or a belief that a dedicated entity would bring more focus, professional governance, and access to funding. However, even within this group, concerns remained about complexity, transparency, and the potential loss of community input.

Cost and Affordability

17. Affordability was the most frequently raised issue across submissions. Many submitters noted that households in Tairāwhiti are already under financial pressure and expressed concern that establishing a separate water entity (Option 2) would lead to increased costs. Specific concerns included the potential for higher overhead, executive salaries, and administrative complexity. These views were often linked to equity, with strong sentiment that pricing should reflect both ability to pay and the level of service received. Submitters highlighted the potential impacts on pensioners, low-income households, and rural residents not connected to reticulated networks.

Preference for Local Governance

18. Local decision-making and democratic accountability were also key drivers of support for Option 1. Submitters consistently expressed a preference for decisions to remain with elected representatives who are directly accountable to the community. There was a general view that Council offers a clearer line of responsibility than a separate governance board. Option 2 was commonly associated with increased bureaucracy, reduced community voice, and a risk of future privatisation.

Trust and Transparency

19. While most submitters supported retaining water services within Council, this support was not unconditional. Some expressed frustration with aspects of past Council performance and called for greater transparency around how water investment decisions are made. There was interest in clearer public reporting on spending and service performance, and a desire for more visible stewardship of ratepayer funding.

Environmental Expectations

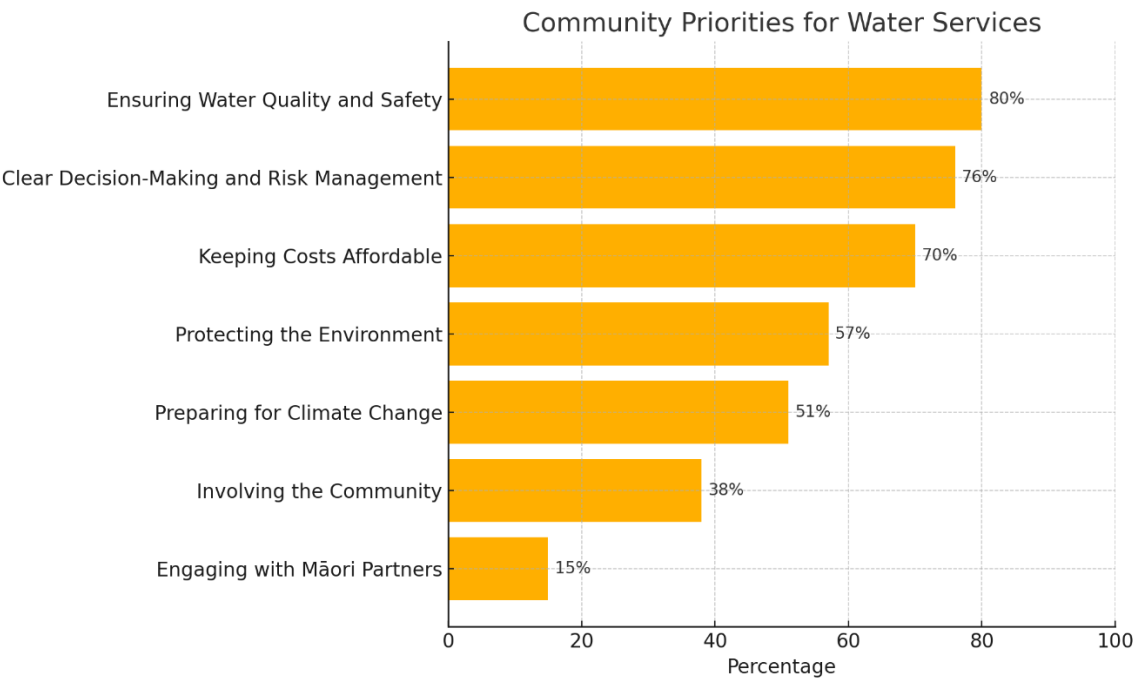
20. Environmental concerns featured in a number of submissions, particularly regarding wastewater discharges, stormwater management, and marine outfall. While not the leading driver of model preference, there was a strong expectation that Council should continue to improve environmental outcomes and embed principles of kaitiakitanga and long-term sustainability in its planning. Some submitters felt this could be more effectively achieved through local oversight and responsiveness.

Flexibility and Future Readiness

- 21. Several submitters noted that the in-house model provides more flexibility to adapt over time. This was seen as beneficial given uncertainty around future regulation, climate-related risks, and population growth. The ability to evolve the model or explore partnerships in the future, without committing to a separate structure now, was considered a strength of Option 1.
- 22. Most submitters preferred Option 1 on the basis that it is more affordable, more transparent, and better aligned with local expectations. While a small number of submissions supported more independent delivery, the dominant view was that meaningful improvements in water service delivery can and should be achieved within a structure that remains directly accountable to the community.

Community Priorities for Water Services

- 23. Participants were asked to select what they believe should be prioritised in future water service planning and delivery. While these quantitative results are reported separately, free text comments submitted alongside those priorities provided deeper insight into the reasoning and values behind respondents' choices.



What People Said About Their Priorities

- 24. Participants shared further thoughts about the priorities they selected. The comments touched on a range of themes, which are summarised below.

Clear Decision-Making and Communication

25. Several submitters emphasised the importance of improved communication from Council, particularly around water infrastructure decisions and planned works. There were calls for clearer, simpler messaging across digital channels and a desire for more accessible, timely updates. Some respondents highlighted the role of the communications team in reducing confusion and building public trust. Others expressed a preference for decision-making to remain with elected councillors and called for greater transparency around how investments and priorities are determined.

Environmental Stewardship and Infrastructure Integrity

26. A large portion of submissions focused on untreated wastewater and stormwater entering rivers and the ocean, particularly during heavy rain. Many submitters believed this issue should be addressed urgently and with greater investment. Programmes like DrainWise were acknowledged positively but seen as under-resourced. Submitters called for improved infrastructure maintenance and investment to reduce overflows, safeguard the natural environment, and better protect the water supply. There was also a call to better integrate mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga into environmental planning processes.
27. In addition, some submitters highlighted the need to expand access to core water infrastructure, including suggestions to extend the water and wastewater network to unserviced areas such as Wainui. These comments reflected concerns about equity and long-term growth planning.

Climate Change and Long-Term Planning

28. Some submitters raised the need for long-term infrastructure planning in the face of climate change, noting that the effects are already visible. Feedback focused on increasing resilience to extreme weather, ensuring future-proof design, and reducing the environmental footprint of water infrastructure. There was also a view that partnership with Māori and wider community involvement could help balance affordability with strategic, future-focused thinking.

Fluoridation, Water Treatment, and Public Health Concerns

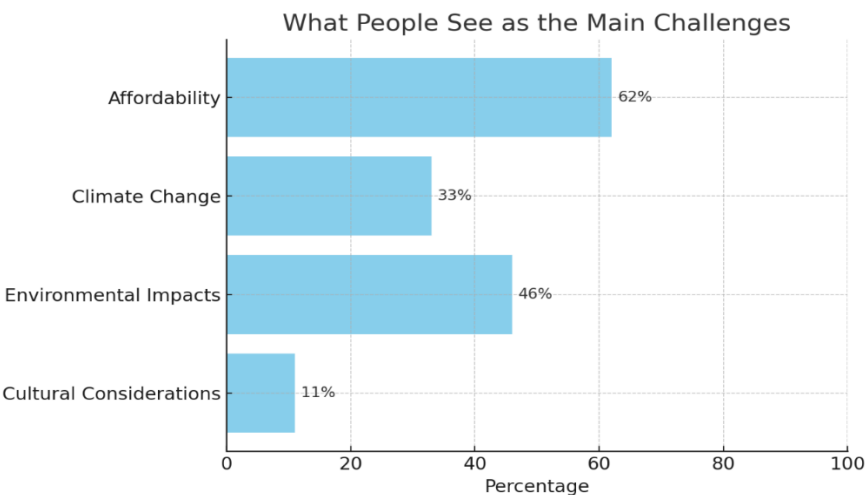
29. A minority of submitters raised concerns about water fluoridation, questioning its health impacts and whether Council should play a role in influencing public health through water treatment. These views were often paired with scepticism about the quality of reticulated water in general. Some respondents preferred to use alternative water sources and called for untreated water access points to be made available for non-drinking uses.

Governance, Rates, and Spending Priorities

30. Some submissions reflected broader concerns about Council's role and direction. These included calls for a stronger focus on core infrastructure and opposition to spending on perceived “non-essentials” or symbolic projects. A small number of submitters expressed opposition to co-governance or iwi involvement, while others stressed that infrastructure investment should be guided by need, not identity. There was also concern about transparency in Council spending.

What People See as the Main Challenges

31. As part of the consultation, participants were asked to identify the biggest challenges for water services in their area. The most common issues were **affordability (62%)**, **environmental impacts (46%)**, and **climate change (33%)**, followed by **cultural considerations (11%)**. These results reflect a community focus on the cost of service delivery, the condition and impact of water infrastructure, and long-term planning in the face of environmental and climate pressures.



32. Comments from participants highlighted a range of location-specific concerns related to infrastructure, asset management, and service coordination. Several people raised issues with stormwater systems, including blocked drains and poorly maintained culverts that have led to road washouts and delays in repairs. In Kaiti, the limited capacity of the wastewater network was identified as a constraint on development and a factor contributing to higher trade waste costs. Others noted a lack of coordination between Council departments, particularly in relation to horticultural consenting.

33. Some responses stressed the need to plan for future demand, pointing to dam capacity and supply limitations as population growth continues. There was support for ongoing maintenance of effective infrastructure, such as the wastewater treatment plant, and a view that Council should focus on delivering essential infrastructure and services rather than political issues. A number of submitters also expressed a desire for consistent service across the district and fair treatment of all communities.

Key challenges and Council's response

34. The following challenges emerged most strongly through written submissions, reflecting the community's primary concerns about future water service delivery. These challenges were selected based on the frequency of supporting themes, the depth and specificity of feedback, and the consistency of public sentiment.
35. They represent the key areas where Council may need to provide technical clarity, planning assurance, or policy direction as it prepares the Water Services Delivery Plan.
36. **Table 1** presents a breakdown of the supporting themes, their frequency across submissions, and how they align with each challenge. **Table 2** provides a summary of submitter feedback for each challenge alongside Council's response, setting out how these concerns are being acknowledged, addressed, or planned for within the preferred delivery model.

Table 1: Submission Themes Mapped to Key Challenges

Challenges	Theme	# of References
Challenge 1: Affordability and Equity for Households and Communities	Affordability	62
	Equity	6
	User pays	7
	Social outcomes	5
Challenge 2: Local Control, Governance, and Transparency	Local control	60
	Trust in Council	44
	Anti-CCO	31
	Anti-bureaucracy	13
	Accountability	23
	Transparency	8
	Political independence	4
	Flexibility	5
	Dissatisfaction with Council	5
Challenge 3: Environmental Outcomes	Environmental outcomes	15
	Resilience	5
	Long-term outcomes	4
	Borrowing power	2
	Service improvement	15

Table 2: Summary of Key Challenges, Submitter Feedback, and Council Response

Challenge 1: Affordability and Equity for Households and Communities

Submitter Feedback:

Affordability was the most frequently raised concern. Many submitters noted that households in Tairāwhiti are already under significant financial pressure and expressed concern that establishing a separate water entity (Option 2) would introduce additional costs. These concerns focused on the potential for increased rates due to executive salaries, governance overhead, and added complexity.

Affordability was closely linked to equity. Many submitters emphasised that low-income households, including pensioners and multi-generational whānau, may not be able to absorb further charges, particularly under a user-pays or metered model. Some feared this could lead to reduced use of water for essential daily needs like hygiene and cooking. A small number supported metering to encourage conservation, but only if applied in a way that is fair and mindful of hardship.

Equity concerns were especially prominent among Māori and rural submitters. Some rural residents questioned the fairness of paying for infrastructure they do not directly benefit from. Others highlighted the importance of intergenerational fairness, calling for water services that remain accessible and affordable over time.

The clear message from submitters was that any delivery model must take into account not just the total cost, but how those costs are distributed. Many favoured the in-house model because it avoids the additional structural complexity of a CCO and supports a more regionally grounded and socially responsible approach. Submitters called for pricing structures that reflect both ability to pay and level of service received, and for a model that protects basic access while minimising future financial hardship.

Our Response:

Water services under the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) framework must be financially sustainable, deliver required levels of service, and be effectively managed to maintain existing infrastructure and support future growth.

The chosen service delivery model must ensure:

- Sufficient revenue to cover operating and capital costs;
- Adequate investment to maintain and improve water infrastructure; and
- Financing arrangements that enable Council to borrow when needed.

Key considerations in selecting the preferred model included:

1. **Affordability:** Spreading investment over time helps avoid sudden cost increases for ratepayers.
2. **Fair cost distribution:** Costs are shared across current and future ratepayers.
3. **Flexibility:** The model allows for future changes if a different approach proves more beneficial.

Water services must also comply with future health, environmental, and regulatory standards. Under LWDW, only properties within the boundaries of a reticulated service will be charged for that service. Those outside these areas will not incur charges for services they do not receive.

Pricing including any changes proposed on how the Water Services are rated and Water metering will be consulted separately. The consultation is likely to be in conjunction with the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

Challenge 2: Local Control, Governance, and Transparency

Submitter Feedback:

A significant number of submitters expressed strong support for Council retaining direct control of water services. This was grounded in a belief that locally elected representatives are more accountable, accessible, and responsive to community needs than an independent board or CCO structure. Many submitters viewed Option 2 (the CCO model) as a step toward unnecessary bureaucracy, reduced visibility, and potential loss of community voice.

There was widespread discomfort with the idea of adding a new governance layer involving high-paid directors and duplicated management structures. Some referred to this as “empire building,” and questioned whether it would deliver any real benefit to service users.

At the same time, submitters were clear that trust in Council must be earned and maintained. While most preferred Council-led delivery, this preference was often conditional on better transparency and clearer reporting. Several called for more visible tracking of how water rates are spent, stronger oversight, and improved communication on investment decisions and performance. The public want water decisions made locally and visibly.

Our Response:

Financial transparency is a core requirement of the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) framework. All revenue collected for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater must be spent solely on the provision of those services, and the water service entity must be able to demonstrate this clearly.

Ringfencing of water revenues supports transparency and ensures users only pay for the services they receive. It also aligns with national expectations for cost-reflective pricing.

The Commerce Commission will oversee the new economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services. This includes mandatory information disclosure and other tools to improve accountability and allow meaningful comparisons across councils.

From 1 July 2027, Council rates invoices will continue to show separate charges for each water service. At the same time, the portion of water costs currently funded through general rates will be removed, with all water services fully funded through targeted rates.

Taumata Arowai remains the primary regulator for drinking water and also plays a role in setting and monitoring standards for wastewater and stormwater. Their reporting on environmental and service performance will support improved national consistency and local transparency.

Challenge 3: Environmental and long term outcomes

Submitter Feedback:

Many submitters expressed concern about the impact of current water infrastructure on the environment, particularly wastewater overflows, stormwater discharges, and marine outfall. These concerns were often grounded in lived experience, with some referencing polluted rivers and beaches during heavy rain, and others calling out the visible environmental consequences of underinvestment or slow infrastructure upgrades. There was strong expectation that Council should not only meet regulatory compliance but actively prioritise environmental outcomes as part of core service delivery. For some, this included a desire to see greater recognition of *kaitiakitanga* principles and more alignment with *mātauranga Māori* approaches to water stewardship.

Environmental concerns were often linked to infrastructure reliability, climate change resilience, and intergenerational responsibility, with submitters urging Council to ensure that protecting natural water bodies is embedded in the long-term planning for all three waters services.

Our Response:

Under the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) framework, Council is required to deliver water services in accordance with environmental, health, and regulatory standards set by central government agencies. Taumata Arowai is the primary regulator for drinking water and is currently working through a process to develop standards for wastewater and stormwater discharges to ensure the protection of freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

These standards will establish the environmental performance that Council must meet. Council will be required to operate within these regulatory limits.

The preferred in-house delivery model supports continued investment in infrastructure renewals and system upgrades to meet environmental standards and improve the reliability of wastewater and stormwater systems. Council will prioritise actions that reduce overflows and build resilience to climate-related impacts.

Services will continue to be delivered within defined reticulated boundaries. Council is committed to building public trust by transparently reporting on environmental performance and ensuring that water systems are sustainable, resilient, and aligned with long-term community wellbeing.

Responses from non-submitters

Community Engagement Insights from Face-to-Face Events

37. Council hosted a series of face-to-face engagement events across the district between 1 April and 1 May 2025 to support public consultation on the Local Water Done Well proposals. Events were held in Gisborne City, Muriwai, Te Karaka, Whatatūtū, Mākaraka, Manutūkē, and Kaiti, with a focus on reaching communities with reticulated water services. These sessions provided opportunities for residents to ask questions, express concerns, and seek clarification on the proposed delivery models, regulatory changes, and future investment needs.
38. Common themes raised during these sessions reinforced the feedback provided through written submissions. These included:
 - **Affordability concerns:** particularly around the potential impact of metering and the cost of transitioning to a new delivery structure.
 - **Desire for local control:** participants emphasised the importance of retaining Council oversight and democratic accountability in any delivery model.
 - **Clarification on infrastructure planning:** many sought assurance on how stormwater, wastewater, and future growth would be managed under either model.

- **Environmental outcomes:** strong community interest in improving wastewater treatment and preventing stormwater pollution, especially in areas like Kaiti and Muriwai.
 - **Equity and service fairness:** rural residents questioned paying for services they don't receive, and others expressed concern about water quality and consistency between urban and rural networks.
39. Sessions also highlighted a need for clear, ongoing communication from Council, especially on technical matters such as ring-fencing, water quality standards, and debt management. Questions about board governance under a CCO, the role of Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission, and the potential for subsidising resilience measures such as household water tanks, demonstrated a high level of public interest in the long-term sustainability of water services.
40. More information, including details on social media outcomes, is provided in the 2025 Local Water Done Well Hearings Overview Report (25-106).

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

41. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

42. Council has met its statutory responsibilities under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and taken deliberate steps to support transparency and public participation. Early engagement was held with iwi Chief Executives and mana whenua ahead of public consultation, and a Tiriti Compass lens was applied to the development of the business case and delivery options. The consultation process was open and accessible, reflecting Council's commitment to responsible governance that includes tangata whenua perspectives.

Rangatiratanga

43. Council's early engagement with iwi and mana whenua supported informed participation in the consultation process, despite constraints on co-design. Iwi expressed in-principle support for consultation proceeding, with expectations for continued engagement during deliberations. The report acknowledges the value of mātauranga Māori and the importance of Māori voices in future governance and service delivery.

Oritetanga

44. The report addresses equity through a focus on affordability and access to services across Tairāwhiti. It recognises the region's socioeconomic challenges and the need to design a delivery model that reflects both financial capacity and service access. The low number of submissions from Māori is acknowledged, highlighting a need to improve accessibility and ensure Māori perspectives are better represented in future engagement.

Whakapono

45. The consultation identified environmental protection and tikanga as important cultural considerations. Submitters referenced the significance of water and the role of Māori knowledge in guiding long-term stewardship. While cultural priorities ranked low in quantitative results, qualitative feedback reaffirmed the importance of ongoing engagement with Māori to ensure cultural values are reflected in planning and decision-making.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

46. Council held a workshop with iwi Chief Executives in December 2024 to discuss the proposed delivery models and the Local Water Done Well reforms.
47. It was acknowledged that government direction limited the co-design of models, but iwi were supportive in principle of consultation going ahead, with an expectation of further engagement during and after public consultation.
48. A Tiriti Compass lens was applied in the business case to assess the delivery options in terms of Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles.
49. Engagement with mana whenua groups took place during February and March 2025, signalling the upcoming consultation and providing an early view of the shortlisted options.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

50. Council undertook a comprehensive community engagement programme from 1 April to 1 May 2025 to inform the community about the Local Water Done Well programme and to seek feedback on two shortlisted options for the future delivery of water services.
51. Engagement activities were designed to ensure broad reach across the district, with a focus on visibility, accessibility, and opportunities for participation across multiple platforms and settings.

Engagement Channels Used:

- **Consultation Document:** Distributed via static displays at Council offices, Kiwa Pools, and the Library, as well as through engagement hui and public-facing locations such as shopping centres and cafes.
 - **Billboards:** Installed at Gisborne District Council billboard sites to build awareness of the consultation period and encourage submissions.
 - **Radio and Digital Advertising Campaign:** Aired across Tūranga FM and More FM throughout the consultation period.
 - **Social Media Campaign:** Posts and updates shared via Council's official Facebook and Instagram channels, and through community group pages.
 - **Radio Interviews:** Held on Radio Ngati Porou, Tūranga FM, and More FM on 7 and 10 April (dates subject to confirmation), providing opportunities to explain the options and encourage engagement.
 - **Direct Mail:** Sent to approximately **17,000 households** between 4–7 April, ensuring residents received printed information regardless of digital access.
 - **Email Newsletters (E-News):** Shared via the He Panui and Trust Tairāwhiti email databases on 30 March and 14 April respectively.
 - **Media Releases:** Issued to local media on 27 March and 24 April, and also published on the Council website to support transparency and visibility.
52. This formal consultation followed extensive preparatory engagement between November 2024 and March 2025, including 13 hui across the rohe with communities and tangata whenua. These early engagements helped shape the consultation document, built awareness of upcoming legislative changes, and reinforced the importance of involving mana whenua in early discussions.
 53. Council also held a workshop with iwi Chief Executives in December 2024 to discuss the proposed delivery models. While central government parameters limited co-design opportunities, iwi representatives expressed in-principle support for the proposed consultation and noted their intention to engage further at the deliberation stage.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

54. Climate change is already affecting Tairāwhiti, with increasing frequency of extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures. The future water service delivery model must account for these impacts to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability.
55. Upgraded stormwater and wastewater systems will be designed to handle increased rainfall intensity, reducing the risk of flooding and wastewater overflows.
56. Strengthening water infrastructure will ensure a stable drinking water supply during periods of drought, which are expected to become more frequent due to climate change.
57. More robust infrastructure will reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events, minimising disruptions and improving response times when climate-related emergencies occur.
58. Transitioning to a fully ring-fenced funding model will enable long-term planning and investment in climate-resilient water systems.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

59. The financial implications of each delivery model were assessed through an independently developed cost-based model prepared by Morrison Low. This analysis informed the Consultation Document and supports Council's assessment of short- and long-term affordability, debt management, and financial sustainability.

Key financial information of the Water Services Delivery options:

- The modified in-house model offers the lowest short-term cost to ratepayers due to minimal structural change and lower establishment costs.
- It spreads capital investment gradually over time, supporting affordability and predictability for households.
- From 1 July 2027, under a ring-fenced funding structure, households connected to water services are expected to see an average rates increase of ~\$100 per year, while unconnected properties may see an equivalent decrease.
- Borrowing under this model remains within Council's Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) cap of 280% of operating revenue, providing stable financial headroom.
- The CCO model would incur higher upfront setup and transition costs but may allow for greater borrowing flexibility in the long term due to its standalone balance sheet.
- All establishment costs under the CCO model are assumed to be capitalised and debt-funded, and all water-related debt would transfer to the entity upon its formation.

Both models were assessed using consistent parameters, including:

- Full cost recovery of operating expenses (including depreciation and interest).
 - Capital expenditure funded through a combination of debt and operating surpluses.
 - Inflation assumptions based on BERL LGCI for the first 10 years, followed by 2% annual inflation.
 - Borrowing costs modelled at 5% per annum.
60. More detailed financial modelling and scenario analysis is available in the December 2024 report: *Local Water Done Well – Delivery Options Business Case* [Report 24-348] and *Our Water* [Local Waters Done Well] Engagement Plan and Consultation Document [Report 25-45].

Legal

61. Gisborne District Council (Council) must prepare and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by 3 September 2025 under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (PA Act). Council's preferred water service delivery model (WSDM) involves a potential transition to a new Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

Long Term Plan Amendments and Consultation

62. Council's current three-year plan (2024–2027) may need to be amended if strategic assets are transferred to a CCO. However, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (PA Act) allows for a streamlined consultation process, and the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Long-Term Plan) Order 2023 (SWERLA Order) currently removes the requirement to amend the three-year plan before such transfers, until 30 June 2027. If assets are transferred before that date, no audit will be required. After 1 July 2027, Council would need to follow the standard amendment process for its 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.

Audit Requirements

63. If Council proceeds with a CCO before 30 June 2027, there will be no audit requirement for the 3YP. Post-1 July 2027, an audit would be necessary, but this audit will be captured as part of the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

30% Rate Cap under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA)

64. If Council shifts to a CCO model, the revenue from uniform annual general charges (UAGC) or fixed rates may exceed the 30% cap under section 21 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA), due to the removal of targeted water and wastewater rates. There is no exemption in the PA Act for this cap. Council may need to amend its rating policy or seek an exemption or transitional relief.
65. In summary, there are legal obligations related to LTP amendments, consultation processes, and the 30% rate cap, particularly if Council moves forward with the CCO model.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

66. The preferred water services delivery model will have direct implications for Council's policy and planning framework, particularly in the lead-up to the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan (LTP). The extent of these implications will depend on which model is ultimately adopted.
67. Under the modified in-house model, Council's planning and reporting processes for water services will need to be separated out from other activities, in line with ringfencing and financial transparency requirements set under the Local Water Done Well framework. This includes updates to Council's financial and infrastructure strategies, as well as discrete performance reporting for water services.
68. If Council selects a CCO model, planning and reporting for water services will be fully separated from Council's core operations. This will require amendments to the LTP and may trigger additional reporting and audit requirements. The governance, asset management, and funding arrangements will also need to be reflected in Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, Significance and Engagement Policy, and potentially the Rates Remission Policy.
69. Wider strategic documents, such as the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP), Infrastructure Strategy, and Asset Management Plans, will require alignment to reflect the new delivery structure, especially in relation to future investment, service levels, and compliance with regulatory standards.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

Financial Risks

70. **Affordability for ratepayers:** Both options will increase costs, but the CCO option has higher upfront financial impacts due to setup, governance, and borrowing requirements. This may be difficult to justify publicly without long-term savings.
71. **Debt management:** Under the in-house model, debt remains within Council's cap and contributes to overall limits. This may constrain future borrowing across other activity areas.
72. **Revenue and cost allocation:** Transitioning to targeted rates and ringfencing introduces potential volatility in revenue recovery, especially during the early years of implementation.

Implementation Risks

73. **Timeframes:** Council must submit its Water Services Delivery Plan by **3 September 2025**. Delays in confirming the preferred model could risk non-compliance.
74. **Organisational readiness:** Establishing new systems for ringfenced reporting (or a standalone entity in the case of a CCO) will require internal capability, system changes, and governance clarity.
75. **Transition complexity:** The CCO option carries more legal and structural complexity. Governance setup, asset transfers, and customer billing systems will require additional planning and legal work.

Reputational and Political Risks

76. **Public perception:** The community has clearly expressed support for the modified in-house model. Choosing an alternative option may lead to public dissatisfaction or reduced trust in Council's decision-making.
77. **Equity concerns:** The shift to fully user-pays may be seen as unfair by some households, particularly where perceived service quality is low, or access is limited.

Legislative and Strategic Risks

78. **Future policy change:** National water reform policy remains uncertain. A future Government may amend or repeal current legislation, changing the required delivery framework again.
79. **Planning misalignment:** A poorly coordinated transition risks misalignment with the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan and Council's broader strategic priorities.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone
26 June 2025	Water Services Delivery Plan adoption.
3 September 2025	Water Services Delivery Plan submitted to DIA.
March 2027	Consultation of the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

12. Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Elected Members Reports for INFORMATION



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

25-152

Title: 25-152 Attendance at the Local Government New Zealand All of Government and Rural Provincial Sector Meetings

Section: Democracy & Support Services

Prepared by: Teremoana Kingi - Acting Democracy Manager

Meeting Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

Report to COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA for information

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on Councillor Telfers recent attendance at the Local Government New Zealand all of Government and the Rural Provincial Sector meetings. A **presentation** will be provided at this meeting.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. **Notes the contents of this report.**

Authorised by:

Anita Reedy-Holthausen - Director Engagement & Maori Partnerships

Keywords: conference, local government new zealand conference, lgnz

