

8 April 2025

Palmerston North City Council
32 The Square
PALMERSTON NORTH 4410

Attention: Waid Crockett & Grant Smith
 Chief Executive Officer His Worship The Mayor

Tēnā korua

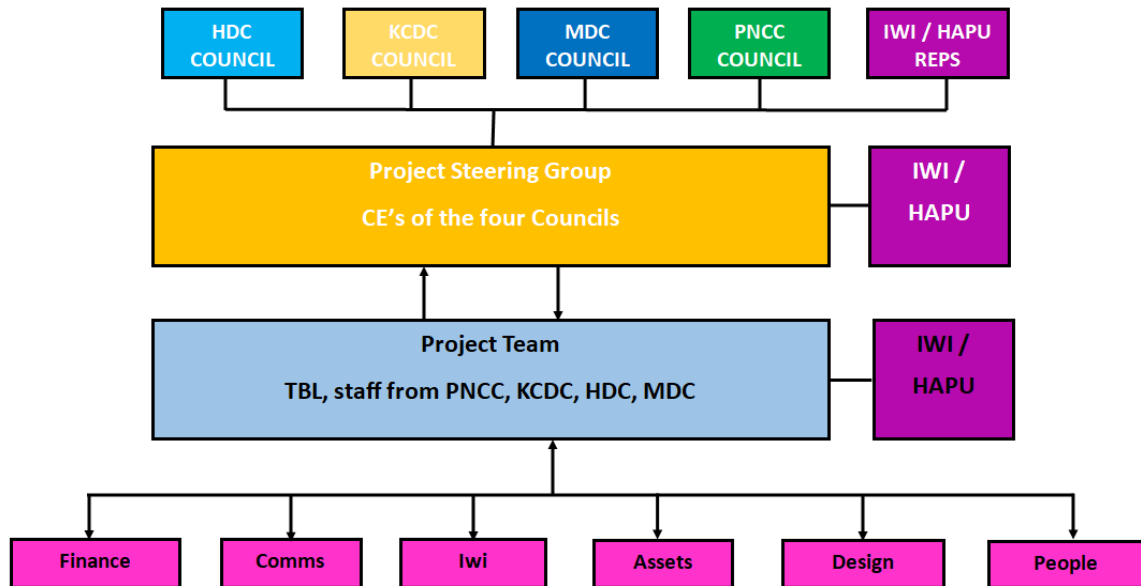
RE: LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

1. On behalf of the iwi representatives who attended the hui at Rangimarie Marae, and who have responded to sending this letter we would like to mihi to you all for making the time to meet kanohi ki te kanohi and share your thinking on the proposal to form a joint water organisation between your councils.
2. We appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from you about the drivers behind this proposal and your desire to ensure that future water service delivery is sustainable, efficient, and serves the needs of our communities. Engaging with us about this kaupapa reflects a commitment to the relationship we continue to build together.
3. As iwi/hapū, our aspirations for wai are strongly connected to our responsibilities as kaitiaki and in our enduring connection to the rivers, streams, aquifers, wetlands, and coastal waters that sustain our people and our places. For us, water is not simply a service or commodity — it is a taonga, essential to the wellbeing of the environment, our whānau, and our future generations.
4. In the context of the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, we see this as a critical moment to embed those aspirations and ensure that the new water service arrangements give effect to Te Mana o te Wai, uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and recognise our rights and responsibilities as mana whenua across the rohe.
5. We believe the best way to achieve this is by continuing to work together as partners in this process. The proposal to create a new water organisation presents an opportunity — but it also requires clear and meaningful mechanisms for iwi/hapū involvement at all levels of governance, management, and operations.
6. Please see below how we can continue to work together under the proposal.

7. Presentation Slide – How we are working together as a five:

7.1

How we are working together as a five



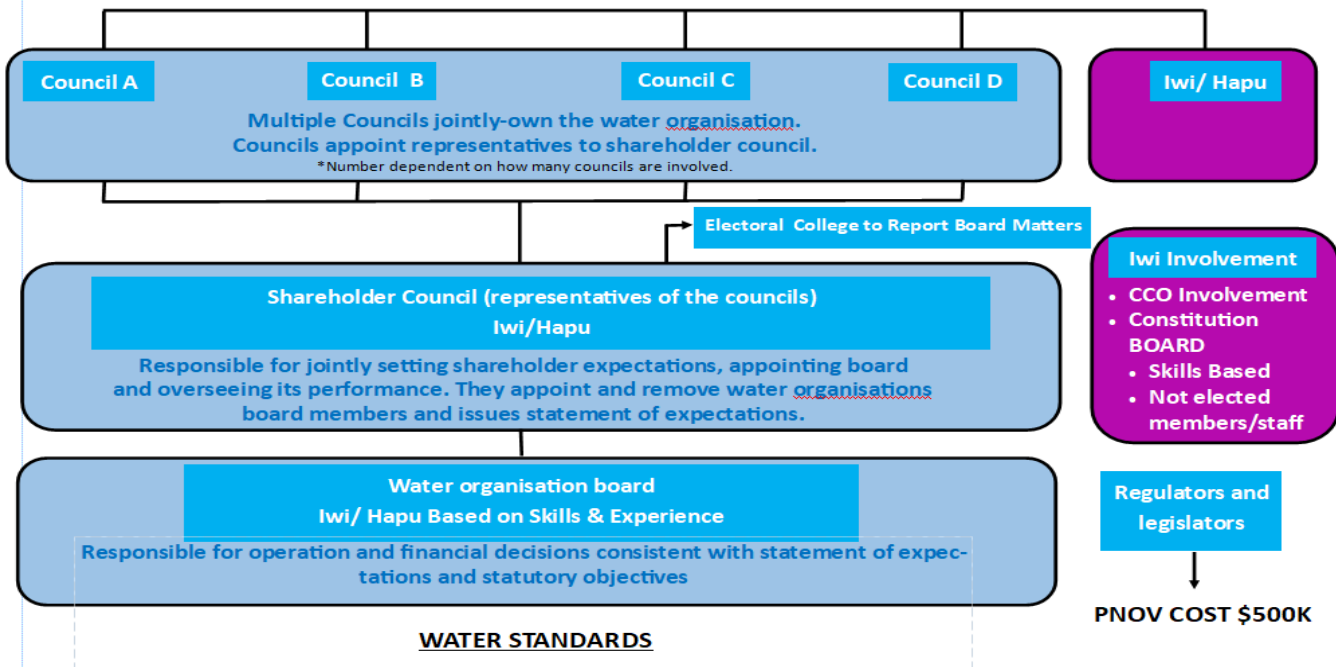
7.2 As shown in the diagram above, we have added Iwi/Hapū representation at all levels. This reflects our commitment to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi - for us, nothing less is acceptable. Our Iwi/hapū collectives will be meeting again soon and following that we shall advise our representatives. It is our intention to put forward one representative for each level of the structure, specifically:

- Iwi/hapū, alongside Council Level;
- Project Steering Group Level; and
- Project Team Level.

8. High Level Likely Governance Structure

8.1

High Level Likely Governance Structure



- 8.2 As shown in the above diagram, we also see Iwi/Hapū level representation at all levels of the proposed structure.
- 8.3 In particular we see opportunities where Iwi/Hapū can also be owners of the Water Organisation and of course this would need to be worked through logically.
- 8.4 In terms of the Shareholder Council, we also see ourselves in that space in partnership, setting shareholder expectations, appointing the Board and overseeing its performance.
- 8.5 Finally, we believe there are individuals within our iwi/hapū who have the skills, expertise, and experience required to contribute at the governance level, including serving on the Board.

9 Other Matters

9.1 In terms of other involvement, we also, as a minimum, see ourselves having input into:

- The Constitution to be developed;
- The Shareholder Agreement to be developed;
- Input into the Water Services Plans our respective Councils have to develop, to ensure our values and expectations are included;
- Having representation on the Interview Panel for the Water Organisation Board Chief Executive role; and
- Of course some Iwi/Hapū may want to invest as well.

10. Final Council make Up

10.1 We acknowledge the ongoing consultation process being undertaken by the four Councils which will ultimately determine which Council/s will choose to work together and which may seek to go alone. We acknowledge this will have an impact on which Iwi/Hapū will be involved and working together. Therefore, it is imperative that a mechanism is established to keep us informed and updated during this process.

10.2 We look forward to further discussions on how our shared aspirations can be realised as the proposal develops. We are committed to continuing this kōrero and working together to ensure that whatever entity is created, it serves our people, our environment, and our mokopuna.

11. Point of Contact

11.1 We ask that you confirm the key point of contact we should work with to progress these matters as soon as possible. Our point of contact for now is Danielle Harris, danielle@rangitaane.iwi.nz.

Nā mātou noa, nā



Danielle Harris
Tānenuiārangi Manawatū Charitable Trust Rōpu

Helmut Modlik
Te Rūnanga o Ngati Toa

Hayden Turoa
Te Tūmatakahuki

Trevor Shailer
Ngati Kauwhata

Di Rump
Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

CC:

Kapiti Coast District Council
Attention: Darren Edwards, CEO

& *Her Worship the Mayor, Janet Holborow*

Horowhenua District Council
Attention: Monique Davidson, CEO

& *His Worship the Mayor, Bernie Wanden*

Manawatu District Council
Attention: Shayne Harris, CEO

& *Her Worship the Mayor, Helen Worboys*