

Have your say on who manages

**Westland's**

**Water**

In the future!

**WESTLAND**  
District Council | Te Kahui o Poutini



Read the options, advantages and disadvantages, and the potential costs at [westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater](https://westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater)

# Who should manage and make decisions about your water in the future?

**That's the important question we need your feedback on NOW!**

**Under the Local Government's Local Water Done Well programme and its associated legislation, all councils must consult with their communities on how they will manage and deliver water services in the future.**

New Zealand is facing challenges in maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, such as roads and water. Our District has generally managed its water assets well in the changing legislative environment. However, the costs of maintaining and improving this infrastructure is putting pressure on both central and local governments agencies and ultimately on taxpayers and ratepayers.

We must consult on our approach to delivering water services.

We have three options for you to consider, along with high level cost estimates for the coming decades. You can read more about these on pages 15-23.

Each option has its advantages and disadvantages, but one thing is clear – scale matters. The more people we have contributing to costs, the more affordable water services will be in the future.

This is a complex issue, but it is important you understand the challenges and have your say about the future of water services. This will be one of the most important decisions we make in the coming years.

We are committed to both following the timeframes set by central government, and to providing you with the best information available and answering your questions.

**Join us at one of our drop-in sessions (see page 28), ask us online and submit your feedback before 5pm 16<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Together, we must ensure water services continue to be done well into the future.**

**Helen Lash**

Mayor, Westland District Council



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# Setting the Scene

## Water reforms have been a hot topic for successive governments for about a decade

**In 2024, three pieces of legislation supporting the Local Water Done Well policy were passed.** The Local Water Done Well legislation is aimed at addressing New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges and places emphasis on achieving financial sustainability, appropriate regulation of water services, and ensuring flexibility for communities and councils in determining how their water services will be delivered.

The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act) established the Local Water Done Well framework and put in place preliminary arrangements for the new system.

The first bill enacted, February 2024, repealed the previous water legislation.

The second bill, enacted September 2024, outlines the Local Water Done Well framework including the requirements for councils to develop Water Service Delivery Plans. Councils must develop these by September 2025. The Act requires that:

- Water Service Delivery Plans outline future delivery arrangements, and that councils commit to an implementation plan.
- Water Service Delivery Plans include baseline information from councils about their water services operations, assets, revenue, expenditure, pricing, and projected capital expenditure, as well as necessary financial arrangements, as a first step towards future economic regulation.

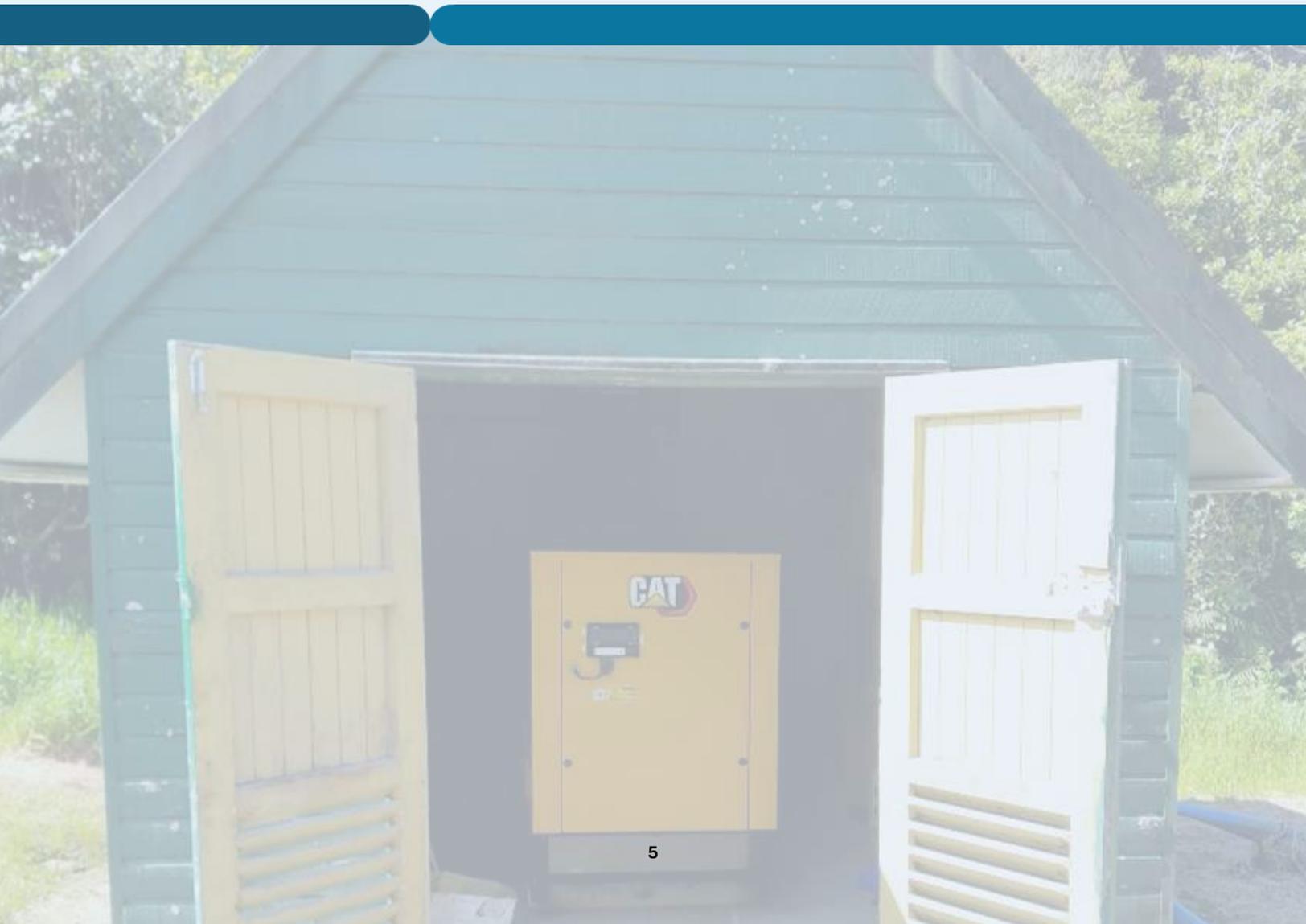
This Bill also streamlines consultation and decision-making processes for establishing Council Controlled Organisation (CCOs).

The third Bill, introduced December 2024, provides the enduring setting for water services. This includes:

- Arrangements for the new water services delivery system;
- A new economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services; and
- Changes to the water regulatory framework and the water services regulator.

## Why Councils preferred option has changed since the long term plan consultation

In the Long Term Plan, Council identified the in-house delivery of water services as the preferred option based on the best information available at the time. Since then, further detailed analysis has been undertaken in partnership with the two neighbouring district councils. This joint work has shown that forming a three-council Council Controlled Organisation would provide stronger financial, operational, and compliance benefits. As a result, all three councils are now consulting on the three-council Council Controlled Organisation as the preferred option. While in-house delivery remains one of the three options under consultation, the shared Council Controlled Organisation model offers improved economies of scale, access to specialist expertise, and a more sustainable and resilient approach to managing future investment and meeting national water service standards.



# Delivery Model Options

## What Options have we looked at and what has been ruled out already

This legislation keeps water assets council owned and lets each council choose the best way to deliver water services for its community. The following table provides the options included in the new legislation.

Service Delivery Model	Description	Have we considered this option
Internal business unit or division	<p>Status quo for many councils</p> <hr/> <p>Minimum requirements for water service providers will apply</p> <hr/> <p>New financial sustainability, ringfencing rules, and economic regulation will apply</p>	Yes, under Option 2
Single Council-owned water organisation	<p>New company established, 100% owned by council</p> <hr/> <p>Financial sustainability rules will apply, but retains a financial link to council</p> <hr/> <p>Councils with existing water Council-controlled organisations will be required to meet minimum requirements</p>	This option has not been selected as it would have higher costs for our community than Options 1-3
Multi-Council owned water organisation	<p>New company established with multi-council ownership</p> <hr/> <p>Appointment of a Board through shareholder Council (or similar body) is advisable but not a statutory requirement</p> <hr/> <p>Option to access Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) finance with the provision of parent support or to create a more financially independent organisation</p>	Yes, under Option 1 and Option 3
Mixed Council/Consumer trust owned	<p>Consumer trust established to own majority of shares</p> <hr/> <p>Mixed ownership, with one or more councils owning minority of shares</p> <hr/> <p>Structure enables financially independent organisation to be established while retaining minority council ownership</p>	This option has not been selected as it would have higher costs for our community than Options 1-3
Consumer Trust Owned	<p>Council transfers assets to consumer trust owned organisation</p> <hr/> <p>Consumers elect trustees to represent their interests in the organisation</p> <hr/> <p>Most financially independent of the available models</p>	This option has not been selected as it would have higher costs for our community than Options 1-3

# Our Proposal

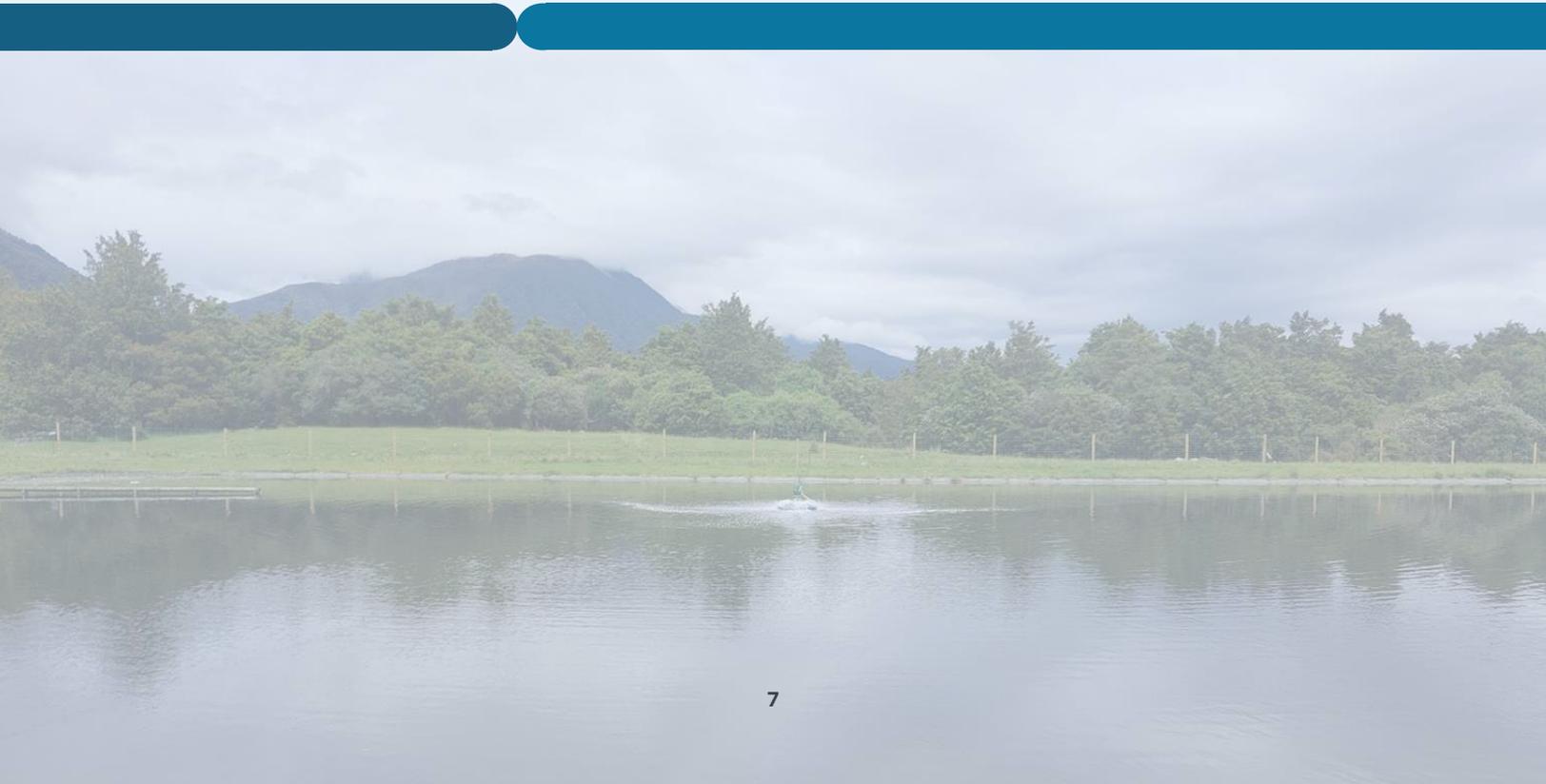
## We are proposing to create a Council Controlled water organisation jointly owned with other West Coast Councils

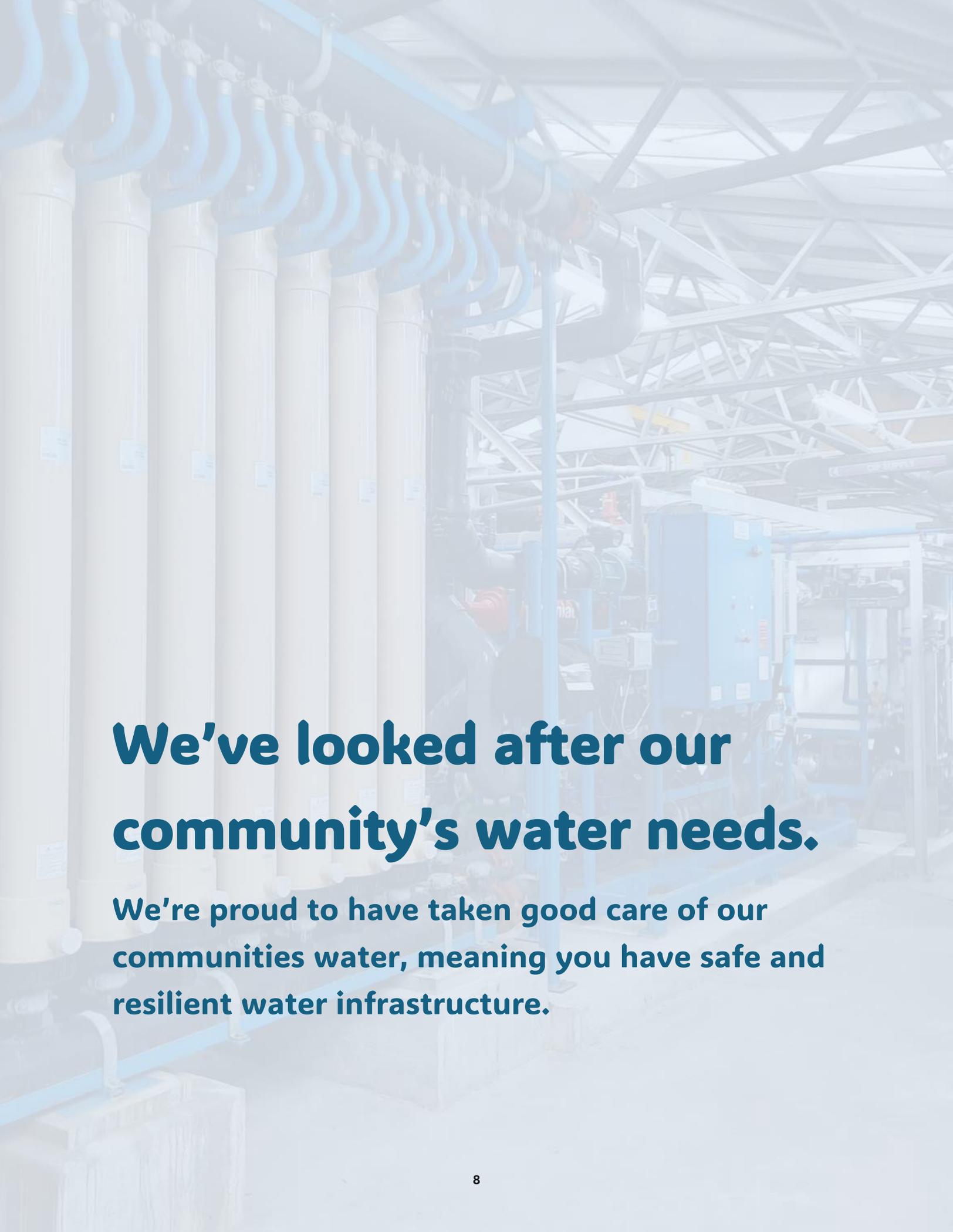
The water organisation would deliver water services to the entire West Coast Region, and this would be the foundation of our water services delivery plan which is to be submitted to government by September. This proposal satisfies the requirements of the legislation.

In this document Option 1 and Option 3 explain the potential arrangements for different Council Controlled Organisation combinations. We believe that these options offer the best outcomes for our community. The full impacts of these options alongside setting up an internal business unit (Option 2) are detailed in this consultation document.

**During the past year Council staff and elected members have worked hard to understand the changing environment of the reforms to ensure our community is well taken care of in the future.** In Westland, we think there would be advantages to working in collaboration with the other West Coast District Councils. This could provide long-term benefits being more cost efficient to all West Coast residents.

We've looked at everything from our assets, proposed capital programme, structure of the organisations, impacts on existing staff, community involvement, and the financial implications for each option.





# **We've looked after our community's water needs.**

**We're proud to have taken good care of our communities water, meaning you have safe and resilient water infrastructure.**



We have **9**  
**treatment plants**

We have **10 drinking**  
**water abstraction**  
**points**

We have **134km of**  
**pipes** – the distance  
between Hokitika  
and Franz Josef

We have **45**  
**Reservoirs**



We have **4**  
**wastewater**  
**schemes**

We have **10 pump**  
**stations**

We have **56km of**  
**pipes**

We have **2**  
**maturation ponds**

We have **4**  
**treatment plants**  
**and 6 oxidation**  
ponds to help treat  
your wastewater



We have **1**  
**stormwater scheme**

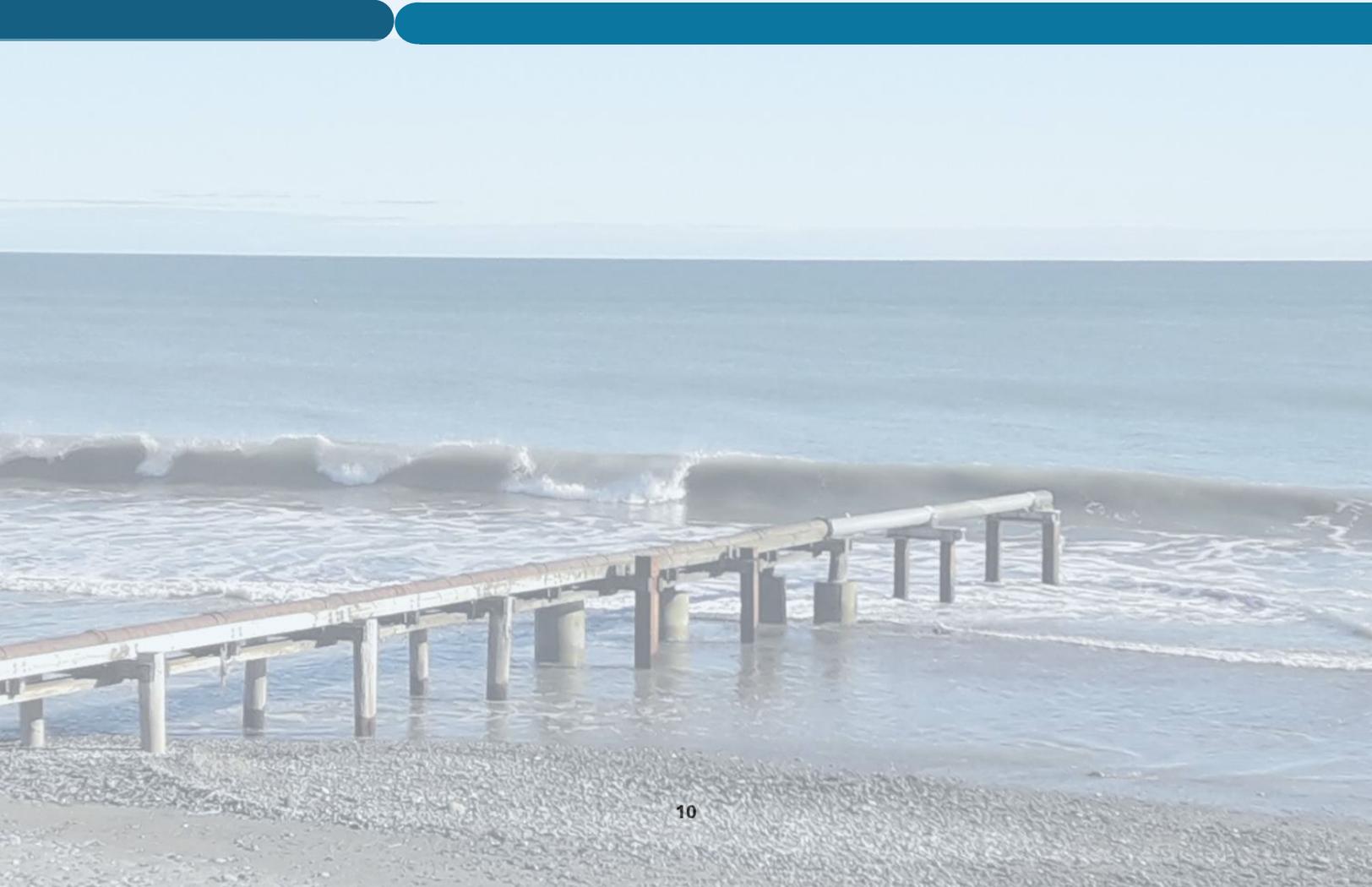
We have **46km of**  
**pipes**

We have **629 sumps**

We have **6 pump**  
**stations**

# Our Water Situation Today

- Our water assets are compliant
- Our water assets are valued at **\$180.3m**, about **27%** of Councils assets
- Our day to day operating costs is about **\$2.5m** annually, **24%** of Council operating expenditure
- We're planning on spending **\$90m** on water projects on the next 9 years. Then in the following 20 years were expecting in invest an additional **\$208m**.
- We plan to spend **\$24m** for day to day maintenance over the next 9 years on water infrastructure



# In 2024/25, ratepayers pay around:

**\$1,612**

This includes:

**\$768 for drinking water**

**\$530 for wastewater**

**\$314 for stormwater**

\*Based on the Hokitika Area

**We rate differently for each water activity.**



Drinking water has an annual charge per rating unit and commercial users are charged based on their usage via a water meter



Wastewater has an annual charge per rating unit and commercial users are charged per pan



Reticulated stormwater is only available in Hokitika, and charged for under a general rate, with the remaining townships having rural drainage

What we build in large water construction projects will last many decades. This means the investment helps our community now, and for generations to come.

**That's why this decision is so important**

**Did you know that water pipes only need to be replaced every 80 years?**

# Our Proposed Water Investment

Our draft Long-Term Plan (2025-2034) outlines our proposed projects, and costs for water services over the next decade. Our plan shows we're proposing to spend \$90m on water services over this period. The bulk of this is our new wastewater treatment plant and increased compliance costs.

## Our major projects include:



Hokitika WWTP  
**\$27M**

Livingston St Pump  
Station Upgrade  
**\$1.32M**

Hokitika Mains  
Replacement  
**\$1M**

Hokitika Rolleston St  
**\$233K**

Fox Glacier Reticulation  
Upgrades  
**\$700K**

Franz Josef WWTP  
**\$8.8M**

## Compliance with New Standards

The new regulator, Taumata Arowai, is in place, which has introduced new compliance standards. These standards have resulted in some upgrades to our infrastructure, a new chlorination building at Blue Spur and a new SCADA system which provides us monitoring data.

## Renewal of Aging Plant Infrastructure

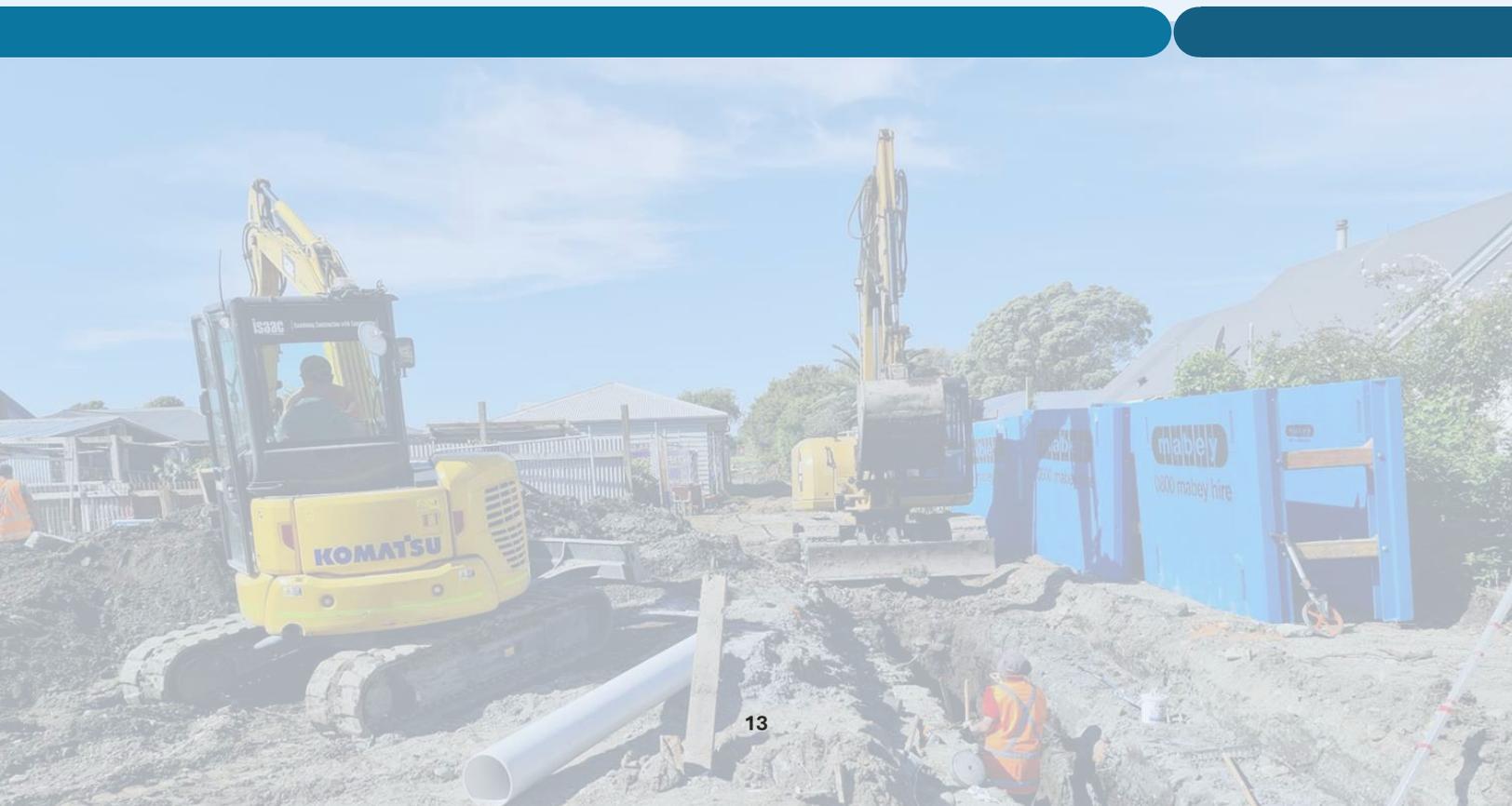
**Our infrastructure is ageing, and many assets are reaching the end of their useful life at the same time.** This has resulted in a significant renewal program and therefore a costly capital expenditure programme. For example, the replacement of membrane filtration at Blue Spur Water Treatment Plant. These need to be replaced every 10 years to ensure they continue to operate as required.

## Renewal of Ageing Reticulation Infrastructure

**Similar to our plant infrastructure our reticulation infrastructure is ageing, and many assets are reaching the end of their useful life at the same time.** Council plans regular replacements to the reticulation of supplies in an aim to reduce the ‘bow wave’ of renewals. These replacements are spread throughout the Long Term Plan period. For our water supplies this includes replacements of mains pipes, valves and fire hydrants. For wastewater this includes collecting CCTV of the pipes which allows for prioritisation of the pipe and manhole replacements.

## Wastewater Treatment Plant Renewals

**Consents for discharges from all four of our wastewater treatment plants are due to expire within the planning period or just outside.** The Hokitika consent expires in 2026, and Council is currently in the consultation stage for the construction of the new plant. The Franz Josef consent expires in 2034, and we plan to undertake feasibility studies and construct a new plant within the Long Term Plan period. All of these projects, costs and timeframes were included in our Long Term Plan consultation. We think these projects need to happen, and some are legally required, however if Option 1 or Option 3 is chosen, then it would be up to the Council Controlled water organisation to determine the timing of this work.



# Some important things to know before you see the options

**Next, we'll be showing you the options we're proposing but there are some things you need to know first.**

**The legislation requires us to have a Water Services Delivery Plan. The plan will include the option we adopt following this consultation.** As part of our plan we will need to be able to prove that the model we choose is financially sustainable and provide transparent modelling which demonstrates long-term affordability and resilience. This includes clear projections of revenue and expenditure, plans for maintaining infrastructure, and mechanisms to manage debt and respond to emergencies. Modelling for the next ten years is likely to be more accurate because it is based on Councils' Long Term Plans. Twenty years is more difficult to forecast due to changing needs, legislation, population etc.

We have conducted a range of different modelling scenarios, which is how we've been able to tell you potential costs for the options. To be able to model potential costs we have had to make a range of assumptions. These include things like projects, interest rates, size of organisation, revenue etc. You can read the assumptions in that report available on our website.

It is important to note that the costs we refer to in our options are very high-level because of those assumptions.

## Pricing over time

Right now, different communities pay different amounts for water. A new water organisation may decide to make water charges the same for everyone in the future. This is known as 'price harmonisation'. It hasn't yet been decided when or if this will happen.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has indicated that councils involved in a new water organisation could agree on this as part of their set-up arrangements. This agreement would mean councils could have some influence over that decision. For us to be able to give you potential costs, we have not assumed any price harmonisation would occur.



# Have your say Westland!

There's option one, two and three. Which one do you think is best for Westland?

# Option One “The Three”

**We would create a joint Council Controlled Organisation to manage water services across the region.**

## **A Water Organisation jointly owned by Westland, Grey and Buller District Councils.**

**This option is our Councils preferred option for several reasons.**

The main reason is that it’s the most affordable for our community. Together, our three Councils serve 32,900 people, across the West Coast Region. Our communities have strong links, being in the same region, working together helps reduce costs over time. A joint water organisation could save money by procuring joint contracts, operational supplies, sharing software and vehicles, and streamlining decision making.

**The councils would work together to set up the organisation.**

If this option is selected, the first step is for all three mayors and councils to have negotiated a common set of operating principles to guide the development of the Council Controlled Organisation.

Following approval of the Water Services Delivery Plan the three councils would work together on a transition plan. It would appoint representatives to a joint committee known as a shareholder council. This group would then set up the new organisation by appointing a skills-based board of directors. The shareholding council would create a ‘statement of expectations’ outlining Council's expectations, determining priorities, and setting the strategic direction that would inform the decisions and actions of the organisation. Legislation also requires that the new water organisation prepares a water services strategy which would detail its approach to water management. That strategy would be reviewed every three years and relates to a period of at least 10 financial years, so it would act like a Council Long Term Plan. The board of directors would be ‘skills based’, meaning a mix of people with experience and skills in managing large organisations, various stakeholders and may have utility experience. The transition plan would include topics such as the expected start date, iwi involvement, scope of delivery services, location, customer experience and staff transitions.

## Councils wouldn't be involved in day-to-day decisions

Unlike Council management, no Council staff or elected members would be involved in the organisation's daily decisions. It would be independent of Council.

### The organisation is responsible for its own funding and for charging customers.

The legislation requires that the new organisation must determine the funding needed for water services.

It would be responsible for all levels of service. This includes sourcing, treating, and discharging water, planning for future repairs and upgrades, charging for water, and keeping you, our community informed and involved.

The water organisation takes on our 'water-related' debt. It can borrow money for water construction (capital costs), separate from council borrowing. Currently, councils must balance water spending with other services they manage.

This means that councils can keep investing in other services, such as transport, solid waste, and community facilities. Councils would still consult and seek feedback on these other services through their Long Term Plan and other community consultations.

## Key Points

### Who sets the strategic priorities for our district?

The Council would continue to set strategic priorities for Westland District. But the new water organisation would prepare the Water Services Strategy and consult with Council.

### Who sets the pricing?

The new water organisation would be responsible for setting the water charges.

### Who makes decisions about the work done on the assets?

The new water organisation would have responsibility for operations, asset management and deliver all capital work for the region.

### Who owns the water assets?

The assets could be transferred to the new organisation, or the Council could retain the assets. This is something that would need to be worked through when the new organisation is set up.

### Who communicates with the ratepayers/customers?

The new water organisation would be responsible for the relationship with the customers (those connected to our water services).

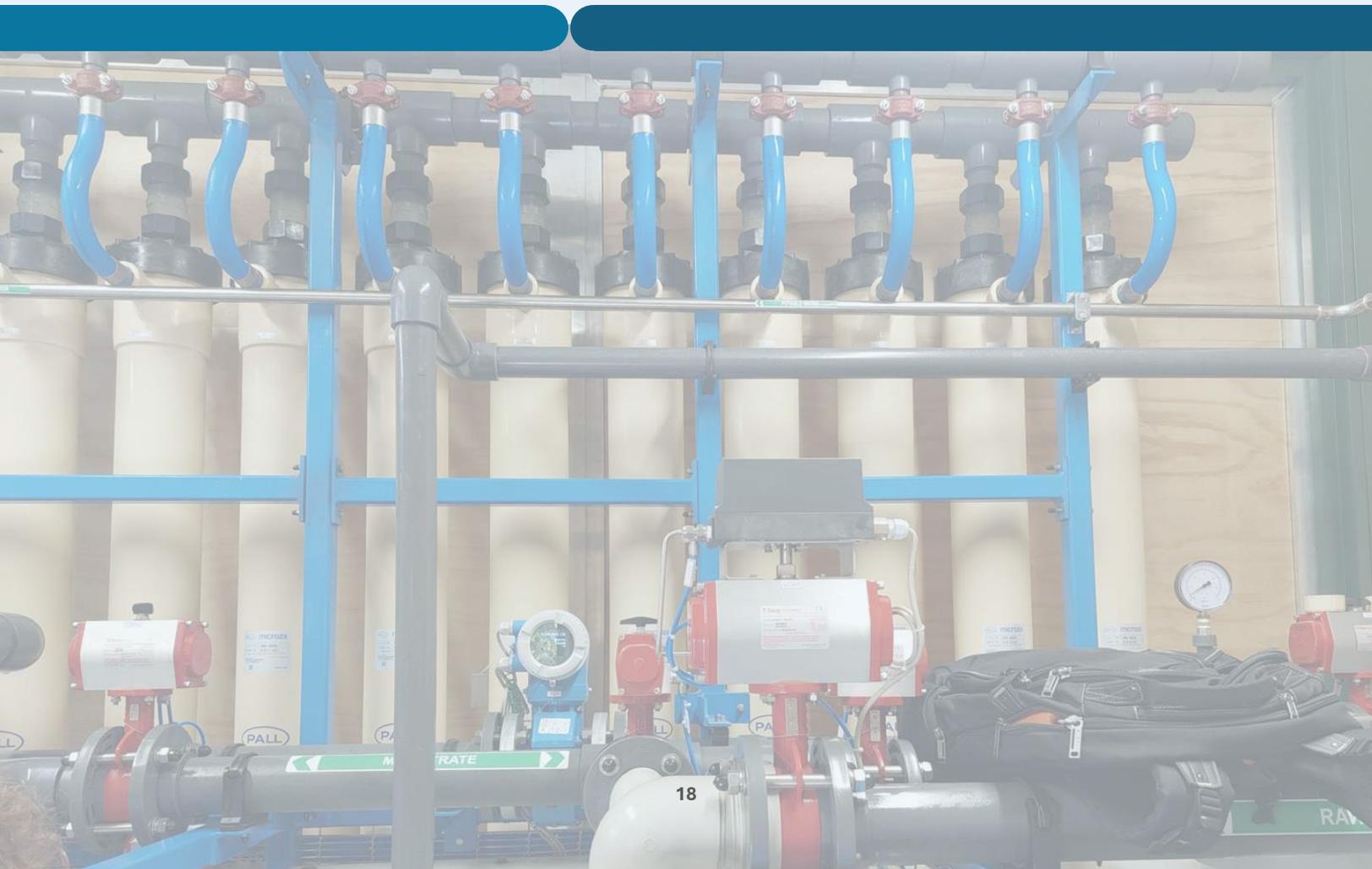
## The financials

Within ten years, residential ratepayers could be paying around **\$2,549** per year for water services under this option. This figure drops to **\$2,344** in 20 years. These numbers are in today's dollars and don't include inflation.

The potential cost in ten years is more realistic than 20 years. That's because councils are using their Long Terms Plans to determine the work. It's hard to know what may change in 20 years so that number has more uncertainty.

As the water organisation would be responsible for water services and the funding of those services, it would also be responsible for maintaining the water assets. Currently we have **\$9.84m** debt related to those assets, which we would transfer to the water organisation. All the councils in this option would do this too. We would be able to remove all proposed water debt from the Council books.

Removing the spending and forecast revenue from water services results in an increase in available debt headroom. The rating impact of removing water from Council is a bit more unclear. Fixed charges for water would no longer be billed to ratepayers as the new water organisation would be responsible for charging for this.



## Potential Advantages

**Dedicated Three Waters Entity** – A new water organisation would be set up to achieve financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, and alignment with central governments preference of collaboration. This organisation would be dedicated to management and delivery of water services.

**Better Financial & Borrowing Capacity** – A new water organisation could have greater borrowing capacity and access to funding specific to water services, supporting the necessary infrastructure upgrade and expansions, ensuring long term financial stability.

**Independent Governance** – A new water organisation would have an independent board. Board appointments would be competency based with relevant skills and experience. Current Council staff and elected members cannot be appointed to the board.

**Efficiency & Economies of Scale** – This option could have improved service delivery, reduced bureaucracy, and cost savings through consolidated methodologies across multiple districts.

**Expected Lower Consumer Costs** – This option has the potential for lower costs to residents compared to the other options.

## Potential Disadvantages

**High Transition Costs** – A new water organisation would have high implementation costs for legal and establishment requirements. The Council Controlled Organisation can utilise and build upon existing Council processes. However, forming a new company will require additional resourcing, time and costs to determine staffing changes, establish new resourcing models, and execute setup tasks (e.g. Service Level Agreements for the initial period).

**Reduced Council Alignment** - The board and management of the new water organisation would have autonomy for operational and financial decision making. Therefore, Council would not maintain control over the decision-making processes. For example, the Council Controlled Organisation would prepare the water services strategy and consult with Council.

**Geographic & Operational Constraints** – The West Coast is a large region. This option could incur additional location costs and there could be long travel distances for staff and contractors.

**Stranded Council Costs** – Separating water services from Council operations would reduce the economies of scale for Council and incur stranded costs. These are the overhead costs that remain even if the activity is now being delivered elsewhere i.e. leadership, software systems etc.

# Option Two “Internal Business Unit”

This option would see Council continuing to deliver the districts water services.

## An internal business unit situated within Council.

**This option provides the most continuity for services and staff.**

We already manage and fund water services for our District, so this model is familiar to us and our communities.

The internal business unit would be responsible for planning, funding, building and maintaining water services. Therefore, Council would prepare the districts water services strategy and continue to have control of water decision making within regulatory parameter and economic regulation. The business unit would be directly accountable to elected members, and subject to Council’s governance oversight and monitoring processes.

Council would retain a direct relationship with customers and continue to own the districts water services assets.

### **The need to ring-fence water would cost.**

The new government legislation requires us to ‘ring-fence’ all money spent on water services. Ring-fencing water finances means separating all water-related revenue and costs from council services. This helps to ensure the community understands the true cost of their water services.

### **Limited borrowing would restrict investment in other council areas too.**

The new legislation won’t allow us to borrow any additional money for water projects if we keep water services in-house. This means we will have to work within our existing borrowing restrictions which are subject to the investment needs of other Council services.

Your water services have strict rules and regulations, and our water infrastructure also needs to be upgraded in a timely manner to prevent water pipes bursting, ensure safe drinking water etc.

## The financials

Within ten years, residential ratepayers could be paying around **\$3,740** per year for water services under this option. This figure increases to **\$3,771** in 20 years. These numbers are in today's dollars and don't include inflation.

The potential cost in ten years is more realistic than 20 years. That's because councils are using their Long Terms Plans to determine the work. It's hard to know what may change in 20 years so that number has more uncertainty.

Councils' debt levels under this option would increase as we invest in our infrastructure assets. In our Long Term Plan we've explained how much investment is required, and in our infrastructure strategy we have forecasted this out to 30 years. We are looking at investing **\$90m** in water services in the coming 9 years and a total of **\$297.5m** in the coming 30 years.

Under this option, property owners would be paying more in rates than they do now.

**Our financial modelling shows that this option would be more expensive in the long term for our communities than Option 1.**

## Key Points

### **Who sets the strategic priorities for our district?**

The Council would continue to set strategic priorities for Westland District. Council would prepare the Water Services Strategy.

### **Who sets the pricing?**

Council would be responsible for setting the water charges.

### **Who makes decisions about the work done on the assets?**

Council would retain responsibility for operations, asset management and deliver all capital work for the district.

### **Who owns the water assets?**

Council would retain ownership of the assets.

### **Who communicates with the ratepayers/customers?**

Council would retain the relationship with the customers (those connected to our water services).

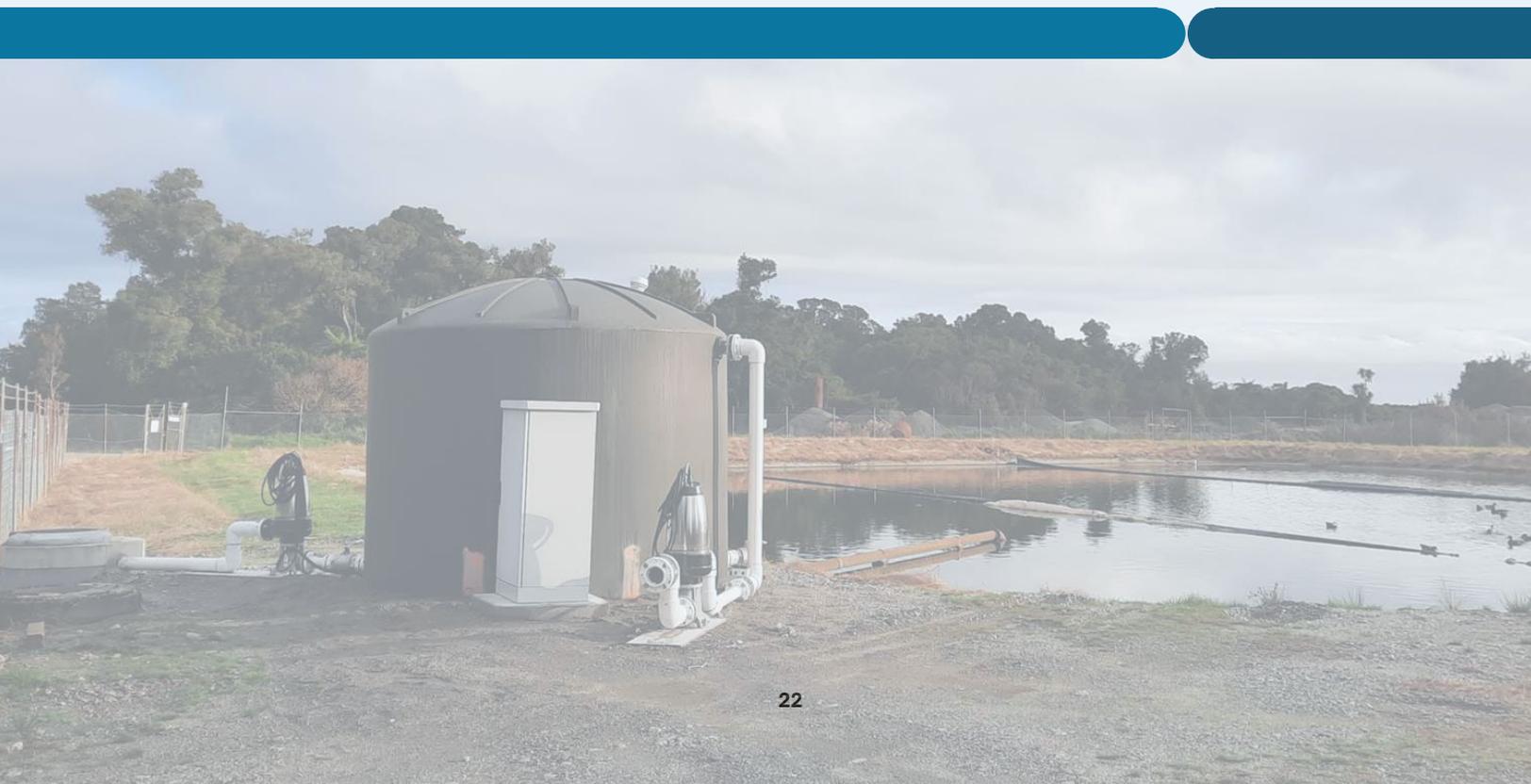
## Potential Advantages

**Minimal Disruption** – This option maximises the continuity for services, staff, ongoing improvements and relationships with customers and stakeholders. Council can continue to use existing systems and processes, which staff and management are already familiar with, reducing the need for training and a transition period into a new organisation.

**Implementation costs** – This option has lower implementation costs as Council would not need to spend money on establishing and maintaining a Council Controlled Organisation. It avoids the overhead costs of an additional management and governance structure.

**Community & Council Alignment** – This option enables Council to maintain full control over the decision-making processes, ensuring that the priorities and strategy aligns with the local needs and priorities. The community is still able to engage with elected members about any water services issues.

**Future Flexibility** – This option enables Council to have autonomy around future changes to delivery arrangements. The separation of water services provides a foundation for smoother transition into a future model if required. For example, Westland could enter a joint water services arrangements in the future similar to Land Transport and Waste Management Activities. Or join a different Council Controlled Organisation.



## Potential Disadvantages

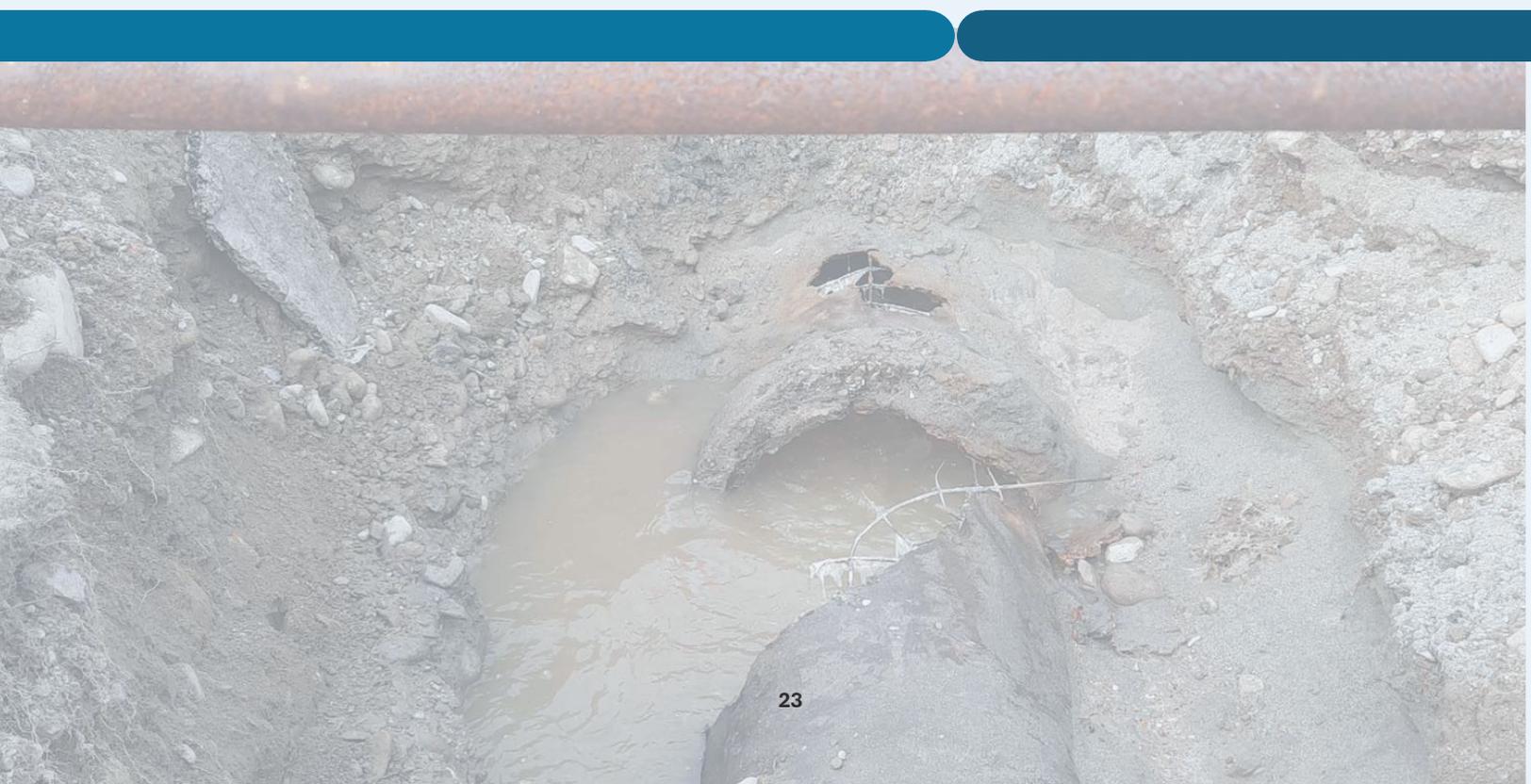
**Economic & Regulatory Compliance Challenges** - Achieving the Government's requirements for financial sustainability, governance and financial ring-fencing will be difficult under this option. Council would need to implement robust systems and processes to demonstrate we have ring-fenced water services and likely provide regular reporting to Central Government.

**Complex Operating Model** – This option would mean that water services have a different operating model to the rest of Council services. A different operating model and different regulatory requirements may cause internal confusion and will require additional staff in water services, information technology, finance and governance that may be hard to recruit and retain.

**Higher Consumer Costs & Limited Access to Funding** - This option has the potential for higher costs to residents compared to the other options. The new legislation won't allow us to borrow any additional debt if we keep our water services 'in-house'. This means we have to work within our existing borrowing restrictions.

**Funding & Collaboration Risks** – This option could reduce access to government funding and regional partnerships especially if Buller and Grey join up.

**Balancing Priorities** – This option makes it difficult for Council to prioritise the delivery of water services. Water services is only one activity in Councils decision making when determining the level of investment. Therefore, water priorities could lose out other to other activities such as Land Transport.



# Option Three “The Two”

This option is the same as Option One, except only one other council would be involved in the water organisation.

## **A Water Organisation jointly owned by Westland and one other council.**

**We believe this option is less likely to occur, and it is not a preferred option for Grey or Buller District Council.**

This option has the same advantages and disadvantages as Option 1. Except that our financial modelling shows there are greater benefits for our whole region to work together.

**We need to think about what benefits the West Coast Region as a whole.**

We have not had any specific discussions about setting up a two Council Controlled Organisation. However, we have done the economic modelling and analysis for us working with one other district council.

Councils within the West Coast Region already work closely together due to the geographic nature of the region. And it does not make sense to form a council controlled organisation for two out of the three Councils. However, as an option financially is it more beneficial than Option 2.

# Some other points for you to consider

## **Water will be charged for in the future**

Under Local Water Done Well legislation, an economic regulator will monitor the pricing of water under any option.

The legislation requires that any organisation adopt pricing structures that reflect the cost of the services, and that all revenue must be reinvested. This is to avoid excessive charging.

Under all options, the legislation allows for charging people connected to the drinking water and wastewater networks, as they are now. We would also expect that all properties (regardless if they're connected to the water supply) will continue to contribute towards the cost of stormwater management. The legislation requires that the costs for each are itemised, as they are now. It allows for charges to be applied to properties not connected to the network but within the service area to reflect the cost of maintaining the service.

We expect that commercial water users, and our tradewaste (wastewater) customers will continue to pay for their water services. Any new water organisation would look at how this works across the wider region to ensure it's consistent.

Currently, your water costs are charged as part of your rates. Under option 1 or 3, with

other districts being involved, we expect that in time you will receive a separate invoice from the water organisation. This would be like your power, phone and internet bills where you may receive an invoice monthly or quarterly. You'd also talk to that organisation directly for any concerns or feedback about water or bill payments. The legislation allows for late fees for unpaid charges.

## **The law is clear on keeping water assets publicly owned.**

The legislation includes several requirements to ensure water assets cannot be sold or transferred to private entities without extensive legislative and community consent.

## **Stormwater management has some uncertainty.**

Stormwater is a unique part of our regions water system – because unlike wastewater or the drinking water supply, some of the critical parts of the system are shared across other services. For example, the roads hold stormwater (heavy rainfall) as they drain. This helps reduce the chances of flooding.

We have included stormwater management in our modelling, and it is likely that Council would shift stormwater to a new organisation if one was set up to look after water services.

### **Our water assets are important.**

In our current Long Term Plan, our Council considers our water assets to be significant for our community and our current plan doesn't propose any change in ownership. Under options 1 and 3, ownership of some of these assets could transfer to the water organisation. This would require us to amend the next Long Term Plan based on our proposed timeframes. If you have any comments on this specific aspect, please let us know on our submission form.

### **All options will be subject to new regulations of some sort.**

There are a range of changes being made to better monitor water services – including the quality of water, but also the cost.

#### **Under Option 1 and 3:**

If we were to join other councils, the organisation would still be subject to strong oversight. Firstly, there's the shareholding council who created a statement of expectation' about what is expected, how councils will monitor it and assess its performance. The organisation has to respond to this in its water strategy. The organisation would be required to create annual reports and other public reporting on their work and financial position.

### **For all options:**

Under the new legislation, regulators would keep a close eye on water services.

The Commerce Commission would look at pricing.

Taumata Arowai – The Water Services Authority, ensures drinking water meets legal standards. Councils will have to pay additional costs for these regulators. This coming year that includes \$400,000 to Taumata Arowai and \$100,000 for the Commerce Commission. If Option 1 or 3 proceeds, these costs would be paid by the water organisation. Council would pay these costs in the interim.

Lastly, there are still a wide range of other laws that would influence water services, for example the Reserves Management Act.

Another major regulatory change coming up is the new standards for wastewater treatment. It's been indicated this would reduce costs for councils.

# Timeline

-  **17 April**  
Adopt Consultation Document
-  **16 May**  
Consultation Starts
-  **16 June**  
Consultation Closes
-  **25-26 June**  
Hearings and Deliberations
-  **24 July**  
Final Decision Adopted
-  **3 September**  
Water Services Delivery Plan Submission



# We need your feedback to help make an informed decision

We know you may have questions, and were here to help answer them. We have a range of ways for you to get in touch with us, and to make your submission.

## Come to a drop in session

**SnakeBite – Franz Josef, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2.30 – 4:00pm**

**Council Reception – Hokitika, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 12:00pm**

## Make a submission!

Making a submission is the most important thing you can do. It also means that if you'd like, you can choose to speak to elected members about your views at our hearings. Simply tick the box on the submission form to do that and we will be in touch to arrange a time.

**You can make a submission in three easy ways:**

- On our website [westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater](https://westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater)



*Scan me*

- Fill in a hardcopy form from Council reception
- Fill in a hardcopy form and post it to us:

**Westland District Council  
36 Weld Street  
Hokitika, West Coast  
7810**

# Submission Form

Please note: all fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are compulsory. These details will be used for the purpose of contacting you about this consultation.

First Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business\*?  Yes  No

If yes, please state the name of the organisation\*

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to attend a hearing to present your submission\*?

Yes  No

If yes, please choose\*:

In the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or phone)

If yes, someone will be in contact with you to arrange the date and time.

## Questions

Do you support the proposed West Coast Council Controlled Organisation?

Yes  No

Please add your comments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer that Westland District Council investigates setting up an internal business unit?

Yes  No

Please add your comments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any comments on the proposed West Coast Council Controlled Organisation?

Yes  No

Please add your comments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Return this submission form by:

- Dropping it off with our Customer Service Team at:  
36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7810
- Or, posting to:  
36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704,  
Hokitika 7842

All posted submissions must be received by the Council by 5pm, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

- Or, scanning and emailing it to:  
[infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

For more information, visit [westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater](http://westlanddc.govt.nz/yourwater)





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