

## **Media Release**

### **Communities 4 Local Democracy**

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#### **New Zealanders will pay more and receive less under Three Waters**

New Zealanders are likely to pay more and receive fewer benefits under the Government's proposed Three Waters reform model, according to Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mō Manapori (C4LD), the local government action group formed to bring fresh ideas to the Three Waters debate.

C4LD represents more than a million New Zealanders and has 24 partner councils from around the country.

In its recent submission on economic regulation and consumer protection for Three Waters, C4LD says that a completely fresh approach to water delivery is more likely to deliver the Government's water reform objectives than the Government's current proposal.

"The Government's proposal falls well short on several fronts, so we will be shortly be presenting them with straightforward and workable alternatives that deliver on all of their requirements, while preserving local responsiveness and accountability," said Helen Worboys, Manawatu District Mayor and Chair of C4LD.

The group appointed international strategy consulting firm Castalia to advise its partner councils on the Government's proposed regime and to prepare its submission on the economic regulation regime proposed in a Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment discussion paper.

"We want to make a constructive contribution to the model that is finally adopted by the Government," said Warboys.

"The best outcome for all New Zealanders will come from combining the best of local and national assets, knowledge, expertise and funding in genuine partnership, rather than unilaterally imposing a solution that can't provide the required water services at least cost.

"Our submission highlights some of the risks of the Government proposal and shows how – with changes to ownership and governance of water services, and changes to the economic regulation – we can achieve improved outcomes for everyone.

“The current model is overly complex and sets impossible objectives. For example, there will be just four water companies across the entire country, with each servicing incredibly diverse urban and rural populations using dozens of discrete, unconnected networks. To suggest that it can deliver better services for less money is just one of the problems with the new model.

“Getting water safely into homes, businesses, marae and everywhere else is a complex challenge that can’t be solved just by adding a layer of complex management on top of what’s already in place.

“Our submission provides fresh ideas for better water. Our ideas aren’t complicated or unique; they’re just ways of improving on what’s mostly been done successfully for decades.

“There is a better way to achieve the Government’s objectives and we want to work in partnership with them to ensure that happens.”

The Communities 4 Local Democracy submission is now available online at [www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz](http://www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz)