



## **Kaikōura District Council Disappointed with Government's Tinkering with Three Waters Reform**

Kaikōura District Council Mayor Craig Mackle is disappointed with the Government's latest 3 Waters changes, announced last week.

Kaikōura is a member of Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mō te Manapori, a group of 32 councils across New Zealand opposed to the reforms as they currently stand. C4LD is committed to working with central government to ensure all New Zealanders have safe and environmentally sound three waters systems. The group is also committed to ensuring that all local communities continue to have a say on the use of assets purchased on their behalf using ratepayer funds.

Last week the Government announced changes to the governance arrangements for the proposed four entity model based on a recent working group report. C4LD have described these changes as "tinkering around the edges". (see attached media release from C4LD)

Mayor Mackle agrees that the proposals are "mere tinkering and the Government has continued to force this reform through without the support of its stakeholders or their communities."

"We're disappointed in this initial version of the legislation, but we're committed to working to get a better model in place that works for everyone."

"KDC has always been supportive of an entity taking a Ngāi Tahu takiwā boundary approach *if* a super entity is to be implemented and also co-governance arrangements with Māori."

"For us it is about a loss of local democracy. The Government has not been listening to the people and has significantly reduced the ability for small communities to have having a say in the future management of assets they own. Future impacts are likely to be significant for the likes of us as a small rural council and community. There's a real danger we get ignored in the new entity and our community pay more for a lower level of service."

"Despite the Minister continuing to say the national case for change is proven, the local Kaikōura financial case just doesn't add up - we can't show that the Kaikōura community will be better off financially under the entity model than if we continued on our own. It's easy to make the financial case that 'everyone's a winner' stack up if your base assumptions are wrong and you over estimate the level of future investment required. How can our Kaikōura three waters network worth \$60m and that had substantial renewal and repair work after the earthquake require \$230million of investment over the next 30years? We have asked this question of Government and to date they have been unable to answer."

**Ends**