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15 November 2021

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Via email:

Cc: Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Meka Whitiri, Anna Lorck, Kieran McAnulty

Dear Minister,

MANDATING THREE WATERS SERVICE DELIVERY REFORMS - HAWKE'S BAY RESPONSE

Thank you for your response to our letter of 19 August 2021 in which we set out our assessment of the challenges we collectively identified with the Government's proposal to establish four Water Services Entities (WSEs). We subsequently wrote to you on 1 October 2021 at the conclusion of the eight-week feedback period reiterating our position and restating our preference for a Hawke's Bay regional option.

We appreciate your letter of 1 October 2021 however we do not believe the information you set out satisfactorily addresses the issues we and our communities have raised with respect to the proposed reforms. Furthermore, we are not convinced the reforms address Hawke's Bay's six investment objectives and seven supporting principles that are underpinned by place-based aspirations. These objectives and principles are further explained in the Strategic Case ¹of our review report.

We are dismayed you have announced Government intends mandating the introduction of four WSEs (27 October 2021) and rejected our request to consider a Hawke's Bay regional option.

You believe the option we have proposed would not achieve the scale benefits that are purported to be achievable through a multi-region approach. This was reiterated in your RNZ interview with Kathryn Ryan on Monday 1 October 2021².

However, as is articulated in detail in the report and recommendations of Hawke's Bay's Three Waters Review³ there are critical benefits beyond scale that would be achieved for our communities through the model we propose. Furthermore, we maintain that a Hawke's Bay regional option is in the best interests of our communities and Hawke's Bay's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. In short, we do not believe you have provided sufficient justification for rejecting the option of a Hawke's Bay regional model.

With support of Government funding, our collaborative efforts with our iwi partners over the past two years have paved the way for managing three waters as a region, working together. We have participated in good

¹ www.hb3waters.nz/assets/Uploads/Strategic-Case.pdf

² https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018818799

³ <https://www.hb3waters.nz/full-report-and-cases>

faith through Government's reform process, and we remain committed to working in partnership with Government.

Our communities are upset with Government's approach to mandating this three waters entity model. Our communities tell us they feel Government has not listened.

That is why we ask that you reconsider engaging with us in meaningful and direct discussions to explore a way for the Crown and the Councils of Hawke's Bay to agree an outcome that will sustainably deliver the people of Hawke's Bay a model that ensures:

- 1) Decision-making remains close to our rural and urban communities,
- 2) Our regional investment objectives and principles are met, including better alignment with regional planning and freshwater management,
- 3) We can meet the new water standards set and monitored by Taumata Arowai, and
- 4) We meet the expectations of our communities here in Hawke's Bay.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the way forward we have set out.

Kind regards,



Sandra Hazlehurst
Mayor
Hastings District Council



Craig Little
Mayor
Wairoa District Council



Kirsten Wise
Mayor
Napier City Council



Alex Walker
Mayor
Central Hawke's Bay
District Council

Hawke's Bay Three Waters Investment Objectives & Principles

To provide three water services in a way that is affordable and effective	 <p>The three waters service's model must address the challenge of providing for an effective, affordable service in a fiscally responsible way</p>	Value Te Ao Māori	Incorporating and implementing mātauranga Māori, culture and values (i.e. Te Aranga Design Principles) are a core element for any potential framework to realise and enhance the region's commitment to Māori to protecting/enhancing water
To provide services that are safe, reliable and resilient	 <p>Access to safe and reliable three waters service are fundamental to all the urban and rural communities of Hawke's Bay</p>	Value water	Wai is the essence of all life and the world's most precious resource. It is of high important to Māori, as it is the life giver of all things, a precious taonga, part of our whakapapa
To provide services through a model that enables a meaningful role for Māori	 <p>The Local Government Act requires a local authority to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision making processes</p>	Whakapapa – genealogical links	Recognise and respect the relationship and whakapapa (genealogical link) that mana whenua have with water.
To provide services through a model that has the value of water at the centre	 <p>Water is vital to community life and as such three water services are part of a holistic water system</p>	Te mauri o te wai – the life force of water	Mauri is the integrated and holistic well-being and life support capacity of water. The well-being/healthiness of the water, the land and the people are intrinsically connected.
To provide three waters services in a way that supports our urban and rural communities	 <p>The services influence how people across Hawke's Bay live, work, gather, socialise, recreate and value environmental amenity</p>	Holistic approach to water	Although the project is based around the review of the service and delivery of the three waters (infrastructure), the proposed model needs to take into account a holistic water approach: there is only one water.
To provide three waters services that build enduring capability and capacity	 <p>The three waters model must be capable of, and have the capacity to, deliver quality sustainable planning, management and operation of three water services now and into the future</p>	Enabling of Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Involving mana whenua in governance and decision making required to ensure Te Tititi o Waitangi obligations are met, as well as making sure they are able to actively exercise kaitiakitanga in a practical way
		Mana motuhake - identity, self-determination	The identity of mana whenua in Hawke's Bay should not be lost in any potential model. But inclusion and co-governance whilst keeping their identity is an opportunity