



3 October 2025

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Dear Jo, Wendy, Geoff, Matt and Nigel,

Thank you for submitting your joint water services delivery plan (Plan) for Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council on 29 August 2025.

The Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) has assessed your Plan in accordance with s 20(1)(b) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act). The assessment process for your Plan included:

- a financial and technical assessment, to confirm the Plan meets the financial sustainability requirements outlined in the Act, and
- a legislative assessment, to ensure that all requirements set out in the Act have been met.

The assessment was considered by a Panel consisting of senior representatives from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited, the Local Government Funding Agency, the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority, and the Department of Internal Affairs. The Panel also included an external observer, whose role was to ensure the integrity and consistency of the Panel discussion. The Panel was chaired by Department's Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme.

Conflict of interest assessments were undertaken for all individuals involved in the assessment process.

Following the Panel discussion and on the recommendation of the Executive Director Water Services Reform Programme, I have accepted your Plan under s20(1)(b) of the Act.

I note that the Plan sets out a very ambitious capital programme, including a \$2.6 billion increase over the ten-year forecast capital investment in the relevant long-term plans. Metro Wellington will need to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to best support the delivery of those projects.

As you are aware, Wellington Water, is currently subject to early economic regulation and is working through a programme of improvements. I encourage you to continue to work with the Commerce Commission as Metro Water is established and ensure that the benefits of the improvement programme are carried over to the new entity.

Next steps

As soon as is reasonably practicable, the Plan for the Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, and Greater Wellington Regional Council must be published on the relevant Council websites. Once this has been confirmed, the acceptance decision and Plan assessment report will be shared with you and subsequently published on the Department's website.

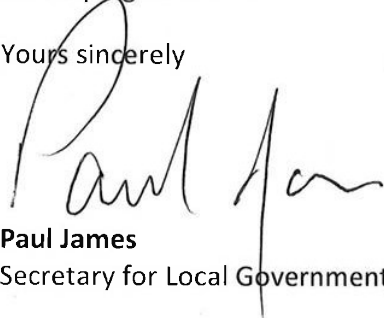
The Department will be in contact with you over the coming months regarding next steps for monitoring the implementation of your Plan.

The Department would like to highlight the following aspects of your Plan that will be monitored during implementation:

- Ongoing engagement with LGFA regarding financing for the water organisation on bespoke terms;
- Planning, prioritisation and delivery of the capital projects programme and the impact this may have on the water charges price path; and
- The extent to which growth is funded through the collection of development contribution revenue now, or development levy revenue in the future.
- The price path of projected water services charges.

I would like to acknowledge the level of detail and time that the five Councils have put into developing the Plans.

Yours sincerely



Paul James
Secretary for Local Government