

# Three Waters Reform – Campaign Proposal

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 24 November 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Jason Marris, GM Engagement and Transformation

## Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To make a decision whether to join with other participating Councils in the campaign opposing the intention of the Three Waters reform.

## Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

As a result of the Government mandating the Three Waters reform programme, a group of Mayor's and Council's across New Zealand are coordinating a campaign opposing the Government's intention with this reform.

The Mayor has received a request to participate in the campaign and this is provided to Council for political decision-making.

The cost to participate is \$15,000 which is unbudgeted. Costs can be absorbed within Council budgets. If Council agrees to participate, it will be reported in the financial forecast early next year and the funding will be provided to Timaru District Council to administer.

## Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Agrees to join with other participating Councils in the campaign opposing the Government's intention of the Three Waters reforms as outlined by the Memorandum of Understanding at Attachment A to this report.
- b) Delegates the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at Attachment A.
- c) Notes that by agreeing to join the campaign and sign the Memorandum of Understanding, this commits \$15,000 unbudgeted expenditure, which will be sourced from current budgets.

**OR**

- a) Does not agree to join with other participating Councils in the campaign opposing the Government's intention of the Three Waters reforms as outlined by the Memorandum of Understanding at Attachment A to this report.

## Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

The Government recently announced that the Three Waters reforms will be mandatory and are progressing with legislation to continue with the reform programme. As a result of this, a group of Mayors and Councils around the country are now coordinating a campaign to seek reconsideration of the Government's position and look to other options.

A first step in that campaign has been to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is seeking Council's across New Zealand agreement to participate. The MoU is available at **Attachment A** which presents the proposal including its purpose, objectives and all of the arrangements.

The Mayor has received a formal request from the Mayor of Manawatu District Council (who is coordinating) seeking Kaipara District Council's participation in this campaign. As a result, this report is placed on the Council agenda for whole of council decision-making.

Please note that detail such as the numbers of councils who have agreed to participate, which councils make up the Oversight Group mentioned in the MoU, how it would operate etc is not available to staff at time of writing.

## **Options**

### **Option 1**

Agree to join the campaign with other participating councils against Three Waters outlined by the MoU.

### **Option 2**

Not agree to join the campaign.

Staff are not making a recommendation with this report. This is a political discussion and decision.

## **Financial implications**

The costs of entering into this MoU and work programme is \$15,000 as Kaipara District Council is categorised as a provincial sector council by Local Government New Zealand, which is the logic applied. This is an unbudgeted expense, however, it can be absorbed within current budgets and will be reported as part of the financial forecast in early 2022.

If Council agrees to join the campaign, the \$15,000 contribution will be provided to Timaru District Council which will be administering the funds via a Trust, with oversight and direction provided by the participating councils.

## **Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

## **Next steps | E whaiake nei**

If Council approves participation in this campaign, staff will make the funding available to Timaru District Council.

## **Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga**

	<b>Title</b>
A	Memorandum of Understanding between Partner Councils in relation to their Three Waters Campaign