



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

12 June 2025

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Policy and Services Committee of Council will meet to hear and consider submissions to *the Future Delivery of Water Services in the Stratford District* in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford** on **Tuesday 24 June 2025** beginning at **11.00am**.

Timetable for 24 June 2025 as follows:

11.00am	Policy and Services Committee – Hearing <i>Future Delivery of Water Services</i> - Speakers to submissions
1.00pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Policy and Services Committee – Hearing <i>Future Delivery of Water Services</i> - Deliberations
2.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.00pm	Policy and Services Committee (monthly meeting)

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2025 - Agenda - Policy and Services - Hearing - Local Water Done Well - June



24 June 2025 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM

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AGENDA

Policy and Services Committee



F22/55/05-D25/20707

Date: Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 11.00am

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to Local Water Done Well – Future Delivery of Water Services in the Stratford District.

1. Welcome

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 6

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 7

2. Apologies

3. Announcements

Speakers to Submissions

The Chairman welcomes everyone to the Policy & Services Committee meeting. It is reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear submissions on the Future Delivery of Water Services in the Stratford District. Councillors are asked to hear all submissions with an open mind, to restrict their question time to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors are requested not to get into direct dialogue with submitters.

The timeframe scheduled for the day is tight. Councillors may take notes whilst submitters are speaking.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. Attendance Schedule

Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings.

6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Pages 20-290

Attached are the 185 submissions received on the Future Delivery of Water Services in the Stratford District.

Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the Future Delivery of Water Services in the Stratford District. be received.
2. THAT the submitters be advised of the outcome of their submission and notified that the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, will be available on Council's website.

Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. Submitters To Be Heard

There were 12 submitters wishing to speak. Two withdrew their request to speak prior to the agenda being produced.

Each submitter will be allocated five (5) minutes to present their submission and allowed five (5) minutes for questions.

Submission #	Name	Page Number	Time
105	Tatjana Hanne & Romero Cranstoun Stratford District Youth Council	143	11.10am
17	Alistair Cook	41	11.20am
42	Lynsi J M Latham-Saunders	69	11.30am
74	Greig Gibbons	112	11.40am
97	Duncan Menzies	135	11.50am
124	Noel Caskey Caskey Farms	166	12noon
141	Brian Jeffares	200	12.10pm
149	Max Barnard	214	12.20pm
163	Mike Procter	241	12.30pm
164	Rachel Arnott & Graham Young Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust	247	12.40pm

8. Decision Report – Selection of Future Delivery Model for Water Services

D25/20705 Page 290

Council needs to consider submissions as part of the consultation process.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council note that as per the requirements arising from the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and other associated legislation, it is required to choose a future delivery model for water services to form the basis of a compliant Water Services delivery Plan (WSDP), that is to be submitted to the Secretary of Local Government by 3 September 2025.
3. THAT Council note that all submissions on the proposed water services delivery model, including submission trends, have been considered.
4. THAT Council adopts a regional WSCCO with the New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils as the future delivery model for Water and Wastewater services for the Stratford district, with Stormwater assets and services to remain under Stratford District Council ownership and management.

OR

THAT Council adopts an in-house stand-alone business unit as the future delivery model for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater services for the Stratford district. This option is also known as enhanced status-quo.

5. THAT officers are instructed to finalise a Water Services Delivery Plan for the delivery of Water Services based on adopted model in time for council adoption prior to submission by 3 September 2025;

(If a regional Joint Taranaki Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) with New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and South Taranaki District Council (STDC) is chosen as the preferred model, the following should be added to this resolution):

That in the event NPDC and/or STDC opt out of a Joint Taranaki WSCCO, the adopted water services delivery model be an in-house stand-alone business unit (Enhanced Status Quo) delivered by an in-house business unit of council with ownership of water, wastewater and stormwater assets remaining with council.

Recommended Reason

As per earlier discussion with elected members, no overall staff recommendation is included in this report due to the combination of technical as well as political aspects of the two delivery models considered. Analysis of the technical aspects, particularly considering risk, rates implications and end-user cost favours an in-house business unit, this however needs to be balanced against the political aspects which were explored in an earlier report. **The new information to take into consideration in this report is the feedback from public consultation, which strongly favours an in-house option.**

/
Moved/Seconded

9. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 307



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.



Our reference
F19/13/03-D22/17082

Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, unless guided to an alternative route by staff, please exit through the main entrance. Once outside the building please move towards the War Memorial Centre congregating on the lawn area outside the front of the council building.

If there is an earthquake, please drop, cover and hold where possible. Remain indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit or remain where you are until further instruction is given.

5. Attendance schedule for 2025 Policy & Services Committee meetings (including Hearings).

Date	28/01/25	25/02/25	25/02/25	25/03/25	29/04/25	29/04/25	27/05/25	24/06/25	24/06/25	22/07/25	26/08/25	26/08/25	23/09/25
Meeting	PS	H	PS	PS	H	PS	PS	H	PS	PS	H	PS	PS
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Grant Boyde	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Jono Erwood	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Vaughan Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Min McKay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
John Sandford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Clive Tongaawhikau	A	A	A	A	A	A	A						
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						

Key	
PS	Policy & Services Committee Meeting
H	Hearing (heard by Policy & Services Committee)
✓	Attended
A	Apology/Leave of Absence
AB	Absent
S	Sick
AV	Meeting held, or attended by, by Audio Visual Link

2025 - Agenda - Policy and Services - Hearing - Local Water Done Well - June - Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the proposal (Option1)	I support the alternative Option (Option B)	Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
1	Glenice Hopkinson			1		
2	Bradley Ross			1		Stratford can look after itself. If I was joining NPDC it would come last in priority as less people live here and that's not some I want for the future.
3	Amy Smith		1			
4	Ozcan Sahin		1		Excluded	Best and most practical option for Stratford district.
5	Leone Manie Worsley			1		
6	Craig Tempero				No, but interested why it is excluded as it ends up in the other council's run off.	Does not feel in a position to make informed decision. Issues with regional model - if larger population makes for better financial resilience then why not let central govt look after it. Fear Stratford's demands will be continually overridden by great population of neighboring councils. Stratford is less prone to water supply issues and emergencies due to geographical location (benefits not worth the risk), cost of setting up new entity is forever underestimated and always ends up exceeding budgets.
7	Catherine Tempero				Including with in-house water services makes sense given the close connection between stormwater, roads and land use. Excluding it would create unnecessary complexity, splitting responsibilities across multiple agencies and reducing accountability. Stratford's rural setting means stormwater management often relies on local knowledge and seasonal responsiveness. In-house keeps decisions tailored to local conditions, infrastructure and community needs. Avoids disjointed planning or delays.	Keeping in-house enganced unit remains financial sustainable and compliant with govt rules withouth needing to transfer ownership of assets. It ensures water services are run by people who understand Stratford's unique needs such as volunteer firebrigade relying on consistent local water supply. A key strength of this model is preserving local control, EM remain accountable for decisions and public continues to influence priorities through annual and long term planning. Collaboration is still possible but only on Stratford's terms. On Stratford's terms. This allows to share knowledge and create efficiencies where it makes sense while keeping decision making power and service delivery close to Home. Also allows mentoring and development of next generation of engineers locally.
8	Jacob Shepherd			1		
9	Gregory Cadman			1		Much happier knowing money is spent in my town than going towards another towns problems while Stratford gets treated like the poorer cousin.
10	Sharon Mark		1			In terms of cost efficiency it make sense to join forces, but I do wonder if the quality of our water will be maintained.
11	Zachary Dodunski	Stratford AFC		1		A combined system provides some benefits, it also has significant downfalls. I can see New Plymouth getting priority over the other districts involved. Stratford needs to be able to look after itself, not cost share with other districts.
12	John Clarkson					* introduces unnecessary risk and cost with no compelling benefit for Stratford. * Serious financial risk - significant disparity in debt levels between Stratford and other councils. If joined Stratford would effectively become a guarantor for financial obligations of other councils with far larger risk portfolios - this is unacceptable * Council documents suggest no substantial ratepayer saving by transferring ownership, however financial risk increases significantly. * Why should Stratford Ratepayers be expected to underwrite a portion of NPDC \$194 million water related debt. * Stratford has made prudent, future-focussed infrastructure decisions resulting in a much healthier financial position. * Without strict controls, and based on previous patterns of council spending, the funding is likely to be consumed rapidly, with limited long-term value to Stratford. * If the WSCCO proceeds Stratford must have guaranteed representation on joint committee with real voting rights, retain local oversight on priority projects already approved in LTp. Insist on clear, fixed cost allocation model. Stratford must be protected from subsidising other district's legacy issues. * Claims of efficiencies and standardisation not backed by any clear evidence or concrete examples. * Stratford has managed its water assets prudently and transparently. Our infrastructure is in better condition than many neighbouring councils. Any model that reduces this local focus or exposes to financial consequences of others' poor planning is not in the best interests of our community. * WSCCO offers no meaningful financial benefit and introduces massive risk, reduced accountability and long-term cost exposure to Stratford.

2025 - Agenda - Policy and Services - Hearing - Local Water Done Well - June - Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the proposal (Option1)	I support the alternative Option (Option B)	Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
13	Jude Ross				1	
14	James Campbell				1	
15	Renee Vincent				1	
16	Glenda Fraser				1	
17	Alistair Cook				1	Keep it in house
18	Grant Best				1	Won't get a fair share of funding. Keep it in house - independent organisation will be an unreasonable increase in cost for a lesser service.
19	Martin Du Plooy				1	Option b keeps the responsibility with the council and its people.
20	Heather Du Plooy				1	Keep stormwater in our local council
21	Susan Cook				1	Keeping services and asses in house mean more control over it and more accountability. Ownership and accountability is key for those who pay the extravagant amount of rates we do in the Stratford region these days.
22	Alan Jamieson				1	Best option in long run. With the people who have to consume said water having control over what they are drinking, especially at this time when trust in government choices is at a all time low.
23	Michelle Kennard				1	Stormwater is ok for now in the space it is. Stratford can control its own services as it has done in the past.
24	Withdrawn and replaced with emailed submission					We elect our councillors to make informed and positive decisions for our community, and that is what you must do. We do not vote you in to merge with other councils and then become a minority. We cannot afford to lose the right to own a dmanage our water resources. It is your responsibility to ensure our water systems are future-proof and there are contingency funds available for any neccesary upgrades. Why have these resources not been maintained properly?
25	Albertus Jordaan				1	
26	Melanie Jordaan				1	I feel it should have been advertised more in Stratford, I feel this was not in the open. It looks like it you want to hide it.
27	Berne Jordaan				1	
28	Pieter Du Plessis				1	
29	James Wood				1	NPDC seem to be fairly good at blowing budgets and irgnoring the community at the moment, I think havign them involved will negatively impact Stratfords water supply and financial situation.
30	Darrin Bolger				1	* Preference is to see how it works in other regions as if we join we are locked in. * Past and current councils (Stratford) have done a fantastic job at managing our water needs up until now. * Our in-house model is financially viable as per Mr Volzkes letter in the consultaiton document. * Feels it is the safer option to remain in-house with an amended adn compliant version of what we have already. * Is the bulk of my water rates money going to fund other councils neglect? * Does not like that the set up and operating cost and funding of the WSCCO and independent board has not been mentioned. * WSCCO joint committee will have 2 Stratford representatives, the other two councils have iwi have 3 each. Will Stratford really have a say in where the money is used? Why don't we have 3?
31	Claire Lewis				1	
32	Murray Sulzberger				1	* Whilst regional might make funding available, the loss of autonomy and control over assets outweighs that benefit. * Stratford will also be out voted and over ridden. * Allowing iwi to have more representatives than Stratford is a farce as well. 2 iwi representatives would be sufficient.
33	Anne Talbot				1	Urban stormwater should be included, rural stormwater is a roading issue. We need to collect and store as much as possible. We need to stand alone and make our special town the best there is.

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			I support the proposal (Option 1)	alternative Option (Option B)		
34	Wayne Reed				1	Keep it local and costs down
35	Nusrah Hay				1	
36	James Hay				1	Keep it all in house.
37	Peter and Belinda Martin				1	Want to keep the services and assets local and in house.
38	Samara Preston			1	Are there long-term plans available for stormwater infrastructure projects that outline what needs to be done, when it will happen, projected costs and the impact on rates? No doubt there will be concern in the community about the lack of attention to some critical infrastructure that is ageing and will require investment sooner rather than later.	* Concerned about the potential for Stratford be over looked compared to larger districts but believes this will ultimately strengthen Stratford's position. By joining forces Stratford is more likely to gain access to greater funding opportunities, helping deliver key infrastructure projects that may otherwise be out of reach. I do think this is the first step toward the eventual amalgamation of the three district councils - no doubt inevitable in the long term.
39	Mark Williams				1	
40	Mary				1	
41	Lauren Carroll				1	I am not in agreement with Option A. Those other 2 councils have huge debt. Why would we want to join and take on their debt. Stratford residents already pay the highest rates!
42	Lynsi J M Latham-Saunders				1	* We become the smallest contributor to the regional WSCCO with the smallest voice. * we would become the smallest of the joint owners who appoint a joint committee who set expectations to be governed by a board of professionals, how would they determine our local priorities with a holistic view. * A decision made today that makes financial and technical sense may hamper development in the future. * Technical and financial reasons do not necessarily take social and cultural issues into account. * What amalgamation or regional merger in the past has been advantageous to Stratford? * Removing water from local control takes with it a large chunk of SD councils core business and also its staff and leaves 'stranded costs' for power, phone computers etc that would become a rates burden as these costs remain. * It will be a merger by surrender. We have the lowest debt of three councils and our freshwater infrastructure in good condition as it has been well maintained. * Scale is also a definite disadvantage as SDC is by far the smallest contributor to the WSCCO. * Wastewater will need to be improved but we have one waste water system and the total across the region is 12. How does one of twelve improve that issue? * Believes we could implement a much more innovative way of dealing with wastewater. Example provided. * Council should encourage for households to install rain collection tanks. With local control we can be more responsive to local needs.
43	Lisa Harris				1	
44	John Carncross Rowe				1	* Natural advantage for water * Economies of scale - in this case doesn't appear to benefit Stratford. Particularly with 2 votes in the proposed authority against 10 other votes. * Concern that this could be the start of a process of amalgamation by stealth. * There is a lot to be said for regional co-operation and big events in New Plymouth can and do have a real positive effect for Stratford, with the authorities still maintaining their own autonomy. But the delivery of a very essential (top of the list) service, particularly, as already mentioned, with Stratford's natural advantages, I believe leave it as it is!
45	April Watson				1	
46	Rob Best				1	
47	Kevin Watson				1	
48	Janice Carpenter				1	

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the alternative Option		Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
			I support the proposal (Option 1)	(Option B)		
49	Denay Corijon Cottam				1	* distance from decision making weakens responsiveness. * Under a WSCCO model, operational decisions are removed from elected councillors and passed onto a board appointed by a joint committee. This creates structural distance between communities and the people deciding how infrastructure is funded and delivered. * Local capability becomes dependent on one entity. Creating commercial vulnerability for regional contractors. * Other regional entities have not delivered better outcomes - delays, transparency issues, poor responsiveness, projects held up, communication breakdowns. * Disconnection from planning and local priorities. Water infrastructure connects to roads, stormwater, parks and development planning. Under a separate board risks disconnecting these functions leading to fragmented delivery and delayed responses. * Stratford is small enough to stay close to its services - size is a strength in this case. * In-house provides flexibility. Can still choose to collaborate with NP or South Taranaki where it makes sense without giving up control. * Better alignment with real delivery. * Improvements proposed can strengthen the current model. * I support Stratford retaining local delivery through an improved in-house model because it protects accountability, responsiveness and local capability.
50	Jamie Fairclough				1	The further away you move from doing stuff in house in all aspects there is a decline in service and a rise in cost. With option A we will only be 2 votes out of 12 that's not a good thing. Can the council guarantee this will not add to an increase to the rest of the rates. Can they also guarantee further down the road it won't be a case of let's do the same with roads, then oh were not viable now let's just become a part of NPC> Option A has the words "unlikely" and "likely" which throws up red flags.
51	Mark Andrew Smith				1	* Should we sign up with Option A we would be worse off because New Plymouth has had high rates and not looked after their infrastructure. I would sign up if there was an option C and work with South Taranaki District Council, their infrastructure is well established and I think they would look after us.
52	Marilyn Walsh			1	Our wastewater should be managed by the council and I feel we have great drainage here in Stratford but like all things it needs to be maintained. For example how many drains are blocked with rubbish and leaves that really should be cleared regularly	I prefer to be in control of our own destiny then beholden to other councils. I am sure our local council is capable of providing such a service to our district. I also think it shouldn't be grossly overpriced. I do not agree with shared water meters for flats, apartments or shared driveway homes. This would create "neighbours at war"... people should have a meter to pay for their own usage.
53	Haidee Tait				1	
54	Steven Frandsen				1	Keep to the status quo. Stick to our own one. Other councils waste too much money and we can't afford to be dragged into that.
55	Paloma Craig				1	I have no desire to have NPDC have any say in how Stratford's water is managed. They have a history, with recent examples, of not listening to what the community wants. *I also don't think NPDC will put enough focus on SDC and STDC areas and the water needs of these communities. * I have no issue with SDC teaming up with STDC.
56	David and Leanne Frandsen				1	
57	Dave Tickner				1	If it ain't broke don't fix it. New Plymouth and South Taranaki have massive issues with their infrastructure but Stratford is relatively stable. We would just be left out as the poor small council while the big ones just use us to allow them to borrow more money and probably staff at no cost to them and at no benefit to Stratford.
58	Rachael Cottam	Offshore Plumbing Services Ltd			1	* Opposes creation of a WSCCO across New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki. * Supports each council retaining in-house water services delivery with increased investment, governance enhancements and regional collaboration where beneficial. * Core concerns - loss of direct accountability to ratepayers, gatekeeping and procurement risk for local business, development delays and poor infrastructure conditions, regional capability and workforce development risk. * Supports in-house council delivery with improvements in procurement consistency, governance transparency and regional cooperation - not centralised control. * Urges each council to consider the real-world

2025 - Agenda - Policy and Services - Hearing - Local Water Done Well - June - Acknowledgement of Submissions

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59	Jeremy Cottam	Offshore Plumbing Services Ltd		1		I believe each council should retain in-house delivery * Concerns with the WSCCO model - too much power in one entity, procurement likely to shift away from local businesses, board makeup could disadvantage locals, development and infrastructure timing becomes hard.. * Sees increased risk, loss of access for local companies and a step away from community-focussed decision making. I support Option B with strong internal governance, better regional collaboration and continued investment in in-house capability.
60	Kathleen Perrett			1	Can understand why it should be excluded at this point in time but would have thought that going forward this would be another one that should be with all the councils under the same umbrella as the water etc so that in future the costs and expertise is spread evenly.	I believe the research that has been completed shows that the future lies in combining services with the other councils, this will give a better options and hopefully costs being spread better via this option. But the initial setup will be more expensive which most of the ratepayers will look at first rather than the bigger picture and 10+ years down the track.
61	Robin Lilley			1		
62	Diane Gooch			1		
63	Trevor Gooch			1		
64	Hailee Johnson			1	Not shore as it is yet another place where people have to find the money	New Plymouth gets the best we get left behind. Cost as everything is going up.
65	Terry Johnson			1	I see the 3 water services all connected and reiterate the above.	We have good infrastructure and good water which we have paid for via rates over a number of years, I believe by having Option B we will be in a far better position to control our own local destiny, and not be at the bind of the requirements of the other councils who may or may not have invested in their own water infrastructure over the years. Option B will also provide employment for local people, and via our local members of council ability to discuss and put points of view forward. The make up of the proposed super board only gives Stratford 2 positions as opposed to the other 2 councils who have more.
66	Debbie McKinlay			1		As you state we have carefully invested in this area over the years! We know our area best and know what our future priorities are. Option B will be less disruptive and we can just continue to get on with the job. Option A adds in more governance layers, will take a huge amount of time to set up and once we are in we can't opt out.
67	Mike Lehrke			1	No comment as I'm not in this area.	
68	Matt Stewart			1		Too many unknowns and it will end up too many entities clipping the ticket with no real benefits.
69	Christina Watson			1		
70	Andrew Lewis			1		
71	Richard Kennedy-Moffat			1		
72	Alan Thatcher			1		Factors to consider - debt, proposed structure, possibility of sale, supply, quantity, upgrade of sewage treatment plant, institutional memory, household tanks. There seems to be little evidence joining a regional WSCCO would be to Stratford's advantage. Also there is no urgency to make a decision. Stratford could join at anytime in the future if strong evidence appears. Coordinator between councils is not precluded if SDC continues in-house service. Once a decision to join is taken, there is no going back if it proves to be an inefficient option.
73	Colleen Bolger			1		Supports in-house option because - no guarantee the proposed model cannot be privatised, this is just another step to amalgamation and will leave Stratford vulnerable, interesting to see that Stratford will have the least number of seats on the committee - I do not see how this could benefit Stratford in anyway, impact on rates does not show any significant savings, Stratford District Council has done a good job to this point. Why change, especially when it will be difficult to return to in-house services in the future.
74	Greig Gibbons			1		Needs to stay local.
75	Krystal Sutton	Future Grafix Limited		1		
76	Clayton			1		Keep it local. No need to go elsewhere.
77	Kathleen Isabella Moir			1		
78	Bruce Norman Moir			1		
79	Helen Brechin			1		
80	Brendon Berg			1	I think if we have to have the stormwater 'department' anyway surely it's just as beneficial to have the same people already involved/employed to do the same work locally for both waste and clean water?	I think it sounds like signing up to pay a lot of the other areas existing and future debts off, pooling resources sounds nice but will we ever run a water line from North to South to make it actually helpful in an emergency? Also sounds like paying travel for someone to travel from NP everytime there is a leak. Taking the decision making away from the council/people never sounds good. The ability to sign up copious amounts of debt also sounds dangerous for the future. Keep the control, the jobs and the money all in the hands of the people that it affects.

2025 - Agenda - Policy and Services - Hearing - Local Water Done Well - June - Acknowledgement of Submissions

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			I support the proposal (Option 1)	alternative Option (Option B)		
81	Trevor Tunnicliff				1	Keep it in Stratford.
82	Olwyn Duthie	KASO Partnership			1	We need to keep the stormwater as a local project too. The roading and footpaths are all linked to the underground pipes for stormwater so it makes sense to keep it local. So excluded from regional.
83	Steven Needham				1	We need to do our water well and not have to help sort out the other councils issues. Stratford systems need to stay local and the money we have already invested we need to keep to ourselves. We are capable of looking after ourselves.
84	Maureen Jean Tunnicliff				1	
85	Mr D J Midgley				1	
86	Ashleigh Goble				1	Leave it the way it is! I rather pay extra in my rates then be attached to New Plymouth in anyway. If anything we should join Hawera and leave New Plymouth to struggle with their own debts instead of making us pay for them.
87	Tamarin Lowe				1	we are fine the way things are. If you go a head with joning New Plymouth in anyway they will use that to get everything their way and expect everyone to pay for everything just like making us pay for Yarrow Stadium. It's all bullshit!
88	Jessie-Lee Boylan				1	I believe it would be in Stratford's best interest by keeping the water services in-house
89	Amanda Patu				1	
90	Elaine Forbes				1	
91	Jacquelyn Black			1	1	I don't understand why this wasn't included, it makes sense for all water matters to be together.
92	Dianna Smith				1	It makes sense for our councils to work together, not only for water, but we could look at other things like roading to try and control the unaffordable rates increases we are seeing. We don't have enough ratepayers in Stratford to meet some of the scary projected future costs on our own and we don't want to scare new people from moving here because of our rates.
93	Trinna George				1	
94	Herbert van Veen				1	If we were to team up, it is most likely that our rates would be going up.
95	Heidy Jolanda van Veen				1	
96	Anna Harvey				1	
97	Duncan Rushton Menzies				1	The council has done a good job to date, and the only thing guaranteed is we will need more water in the future. Supporting option b I sthe only chance of Stratford having the flexibility to move forward with the times.
98	Kathryn Roberts				1	
99	Matthew Roberts				1	
100	Danny McSweeney	Stratford Mowers & Chainsaws			1	
101	Kelly Anne Morresey				1	
102	Danielle Johnston				1	
103	Steph Wright				1	We need to keep this in house with Stratford. Stratford community don't want to have our money spent on New Plymouth or help them with any debt. This will put Stratford in a situation where our money is spent in the bigger populated areas while our needs aren't seen. New Plymouth council are terrible at spending money.
104	Michaela Sheed				1	* Understands financial operational benefits of joining in with New Plymouth and Souyth Taranaki but concered that Stratford's smaller size might mean our specific needs are over looked. * Local control is important to me and I want to ensure that decisions about our water infrastructure reflect the unique priorities of our community. * Would support further exploration of safeguards or guarantees if we were to combine - such as fair cost-sharing and equal representation in governance.

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the alternative Option		Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
			I support the proposal (Option 1)	(Option B)		
105	Tatjana Hanne	Stratford District Youth Council		1		Supports keeping water services in-house - Most cost-efficient option in short term. Large regional projects often require significant upfront investment and can introduce layers of complexity. * Concern that regionalised approach could lead to unnecessary complications and administrative burdens. * Stratford does face the risk of being overshadowed in regional decision-making processes. * SDC has the lowest level of debt related to water, that means residents could be unfairly burdened with helping pay off water related debts incurred by other councils. * Keeping in house ensures decisions by those who are directly accountable to Stratford residents. This fosters more area specific and responsive service delivery. * Shared concerns of potential job losses. * We believe that keeping water management in house offers the best balance of financial responsibility, operational effectiveness and democratic accountability.
106	Bruce Jamieson			1		
107	Karen Bromwich			1		
108	Fiona Kaye Hinton			1		It's much better for Stratford to remain independent.
109	Craig Hinton			1		Stratford needs to be in charge of its own infrastructure and be able to make their own decisions locally to benefit Stratford and its residents.
110	Sheila Boyes			1	I don't agree with the regional model, so therefore not relevant.	I think it all comes down to cost. Keeping Stratford water in-house, where expenditure should be more accountable is my preference. Bigger organisations always require more bureaucracy with fatter salaries for more chiefs. They are also more distant and therefore less accountable to the clients.
111	Beryl Gibson			1	Must be dealt with.	We have very good drinking water here and I would not any changes there.
112	Maree Dawson			1		*Why be part of areas that have renewal backlock. - SDC has done well therefore why should we 'cross-subsidise' the other councils. * The cost of salaries for additional 3 tier of staff, including professional directors on the board, joint committee and management team, which will put extra financial pressures. * The board has all the operational and investment decision making and not the elected members of council who know and understand local conditions and requirements. * Response to emergencies will not be speedier than current. * Joint committee - no area is meant to have the majority vote however it states on document that the composition is lwi 3, STDC 3, SDC 2 and NPDC 4. * Removal of local decision making and knowledge do not take into consideration the unique community that is services and becomes increasingly costly.
113	Roxanne Campbell			1		
114	Marcus Hancock			1		None. Have houses put in their own tanks and collect rain water. This way no current system needs upgrading.
115	David Taylor			1		In my opinion Stratford council has already spent money on updating our water supply. Therefore would prefer the council manage the supply themselves.
116	Josef Johannes Stephanes Koegeleberg			1		We do not need the debt of NPDC to push our rates and taxes up even more!
117	Dean Alexander			1		
118	Desiree Alexander			1		
119	Donna Sayers			1		
120	Josh Best			1		Joining in the crazy debt from STDC and NPDC not a great idea at all.
121	Peter Hugh Langdon Doyle			1		I am not happy with us being involved with the much higher debt of the other councils, and I feel that to date our council has done a good job of maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure to a good standard, while keeping costs and debt well under control. While there are some high costs coming up in the future, I feel like with this attitude to the work involved, the future will be well managed. I don't have the same confidence in the other councils being as careful and efficient as ours here in Stratford
122	Nicola Childs			1	Each council to look after their own.	Stratford Council has just put in a new water line just 2 years ago to the town which is very good. I think if we went with NP, we would gain at the cost of Stratford.
123	Kelly McNab			1		
124	Noel Caskey	Caskey Farms	1			I strongly recommend linking with other Taranaki Councils in a multi controlled organisation. Well run, the strength of a Taranaki wide organisation, gives the rate payer the best bang for his buck in my opinion. We can not afford, to be doubling up on all the key roles, in a province as small as Taranaki. United we stand. Divided we fall.

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the proposal (Option1)	I support the alternative Option (Option B)	Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments
						<i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
125	Hollie Sarten			1		Best to keep it local! I believe our local Stratford District Council will do a better job of this as they know the area and people, I feel our voice will be more heard if there were any issues.
126	Jason Scown	Milkmatters Ltd	1			Economies of scale and the ability to attract and retain high quality staff.
127	Aaron McNab			1		
128	Beverly Sargenson			1		
129	Rob Maindonald			1		
130	Erin MacDonald			1		Keep autonomy and keep Stratford rates for Stratford resources.
131	Jesse Ross			1		
132	Mackie Langton			1		
133	Barry Joseph Kowalewski			1		Bigger is not better.
134	Lina Kowalewski			1		
135	Robin Hodge			1		I think option b should be the preferred option. A multi controlled organisation with two other councils in my opinion is a recipe for disaster. We have the resources in our own area and if we stand alone we know exactly where we are. I feel that we will inherit significant costs from New Plymouth and South Taranaki that we will have to pay for in one way or another in the future.
136	Bradley John Webb			1		
137	Rowan Carlin			1		
138	Jones			1		
139	Nicole Jones			1		
140	Matthew Turner			1		
141						See full submission for supporting information. Points noted: * Council will continue to own all infrastructure assets. * Council sets overall direction and priorities. * Water services strategy is developed by council and business unit manages delivery of services * Business unit reports to council * Delivery has public accountability * Funding for water remains part of overall council revenue and debt but fully ringfenced from other council work. * Fees, charges and water tariffs will be set by council for the Stratford District only. * This sounds like a great opportunity for our community and council.
142	Craig Burrows	Dairymaster Milking Systems NZ Ltd		1		
143						Opposes both solutions. - SDC is fiscally irresponsible. - SDC ignores community views - The culture at council is rotten and full of nepotism - Council needs to find other ways to pay for these upgrades and going back to basics to fund our infrastructure - Suggests reducing salaries and cutting back on cultural/social activities.
144	Alex Corlett					* Concern about proposed governance, in particular three seats allocated to iwi who unlike three councils bring no assets to the table. * With only 2 members representing Stratford we will be a minority voice. * A regional controlled organisation will inevitably bring more costs, premises, staff, overheads, vehicles etc will be needed. We already have those costs in house. * Bigger is not necessarily better. * NPDC was \$5 million over budget halfway through their water meter installation - not a track record we should be considering at all.
145	Brian Jeffares			1	It makes sense to me to have stormwater tied to the roading contractor so this should be excluded in the proposed model	
146	Jo Pattinson			1		Governance structure stacked against us. Why do iwi get 3 representatives in the Stratford Council. They are not very active in the council meetings. Bigger is not always better. Local knowledge by our council on our own area can't be beaten.
147	Alister Willis			1	Our council can handle this.	My thoughts are of Wellington water-mains and the cost of renewing ours which over thirty years may need repairing or replacing so cost over wider community would give us a better advantage if we need to borrow money.
148	Brian Davies				Option A - more ability to raise loans spread cost over wider community if required looking at the 30years option.	Whilst rates are becoming an issue for Stratford rate payer's it is most imperative that "we" keep control of all infrastructure that has been paid for by "us". Once lost, to outside forces we not get it back. I am a strong proponent of ring fencing all assets of our fantastic little town.
149	Karne Reeves			1	I want local council to have full control of our assets. WE must not loose control!	

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the proposal (Option1)	I support the alternative Option (Option B)	Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
146	Tim & Kate Payne			1		*SDC have diligently serviced and improved provisions of the services. * Council is full aware of challenges we face, but these are minor compared to neighbouring councils. * SDC can foresee what the future will look like. * Noted non-compliance with wastewater discharge and that the solar farm or farm and aerodrome could provide a discharge area. * Concern of the make up of the board - unfair representation in light of fair delivery and how much will this cost?
147	J Barry Hancock			1	I am a ratepayer in Stratford and New Plymouth and support Option b - concerns - cost of board members, salaries, secretary etc	Whether it would spell the end of Stratford council in 10 years. That would lamber SDC rate payers with a massive debt of \$406 million owed by NPDC at the moment.
148	Murray and Karen Hancock			1	Stormwater works well as it is and has been for years.	The two councils you propose to go with are bigger than our own and have more problems with pollution than our council has and the water system we have works well, next thing we will be supplying water to them out of our districts catchment. Cut the costs by taking our fluoride from our water and stop building unnecessary monuments like a overpriced swimming pool and making Prospero Place flash which there is nothing wrong with it how it is, and putting notices of earthquake risk on buildings that have stood up for over a century and will continue too! Plus having a unelected person on the list of councillors.
149	Max Barnard			1	No problem	1. Stratford District Council already does well. 2. With option B council can be accountable to us. 3. Std already has personal on the job of water. 4. Std will still be able to get cheap lones. 5. If you choose option b you are giving Stratford District It's Death Nell! 6. Option A might not be able to fix problems at short notice.
150	Shirley Boyde			1		Very satisfied with how the SDC water services are run and do not see a need for any change at this stage. Pleased meters are being installed, its an excellent way of fairly covering usage. No one can predict the future and if we can manage and maintain what we have without too much financial pressure, it will be beneficial to our town. There will always be maintenance to be considered but would like status quo continued.
151	Brian C Arthur			1		
152	Flora (Flo) Coburn			1	Not at this stage as stormwater will continue to be each councils responsibility so far!	* Important to retain independencebut continue to work closely with neighbours when need/s arises. * The business unit personnel in general from council is meeting expectations. * Local community knowledge and input is very important in challenging times. * Ongoing cost is a factor to be considered. * Option A is not convincing and will only serve to create further bureaucracy given the three levels proposed. * Option A is an unknow. * Very concerned part of my rates is channelled toward reducing that councils debt.
153	Mavis Ann Spinks			1	Exclusion	
154	Bruce Edward Spinks			1	Exclusion	
155	Tim Coplestone			1		
156	Alison Oaskey			1		From information provided, can't see any great benefit for Stratford joining the collective - no great \$\$ savings over 30 years and out infrastructure has been well maintained.
157	Carl Saunders			1	Whoever does it, make sure the stormwater pipes are bigger than engineered necessary	It makes no sense to align ourselves with the level of debt brought to the table that NP & HWA have. If it goes to Option A I feel it is the 'thin end of the wedge' for losing further services from our council. It would probably mean the down sizing of council positions i.e staff and the consequent loss of wages to be spent in our town. We have already seen this with the loss of TELCOM in our Town (the building still sits there as an eyesore many years later).
158	William Robert Sarten			1	Yes I'm sure SDC in-house business unit can easily handle wastewater as they always have	* Strong favours in-house business unit. * Comment about "councils are not amalgamating" immediately raises a red flag. * To set up this WSCCO is, I think, the first step to amalgamation. * We need our own governance over the future years to come if Stratford is going to stay a great town.
159	Kevin Duthie			1	I support that each council look after there own stormwater	* new delivery water pipe from reservoir to town is very good and should last many years. * Very good that SDC and STDC have been working together in staff training in water services. * Would like to see this continue but not with NPDC. * Believe if the 3 district councils joined, NP would benefit at the expense of STDC and SDC.
160	Phillip Bielawski			1		* Would prefer to pay a bit more for our water (in the longer term) and retain our current-sized council as losing the water services part of it will shrink it by 20-30% and leave us more vulnerable to amalgamation. * Independence is important so we can retain control of our community assets and not get lost in a bigger entity with bigger partners concerns overiding ours. * Also, has a united entity with South Taranaki been discussed? We would be more interested in this as the two councils have more in common. * We think our council does a good job and our water is already of good quality.

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the		Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
			I support the proposal (Option1)	alternative Option (Option B)		
161	Kieran Best			1	I don't see it is needed to be either as it affects many other areas of council responsibility i.e. Roading, Parks etc	In my opinion Option A is the best answer going forward.
162	Ian & Jill Smith			1		We also submit that it is not fair to residents living in a shared driveway situation to only have one water connection between multiple properties.
163	Mike Procter			1		After a critical examination of the information available to the community of the Stratford District I cannot understand how anyone would consider anything other than Option B. Reasons detailed in submission in summary: * Examples of where larger is not always beneficial to individuals or communities. Smaller organisations tend to be more nimble than larger ones which can often outweigh the economies of scale. * Stratford has focussed attentions on avoiding problems in the first place and has well managed infrastructure. * Prior to three water initiative SDC was not considering joining with other councils to provide water services. There was no problem that needed solving. * Concern on composition of joint committee - SDC's voice will have little if any effect in the future. * Approval by minister concerns from elected members - DIA have examined both options and confirmed to council that both meet the criteria and are viable. * Debt levels - if water services are transferred then SDC will have no influence or control over the income or debt level. However SDC will have a significant liability through being the guarantor for WSCCO's debt. * Removal of water activities from SDC will diminish any argument to keep SDC an independent council.
164	Rachel Arnott & Graham Young	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust		1		Option B was considered the most appropriate given the continuation of a strong and trusted organisation which has created a foundation of partnership with Ngāti Ruanui. * A water care model that is implanted in the whenua (land) along with the value of taking care of ourselves and having regard for each other, holistically fits the option we are recommending. * Ensuring a direct link to the people who control investment decisions is always more desirable. * Stratford District Council has shown it can demonstrate financial sustainability. Ngāti Ruanui believes the impact on rates and charges to be minimal between both options. * Council has sufficient borrowing capacity to meet forecast waste infrastructure investment needs. * Rejects the suggested commentary on scale. * Stratford has continued to demonstrate an overall better position than many larger councilors (regulatory compliance) * There is no example we can find where larger-scale models provide greater capacity to respond to emergencies. * It is not considered that Option B excludes the ability to pool resources allowing access to a broader range of technical expertise, skilled staff and operational capabilities, improving service quality and driving innovation. * Recommends that Option B is strengthened by enshrining a council appointed committee responsible to council to oversee the delivery of water services. This committee must include a mix of independent experts, iwi and elected members. *
165	Mark Taylor			1		Handing over control of such a critical function would be a serious mistake for our community: * Small towns are left behind in big systems * Autonomy is worth far more than speculative savings * We've borrowed for less important things, why not for water? * This is a step toward losing our council altogether. * We don't want to inherit other council's debt * The proposed governance structure is unfair to Stratford.
166	Leola Coles			1		
167	Graham Kelly			1	Retain stormwater	
168	Alan Liddington			1		
169	Anna Groenstein			1		Our elected council manages the ratepayers needs very well without outside help. Our water services are excellent because much money and attention is expended on them. Rates will increase whether or not there is merger. There is no proof that our water services would be improved or even maintained by a joint entity, which includes New Plymouth, a city with different needs and priorities. We would end up subsidising the results of their council's internal squabbling and debts. Our council and employees provide a good water service and plan for supply in the future. They are loyal to the district. If it aint broke don't fix it.
170	Lindsay Taunt			1		
171	Ruth Taunt			1		
172	Raylee Kelly			1	Retain our stormwater	
173	Jane Roguski			1		
174	Kate Fairhurst			1		

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Submission #	Name	Organisation	I support the		Comments on inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model	Any further comments <i>Summarised comments only refer to full submissions</i>
			I support the proposal (Option 1)	alternative Option (Option B)		
175	Leon Moffitt				I believe by sharing with others it opens the door to privatisation. Keep it local.	
176	A F Rosendaal				1	
177	Ian Crawford				Having previously worked for council and seeing amalgamations touted as 'keeping costs down' and 'saving money' I can testify that this is untrue and will always balloon out of all proportion, slowly the staff members increase, and services head downhill as bureaucracy takes over and becomes more important than providing the service it was intended to serve.	
178	Ron Walsh				1	If it aint broke don't tinker with it.
179	Bruce and Sue Meek				1	We choose option B as we can't have our rates going up and up.
180	Bridget Mestrom			1		There are risks with it and it may have some teething issues but ultimately Option A takes better advantage of the economies of scale. The greater borrowing power will allow all three councils to complete necessary works in the short term. Stratford would benefit from an extra seat at the table, however I know we have a small population so understand how we ended up with only 2 representatives. My main reason for supporting Option A is my hope that it will Council time, space and resources to focus on community ventures and greater development in our district.
181	Barrie Smith				1	Water is life and this was recognised by the SFD Borough Council very early in our towns history. From our very early for-fathers to now the SDC has always considered top quality water and disposal of waste water a top priority. History is history by supporting no# B we can prove that we can manage our own affairs.
182	Leedom Gibbs	Taranaki Federated Farmers			1	That Council ensures that, regardless of the option it chooses, that farmers do not pay 'urban' prices for water. That council ensures that, regardless of the option it chooses, that farmers are not required to contribute to wastewater services that they are not connected too. That water services remain in-house where the decision making is done by those connected to the communities they serve.
183	Amanda Joyce				1	Merging with other councils will only increase rates at a time where people are struggling. More money wasted on created a new entity and board to manage a bigger 'pool' where I can see the balem being passed around instead of real solutions to fix real problems, not the ones that are made up, or prioritizing the likes of NP over the smaller areas. As it stands now water rats are going up on 1st of June, a merge will only further those increases. I oppose Local Water Done Well.
184	Mike Water Hog				1	I strongly think we need to stay as an independent council. We have the lowest debt level out of all 3 and even with upcoming maintenance eg our waste water treatment plant Stratford council has already got the money and a plan for that. We will end up being the town that has the least spent on maintenance if we join. And nothing good has come from any other joint venture that has been done in the past so why make this another one that will fail the people.
185	Stratford Business Association				1	Joining with the other 2 Taranaki councils would have a negative effect on the Stratford community and businesses as the focus would become New Plymouth first

1

Respondent No: 1
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 30, 2025 11:59:54 am
Last Seen: Apr 30, 2025 11:59:54 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Glenice Hopkinson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

2

Respondent No: 2
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 30, 2025 12:17:08 pm
Last Seen: Apr 30, 2025 12:17:08 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Bradley Ross
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Stratford can look after it self. And if I was joining NPC and stdc it would come last in priority as less ppl live here and that's not some I want for the future.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

3

**Respondent No:** 3**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Apr 30, 2025 13:07:31 pm**Last Seen:** Apr 30, 2025 13:07:31 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Amy Smith
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

4

**Respondent No:** 4**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Apr 30, 2025 15:33:58 pm**Last Seen:** Apr 30, 2025 15:33:58 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	ozcan sahin
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	The best and most practical option for Stratford District.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Excluded
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Meeting

5

**Respondent No:** 5**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 01, 2025 11:08:03 am**Last Seen:** May 01, 2025 11:08:03 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Leone Marie Worsley
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 6**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 02, 2025 20:30:26 pm**Last Seen:** May 02, 2025 20:30:26 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Craig Tempero
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Even after reading the information required, I feel I am still not in a position to make a truly informed decision. My main issues with the regional council model are: 1. If a larger population makes for better financial resilience, then why not let central government look after it (something no one really wanted with Three Waters) 2. I fear that the Stratford districts demands would be continually overridden by the demands of the greater population of our neighboring councils 3. I believe the Stratford district is less prone to water supply issues and emergencies than other districts due to our geographical location,, so have concerns that the benefits are not worth the risk. 3. I think the cost of setting up a new entity is forever underestimated and always ends up exceeding budgets
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No, but I am interested in why it is excluded. At the end of the day, our stormwater ends up in the other councils run-off
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 7**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 03, 2025 09:51:55 am**Last Seen:** May 03, 2025 09:51:55 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Catherine Tempero
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep Water Services Local with Stratford District Council Option B from Stratford District Council (SDC) proposes to continue managing water services locally through an enhanced in-house business unit. This approach remains financially sustainable and compliant with new government rules, without needing to transfer ownership of assets. It ensures water services are run by people who understand Stratford's unique needs — particularly as a rural community where services like the volunteer fire brigade rely on consistent local water supply. A key strength of this model is that it preserves local control. Elected members remain accountable for decisions, and the public continues to influence priorities through annual and long-term planning processes. Collaboration is still possible — but on Stratford's terms. Rather than being forced into a single large water entity, Stratford can choose when and how to work with other Taranaki councils. This allows us to share knowledge and create efficiencies where it makes sense, while keeping decision-making power and service delivery close to home. This model also enables the mentoring and development of the next generation of engineers locally — an opportunity that may be lost if control shifts elsewhere. Stratford has demonstrated it can manage its own water assets responsibly, and should be trusted to continue doing so.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Including stormwater in Stratford District Council's in-house water services makes sense given the close connection between stormwater, roads, and land use — all of which are already managed locally. Excluding stormwater would create unnecessary complexity, splitting responsibility across multiple agencies and reducing accountability. Stratford's rural setting means stormwater management often relies on local knowledge and seasonal responsiveness. Keeping it in-house ensures decisions are tailored to local conditions, infrastructure, and community needs. It also avoids the risk of disjointed planning or delays caused by involving a large external entity unfamiliar with Stratford's environment. Local management ensures integrated, responsive, and efficient stormwater services.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]

Q13. Ethnicity

[REDACTED]

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?

Yes

Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?

Other (please specify)

Discussion with family and friends.

8

**Respondent No:** 8**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 03, 2025 15:49:54 pm**Last Seen:** May 03, 2025 15:49:54 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jacob shepherd
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

**Respondent No:** 9**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 05, 2025 13:42:27 pm**Last Seen:** May 05, 2025 13:42:27 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Gregory Alexander George Cadman
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I would be much happier knowing my money is being spent in my town than going towards another towns problems while Stratford gets treated like the poorer cousin.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 10**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 06, 2025 23:51:30 pm**Last Seen:** May 06, 2025 23:51:30 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Sharon Mark
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	In terms of cost efficiency it makes sense to join forces, but I do wonder if the quality of our water will be maintained.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No comment
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

11**Respondent No:** 11**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 07, 2025 12:22:32 pm**Last Seen:** May 07, 2025 12:22:32 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Zachory Dodunski
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Stratford AFC
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	While a combined system provides some benefits, It also has significant downfalls. I can see New Plymouth getting priority over the other districts involved. Stratford needs to be able to look after itself, not cost share with other districts.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

**Respondent No:** 12**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 07, 2025 22:37:26 pm**Last Seen:** May 07, 2025 22:37:26 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	John Clarkson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	https://s3-ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/f563c0c34edf19218143cba7529669a8451ee45e/original/1746614051/d8fcb65aed8b6fbff442181f0962157_Water_Services_Submission.pdf? [REDACTED]
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

Local Water Services Delivery Plan (Water Done Well)

Submitted by: John Clarkson

Date: 07 May 2025

Location: Stratford

1. Preferred Option: Retain In-House Water Services Model

I support Stratford District Council retaining water and wastewater services in-house. The proposed regional Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) introduces unnecessary risk and cost, with no compelling benefit for Stratford ratepayers.

2. Serious Financial Risk to Stratford Residents

There is a significant disparity in debt levels between Stratford and other councils, particularly New Plymouth District Council. Stratford has managed its water infrastructure responsibly, with total debt sitting at around \$10 million. In contrast, New Plymouth carries significantly more water-related debt due to historical underinvestment and large-scale, often controversial projects.

If Stratford joins the WSCCO, we would effectively become a guarantor for the financial obligations of councils with far larger and riskier portfolios. This is unacceptable. It places Stratford ratepayers in the firing line for financial consequences that would be beyond our control. If WSCCO governance fails or cost overruns occur, there would be no local recourse.

Furthermore, the actual financial difference between remaining in-house and joining WSCCO is negligible for Stratford. The Council's own documentation suggests there is no substantial ratepayer saving by transferring ownership. However, the financial risk increases significantly.

3. Why Should Stratford Underwrite New Plymouth's \$194 Million Water Debt?

A fundamental concern that must be addressed is why Stratford ratepayers should be expected to underwrite a portion of New Plymouth District Council's \$194 million water-related debt. Stratford has made prudent, future-focused infrastructure decisions, resulting in a much healthier financial position. In contrast, New Plymouth's significantly higher debt is a direct result of underinvestment, delayed upgrades, and questionable spending choices.

There is no justification for socialising the consequences of one council's mismanagement across the region. Stratford did not create this debt and should not be responsible for carrying it. Joining the WSCCO would expose our community to this liability, even though we have no democratic control over how that money was spent - or how future borrowing might be approved. This undermines the principle of local accountability and is fundamentally unfair to Stratford residents.

4. WSCCO and the \$500 Million "Credit Card" Concern

The proposed WSCCO will reportedly have access to \$500 million in borrowing capacity. Without strict, transparent controls, this effectively amounts to handing a regional body a blank cheque. Based on previous patterns of council spending, particularly in New Plymouth, this funding is likely to be consumed rapidly with limited long-term value to Stratford.

Projects like the Len Lye Centre, bike lane reworks, and poorly planned road realignments in New Plymouth demonstrate a pattern of reckless financial behaviour. There is also a growing disconnect from community priorities. These examples raise serious concerns about the fiscal discipline of a WSCCO that would be influenced or dominated by larger councils with very different values.

Stratford residents should not be expected to carry the burden of large-scale spending decisions made by others. There would be minimal input from us and little to no direct benefit. The risks to our future rates are real, significant, and long-term.

5. Local Representation and Accountability

If the WSCCO proceeds, which I do not support, Stratford must:

- Have guaranteed representation on the Joint Committee with real voting rights.
- Retain local oversight on priority projects already approved in our Long-Term Plan. This includes the grit trap upgrade and second river crossing.
- Insist on a clear, fixed cost allocation model. Stratford must be protected from subsidising other districts' legacy issues.

6. Vague Promises of “Efficiencies” and “Standardisation”

The Council suggests that a regional model will bring efficiencies and standardised service levels across the region. However, these claims are not backed by any clear evidence or concrete examples. While there is some mention of benefits like improved data use, procurement leverage, and workforce development, these remain hypothetical and are not supported by specific implementation plans or cost-benefit analyses relevant to Stratford.

Experience from other councils, such as Manawātū¹, shows that regional models can in fact increase costs for smaller councils. Ratepayers may end up subsidising upgrades in other districts just to bring those services up to par. For Stratford, which has already maintained a high standard of infrastructure, this means paying more for the benefit of others, with no clear return.

Until clear, tangible efficiencies are demonstrated in a way that benefits all member councils fairly, these promises remain aspirational and, at worst, misleading.

7. Stormwater Should Remain with Council

I support the proposal to keep stormwater management under direct Council control. This reinforces the need to maintain an in-house water team regardless of any regionalisation. This further weakens the case for a WSCCO.

¹ <https://www.mdc.govt.nz/news/2024/local-water-done-well-update>

8. Local Oversight Equals Better Results

Stratford has managed its water assets prudently and transparently. Our infrastructure is in better condition than that of many neighbouring councils. Any model that reduces this local focus or exposes us to the financial consequences of others' poor planning is not in the best interests of our community.

Final Comments

The WSCCO model offers no meaningful financial benefit. It introduces massive risk, reduced accountability, and long-term cost exposure to Stratford. This is especially troubling given the track record of larger councils like New Plymouth. Their governance and spending priorities have repeatedly diverged from what residents actually want or need.

I urge the Council to keep control of Stratford's water services. This will protect local ratepayers from unnecessary debt exposure and governance uncertainty.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,
John Clarkson

13**Respondent No:** 13**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 10, 2025 06:43:10 am**Last Seen:** May 10, 2025 06:43:10 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jude ross
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Self
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Website Social Media

**Respondent No:** 14**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 10, 2025 22:10:40 pm**Last Seen:** May 10, 2025 22:10:40 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	James Campbell
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

**Respondent No:** 15**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 10, 2025 22:46:55 pm**Last Seen:** May 10, 2025 22:46:55 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Renee Alice Vincent
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

**Respondent No:** 16**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 13, 2025 15:09:20 pm**Last Seen:** May 13, 2025 15:09:20 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Glenda Fraser
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Because you have all the resources here! That the Stratford rate payers have already paid for! Stop! And probably this will be a waste of time writing this cause you have already made up your minds on this matter!
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media Antenno App

17**Respondent No:** 17**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 15, 2025 13:34:11 pm**Last Seen:** May 15, 2025 13:34:11 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Alistair Cook
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	i feel that by combining with the other Councils we will be a disadvantage as we being smaller in size wont get a fair share of the funding. We have seen this several times with other councils amalgamating and the bigger ones dominate the funding requirements. We have on more than one occasion said No to amalgamation in previous years and this still stands true today. Keep it in house as if it was put to a so called independent organization you can bet your bottom dollar that there will be an unreasonable increase in cost to us for a lesser service
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	keep it in house with the Stratford District Council.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	Yes
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Radio Other (please specify) paper

**Respondent No:** 18**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 15, 2025 17:30:16 pm**Last Seen:** May 15, 2025 17:30:16 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Grant Best
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App



Respondent No: 19
Login: Martin Du Plooy
Email: martin.duplooy@gmail.com

Responded At: May 15, 2025 19:49:39 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 07:43:14 am
IP Address: 206.83.103.125

Q1. Full name	Martin Du Plooy
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Option B keeps the responsibility with the council and its people.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered



Respondent No: 20
Login: Annoyed Ratepayer
Email: duplooy.stella@gmail.com

Responded At: May 15, 2025 19:56:51 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 07:50:40 am
IP Address: 206.83.103.125

Q1. Full name	Heather Du Plooy
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keeping water services and assets in-house means we have more control over it and there is more accountability. This option seems best for all local ratepayers as ownership and accountability is key for those who pay the extravagant amount of rates we do in the Stratford Region these days..
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Keep stormwater services in our local council.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

**Respondent No:** 21**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 16, 2025 08:20:16 am**Last Seen:** May 16, 2025 08:20:16 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Susan Cook
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I strongly beleive that keeping it local would be the best option in the long run, with the people that have to consume said water having control over what they are drinking expecially at this time when trust in government choices is at a all time low.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Email

22**Respondent No:** 22**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 16, 2025 11:46:54 am**Last Seen:** May 16, 2025 11:46:54 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Alan Jamieson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Stratford can control its own services as it has done in the past.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Storm water is OK for now in the space it is.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Meeting Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 23**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 16, 2025 17:52:23 pm**Last Seen:** May 16, 2025 17:52:23 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Michelle Kennard
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I fully support the Option B to keep our water management in-house! We cannot afford to lose the right to own and manage our water resources. It is your responsibility to ensure our water systems are future-proof and that there are contingency funds available for any necessary upgrades. Why have these resources not been maintained properly?
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	We elected our councillors to make informed and positive decisions for our community, and that's what you must do. We do not vote you in to merge with other councils and then become a minority.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Email Website Social Media Antenno App

24



Respondent No: 24

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 19:00:13 pm

Last Seen: May 17, 2025 19:00:13 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name

Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)

Q3. Email

Q4. Phone number

Q5. Postal address

Q6. Which option would you prefer?

Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:

Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)

Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?

Q11. Which year were you born in?

Written request actioned to withdraw submission and replaced with an emailed submission.

Q12. Gender

Q13. Ethnicity

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?

Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?

**Respondent No:** 25**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 19, 2025 22:37:08 pm**Last Seen:** May 19, 2025 22:37:08 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Albertus Jordaan
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	██████████
Q4. Phone number	██████
Q5. Postal address	████████████████████
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	████
Q12. Gender	████
Q13. Ethnicity	██████████
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website

**Respondent No:** 26**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 20, 2025 20:14:03 pm**Last Seen:** May 20, 2025 20:14:03 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Melanie Jordaan
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
I feel it should have been advertised more in Stratford, i feel this was not in the open. It looks like it you want to hide it.
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
not answered
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** [REDACTED]
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Other (please specify)
A friend told me

**Respondent No:** 27**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 20, 2025 20:16:24 pm**Last Seen:** May 20, 2025 20:16:24 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Berme Jordaan
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Parent

**Respondent No:** 28**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 20, 2025 20:47:08 pm**Last Seen:** May 20, 2025 20:47:08 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Pieter Du Plessis
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

**Respondent No:** 29**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 22, 2025 10:21:40 am**Last Seen:** May 22, 2025 10:21:40 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	James Wood
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	NPDC seem to be fairly good at blowing budgets and ignoring the community at the moment. I think having them involved will negatively impact Stratfords water supply and financial situation.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	████
Q12. Gender	████
Q13. Ethnicity	██████████
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media



Respondent No: 30
Login: Christian Cullen
Email: darrenandkatie@slingshot.co.nz

Responded At: May 22, 2025 22:03:59 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 09:12:41 am
IP Address: 124.157.76.144

Q1. Full name	Darren Bolger
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	NA
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	There are no prizes for committing to the WSCCO first. My preference would be to see how it works in other regions. My understanding is if we were to join WSCCO we are locked in? I believe we could join up at a later date if it works in other regions. Past and current councils (Stratford) have done a fantastic job at managing our water needs up until now. We are at a point where our in-house delivery model is "financially viable" as per Mr. Volzkes letter in the consultation document. Based on this assessment I feel the safer option is to remain in-house with an amended and compliant version of what we have already. We get to keep the assets Stratford people have paid or are paying for already. Has New Plymouth and South Taranaki councils done the same? Is the bulk of my water rates going to fund other councils neglect? Things I do not like about the WSCCO: The set up and ongoing cost and funding of WSCCO and the independent board has not been mentioned. I'm assuming the Stratford Council water management team will not be made redundant if we were to join? If this is the case, will we be paying for both management teams? The WSCCO joint committee will have 2 Stratford representatives. The other two councils, and even iwi, have 3. each. Will Stratford really have a say in where the money is used? Why don't we have 3? Why is it even 3 to begin with? One from each council should be enough if we are truly watching our dollars. Also, using 'Climate Change' and Civil Defence response" as being pro WSCCO feels like a bit of a stretch. I'd love to see the science behind WSCCO impact on climate change. All the other pro points are fair. On a positive note, I think the consultation document is very well presented. The information is easy to understand and largely unbiased. Thanks. DB
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Nope.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]

Q13. Ethnicity

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?

Yes

Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?

Social Media

31

**Respondent No:** 31**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 23, 2025 11:06:54 am**Last Seen:** May 23, 2025 11:06:54 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | Claire Lewis |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | ██████████ |
| Q4. Phone number | ██████ |
| Q5. Postal address | ██████████ |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | |
| | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | |
| | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | ██ |
| Q12. Gender | ██ |
| Q13. Ethnicity | ██████ |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Social Media |

**Respondent No:** 32**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 24, 2025 08:32:37 am**Last Seen:** May 24, 2025 08:32:37 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Murray Sulzberger
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	whilst a regional entity might make funding available for needed projects - and Stratford has needed projects , the loss of autonomy and control over assets outweighs that benefit. Being the smallest party within the proposed regional entity , Stratford will always be out voted and over ridden. This is the same scenario as when local councils merged to become the South Taranaki District Council and the smaller , outlying areas all became the neglected poor relation to Hawera. This is the fate that will befall Stratford. Allowing iwi to have more representatives than Stratford is a farce as well. Iwi already have representation as ratepayers via the property they own and are rated on - why should they be able to double-dip on representation ? I think 2 iwi representatives would be more than sufficient , and would reduce the likelihood of a power of veto going to that one sector. We already see iwi moves to gain ownership of water as shown by Ngai Tahu in the South Island , and the final intent of the thankfully failed Three Waters proposal - which was blatant theft of ratepayer owned assets handed to iwi for free.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	urban stormwater should be included , rural stormwater is a roading issue
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No

Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?

Other (please specify)

currently employed by council contractor maintaining water
infrastructure

**Respondent No:** 33**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 25, 2025 10:17:30 am**Last Seen:** May 25, 2025 10:17:30 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Anne Shirley Talbot
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	We need to stand alone and make our special town the best there is.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	We need to collect and store as much as possible..
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 34**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 25, 2025 15:12:39 pm**Last Seen:** May 25, 2025 15:12:39 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Wayne Reed
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep it local and costs down
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App Other (please specify) Neighbours

35

**Respondent No:** 35**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 25, 2025 16:35:42 pm**Last Seen:** May 25, 2025 16:35:42 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Nusrah Hay
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Email

**Respondent No:** 36**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 25, 2025 16:40:51 pm**Last Seen:** May 25, 2025 16:40:51 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	James Hay
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I think we should keep as independent as possible. Keep local jobs, knowledge, and self determination. Even if that comes at the cost of increased rates. The only benefit here is going to be some cost savings, but I believe that this is a slippery slope, that - along with other such centralisation proposals - will contribute to the long term decline of Stratford and other small towns in the region.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Keep it all in house.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Neighbour told us about it

37

**Respondent No:** 37**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 25, 2025 18:06:02 pm**Last Seen:** May 25, 2025 18:06:02 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Peter & Belinda Martin
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
Want to keep the services and assets local and in house.
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
no
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** [REDACTED]
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 38**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 07:50:24 am**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 07:50:24 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Samara Preston
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I support the proposed Option A for Stratford District Council to join a multi-controlled organisation with South Taranaki District Council and New Plymouth District Council for the management of wastewater and water services. I'm concerned about the potential for Stratford to be overlooked compared to the larger districts, but believe this move will ultimately strengthen Stratford's position. By joining forces, Stratford is more likely to gain access to greater funding opportunities, helping to deliver key infrastructure projects that may otherwise be out of reach. I do think this is the first step toward the eventual amalgamation of the three district councils - no doubt inevitable in the long term.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Are there long-term plans available for stormwater infrastructure projects that outline what needs to be done, when it will happen, projected costs and the impact on rates? No doubt there will be concern in the community about the lack of attention to some critical infrastructure that is aging and will require investment sooner rather than later.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

**Respondent No:** 39**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 10:19:58 am**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 10:19:58 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Mark Williams
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Friend

**Respondent No:** 40**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 10:22:42 am**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 10:22:42 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Mary
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Friend

41

**Respondent No:** 41**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 12:55:50 pm**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 12:55:50 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Lauren Carroll
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I am not in agreement with Option A. Those other 2 councils have huge debt. Why would we want to join & take on their debt. Stratford residents already pay the highest rates!
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

**Respondent No:** 42**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 16:52:06 pm**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 16:52:06 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Lynsi J. M. Latham-Saunders
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	N/A
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:

LWDW Document Page 4 Mayor Neil Volzke states that LWDW puts more choice and control back in the hands of councils. Currently we have democratic elections and Stratford people have a far greater say on council decisions. We become the smallest contributor to the regional WSCCO, with the smallest voice. The suggested WSCCO model does not give control to SDC – we would become the smallest of the joint Owners who appoint a Joint Committee who set expectations, to be governed by a Board of professionals, with legal, technical and financial expertise. How would they determine our local priorities with a holistic view. A decision made today that makes financial and technical sense may hamper development in the future. Technical and financial reasons do not necessarily take social and cultural issues into account Question – what amalgamation or regional merger in the past has been advantageous to Stratford? eg. Dairy Company, Telecom, Taranaki District Health Board, Banks etc etc Perhaps one of the main outcomes of a regional approach that is not discussed in the proposal is the viability of the Stratford District Council. Removing water from local control takes with it a large chunk of the SDCouncil's core business and also it's staff and leaves "stranded costs" for power, phone computers etc that would become a rates burden as these costs remain. If historic consequences of mergers has anything to teach us, this regional approach to water will deplete our council and we may as well opt to become a suburb of New Plymouth. It will be a merger by surrender. If you look at the fleet of vehicles leaving the regional council each afternoon it is likely a similar shift of employees to New Plymouth if a regional proposal for water eventuates. It is a further depletion of \$ to be spent in Stratford. Financially we would be disadvantaged. We have the lowest debt of the three councils and our freshwater infrastructure in good condition as it has been well maintained. The Council produced LWDW document [Page 16] takes of the benefit of scale. Scale is also a definite disadvantage, as SDC is by far the smallest contributor to the WSCCO. Wastewater we will be needing to improve but we have one waste water system and the total across the region is 12. How does one of twelve improve that issue? I believe we could implement a much more innovative way of dealing with wastewater. Systems exist now that have at the end of treatment drinkable water. [This is in the process of being installed at Parihaka Papakainga currently] I believe the council are keen to implement water meters to reduce the demand for fresh water, as resource consents and supply [particularly in summer] are increasing pressures to reduce usage of fresh water. Meters are only part of this – the council should be encouraging – providing an incentive – for households to install rain water collection tanks. Even if the rain water tanks are only used for watering gardens, lawns, car washing, outdoor water play in summer etc. The installation of water meters is another large expense as many Stratford households, I believe, do not have meters. With local control we can be more responsive to local needs. I am very definitely NOT in favour of the WSCCo. Stratford should maintain its independence.

Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

not answered

Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)

not answered

Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?

Yes

Q11. Which year were you born in?

not answered

Q12. Gender

██████

Q13. Ethnicity

████████████████████
██████████████████

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?

Yes

Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?

Newspaper

43

**Respondent No:** 43**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 26, 2025 20:10:06 pm**Last Seen:** May 26, 2025 20:10:06 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Lisa Harris
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Neighbour

44

**Respondent No:** 44**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 08:54:07 am**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 08:54:07 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	John Carncross Rowe
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/27dff533241156026771860a2c696c2f98341143/original/1748292680/b44e1638ef2559b1d3597cc2470be64a_l%20realise%20that%20Stratford%20has%203%20water%20supplies.docx?1748292680
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	1944
Q12. Gender	Male
Q13. Ethnicity	NZ European
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

I realise that Stratford has 3 water supplies – Stratford, Midhirst and Toko – with Stratford being by far the largest requirement for supply. Stratford is in (I believe) an enviable position where water for supply flows downhill and wastewater can flow downhill too. This means a lot of expensive pumping is, in the main, not required. That could be perceived as a natural advantage for Stratford, which could possibly be seen as a desirable acquisition for the wider Taranaki community. Subsidisation by way of “natural advantages” for the common good?

There is the argument put forward for better “economies of scale”. That’s reasonable where the advantages are obvious; but in this case that doesn’t appear to benefit Stratford, particularly with Stratford’s 2 votes in the proposed authority, against 10 other votes in situations where improvements and or upgrades are desired or needed!

There’s also the concern, that this could be the start of a process of amalgamation by stealth? I don’t see centralisation bringing too many benefits to ratepayers in general, as with scale quite often clumsy inefficiencies can be the outcome – a new more remote bureaucracy without a local feel.

There is a lot to be said for regional co-operation and big events in New Plymouth can and do have a real positive effect for Stratford (and vice a versa too), with the authorities still maintaining their own autonomy. But in the delivery of a very essential (top of the list) service, particularly, as already mentioned, with Stratford’s natural advantages, I believe, leave it as it is!

45

**Respondent No:** 45**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 09:41:10 am**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 09:41:10 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | April Watson |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | not answered |
| Q5. Postal address | not answered |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Antenno App |

**Respondent No:** 46**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 09:42:12 am**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 09:42:12 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | Rob Best |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | not answered |
| Q5. Postal address | not answered |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | |
| | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | |
| | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Antenno App |

47

**Respondent No:** 47**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 09:43:55 am**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 09:43:55 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | Kevin Watson |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | not answered |
| Q5. Postal address | not answered |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Newspaper |

**Respondent No:** 48**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 11:09:35 am**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 11:09:35 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Janice Carpenter |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | not answered |
| Q5. Postal address | not answered |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Newspaper |



Respondent No: 49

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 27, 2025 11:19:44 am

Last Seen: May 27, 2025 11:19:44 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Denay Corijon COTTAM
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	
Q4. Phone number	
Q5. Postal address	
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:

I'm a registered plumber and gas fitter with over a decade of experience in civil water infrastructure, holding a Level 4 qualification in water reticulation and a diploma in asset management. I currently work for OPS Plumbing & Pipeline — a regional contractor delivering water, wastewater, and trenchless infrastructure across Taranaki, including within the Stratford District. This submission reflects both my professional insights from working directly with councils on infrastructure delivery, and my personal view as a Taranaki ratepayer with a long-term interest in how this region manages its essential services. My Position I do not support the creation of a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WSCCO). I support Stratford District Council retaining direct, in-house control of water services, with improvements to transparency and operational structure as required. Why I Oppose the WSCCO Proposal 1. Distance from decision-making weakens responsiveness Under a WSCCO model, operational decisions are removed from elected councillors and passed on to a board appointed by a joint committee. This creates structural distance between communities and the people deciding how infrastructure is funded and delivered. In my experience, that gap causes delays, misalignment, and frustration — both for contractors and residents. 2. Local capability becomes dependent on one entity A centralised regional WSCCO becomes the sole source of water-related contracts. If you're not aligned with their procurement systems, or if you fall out of favour, you risk losing access to all water work across the region. That introduces real commercial vulnerability for regional contractors who have invested in people, plant, and systems. Currently, with each council managing its own water services, the work is spread and risk is shared. That diversity is what keeps local businesses operating and local people employed. 3. Other regional entities have not delivered better outcomes We've seen what happens when this model is applied elsewhere. Wellington Water and Auckland's Watercare have struggled with delays, transparency issues, and poor responsiveness. Projects get held up, communication breaks down, and the frontline suffers. Stratford should be looking at those examples and asking: why would we import a model that's not working? 4. Disconnection from planning and local priorities Water infrastructure doesn't operate in a vacuum. It connects to roads, stormwater, parks, and development planning. Taking water out of council hands and putting it under a separate board risks disconnecting these functions, leading to fragmented delivery and delayed responses. We see this on the ground all the time — when utilities, roadworks, and drainage aren't aligned, it adds cost, confusion, and community disruption. Why I Support the In-House Model 1. Stratford is small enough to stay close to its services — and it should Stratford's size is a strength in this case. It allows elected members and council staff to stay closely connected to the community and directly influence how services are delivered. That level of transparency and access is worth preserving. 2. An in-house model protects flexibility Retaining in-house control means Stratford can still choose to collaborate with New Plymouth or South Taranaki where it makes sense — but without giving up control. A WSCCO locks the district into a shared decision-making model where Stratford has no majority and no way to pull out if things go sideways. 3. Better alignment with real delivery When we work on Stratford projects now, we can coordinate with multiple council departments to solve problems in real time. That's only possible because water delivery is still in-house. If that control is handed to another entity, that working relationship becomes slower, more complex, and harder to resolve. 4. The improvements proposed can strengthen the current model Ringfencing water revenue, creating a water strategy, and improving reporting are all positive steps — and they can be done without handing the reins over to a third party. If the concern is transparency or compliance, let's address that directly — not by creating more layers of governance. What I Recommend If Stratford decides to retain water services in-house, I recommend: Investing in council's internal capability, including staff development, systems, and asset data Ensuring transparent public reporting of water performance and spend Collaborating regionally where it adds value — without giving up control Formalising an industry reference group to support strategy development and contractor feedback Retaining stormwater under council management to ensure delivery remains integrated with transport, parks, and land use Final Comments Stratford has the advantage of local scale, local understanding, and a clean opportunity to build on what's already working. I understand the appeal of regionalisation, though examples from other parts of the country make it clear that bigger doesn't mean better. I do not support the creation of a WSCCO. I support Stratford retaining local delivery through an improved in-house model — because it protects accountability, responsiveness, and local capability. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

not answered

Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)

not answered

Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	
Q12. Gender	
Q13. Ethnicity	
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website

**Respondent No:** 50**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 14:21:23 pm**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 14:21:23 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	James Fairclough
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I have seen the gradual decline in services since the govt pushed SDC in going away from doing everything in house. They had there own trucks, machinery and local staff who had pride in there work. Even if a tree came down partially blocking a road on a weekend it was gone in a matter of hours not a matter of days. Mr Bray had the sports grounds and gardens looking immaculate all the time and growing plants in house. This all provided lots of jobs. It appears to me that over the years the further you move away from doing stuff in house in all aspects there is a decline in service and a rise in cost. With option A we will only be 2 votes out of 12. Thats not a good thing. Also by going to option A can the council guarantee this will not add to an increase in the rest of the rates. Can they also guarantee that further down the road it wont be a case of lets do the same with the roads then oh were not viable now lets just become a part of NPC. Wouldn't that be great, not. Less services and more debt. We've got a great little town here and the water/wastewater is in pretty good shape. even going by their figures there's not much in it. Option A has the words "unlikely and likely" in it which throws up red flags. Thank you.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 51**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 27, 2025 15:56:05 pm**Last Seen:** May 27, 2025 15:56:05 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Mark Andrew Smith
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	NA
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I have the confidence in our council to take us forward, should we sign up with option A in my opinion we would be worse off because New Plymouth has had high rates and not looked after their infrastructure? Where as, I would sign up if there was an option C and work with South Taranaki District Council, their infrastructure is well established and I think they would look after us (Stratford), just my thoughts.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

**Respondent No:** 52**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 28, 2025 13:45:47 pm**Last Seen:** May 28, 2025 13:45:47 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	marilyn walsh
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I prefer to in control of our own destiny then beholden to other councils. I am sure our local council is capable of providing such a service to our district. I also think it shouldn't be grossly over priced. I do not agree with shared water meters for flats, apartments or shared driveway homes. This would create "neighbours at war"...people should have a meter to pay for their own usage.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Our waste water should be managed by the council and I feel we have great drainage here in Stratford but like all things it needs to be maintained. For example how many drains are blocked with rubbish and leaves that really should be cleared regularly....
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Social Media Antenno App

53**Respondent No:** 53**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 28, 2025 17:11:30 pm**Last Seen:** May 28, 2025 17:11:30 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Haidee Tait
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
not answered
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
This needs to be excluded.
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** not answered
- Q12. **Gender** not answered
- Q13. **Ethnicity** not answered
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** **Other (please specify)**
Word of mouth.

**Respondent No:** 54**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 28, 2025 20:27:31 pm**Last Seen:** May 28, 2025 20:27:31 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Steven Frandsen
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Stick to our own one. Other councils waste too much money and we can't afford to be dragged into that.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Keep to the status quo
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website Social Media

**Respondent No:** 55**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 28, 2025 21:14:01 pm**Last Seen:** May 28, 2025 21:14:01 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Paloma Craig
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I have no desire to have NPDC have any say in how stratfords water is managed. They have a history, with recent examples, of not listening to what the community wants. They seem to just be doing the complete opposite of what the community wants. I have no faith they will actually take on board feedback and do what they community want. I also don't think NPDC will put enough focus on SDC and STDC areas and the water needs of these communities. I feel NPDC will only care about their area and try to pull all the focus to the, neglecting the other areas in the region. I have no issue with SDC teaming up with STDC. I think they would work well together and it would be more efficient than having 2 in house business units. I do not want NPDC to be a part of this.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	I think we should include stormwater in the model.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Email Website Social Media

56

**Respondent No:** 56**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 08:26:16 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 08:26:16 am**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** David and Leanne Frandsen
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
not answered
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
not answered
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** not answered
- Q12. **Gender** not answered
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Newspaper
Social Media
Antenno App

57**Respondent No:** 57**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 08:39:12 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 08:39:12 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Dave Tickner
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I think the if it ain't broke don't fix it mentality very much applies here. New Plymouth and South Taranaki have massive issues with their infrastructure but Stratford is relatively stable. We would just be left out as the poor small council while the big ones just use us to allow them to borrow more money and probably staff at no cost to them and at no benefit to Stratford
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

58

**Respondent No:** 58**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 08:56:55 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 08:56:55 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Racheal Cottam |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | Offshore Plumbing Services Limited |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | [REDACTED] |
| Q5. Postal address | [REDACTED] |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |

Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:

My name is Racheal Cottam. I'm the Director of OPS Plumbing & Pipeline, a Taranaki-based civil infrastructure company employing more than 50 people and delivering complex water and wastewater projects across all three district councils in our region. I am also a long-standing land developer with completed and active subdivisions across New Plymouth and South Taranaki, including commercial and residential developments. This submission is made from both a business and development perspective. It reflects a deep understanding of what is required to deliver water infrastructure on the ground, the importance of a capable local supply chain, and the risk this reform poses to both. Summary of Position I oppose the creation of a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) across New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki. I support each council retaining in-house water services delivery — with increased investment, governance enhancements, and regional collaboration where beneficial. Core Concerns

1. Loss of Direct Accountability to Ratepayers The proposed WSCCO introduces a governance layer that separates water services from elected councils. This disconnect risks undermining democratic control, community visibility, and service responsiveness — especially in smaller communities. As a developer and contractor, I rely on clear communication and timely decisions from councils. Adding a third-party board and shifting decisions into a regional entity will only make that more opaque and slow.
2. Gatekeeping and Procurement Risk for Local Business OPS Plumbing & Pipeline is one of the few locally owned civil pipeline companies capable of delivering full-scale trenchless and open-cut water infrastructure. We've trained and retained local staff, invested in equipment, and built relationships with each council. The move to a WSCCO centralises procurement and contracts, meaning a single organisation could become the gatekeeper to the majority of work in the region. That creates significant risk — if relationships sour, priorities shift, or new board members favour larger multinationals, local companies could be locked out entirely, regardless of merit or track record.
3. Development Delays and Poor Infrastructure Coordination As a developer, I have seen firsthand how difficult it is to get clarity on infrastructure timing and capacity. Water, wastewater, and stormwater planning are foundational to every subdivision. Currently, we work directly with council officers who understand the local network and planning constraints. A WSCCO would fragment that process. Development risk increases significantly when planning becomes siloed and water decisions are made by an external entity not embedded in the council's consenting or spatial planning frameworks. Wellington Water and Watercare have been used as case studies. Unfortunately, these organisations are often cited for their lack of responsiveness, infrastructure delays, and inability to support development in a timely or transparent way. Replicating this model here would be a mistake.
4. Regional Capability and Workforce Development at Risk OPS currently has 21 staff in formal training pathways, including apprentices and water technicians. We are finalists in this year's Civil Contractors Training Awards. We offer real pathways to employment and skills growth in our region. All of this relies on a steady pipeline of work. If local contractors lose access to regional water contracts due to procurement centralisation or preferential treatment of national players, that pipeline collapses — along with regional skill development.

Final Position I do not support the creation of a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation. While I acknowledge the desire for efficiency and scale, these benefits are speculative and come at a real cost to accountability, local capability, and development coordination. I support retaining in-house council delivery (Option B), with improvements in procurement consistency, governance transparency, and regional cooperation — not centralised control. Closing Comments As someone deeply invested in Taranaki's growth — from both a delivery and development standpoint — I urge each council to consider the real-world implications of this change. Bigger isn't always better. A strong, well-resourced in-house model, grounded in local relationships, is the best way to ensure our water services remain resilient, affordable, and fit for purpose over the next 30 years. Kind regards, Racheal Cottam Director – OPS Plumbing & Pipeline

Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

not answered

Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)

not answered

Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?

No

Q11. Which year were you born in?

not answered

Q12. Gender	
Q13. Ethnicity	
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website

59

**Respondent No:** 59**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 08:59:36 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 08:59:36 am**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Jeremy Cottam |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | Offshore Plumbing Services Limited |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | [REDACTED] |
| Q5. Postal address | [REDACTED] |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |

Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:

My name is Jeremy, and I'm the owner of OPS Plumbing & Pipeline — a locally owned and operated civil infrastructure business based in Bell Block. We employ over 50 staff and have been delivering water, wastewater, and trenchless pipeline services across South Taranaki, Stratford, and New Plymouth districts for well over a decade. This submission is based on my experience managing contracts, developing capability in the region, and building a company that supports dozens of local families through steady, high-quality infrastructure work. We work with all three councils and understand their systems, their teams, and the communities they serve. Position on the Proposal I do not support the proposal to create a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO). Instead, I believe each council should retain in-house delivery (Option B), while continuing to improve collaboration, transparency, and efficiency. Concerns with the WSCCO Model 1. Too Much Power in One Entity Putting control over all water service procurement, delivery, and investment into a single WSCCO introduces a serious risk for companies like ours. Right now, we work with three councils. If one relationship hits a snag, we still have others. If the WSCCO doesn't favour us — whether due to politics, preference, or procurement decisions — we could lose nearly all our water work in one go. That's not a healthy market. That's a choke point. It removes competitive pressure and makes local businesses completely reliant on one board's decisions, which could easily favour larger firms from out of the region. 2. Procurement Likely to Shift Away from Local Businesses We've seen how this plays out elsewhere — regional entities like Wellington Water and Watercare often end up awarding bulk work to large multinationals. These firms extract profit from the region but don't reinvest here. OPS has grown organically in Taranaki, hiring locals, training them up, and reinvesting in equipment and systems. We support schools, clubs, apprenticeships, and regional events. I'm not sure that would be possible if we had to compete against national firms on a WSCCO panel, especially when relationship-based procurement becomes the norm. 3. Board Makeup Could Disadvantage Locals There's no guarantee that the WSCCO's board or senior decision-makers will understand — or prioritise — the needs of local businesses. There's a real concern that those making the procurement decisions may come from large company backgrounds themselves, or have affiliations that influence outcomes. That risk alone makes this a poor model for fostering a diverse and resilient local industry. 4. Development and Infrastructure Timing Becomes Harder When we support land developers or council upgrades, timing and access to clear information are critical. Council staff know their towns, their networks, and their people. Passing that knowledge off to a remote WSCCO board — even if staffed by good people — breaks down that direct access. We've worked closely with planners, engineers, and asset managers to deliver critical work on tight timelines. This level of integration is essential for growth, especially for small town upgrades and business parks. A regional model adds bureaucracy and confusion at the exact time we need faster, smarter delivery. Final Thoughts OPS has proven our ability to deliver complex infrastructure while supporting our community, employing locals, and training the next generation of civil workers. We're not afraid of reform or change — but it has to improve outcomes. I haven't seen enough evidence that a WSCCO will do that. What I do see is increased risk, loss of access for local companies, and a step away from community-focused decision-making. I do not support the WSCCO proposal. I support Option B — with strong internal governance, better regional collaboration, and continued investment in in-house capability.

Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

not answered

Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)

not answered

Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?

No

Q11. Which year were you born in?

not answered

Q12. Gender

[REDACTED]

Q13. Ethnicity

[REDACTED]

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website

60

**Respondent No:** 60**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 10:06:33 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 10:06:33 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Kathleen Perrett
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I believe the research that has been completed shows that the future lies in combining services with the other Councils, this will give a better options and hopefully costs being spread better via this option. But the initial setup will be more expensive which most of the ratepayers will look at first rather than the bigger picture and 10+ years down the track.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Can understand why it should be excluded at this point in time but would have thought that going forward this would be another one that should be with all the councils under the same umbrella as the water etc so that in future the costs and expertise is spread evenly.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Email Website Social Media Antenno App

61**Respondent No:** 61**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 10:34:43 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 10:34:43 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Robin Lilley
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 62**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 10:39:36 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 10:39:36 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Diane gooch
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	N/A
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	N/A
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

63

**Respondent No:** 63**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 10:41:13 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 10:41:13 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Trevor gooch
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

64

**Respondent No:** 64**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 11:47:09 am**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 11:47:09 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Hailee Johnson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	I like the option A but I am worried. what stops all the good resources being help up in New Plymouth and the rest of have to wait. or they get the best of everything, and we are an afterthought. also cost as people as everything is going up
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	new plymouth gets the best we get left behind. cost as everything is going up
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not shore as it is yet another place where people have to find the money
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) friend told me

**Respondent No:** 65**Login:** Teddy**Email:** terrancegeorge@gmail.com**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 12:10:03 pm**Last Seen:** May 28, 2025 23:47:55 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.60

Q1. Full name	Terry Johnson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Myself
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	We have a good infrastructure and good water which we have paid for via rates over a number of years,I believe by having option B we will be in a far better position to control our own local destiny, and not be at the bind of the requirements of the other councils who may or may not have invested in their own water infrastructure over the years. The system as it stands allows us 250 cube per year paid via our rates, you use more you pay extra, I see this as a fair system. Option B will also provide employment for local people, and via our local members of council ability to discuss and put points of view forward, the make up of the proposed super board also only gives Stratford 2 positions as opposed to the other 2 councils who have more, appreciate that size does matter re the other 2 councils but see this as a disadvantage when we are bidding around the Lions table.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	I see the 3 water services all connected,and reiterate the above
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Website

66

**Respondent No:** 66**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 12:18:16 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 12:18:16 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Debbie McKinlay
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	As you state we have carefully invested in this area over the years! We know our area best and know what our future priorities are. Option B will be less disruptive and we can just continue to get on with the job Option A adds in more governance layers, will take an huge amount of time to set up and once we are in we can't opt out..
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

67**Respondent No:** 67**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 13:09:47 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 13:09:47 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Mike Lehrke
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No comment, as I'm not in this area
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 68**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 13:17:49 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 13:17:49 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Matt Stewart
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Too many unknowns and it will end up too many entities clipping the ticket with no real benefits
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Social Media

**Respondent No:** 69**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 13:41:23 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 13:41:23 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Christina Watson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) robin

70**Respondent No:** 70**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 13:51:21 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 13:51:21 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Andrew Lewis
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Word of mouth

71**Respondent No:** 71**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 15:39:35 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 15:39:35 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Richard Kennedy-Moffat
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

72**Respondent No:** 72**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 15:41:01 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 15:41:01 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Alan Thatcher
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	7656106
Q5. Postal address	52 Brecon Road
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	See uploaded submission
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/5ca1cbfbe72e1d88404d1c8e71381fdb3dde45b/original/1748489926/09e99a22560e46c945174c84d9468366_Sub%20SDC%20LWDW.pdf?1748489926
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

Submission on: Local Water Done Well

The question is, which option serves the Stratford District best now and into the future?

Factors to consider:

- Debt
Amalgamation means Stratford effectively takes on some of the debt from the other two councils. Although the debt is assumed by the regional WSCCO, the councils are ultimately responsible. Moreover, the cost of servicing the debt will fall on consumers. The possibility of large quantities of extra debt being assumed by the WSCCO is of concern. Since Stratford's current water-derived debt is quite low, there seems to be no reason to assume more as long as required standards are maintained.
- Proposed structure
Setting up a new organisation inevitably results in extra layers of bureaucracy which have to be paid for.
- Possibility of sale
Although the current legislation precludes sale of any WSCCO, that can be changed on the whim of any future government. International experience of privatisation of water services has generally been negative with spiralling prices, poor standards of maintenance and low investment. If a situation arises where debt becomes out of control and costs fall on ratepayers, there will be pressure to sell. As with electricity, privatisation would result in an increase in fixed charges, reducing the incentive to conserve water.
- Supply, quantity
With the growth of Stratford, sufficient supply may become an issue. Currently the "crunch month" is February. It is of concern the Council does not consider taking climate change into account as important. With earlier snow melt, supply issues are likely to extend back well into January. This could be addressed by taking additional water from either the Waingongoro or Mangonui, assuming low flows can be maintained under drought conditions. The Council is assuming the installation of meters will reduce demand, perhaps by 15% – let's hope this is not over-optimistic but should it prove to be, we need a backup strategy.
- Supply, quality
Water treatment is a significant cost and chlorine content at the consumer end is sometimes objectionable. Quality at the intake is likely affected by sediment and bacteria originating from farms in the catchment upstream of the intake. Those farms need to be encouraged to extend planting the riparian zone and improve fertiliser strategy.
- Upgrade of sewage treatment plant
This will require significant investment and needs to be planned for. Although this would be a strong argument for joining a regional WSCCO, setting aside a fund with annual contributions may be a better option than debt.

- Institutional memory
Outside contractors with little detailed knowledge of what runs where may be an inefficient option for maintaining the network. The costs, once again are borne by consumers.
- Household tanks
This is regarded by some as a way of further shifting costs onto householders. However, they may make sense in some circumstances. Council should look at how they may be encouraged. Note that in the urban area, winter air pollution would make tank water unsuitable for human consumption. Such water would be for secondary purposes only.

In summary, there seems to be **little evidence** joining a regional WSCCO would be to Stratford's advantage.

Also, **there is no urgency to make a decision**. Stratford could join at any time in the future if strong evidence appears. Additionally, coordination between councils is not precluded if SDC continues its in-house service. However, once a decision to join is taken, there is no going back if it proves to be an inefficient option. Thus "wait and see" is likely to be the best strategy for the Council to adopt under the circumstances.

Alan Thatcher
29 May 2025

73**Respondent No:** 73**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 16:03:15 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 16:03:15 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Colleen Bolger
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/dd2c7b4ce97ed846092273dd7f362326aa916dc5/original/1748491289/c296add86d0caee3158725abd6157d1b_Local%20Water%20Done%20Well%20Submission.docx?1748491289
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	Female
Q13. Ethnicity	NZ European
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media Antenno App

Local Water Done Well Submission

I support the in house option for providing Stratford with water delivery services because:

1. Although it is stated that the proposed model cannot be privatised, there is no guarantee that this will not happen. This legislation can be changed at the drop of a hat as has been evidenced by recent law changes under urgency, with no consultation, in Parliament over the recent weeks.
2. This is just another step to amalgamation and will leave Stratford vulnerable. We have all seen what has happened to Eltham.
3. As stated on page 11 no council will have a majority vote. It is interesting to see that Stratford will have the least number of seats on the Joint Committee. I do not see how this could benefit Stratford in any way.
4. The impact on rates shown for each option does not show any significant savings by going with the proposed option.
5. Stratford District Council, in my opinion, has done a good job to this point. Why change, especially when it will be difficult to return to in house services in future.

Thank you for your time in assessing this submission

74

**Respondent No:** 74**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 17:28:16 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 17:28:16 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Greig Gibbons
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
Needs to stay local
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
not answered
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** Yes
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** not answered
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Social Media

75**Respondent No:** 75**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 19:27:55 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 19:27:55 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Krystal Sutton
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Future Grafix Limited
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

76**Respondent No:** 76**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 19:34:01 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 19:34:01 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Clayton
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep it local. No need to go elsewhere.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	████
Q12. Gender	████
Q13. Ethnicity	██████████
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

77**Respondent No:** 77**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 20:07:34 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 20:07:34 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Kathleen Isabella Moir
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

78**Respondent No:** 78**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 20:10:12 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 20:10:12 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Bruce Norman Moir
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

79**Respondent No:** 79**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 21:37:58 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 21:37:58 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Helen Brechin
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Social Media Antenno App

80

**Respondent No:** 80**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:15:27 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:15:27 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Brendon Berg
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I think it sounds like signing up to pay a lot of the other areas existing and future debts off, pooling resources sounds nice but will we ever run a water line from north to south to make it actually helpful in an emergency? Also sounds like paying travel for someone to travel from NP every time there's a leak. taking the decision making away from the council/people never sounds good. The ability to sign up for copious amounts of debt also sounds dangerous for the future. Keep the control, the jobs and the money all in the hands of the people that it affects.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	I think if we have to have the stormwater "department" anyway surely it's just as beneficial to have the same people already involved/employed do the same work locally for both waste and clean water?
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

81**Respondent No:** 81**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:22:52 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:22:52 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Trevor Tunncliff
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep it in Stratford
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

**Respondent No:** 82**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:24:41 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:24:41 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Olwyn Duthie
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	KASO Partnership
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	We need to do our water well and not have to help sort out the other councils issues. Stratford systems need to stay local and the money we have already invested we need to keep to ourselves. We are capable of looking after ourselves.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	We need to keep the stormwater as a local project too. The roading and footpaths are all linked to the underground pipes for stormwater so it makes sense to keep it local. So excluded from regional.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	No
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Meeting Other (please specify) I own property in Stratford District.

83

**Respondent No:** 83**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:26:38 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:26:38 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Steven Needham
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

84

**Respondent No:** 84**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:29:12 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:29:12 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Maureen Jean Tunnicliff
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

85**Respondent No:** 85**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 22:40:55 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:40:55 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	MR D J MIDGLEY
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

86

**Respondent No:** 86**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 29, 2025 23:41:18 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 23:41:18 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Ashleigh Goble
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	We are fine the way things are. If you go a head with joining New Plymouth in anyway they will use that to get everything their way and expect everyone to pay for everything just like making us pay for Yarrow stadium! It's all bullshit
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Leave it the way it is! I rather pay extra in my rates then be attached to new plymouth in anyway! If anything we should join hawera and leave New Plymouth to struggle with their own debts instead of making us pay for them
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

87**Respondent No:** 87**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 00:48:58 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 00:48:58 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Tamarin Lowe
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I believe it would be in Stratford's best interest by keeping the water services in-house.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

88**Respondent No:** 88**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 02:25:34 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 02:25:34 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jessie-lee Boylan
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I don't have any
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	No
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

89

**Respondent No:** 89**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 05:35:18 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 05:35:18 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Amanda Patu
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

90

**Respondent No:** 90**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 08:08:36 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 08:08:36 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Elaine Forbes
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

91**Respondent No:** 91**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 09:32:18 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 09:32:18 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jacquelyn Black
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	It makes sense for our our councils to work together , not only for water, but we could also look at other things like roading to try to help control the unaffordable rates increases we are seeing . We dont have enough rate payers in Stratford to meet some of the scary projected future costs on our own and we dont want to scare new people from moving here because of our rates
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	I dont understand why this wasnt included , it makes sense for all water matters to be together
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Someone commented on Facebook Stratford page

92**Respondent No:** 92**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 09:46:04 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 09:46:04 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Dianna Smith
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media Antenno App

93**Respondent No:** 93**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 10:06:38 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 10:06:38 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Trinna George
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	If we were to team up, it is most likely that our rates would be going up
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

94**Respondent No:** 94**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 10:53:08 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 10:53:08 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Herbert van Veen
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website

95**Respondent No:** 95**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 10:56:23 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 10:56:23 am**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Heidi Jolanda van Veen
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
not answered
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
not answered
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** [REDACTED]
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Website

96

**Respondent No:** 96**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 11:11:42 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 11:11:42 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	anne harvey
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I don't want to pick up other area debt, and stratford has done water well on its own. I trust the decision making of the inhouse council team over beurocracts from New Plymouth
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	it makes no sense to have split the water things, it should be all or nothing, and I think nothing. Stay local
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	██████
Q13. Ethnicity	██████████
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

97

**Respondent No:** 97**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 11:48:06 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 11:48:06 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Duncan Rushton Menzies
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	The Council has done a good job to date, and the only thing guaranteed is we will need more water in the future. Supporting option B is the only chance of Stratford having the flexibility to move forward with the times.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	Yes
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

98

**Respondent No:** 98**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 11:53:21 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 11:53:21 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Kathryn Roberts
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Email Website

99

**Respondent No:** 99**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 11:54:53 am**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 11:54:53 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Matthew Roberts
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Email Website

100**Respondent No:** 100**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:05:17 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:05:17 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Danny McSweeney
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Stratford Mowers & Chainsaws
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

101**Respondent No:** 101**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:06:20 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:06:20 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Kelly Anne Morresey
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

102**Respondent No:** 102**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:06:58 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:06:58 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Dannielle Johnston
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

103**Respondent No:** 103**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:17:04 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:17:04 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	steph wright
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	We need to keep this in house with Stratford. Stratford community don't want to have our money spent on New Plymouth or help them with any debt. this will put Stratford into a situation where our money is spent in the bigger populated areas. while our needs aren't seen. New plymouth council are terrible at spending money
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	storm water should also stay with our council. if contracted out to someone. we should be able to access the quotes the council got to get the cheapest contractor.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media Other (please specify) people in town

104**Respondent No:** 104**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:24:31 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:24:31 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Michaela Sheee
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	"As a Stratford resident, I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Water Done Well proposal. I am currently leaning towards Stratford remaining independent in water service delivery. While I understand the financial and operational benefits of joining with New Plymouth and South Taranaki, I'm concerned that Stratford's smaller size might mean our specific needs are overlooked. Local control is important to me, and I want to ensure that decisions about our water infrastructure reflect the unique priorities of our community. That said, I recognise the funding and expertise challenges of going it alone, and would support further exploration of safeguards or guarantees if we were to combine—such as fair cost-sharing and equal representation in governance."
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

105**Respondent No:** 105**Login:** Stratford District Youth
Council**Email:** youthcouncil@stratford.govt
.nz**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:26:47 pm**Last Seen:** May 29, 2025 22:48:08 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Full name	Tatjana Hanne
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Stratford District Youth Council
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/b16216023079bcc1fba85f4791d2c5536d7498fd/original/1748559376/069165a01e0c32a4d794cbf247cc5c96_3%20Waters%20submission.docx?1748559376
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	Yes
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Stratford District Youth Council Meeting alongside word of mouth.

The Stratford District Youth Council appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing discussion regarding the future of water services in our region.

After reviewing the options presented, we support keeping water management in house, which keeps management of local water services within the Stratford District Council.

There are several key reasons why we believe that keeping water services run by council is the most appropriate and sustainable choice for our community. First and foremost, it is the most cost-efficient option in the short term. Large regional projects often require significant upfront investment and can introduce layers of complexity that make service delivery more difficult. We are concerned that a regionalised approach could lead to unnecessary complications and administrative burdens, especially when trying to harmonise the operations of areas with differing priorities.

We are mindful of the potential challenges that could emerge from requiring multiple councils to work closely together on a service as vital and complex as water management. While we understand that the council website does state that under a regional model that the larger council will not have a larger say in things as a smaller district, Stratford does face the risk of being overshadowed in regional decision-making processes as they provide water to less people, as can be expected in a smaller community. This could result in reduced influence over how services are delivered locally and lead to decisions that may not fully align with our community's specific needs and values.

We would like to highlight a significant concern regarding the proposed restructuring of water services. Based on current figures, the Stratford District Council has the lowest level of debt related to water. This means that Stratford residents, who have historically managed their water services with financial responsibility, could be unfairly burdened with helping to pay off water related debts incurred by other councils in Taranaki. This raises questions of fairness and equity. Ratepayers in Stratford have not contributed to the higher levels of borrowing seen in neighbouring districts, yet under the proposed reform, they may be expected to contribute to paying off that debt. It is important that it is clear what would be expected of Stratford ratepayers.

Below is the table on the website <https://www.yoursay.stratford.govt.nz/>.

	Total Debt	Two Waters Debt	Water Debt as a % of Total Debt
SDC	\$42 million	\$10 million	24%
STDC	\$181 million	\$92 million	51%
NPDC	\$194 million	\$194 million	43%

Numbers based on each council's Long-Term Plan, as of 30 June 2025 (rounded).

Keeping water services in house ensures that decisions are made by those who are directly accountable to Stratford residents. This fosters more area specific and responsive service delivery, with clear paths of responsibility. It also strengthens the relationship between the council and the community, as residents have more immediate and accessible avenues to voice concerns or offer ideas and input.

Another significant benefit of keeping local management of water is the preservation of local expertise. Stratford has a strong history of successfully managing its own water infrastructure. Over time, we have built up valuable institutional knowledge and technical experience. By continuing to manage our water services internally, we safeguard this expertise and ensure continuity in service delivery.

From a long-term perspective, keeping water management local could also be cost-effective, as long as we make the necessary investments to keep our pipelines, systems, and infrastructure up to date. Proactive maintenance and strategic upgrades will be crucial to sustaining reliable service and avoiding the hidden costs that often accompany deferred maintenance.

We were unable to find information of how jobs would be impacted by any decision made but would like to share our concerns around potential job losses that could occur under a regional model. Transitioning to a shared service model might centralise operations and displace local workers especially those in higher level jobs, which would have a direct impact on our community. Retaining control of services locally not only protects employment opportunities but also helps maintain strong community ties and a sense of ownership over essential public services.

Finally, we believe that Stratford should be focusing its energy and resources on addressing more pressing local issues. By maintaining control over water services, the Council can prioritise the immediate needs of our district, such as the current conversation around the future of Prospero Place and ways to keep our community growing and thriving, rather than diverting attention to large scale systematic changes that may not deliver clear benefits to our community.

In conclusion, we believe that keeping water management in house offers the best balance of financial responsibility, operational effectiveness, and democratic accountability. It allows Stratford to remain community focused and self-reliant in the management of water services. For these reasons, the Stratford District Youth Council encourages the Council to adopt and implement Option B.

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to the Stratford community and for taking our submission into account.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tatjana Hanne

Co-Chairperson

On behalf of the Stratford District Youth Council

106**Respondent No:** 106**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:34:34 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:34:34 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Bruce jamieson |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | not answered |
| Q5. Postal address | not answered |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | [REDACTED] |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Social Media |

107**Respondent No:** 107**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:41:05 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:41:05 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Karen bromwich
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website Social Media

108**Respondent No:** 108**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:50:26 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:50:26 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Fiona Kaye Hinton
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	It's much better for Stratford to remain independent.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

109**Respondent No:** 109**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 12:55:47 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 12:55:47 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Craig Lewis Hinton
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Stratford needs to be in charge of its own infrastructure and be able to make their own decisions locally to benefit Stratford and its residents.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) My wife.

110**Respondent No:** 110**Login:** SB**Email:** sheilaboyesnzs@gmail.com**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 13:04:26 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 00:52:28 am**IP Address:** 10.174.0.60

Q1. Full name	Sheila Boyes
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I think it all comes down to cost. Keeping Stratford water in-house, where expenditure should be more accountable is my preference. Bigger organisations always require more bureaucracy with fatter salaries for more chiefs. They are also more distant and therefore less accountable to the clients..
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	I don't agree with the regional model, so therefore not relevant.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

111

Respondent No: 111
Login: Beryl
Email: rbgibson@xtra.co.nz

Responded At: May 30, 2025 13:14:41 pm
Last Seen: May 30, 2025 01:08:23 am
IP Address: 10.174.0.60

Q1. Full name	Beryl Gibson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	We have very good drinking water here and I would not want any change es there.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Must be dealt with
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Meeting

112**Respondent No:** 112**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 14:32:52 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 14:32:52 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Maree Dawson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	1. Document states that SDC has no renewal backlog so why be part of areas that do: SDC has done well and therefore why should we "cross-subsidise" the other councils. We currently must have appropriate and professional staff managing water and waste already. 2. The cost of an salaries for additional 3 tier of staff, that includes professional directors on the Board, Joint committee and Management Team which will put additional financial pressures when we currently appear to have the resources locally. 3. The Board has all the operational and investment decision making and not the elected members of Council who know and understand local conditions and requirements. 4. I do not believe that the response to emergencies will be any speedier than current, as likely to be a contractor from different area that hasn't any local knowledge. 5. Joint committee: no area is meant to have a majority vote however is states on document that the compositions is: lwi 3, STDC 3 , SDC 2, NPDC 4 6. As currently demonstrated with health the removal of local decision making and knowledge in the creation of bigger multi-tier organisations do not take into consideration the unique community that it services and becomes increasingly costly . #Whanganui Council, following new information from Government are no looking at a joint council proposal which could include a non-harmonised model, ring fencing costs for each council but giving the benefits of scale - otherwise known as local pricing. Under local pricing residents within the district would be charged on the same basis as currently, but any savings shared. They only pay costs that relate only to delivery of services in their district. #Whanganui Chronicle 26th May
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]

Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper
	Meeting
	Antenno App

113**Respondent No:** 113**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 14:46:11 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 14:46:11 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Roxanne Campbell
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

114**Respondent No:** 114**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:07:28 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:07:28 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Marcus Hancock
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	None Have houses put in there own tanks and collect rain water. This way no current system needs upgrading
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

115**Respondent No:** 115**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:13:37 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:13:37 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	David Taylor
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	
	In my opinion Stratford council has already spent money on updating our water supply. Therefore would prefer the council manage the supply themselves.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	
	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Website Other (please specify) Neighbour

116**Respondent No:** 116**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:28:07 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:28:07 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Josef Johannes Stephanes Koegelenberg
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q5. **Postal address** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
We do not need the debit from NPDC to push our rates and taxes up even more !
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
Exclude !!
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** [REDACTED]
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Social Media

117**Respondent No:** 117**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:33:41 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:33:41 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Dean alexander
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

118**Respondent No:** 118**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:36:08 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:36:08 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Desiree Alexander |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | [REDACTED] |
| Q5. Postal address | [REDACTED] |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | not answered |
| Q13. Ethnicity | not answered |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | not answered |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | not answered |

119**Respondent No:** 119**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 15:53:13 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 15:53:13 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Full name** Donna Sayers
-
- Q2. **Organisation (if completing on behalf of)** not answered
-
- Q3. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **Phone number** not answered
- Q5. **Postal address** not answered
- Q6. **Which option would you prefer?** I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
- Q7. **Please provide any comments on your option choice here:**
not answered
- Q8. **Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?**
not answered
- Q9. **Upload your submission here (if required)** not answered
- Q10. **Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?** No
- Q11. **Which year were you born in?** [REDACTED]
- Q12. **Gender** [REDACTED]
- Q13. **Ethnicity** [REDACTED]
- Q14. **Do you live in the Stratford district?** Yes
- Q15. **How did you hear about this consultation?** Social Media
Antenno App

120**Respondent No:** 120**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:04:25 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:04:25 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Josh Best
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Joining in the crazy debt from STDC & NPDC not a great idea at all
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Antenno App

121**Respondent No:** 121**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:11:33 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:11:33 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Peter Hugh Langdon Doyle
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	not answered
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I am not happy with us being involved with the much higher debt of the other councils, and I feel that to date our council has done a good job of maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure to a good standard, while keeping costs and debt well under control. Although there are some high costs coming up in the future, I feel that with this attitude to the work involved, the future will be well managed. I don't have the same confidence in the other councils being as careful and efficient as ours here in Stratford.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Website

122**Respondent No:** 122**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:22:09 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:22:09 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Nicola Childs
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Stratford Council has put in a new water line just 2 years ago to the town which is very good. I think if we went with NP , they would gain at the cost of Stratford.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Each Council to look after there own.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Website

123**Respondent No:** 123**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:22:50 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:22:50 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Kelly McNabb
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

124**Respondent No:** 124**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:26:45 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:26:45 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Noel Caskey
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Caskey Farms
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I strongly recommend linking with other Taranaki Councils in a multi controlled organisation.. Well run, the strength of a Taranaki wide organisation, gives the rate payer the best bang for his buck in my opinion.. We can not afford, to be doubling up on all the key roles, in a province as small as Taranaki. United we stand. Divided we fall.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Yes include in the above the same logic applies.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	Yes
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

125**Respondent No:** 125**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:27:17 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:27:17 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Hollie Sarten
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Best to keep it local! I believe our local Stratford District Council will do a better job of this as they know the area and people, I feel our voice will be more heard if there were any issues.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	As above
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

126**Respondent No:** 126**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:41:13 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:41:13 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jason Scown
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	Milkmatters Ltd
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a Taranaki multi-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	economies of scale and ability to attract and retain high quality staff
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media Antenno App

127**Respondent No:** 127**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:49:17 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:49:17 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Aaron McNab
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

128**Respondent No:** 128**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:52:10 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:52:10 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Beverly sargenson
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	not answered
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	not answered

129**Respondent No:** 129**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:54:02 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:54:02 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|---|---|
| Q1. Full name | Rob maindonald |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | [REDACTED] |
| Q5. Postal address | [REDACTED] |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | not answered |
| Q12. Gender | not answered |
| Q13. Ethnicity | not answered |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | not answered |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | not answered |

130**Respondent No:** 130**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:55:59 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:55:59 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Erin MacDonald
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep autonomy and keep Stratford Rates for Stratford resources
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	Keep stormwater local.
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

131**Respondent No:** 131**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:58:06 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:58:06 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Jesse ross mackie langton
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Social Media

132**Respondent No:** 132**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 16:58:58 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 16:58:58 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Barry Joseph Kowalewski
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Bigger is not better
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

133**Respondent No:** 133**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 17:03:40 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 17:03:40 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Lina kowalewski
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	not answered
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	not answered
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	Keep it local
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	not answered
Q12. Gender	not answered
Q13. Ethnicity	not answered
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

134**Respondent No:** 134**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 17:44:34 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 17:44:34 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Robin Hodge
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	I think Option B should be the preferred option. A multi-controlled organisation with two other councils in my opinion is a recipe for disaster. We have the resources in our own area and if we stand alone we know exactly where we are. I feel that we will inherit significant costs from New Plymouth and South Taranaki that we will have to pay for in one way or another in the future.
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper Antenno App

135**Respondent No:** 135**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 17:47:10 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 17:47:10 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | Bradley John webb |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | ██████████ |
| Q4. Phone number | ██████████ |
| Q5. Postal address | ██████████████████ |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | |
| | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | |
| | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | ████ |
| Q12. Gender | ████ |
| Q13. Ethnicity | ██████████ |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Social Media |

136**Respondent No:** 136**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 20:45:22 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 20:45:22 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Rowan Carlin Jones
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Newspaper

137**Respondent No:** 137**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 20:46:21 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 20:46:21 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Full name	Nicole Jones
Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q6. Which option would you prefer?	I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.
Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here:	not answered
Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?	not answered
Q9. Upload your submission here (if required)	not answered
Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing?	No
Q11. Which year were you born in?	[REDACTED]
Q12. Gender	[REDACTED]
Q13. Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district?	Yes
Q15. How did you hear about this consultation?	Other (please specify) Eltham counsellor

138**Respondent No:** 138**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 21:22:13 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 21:22:13 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Q1. Full name | Matthew Turner |
| <hr/> | |
| Q2. Organisation (if completing on behalf of) | not answered |
| <hr/> | |
| Q3. Email | [REDACTED] |
| Q4. Phone number | [REDACTED] |
| Q5. Postal address | [REDACTED] |
| Q6. Which option would you prefer? | I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit. |
| Q7. Please provide any comments on your option choice here: | |
| | not answered |
| Q8. Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model? | |
| | not answered |
| Q9. Upload your submission here (if required) | not answered |
| Q10. Would you like to speak to your submission at the hearing? | No |
| Q11. Which year were you born in? | [REDACTED] |
| Q12. Gender | [REDACTED] |
| Q13. Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Q14. Do you live in the Stratford district? | Yes |
| Q15. How did you hear about this consultation? | Social Media |

139

Erin Bishop

From: Craig Burrows <[REDACTED]> z>
Sent: Monday, 5 May 2025 1:40 PM
To: Stratford Submissions
Subject: LWDW Submission
Attachments: Comment on Local Water Done Well pdf.pdf; why-do-we-believe-in-economy-of-scale.pdf; Pervasive myth of centralisation unravels in NZ The New Zealand Initiative.html

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

In my opinion Option B would be best for our community going forward.
Please see supporting documentation attached.

Kind Regards



Craig Burrows

Director

DairyMaster Milking Systems NZ Ltd

✉ [REDACTED]
☎ [REDACTED]
📍 76 [REDACTED]
🌐 dairymaster.com

Milking Equipment - Feeding & Silo's - Water Pumping - Water Filtration - Effluent - Refrigeration



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Dairymaster Milking Systems NZ Ltd

76 Juliet Street, Stratford
Phone: (06) 765 6075
Fax: (06) 765 6074
info@dairymaster.co.nz
www.dairymaster.com

05/25

Thoughts on Local Water Done Well:

Firstly a major influence on this decision should be that the long term plan and costing projections not only show we can afford to manage our own water services (Neil Volzke Page 4) including the upgrades needed over time but that the projection for increased cost to rate payers is negligible (Page 17).

Secondly the single reason for choosing the centralisation model is summed up by Neil on page 4 as “we think working together offers real opportunities to improve efficiency and future-proof our services.” This is a dangerous premise based on hope. In fact there is data to say Economies of Scale are unlikely to eventuate by Professor John Seddon et al. attached. Furthermore there is real evidence that this centralization model has failed at great cost, which we can’t afford, as per the attached article by Dr Hartwich.

Once you understand that costing is not a factor and centralization is not a given to succeed, it’s hard to argue against Option B below.

- No change, Council will continue to own all infrastructure assets.
- The Council sets overall direction and priorities.
- A water services strategy is developed by Council outlining the priorities for service delivery and future investment. The business unit manages the delivery of services.
- The business unit reports to council just like now.
- Delivery is accountable to the public through usual democratic processes; community, consultation, and feedback on Council planning documents.
- Funding for water remains part of overall Council revenue and debt, but fully separated (ringfenced) from all other Council work. Water charges are paid to council.
- Fee’s charges and water tariffs will be set by Council for the Stratford District only. These are likely to be different from what is set by neighbouring councils or council-controlled organisations.

This sounds like a great opportunity for our community and Council!

We should embrace the opportunity to show the respect and confidence our Council deserves in managing finance, policy, direction and engineering prowess in various forms for the last 135 years. This is an opportunity to grow our council and control our own destiny, increase our council skill base, empower the businesses with the relevant skills in technology, engineering, civil, electrical etc....within our community.

I’m very concerned that we would be the small cog in a big wheel and that big wheel would gather a lot of mud.

Craig Burrows, Director, Dairymaster Milking Systems NZ Ltd.

Why do we believe in economy of scale?

Professor John Seddon, managing director Vanguard.

July 2010

‘Scale economy... is a concept that should be discarded.’

H Thomas Johnson, Professor of Accounting, Portland State University

I was motivated to write this by a recent experience. I bombed at a presentation to a group of county council chief executives. It was just before the election. I had started by remarking on my disappointment at the Conservative Party’s hiring of the people behind New Labour’s public-sector factories; Sir Peter Gershon and Martin Read were now telling them that billions could be saved by sharing services across Whitehall. I asked the chief executives to help me by explaining why it is that we believe in economies of scale. After some poor shots at responding, I realised that they did not know. I made the mistake of describing this as ‘pathetic’. An error, I know, but that is how I felt. These highly paid executives are spending large amounts of money on creating huge public-sector service factories without any conscious rationale for doing so. Lacking knowledge of the arguments for economies of scale, they just assume the theory has some basis in fact.

As they didn’t know, it is reasonable to assume that the people in central government, whose bidding the chief executives were doing, wouldn’t know either. So for everyone who doesn’t know, this is a guide to why we believe in economies of scale and why we shouldn’t.

Adam Smith

On the back of a twenty-pound note there is a picture of Adam Smith and the words:

‘The division of labour in pin manufacturing: (and the great increase in the quantity of work that results)’

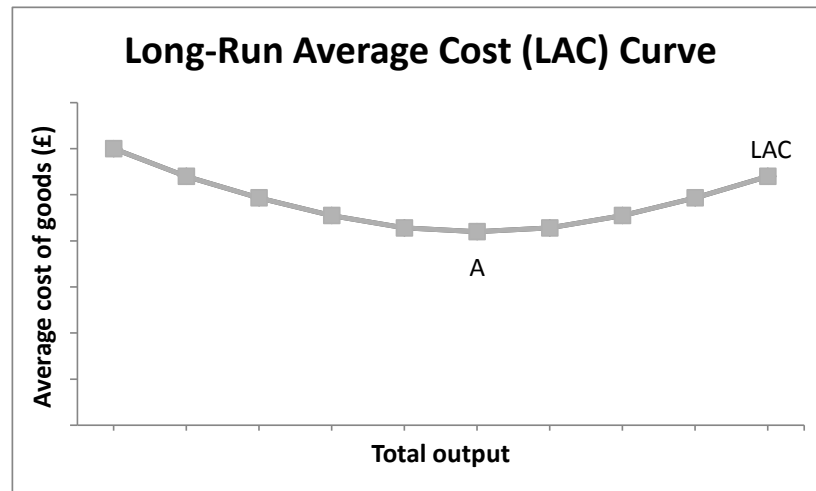
This much many people know. But before we leap to the conclusion that the division of labour is universally valuable and economic, let’s take a broader look back. Adam Smith was a moral philosopher and recognised as the father of modern economics. We need to explore the way economists have thought about economy of scale, for the idea has had such a strong influence on politicians and managers alike.

Judging from the economics literature, the arguments for economy of scale are a mix of a) the plausibly obvious and b) a little hard data, brought together to produce two broad assertions, for which there is little hard factual evidence.

a) The plausibly obvious

To run a business you need a phone. You may grow your business while you only have the one phone, so your (phone) overheads fall as a proportion of your revenue. It is generally true that, for the same inputs (people, machines, lights, phones), you will be able to get more output up to a point where you have to add more of some input. Economists turn this obvious truth into a theory that can be illustrated with a graph: the long-run average cost curve.

Let's look at the long-run average cost curve.



The graph describes the relationship between unit cost and the volume of output for a firm. The economists tell us that as we move from the far left towards the point 'A' we are experiencing economies of scale. At point 'A', where the curve is at its lowest, we are making the most of the resources at hand and performance is optimal. Think, for example, of centralising telephone calls in a service organisation. We will be able to pick up more calls, because we have more available resource (people ready to take calls). Compared with more, smaller, units, a centralised, larger-scale service might need fewer managers and might take advantage of only one telephony system and one building. So the unit cost per call falls. This is an argument for sharing services.

If we keep moving to the right from the point 'A', we start to experience diseconomies of scale. Economists talk of rising costs as organisations become more complex, bureaucratic and so on; in extraction industries they point to the higher costs of exploiting more-difficult-to-get-to resources. Again, obvious truths, and we might think of a parallel in the public sector, where the cost of the thousands of specifiers, inspectors and 'improvement' agencies that supposedly 'drove' public-sector reform under the last government, was not only a cost in itself, but created greater costs through the public sector's compliance with ill-judged ideas.

But is there proof for the LAC theory? While it isn't difficult to find anecdotal evidence to support the idea, there are no empirical studies showing it has predictive capability. It is an

idea: a reasonable idea, even a plausible one, but it is not knowledge. You cannot use it to predict where you will be on the curve or to know whether you are moving towards or away from optimisation. As a theory for practicing managers, it is about as useful as a chocolate fireguard.

Building on the theory of the long-run average cost curve, economists argue there are three reasons for economies of scale:

Indivisibilities This is the phone argument above. You need to have inputs to create your outputs and as you can't have half a phone or half a manager, some costs are 'indivisible'. Although this is obvious, its relevance will vary enormously between organisations. It does raise practical questions but it cannot be used in any predictive way by managers. It may explain phenomena, but it is not a theory: it is not based on knowledge. It is no more than an observation.

The observation will enable managers to speculate about the relationship between costs (inputs) and ends (outputs), but this will not be the same as having knowledge of the means. And only knowledge of the means will lead to sustainable improvement.

Machinery Large scale is presumed to be necessary to take advantage of investment in large machines. In manufacturing the justification for larger machinery is lower unit costs as bigger machines can turn out more things faster. In service organisations, large scale is thought to be necessary to take advantage of investment in computers as the means for the control and management of the work. The argument is that the investment in telephony and information technology systems necessitates larger scale – doing more work – to reap the benefit.

While economy through investment in larger machinery might be plausibly obvious, I will show later that it is not universally true. To put it another way: low *total* costs are not necessarily achievable through low unit costs; in fact, as we shall see, they are perfectly compatible with relatively high costs per unit.

Specialisation This is the Adam Smith pins argument: greater productivity results from breaking tasks down into their parts. This is something that is proven, so we have to ask about its generalisability – will it always be true? It is specialisation that has provided us with the little hard data.

b) A little hard data

Adam Smith's results cannot be argued with. Nor can those of Henry Ford. On the Model T production line in the early 20th century, specialisation of tasks led to great leaps in productivity (although in any full accounting part of the gain would be offset by the enormous human cost). For Ford, specialisation was coupled with standardisation. The parts on Model Ts are universal; any part from any year fits any other. This was standardisation at its zenith and to this day it is of enormous value to people who restore Model Ts. But this is hardly the hallmark of modern-day manufacturing.

And that is about the sum of the arguments for economies of scale. Despite the evidence being limited, it is a mainstream idea that is treated as an axiom by renowned management experts like Michael Porter, who claimed:

‘Scale economies can be present in nearly every function of a business, including manufacturing, purchasing, research and development, marketing, service network, sales force utilization, and distribution.’¹

Like the economists, Porter provides no evidence. In one sense he is saying that anything can be improved and that is true, but he equates improvement with scale, and to be sure about that we need evidence.

So to summarise, the arguments for economies of scale boil down to two broad assertions: the organisation design argument and the savings argument.

1. The organisation design argument: specialisation and standardisation will lead to lower costs and greater productivity
2. The savings argument: cost savings will be made through common IT systems, less buildings and fewer managers.

Both arguments are concerned with the management of costs. Indeed, everything we have discussed thus far has been concerned with costs. It seems that managing costs has become managers’ de-facto purpose. But should that really be their only or even number one concern?

Industrialisation of the public sector

Because this is the route that most mass production followed, does it follow that public services should be specialised, standardised and centralised – so that they can become industrialised in the same way? Should we treat a requirement from a customer as something to be dissected into parts and ‘reassembled’? For this is exactly what service factories do. They take a requirement, break it into its constituent parts and send the parts to specialised workers who are expected to complete them in ‘standard’ times. The workers are measured as production resources, monitored and managed with activity targets (so many units per hour or day), service standards (how quickly something is done) and standard times (the time given to do it).

To manage these systems, organisations need layers of management above the work whose purposes are to plan, monitor and report on the use of resources and the achievement of the measures-in-use. Management is primarily concerned with managing activity in the assumption that activity represents cost. But managing costs causes costs – it is the Achilles heel in the argument for economies of scale.

Managing costs causes costs

¹ Michael E. Porter, (1980) ‘Competitive Strategy’ Simon and Schuster: New York p7

Before we explore how managing costs causes costs in service organisations, we need to consider an important advance in manufacturing, where this counterintuitive truth was first discovered.

Taiichi Ohno was the man who developed the Toyota Production System: a system designed to make vehicles not at the rate the machines demanded in order to achieve economies of scale, but at the rate of customer demand. He took Ford's ideas a massive leap further. While Ford was concerned with *unit* cost, Ohno concentrated on *total* cost. He took the view that cost was in flow – how smoothly and economically the parts were brought together in the final assembly – not just the aggregation of unit costs. How long the part is in the system is also part of its real cost. So Ohno's factory had parts delivered to the manufacturing line at the rate the line required them – 'pulled' in his language (by *kanban* or 'just-in-time').

While 'scale' manufacturing plants are usually replete with stock – inventory at steps throughout the manufacturing process and finished goods at the end, created because managers focus on running machines, keeping them busy, to achieve low unit costs – Ohno *minimised* stock throughout the process, his ideal batch size being one. Whereas most manufacturers still focus on unit costs (and employ accountants for whom it is central to their doctrine: for example, inventory counts as 'value' on the balance sheet), Ohno focused on the flow of the work, confident that better flow would lead to lower overall costs. And so it did. His system would tolerate higher unit costs; it was not dependent on low costs per unit. What was critical was the availability of the part, not the cost – an affront to convention. Ohno was the first to demonstrate that greater economy comes from flow rather than scale.

His second and more profound challenge to convention was to put variety into the line, making different models in the same production line. A corollary of economies of scale is that a system must be large and standardised to deliver high volume, and thus low cost; but by definition it can't deliver variety at the same time. Variety = low volumes = high cost. The Toyota System disproved this axiom and broke new ground. It showed that it is possible to manufacture small volumes in high varieties at lower costs. It was Toyota's ability to achieve high variety, high quality and low cost at the same time that caused Tom Johnson to propose that the concept of economies of scale had outlived its usefulness and should be abandoned.

It is because he was developing a manufacturing system to produce a variety of vehicles at the rate of customer demand (get the order, make the car) that Ohno employed the Japanese term '*muda*' to describe the types of waste that he could see in the Toyota factories. His insight was that anything not connected to the 'pull' of the customer added cost. Excess inventory would slow the whole system down and inhibit the ability to produce variety at the rate of demand. It would also result in cars being produced that did not correspond to customer demand and whose price would have to be cut in order to shift them – more *muda*. Managers of conventional mass-production organisations might consider it kamikaze manufacturing: what if the necessary part was not available? But Ohno knew relentless attention to flow would make sure that it was. And putting the workers in control of the line – they could stop it any time they saw a defect – would ensure flow was treated as paramount.

Perhaps more has been written about Toyota than any other manufacturer in history, with the possible exception of Ford's first assembly line. Yet despite its fame among manufacturers (and leaving aside the recent fall from grace, which by Toyota's own admission was due to moving away from these principles), the Toyota System has had no influence on mainstream economic thinking.

The secret of Ohno's method was studying the work, as a system. His favourite word was 'understanding'. He would turn in his grave if he knew that his system was being sold to managers as a set of 'lean' tools; he taught managers to find out what their real problems were, as they were often different from the ones they thought they had. The tools developed in the Toyota System were developed to solve the problems associated with designing a system to produce cars at the rate of demand. In service organisations we have different problems to solve.

Economy of scale in service organisations

So let us now turn to what the drive to create economies of scale has meant in practice in the public sector. What actions have managers of service organisations taken in pursuit of scale economies and do they deliver better economic results? As we do that I shall make observations on what is learned when we study what actually happens in the work, as opposed to economic theory.

Centralising call-handling

The first action taken by service managers is to centralise call-handling. They do this in pursuit of the obvious truth that bringing together work currently carried out over a number of units with small groups of people will allow them to take more calls and make better use of resources (agents will take more calls in any working period). As we have already noted, a single large unit may economise on managers and equipment – a single telephony system, for instance. It also promises to provide a better service, particularly if we think of service as measured by 'service level' – how quickly we pick up the phone. But, of course, picking up the phone tells us nothing about the service a customer receives. We will come back to that.

Centralised call-handling was enabled by the invention of the bedrock of call-centre telephony: the automatic call-distribution system. However, today's technology enables the same feature – distribution of calls – to be applied across sites. Which brings us back to the long-run-average cost discussion: physically centralising calls is not necessarily a 'no-brainer' – the same can be achieved virtually – other factors may also have a bearing on the right answer for any particular circumstance.

Moving more work on to phones

Moving work on to phones is the second and distinctively different idea favoured by scale thinkers. Telephone interaction costs less than face-to-face service. Is this an obvious truth or potentially misleading? It is certainly plausible. It is a distinctively different idea because it makes the assumption that the work that was done face-to-face can be done on the phone. But it can create problems, as I illustrate by example.

The movement of ‘telephone work’ to call centres from bank branches in the 1980s caused an explosion in the volumes of demand – many more phone calls. So the banks built more call centres. Why? It was the result of an egregious error made by most service organisations in the private sector (which doesn’t like talking about mistakes). Designating some elements of service as ‘telephone work’ failed to take into account the relationship between the customer and service-provider. The call-centre agent is not the person you were talking to in the mortgage department. The rise in call volumes was attributable to the creation of ‘failure demand’ (*demand caused by a failure to do something or do something right for the customer*, Seddon 2003²). The same phenomenon duly occurred more recently in the public sector. When, complying with central requirements, local authorities and housing associations established call centres and moved telephone work from their various departments into them, demand was much greater than expected or planned for. However, the increasing demand was not the result of success but of failure. Our studies show that failure demand in such call centres can run as high as 80% of the total. In other words, the vast majority of these expensive call centres’ efforts go into doing work that shouldn’t be done at all.

It is important to note that management’s failure was a failure to know what was going on in the work and to make the mistake of assuming all calls are ‘work to be done’; something I need to explain before we move on.

Economy of scale: the management equation

Managers of service organisations are taught to be preoccupied with solving the following equation: How much work is coming in? How many people do I have? And how long do they take to do things? The calculation is then used to plan and manage resources. It has been embedded in ‘best practice’ guidance for the public sector. However, the first question – how much work is coming in? – begs a more important one: what is the nature of the work coming in?

Failure demand is an idea that is easily understood and, bizarrely, it became the focus of a government target (NI 14). The reasoning is clear: failure demand represents massive costs, so removing it will reduce costs; setting targets is the way to remove it. As with all target regimes, the consequence was mis- and under-reporting. It is impossible remove failure demand without understanding and rooting out its causes, something to which we will return.

For now, the point is that moving work to a call centre without understanding the work and determining whether the call centre can provide that service leads to more (failure) demand. This is why many of our private-sector clients are now repatriating outsourced work from India. If one call (even at lower costs) creates more calls, then costs go up not down. Costs are in flow, not in activity.

Of course managers endeavour to organise the service to solve callers’ problems, but always fail to achieve complete success. These are two common tactics:

² “Freedom from Command and Control”, Vanguard Press, 2003.

- Specialisation: By making workers specialize in certain kinds of work, managers can cut training costs. Specialisation also allows computers to route calls (press one for this and two for that).
- Graded response: This means having generalists to pick up the calls with two levels of specialists ('level two and level three') behind them. The idea is to concentrate the most expensive resource on the most demanding calls.

These measures sound plausibly sensible, but in practice neither of them works very well. They create fresh problems of: operational definitions of work types, accurate sorting, accurate allocating, reconnecting fragmented tasks. To solve these problems managers create their own factory, swathes of managers whose job is it to solve these problems, yet they unwittingly exacerbate the problems; their vain attempts to achieve control send the services further out of control.

At the heart of the problem is the issue of variety. A key difference between service and manufacturing is the nature of demand. Studying customer demands into service organisations always reveals high variety. It is variety that stymies management's attempts to control the work and deliver high quality service. The problem is amplified by the division of work between a front and a back office.

The back office

The 'back office' was invented to 'de-couple' the service work from the customer. The argument goes like this: the job of management is to get the most from resources (people), service workers are often interrupted by customers, so having a front office to find out and describe to the back office what the customer needs enables the latter to work without interruption and thus optimise the use of its time and effort. Result: economies of scale.

In practice, what happens is that customers' demands become fragmented. In the private sector it is not unusual for one customer request to be turned into as many as nine sub-tasks to be completed by different people in back-office functions. As in other mass-production systems, managers believe that by breaking down and standardising tasks they will gain economies of scale. They take as given that the work will arrive in the right places, be done in the standard times and returned within the service levels. Careful study of the work shows that this rarely happens. The fragmentation of work creates waste in the back office and failure demand in the front office.

These designs are usually institutionalised with IT systems. Thus, workflow systems used to connect front and back offices turn work into electronic work objects for transmission between computers. Citizens' records can then be tracked through 'customer relationship management' (CRM) software. In practice CRM mostly serves to bureaucratised lots of valueless activity: passing messages, progress-chasing and so on. If the service worked, there would be a lot less traffic on the CRM system. If failure demand is high, CRM systems are full of institutionalised waste.

Meanwhile, look at what is being reported to management: more activity from the workers and lower transaction costs – the promise of scale economies is delivered! Yet the system is evidently creating costs. The first signal – as it was for the banks in the 1980s – is rising volumes of work, but as organisations don't take historic measures of work volumes, and the planning and contractual measures associated with new public-sector factories are all concerned with service levels and unit costs, it is not readily apparent. The recent studies by Advice UK³ highlight the enormous volumes of knock-on failure demand into voluntary services caused by a failure of two primary agencies – the DWP and HMRC – to deliver effective services where people need them.

Similar alarming costs of failure are evident in all public-sector factories. If you doubt this claim spend a few hours studying customer demand into public-sector services.

One cost that is apparent is sickness, absenteeism and staff turnover. Being treated as a 'resource' to be 'optimised' is not motivating. Nor is the realisation that it is impossible to help people solve their problems because of the need to work to the internal arbitrary measures. In some respects life in modern public-sector factories is little different to the conditions that created Ford's 'five-day man'⁴. Both HMRC and NHS Direct currently report low levels of staff morale. It is a design problem that managers mistakenly treat as a 'people' problem.

Shared services

The argument is as follows: we all do HR, IT and finance, so why don't we share them, creating centralised units to provide these services and gain economies of scale? We may grant the 'cost-savings' argument for fewer managers, IT systems and buildings. But we should have strong doubts about the 'organisation design' argument – simplify, standardise, centralise – for fear it will have an adverse impact on the service. Is this a sound method? From a systems view it is not, since this approach will prevent the system absorbing variety. In fact, that is specifically what it is designed to do: remember Henry Ford's famous, 'Any customer can have a car painted any color that he wants, so long as it is black'.

To get a measure of the consequences, consider some of the fantastically expensive failures of shared services projects, such as the shared services programme for the UK Research Councils (sharing IT, HR and finance) which was bought at £40m and is now forecast to cost £120m, and it ain't over till the shared services work (which they don't and probably won't). Much the same has been reported with the shared services initiative at the Department for

³ Advice UK (2008) 'It's the System, Stupid! Radically Rethinking Advice' AdviceUK: London (Downloadable from www.adviceuk.org.uk, accessed 7/4/2009), Advice UK (2009) 'Interim Report: Radically Rethinking Advice Services in Nottingham' AdviceUK: London

⁴ Henry Ford's mass production plants had an astronomical turnover of workers. Newly hired workers stayed an average of only 3 months. Many walked off the job without any formal notification and were presumed to have quit after missing five days of work: the notion of the 'five day man' was born and at one point accounted for 70 per cent of the workers leaving Ford (Buchanan and Huczynski 2004 'Organizational Behaviour: An Introductory Text' Pearson Education: Harlow p441)

Transport: sharing HR and finance was supposed to save the taxpayer £57m; but it is now on track to cost £81m⁵. These projects had the added complication of being driven by an IT system: in simple terms the IT system was created and then forced on to the work.

As with the economists' arguments for economies of scale, the focus of all of the above activity is on cost – pushing down transaction costs – driven by Treasury economic theories, not empirical knowledge.

From observations to theory

Just as economists make observations and turn them into theory, I shall, presumptively, do the same. We have made the following observations and know that they are predictive:

- If you move work to the telephone without understanding whether and how you can deliver the service by telephone, you will create failure demand
- If you specialise and/or standardise work, you will create more waste (failure demand and waste in flow)
- If you control the work and workers through arbitrary measures (service level agreements, targets, standards) you will create more waste (failure demand and waste in flow)

The second and third observations are grounded in the knowledge that specialisation and standardisation are the causes of waste and failure demand in service organisations. Yet they featured in the last government's reform regime's ideas about 'best practice'; compliance created and continues to create waste and higher costs, not improvement. It is particularly ironic that failure demand became a target. Management's focus needs to switch management from cost to value. Following Ohno, managing value will cause costs to fall. We can say that:

- Any waste in a system represents, by definition, a failure to provide value for customers
- Studying (value and failure) demand is the most powerful lever for improvement
- The design of work should focus on providing value, and that alone
- A focus on managing value will drive costs out of a system
- Control needs to be located where the work is done (controlled by the workers)

These principles enable the system to absorb variety; hence we can predict that service will improve as costs fall. We can theorise these principles together as a different way to design a service: we could describe this principle as 'economy of flow'⁶.

There is a growing body of evidence to support the idea of economy of flow. Work designed to manage value – serve customer needs – provides better service at much lower costs, and transforms morale at the same time. In the private sector, moving from a 'specialised' service centre to one trained to handle all customer issues releases an average of 20% of the operating costs. Removing the front/back-office split releases a similar amount. Both tactics also deliver improvements to the service. Further, often greater, savings are made by

⁵ The Independent 19/01/2010 'Labour's computer blunders cost £26bn'

⁶ For more on how these principles translate to service design see "Re-thinking Lean Service", Seddon, O'Donovan and Zokaei: <http://www.systemsthinking.co.uk/6-brendan-jul09.asp>

removing the now redundant management activity that formerly sat above the old design, trying to solve the wrong problems. In the public sector the gains from redesigning services are much greater than any subsequent savings from 'sharing', which are marginal by comparison⁷.

As with the TPS in manufacturing, service design based on economy of flow challenges convention. It is local: expertise is provided at the point of transaction for the bulk of the work, with further expertise 'pulled' by the customers' demands as necessary.

Because flow designs are simple, they make much less use of IT than conventional scale-based systems. Before we consider how, let us return to Ohno's discoveries in manufacturing. While conventional wisdom has it that bigger machines produce greater volumes at lower costs, Ohno taught his managers to get massive improvements from older and smaller machines. His insight was that if flow the most important attribute of a machine is to be ready when the part arrives. This may mean that at other times it is more efficient for machines to stand idle – anathema to conventional thinking.

In much the same way, flow designs use ordinary desktop software for much of the local control of work, and new IT systems are not introduced without first understanding and improving the work (without changing the IT). If IT is then required its precise requirement is better understood. The consequence is generally much lower spend on IT and much more value from it.

To give one example: Comserv/MTS, a private-sector provider working with Portsmouth City Council, has developed a housing repairs service that provides repairs on the day and time the tenants request. If BT could do that we would all cheer. The design developed by the players delivers the service at half the original cost. It represents an economic benchmark; an extraordinary example of improvement. Having developed the organisation design manually they then brought IT skills in to automate the features required. The new IT system, supporting this economic benchmark, cost all of £3,000! Most IT systems bought for managing repairs work cost upwards of £100,000 – to measure and control the wrong things.

The knowledge opportunity

For how long have we heard politicians and economists say we live in a knowledge economy? In contrast to the rhetoric, the recent past has seen these actors conspire to dumb down public services. By contrast, massive performance benefits are being realised by those who have had the courage to 'smarten up' – redesigning their service to place human expertise at the point of transaction to service customer demands. Putting people in control actually improves the control within a system and is intrinsically motivating for all those involved. It also underlines that while the division of labour among workers is often a mistake, a much bigger one is the division of labour between managers (as decision-makers) and workers.

⁷ Middleton P (2010) 'Delivering Public Services that Work (Volume 1): Systems Thinking in the Public Sector' Triarchy Press, Axminster

In short, we should maintain a healthy scepticism for generalised claims about management derived from economics. One authoritative commentator put it this way:

‘Orthodox economics is in many ways an empty box. Its understanding of the world is similar to that of the physical sciences in the Middle Ages. A few insights have been obtained which will stand the test of time, but they are very few indeed, and the whole basis of conventional economics is deeply flawed... Increasingly, the subject is taught not as a way of learning how the world *might* operate, but as a set of discovered truths about how the world *does* operate... It cannot be stated too often that very little of the content of (economic) textbooks is known to be true, in the sense that many of the statements on, say, engineering are known to be true.’⁸

The management gurus have also had their doubts. One of the central threads in Tom Peters’ first book (‘In Search of Excellence’ 1982) is that scale models seem to apply only in very limited ways to human beings. One factor may be that as the number of people in organisations increases arithmetically, possible interactions between them – thus complexity, thus the difficulty of managing them – goes up *geometrically*. At any event, Peters and his co-writer Waterman were struck by the repeated finding that effectiveness seemed to go with much smaller, less tidy units than conventional wisdom proposed.

‘Whatever happened to economies of scale?... The excellent companies understand that beyond a certain surprisingly small size, diseconomies of scale seem to set in with a vengeance’⁹.

When he was at the Cabinet Office Geoff Mulgan commissioned a study into the evidence for economies of scale in public-sector reform. The study found none. It was not published.

While the plausibly obvious ‘cost-savings’ argument remains relevant but something that should not preoccupy managers, the organisation design argument, being based on cost thinking, is the fundamental flaw in scale thinking. Two complementary strands of evidence grow: the costs of failure from industrialisation and the profound improvements being achieved through managing value and flow.

Economy of scale is a myth. Economy comes from flow.

⁸ Ormerod, P (1994) ‘The Death of Economics’ Faber and Faber, London Preface pp ix-x

⁹ Tom Peters and Robert H. Waterman Jr (1982), ‘In Search of Excellence’, Harper and Row: New York, p 111-112

PERVASIVE MYTH OF CENTRALISATION UNRAVELS IN NZ



Dr Oliver Hartwich The Australian 31 July 2024

THE NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE

New Zealand's government sacked the entire board of Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) last week, replacing it with a sole commissioner. The move marked more than just another shake-up in the country's beleaguered health system. It signalled the spectacular failure of a grand experiment that has turned New Zealand into one of the most centralised countries in the developed world.

The appointment of Professor Lester Levy as Health Commissioner came on the back of reports that Health NZ has been overspending by a staggering NZ\$130 million per month. If left unchecked, this financial haemorrhage threatens to create a NZ\$1.4 billion deficit by mid-2025.

At the root of this crisis lies a pervasive myth that has long dominated New Zealand's policy landscape, that bigger and more centralised is inherently better. That motif was behind the formation of Health New Zealand only a couple of years ago from the previous regional health authorities.

Proponents of centralisation have long argued that New Zealand is too small and has too sparse a population to be efficiently run by multiple regional or local agencies. They tout the benefits of economies of scale and standardisation, claiming that centralisation will lead to greater efficiency and equity in public services.

These arguments reached a fever pitch under the Ardern/Hipkins government, which embarked on a centralisation drive of unprecedented scale. Nothing in the realm of public policy would not have been a target.

Yet the reality of New Zealand's centralisation fetish tells a different story. Far from creating efficiencies, the abolition of 20 District Health Boards in favour of a single national entity, Health NZ, has resulted in a bloated bureaucracy. It is both less responsive and more costly than its predecessors.

The centralised behemoth that emerged from these reforms is four times the size of dairy cooperative Fonterra, New Zealand's largest company. Health NZ employs 80,000 staff across 14 layers of management between the chief executive and frontline workers. This structure has become a textbook example of how centralisation can stifle innovation, responsiveness and fiscal discipline the opposite of the promised efficiencies.

Health Minister Dr Shane Reti's revelation that back-office staff numbers grew by around 2,500 between 2018 and 2024 is a damning indictment of this approach. While more bureaucrats pushed paper in their offices, New Zealanders struggled to access basic health services. According to recent reports by Newshub, around 250,000 New Zealanders cannot find a GP who will accept them as patients. Meanwhile, there is an acute staffing crisis in New Zealand's hospitals, with long waiting lists and queues in A&E departments. So much for improved access and equity.

The health fiasco is one example of the broader failings of New Zealand's centralisation fetish. From the ill-fated amalgamation of polytechnics (technical colleges) to the attempted consolidation of

water services (Three Waters), the previous government placed its faith in the notion that bigger is inherently better and that Wellington knows best.

While centralisation advocates often claim that New Zealand has too many councils, the country's local governments are relatively large by international standards. The average population served by a New Zealand territorial authority is around 75,000, more significant than the OECD average for local government units. Yet their powers and responsibilities have been progressively hollowed out, leaving New Zealand one of the OECD's most fiscally centralised nations.

Moreover, the argument that New Zealand is too small for decentralised governance does not hold water. Countries with similarly small populations, such as Denmark (5.8 million) and Finland (5.5 million), have successfully implemented decentralised governance models with strong local autonomy. These countries consistently rank highly in measures of government effectiveness and citizen satisfaction.

The centralisation drive extended beyond healthcare, with equally disastrous results in other sectors. The Te Pūkenga debacle offers another stark illustration of centralisation's pitfalls. In 2020, the government embarked on an ambitious merger of 16 polytechnics and institutes of technology, creating a single national entity.

The rationale for the merger invoked familiar centralisation arguments: addressing financial challenges, streamlining operations and, of course, achieving those fabled economies of scale.

However, the reality is far from what was promised. Like Health NZ, Te Pūkenga has not delivered any efficiencies. It has lurched from crisis to crisis, with financial mismanagement the only constant. In 2022, it reported a deficit of NZ\$110 million, NZ\$53.5 million worse than budgeted. By 2023, it faced a further NZ\$93 million loss. This financial haemorrhage dwarfs the sector's pre-merger struggles, making a mockery of claims that centralisation would improve financial sustainability.

Leadership instability has also plagued Te Pūkenga, with a string of high-profile resignations undermining confidence in the organisation.

Perhaps most alarmingly, enrolments have plummeted, with provider-based enrolments falling by 10% in 2022 alone. The centralised behemoth has struggled to develop a transparent operating model, creating confusion among staff and stakeholders about how the system would function.

The Te Pūkenga fiasco vividly demonstrates how centralisation can sever the vital connection between educational institutions and local communities. Some of the best-performing polytechnics, such as Otago Polytechnic, pushed back against the merger, rightly concerned that it would undermine their ability to serve their regions effectively. Their fears have been vindicated as the centralised system struggles to respond to diverse regional needs and economies.

As New Zealand grapples with these government-inflicted crises in health and education, policymakers should take heed. The allure of centralisation with its promises of economies of scale and standardised services can be seductive.

But as the Kiwi experience starkly demonstrates, it often leads to bloated bureaucracies, disconnected decision-making, and poorer outcomes for citizens.

The way forward for New Zealand must involve a fundamental rethink of its governance approach. This will require more than just tweaking the current system. It demands a shift in how New Zealand approaches public services, creating structures that are responsive to local needs, accountable to local communities, and adaptable to changing circumstances.

The alternative    continuing down the path of ever-greater centralisation    has been tested to destruction, almost literally.

To read the full article on *The Australian* website, click [here](#)

[<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/pervasive-myth-of-centralisation-unravels-in-nz/news-story/767d60571b88029e4dd126760947536f>].

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SEARCH

140

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Cc: [Neil Volzke](#); [Simon Watts](#)
Subject: Submission_water services delivery
Date: Sunday, 18 May 2025 6:12:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear representatives of Stratford District Council.

My name is Alex Corlett and I am a ratepayer and business owner in Stratford.

As part of my submission for water services delivery I would like to state that I oppose both proposed solutions in their current form.

1. SDC is Fiscally irresponsible

Stratford District Council has failed to make a strong case that either option is of benefit to Stratford in the long term. The primary objective of Councils is to maintain basic services and infrastructure.

Examples of this include:

-Bloated and exaggerated salaries for executive staff and employees.

-Fiscal commitments to projects that were not completed or even started in most instances. 3 waters or local cycleway projects etc.

2. SDC ignores community views

Stratford District Council are notorious for being deceptive with community consultation.

They ensure local meetings are during work hours to avoid feedback from our community. Very little communication and information to participate is sent to our community.

Examples include:

-Water meter contractors have already started working on upgrading Stratford even though this is out for consultation. This would indicate Stratford District Council do not care about the opinions of the public.

Stratford District withheld documentation on water meter upgrades from many members of the community. In the documentation and communication it deceptively attempted to reframe language to that Stratford upgrading "drinking water quality".

1. Summary

In Summary the culture at Stratford District Council is rotten and full of nepotism.

Our community has infrastructure that is 100 years old that has been due for replacement for decades.

Our local Council need to be finding other ways to pay for these upgrades and going back to basics to fund our infrastructure.

I would be as bold as to suggest reducing Salaries of staff members and executive team for failing to achieve budget and adding KPI's. I would recommend cutting back on all cultural /social activities to ensure local money is being invested in infrastructure and not a "slush fund".

As it is election year we look forward to a change and hope our local members will answer the hard questions.

Neil Volzke has refused to comment on why Council staff have trespassed on my property or a previous incident where a Council staff members threatened me (which he appeared to downplay).

Regards,

Alex Corlett

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Brian Jeffares

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

(Night)

Same

Email address

☒ Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Optional Demographic Information. This is kept confidential for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

See above

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☒ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

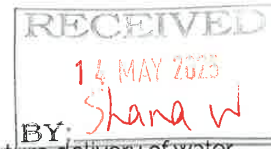
Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

It makes sense to me to have stormwater tied to the roading contract so this should be excluded in the proposed regional model.



Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

I have real concerns about the proposed governance structure for the regional option. In particular the three seats allocated to LWI who unlike the three councils bring no assets to the table. The joint committee do have specific roles but any decision made by them will obviously be by way of a vote. With only 2 members representing Stratford we will be a minority voice. A regional controlled organisation will inevitably bring more costs. Premises, staff, overheads, vehicles etc will be needed. We 'already' have all those costs in house. Bigger is not necessarily better. I note that the NPDC was \$5 million dollars over budget halfway through their water meter installation. Not a track record we should be considering at all.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Jo Pattinson

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

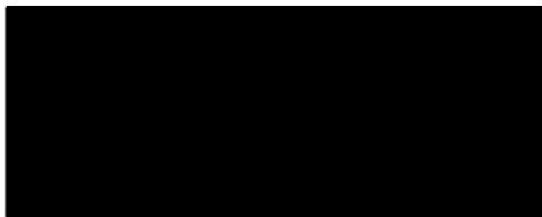
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.



for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

Stratford-

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Stratford Press

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (*OPTION A*) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (*OPTION B*) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

143

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Alister Willis

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

al for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other _____

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Our Council can handle this

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

I have noticed that the governance structure for Stratford area is stacked against us against the larger councils ie NP & Hawera.

~~that say~~ Why do LWI get 3 representatives in the Stratford Council. They are not very active in the Council meetings. Bigger is not always Better

Talking to Stratford Councillors they seem to be very sure we as a district can handle the water on our own.

Local knowledge by our Council on our own area can't be beaten. Not run by NP & Hawera.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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144

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) *Brian R. Davies*

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

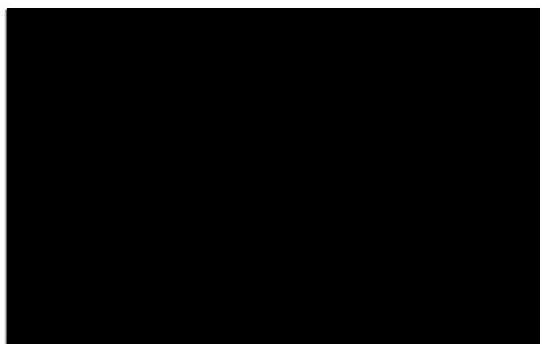
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.



for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

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☐ Website

☒ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☐ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

*OPTION A - more ability to raise loans
spread cost over wider community if
required looking at the 30yr options*

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

My thoughts are of Wellington water mains and the cost of renewing ours which over thirty years may need repairing or replacing so cost over wider community would give us a better advantage if we need to borrow money.

BH Davis

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAARURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Kanna Reeves

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☒ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

I want local council to have full control of our assets.

We must not lose control!

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

Whilst rates are becoming an issue for stratford rate payers, it is most imperative that 'we' keep control of all infrastructure that has been paid for by us. Once lost to outside forces we not get it back.

I am a strong proponent of ring fencing all assets of our fantastic Little town.

Karee Ruan.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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146

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Local Water Done Well. (Option B preferred)
Date: Saturday, 24 May 2025 9:29:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

We , Tim & Kate Payne are in favour of the Stratford District Council retaining the responsibility for the water services within the SDC area.

Our concerns are based on the fact that over the years SDC have diligently serviced and improved the provision of these services. Our council is fully aware of the challenges we face, rate rises to fund improvements etc - but these issues are minor compared with our neighboring Councils - do we fully know the issues they face - and in fact do either STDC or NPDC fully realise the problems ahead of them in both freshwater and waste water delivery.

Stratford District Council I would suggest are in a far better situation to mitigate these problems. We do not have a big population growth within the area which places demands on these services - so SDC can foresee quite accurately what the future will look like. The potable water supply although subject to restrictions in summer is still a reliable gravity fed system providing good quality water - additional storage although desirable (revisit York road quarry pond as suggested by Russell Vickers) is not essential - water metres will help reduce wastage.

I am aware of the non- compliance of the wastewater discharge to the Patea River - there may be some immediate in stream effect but really that effect is not noticeable further down stream a short distance away - in any activity there will be some effect and human existence is no different.

If need be SDC farm & aerodrome as well as the proposed solar farm may be a solution by providing a discharge area.

Is there not a 'hardship' fund in the Beehive available for such improvements ?

I ask also , will the current marine out falls in each of the other regions be subject to further scrutiny in the future - and then what ?

Another concern is the make up of the water board 4 NPDC , 3 STDC & 2 SDC plus Iwi reps - an unfair representation in light of fair delivery - and how much will all this cost ?

So, Big is not always best.

Stratford District Council should vote (Option B) to keep control of our services

Sincerely Tim & Kate Payne

[REDACTED]

We do not wish to speak at the meeting.

147

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

I Barry Hancock

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Optional Demographic Information. This is kept confidential for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☒ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

I am a Ratepayer in Stratford and
New Plymouth and support Option B

Concerns

Cost of Board members Salaries Secretary Etc

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

Whether it would spell the end of
Stratford Council in 10 yrs. That would
Lumber SDC rate payers with a
massive debt of \$406 million owed
by N P D C at The Moment.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Murray & Karen Hancock.

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

essential for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

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☐ Meeting

☒ Social Media

☒ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Storm water works well as it is and
has been for years.

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

The two councils you propose to go with are bigger than our own and have more problems with pollution than our council has and the water system we have works well, next thing we will be supplying water to them out of our district's catchment. Cut the costs by ~~take~~ taking out fluoride from our water and stop building unnecessary monuments like an overpriced swimming pool and making Prospero place flash which there is nothing wrong with it how it is, and putting notices of earthquake risk on buildings that have stood up for over a century and will continue to do so.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

PS Plus Having a unelected ~~rep~~ person on the list of councillors. 23

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) MAX BARNARD

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

at for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☐ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☒ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

NO PROBLEM

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

WATED DONE WELL 20/25.

1. STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ALREADY DOES WELL!!
2. WITH OPTION B COUNCIL CAN BE ACCOUNTABLE TO US.
3. STD ALREADY HAS PERSONAL ON THE JOB OF WATER.
4. STD WILL STILL BE ABLE TO GET CHEAP LONES.

5/ IF YOU CHOOSE OPTION A YOU ARE GIVEING STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL IT'S DEATH ~~KNEEL~~ WELL.

6/ OPTION A, MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FIX PROBLEM & SHORT NOTICE.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Mrs Shirley Boyde

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address:



Please tick if you wish to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

al for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

I have lived my entire life in the Stratford District, and the last nineteen years in the urban area

I am very satisfied with how the S.D.C water services are run, and do not see a need for any change at this stage.

I am pleased meters are being installed, its an excellent way of fairly covering usage

No one can predict the future, and if we can manage and maintain what we have without too much financial pressure, it will be beneficial to our town. There will always be maintenance to be considered but I would like the Status Quo to be continued

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

151

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

BRIAN C. ARTHUR

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

essential for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other LIBRARY.

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

152

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

FLORA (FLO) CORBURN

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

AS ABOVE

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☒ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☒ Other

STRATFORD PRESS

KS

MAYOR UPDATES

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

NOT AT THIS STAGE AS STORMWATER WILL

CONTINUE TO BE EACH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY!

RESPONSIBILITY. SO FAR!!

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL CONSULTATION

Having thoroughly read the contents of the booklet I have come to the conclusion that OPTION B is best for Stratford.

It is important for Stratford to retain it's independence from our close neighbours, but continue to work closely with them when the need/s arises.

I believe I have taken note on how the services delivered by our Council and the Business Unit Personnel in general is meeting my expectation/s

That being the case I personally endorse Stratford staying with what works for Stratford!!

Local community knowledge, and input very important in challenging times.!!!

Stratford Council and the Business Unit has the capacity to deliver on Central Government compliance requirements/demands/expectations.

Certainly ongoing cost is a factor to be considered. That has been abundantly made clear in the booklet.

For me though the alternative OPTION A is not convincing, and will only serve to create further bureaucracy given the three levels proposed.

ie WSCCO JOINTLY OWNED WATER SERVICES COUNCIL-CONTROLLED ORGANISATION?

2. Set up a Joint Committee – etcetera?

3. Establish a Board –?

I will assume the personnel/or successful applicants to fill the Joint Committee and Board positions will receive some form of remuneration?

TO CONCLUDE "OPTION A' IS AN UNKNOWN!!!

P.S. ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ABOVE :

TAKING THE TIME TO DO FURTHER RESEARCH I NOTE IN THE OPUNAKE COASTAL NEWS DATED 22 MAY PAGE 12 AN ARTICLE WHICH RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS.

GIVEN THAT INFORMATION, IF PART OF THE CONTENT IS ACCURATE, I AS A STRATFORD RATE PAYER AM VERY CONCERNED IF PART OF MY RATES IS CHANNELLED TOWARD REDUCING THAT COUNCIL DEBT???

RED FLAG - WHICH RE-INFORCES MY BELIEF OPTION A IS NOT GOOD VALUE.

*Signed: J. Baburn
26/5/25*

Any further comments? REFER ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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153

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Mavis Ann Spinks

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

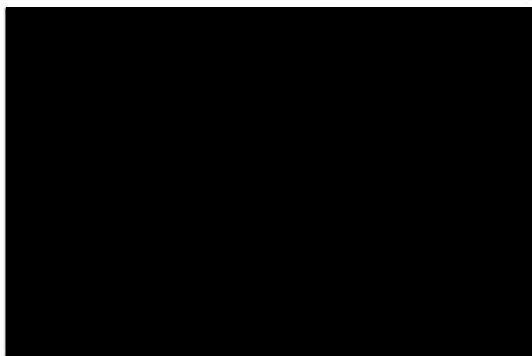
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.



Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other Rates

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Exclusion

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Bruce Edward Spinks

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

al for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☒ Other *Other*

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (*OPTION A*) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (*OPTION B*) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

[illegible]

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Tim Coplestone.

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

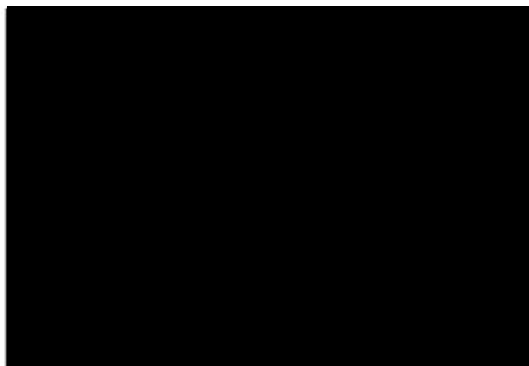
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.



...ial for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

ALISON OASKEY

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

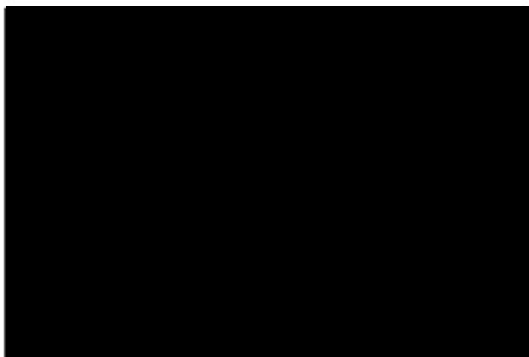
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.



Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☒ Other

Radio word of mouth newsletter.

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED, CAN'T SEE ANY
GREAT BENEFIT FOR STRATFORD JOINING THE COLLECTIVE
- NO GREAT \$\$ SAVINGS OVER 30 YEARS + OUR INFRASTRUCTURE
HAS BEEN WELL MAINTAINED

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAARANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) CARL SAUNDERS

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

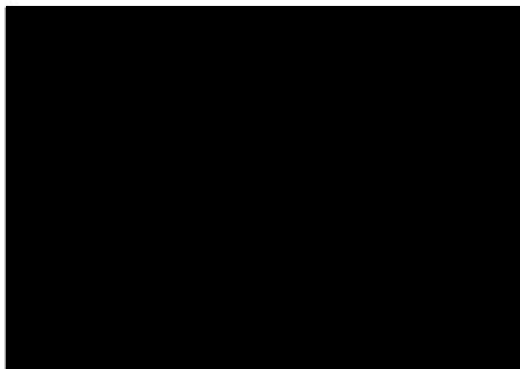
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.



for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

[Redacted]

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other WORD OF MOUTH.

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

WHO EVER DOES IT, MAKE SURE THE STORM WATER PIPES ARE BIGGER THAN ENGINEERED NECESSARY.

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

- ① IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ALIGN OURSELVES WITH THE LEVEL OF DEBT BROUGHT TO THE TABLE THAT N.P. & HWA HAVE.
- ② IF IT GOES TO OPTION(A) I FEEL IT IS THE "THIN END OF THE WEDGE" FOR LOSING FURTHER SERVICES FROM OUR COUNCIL. IT WOULD PROBABLY MEAN THE DOWN SIZING OF COUNCIL POSITIONS & STAFF AND THE CONSEQUENT LOSS OF WAGES TO BE SPENT IN OUR TOWN. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THIS WITH THE LOSS OF TELCOM IN OUR TOWN. (THE BUILDING STILL SITS THERE AS AN EYESORE MANY YEARS WATER.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHĀRA A ROHE O
WHAKAĀHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) *WILLIAM ROBERT SARTEN*

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Special for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

*Yes, I'm sure a SDC in-house Business Unit
can easily handle wastewater as they always have.*

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

I strongly favour a SDC in-house Business Unit to look after water services including wastewater. My reasons for this is my concern, as noted on page 14, the comment made about "Councils are not amalgamating" immediately raises a red flag. To set up this WSCCO is, I think, is the first step to amalgamation. We need our own governance over the future years to come, if Stratford is going to stay a great small town. We have a unique atmosphere here in Stratford and District, Shakespeare and all, etc. Do we want a once great Stratford to just become another drive through town as we see happening around New Zealand. As councillors, will you feel responsible when this happens to Stratford.

W.R. Aitken.

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Kevin Duthie

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☒ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

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☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

I support - that each Council look after
there own stormwater.

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

I know S.D.C. put in a new delivery water pipe from the reservoir to the town (Stratford) 2 years ago, which is ^{very} good & ~~will~~ should last many years to come.

Also I have been told this week, that S.D.C. & S.T.D.C. have been working together in staff training, in the area of water services.

Which is also very good.

I would like to see this continue, but not with N.P.D.C. I believe that if the 3 District Council joined there Water Services together, New Plymouth would benefit at the expence of S.T.D.C. & S.D.C.

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Philip Bielawski

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

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☒ I support the alternative option **(OPTION B)** of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

- * We would prefer to pay a bit more for our water, (in the longer term) and retain ^{current-sized} our council, as losing the water services part of it will shrink it ^{by 20-30%} ~~even more~~ and leave us even more vulnerable to amalgamation (takeover).
- * Independence is important so we can retain ~~independence~~ ^{control of} our community + assets, and not get lost in a bigger entity with the bigger partner's concerns overriding ours.
- * Also, has a united entity with South Taranaki been discussed? We would be more interested in this as the two smaller councils have more in common.
- * Lastly, we think our council does a good job ~~and~~ and our water is already of good quality.

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

KIERAN BEAT

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

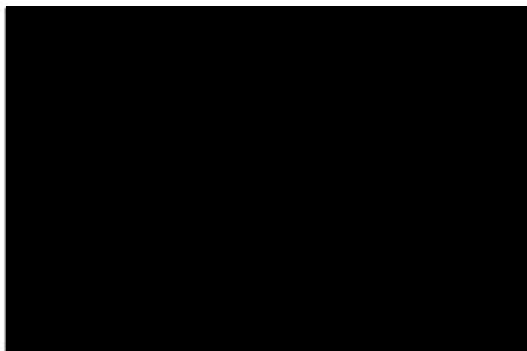
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



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Someone will contact you to confirm this.



for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

I DON'T SEE IT IS NEEDED TO BE EITHER.
AS IT AFFECTS MANY OTHER AREAS OF
COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY ie ROADS, PARKS ETC.

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

IN MY OPINION OPTION "A" IS THE
BEST ANSWER GOING FORWARD.

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If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

162

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Local Water Done Well
Date: Thursday, 29 May 2025 1:09:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon - we submit that option B is the best option for our District. We also submit that it is not fair to residents living in a shared driveway situation to have only one water connection between multiple properties.

Ian & Jill Smith
[REDACTED]

163

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: LWDW Submission - Mike Procter
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 9:39:09 AM
Attachments: [LWDW Submission - Mike Procter.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Council Submissions,

Please find attached my submission for the Local Water Done Well consultation.

I wish to speak to my submission at the Council hearing. I am currently and will be overseas at that time, so I will nominate someone to speak on my behalf. Further details will be provided.

I can be contacted by email [REDACTED] My New Zealand phone number is not currently active.

Regards

Mike Procter

Submission for the Local Water Done Well consultation by Stratford District Council
May 2025 by Mike Procter.

Summary

I support the alternative Option B.

After a critical examination of the information available to the Community of Stratford District I cannot understand how anyone would consider anything other than Option B.

Some but by no means all of my reasons are detailed below. I have culled my draft to five pages being aware that Elected Members will have many submissions to read.

Introduction

As a member of the public I have attended some Council Meetings and Workshops listening to the discussions on this topic. It appeared to me that indications were in favour of the enhanced in-house solution due to it being more beneficial overall and a lot less risky. I was quite astonished to hear the Mayor propose the motion for Option A to be the preferred one. Perhaps there was more to it than I was aware of at that time. Reading through minutes of the meetings and the Consultation Document I have not seen anything significantly new to me, so I do not understand why Option A had so much support from Elected Members.

As a general principle I am in favour of larger is better. There are examples where this is so. There are also examples where larger is not always beneficial to individuals or communities. One such is the break up of Telecom into Spark and Chorus. The outcome provided customers with improved service at a lower cost. Current discussions about the supermarkets and four gentailers may eventually result in a similar beneficial outcomes for communities. Smaller organisations tend to be more nimble than larger ones which can often outweigh the economies of scale.

LWDW and its predecessor Three Waters are ideas from Central Government to address a problem it perceived plagued all Local Councils. Without doubt some Councils do have serious problems with their water infrastructure. Those Councils have put in decades of effort to create that problem. Other Councils, Stratford being an example, have focused their attentions on avoiding problems in the first place. Stratford has well managed water infrastructure. The Mayor has stated that SDC does not have a backlog of work for water infrastructure and the debit is manageable. Our current water debt per connection is considerably lower than our neighbours.

Prior to the previous Government's Three Water initiative SDC was not considering joining with the other Councils to provide water services. There was no problem that needed solving. I understand that a previous attempt to do so with STDC did not satisfy either party. So what has changed fundamentally that Elected Members now consider the need to join a Regional water entity? I say to you there has been no fundamental change. Just some tweeking of the Regulations. Such tweeks can be handled by Council Officers without dire consequences.
Trust your Council Officers.

Having a say in how WSCCO is set up

The argument for joining now, rather than possibly later, is that SDC will have a say in how WSCCO is setup. I question if that is really correct.

The Mayor has stated that he and the other Mayors have worked on Option A for the past 7 years. That being the case then surely most if not all of what Elected Members would want to say has already have been said,

When I asked at a drop-in session, what remains to be said, I expected to be given a list of items. I was given one; that water technicians who look after our infrastructure should be based in Stratford. Looking with a commercial lens, water technicians will be based at locations that provide for the most efficient operation of the infrastructure. That is an operational decision not a governance one.

If however there is an underlying driver to have personnel based in Stratford, such as reducing the population decline, then that is a strong reason for water services to be with an in-house business unit with Option B.

There have been comments concerning the number of seats forming the Joint Committee: NPDC 4, STDC 3, Iwi 3 & SDC 2. I share those concerns and have strong views on its composition. SDC's voice will have little if any effect in the future. If the Joint Committee had been established where each Party has one seat, as it is with Wellington Water, then SDC's voice would be listened to. However the composition that has already been decided means that SDC will have little influence. That is very clear in the Consultation Document.

If our Mayor has not been able to get things through with one voice in three then how is it thought that when SDC only has two voices in twelve (i.e. 1 in 6) it will achieve a more successful outcome. It is simply not logical.

When this argument is examined critically it is clearly on shaky ground. It should be discarded by Elected Members as being of little standing. SDC will not have a genuine voice, it will just be tokenism.

Approval by the Minister

Some Elected Members have expressed concern that the Minister might not approve an enhanced in-house option and therefore they support Option A. In my view this is a very poor excuse, I won't call it a reason. One should not be concerned about being knocked back.

The DIA have examined both options and confirmed to Council that both meet the criteria and are viable. If the Minister moves the goal posts at the last minute then challenge it. Invite Carl Bates to front up and explain to Council and present to the community why Option B is not acceptable for the Minister, despite it meeting the criteria. Adverse publicity in an Election year is not what politicians like.

If that is your argument for supporting Option A then I say to you; Have the courage to stand up for your community and support Option B.

Financial

I had requested some financial information from Council Officers and some Elected Members unfortunately not all was able to be provided. I understand that the reluctance to provide some information was from our neighbouring Councils, not internally. This is not only disappointing but rises the question that perhaps the information would paint a less favourable financial position than shown in the Consultation Document. It also provides an indication of their unwillingness to divulge all of the information.

Due to the absence of the information requested then I can only comment on the five financial related items below.

Waste water treatment upgrade

In response to my questions I have been given the cost range for the waste water treatment upgrade of \$5 to \$50 million. Quite a large range, which is based on assumptions of what might come from Central Government over the next 10 years.

This requirement is not due to some change of physical characteristics such as failures of plant but solely due to changing Regulations. I understand that the current Government are in the process of repealing those Regulations so it may not even eventuate. Of course a subsequent Government may reverse the direction again. Such is life.

Consider this. If Option B were to go ahead and in 10 years the upgrade was needed and the cost was \$50 M. Then do you really think that if the crunch came the Government of the day would insist that Stratford carry the total cost. Of course they would not. The Government, of either colour, is always coming to the party with a variety of solutions for such things. There is clear evidence of that recently with funding for climate change related damage and moving of Maraes to avoid their loss.

I believe that too much emphasis is being put on this upgrade as a justification not to choose Option B. When the higher risks of Option A are glossed over.

Debit level of 500%

Whilst the WSCCO can have a debit level of 500% of income it is almost irrelevant to SDC. If water services remain with SDC then the debit level remains as it is currently and in the control of Council. If water services are transferred then SDC will have no influence or control over the income or debit level. However SDC will have a significant liability though being the guarantor for WSCCO's debit.

Imagine this scenario.

Your neighbour moved in a few months ago. You get on well together often inviting each other round for coffee. Then one day they say that they need a new car and can obtain a very low rate loan if someone else will be guarantor for the loan. The neighbour appears to be sensible and in secure employment. You have no control over the neighbour's income or expenditure.

Would you be their guarantor?

The ability for WSCCO to have a debit level at 500% of income should not be seen as an advantage for Option A but a disadvantage for not choosing Option B, especially from the perspective of SDC.

If the debit were ever called in then what would be SDC's share; one sixth (having only 2 of 12 seats) or one third? The Consultation Document clearly shows that Iwi will not be a guarantor. That in itself raises questions.

I see the 500% debit level as simply being a promotional aspect to persuade people to support Option A.

Current Debt

The Consultation Document on page 19 shows the current two waters debt that will be transferred to WSCCO. The total being \$296 million (page 11 incorrectly shows the total to be \$266 million). That current debt will in future be shared across all of the water users of WSCCO. The table below shows that debt per connection. The percentage increase is what every SDC connection will have to carry in the future. It is little wonder that our neighbours want us on board to help carry their water debt. Likewise they are keen to offload approximately 50% of their total debt to another entity.

	2 Water Debt	Number of Connections	Debt / Connection	SDC Increase
SDC	\$10,000,000	5,890	\$1,698	
STDC	\$92,000,000	18,358	\$5,011	195%
NPDC	\$194,000,000	62,564	\$3,101	83%

Current Water Charges

On page 16 the Consultation Document it shows what an example customer can expect their water charges to increase over the next 10 and 30 years for both Options. In 10 years Option A will provide a \$100 saving. Given all of the unknowns and assumptions associated with Option A then is it really worth the risks to make a \$2 saving per week for the customer?

It is noted that the example ignores the fact that currently NPDC water users pay \$276 more than SDC water users. It has been said that there needs to be harmonisation of charges across the Region, Replace the word harmonisation with subsidy. Page 18 shows that SDC water users clearly have to pay a lot to catch-up with payments made by the others. The supposed saving with Option A of \$100 dollars is actually an increase payment of more than \$176.

The Mayor has stated that our debt is manageable and we do not have a backlog of work. So why do you want members of our community to take on someone else's debt?

Stranded Assets

In response to my question about the cost of the stranded assets I was given \$300,000 - \$500,000. That cost equates to a 1.5% - 3% increase in Rates, as stated at LTP time.

In addition to that increase in Rates, SDC people with water connections will also have to pay for the admin cost of the WSCCO. Despite my request for those figures they have not been disclosed.

Such costs have been glossed over in the Consultation Document, I believe in order to present a more positive spin for Option A.

Amalgamation

The Consultation Document states that this is not about amalgamation. Whilst that is strictly true if one has a short sighted view. However the basic fact of removing water activities from SDC will diminish any argument to keep SDC an independent Council.

It is no secret that some NPDC Councillors are proposing a single Unitary Authority for the Taranaki Region. They would of course base such in and be controlled from New Plymouth. The communities of Stratford District will become an unimportant outpost. Our Rural communities will feel even more remote than they do now.

Whilst retaining water services will not remove the conversations around amalgamation it will not provide any more fuel for the currently smouldering fire.

I look at Eltham and see a town that once was prosperous but is now in slow decay. Any hopes its residents once had for its future clearly vanished with the 1989 Local Government reforms. I understand that at that time communities were not given any choice in those reforms. They were imposed by Wellington. I expect similar in the future. We should be proactive and work to avoid such a scenario now.

Whilst such discussions are for another time I urge Elected Members to seriously consider the action they are taking now and the possible future for all of the residents of Stratford District.

Finally

I urge you to think very carefully about the facts you are basing your decision on. I thank you for reading to the end.

Mike Procter

164

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Waters Done Well
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 11:04:13 AM
Attachments: [Submission Waters Done Well Stratford District Council.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Mōrena

Please find attached a Submission from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui on Local Waters Done Well.

We welcome any and all opportunities to present this view point in person.

Ngā mihi
Nicola Coogan
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui



SUBMISSION OF TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI RUANUI TRUST
to
Stratford District Council
on
Local Water Done Well

Submitter: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust
Name: Rachel Arnott
Designation: Kaiw'aka'aere
Address: 74 Princes Street, Hawera
Telephone: 06-278 0148
Facsimile: 06-278 1358
Email: office@ruanui.co.nz

Ngāti Ruanui

1. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust (Ngāti Ruanui) is the mandated voice of the 16 hapū of the Iwi, with more than 12,000 registered descendants. The takiwā of Ngāti Ruanui is bounded by the Whenuakura River in the south, the Waingongoro River in the north, the moana (including the coastal marine area) between the two rivers to the west, and the Matemateonga Ranges to the east.
2. As tangata whenua, Ngāti Ruanui is intimately related to the taiao – w’enua, wai māori, moana, takutai moana – in a manner that is expressed through a range of cultural, social, economic and historical associations. We regard land, soil and water as taonga which provide unity and identity to us. These taonga are also a source of sustenance and enjoyment as well as economic development and employment.
3. Ngāti Ruanui is the kaitiaki of these taonga and is acknowledged as having mana whenua in its takiwā through te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Ngāti Ruanui Deed of Settlement 2003 (the Deed) and the Ngāti Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003 (the Ruanui Settlement Act).

Introduction

4. Ngāti Ruanui endorses the objectives of Local Waters Done Well legislation in respect of ensuring water services are safe, reliable, environmentally resilient, customer responsive and delivered at the least cost to consumers and businesses.
5. We strongly endorse the importance of local decision providing the flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future.
6. Further, councils must decide the best way to deliver water services for communities in the future, while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting environmental, water quality and economic rigour. Balancing these competing areas of importance goes to the essence of the decision to be made by the Stratford District Council.
7. Finally, the Council must achieve a water delivery model must be fit for purpose.

Wananga

8. Acknowledging the importance of the future delivery of water services, Ngati Ruanui organised a wananga to allow our Uri to participate in an interactive session to help inform them of the changes being proposed.
9. Our position set out in this submission has been informed by those who participated and subsequently voted for their preferred option.
10. A unanimous vote for one option was made.



Options

11. Ngāti Runauī acknowledges the two options presented for consultation:

Option A

A council-controlled organisation that is jointly owned by the South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth district councils.

Option B

Keep the delivery of water services within Stratford District Council (also known as an in-house business unit, or status quo).

12. Ngāti Ruanui endorses Option B.

Option B

13. Option B was considered the most appropriate given the continuation of a strong and trusted organisation which has created a foundation of partnership with Ngati Ruanui.
14. Being reminded of our partnership approach is important when critical decision making is required, noting the following pou:
- a. Tikanga – Practice
 - b. Tiaki - Taking Care
 - c. Taurite – Balance
 - d. Taketake – Origins

15. Further, development of the Community Objectives for local waters done well underpins not only our partnership but also the key aspects of legislation and for completeness we note them here:

- Sustainably funded – having enough income to meet standards while remaining affordable.
- Operationally efficient – keeping costs down.
- Attractive for investment and growth - to keep the community and business strong.
- Supportive of Te Mana o te Wai – taking care of water in the environment.
- Well maintained and compliant with regulations.
- Supported by a capable and resilient workforce.
- Understanding of local needs and responding quickly.

16. Maintaining full Council control of our water assets (option B) aligns to the pou outlined above. A water care model that is implanted in the whenua (land) along with the value of taking care of ourselves and having regard for each other - holistically fits the option we are recommending. The devolution of water services to a regional body destabilises and unbalances our pou and potentially removes, collectively, whanau from their whenua when it comes to intergenerational decision making.

17. Ensuring a direct link to the people who control investment decisions is always more desirable.

18. The Stratford District Council has shown that it can demonstrate financial sustainability. Ngāti Runau believes the impact on rates and charges to be minimal between both options. Rate increases occur under both models and while option A shows economies of scale and a smaller increase the predicted 30-year model is just that a prediction. Looking into the future is an unknown journey and the options which will influence future investment choices will likely be unpredictable.

19. Ngāti Runau notes that the Council has sufficient borrowing capacity to meet forecast water infrastructure investment needs.

20. Ngāti Ruanui rejects the suggested commentary on scale. Economies of scale have been shown to be woefully lacking in large organisations which have often performed poorly becoming distant from those they serve. Ratepayers' rates and charges never reduced under local body amalgamation and examples of arm's length council owned entities have ended up being in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. The Auckland Super City structure is a clear demonstration of this failure, where Council is now bringing functions back in house.

21. The ability to achieve regulatory compliance because of size is a nonsense. The Stratford District Council has continued to demonstrate an overall better position than many larger Councils. Size often complicates compliance. While compliance and monitoring can always be improved this has more to do with the consenting framework and

environmental standards set in policy and legislation. The Government is introducing different regulatory standards to achieve this.

22. There is no example we can find where larger-scale models provide greater capacity to respond to emergencies. Often the local community response is the one that has made a difference to an emergency. This was demonstrated recently with the COVID response where local responses, bespoke to the community, provided a much direct and efficient delivery of care.
23. It is not considered that option B excludes the ability to pool resources allowing access to a broader range of technical expertise, skilled staff, and operational capabilities, improving service quality and driving innovation. It is common practice for Councils to work together over a range of services.

Further Change

24. Ngāti Runauī strongly recommends that that Option B is strengthened by enshrining a Council appointed committee responsible to Council to oversee the delivery of water services. The committee must include a mix of independent experts, iwi and elected members. This would be a clear demonstration of partnership and ensure the relevant ring-fenced separation that is required. The mix of those appointments, including iwi, would help bring to life the overall concept of Te Mana o te Wai.

Conclusion

25. Ngāti Ruanui strongly recommends that the Council adopts Option B. This option ensures the following:
 - **Retention of local decision making**
 - **Reflects the iwi council model of partnerships bringing to life the strong voice of community representation**
 - **The council has shown that it can demonstrate financial sustainability and sufficient borrowing capacity**
 - **Economies of scale have been shown to be woefully lacking in large organisations which have often performed poorly becoming distant from those they serve**
 - **The Stratford District Council has continued to demonstrate an overall better position than many larger Councils. Size often complicates compliance.**
 - **Often the local community response is the one that has made a difference to an emergency**
 - **Option B- does not exclude the ability to pool resources allowing access to a broader range of technical expertise, skilled staff, and operational capabilities, improving service quality and driving innovation.**

26. Ngāti Runauī strongly recommends a **Council appointed committee**, responsible to Council, to oversee the delivery of water services.

27. Ngāti Ruanui wishes to be heard on this submission.

Graham Young
Strategy and Policy Team
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust
74 Princes Street
PO Box 594
Hawera 4640

Email: Graham.Young@ruanui.co.nz
Phone: 06 278 0148

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Don't Sell Out Stratford – Reject the CCO Model
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 11:32:24 AM
Attachments: [Stratford Water Services Submission.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Stratford District Council,

Please find below my formal submission regarding the “Local Water Done Well” consultation. I strongly support **Option B** for Stratford District Council to continue delivering water services directly and I oppose Stratford joining a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

I have included my full submission attached in this email. I would appreciate it if you could confirm receipt of this submission at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on this important matter.

Kind regards,

Mark Taylor

30 May 2025

To the Stratford District Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Stratford joining a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) for water services. I support Option B, for Stratford District Council to continue managing these services directly. Handing over control of such a critical function would be a serious mistake for our community. Here's why:

1. **Small towns are left behind in big systems**

We only need to look across to New Plymouth District to see what happens in larger entities. Waitara and Inglewood constantly face challenges getting the services they need, simply because they aren't the main centre. Stratford will end up in the same position; overlooked and underfunded. We are the smallest in the proposed grouping, and we'll be treated that way.

2. **Autonomy is worth far more than speculative savings**

The so-called savings of \$100 a year in 10 years, and \$200 a year in 30 years, are minimal. These are projections, not guarantees, and they come at the cost of local control. I would far rather retain our independence than give it up for what amounts to a few dollars a week.

3. **We've borrowed for less important things, why not for water?**

It is frustrating that Council had no issue borrowing millions for a swimming pool; a non-essential facility that now drains ratepayer money daily, yet hesitates when it comes to borrowing for something as vital as water. If there's ever a justifiable reason to take on debt, this is it!

4. **This is a step toward losing our council altogether**

Joining a CCO is the thin end of the wedge. It would shift control of our water to a regional body where we are the smallest voice. Make no mistake - this is the beginning of Stratford being absorbed into a larger structure where we lose our say. It's not just about water - it's about our future as a district.

5. **We don't want to inherit other councils' debt**

Stratford has managed its finances responsibly. We should not be expected to carry the financial baggage of larger councils with bigger populations and more infrastructure problems. Pooling our assets and debts is not in our interest, and it's reckless to even consider it.

6. **The proposed governance structure is unfair to Stratford**

Only two seats for Stratford, compared to three each for iwi and South Taranaki, and four for New Plymouth? That's not representation - that's tokenism! We will be consistently outvoted and sidelined. Our needs will be low on the priority list, and we'll have no power to do anything about it.

In summary, Stratford should maintain full control of its water services. The risks of joining a CCO far outweigh any hypothetical benefits. This is about more than infrastructure — it's about protecting local voice, local accountability, and the future of our community.

I urge the Council, our elected officials, to take a stand for us and back Option B.

Kind Regards

Mark Taylor



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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Leola Coles

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

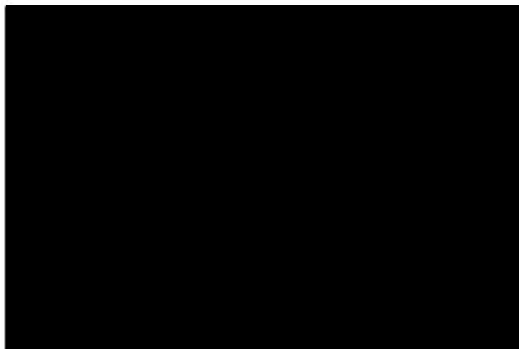
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.



ial for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☒ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Bicham Kelly

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

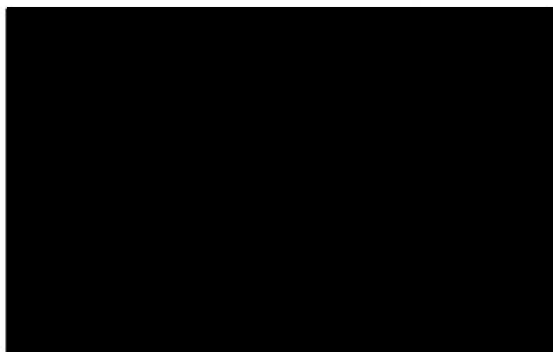
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.



for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?



☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☒ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Retain Stormwater

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

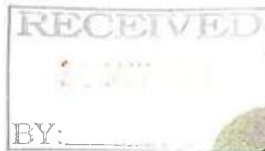
To speak to Council
at 24 June.

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

Privacy Statement

We collect your personal information so we can contact you throughout this consultation process. Any submissions received play an important role in the decision-making process. Any personal information, e.g. your name and statements made in your submission will be publicly available. Providing your personal information is optional, however Council will be unable to contact you regarding important dates, the process or provide a response to your submission and any outcomes. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you and, if applicable, request correction of that information.

If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz



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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Alan Hildington

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☒ Newspaper

☐ Email

☒ Website

☐ Meeting

☒ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (OPTION A) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

[Handwritten signature]

169

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Anna Groenestein

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Optional Demographic Information. This is kept confidential for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☒ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal **(OPTION A)** for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option **(OPTION B)** of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

~~So~~ Our elected council manages ~~the~~ the ratepayers' needs very well without outside help. Our water services are excellent, because much money and attention is expended on them. Rates will increase whether or not there is a ^{merger}.

There is no proof that our water services would be improved or even maintained by a joint entity, which includes New Plymouth, a city with different needs and priorities. We would end up subsidising their ^{results} Council's internal squabbling and debts.

Our council and its employees ~~an~~ provide ~~and with~~ a ^{good} water service, and plan for ^{supply in the} its future. They are loyal to the district.

To sum up, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" (^{American} saying)

Anne Groenestein

30-5-25

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

Privacy Statement

We collect your personal information so we can contact you throughout this consultation process. Any submissions received play an important role in the decision-making process. Any personal information, e.g. your name and statements made in your submission will be publicly available. Providing your personal information is optional, however Council will be unable to contact you regarding important dates, the process or provide a response to your submission and any outcomes. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you and, if applicable, request correction of that information.

If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

170

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Lindsay Tauri

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

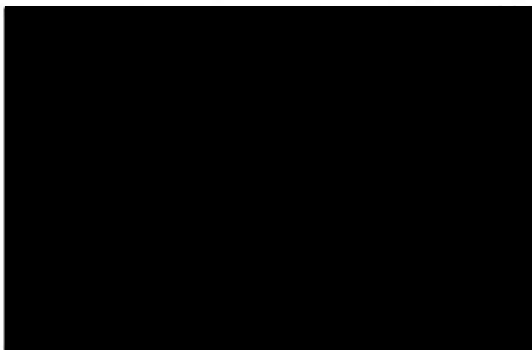
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.



Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☐ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.



I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

[illegible]

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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Submission Form



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Ruth Taun

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

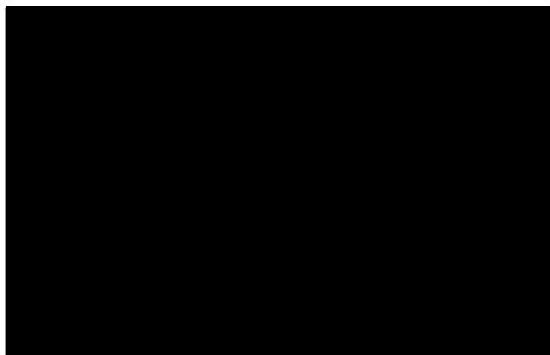
Postal address

Telephone (Day)

Email address



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al for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

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Any further comments?

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services for the Stratford district.

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Raylee Kelly

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

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☐ Meeting

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☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

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Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Retain our stormwater

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

[illegible]

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173

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Jane Roguski

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
Someone will contact you to confirm this.

al for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

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☐ Email

☒ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



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Any further comments?

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[illegible]

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174

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Kate Fairhurst

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

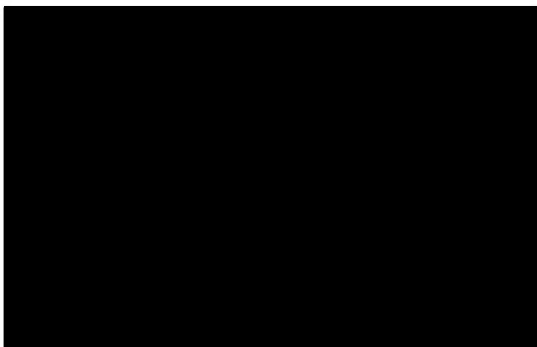
Postal address

Telephone (Daytime)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
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Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

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☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
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Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one



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Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

services for the Stratford district.

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175

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

LEEN MOFFITT

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June.
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ntial for analysis only.

Do you live in the
Stratford district?

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☐ No - where?

How did you hear about
this consultation?

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☐ Email

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☐ Meeting

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Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

I BELIEVE BY SHARING WITH OTHERS IT OPENS THE DOOR
TO PRIVATISATION. KEEP IT LOCAL

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

[illegible]

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) A.F. Rosendaal

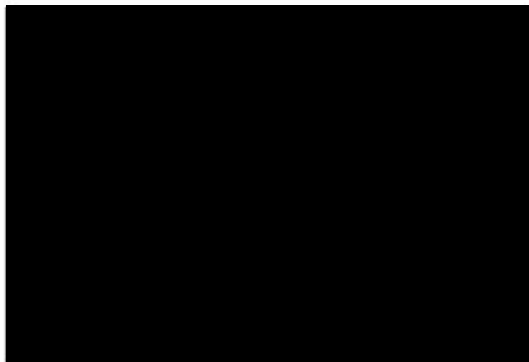
Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address

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Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

[illegible]

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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Ian Crawford

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Information for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

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☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

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Which option would you prefer?

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I support the alternative option (OPTION B) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Having previously worked for a council + seeing amalgamations touted as "keeping costs down" + "saving money", I can testify that this is untrue + will always balloon out of all.

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

proportion, slowly the staff numbers increase,
+ services head down hill as bureaucracy
takes over + becomes more important than
providing the service it was intended to
serve.

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178

Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?)

Ron Walsh

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

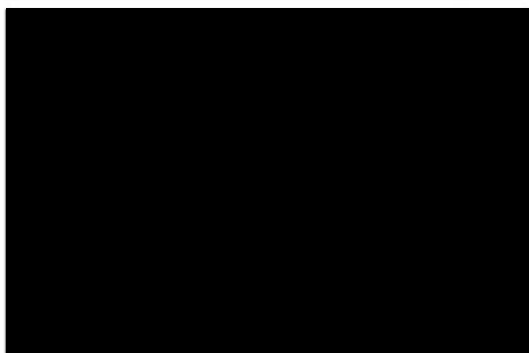
Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address



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☐ No - where?

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I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

If it aint broke, dont tinker with it

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179

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Water submission
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 3:01:56 PM

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We choose option B as we can't have our rates going up and up thanks.
Bruce and Sue Meek

180

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: FW: Your response on Local Water Done Well
Date: Friday, 6 June 2025 12:43:10 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Bridget Mestrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 May 2025 1:40 PM
To: Stratford Submissions <Submissions@stratford.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Your response on Local Water Done Well

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Just emailing following my conversation with Erin earlier today.

I would like to retract my submission below and instead change my answers based on further research that I've completed on the topic of local water done well.

New Submission:

Q1 (Which option do you prefer): Option A

Q2 (Comments): I think there are risks with it and it may have some teething issues, but ultimately option A takes better advantage of the economies of scale. The greater borrowing power will allow all three Councils to complete necessary works in the short term. Stratford would benefit from an extra seat at the table, however I know we have a smaller population so understand how we ended up with only 2 representatives. My main reason for supporting Option A is my hope that it will give the Council time, space and resources to focus on community ventures and greater development in our district.

Thank you for allowing me to change my submission at such late notice.

Cheers,

Bridget



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Submission Form



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Contact Details:

Name: (who is the submission from?) Barrymore (Barrie) R Smith

Contact Person: (if the name above is an organisation)

Postal address:

Telephone (Day)

Email address

☐ Please tick if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council hearing on 24 June. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Section B (Optional) - This is not essential for analysis only.

Do you live in the Stratford district?

☒ Yes - where?

[Redacted]

☐ No - where?

How did you hear about this consultation?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Meeting

☐ Social Media

☐ Other Friend

Which option would you prefer?

Please tick one

☐ I support the proposal (**OPTION A**) for Stratford District Council to join a multi council-controlled organisation (with New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils) to provide future water and wastewater services.

☒ I support the alternative option (**OPTION B**) of providing water services in the Stratford District through an in-house Stratford District Council business unit.

Do you have any comments on the inclusion or exclusion of stormwater in the proposed regional model?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Any further comments?

Please provide any comments about your option choice and the future delivery of water services for the Stratford district.

Water is life & this was recognised by the SFD Borough Council very early in our town's history. I believe it was in 1903 that water was taken from the Ratea river adjacent to the Cardiff road to operate a gravity system. This ran through a 12" spiral welded pipe. Then in the early 1990 (during my time on the newly formed SDC) a new replacement pipe was installed from the Cardiff Road facility. The point I'm making is that from our early fore-fathers to now the SDC has always considered top quality water & disposal of waste water a top priority. History is history but by supporting no B we can prove that we can manage our own affairs,

We need to receive your feedback by Friday 30 May, 5pm

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If you want to check personal information that we hold about you please contact us at privacy@stratford.govt.nz

Submission

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Stratford District Council

Submission on: Local Water Done Well

Date: 30 May 2025

Contact: **TARANAKI FEDERATED FARMERS**

LEEDOM GIBBS
TARANAKI PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
P: 027 493 7646
E: leedomnz@yahoo.com

Address for Service: **KELLY LANGTON**
NORTH ISLAND POLICY MANAGER
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
P: 027 416 1586
E: klangton@fedfarm.org.nz

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Federated Farmers values this opportunity to provide feedback on the Council's future water services journey and response to Local Water Done Well.
- 1.2. The Three Waters have been a source of controversy and uncertainty in recent years. Farmers have taken a close interest in what is happening on the service delivery side for local authorities.
- 1.3. Federated Farmers opposed the establishment of the regional water entities, preferring to see service delivery decision making remain in the hands of local authorities.
- 1.4. We are pleased to see the range of options availed to local authorities in the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, and the elevated status of water services in the scheme of the legislation.
- 1.5. Whichever delivery arrangement Council ultimately settles on (the Council, or a water organisation it joins), will have the status and obligations of a water service provider. This will ensure compliance with financial principles including the ring fencing of water services

revenue and, where the council forms a water organization, better access to capital at a lower cost.

- 1.6. Council's service delivery decisions should promote efficient use of the precious water resource. Where volumetric charging is not in place, it should be. Inefficient use of water impacts the whole community, with potential knock-on effects to rural and private schemes.
- 1.7. We hope that the Local Water Done Well program will help local government to close the infrastructure deficit and successfully comply with the elevated drinking water standards introduced in 2022.
- 1.8. While the greater part of our membership is supplied by private drinking water schemes, have on-site wastewater arrangements, and are not on urban stormwater networks, we have an interest as ratepayers in ensuring Council's service delivery is efficient, successful, and does not rely in any way on funding from general rates.
- 1.9. Where farms and rural residences rely on council drinking water schemes there should be prominence given to their needs in Council's Water Services Delivery Plan. Many rural schemes have limited capacity to meet elevated drinking water standards introduced in 2022 and need reassurance as to their financial sustainability.

2. WATER SERVICES IN THE STRATFORD DISTRICT

- 2.1. Federated Farmers is concerned that should Council join the WS-CCO, decision making would be a further step removed from those impacted. Decisions on pricing and services would not be undertaken by those who have a connection to those impacted and an understanding of the history and needs of the community. The organisation would be a business, not focused on the welfare and livelihoods of its customers. Federated Farmers hopes that those elected to Stratford District Council have the interests of its residents and ratepayers as its highest priority.
- 2.2. Federated Farmers notes that the cost savings for joining the WS-CCO are minimal. For the average household this would be just \$100 annually in 10 years and \$200 per year after 30 years. These savings would also be off-set by an increase in rates for other Council services. These minimal cost savings seem to be small compensation for losing autonomy in decision making.
- 2.3. Most farms on Council water schemes and only receive water services from Council. Rural properties are generally self-contained for wastewater services. Federated Farmers questions whether those not connected to wastewater will be required to contribute financially, through overheads or otherwise, to services they do not receive?

3. STORMWATER

- 3.1. Federated Farmers agrees that stormwater services should not be transferred to the WS-CCO. Rural stormwater does not fit the Local Government (Water Services) Bill definition for stormwater and therefore cannot be transferred.

stormwater service—

(a) means the collection, treatment, drainage, reuse, or discharge of stormwater in an urban area; but

(b) does not include a service relating to a transport corridor

3.2. As stormwater systems are incredibly complex and it is difficult to separate rural, urban and transport corridor services it is best that they stay in-house.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Council ensures that, regardless of the option it chooses, that farmers do not pay 'urban' prices for water.**
- 2. That Council ensures that, regardless of the option it chooses, that farmers are not required to contribute to wastewater services they are not connected to.**
- 3. That water services remain in-house where the decision making is done by those connected to the communities they serve.**

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.



The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

183

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Local Water Done Well submission
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 5:41:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I believe in keeping Stratfords Water in control of Stratford Council solely.

Merging with other councils will only increase rates at a time where people are struggling as it is. More wasted money on created a new entity and board to manage a bigger 'pool' where I can see the blame being passed around instead of real solutions to fix real problems, not ones that are made up, or prioritizing the likes of NP over the smaller areas.

As it stands now water rates are going up on the 1st of June, a merge will only further those increases.

I oppose Local Water Done Well.

Regards,

Amanda.

184

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Local water done well
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 5:41:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I strongly think we need to stay as an independent council.

We have the lowest debt level out of all 3 and even with upcoming maintenance eg our waste water treatment plant Stratford council has already got the money and a plan for that.

We will end up being the town that has the least spent on maintenance if we join.

And nothing good has come from any other joint venture that has been done in the past so why make this another one that will fail the people.

Regards,

Mike

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stratford Submissions](#)
Subject: Local Water Done Well
Date: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 3:55:04 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Stratford District Council

Stratford Business Association is against the proposed option A for the Local Water Done Well. As an association we prefer option B to keep the delivery of water services within Stratford District Council.

Joining with the other 2 Taranaki councils would have a negative effect on the Stratford community and businesses as the focus would become New Plymouth first

Kind Regards

Amy Hill
Secretary
STRATFORD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

C/O 246 Broadway, Stratford, 4332
Ph: 0275116311 Email: admin@heartoftaranaki.nz

Please Note My Hours of Work:

Monday 9am - 3.30pm
Tuesday 9am - 5pm
Wednesday 11.30am - 5pm

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DECISION REPORT



F22/55/04 – D25/20705

To: Policy & Services
 From: Chief Executive
 Date: 24 June 2025
 Subject: Selection of Future Delivery Model for Water Services

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council note that as per the requirements arising from the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and other associated legislation, it is required to choose a future delivery model for water services to form the basis of a compliant Water Services delivery Plan (WSDP), that is to be submitted to the Secretary of Local Government by 3 September 2025.
3. THAT Council note that all submissions on the proposed water services delivery model, including submission trends, have been considered.
4. THAT Council adopts a regional WSCCO with the New Plymouth and South Taranaki District Councils as the future delivery model for Water and Wastewater services for the Stratford district, with Stormwater assets and services to remain under Stratford District Council ownership and management.

OR

THAT Council adopts an in-house stand-alone business unit as the future delivery model for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater services for the Stratford district. This option is also known as enhanced status-quo.

5. THAT officers are instructed to finalise a Water Services Delivery Plan for the delivery of Water Services based on adopted model in time for council adoption prior to submission by 3 September 2025;

(If a regional Joint Taranaki Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) with New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and South Taranaki District Council (STDC) is chosen as the preferred model, the following should be added to this resolution):

That in the event NPDC and/or STDC opt out of a Joint Taranaki WSCCO, the adopted water services delivery model be an in-house stand-alone business unit (Enhanced Status Quo) delivered by an in-house business unit of council with ownership of water, wastewater and stormwater assets remaining with council.

Recommended Reason

As per earlier discussion with elected members, no overall staff recommendation is included in this report due to the combination of technical as well as political aspects of the two delivery models considered. Analysis of the technical aspects, particularly considering risk, rates implications and end-user cost favours an in-house business unit, this however needs to be balanced against the political aspects which were explored in an earlier report. **The new information to take into consideration in this report is the feedback from public consultation, which strongly favours an in-house option.**

/
 Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for elected members to acknowledge and consider the submissions received in relation to potential future delivery models for water services for the Stratford district, and enable Council to decide on the delivery model it wishes to use in preparing and submitting a Water Services Delivery Plan by the statutory deadline of 3 September 2025 as required under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In September 2024, the Coalition Government passed the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, driving a tight timeframe for developing and implementing objectives under the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) Policy.
- 2.2 The Local Water Done Well framework includes the opportunity for councils to establish independent or joint Water Services Council Controlled Organisations (WSCCOs), that can borrow directly through the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) at higher net debt to revenue ratios than most local authorities.
- 2.3 It has been stated in formal communications from the former Minister for Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown that “The Government’s expectation is that councils will work together to establish joint water organisations for water services delivery, recognising the cost and operational efficiencies that come with greater size and scale¹”.
- 2.4 A critical component of the legislation is the statutory requirement for all Councils to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to Central Government by 3 September 2025 that explicitly shows an assessment of Council’s water infrastructure, how much is needed to invest, and how Councils plan to finance and deliver it through a preferred water service delivery model.
- 2.5 Under the Act, Councils had to use a simplified consultation process for decision-making, requiring the identification of a preferred model, and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred model and at least one other model, and the impact of each option on rates, debt, and levels of service. Council’s consultation was confined to two options, being the Enhanced Status Quo (in-house business unit) option as well as a Joint Taranaki WSCCO for water and wastewater. For the WSCCO option, stormwater would remain with Council, with the option for the delivery of services to be contracted to the WSCCO at a later date.
- 2.6 Council received 185 submissions during the consultation period. 12 Submitters supported the proposed Option A (Regional CCO), 170 supported Option B (Enhanced in-house option) and 3 submitters didn’t specify a preference.

Options	Percentage	Count
Option 1 – Regional council-controlled organisation	7%	12
Option 2 - In-house Business Unit	92%	170
No option chosen	1%	3
Total	100%	185

Submitters supporting Option 1 (Regional WSCCO) considered this a practical and cost-efficient option. The submitters’ view of likely future council amalgamation also supported their view.

Submitters supporting Option 2 (in-house business unit) expressed concern about being given a lesser priority than the larger regional centres, concerns regarding the greater per-capita debt of the other councils involved and the potentially under-estimated costs of setting up and running a new organisation. These submitters also expressed a preference for the stronger local control this model provides and confidence that Stratford is in a position to look after its own needs, citing historic performance as evidence.

¹ Letter from Hon Simeon Brown to Local Government Mayors/Chairs received 10 December 2024.

2.7 The Department of Internal Affairs has proactively provided a legal opinion² clarifying the role of submissions received via consultation during this process, clarifying that “The Preliminary Arrangements Act does not require a council to make a decision that accords with public consultation feedback”.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council’s purpose is to “enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future”			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:			Yes
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
✓	✓	✓	✓

Provision of water supply traverses all four well-beings. While this report only sets criteria for the upcoming consultation process, this was assessed on the basis of the overall work programme it forms part of, driven by a legislative requirement to change from the status quo.

4. Background

Water services reform has been on the national agenda as part of the last Labour and current National governments and has been articulated in previous reports and through Council workshops.

4.1 Local Water Done Well Legislative and Policy Framework

- 4.1.1 The Local Government (Water Services) Bill was introduced in early December 2024. This Bill builds on the foundations set in the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.
- 4.1.2 The combined legislation sets minimum requirements for service delivery models that include:

a) new economic, environmental and water quality regulations

b) a new planning and accountability framework

c) financial sustainability objectives

d) new statutory objectives consistent for all water providers

e) restrictions against privatisation.
- 4.1.3 All Councils were required under legislation to consider options and determine a preferred water service delivery model. Whatever model is adopted, there are legislative restrictions against privatisation and regardless of the delivery arrangements, the existing responsibilities, commitments and obligations under the Local Government Act (LGA) and treaty settlement legislation continue to apply.
- 4.1.3 Irrespective of the model chosen, the revenues, assets, expenses and debt for water services must be separated or ring-fenced from all other Council services.

² Legal opinion clarifying consultation requirements and obligations arising from public consultation feedback.

- 4.1.4 All councils are required to submit a draft Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

4.2 Financial Sustainability

- 4.2.1 The Act requires that Councils provide an explanation in their WSDP's of what the council proposes to do to ensure that water services will be delivered in a financially sustainable manner by 30 June 2028.

Financial sustainability means water services revenue is sufficient to meet the costs of delivering water services. The costs of delivering water services include meeting all regulatory standards, and long-term investment in water services.

How councils approach achieving financial sustainability can be different depending on local circumstances and require councils to consider the balance between three key factors.

These factors are:

- Revenue sufficiency – is there sufficient revenue to cover the costs (including servicing debt) of water services delivery?
- Investment sufficiency – is the projected level of investment sufficient to meet levels of service, regulatory requirements and provide for growth?
- Financing sufficiency – are funding and finance arrangements sufficient to meet investment requirements?

- 4.2.2 To meet the anticipated investment needs for water service delivery, a borrowing facility has been offered through the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) whereby a WSCCO can borrow up to 500% of its operating revenue. This lending framework will only be available to new asset-owning water organisations that are CCOs and are financially supported by their parent council(s), either as a guarantor or via uncalled capital.
- 4.2.3 An in-house business unit will continue to operate within the parent-council's financial envelope. This is calculated based on council's overall income stream – which is significantly broader than that of a WSCCO. Therefore a comparison on a percentage basis of income does not appropriately reflect the financial realities of each model, these have been tested and demonstrated against the indicative capital works programme in an earlier report.
- 4.2.4 As per the modelling undertaken to date, both delivery models comply with LGFA restrictions for the respective model and appear to be financially sustainable and compliant with debt limits, at varying levels.

4.3 Alignment with existing Long Term Plan (LTP)

- 4.3.1 Neither model consulted on aligns with the adopted LTP. This is due to the LTP being based on a non-modified in-house delivery model and on-going asset ownership for all water services related activities by council. While the reforms were underway at the time the LTP was being prepared, not enough was known about the impact of these reforms to incorporate this into the LTP at the time.
- 4.3.2 Under section 17(2) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 a council must consult on the future delivery options. Provided that it does so, it is not required to consult again on the consequential amendments to the Long Term Plan.
- 4.3.3 The departure from the LTP is much greater for a Joint Taranaki WSCCO than for the in-house business unit (Enhanced Status Quo) option.

4.4 Stormwater

- 4.4.1 Under the Bill, Councils retain legal responsibility and control of stormwater services but have the flexibility to choose the arrangements that best suit their circumstances.

4.4.2 If a new WSCCO is established, SDC could contract the delivery of Stormwater services to the this organisation, retaining ownership of the assets.

4.4.3 Stormwater revenue will continue to be collected by Council irrespective of the delivery model chosen.

4.5 Water Service Delivery Plans

4.5.1 The Council must by 3 September 2025, submit a WSDP which explicitly shows:

- a) The proposed water services delivery model, as decided by Council.
- b) The decision of Council to transfer (or not) stormwater services and/or assets (as well as drinking water and wastewater assets).
- c) Financial separation of water services from the rest of Council activities.
- d) That financial sustainability will be achieved by 30 June 2028.
- e) Adoption by Council before 28 June 2025 and certified as being true by the Council Chief Executive.

4.5.2 The WSDP must be accompanied by an Implementation Plan for the preferred delivery model and submitted to the Secretary of Local Government (through DIA) by 3 September 2025. The WSDP is then either;

- a) Accepted by the Secretary for Local Government, who can only accept a WSDP if it complies with the Act (as above); or
- b) Not accepted by the Secretary who may recommend the Minister of Local Government appoints a Crown Water Services Specialist to help complete the WSDP to an acceptable outcome (at Council's expense).

4.5.3 The Government is also proposing a new planning and accountability framework for water services. The framework is intended to improve transparency and accountability for future delivery of water services.

4.5.4 Essentially, the status quo, for two (and potentially three) waters delivery, is no longer an option without substantial modification to meet the legislated requirements for financial sufficiency.

5. Consultative Process

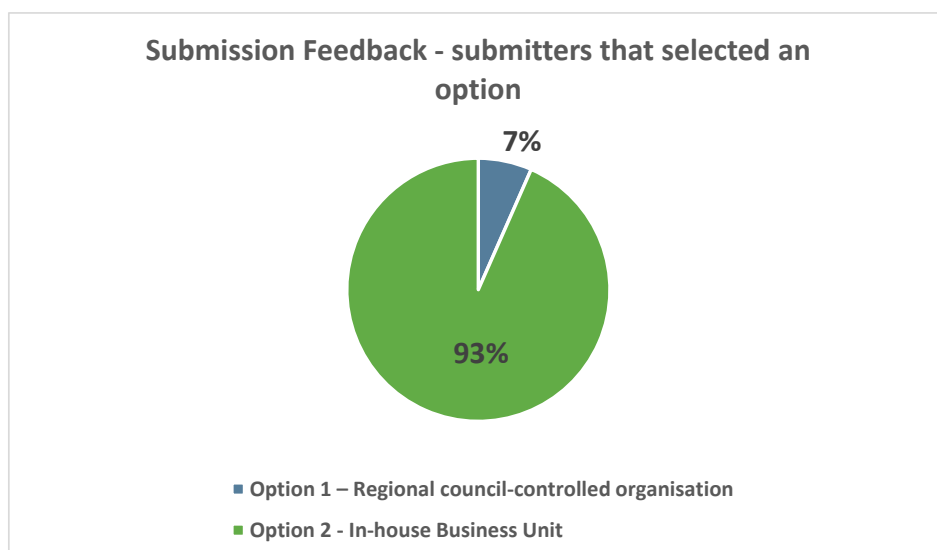
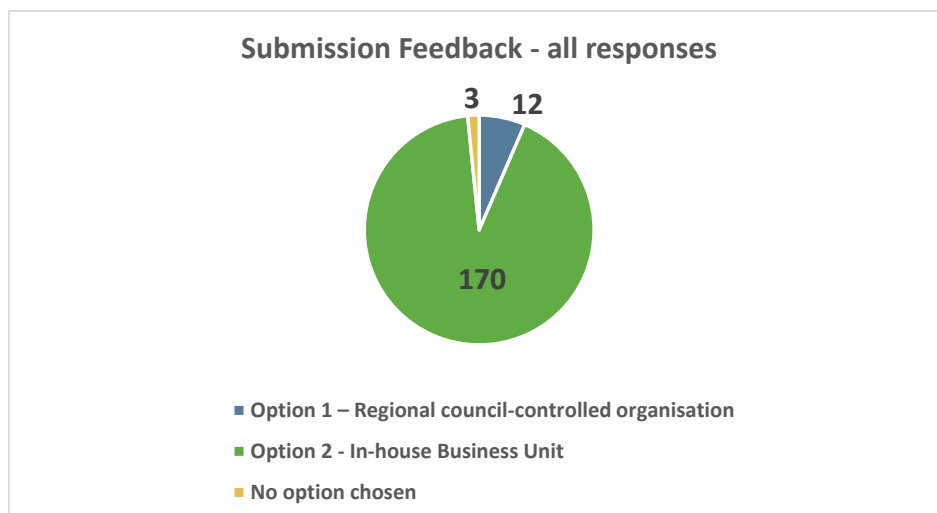
5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

Council consulted the community from 30 April to 30 May, using the streamlined consultation process as per the requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act.

Council utilised a wide range of media including app posts, print media and in-person engagements to encourage participation and accepted submissions through a number of channels and media to maximise responses.

A total 185 submissions were received during the consultation period. 12 Submitters supported the proposed Option A (Regional WSCCO), 170 supported Option B (stand-alone in-house business unit / Enhanced Status Quo) and 3 submitters didn't specify a preference.

Options	Percentage	Count
Option 1 – Regional council-controlled organisation	7%	12
Option 2 - In-house Business Unit	92%	170
No option chosen	1%	3
Total	100%	185



Submitters supporting Option 1 (Regional CCO) considered this:

- a practical and cost-efficient option.
- Providing access to greater funding opportunities
- The submitters' view of likely future council amalgamation also supported their view.

Submitters supporting Option 2 (in-house business unit) expressed concern about:

- being given a lesser priority than the larger regional centres under a regional model;
- concerns regarding the greater per-capita debt of the other councils involved;
- potentially under-estimated costs of setting up and running a new organisation.
- Concern about future viability of a smaller Stratford District Council
- Stranded costs/overheads under Option 1

These submitters also expressed a preference for:

- the stronger local control this model provides and
- confidence that Stratford is in a position to look after its own needs, citing historic performance as evidence.

5.2 Māori Consultation - Section 81

To date, the Water Service Delivery for Taranaki Project has had involvement and input from iwi/manua whenua by way of Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) member participation

in the Steering Group, Pou Taiao staff on the Project Working Group, Technical Working Group, and briefings to Taranaki Iwi Chairs.

Governance considerations have been shared with Steering Group members including PSGE representatives, participating Pou Taiao staff and Iwi Chairs. Their feedback has been incorporated into delivery model development.

Council received a submission from Ngāti Ruanui as part of the public submission process, favouring Option 2 (In-house delivery).

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 Both models in question face significant uncertainties. These largely relate to the underlying assumptions, such as future capital and operational costs, future infrastructure requirements, future legislative requirements, efficiencies achievable through joint delivery, one-off and ongoing costs arising from the establishment of a dedicated WSCCO, to name a few.
- 6.2 Staff have endeavoured to provide a fair assessment of both options and aligned assumptions across both models where possible.
- 6.3 Model specific risk considerations have been included in earlier reports. Overall, the Enhanced Status Quo carries significantly less uncertainty in that it largely aligns with the status quo. Additional cost requirements for known and anticipated enhancements have been incorporated into the model.
- 6.4 The regional WSCCO offers a greater aspect of “safety in numbers” as costs and risks are spread across a greater base. Statistically however, the cost/risk increases at the same rate as the mitigation (more risks shared by more people) – meaning that the risk per customer remains unchanged in a larger model and that there is no material risk reduction resulting from a WSCCO.
- 6.5 An in-depth risk assessment was provided as part of an earlier report in this series.

7. Sustainability Consideration

- 7.1 Water service providers, regardless of the delivery model chosen, will have the objective to deliver water services in a sustainable and resilient manner.
- 7.2 Officers would expect that any new delivery model would seek to implement similar projects given the statutory obligations that are proposed.
- 7.3 A key consideration to determining the most appropriate future delivery model is the ability of the different models to implement changes to service delivery. Climate change considerations are one example of the types of changes that the preferred model will need to be able to implement.

8. Decision Making Process – Section 79

8.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	The decision sought in this report has the potential to be significant.
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	This reform programme has the potential to significantly re-shape the future of how infrastructure and services are delivered to our community.

8.2 Data

There is a significant amount of assumptions and uncertainty inherent in the required decision.

Key data contained within this report is the response to the public consultation process. This is covered under Section 5 of this report.

8.3 Significance

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?		
Is it:		
• considered a strategic asset; or	Yes	The outcome of this report may lead to a change in the ownership of a strategic asset.
• above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or	Yes	The value of assets that may be transferred from this council to another organisation was considered significant.
• impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	Yes	One of the options discussed in this report is to create a new multi-council CCO that council would be a shareholder of
• a change in level of service; or	No	There is no intention to change the level of service with either delivery model discussed
• creating a high level of controversy; or	Possibly	The previous iteration of the underlying reforms has created significant controversy, it is unclear why these reforms would be any different although there seems to be a greater level of acceptance or apathy to these reforms than there was last time.
• possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	Yes	Uncertainty about assumptions in both models which could result in the wrong model being chosen and higher costs & debt incurred to the Community than forecasted. Also, the future viability of a local Stratford Council could be influenced by this decision.

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
	✓	

8.4 Options

Option 1 – Regional Water Services Council Controlled Organisation

A regional asset owning WSCCO for drinking water and wastewater assets, with the option for councils to contract all or some of the service delivery of stormwater services to the WSCCO.

Option 2 – In-house stand-alone business unit (Enhanced Status Quo)

An in-house service delivery approach based on the Status Quo with adjustments made to the financial treatment within council and additional resourcing to meet legislative requirements.

8.5 Financial

Detailed financial analysis of both options was contained in an earlier report.

The external costs of the ongoing reform programme have largely been covered by DIA funding but a significant amount of staff time consumed by this work has been absorbed by the organisation.

8.6 Prioritisation & Trade-off

Due to legislative timeframes, this project has to be treated as a priority.

8.7 Legal Issues

The key legal consideration for this work programme is to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and any other associated requirements of the Local Water Done Well Reform Programme. Notwithstanding this, any solution identified must also meet the requirements of any other applicable legislation, including the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act. Proposed models have been reviewed by the Department of Internal Affairs and no issues identified to date.

8.8 Policy Issues - Section 80

Given the legislative requirements to undertake the work programme covered by this report, there are no policy issues inherent in the decisions sought.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 Letter – Hon Simeon Brown

Appendix 2 Legal opinion clarifying consultation requirements and obligations arising from public consultation feedback.



Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 11 June 2025

Appendix 1

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Dear Mayor / Chair

Local Government (Water Services) Bill introduced to Parliament

This week I introduced to Parliament the Coalition Government's third Local Water Done Well Bill.

When enacted, the Local Government (Water Services) Bill will be the central piece of legislation for New Zealand's water services system.

The Bill reflects key policy decisions shared with you in August this year, which give local government the tools required to address New Zealand's water services challenges.

It builds on the foundations already in place through the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, including the development of Water Services Delivery Plans (Plans) by councils.

About the Bill

The Bill is necessarily comprehensive. It sets out key details relating to the water services delivery system, the economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services, and changes to the water quality regulatory framework.

The Bill gives effect to the policy decisions announced in August. While there are no changes to the information that has already been shared with you on these, the Bill sets out detailed information about the new water services delivery system that will be important for informing your consideration of future water services delivery arrangements.

This includes information about:

- Tax implications for water organisations
- Wastewater and stormwater standards
- Technical details about the implementation of the National Engineering Design Standards
- Bespoke requirements for the consumer trust model of water services delivery
- Arrangements for transferring responsibilities to water organisations
- The objectives, financial principles and other responsibilities that apply to water service providers (councils and water organisations)
- Contractual arrangements for water services delivery
- The new planning and reporting framework for water services.

Information and guidance available

I encourage you to visit the Department of Internal Affairs' website for further detailed information about key aspects of the Bill.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand
+64 4 817 6804 | s.brown@ministers.govt.nz | www.beehive.govt.nz

The Department has updated the Local Water Done Well factsheets that were shared in August and developed new factsheets, based on the provisions of the Bill as introduced and including further information.

This information is available at: www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-Future-Delivery-System.

Alongside the material that has been released to support the introduction of the Bill, the Department has developed additional guidance to help inform your consideration of future water services delivery arrangements as part of the development of your Plans. This information is also available on the Department's website.

Transforming water services infrastructure and delivery

The introduction of this Bill represents a significant milestone for Local Water Done Well, and for the delivery of local solutions for improved, financially sustainable and high-quality water services.

With the framework and settings now in place, it is now up to you to consider the best solution for your communities.

The Government's expectation is that councils will work together to establish joint water organisations for water services delivery, recognising the cost and operational efficiencies that come with greater size and scale.

A joint water organisation will enable councils to pool resources, improve access to financing via Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA), and reduce costs for ratepayers. It won't mean harmonisation of pricing and other key financial metrics from day one – that process can and should reflect the realities of each region.

While some councils may wish to continue with in-house delivery of water services, it's important to emphasise that the new framework and requirements under Local Water Done Well – such as ringfencing, planning and accountability, and economic regulation – means business as usual is not an option.

Under Local Water Done Well, water service providers will have to operate more like independent utility businesses, much like telecommunications or electricity utilities. They will be structured and operated differently, and they will be directly accountable to customers, regulators and shareholders (where relevant).

Progress on Water Services Delivery Plans

Finally, I want to acknowledge the progress councils are making with the development of your Water Services Delivery Plans – the centrepiece of financially sustainable and locally-delivered water services.

Plans provide a clear pathway for councils to assess their current water services arrangements and chart a course for improvement, using the tools and framework the Government has made available.

While you have until 3 September 2025 to develop your Plans, it's important to emphasise that this is just the start of a locally – or regionally – driven transformation. Laying the groundwork now is critical to shaping high-quality, cost-effective water services in future.

Crown Facilitators continue to be an option to support councils in navigating the complexities of preparing these Plans, and I really encourage you to take up that option if you are experiencing challenges.

Crown Facilitators can provide tailored guidance, facilitate collaboration among councils, or assist with joint planning efforts. These facilitators are not there to impose decisions but to help councils develop robust, achievable plans that meet their unique needs.

Next steps

Once the Bill has had its first reading it will be referred to a select committee, where you will be able to make a submission.

I encourage you to have your say to ensure the legislation provides an enduring framework for the delivery of financially sustainable water services to your communities.

Acknowledging that the submission period falls over the Christmas break, I will be writing to the select committee to request that submissions by councils be received until the end of February, to give councils time to meet in the New Year and consider their submission.

More detail on the timing of the select committee process can be found on the Parliament website at www.parliament.nz, following first reading.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Local Government

Appendix 2



9 June 2025

To: Department of Internal Affairs
From: Government, Competition and Regulation Team

Subject: LWDW | Requirements for re-consultation under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

Introduction

1. You have asked for our advice regarding a council's obligation to re-consult (if any) in relation to its preferred water services delivery arrangement when preparing its water services delivery plan ("WSDP") under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 ("Preliminary Arrangements Act").
2. We address two specific questions below:
 - (a) whether a council who has already undertaken consultation on various models for water services delivery, and is now proposing to enter a delivery arrangement that may differ from what was consulted on, would be required to "reconsult" or undertake further consultation; and
 - (b) whether, if a council were to make a final decision regarding its intended water services delivery that is contrary to majority preference expressed in consultation, there would be any legal risks arising.

Executive summary

3. The Preliminary Arrangements Act requires one consultation only. However, it anticipates that councils will need to consider whether to undertake further consultation before adopting a water services delivery plan and sets out criteria for making that decision. The criteria broadly align with relevant matters to consider under the Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA02").
4. Accordingly, each council should assess whether further consultation is necessary as part of a good decision-making process, in accordance with the decision-making requirements under the LGA02. Ultimately, that requires an assessment of whether new views are likely to be provided (which will likely turn on whether the proposed decision is materially different to what was consulted on) and / or whether the council(s) feel that they already understand

1 of 5



the views and preferences of the community on the proposed decision. If it is considered that consultation is unlikely to elicit new views, then it does not need to be undertaken.

5. The Preliminary Arrangements Act does not require a council to make a decision that accords with public consultation feedback. In accordance with the well-established principles of consultation and local government decision-making, the key consideration for councils should be that views presented by the public are received with an open mind and be given due consideration in a council's decision making.
6. To mitigate against the risk of legal challenge, it would be prudent for a council to be able to demonstrate how they have considered views and preferences provided by people with an interest in the matter (i.e. those who submitted on public consultation), and why they consider their (perhaps contradictory) decision best promotes the well-being of the community in the present and future.

Consultation requirements and principles

7. Under the Preliminary Arrangements Act, councils are required to undertake consultation on their anticipated or proposed arrangement for delivering water services which must be set out in its WSDP.¹ The Preliminary Arrangements Act provides alternative consultation processes for councils to follow (as opposed to the LGA02 equivalent processes), which require a council to:
 - (a) identify at least two options for delivering water services (remaining with the existing approach and establishing/joining/amending a CCO or other joint arrangement);² and
 - (b) assess the advantages and disadvantages of these options.³
8. A council is expressly required to undertake consultation only once.⁴ Beyond consulting on the proposed model, a council is expressly *not* required to consult on a draft or final WSDP or when making a final decision to join a joint arrangement.⁵
9. However, a council may decide to undertake further consultation.⁶ A council should therefore consider whether further consultation is required in the circumstances, and it would be at risk of legal challenge if it did not turn its mind to this question. When deciding whether to undertake further consultation, a council must have regard to:⁷
 - (a) the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the matter (as required by s 78(1) LGA02);

¹ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 58.

² Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 61.

³ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 64.

⁴ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 62(2).

⁵ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 17(3).

⁶ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 62(4).

⁷ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, s 62(5).



- (b) the extent to which the council already knows the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected or have an interest in the decision; and
 - (c) the nature and significance of the decision.
10. These are factors on which the councils should be well-versed in exercising judgment under the LGA02, as they are relevant to all decision-making under the LGA02. The Preliminary Arrangements Act also makes clear that the general principles of consultation outlined in section 82 of the LGA02 still apply alongside the Preliminary Arrangements Act's requirements.⁸
11. Our memo to DIA dated 18 March 2025 provides a more fulsome overview of consultation requirements in the Preliminary Arrangements Act.

Application to councils

12. There is no mandatory requirement in the Preliminary Arrangements Act to consult on a further or final decision in relation to a proposed delivery arrangement following initial consultation. However, in accordance with s 78 LGA02, each council should consider whether it has already undertaken sufficient consultation to inform the decision it is about to make. It is the responsibility of each council to decide whether further consultation would be necessary in the circumstances.
13. In practice, this may depend on the level of detail surrounding the proposed delivery models or arrangements that were provided by councils in the initial consultation. Each council should also take into account the responses already received and consider whether it effectively already knows the views and preferences of affected persons, and whether the new preferred arrangement would be likely to significantly alter this feedback (for example, whether the new proposal would materially impact the costs to ratepayers outlined in the consultation document).
14. For example, if a council has carried out consultation on three options (in-house delivery, individual separate water organisation, or joint water organisation with two neighbouring councils), and the council has decided to pursue the joint water organisation but with *four* other councils (rather than two as originally proposed), whether this council should undertake further consultation may depend on several factors, such as:
- (a) **The scope of consultation** – for example, whether the consultation focused on the three distinct options of water services delivery or presented a detailed proposal regarding setting up a new water organisation with two other councils. It may be relevant whether consultation materials identified the number or specific names of councils, or whether it left the particular arrangement open or otherwise left some flexibility for the details of the arrangement to change in future.
 - (b) **The responses to consultation** – if public consultation responses in this case took issue with the specific proposal (e.g. the specific councils identified, the number of councils etc), or supported the joint arrangement conditionally on the council joining with the two named councils, further consultation may be

⁸ Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, section 60(2).



required. But if feedback substantively concerned the overall options (in-house vs single council delivery vs joint council delivery), or other issues unrelated to the details of the proposed joint arrangement, further consultation may not be necessary.

15. Councils should also keep in mind the significance of the decision. Given that decisions on WSDPs will have long term implications for the delivery of services that are essential to the community, then if councils elect not to undertake further consultation they should be confident that stakeholders have been given a full opportunity to provide views in relation to the decision they propose to make.
16. As an overall practical test, if a council is of the view that further consultation would be a box-ticking exercise that is unlikely to usefully inform its decision-making (given the views already received and considered in prior consultation), then that is a good indicator that consultation is unnecessary.
17. On the other hand, if there is concern that the decision could be contentious among sectors of the community and there are stakeholders that could be motivated to legally challenge the decision, then a conservative approach would be to reconsult. The requirement under the Preliminary Arrangements Act and the LGA02 for councils to exercise reasonable judgment in the circumstances means that it is difficult to completely rule out the prospect of a successful challenge if further consultation is not undertaken (i.e. with the benefit of hindsight, a court could decide that consultation was required in the circumstances).

Whether a council can make a final decision contrary to majority preference expressed during consultation

18. The Preliminary Arrangements Act does not require a council to make a decision that accords with public consultation feedback.
19. Rather, in accordance with the well-established principles of consultation and local government decision-making, the key consideration for councils should be that views presented by the public are received with an open mind and be given due consideration in a council's decision making.⁹ The consultation process must be genuine and not a sham.¹⁰ While a council may choose to make a final decision that runs contrary to majority preference as indicated through the initial or only consultation, a council equally cannot go into consultation with its mind already made up and produce a final decision that does not reflect that the views of interested or affected parties have been given due consideration.
20. Overall, courts view consultation as a process that, if done properly, will improve the quality of decision-making. They do not see it as a process where consultation feedback should dictate the decision.
21. Given that council decision-making is an exercise in judgment and discretion, it is difficult to rule out the prospect of legal challenge by motivated stakeholders. The risk of legal challenge may be greater in circumstances where the majority of public feedback is opposed to the proposed decision because there may be greater scope for arguments that the council

⁹ Local Government Act 2002, s 82(1)(e).

¹⁰ *Wellington International Airport Ltd v Air New Zealand Ltd* [1993] 1 NZLR 671.



had a closed mind or otherwise failed to properly consider relevant matters. To mitigate against such challenges, it would be prudent for the council to be able to demonstrate how they have considered views and preferences provided by people with an interest in the matter (i.e. those who submitted on public consultation), and why they consider their (perhaps contradictory) decision best promotes the well-being of the community of in the present and future (as per the purpose of local government set out in s 10(1)(b) LGA02).



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.