

PUBLIC NOTICE

THREE WATERS AFFECTS YOU.

Are you aware the Government is proposing to transfer the water assets owned by ratepayers from our local council to one of four mega water authorities? That's the water you drink, waste water (sewage), and stormwater runoff. These are known as the Three Waters.

The Government wants to take the Three Waters assets without paying fair value for them. That includes all water reservoirs, treatment plants, and infrastructure networks.

Your assets will then be controlled by a 12 member mega water authority board. Half of the board will be appointed by iwi. The Government says that's to honour the "partnership" they have with Maori.

The other six seats will be taken by the local authorities that are transferring their water assets, in proportion to the value of their assets, so bigger councils will have more influence.

Those 12 people and they alone will have total control over the water that flows in and out of your property, and how much you pay. At the present time the elected representatives of

your local council make decisions about water. If your council joins the Government scheme the mega water authority will be the only water provider so you will have no option but pay whatever they charge - and you can't vote them out of office because they are not elected to represent you.

Cabinet papers reveal that the Government has had 60 consultation meetings with Maori about the Three Waters proposals.

But there has been no community consultation on the proposal, despite the Local Government Act requiring councils to consult when making decisions about strategic assets like water.

Cabinet papers also show the Government is considering changing the law to remove the requirement for councils to consult their community over the Three Waters scheme. In other words, they want your council to transfer your assets without you having a say.

We urge you to call on your local council to hold a referendum so the community can decide whether it wants control of its water assets to be taken out of local hands and given to one of these mega authorities.

"My view is that because of the implications of transferring over a quarter of Council's total assets at below valuation there is only one safe road to take. I will be advocating for a binding referendum to go out to the people of Westland seeking direction on in or out. It's called democracy."
- Bruce Smith, Mayor of the Westland District Council.

SUPPORT THE CALL FOR A REFERENDUM

This is what you can do:

1. Contact your local councillors. Their email addresses and further information may be found at: nzcpr.com/3waters. Demand your council consult their community before they consider whether to hand over your water assets. Remind them they were elected to represent your community, not politicians in Wellington.
2. Encourage others to do the same. Copy this page and deliver into letter boxes in your neighbourhood or email to others.

Thank you for your support.

"It's hard to imagine how any council in New Zealand will be able to make a decision without the clear direction a referendum will bring."

- Bruce Smith, Mayor of the Westland District Council.