

Tatūnga wai mō āpōpō.

Planning for tomorrow's water, today.

LOCAL
WATER
DONE
WELL

HAVE YOUR SAY

Public consultation dates
12 May - 15 June 2025



**kōrero
mai!**

sayitnapier.nz

NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

From the Mayor

Napier's water services — drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater — need to change. The way we do things now doesn't meet new government rules and it's too expensive to keep doing it the same way. We need to find a better way forward.

We have three options for how to manage water services in the future, and we need your feedback before we make a decision.

No matter which option we choose, costs will go up. Early estimates show a regional water organisation (OPTION 1) will increase costs by 65% over five years, while going it alone (OPTION 2 or 3) could increase costs by 80%.

The current system isn't working long-term.
New government rules mean:

- Stricter financial requirements
- A new economic regulator
- Higher drinking water standards
- Tighter wastewater rules
- Stormwater management changes.



These all affect how we deliver water services. We need to make sure Napier has safe, reliable water, a strong network for stormwater (especially during bad weather), and a system that's affordable and ready for the future.

Your input will help us decide how to move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Kirsten Wise'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kirsten Wise
Mayor of Napier

Let's talk about the future of our water services.

We have three options for what a future model will look like and we need community voice to make sure we are heading in the right direction.



Our preferred option is a multi-council water organisation for the region.

We considered four criteria in coming to this preference: cost efficiencies, levels of service, resilience and community engagement.

These are fundamental to the lasting success of our future model. Two other criteria are important to the initial move from inhouse delivery to a council-controlled organisation: ease of implementation and impact on the community.

See inside for more detail about our three options.



Why do we need to change?

New government rules mean all councils must:

Provide safe and reliable drinking water.

Taumata Arowai, the national water regulator, enforces new standards.

Meet new stormwater and wastewater rules.

New discharge and environmental standards will take effect in 2025.

Prove financial sustainability.

Water services must pay for themselves through fair charges that cover current and future needs.

Napier's system does not meet these new rules and we need to fix that. We want to do it in the most affordable and effective way possible. Doing nothing is not an option.

Our Local Water Done Well decision affects:



How much you pay for water



How safe and reliable your water is



How we plan for the future



OPTION
1
**REGIONAL
CCO**

In this model, the average yearly water bill by 2034 could be

\$2,800

A new organisation (CCO) owned by Napier and three other councils (Wairoa, Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay).

Shares staff, costs and planning.

Lower household costs over time.

This is our preferred option



More affordable for the community

- Lower costs over time
- Better access to funding

More reliable

- Larger, more skilled workforce
- Stronger planning and resilience

More future-ready

- Meets government rules sooner
- Supports growth and has scale to adapt to future change

Local voice matters

In Option 1, Napier still has a say. Council would be a shareholder in the new organisation and would help set its direction and priorities.



OPTION
2
**NAPIER
CCO**

OPTION
3
**IN-HOUSE
DELIVERY**

In these models, the average yearly
water bill by 2034 could be

\$3,100

Napier creates its own
water organisation (CCO).

No help from other councils.

More expensive and harder
to find skilled staff.

This model lacks the scale to
attract or retain specialist workers,
or share costs and resourcing.

Napier City Council
manages water itself.

Requires major changes
to meet new rules.

Most expensive in the long term.

This model means Council would
ringfence water budgets giving
less flexibility and fewer funds for
other essential services like roads,
parks and facilities.



Challenges ahead

The challenges facing Napier and Hawke's Bay can be found in areas across New Zealand:

The cost of maintaining and replacing aged assets.

Pipes, pumps and plants are reaching end of life after many were built during a boom between the 1950s and 1970s. Councils need to find significant funding to replace them.

New rules and regulations around drinking water safety and security.

Safety standards and environmental protection requirements are increasing and many water service providers are currently non-compliant.

Increased investment needed.

To build new infrastructure as our population grows and to improve network resilience to natural hazards and a changing climate.

Changing the model of water services delivery will enable the community to borrow more money to fix assets or replace them.



Have your say on this important decision.

Consultation closes 5pm Sunday 15 June 2025.

You can make a submission in three easy ways:

1. On our website www.sayitnapier.nz
– simply scan the QR code.
2. Fill in a paper form from one of our libraries or our Customer Service Centre and drop it in a box in person.
3. Fill in a paper form and post it to us:
Napier City Council, 215 Hastings Street Napier 4110,
Private Bag 6010 Napier 4142.



say it!

More information?

The full consultation document is available at sayitnapier.nz or at our Customer Service Centre, 215 Hastings Street.



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Public consultation dates
12 May - 15 June 2025