

## Appendix A

### Document 1

10 May 2024

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon  
Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government  
Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Member for Hutt South

Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēnā koe Prime Minister and Ministers,

Today the ten councils in the Wellington regional area and Horowhenua District Council formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on a joint water services delivery plan, copy attached. This significant commitment formalises steps already put in place by the ten councils including a joint elected member governance structure with our Iwi / Māori partners, Chief Executive steering group, project team, budget and an agreed development process.

I am writing as the Chair of the elected member governance structure, called the Advisory Oversight Group. We had our first formal meeting today with most of the members being the Mayors of our councils. This group will also include representation from our Iwi / Māori partners. As part of the agenda, we discussed with interest your recent agreement with Auckland Council on a future structure for Watercare. We congratulate you on reaching this deal with Auckland Council.

In support of the significant commitment made to date by our ten councils, we agreed that I would write to you to ask that you direct officials to proactively support us with the development of a workable future funding and delivery model for our region.

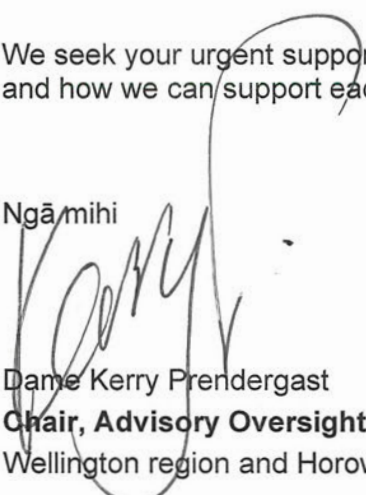
The ten councils, representing over half million people, are committed to this process and are working at pace to ensure we can land an option ahead of the local government elections in 2025. The first phase of our work has a strong focus on development of a joint delivery model that is able to address the challenging-long term funding and delivery requirements for water in our region. For our process to be successful we need your support to ensure our assessment of options is aligned with Government's policy decisions, proposed legislation and rating agencies requirements.

We wish to maintain traction on this process to bring earlier benefits and certainty to our partners, communities, and suppliers. For the Government, this Wellington process will show *Local Water Done Well* in action and provide valuable insights to other councils and regions.



We seek your urgent support and would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss our approach and how we can support each other's goals.

Ngā mihi

  
 Dame Kerry Prendergast  
**Chair, Advisory Oversight Group**  
 Wellington region and Horowhenua water services delivery plan.

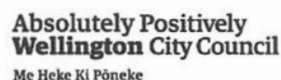
**Copy to:**

Members of the Advisory Oversight Group

Council / organisation	Representative
Chair	Dame Kerry Prendergast
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Cr Ros Connolly
Upper Hutt City Council	Mayor Wayne Guppy
Hutt City Council	Mayor Campbell Barry
Porirua City Council	Mayor Anita Baker
Wellington City Council	Mayor Tory Whanau
South Wairarapa District Council	Cr Colin Olds
Carterton District Council	Mayor Ron Mark
Masterton District Council	Cr David Holmes
Kāpiti Coast District Council	Mayor Janet Holborow
Horowhenua District Council	Mayor Bernie Wanden
Iwi membership being confirmed – current representative	Helmut Modlik, Tumu Whakararae - CEO, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa

- Department of Internal Affairs: Michael Lovett and Hamiora Bowkett

**Attached** copy of signed Memorandum of Understanding



## Document 2

### Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland  
Deputy Leader of the House



Dame Kerry Prendergast  
Chair, Advisory Oversight Group  
Wellington region and Horowhenua water services delivery plan  
*Wendy.Walker@porirua.govt.nz*

Dear Dame Kerry,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2024 on behalf of the ten councils in the Wellington regional area and Horowhenua District Council.

I am writing to formally acknowledge receipt of your letter and am responding on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon, and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Member for Hutt South, Hon Chris Bishop.

I warmly welcome the positive progress and intentions that you have shared with me, including the formal steps being taken by the ten councils to work together on a joint water services delivery plan. I'm enthused by your collective efforts to demonstrate Local Water Done Well in action and work towards a joint delivery model that is able to address the long-term funding and delivery requirements for the half million people across the greater region.

I'm also heartened by the steps you have taken to create effective governance and delivery structures, and your commitment to working with urgency to address the needs of your region.

The development of a joint water services delivery plan for the greater Wellington region will provide an assessment of your water infrastructure, how much you need to invest, and how you plan to finance and deliver it through your preferred service delivery model.

Importantly, the plans will be a way for councils to provide transparency to their communities about the costs and financing of water services. The plans will empower councils to make decisions about managing and delivering high-quality water services that reflect local needs and circumstances.

I understand officials are already engaging with members of your project team, and I have directed that they support you to ensure your work remains aligned with the Government's policy decisions and legislation.

Under Local Water Done Well, the Government will be providing councils with a range of financing and funding tools. The tools will ensure councils have the appropriate finance in place and will be able to access long-term debt required for investment in water services infrastructure, while ensuring a fair price for consumers. I know that this is critical for the greater Wellington region and I have directed officials to collaborate effectively with you on these matters.

I appreciate your proactive engagement in these matters, and I anticipate this is just the first of several communications and discussions we will be having with the greater Wellington region councils. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you soon, where we can discuss your approach in person and in more detail.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simeon Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



## Document 3

4 October 2024

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government

Parliament Buildings, Wellington. By email.

Tēnā koe Minister,

Today the nine councils within the Wellington regional area, and Horowhenua District Council, reached an important milestone and will receive a collective report on how we can best work together as a region to respond to Local Water Done Well. This is the outcome of strong collaboration and leadership across the region.

The report will recommend the establishment of a jointly owned water services council-owned company (WSCCO). This is for a full-breadth water utility vested with ownership of all regional water assets, revenues and liabilities. This is well aligned with your recent policy announcements and also the direction of Government's third water reform bill scheduled for tabling in December.

The report outlines the scale of the challenge, including the poor state of much of our water network and the need to ensure we can enable growth.

We have continued to refine and test the level of investment required. This will be substantial and is estimated at about \$15 billion- \$17 billion over the coming 20-25 years.

These estimates are being peer reviewed and will continue to be refined as we develop a Water Services Delivery Plan based on more robust bottom up analysis of the investment needed.

To ensure that this is affordable, we will continue to explore how the region and future WSCCO can leverage long-term financing through the LGFA which will be required to smooth and balance cost increases over time.

During October and November each of our councils will confirm their approach to Local Water Done Well and whether they remain part of this regional model. There remains a strong commitment to continue to work together and with your officials to ensure that we can deliver a financially sustainable pathway for our water services.

We will also be providing a copy of the report to your officials today and it will be made public on Monday 7 October.



Dame Kerry Prendergast

Chair of the Advisory Oversight Group



Document 4: text messages

Date	From	Text content
1 March 2024	Myles Gazley	"Hi Simeon I'm a friend of Nicola Willis ,can you please call me when you have time about Wellington city council 🍷 Myles Gazley"
11 October 2024	Kerry Prendergast	"Minister – if I can be of and assistance with governance at WCC please ask. Regards, Kerry"
14 October 2024	Simon Woolf	<p>"Hi Simeon,</p> <p>I hope all is good with you. I've refrained from communicating to you on the WCC previously. Last Thursday watching first hand what played out with The Airport sale, or not debacle has changed that.</p> <p>The circus that it was, showed up the Councillors, and especially the Officers. The Officer advice was so poor, with options and information missing. There was also information given by officers which was incorrect. With The CE now leaving in March, the need for a Crown Observer is even more necessary.</p> <p>The damage that will undoubtedly occur to Wellington in the next year without Government intervention will be difficult and unwieldy to unwind.</p> <p>Last Thursday was a watershed.</p> <p>Regards Simon Simon Woolf"</p>
15 October 2024	Therese Walsh	<p>"Hi Simeon. Therese Walsh here (Chair of AirNZ and ASB) I am in contact with 9(2)(a) about Wellington Council and we are meeting week after next 9(2)(a) as there is a large group of us getting together to go public on council. If you get a minute a</p>

Date	From	Text content
		quick chat might be useful so we can line up the various parts. Thanks Therese”
20 October 2024	Hon Simeon Brown	Contact details of: Brian Anderton
	Therese Walsh	👍
24 October 2024	Therese Walsh	“FYI – Vision for Wellington live to media tomorrow. Thanks”

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