
Progress update - February 2020

Three waters service delivery and funding arrangements

With the constructive input of local government and the wider water sector, the Three Waters Review Team has been considering solutions to wider affordability and capability challenges facing the three waters sector.

In January 2020, Cabinet considered advice on improving New Zealand's three waters service delivery and funding arrangements. The Government confirmed its commitment to partnering with local government to consider options for transitioning councils to new service delivery arrangements, allowing for safer, more affordable and reliable three waters services across the country.

The first step in this partnership is to continue to support councils within regions to investigate opportunities for collaborative approaches to water service delivery.

The Government will monitor the progress of those investigations over 2020, while it investigates further national opportunities to support the sector to address infrastructure challenges, improve the safety and quality of drinking water, and reduce the environmental impacts of wastewater.

[Further information is available in the Cabinet papers *Three waters service delivery and funding arrangements: approach to reforms and related Cabinet minute*.](#)

Taumata Arowai Establishment Unit

Department of Internal Affairs Chief Executive Paul James has announced the appointment of Bill Bayfield as the Establishment Chief Executive for Taumata Arowai, the new water services regulator. A highly respected chief executive with local and central government experience, and a good knowledge of drinking water and environmental regulation, Mr Bayfield comes to Taumata Arowai from his position as Chief Executive of Environment Canterbury. He takes up his new role in May this year and will report to the Taumata Arowai Establishment Board. The role is a fixed term appointment through to December 2021, with the Taumata Arowai Board due to consider a permanent appointment once it is fully established and operating.