

20 August 2025

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Manawatū District Council Water Services Delivery Plan: legal review of compliance with content requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024

1. On 20 August 2025 we completed our review of the final draft of the Manawatū District Council Water Services Delivery Plan (**WSDP**)¹ to assess its compliance with the content requirements in sections 13, 15 and 18 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (**Act**).
2. Subject to our comments in paragraph 3 below, we consider the draft WSDP meets the Act's content requirements and that (while identifying appropriate assumptions and uncertainties) the information contained in the plan can be certified by council chief executives as true and accurate. The schedule **attached** to this letter identifies where the relevant content requirements under the Act are addressed in the WSDP.
3. We have not been involved in the collation of information for the draft WSDP or other key aspects of its preparation such as financial modelling, and to that extent are unable to offer our own independent assessment of the accuracy of the information it contains. Indeed, as legal advisors we are not qualified to make such an assessment. However, we understand that the draft WSDP has been prepared by qualified staff and external consultants, and we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the information it contains.
4. Subject to paragraph 3 above, for the purposes of section 18 of the Act, we consider that the chief executive can properly certify that:
 - (a) the WSDP complies with the Act; and
 - (b) the information contained in the WSDP is true and accurate.

Yours faithfully
SIMPSON GRIERSON



Mike Wakefield | Partner
Liam Stevens | Solicitor

1 Final draft, received 18 August 2025, review completed 20 August 2025.

Schedule

CONTENT REQUIREMENT UNDER PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS ACT	WSDP REFERENCE
13(1)(a) – current state of water services network	Pages 71 to 73 – Assessment of the current condition and lifespan of the water services network
13(1)(b) – current levels of service	Pages 58 – 68
13(1)(c)(i) – areas in the district that do and do not receive water services	Page 19 – Serviced areas
13(1)(c)(ii) – water services infrastructure associated with providing for population growth and development capacity	Pages 68 – 70 (background to growth strategy); and 107 – 108
13(1)(d) – whether/to what extent water services comply with current and anticipated regulatory requirements	Pages 59 – 60; and 75 – 85
13(1)(e)(i) – description of any non-compliance with current and anticipated regulatory requirements	Pages 59 – 60; and 75 – 85
13(1)(e)(ii) – how the proposed delivery model will assist to ensure water services will comply with regulatory requirements	Page 111 and 129
13(1)(f)(i) – capex and opex required to deliver water services	See financial templates
13(1)(f)(ii) – capex and opex required to ensure water services comply with regulatory requirements	See financial templates
13(1)(g)(i) – operating costs and revenue required to deliver water services over plan period	See financial templates
13(1)(g)(ii) – projected capex on water services infrastructure	See financial templates
13(1)(g)(iii) – projected borrowing to deliver water services	Pages 134 – 136
13(1)(h) – current condition, lifespan, and value of the water services networks	Pages 71 to 73
13(1)(i) – asset management approach for delivering water services	Pages 71 – 73

13(1)(j) – issues, constraints, and risks that impact on delivering water services	Page 125
13(1)(k) – anticipated or proposed model for delivering water services	Page 5
13(1)(l) – how revenue from, and delivery of, water services will be separated from territorial authority’s other functions and activities	Page 122-146
13(1)(m) – consultation undertaken on proposed model	Pages 10-134
13(1)(n) – what the territorial authorities propose to do to ensure delivery of water services will be financially sustainable by 30 June 2028	Page 122-135
13(1)(o)(i) – implementation plan for delivering proposed model	Implementation Plan Page 8 -10
13(1)(o)(ii) – implementation plan setting out the actions that the territorial authorities will take to ensure delivery of services it will be providing will be financially sustainable by 30 June 2028	Implementation Plan Page 8 -10
13(2)(a) – process for delivering the proposed model	Page 5
13(2)(b) – commitment by each territorial authority to give effect to the proposed model once plan accepted	Implementation plan Page 8-10
13(2)(c) – name of territorial authority committing to model	Page 5
13(2)(d) – timeframes and milestones for delivering proposed model	Implementation Plan Page 8 -10
15(1)(a) – plan must cover at least 10 financial years starting from 2024-25	Page 122-146 and financial templates
15(2) – plan must provide the required information in detail for the first 3 financial years covered by the plan and outline in relation to subsequent years covered by the plan	Page 122-145 and financial templates
18(2) and (3) – plan must include certification from each chief executive of each territorial authority that the plan complies with the Act and the information in the plan is true and accurate	Page 15 (to be completed)