

Open Meeting

To	Waikato District Council
From	TN Harty General Manager Service Delivery
Date	3 July 2015
Chief Executive Approved	Y
DWS Document Set #	1011375
Report Title	Waikato Water Study - Governance Group Membership

1. Executive Summary

In June this year Council endorsed the findings of the Sub Regional Water Study in principle, being the formation of a three party Council Controlled Organisation.

The study was managed through the Water Project Group, a group of senior staff from the three participating councils, and had a governance overview from the Water Governance Group. The Governance Group was made up of elected members from each of the participating councils.

At this time only this Council has formally adopted a position on the study. Both Waipa District and Hamilton City Councils should formally adopt a position within the next few months.

In the interim a small amount of work continues on the project and it is deemed appropriate for the Water Project Group to continue to manage this.

It would also be useful for the Governance Group to remain formed through the interim period to continue to provide a governance overview and keep abreast of progress.

2. Recommendation

THAT the report of the General Manager Service Delivery – *Waikato Water Study - Governance and Project Group Membership* - be received;

AND THAT Council support the continuation of both the **Water Governance and Project Groups** to oversee the interim stage of the **Sub Regional Water Study**;

AND FURTHER THAT the existing members of the **Water Governance Group**, being His Worship the Mayor and the Chair of the **Infrastructure Committee**, remain as Council representatives through the interim period.

3. Background

On the 30th of June this year Council resolved to support in principle, the outcomes of the Sub Regional Water Study (the study).

The study was undertaken under the guidance of a Water Governance Group (WGG) made up of two elected members from each of the three participating Councils (Waipa and Waikato Districts and Hamilton City), supported by a Project Control Group (Water Project Group, WPG). These groups were formed by resolution of Council in July 2014 and terms of reference for the groups adopted by Council in October 2014. His Worship the Mayor and the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee were appointed as Council's representative on the WGG.

The Groups terms of reference (attached) indicate that both have a finite life, being linked to the duration of the Sub Regional Water Study project. For all intent and purposes the project is now effectively at an end.

4. Discussion and Analysis of Options

4.1 Discussion

Whilst the main study has been completed and Council has resolved to support its recommendation in principle, at the time of drafting this report, neither Hamilton City nor Waipa District had considered the report's recommendations formally. This consideration is not expected until later this year.

Whilst agreement from the partner Councils is required prior to moving forward with the formation of a three party CCO (or not, if not supported) there is still a small amount of background work that continues to be undertaken. This work includes, but is not limited to, assisting with the communications and engagement across the three councils, considering any additional information relevant to the projects and understanding the impacts of each council's decision process. The WPG continues to manage these works on a day to day basis.

The WPG have discussed the importance of continuing to operate to manage the above tasks and have also discussed the benefits of the WGG continuing in an overview role, until such time as all Councils have made final recommendations.

Senior staff from all three Councils support this view as both the Project and Governance Groups have developed good knowledge of the process and the report and have worked well together over the duration.

4.2 Options

There are two options for Council:

Option 1: Do not support the continuation of the WGG.

Option 2: Support the continuation of the WGG and approve representatives for the period until the three Councils confirm support, or otherwise, of the report and any further works is approved.

Staff support Option 2.

5. Considerations

5.1 Financial

The Project Group has estimated up to \$20,000 may be required for the interim period works. This Council's share of this would be up to \$5,000.00, which will be funded from existing Waters operations budgets.

5.2 Legal

There are no legal implications of the process at this time.

5.3 Strategy, Plans, Policy & Partnership Alignment

As per the initial recommendation for the formation of both these groups, the purpose of the WGG is to maintain a political oversight on the process with the WPG managing the day to day activities.

5.4 Assessment of Significance & Engagement

The formation of a CCO, if supported, triggers Council's significance policy and as such maintaining a strong governance connection to the process is considered essential.

6. Consultation

The following stakeholders have been/or will be consulted:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
		X	Internal
		X	Community boards/Community committees
		X	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi
X			Households
X			Business

Significant targeted consultation has occurred through the development of the study. Any further engagement will be managed through the Project and Governance Groups supported by the appropriate Communications Team/Advisor.

7. Conclusion

The study represents significant investment and work by Council investigating the future management of water services in the sub region. Council supported the formation of a WGG to oversee this work on its behalf. With the main study complete and Council supportive of its recommendation, in principle, it is deemed appropriate to continue to oversee interim work required through the existing WGG and WPG structures.

8. Attachments

- WGG Terms of Reference