Far North District Council

Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

AGENDA

Supplementary Reports
Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday, 4 November 2021

Time: **10.00 am**

Location: **Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

Membership:

Mayor John Carter - Chairperson
Cr Ann Court
Cr David Clendon
Cr Dave Collard
Cr Felicity Foy
Cr Mate Radich
Cr Rachel Smith
Cr Kelly Stratford
Cr Moko Tepania
Cr John Vujcich

Te Paeroa Mahi / Order of Business

7 INFORMATION REPORTS

7.4 THREE WATERS REFORM - RESIDENT SURVEY

File Number: **A3445060**

Author: **Richard Edmondson, Manager - Communications**

Authoriser: **Andy Finch, General Manager - Infrastructure and Asset Management**

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Council with the results of the Council's three waters reform consultation.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the Council meeting held on 12 August 2021, Council resolved to undertake public consultation on the Government's proposed three waters reform proposals.
- The results of this consultation do not support Council opting into the proposals.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive the report Three Waters Reform - Resident Survey.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

On 12 August 2021, Council considered an information report on the Three Waters Reforms, detailing the position as of July 2021. This report contained substantial background information prepared by the Government outlining their case for change.

At the meeting Elected Members tabled an alternative resolution:

8.1 THREE WATERS REFORM

Agenda item 8.1 document number A3301784, pages 105 - 206 refers

RESOLUTION 2021/66

Moved: Mayor John Carter
Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Council:

a) **will provisionally opt out of the Three Waters Reform until such a time as more information comes to light to enable an informed decision to be made by Council.**

CARRIED

AGAINST: Crs Rachel Smith, Kelly Stratford and Moko Tepania.

b) **Staff report back to the 4 November 2021 Council meeting with the findings of the detailed analysis required to be undertaken by Councils during August and September.**

CARRIED

c) **work with our neighbouring Councils, those being Whangarei, Kaipara and Northland Regional Council, in an attempt to find a water entity and governance structure that suits our region; and**

CARRIED

d) **consult with our community on this issue and if necessary hold a referendum in our district on the issue, initially using its quarterly poll to get an indication and initial feed back.**

CARRIED

This paper reports on the findings of the residents' survey forming part d) of the above resolution.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Independent research company, Key Research, was commissioned by Far North District Council to survey residents on whether they thought the Council should Opt in or Opt out of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.

Key Research contacted Far North residents by post randomly selected from the General and Māori Electoral Rolls and invited them directly to take part in an online survey. The Council also invited anyone via its Facebook page, email contact list, and newspaper and radio advertisements to participate in the survey. Responses from the two groups were recorded separately.

The postal invitation to take the survey received 168 responses. The public online survey received 879 responses.

The link to the online survey was: https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Water/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme?BestBetMatch=three%20waters|28911163-c80a-4343-938d-d968e3ae9015|fc9462bd-8413-4be1-a1a5-6a79217d0b98|en-AU

The surveys closed on 22 October 2021.

- 85% of respondents to the public online survey think the Council should opt out.
- 68% of the postal survey respondents say the Council should opt out.
- 82% (postal) and 80% (public) of those who want the Council to opt out do not believe the reforms will deliver efficiencies or lower costs.

The full results are included in Attachment 1.

On 27 October 2021 the Government announced that participation in the three waters reforms would be mandatory.

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications arising directly from the residents' survey.

ĀPITIHANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Far North DC Three Waters Survey 2021 (Postal to online) - A3462129**
2. **Far North DC Three Waters Survey 2021 (Public) - A3462130**
3. **Attachment 1 - FNDC Three Waters Programme Survey Results 2021 - A3455458**
4. **Far North DC 2021 Three Waters Survey - Verbatim Report page 1 - A3462131**
5. **Far North DC 2021 Three Waters Survey - Verbatim Report page 2 - A3462132**
6. **Far North DC 2021 Three Waters Survey - Verbatim Report page 3 - A3462133**
7. **Far North DC 2021 Three Waters Survey - Verbatim Report page 4 - A3462134**

Far North District Council
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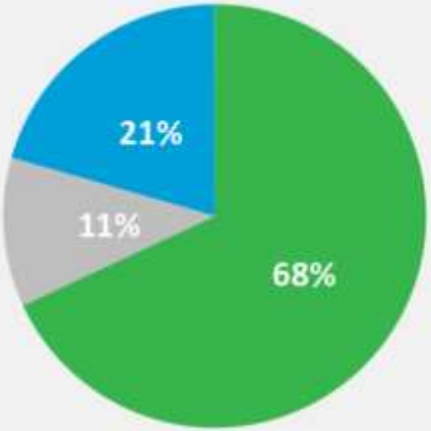
Three Waters Reform Programme Survey 2021

Key findings – Invited participants

39%
of those who think the Council should opt out of the programme were from the 18-39 age group

58% of respondents who selected 'Opt in' are female

of those who think the Council should opt out are members of the Maori community

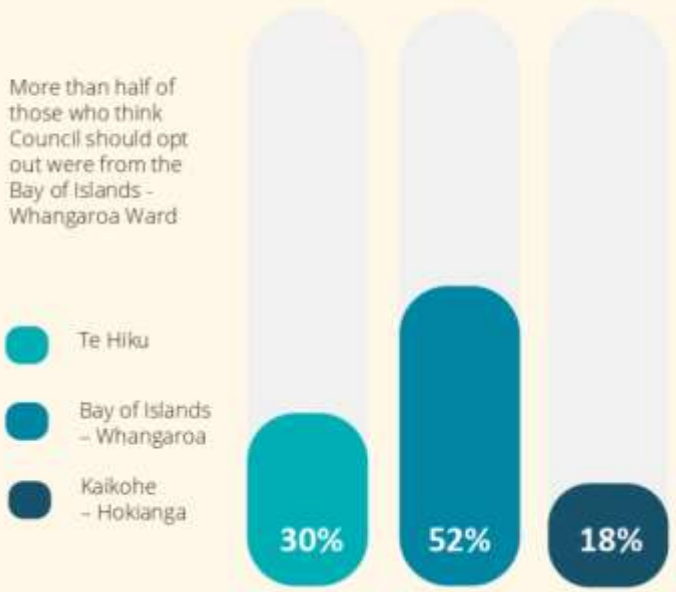


Residents from within the Far North District were randomly selected from the Electoral Roll to take part in the Three Waters Reform Programme Survey. Invitation letters containing the link to the survey were sent out to 2,000 residents. Information brochures and a feedback form were also provided. 168 residents completed the survey and provided their opinion on the matter.

The survey period was from 24 September to 22 October 2021. Post survey, the data has been weighted to the 2018 Census data to ensure that the sample is representative of known population distributions within the district.

Opt out by Ward

More than half of those who think Council should opt out were from the Bay of Islands - Whangaroa Ward



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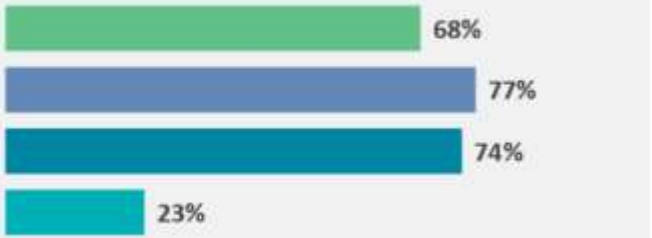
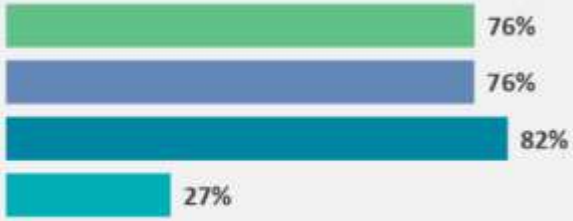
Three Waters Reform Programme Survey 2021

21% Opt in



- The same level of service should be provided across New Zealand
- Amalgamating three waters services will create efficiencies and reduce costs to households
- The new entities will be better at meeting challenges, such as higher standards and climate change
- Other

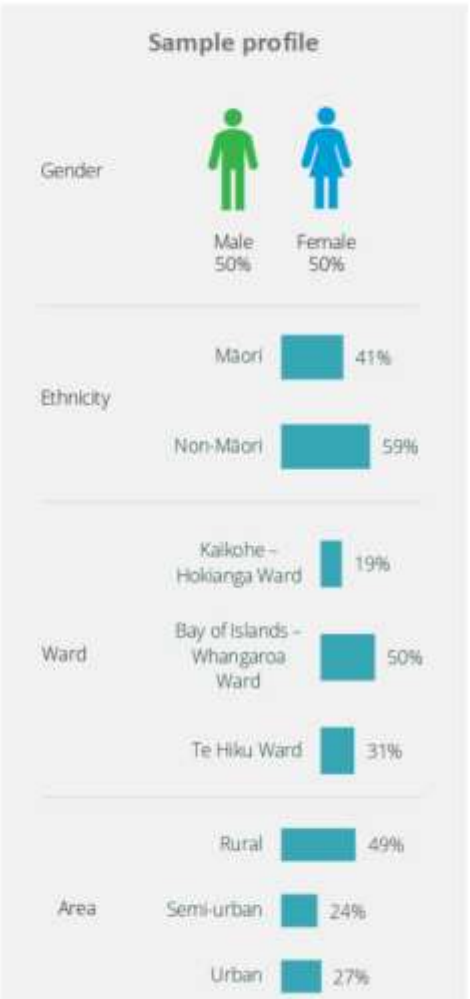
68% Opt out



- I am concerned we won't have a strong, democratic say in how three waters services are provided
- I want our three waters services to be managed, built and operated locally
- I don't believe the reforms will deliver the efficiencies or lower costs claimed by the Government
- Other

Far North District Council undertook the following activities to promote the Three Waters Reform Programme Survey:
- Advertisements in local newspapers The Advocate, Northland Age, Northern News and Bay Chronicle
- Promotion through Council's Facebook page
- Media release on 29 September promoting the survey, which was picked up by three newspapers
- Promotion through weekly newsletters - The Weekender

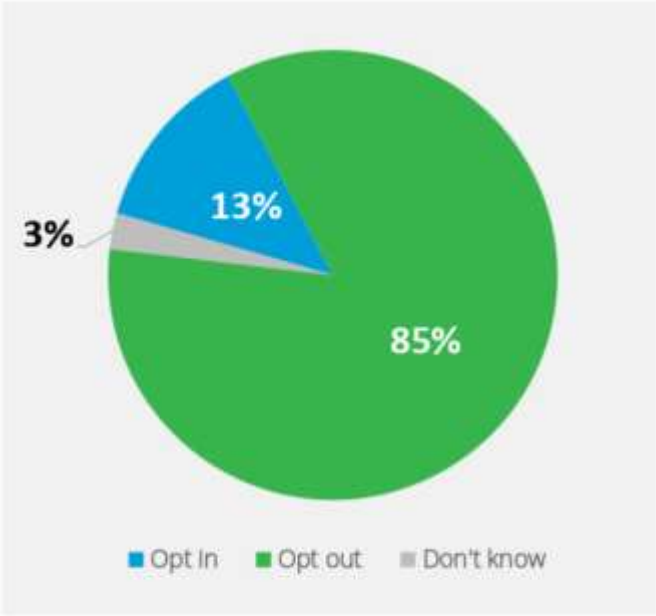
Sample profile



Far North District Council
Te Kaunihera a Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Three Waters Reform Programme Survey 2021

Key findings – Self-selected participants



43% of those who think the Council should opt in to the programme were from the 18-39 age group

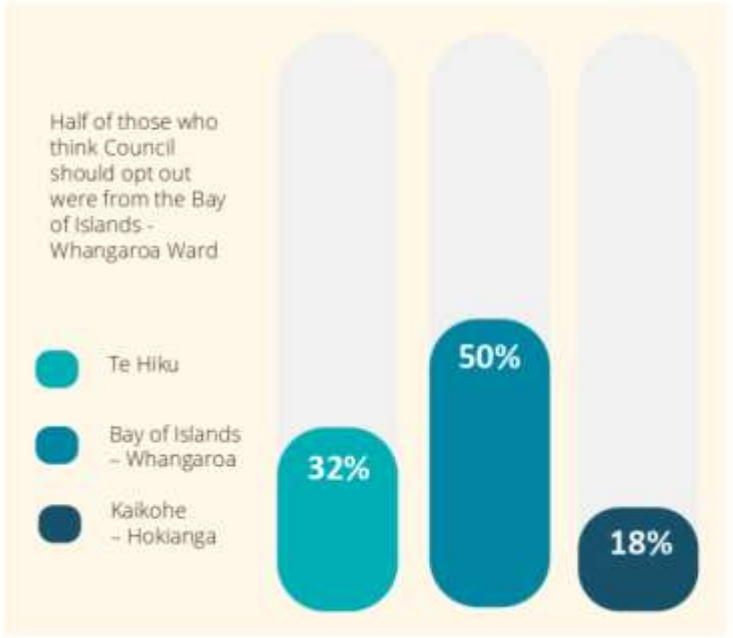
of those who think the Council should opt out live in a rural area

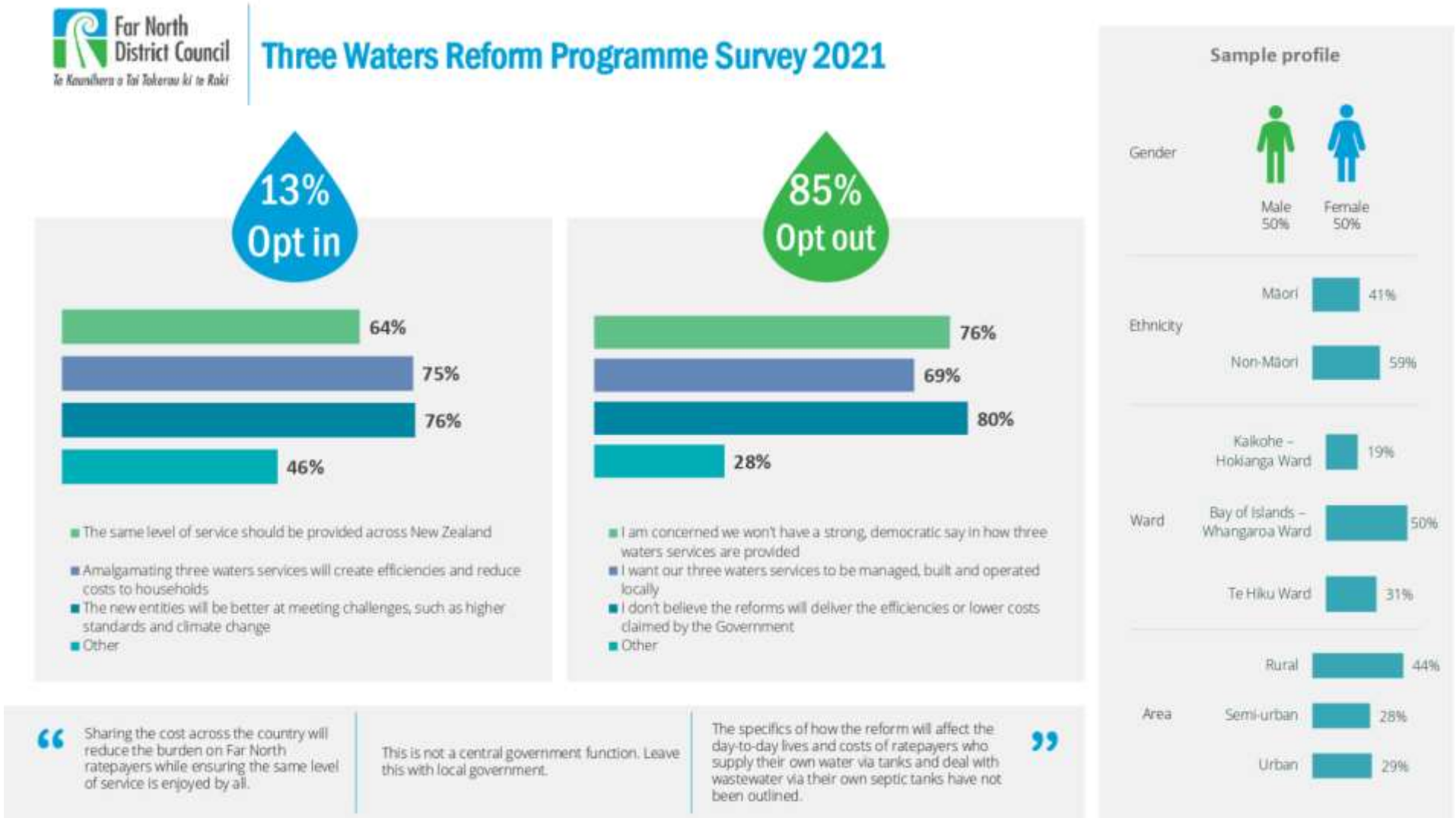
52% of respondents who selected 'Opt out' are male

Far North District Council recognised that there was strong interest in the issue in the community, so they have provided the general public with the opportunity to have their say. The survey link and all relevant information about the Government's three waters proposal were posted on the Council's website. The closing date for the survey was 22 October 2021. Post survey, the data has been weighted to the 2018 Census data to ensure that the sample is representative of known population distributions within the district. The sample achieved for the public survey is n=879 residents.

Opt out by Ward

Half of those who think Council should opt out were from the Bay of Islands - Whangaroa Ward




Far North District Council
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Three Waters Reform Programme Survey 2021
13% Opt in
64%
75%
76%
46%
The same level of service should be provided across New Zealand
Amalgamating three waters services will create efficiencies and reduce costs to households
The new entities will be better at meeting challenges, such as higher standards and climate change
Other
85% Opt out
76%
69%
80%
28%
I am concerned we won't have a strong, democratic say in how three waters services are provided
I want our three waters services to be managed, built and operated locally
I don't believe the reforms will deliver the efficiencies or lower costs claimed by the Government
Other
Sharing the cost across the country will reduce the burden on Far North ratepayers while ensuring the same level of service is enjoyed by all.
This is not a central government function. Leave this with local government.
The specifics of how the reform will affect the day-to-day lives and costs of ratepayers who supply their own water via tanks and deal with wastewater via their own septic tanks have not been outlined.
Sample profile
Gender
Male 50%
Female 50%
Ethnicity
Māori 41%
Non-Māori 59%
Ward
Kaikohe – Hokianga Ward 19%
Bay of Islands – Whangaroa Ward 50%
Te Hiku Ward 31%
Area
Rural 44%
Semi-urban 28%
Urban 29%

Far North DC Three Waters Programme Survey 2021
Overall

Options	Postal to online (n=169)	Public (n=879)
Option 1: Opt in I think the Council should opt in to the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.	21%	13%
Option 2: Opt out I think the Council should opt out of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.	68%	85%
Option 3: Don't know or undecided I don't have a view on this or don't have enough information to make a decision	11%	3%
Option 1: Opt in		
1. The same level of service should be provided across New Zealand	68%	64%
2. Amalgamating three waters services will create efficiencies and reduce costs to households	77%	75%
	74%	76%
3. The new entities will be better at meeting challenges, such as higher standards and climate change		
4. Other	23%	46%
Option 2: Opt out		
	76%	76%
1. I am concerned we won't have a strong, democratic say in how three waters services are provided		
2. I want our three waters services to be managed, built and operated locally	76%	69%
	82%	80%
3. I don't believe the reforms will deliver the efficiencies or lower costs claimed by the Government		
4. Other	27%	28%

Far North DC Three Waters Programme Survey 2021
Results by demographics

Demographic Group	Postal to online			Public		
	Option 1: Opt in	Option 2: Opt out	Option 3: Don't know	Option 1: Opt in	Option 2: Opt out	Option 3: Don't know
	21%	**68%**	**11%**	**13%**	**85%**	**3%**
By age						
18 to 39 years	7%	39%	4%	43%	27%	11%
40 to 59 years	43%	27%	71%	32%	37%	26%
60 years or over	49%	34%	24%	25%	37%	64%
By ethnicity						
Māori	51%	37%	49%	55%	39%	38%
Non-Māori	49%	63%	51%	45%	61%	62%
By gender						
Male	42%	55%	29%	39%	52%	29%
Female	58%	45%	71%	61%	48%	71%
By ward						
Te Hiku Ward	34%	30%	31%	25%	32%	21%
Bay of Islands – Whangaroa Ward	36%	52%	58%	45%	50%	50%
Kaikohe – Hokianga Ward	30%	18%	10%	29%	18%	29%
By status						
Ratepayer	80%	78%	59%	90%	92%	80%
Renter	20%	14%	25%	2%	6%	0%
Both	0%	5%	12%	8%	1%	4%
Don't know	0%	4%	4%	0%	1%	16%
By area						
Urban	31%	26%	20%	41%	27%	21%
Semi-urban	19%	28%	7%	29%	28%	19%
Rural	50%	45%	72%	30%	45%	60%

Far North DC Three Waters Programme Survey 2021

Sample profile

Demographic Groups	Postal to online		Public	
	%	Unweighted Count	%	Unweighted Count
By age				
18 to 39 years	28%	51	28%	58
40 to 59 years	36%	37	36%	271
60 years or over	36%	81	36%	550
By ethnicity				
Māori	41%	38	41%	131
Non-Māori	59%	131	59%	748
By gender				
Male	50%	95	50%	494
Female	50%	74	50%	385
By ward				
Te Hiku Ward	31%	44	31%	252
Bay of Islands – Whangaroa Ward	50%	94	50%	532
Kaikohe – Hokianga Ward	19%	31	19%	95
By status				
Ratepayer	76%	135	91%	827
Renter	16%	23	6%	29
Both	5%	5	2%	16
Don't know	3%	5	1%	7
By area				
Urban	27%	42	29%	259
Semi-urban	24%	49	28%	255
Rural	49%	77	44%	365

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	Questions
TW1A_4_OTHER	Option 1: Opt In I think the Council should opt in to the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme. Please tell us why you chose this
TW1B_4_OTHER	Option 2: Opt out I think the Council should opt out of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme. Please tell us why you chose this option (select as many options as you wish) - Other
TW1C	Option 3: Don't know or undecided I don't have a view on this or don't have enough information to make a decision. - Comments

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TW1A_4_OTHER : Option 1: Opt In I think the Council should opt in to the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme. Please tell us why you chose this option (select as many options as you wish) - Other
I wouldn't trust FNDC to boil an egg.
Instead of Northland getting the end of government expenditure perhaps we will get some fairness of distribution of finances.
Guard against privatisation.
Possibly be more aware and consistent with iwi/hapu sensitivities.
This is also a Treaty of Waitangi issue - water is a taouga. Iwi need to be involved in future water decisions.
Concerned about our ability to manage flooding and drought in our district and the finance for the infrastructure.
Would hope to see a reduction in cost and an improvement in quality.
Having dealt with FNDC re water supply, management, attitude to, and efficiency of services, I wouldn't trust FNDC to boil an egg, let alone manage the key element to life on this planet (or any other).
New entities will hopefully avoid water bans during summer.
Council provide a substandard service.
I would prefer more than four designated areas. So much of the Far North is challenged when it comes to providing these services as a small number of ratepayers support a huge influx of tourists that challenge our present infrastructure. The population is too small to fund what will be required in the future. We need more visionary decisions.
FNDC is chronically short of funds and forced towards small-think. We need to be able play with the big kids or risk falling further behind in our development.
We are a small population spread across a vast geographical area and there is no way we, as ratepayers, will be able to meet the future cost of upgrading our water systems to comply with the new standards as well as build a resilient infrastructure that can cope with future climate change.
It makes sense to consolidate funding to ensure equitable access to a high standard of service. How can FND with its tiny ratepayer numbers and large area, ever hope to afford the high maintenance and development costs?
Current system is NOT working. Anywhere.
Greater resilience in the face of unexpected challenges. The standard of performance in both storm and waste water is poor in our area, and there is no reticulated potable water.
Economic and social equity for the people i.e. the water users, and maybe water supplied on a fair and equitable basis.
There is no option to provide comments and suggest you add this function to the survey - I am concerned the representation of ratepayer equity is not accurate. It implies central government is buying 305M of assets for 35M. However I understand the public own these assets, and they will remain in public ownership. Governance of these assets is all that is changing, and the 35M is to counter the impact that loss of assets will have on councils' borrowing capacity. This is misrepresented in your information currently and I think should be clarified to avoid misleading the public. I'd also like to understand how much debt is currently associated with these assets. And also how much has been borrowed against these assets, and has it all been reinvested in 3 waters infrastructure? My understanding is investment in 3 waters infrastructure has been insufficient and that the assets are used to leverage investment in other unrelated infrastructure - i.e. footpaths - when this money should have all been reinvested into 3 waters infrastructure.
Local councils lack the expertise to decide on issues like chlorination and fluoridation.
Sharing the cost across the country will reduce the burden on Far North ratepayers while ensuring the same level of service is enjoyed by all.

The existing physical assets are not a financial asset and should more appropriately be referred to as a liability. Ratepayers are better off not having the obligation to comply with the cost of meeting the required standards, both existing and future. The government has bigger pockets (of our money) to deal with the issues!! There is limited benefit for ratepayers to maintain total control.
I don't support individual nazirs privately selling off our water.
The FNDC and the NRC have been useless in providing these services and are corrupt in their dealings on these matters.
The current system hasn't served us well.
Capital costs of essential infrastructure in the long term should be the responsibility of central government and shared amongst all taxpayers. Drinking water and stormwater and sewerage waste, particularly in climate change environment, is NZ's responsibility. Maintenance costs to be paid through rates if they are
Water safety and quality in NZ has not been looked after by current councils properly.
Three Waters is, IMHO, the perfect opportunity to 'trial' a 50/50 aka 'Partnership' Co-Governance model in a system complex enough to self-regulate to an adequate [or better] extent. With everything from Individual 'Private' Property through Marae, Papakainga, Settlement, Marae & Community, Locale, Town, City & Super-Region to 'Govern', the Entities (I hope we find great names for them) are like a form of Provincialized* Fundamental Human Right Supply Organization. Natural (personal, local office) Feedback Loops within & across levels & locales can [must] be augmented by Best-Practice organisational ones using all formats - call centre, website, social media etc. 3Wai provides an interim measure and style of governance effectively protecting or ring-fencing water during the upcoming Settlement of WAI262. Flora & Fauna - to which water must surely be central. Conservative Councils in need of reform themselves are not the best protectors of the resource physically, culturally, socially, economically and spiritually. Simple as that. SNA gate proved that to me beyond doubt. 3WAI may serve to help heal the terrible 'rift' or 'schism' in Aotearoa NZ's social fabric caused long ago by Provincial Government 1841-1877 by giving hapu-iwi Māori something more approaching the 'influence' they would have had back then. I don't think Te Karauna should specify the 'Representation' model they use, only the number of votes (if that?). Let hapu-iwi decide this themselves. 16 representatives may share the available payment and the available 6 or however many votes. Strive 'marae-like' for Consensus. Likewise Te Karauna should [MUST] consider trialling Citizens Assemblies and other unorthodox, egalitarian governance/jurisprudence models as part of Tauiwi 3WAI Representation. Councils & Regional Councils might strive to have representatives each too, provided the influence of Vested Interests can be minimized in favour of verifiable, evidence-based, ethical Public or Common GOOD? Until Local Government is reformed 3WAI Hinonga must unfortunately be 'Appointed'. A Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust situation MUST be avoided at all cost. Geographically the combination of Te Tai Tokerau me Tamaki makau-rau is ultimately better. Northland's water must be 'governed & administered' to the North of Tahanga: Dome Valley which drains into the Kaipara but is now part of Auckland 'geopolitically' [and stupidly]. 3WAI might even be able to prevent the Landfill there? Governance of Fundamental Elements (and much else IMHO) must be Globalocal across the spacial & wellbeing spectrum. I personally hope that one day there will be *SOME* agreed Global governance & administration of water, just as there is Individual at the Private Property in the Soil* level now. "To speak here of property as one speaks of property in an article of use is to renounce thought" -
Even though I provide my own water I think the government should provide high quality drinking water and treat wastewater properly. The government is in a better position to fund and manage major infrastructure projects.
Mechanisms to protect and promote Māori rights and interests.
The FNDC has proved inept at managing the water infrastructure in Kaitaia this has been especially obvious over the recent droughts. The water infrastructure and wastewater disposal is below par.
Small towns with a high summer influx of visitors can't afford the sewage schemes needed. It makes sense for a broader populations base or the government to fund them. It's also about expertise we don't want the kind of blowout that Mangawhai had, again a small resource poor council trying to do big, complex projects doesn't make sense.

Well attended to infrastructure costs on water have always and will always require the central treasury. Small local business operations will inevitably fail to meet the standards expected. Exceptions like Whangarei only prove the above. This is progress. The long term benefits will be.
This will enable Māori to participate fully as partners with government in the management of the three waters, in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, whereas in under local government control the 'tyranny of the majority' will always dominate, especially in the climate of popularism which seems to be a fundamental feature of most local government entities. The nature of our country's waters is that they are inter-connected, as are our peoples/communities, and the best management will be at this larger scale which will encourage holistic perspectives to be exercised, away from the limitations of local government which too often is parochial and self-serving. This is increasingly important in today's and tomorrow's world where the quality and availability of water are critical issues, within a backdrop of climate change. Local government is not well equipped to wisely and equitably manage these big issues which fundamentally affect environmental health and human well-being.
More expertise and less waste of financial resources. Also likely to be more performance accountability. Long term financial benefits likely for the ratepayer.
Remove decision making from elected officials.
They might fix my wastewater problem that the council has ignored year after year.
Better maintenance of infrastructure through innovation and transparency.
As NZ Herald economist Brian Fallow states; The status quo is not an option. The 67 councils (far too many), need to reflect on what counts as an asset. If something is going to cost you money & more & more each year, then it is in reality a liability & there has been a legacy of chronic under in Three Waters infrastructure by many councils. The FNDC's performance in delivering a new water supply for Kaitaia has been nothing short of diabolical over the past 11 years, with millions of ratepayers funds wasted & the current Sweetwater bores & pipeline project projected to cost $14 or $16 million plus, it probably could have been cheaper to supply piped champagne. They have never been forthcoming as to why they could not access the original Sweetwater Bores as Mayor Carter personally told me was the case in 2017. The 2019 drought should have been well prepared for & for the Mayor to call it unprecedented event was nonsense as we all knew it would come as droughts have in the region previously, so again a huge wastage of ratepayers funds on the emergency water supplies as well as gov't. funds due to pure incompetence of the FNDC. And then there's the other water. The non-compliance of the Taipa Treatment Plant for 11 years being one issue & poor performance of other plants in the region. We have 67 district councils & while some apparently are & have performed much better than others, many have underperformed, & while I have some concerns re centralisation, surely there needs to be a standard that applies to all. I point to the dogmatic approach that the FNDC takes with wastewater systems by insisting that people I know have been forced to install a very expensive system, that requires a power source, & I am told by 2 such persons that their plans have failed on occasion, when other councils allow perfectly suitable composting systems in areas that are non-threatening to waterways. I know of household who have septic tanks that have never been inspected, nor have the owners ever had any notification from the FNDC to do so, & others that overflow directly into a waterway, plus a number of long drops close to the sea & streams. I ask where is the consistency? Further I have concerns that the council will use this survey as a means of opting out of the Three Waters proposals, given that I suspect that most taking part (a very small percentage of the total number of ratepayers), & the FNDC can thereby say: The majority of responders were against opting in, so we will opt out. Another good reason why the FNDC shouldn't have responsibility for the 3 waters. They have far more information in front of them that us lowly ratepayers do. Surely they can do what they are there for & make a decision based on factual evidence.
Takes the issue out of individual politicking by local Councillors AND Māori values concerning water e.g. not discharging sewage out to sea - may actually be taken into account!
The experts required to run water services are not available in their 100s. Much better to have 10s across the country and not having each council competing for few trained staff. If the councils had cooperated earlier, then central government would not have needed to get involved.

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TW1B_4_OTHER : Option 2: Opt out I think the Council should opt out of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme. Please tell us why you chose this option (select as many options as you wish) - Other
Firstly, I'm concerned about the proposed Māori/Iwi involvement in the Three Waters management which gives them right of veto over any decisions made by the rest of management. They have disproportionate power and are not democratically appointed. Secondly, buying the infrastructure assets at significantly less than value, then charging users for the loans etc. for that purchase is double charging. Thirdly, lumping Northland in with Auckland is sure to result in Northland with less population being treated badly compared to the much larger infrastructure issues that Auckland faces. Northlanders are likely to end up subsidizing Auckland.
Given the government's current stance of bullying and coercing people into injecting toxins into their bodies I do not have faith in the government to keep our water supplies safe.
Auckland has more people in the big city than Northland put together. This would make priority for the city instead of the rest of Northland.
We share our roading budget with Auckland now and we have appalling roads while Auckland gets 5 years budget to pay for a tunnel. Auckland currently pays less rates than I do for more services. They need to pay for what they use. User pays is a good concept. If Auckland is short of a resource let them manage it better. Decentralised use makes better use of resources.
My experience of the water reforms in the UK is that it started well but declined over time in management and maintaining a high standard, especially when private management was introduced. This was when the loss of focus from quality and public health to profit occurred, making the service morph to a commodity not an essential service for the community. I can see no difference of this happening in NZ with a higher management overhead and the long term possibility of the service being contracted out to the highest bidder as has been done in some countries. Despite any high ideals that will be given out as reassurance and good intentions I have no confidence that this will not result in a high cost to the users in the future and will be political football and a big disappointment to the customers in times come.
I'm on a private waterboard as well as a septic.
I think run by a central government would perform poorly.
Yet another asset grab by the government.
Lacking accurate facts and details.
Don't want Māori controlling rainfall, sea bed, rivers etc.
I want to know that my water rates stay in our community not given away to lazy people.
The government controls and don't have the confidence in them to do this fairly. We are becoming more and more socialists.
It is our sovereign right to manage and choose our use of waters. I support and trust our council over the government.
Previous governments have recognized that their type of programmes are far better to be handled by local councils, not centralized governments.
Auckland is a giant consumer of water, we need all our water to supply the green revolution.
It is the stupidest idea ever.
This is part of a diverse racist approach which will ultimately destroy the NZ way of life.
History has proved it won't work. Look how Rodney and Franklin residents have been disadvantaged by being by pulled into Auckland City. Amalgamation will not create efficiencies or reduce costs to households.
Should stay owned by the ratepayer and managed by the local council.
A racist separatist government structure whereby 15% of the population have 50% of the say, very un New Zealand like.
In zone A the Far North will be forgotten while the same area as Auckland.
Government never does anything efficiently and they have already sold all the important public assets to greedy corporates.

I have no confidence in this type of governing, this is not democratic and as citizens we won't have any say in the future. The Iwi should only have their percentage of representation.
The process for electing the board is not democratic. No local say. Opportunity for other groups to benefit from what is normally a public resource.
As a ratepayer I don't believe that our assets should be given over to the Iwis and also be controlled by government and be connected to Auckland, Whangārei etc. We should be independent to our area.
I do support NZ wide water standards for streams, waste grey water, toilet flush water and storm water. Water quality needs monitoring and testing across a range of sites. Our aquifers need to be conserved. Streams and waterways need wider vegetated margins to help improve run off quality. Slopes greater than 18 require native vegetation cover.
Total distrust in any promise made by this government, housing, child poverty, health, finance a few examples. How could you possibly trust them with NZ Water?
You say the infrastructure is worth 306.5 yet government only wants to pay 35m for 3 assets that we as ratepayers have paid for. Also concerned as to what the make up of ownership will be.
I am worried about higher powers taking away our human rights.
We shouldn't have to pay for water that falls from the sky, just so we can drink and shower and clean. The government is greedy.
We should not have to pay for water that falls from the sky to drink, and clean ourselves.
Handing over 50% control to Māori will have far reaching consequences.
We want water freedom on our own land. Why should we rebuy an asset that we already own?
I believe centralisation of these services makes it harder to hold people to account for failures and issues. It becomes no one's fault so there's no real incentive to get it right.
Pay private company which I can't see working. Our water comes from the lake. Te Kao water and rainwater in tanks and waste water is disposed of be self. I can't see any advantage in 3 waters. Our water bill has written across the bottom "Not fit for humans, farm use only". I can't see our water being improved by 3
Don't want to be linked in with Auckland City.
Water located on private land should be able to be managed privately by the landowner and not subject to overreaching policy and legislation and cost.
We manage our water requirements effectively. We do not need to pay many times more for someone else to do what we do for free parts.
In any other field of endeavour or business the government scheme would be considered sharp practice at best and an out and out scam at worst.
Concerned about these assets being given to Māori. This is discrimination. Racist against all other groups living in NZ.
Not prepared to hand our assets over to Māori to be managed from a distance and used as an income for non users. Similar to our Hydro power stations.
Create a monopoly (super utility), prices will escalate, essential resources that I have paid for will be mismanaged and I will pay through a national uniform annual charge. I will lose my democratic right to choose the type and quality of essential water/wastewater supply. I will lose my democratic voice and experience thank you.
I suspect Central Government aims to use Local Government assets to solve its longstanding difficulty in resolving Iwi claims to freshwater.
Very, very concerned of the gov't handing over part control to ethnic groups.
Leave it as is.
Facilities are owned by councils and are valuable assets.
Jacinda back off!
We need to be able to run our systems locally. Paper shufflers in Auckland will not run our systems well. Imagine trying to contact someone in Auckland about a water leak.
It is a plan to divide New Zealanders.
The racism of only consulting with some residents and not all residents of Northland in the proposed

I believe the 3-waters initiative may be part of an agenda to expand central control of what are now locally-controlled services. Water quality issues should be addressed by having nationwide safety standards. If a local body cannot achieve standards adherence then take appropriate action on a case-by-case basis.
Extremely poor process to date, complete lack of consultation, undemocratic processes in breach of requirements for councils to consult on major asset purchase/sales, undervaluing asset base paid for by locals for locals, no accountability to tax payer or rate payer, disproportionate control seated to iwi that is not representative of majority of constituents, appalling public propaganda campaign from central govt is insulting at best, outright unbalanced misrepresentation in reality.
The outcome is also extremely racist.
Ownership should be the majority of New Zealand and not Iwi based.
I didn't select option two above, as the words three waters needs to be omitted but I definitely believe that our assets should be kept OWNED and OPERATED by the FNDC ratepayers. It's an asset grab by this government and their track record on all their undertakings to date is dismal and they are not being open or honest on their real intent. Their advert treats us as little children and quite frankly is insulting.
The government is proposing to take control of the services we have paid for and pay the council peanuts for it. It is theft on a grand scale.
This socialist programme to give 50% of the infrastructure to be under the control of 16% of the population is RACE based there does not comply with the Race relations Act or other laws of NEW ZEALAND.
This type of change has seldom ever produced. The efficiencies claimed apart from allowing a minority to control what the rest of us pay for what we have already paid!
I see this as an asset grab and the Gov't are not been transparent.
This is 'Race' Generated, and will bring division in our community and country.
I believe this is a total asset stripping of local council, offering 10% of actual worth to take all assets and then be controlled by Auckland.
I do not want the substantial asset that the local ratepayers have built over many years to be handed over to another entity and the value of the asses be lost to the people who have invested in it.
Obviously something needs to be improved ASAP, but the proposed structure does not appear appealing or feasible. Gov't must support Councils in respect of expertise and funding to build and maintain their vital infrastructures. The existing system of Councils working independently under supervision of Regional Councils is not effective: rather Regional Councils should pool expertise with Councils to achieve more reliable results. Councils might not be able to fund most qualified top level experts - so they should be shared. Furthermore, the aim to connect all households to reticulated water & wastewater is not feasible in our rural areas: stand-alone system with rainwater tanks & filters and small waste water treatment plants would be cheaper and more efficient. Tanks should be mandatory. Affordable Electro-Coagulation systems are able to clean septic tank effluents to 100% clean irrigation water. Council staff must stop rejecting new proposed methods based on their unfamiliarity with them: Gov't should make experts available to advise Council staff about new techniques.
Under the Three Water proposal by this current government, our local assets which have been paid for by the local ratepayers for generations, are being given away. It is a pure asset grab, giving veto rights to a selected few from a 16% minority of our population. This is NOT democratic. These race based laws should have NO legal status in NZ and should have nothing to do with our water. Rain water comes from the sky, belongs to us all. NO-ONE should have veto rights!!! Plus the Scottish example upon which these so-called reforms are based on, have NO relevance to the Far North or to NZ as a whole, as we live in a unique country with very diverse conditions in each region.
The government will take over locally owned assets paid for by ratepayers over the years and then increase our water rates and charges to pay for other cities/towns water infrastructure. It's a centralised asset grab by Wellington and should be stopped.
Central gov't seldom delivers good results with anything they 'manage'.
The model just doesn't work. Look at Watercare in Auckland - they are still imposing water restrictions (due to leaks they haven't fixed), after a winter of heavy rain. Utter incompetence and no accountability.

All three. It should stay local.
I object strongly to the anti democratic stance taken by the present Government.
This is a badly thought out plan by people who have no idea what they are proposing.
The Auckland experiment is a disaster. Bigger does not bring savings.
No confiscation without compensation.
This is not a central government function. Leave this with local government.
Given history' with super city and electricity fiasco it will probably cost everyone a lot more and is not guaranteed.
It is New Zealand NOT Aotearoa and will always be.
I don't think an Auckland based entity will have the environmental concerns that we need.
Bigger is no assurance of better, I do not believe that the reform of Auckland has improved overall services. 3W would mean a loss of investment and no fair recompense for our assets. Distant Wellington based services will inevitable lose real understanding of our realities. I am wary of huge bureaucracies and high paid people creating assured futured for themselves. The suggestion that 3W will be able to manage climate change is preposterous.
This is another government instituted amalgamation idea, none of which have EVER produced economic or administrative benefit to communities. All its designed to do is to give 17% of our population the rights to control assets belonging to ALL of us, based on racial claims that have no foundation in reality, and terribly divisive. One people. One vote. One legal system. All else is doomed to produce uncontrollable racial divide.
Don't trust the government's plan, there is a lot more behind this proposal which we are not being told.
How can someone In Auckland or outside the area understand local needs and at what cost. User pay and pay for your own services needed.
I am concerned about the way the governing bodies would be made up. I am concerned that the area would be far too large to manage effectively, I am concerned the whole concept has another agenda and that the democratic freedoms are in jeopardy. I sincerely hope council will say no to accepting the Gov't proposal.
I have own water supply, i.e. catchment to tanks. Gov't can keep their hands off.
This would lead to forced amalgamations of Councils due to a reduced asset and cashflow base.
The services are owned by the ratepayers who finance the council and therefore they should stay under their control. They cannot be given away to anyone else.
Also my parents and my husband and I paid a lot of rates over the past 70 years why would we just give control to the government.
We are on tank water which we manage well ourselves. Don't want to change that. I think that too much funding would go to Auckland and Wellington.
All three of the choices above are correct and in addition it is a racist policy with regard to IWI controlling 50% of the board.
If it's not broken it doesn't need fixing. A lot of Far North folks are on tank and septic, not sure how 3 waters will affect that and what we pay. Why hand over our asset to some gov't dept. Will that really save money? and what about the service issues, is there a potential for loss of jobs?
The government is trying to centralise everything which is owned by local councils to force upon us their way of thinking and remove democracy!
I would tick option 3. I also reside in the Rodney district that voted to not join the Auckland super city. It was widely disbelieved that amalgamating the various Auckland councils would return the savings the government (who were pushing the amalgamation) promised. From day one rates rose, and have continued skyward. This will be no different. The government is involved.
We will be lumped in with Auckland's water problems potential nightmare.
It could easily be privatised. Auckland would control the money.
It is not fairly represented for the whole community.
Still concerned about potential for privatisation in the future.
Proposed governance is not democratic.

I believe the governments 3 water reform programme will increase taxes & be a further invasion to our rights as iwi are given more entitlements & rights, even over private property.
I used to live in Auckland, and the thought that a central authority that includes Watercare would have any influence over management of Far North water infrastructure is quite frankly horrifying. They have demonstrated their incompetence and inability to plan or act for the benefit of their customers, repeatedly.
I've seen this before. Despite all the promises that the new water authorities would not be sold off, they were and we discovered that our water company in southern England was owned by a South Australian company. More privatisation by stealth orchestrated by others.
I am totally against what feels like a takeover of my Country, New Zealand, by one very small group of people who live amongst us.
The council currently own the water assets and have paid for them - the gov't is proposing to purchase them at less than full value from the council and then levy us to maintain them - i.e. we sell an asset we own for less than full value to someone else _ which no sensible business or person would do so why should council be forced to do so and then are required to pay to maintain the asset that the gov't now owns. The assets should be left with the council who then has the full value of the asset and the rates take to put up as security to borrow (if required) to continue to upgrade the asset and at least then there is certainty ay money borrowed will be used for that purpose. Also those making the decisions around water in the north will be answerable to their specific voters.
One size does not fit all, local management allows local decisions. Proposed Board structure is not democratic in any way. 3 waters assets have been funded by ratepayers for years, this proposal will allow government to take those assets, refinance using them as security then ask users to pay again. The water available, while improvements can be made is of an acceptable standard without millions more spent. This government appears intent on sneaking these reforms through without proper consultation, this is
Not only is the proposal bad in principle half of our stolen assets then get handed to iwi. This cannot be right.
I am concerned that this will eventually lead to Māori entities charging royalties or fees to non-Māori New Zealanders for the use of water.
50% Māori ownership is a not reflective of NZ, giving a huge amount of power to a minority group. Would create further separatism which seems to be a goal of this current government.
I don't trust the current Government.
Water will eventually under this system be privatised as has happened overseas.
Three Waters sets the system up for privatisation. Any government can change legislation.
It is wrong to take assets paid for by generations of Northland ratepayers.
Future ownership issues.
It will turn out to be an absolute disaster and should be thrown into the waste paper basket.
This is yet another step down the path towards totalitarian rule, and I speak as one who knows from personal experience. It is divisive, racist and damaging to both the economy and democracy.
Hidden agenda and ultimate ownership as it needs to be owned by the people, all the people and the council has a good investment and would not be treated fairly with the Gov't plan.
It belongs to the New Zealand people not based on skin colour.
We have never seen a business plan for the amalgamation. I feel the whole idea is "Ripe" for future sale. Ownership by the FNDC will go and therefore we shall loose borrowing collateral. We do not need another disaster like was formed by the amalgamation of Auckland into a Super City. I'm sure people in the Far North do not wish to pay for Auckland's water woes. The FNDC is a wonderful organisation and should be left
We need improvements to happen on water but we do not like the proposed co-governance structure. Also, my understanding is that the proposed entity will be a law unto itself and could be "jobs for the boys" leading to secret agendas by individuals abusing the rights of ratepayers. Who will the Board be answerable
Ownership should stay with local councils.
The compensation to the FNDC for assets paid for by ratepayers is nothing short of theft. The proposed governance of 50% Māori - 50% Other is undemocratic. This government hasn't delivered on any project and will not deliver on this one either.

Auckland Supercity have MAJOR ISSUES with their water supply and I don't think it is a good solution for us to be bundled in with them.
Māori will have control over water. Outrageous. This is all about giving them water control, nothing else.
All the above and I am seriously concerned about 50% of the asset being given to iwi. This is not democratic and will divide our country further.
Our rates have purchased these assets and we control them locally, they must stay that way.
I support the ability to at least have a say with our Local Government whereas this reform programme will take away a person's right to have a say as the Government is proving time and again the only time we have a say in matters regarding our well being currently is at an election every three years apart from that they ignore and disregard the opinion and right of the individual to have a say. It is wrong and undemocratic. Please FNDC reject this proposal opt out and further more take the stance of the Timaru District Council and distance yourself from the Local Government Body that supposedly represents Local Government and is pushing this atrocious proposal.
If funding and affordability is the concern to the government on behalf of the ratepayers in the future, why not provide the Councils with sufficient funding to enable future planning and modelling, access to required funding, and support in delivering it. A technical pool of people may be more effective than wholesale changes. The proposed option will require very effective linkages between the central body and the people on the ground. I'm not so sure this works on such vast geographical areas when local issues are not known or simply not considered important.
Including Iwi, will only slow down any development and applications for all applicants. The processes are slow enough already.
The government is taking our services which we already own and selling them back to us.
With such a small and geographically spread population, compared to the people controlling our supply - the decisions will be made based on what's best for the majority of the population which will be mostly in Auckland and the higher densely populated areas, and not be as concerned for the lower voter numbers in the Far North.
3 waters scheme gives disproportionate control of water supply to iwi.
Labour cannot provide any service efficiently. They can promise etc but not deliver.
Proposed governance.
I don't feel comfortable with the government taking control over water, it leans towards communist governance.
I have absolutely no problem with the way FNDC has operated our water. Kelly did a fabulous job last summer with the drought. By centralizing this I am confident we would not be so well looked after. Please opt out.
This is a very dangerous path that is ideologically and not practically based.
We do well ourselves. I get fresh water from my roof. I take my own water bottle full of my water. I can't have chlorinated or fluorinated water. I'm on thyroxin daily without my thyroid now due to cancer.
Far North has special issues that 'outsiders' will not be aware of a will end up doing all sorts of investigations of aspects Far North Council already is aware of. There will be a lot of people on the new 2 Waters organisation and this will be costly, top level over-paid and not accountable.
I would like there to be a public meeting where the Council can inform us of their views on the proposal.
I do not like how this has been forced on us by this Government.
Abandoning democracy and handing local assets to the government for thirty pieces of silver is a trojan horse for the colonised who think they are in a partnership with the Crown.
Central gov't should fund local council's in order for them to provide what their areas need but enforce a minimum standard.
Locally managed efficient water system for locals, develop, build and managed by locals who know the conditions, what we need and what suits us best!
Gov't not to be trusted as bigger issue in play.

Make-up of the board of the new entity does not stack up. Why would the Maori group of 16% get 50% of the new board (where they have not made any contribution in the form of assets).
I support Council opting out until more is known. Key matters for me are the money (will we be subsidised or will we be doing the subsidising), and will we (all New Zealanders) retain ownership and control of the assets (and do they take the debt with the infrastructure?)
This is just a further measure for central government to control our lives and steal our current infrastructure built by ourselves and our forefathers for the benefit of corporate thieves, and as we catch our own water and reticulate it we should not be charged for it and have it contaminated with toxic chemicals.
The Council must protect the assets of the ratepayers.
I have not seen any positive argument or benefit as to why 50% of controlling rights are to be vested to one ethnic group.
Gov't not committed to open and transparent discussion in spite of PM saying this will be an open and transparent Govt for all NZers.
There has to be a better way than creating another government department. Maybe print a bit more money and give to the councils to improve what they already have. This government seems to know how to print money without working out how the country will pay for it.
Like thousands of New Zealanders we own a rural property and invested providing our own water and wastewater systems. I am concerned the proposal won't take us into account and we will be levied fees for services we don't use. I am also concerned that the proposed governance of the 3 WRP suggests that 'the board' will be dominated by Iwi who will have the final say.
Any three waters coloration needs to be set up to cover costs not make profits/price gouge; and expertise and workers should be in-house, not contracted in. There also needs to be requirement for three waters to be provided in an ecologically sound way.
If I wanted to live in a country with no democratic rights I would move to China.
These assets have been paid for by local government rates and should therefore remain in local ownership and control. Northland will not get a fair deal being lumped in with Auckland.
This is tantamount to theft from the ratepayers who have contributed to the costs of infrastructure over years in the payment of their rates. FNDC are doing a very good job in a difficult, sparsely populated area in some cases, and they know how to keep costs down to the minimum which is unlikely with a new entity with no option to question expenditure. The Government has made the claim that the assets will remain in Council ownership, this is simply not true. Once the assets have been passed to new water entities, control will be passed over to an unelected board, and lost to local ratepayers for ever.
This entire idea is being driven by government against the will of Kiwis, without any real need in the majority of councils.
Puna Wai are taonga cared for managed and protected by whanau hapu a gift from our tuupuna he tangatawhenua for our mokopuna tamariki mai ra ano, gov't again will take our natural resource and allow it to be sold and bottled.
Fundamentally wrong in our democratic society.
We believe we DON'T WANT any more USELESS GOV'T Depts. Thanks BONETTI Family.
I collect my own water and I don't want any interference with this.
The proposed governance arrangements violate democratic principles.
It is a case of if it isn't broke don't try and fix it. This is nothing more than government forcing control.
Sick of gov't thinking they can do better when history has proven its better in local hands. Bigger isn't always better. Gov't will just increase the cost. We all pay anyway as we fund the govt. Water quality is not an issue in no.
The legislation is yet another example of the many racial based bureaucratic blunders that are dividing this New Zealand's people. Big is not beautiful. As our elected representatives please think long and hard before joining this lunatic idea.
I don't want the water to be controlled by a single racial group.

We already own them as ratepayers, under Three Waters we will be having to pay for them all over again. Not acceptable.
The reforms are adding another layer of bureaucracy which equates to more cost. I believe that as a district the Far North will miss out on benefits as new infrastructure will go to the areas of greatest benefit which will be densely populated areas but we will still be paying for no benefit.
Why change something that is not broken? What happens if you have nothing to do with any of the three waters, are you going to pay for it?
A local ownership model with ratepayers and Hapu represented is my preference. Central Government's role should be to enable this.
Not happy a large share is being 'given' to the Iwi who can't run a marae let alone a major water facility!
The recent investment of te tai tokerau water trust in Northland the unproven water bore on monument hill has been an investment for Northland controlled by Northland not Wellington.
I believe the current government has introduced a range of policies and legislation in an undemocratic manner and have no faith that this change will be any different.
Stop trying to CONTROL everything.
Central gov't will be taking assets owned and paid for by ratepayers.
Should be 100% managed by Council or Government, not local iwi. They do not own the water and in many cases do not even pay rates I believe. Correct me if I am wrong, besides we are on tank water and septic tank only 3.5k from the newly constructed sewerage works. No hint of being connected to something we have all paid for indirectly over many years.
Why should non-ratepayers get 50% say in assets confiscated from generation s of ratepayers!!
Too much has been invested in the present water system (storm, drinking and waste water) by ratepayers and council to have it taken over by others. It will happen if we let it.
I feel not one group of people should own the waters if it's 50/50 that how it should be, majority consensus.
Auckland is constantly low in water - so what guarantee of secure supply for us in Northland which is a warmer and drier area.
We have already paid for the services in our rates and own them so why give them away.
This 3 water proposal is only heading one way-central control by state gov't - we, in the regions, will be ignored, under provided for as is occurring now with our roads etc. This is an outright, blatant grab of assets, at a massive fire sale price (called bribery and coercion) for state control of people, places and freedoms. It should be vehemently opposed every step of the way.
This is part of the government's plan to move control to the unelected Māori tribal elite.
I want our water services to be operated and managed locally.
Having read many reports, both the governments, and those from independent sources I do not believe the proposed reforms will deliver efficiently. I strongly object to a central government controlled, bureaucratic entity taking charge of infrastructure that has been paid for by ratepayers and I strongly object to the divisive plans for setting up Boards of 50% Māori and 50% of all other New Zealanders to oversee and manage NZ's Three Waters. The reports have shown, over and over, the costings do not stack up and that it will be citizens and ratepayers who shoulder the financial burden, this in times of great uncertainty. Central government should not take control of assets paid for by the ratepayers of their local community. The proposal is flawed, undemocratic and divisive.
Decentralised services and control is more focused on actual local issues and needs.
I believe that these services and decisions be run by ALL New Zealand rate payers and not by the minority.
I am a retired contractor so have understanding of the problems involved.
We should not be included in the Auckland region.
This government needs to be stopped from stealing ratepayers property and trying to re-distribute the ownership to Māori interests and IWI just to please it's Māori caucus.
It's theft of our capital structure.
Want less central government involvement in my life.
There will be extra expenses for ratepayers paying a water royalty to Māori tribes, Iwi and Māori Elite.

Why is Northland within the Auckland city? Auckland has if not more people in Auckland than Northland put together.
The proposed Government Reforms constitute central planning and lumbering bureaucracy. It is proven everyday how large centralised bodies are unresponsive to local needs and largely inefficient, unaccountable and expensive.
I am concerned that we will lose local control over a local resource. I am worried that people outside our area will not manage the resource carefully.
All Māori reference and water royalties to Māori must be abolished to keep ratepayer costs down.
The Māori control element is deeply concerning.
We need more convincing detail about the government's proposals and an understanding of how the Government calculated the so called benefits of their proposals. I do not see why race should be any part of the proposals. We need a colour blind society. Without any or governance based on privilege given on basis of ethnicity.
Te Tai Tokerau survives on the margins. This one signals the extermination. Least we forget.
Water should be owned by all New Zealanders.
Without water there is no life anywhere, do not give our long paid for water supplies over to gov't that will turn it over to elite Māori control. It's theft, by stealth, we will all end up paying the elite for right to use our basic life necessity water without it no life can exist, it's nothing more than a royalty system for the high ranking, don't trust this bloody evil plan, their plan cannot be allowed to proceed.
The set up costs would be better spent in the areas that require extra support e.g. Havelock 2006 incident there should be a fund to assist when things go wrong. I believe our plans are going to help provide Northland with good drinking water. I would like to see an option to have tanks in urban setting for droughts which are going to be an ongoing issue.
Very important to have local alignment and responsibility on how the region develops and responds.
Possible hidden Government agendas.
The governance regime is convoluted and is race based, and ratepayers don't have a say in who is on the governance boards. The ratepayers are left out of the democratic process of appointing the board based on their expertise in water management. I am concerned that the board will not have the expertise if based their race and iwi affiliations.
In God I trust. Everyone else has to earn it. I trust John Carter as I have met him personally and know his back ground. Trust is very important in a functioning society. I don't trust big institutions as they less accountable and can be influenced by global institutions like the UN and the World Economic Forum.
I don't like the fact that other entities will have control over our water issues. That control must stay with our local community.
It sounds like a good idea overall however allowing one "entity" to manage Auckland North is bad news for Far North. Funds will inevitably be prioritized to Auckland as per status quo. Pricing will be modelled on Auckland supply vs demand & operation costs. I know the dirty word here is Privatisation but I think privatisation in a correctly managed open market (which is the government's job and judging by the power costs here being 36% higher than national average they aren't working too hard there) would work far better than what is proposed now. This scheme sounds to me to be a way of making Auckland more affordable and getting the north to foot the bill. Therefore I am against it.
If it was about improving the situation the gov't. would make borrowing easier for councils and would facilitate quality engineering assistance. Water is an engineering problem not a Treaty problem.
This is a major step towards privatising the assets that ratepayers paid for and own. When the assts go into private (probably overseas) ownership we will be just customers having no control over a vital service.
This government cannot run the country let alone anything else will be better like it is.
Our size compared to that of Auckland area wise means we will be the small and poor relation. Decisions we see as appropriate for an urban/strongly rural area will not be compatible with a city based "cousin". We need to make our own decisions.

Like the DHB's money will be sucked up by a lot of middle management plus we won't have a strong democratic voice to government. Look how much the Far North gets overlooked now. Maybe we team up with WDC and Auckland on our own backs. We rely on Auckland for business. Why don't we link up with our neighbours and rub off on their success.
The whole proposal is democratically unsound. Taking control from elected members and putting control of a "nod-nod, wink-wink group of individuals under the friendship act!" This sort of thing harks back to the communist control Stalanist era in Russia. We need to put a complete stop on this in any form.
I have seen enough in the last several governments to believe that this gov't. is self serving and has no intention of keeping promises or telling the whole truth.
I don't want the Māori's Taking control of our waters already owned by all New Zealanders.
I think that the needs of the city of Auckland are so great that they should be kept separate.
Simply it's best to set tax rates according to its community needs and not surrender its revenue control to implement maintenance, expansion and upgrading.
We as the community, that have paid rates for these assets. We use them, our expectations from the governance body is locally driven. They should not be controlled or owned by a national body, as this would inhibit us to services and therefore add more hurdles, ultimately leading us to more cost, therefore more taxes. I also believe the way in which these assets are being undemocratically stripped and given to a race based group is prejudice!
I think the way the changes have been proposed are divisive for both the district and New Zealand as a
On tank water and septic tank.
Very concerned that one group of people/race will eventually claim the water!
I am not going to pay to collect my rainwater nor will I pay to have it inspected and then dosed with what I consider to be toxins to human gut flora therefore my health. It is against my freedoms to drink and collect water as I see fit. Not as the government wants to do trying to cover it's backside because some places had contaminated their own local supply.
Government is not representing the people on anything at all our water is our water. Keep it safe from Government!!!! They are criminals and have stolen the election votes with the voting machines being skewed in the Globalists favour 100% Fact.
If the government recommends this then it's bad news for the ratepayer. Only ratepayers should have a say as we are the ones that pay the bill. This will cost us a lot of money and to bundle us in with Auckland NO THANKS.
Another Government bureaucracy will be created with layers of expensive salary tiers and inefficiencies, with decisions made regarding the FNDC catchment by people with little knowledge of, and empathy for the residents of the Far North. We, my Partner and I, are vehemently opposed.
Worried about centralisation means we have less input as ratepayers.
Centralized gov't entities have been incapable of dealing & managing properly the vast micro detail involved in operating these types of operations. A large incompetent bureaucracy only outcome.
It will be theft of our asset (water)!!
Why reform something for no reasonable reason? Leave it alone. We the people should vote on it. Water belongs to no one.
The board members are not democratically elected and therefore have no responsibility to the ratepayers. Also the representation of the board members does not reflect the demographics of the region that they control (Māori are 16% of the population but they have 50% of the board seats - this cannot be justified).
If we have to join we must be Far North only Auckland should be separate.
Bigger isn't always better. The labour gov't. is full of liars and con artists who are detached from reality. There is no way that a big corporate will ever be more efficient than a small easily controlled dedicated team with lots of local knowledge, which is what you have now.
Tell Ardern to keep her grubby paws off.
I don't believe that 50%of the asset should be controlled by 15% of the population and also if we are lumped in with Auckland we will get nothing like the roading.

This Government has already proved how incompetent they are by their racist separation policies in general without consultation to the voting public.
Basic quality principles of plan, do, review, learn tend to be entirely absent in these sort of proposals. Previous amalgamations have not delivered for locals so there is a poor track record. Small local government is best to encourage local enterprise. Large conglomerations typically only contract out to large multinational corporations, damaging the local economy. Amalgamations do not allow splitting off once started. For example is there a single example of any local authority amalgamation that has ever been reversed? This looks like a power grab at the expense of democracy.
If the gov't takes over the management who carries the current debt??
I don't like the separatism in giving 50% to iwi.
Infrastructure has been built up by FNDC ratepayers + loans etc. so it is unacceptable that these assets are taken over by Central Government and control is handed into uncertain ownership and into huge organisations that have little or no knowledge of what is required by the local communities. Far better to provide cheap loans to local councils to upgrade 3 waters infrastructure.
Auckland has very aged water caring infrastructure and basically needs someone else to help pay for the work required to keep them up to standard. This is a government ploy to get Far North ratepayers to help pay for Auckland's needed upgrades. In fact the same with other areas of NZ. This is the same as what they did when forcing amalgamation of the former Auckland cities. Majority of cities opted out of amalgamation and were ignored and amalgamation took place. NO SAVINGS EVENTUATED. IT WAS LIES. Also this could be their way of setting usd all up to privatisation, for future well offs.
We live in a rural area which supplies our own safe drinking water, wastewater and stormwater at no cost to the FNDC or the government. How will anyone protect us more efficiently or regulate rural people without unnecessary expense imposed on us? Rural people in our situation will be expected to subsidise urban people. This is unjust, unfair and unnecessary.
I am concerned that being in the same group as NZ's largest city that we will be considered as of least importance in managing future problems.
That's a lot of research you have done, however let everyone that wants to have their own water tanks this will help immediately. The best water, is off your own roof if it is clean. Also it is way too expensive what you are proposing. That money has to come from somewhere and it isn't coming from me. I get virtually nothing for what I pay in rates already. I have my own rain water and my own wastewater system. There was a rumour that people with tank water will have to pay, is this so?? I saw mention of Māori in the text. Do Māori pay rates on Māori land like we do for ours?? No they don't. If they did maybe things would be better for us all. Do they get the benefits as well?? Don't ask everybody else that isn't Māori to subsidise Māori. I'm not racist and have some very good working Māori friends. Enough about that bit. You haven't made things perfectly clear, who is looking at taking over, who is going to pay and who isn't. Where is the money coming from, is it fair, someone who is on town supply for water and sewage is completely different than someone with tanks and there own septic system. You need to condense it, be realistic and put it in front of us as it would be in real terms. BE TRANSPARENT.
All of the above & don't want any extra cost to the ratepayer, as traces are extremely high now, for law abiding ratepayers that pay.
The government cannot organize anything efficiently and as a taxpayer in a rural area I/we are not even considered in their thoughts.
It is unacceptable that the governance of three waters would be given to predominantly one minority ethnic group.
Giving iwi 50 percent.
If you consider gov't forced amalgamations of councils/power reforms/snaps there has NEVER been a plus for the consumer/ratepayer. Fight this with all your might also there is no cross party agreement on this contentious issue. It is theft of community assets IMO.

Creating a bureaucratic heavy system out of touch with locals and our issues. Fears it will be sold off to....????? It's being raced through along with many other things, including the SNAs etc without true consultation. All part of the 2030 UN agenda, and not a NZ agenda approved by the people of NZ.
I believe Three Waters service providers should be independent entities operating on a commercial basis with a private-public equity structure (e.g. Air New Zealand) and that amalgamation decisions between adjoining providers should be made by those providers based on their mutual economic benefit, not imposed by central government.
It will just create one more primarily self-serving bureaucracy that, instead of serving the water interests of the residents and ratepayers, will simply consume even more public funds simply to promote and sustain itself.
I see that what is proposed by the Government will just add a lot more overheads and mismanagement. In no way should there be an Ethnically Biased Management of these Resources, as is currently proposed.
We believe local council is there to protect the assets of the ratepayers. It would be a crime to give these away. The council should plan all the future requirements for infrastructure, the government should fund the work accordingly and the council should oversee the implementation. Please protect our assets.
Will the proposed reforms affect the land drainage systems which in some areas are contiguous with each other. The Gov't. financial picture of the future cost is stupidly simplistic.
I want FNDC to retain our water services. Quite simply - take a look at how government operate all manner of things in this country. Do you really want them to POORLY manage our water services too? Furthermore, this Labour orchestrated "promotion of iwi / Māori rights" is to promote separatism which I STRONGLY oppose, as a New Zealander of Māori descent myself. We are all kiwis, Māori don't need special treatment or special input over any other ethnicity in this country.
Iwi must not have any say over water rights as this may be used for their own grievance agenda against colonisation.
I am on septic, catch my own house hold water and look after my own storm-water, so already pay.
It's a take over of water rights by and for Māori. Separatist and undemocratic.
Costs to ratepayers will increase and accountability will be less. If you get a large entity to oversee what happens in Northland is making it streamlined but we need to make each council aware of their duty to water users. Gov't should set out the highest of standards to Councils with monthly checks to see records, check equipment, aquifers etc. Councils to be fined if this is not up to date and correct. We can not be delivering contaminated water to users in this day and age of 2021. Come on Councils get your act together. Government should be helping with cheap loans to get aquifers and water systems up to scratch. Clean Water, clean Air clean food! We need people on the ground checking what is going on. Encourage self storage for gardens etc with proper plastic tanks able to be fitted next to a house. A lot of wasted water suitable for car washing watering the garden etc.

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TW1C : Option 3: Don't know or undecided I don't have a view on this or don't have enough information to make a decision. - Comments
I like the idea of opting into the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme for simplification, standardization and cost savings. I am not happy with what I call 'scare tactics' of the exorbitant cost to households if we don't opt-in. When I see something of this nature, red flags go up. I am also concerned about the layers being put in place when locals want input and/or answers to issues.
It is not something I have thought about as we are on tank water.
My concerns will be that grouped with Auckland, the Far North will be left short in the funding allocation and action. As yet I would like to see more information.
I have my own water supply, waste water disposal, soak hole, and septic tank system.
I don't have enough information about this, but do not understand how this will affect me.
Not knowing how they came to a costing future, it is difficult to say whether a good idea or not.
I have no opinion either way as I receive neither water nor wastewater services of course there should be the same level of service to all residents in new Zealand.
I live rural and handle my own drinking water etc., I have no idea of what happens in town.
My personal view is the government to clean water ways and hopefully in the near future will have clean waters and air for future generations to live healthy lives.
I live on bore water and rain water, nice water.
No information about those who have no water, stormwater or wastewater service currently.
The government is still releasing information.
I am not happy with the idea that we will be joining Auckland in this zone. I would need to know that the Far North will have a voice in what happens in the Far North. We are a long way from Auckland and if representation is population based then Auckland will hold all the cards. We need representation based on land area or we will always be at the tail end of the available funding whatever our needs.
I need more information.
Concerned that this is another entity that could become privatised.
FNDC & NRC both need to think outside the box when considering any new by-laws everything is so restrictive nowadays because of the consent processes, most people are aware of the environment so they act accordingly, but they end up paying the cost of actions of irrespirable parties when these people should have to pay the costs of cleaning up their crimes.
We have neither of the 3 waters options. What happens to our rates?
Very little information is available to the general public as far as I am aware. I want to know the nuts and bolts of the proposal. Will we in the north be paying to keep sewage off Auckland's beaches? Will all services be rated for the area receiving the benefit etc.
Difficult to be clear which option could benefit ratepayers. Presently FNDC are not transparent or fair in dealing with infrastructure, especially wastewater. Therefore 3 waters or local council? Hobsons choice.
I don't know enough about it. The reports are very long and difficult to decipher. It seems, according to the government's reports, that opting in will be financially beneficial for ratepayers, but I do not trust the government's information on this.
I have my own water tank and septic system. I'm not on town supply so it doesn't worry me.
Who is running the scheme, what is the makeup of the entity.
Need to know more about the mechanisms to protect iwi interests.
I would like to have more information so will await whatever November brings.
I believe the council is correct in delaying the decision pending further information from the government. The government statistics do not seem to be carefully modelled currently, with too many questionable assumptions.

The question cannot be yes or no because the proposal is wrong. Water control should be taken from Local Councils because too many of them have demonstrated their inadequacy. But: we don't need another bureaucratic empire to run this: existing Regional Councils already have some of the statutory responsibilities and the expertise to manage water governance; They also have the advantage of local representation.
I consider that the gov't option of only 4 bodies responsible for all of N.Z. is unlikely to yield the savings claimed. Worldwide the history of both government and private sector amalgamations shows that the economies and savings of scale do not arise and in fact are seldom analysed by the amalgamated body presumably to avoid embarrassment. I do agree however that these 4 bodies would be able to employ greater expertise but would also doubtless spawn an expensive highly paid bureaucracy. I would be concerned about Northland being swallowed by Auckland and its 1.7 Million population. However I equally consider that the status quo with about 72 local bodies providing the three waters has failed badly. The Far North does not have the skills or expertise and our dispersed population has long been lacking 3 waters infrastructure. The rating base is small and the funding available has not generally been used on out of sight three waters infrastructure nor the depreciation used appropriately. In my view a larger number of regional entities, say a dozen or so, could provide the reforms necessary. In our case FNDC amalgamating with Whangarei, Kaipara and NRC. The population base would be relatively small, about 200,000,but should enable a basis for skill, expertise and planning. I recognise that Whangarei might be resistant to absorbing the large sewerage debt of Kaipara in an amalgamated entity. Another reason for the failure of local bodies to manage three waters, apart from lack of competence and a possible misuse of depreciation, is the lack of funding resources. I consider that if central government transferred some taxation revenue to say a dozen regional entities a much less draconian solution to the 3 waters problem nationally than to 4 gigantic entities could succeed.
There are clearly issues with water infrastructure & this will be expensive. If we don't want to create huge debt going on into the future we have to face this issue. I'm a bit bemused that the options for more sustainable models doesn't appear to be on the table. I'd prefer council to investigate & expand use of worm farm sewerage systems, composting toilets, water tanks in residential sections. Education is also required to teach people to be connected to where their water comes from & goes no mindless usage will address our very imminent issues. It appears central gov't. feels that bigger is better in this issue & I'd feel better if I could see clearly that gov't. has a broad & future embracing plan.
The specifics of how the reform will affect the day-to-day lives and costs of ratepayers who supply their own water via tanks and deal with wastewater via their own septic tanks have not been outlined. Ratepayers in this position are all too painfully aware that FNDC intends cranking up rating fees.
A difficult decision to make when there is really not much information yet about how it would actually work. I feel there needs to be more detail provided by the government before I decide if I think this is a good idea or not.
I would like to know if the Council considers the 3 waters infrastructure an asset or a liability. Facts to back up their position would be helpful.
I do not have enough information on the ownership and control / management structure of the proposed new entity. I need more information and I ask that the time to answer be extended to after further information has been provided.
Option 1 and 2 are both extremes and undesirable as they stand. They pit Government / Corporation against Council / community involvement. We need a clear list of reasonably costed goals put forward by councils in discussion with their ratepayers. These should then be discussed briefly with government. Next step 1, the present situation results from neglect by Council and Government caused by the public being strongly allergic to rates and taxes with some minor excuses based on bureaucratic inefficiencies but mainly on public selfishness. Step 2 the cost of the neglect needs to be shared by Council rates and Government Taxes to reach agreed goals. My preference would then be for Council run services with a lot more information and responsibility to their ratepayers.

I am forced to use the Don't know option due to lack of full information and the wish to comment. Much of what has been supplied by both sides is questionable. For example FNDC valuation of $300M is depreciated replacement cost, not what was spent. Further it ignores associated debt which must transfer with the assets as there will be no future income to fund repayment. Given the Minister's stated intention to legislate, FNDC should Opt In to get the $35M carrot otherwise this will be lost. Obviously once 3 Waters assets have gone, roading is already dictated by government funding so the next logical step would be further round of "local" government amalgamation or massive downsizing of the present empire. I have little doubt that is behind the campaign to opt out when FNDC staff report the proposal is financially advantageous to the ratepayers. If personal preference is to Opt out, the solution is to ensure change of government given National has stated it will reverse 3 Waters. Hopefully after $35m carrot has been used!
I need information on how we will be affected if we live in a rural district and manage our own water (tank), storm water and have a septic tank. Each 5 years the council requires us to empty and clean our septic tank at our cost. How is that managed under 3 waters? If our water tanks, our pump or anything else associated with it gives way that is our cost. How does this work under 3 waters? We don't want to be paying a lot extra through our rates and still having to manage our 3 waters?
Have a serious concern over an entity based in Auckland being as responsive or as efficient in that response to on the ground issues and emergencies, compared to a local controlled entity.
There is not enough information on this issue for example who is going to bear the cost of the THREE WATERS our rates are already high enough without further costs. There has been no detail on how this scheme is going to be funded. Do we not get charged for the service or do we still pay with additional funds being billed to the rate payer by the government?

8 TE WĀHANGA TŪMATAITI / PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
8.10 - Notice of Motion - Proposal to Purchase Land in Taipā	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.11 - Taumarere to Opua Cycle Trail Relocation	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the part of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation