

Costs

Scott Report Oct 2024 - \$2,600pa (Approx \$7 per day) which UHCC did not wish to discuss or even publicly recognise that it existed even though it had been in the paper and on the council website as supporting docs for LWDW.

Tiaki Wai have indicated \$6,800 by 2034. Seems very close to the forecasted Median household wage in 2034.

30th June 2025

Major takeaway from the 30th of June 2025 council meeting is that **"the water services charges modelled for the draft plan are currently projected to be 3.3% of the projected median household income by 2034"**.

Original Data from MBIE							
Forecast 2034 NZ Median Household Income and cost at that time.							
Year	The median annual	The annual per	3.3% of Median	Cost per week	cost per day		
2016	\$ 90,000.00	-					
2017	\$ 99,100.00	10.1%	\$ 3,270.30	\$ 62.89	\$	8.98	
2018	\$ 102,100.00	3.0%	\$ 3,369.30	\$ 64.79	\$	9.26	
2019	\$ 104,100.00	2.0%	\$ 3,435.30	\$ 66.06	\$	9.44	
2020	\$ 108,000.00	3.7%	\$ 3,564.00	\$ 68.54	\$	9.79	
2021	\$ 118,800.00	10.0%	\$ 3,920.40	\$ 75.39	\$	10.77	
2022	\$ 124,400.00	4.7%	\$ 4,105.20	\$ 78.95	\$	11.28	
2023	\$ 141,300.00	13.6%	\$ 4,662.90	\$ 89.67	\$	12.81	
2024	\$ 149,600.00	5.9%	\$ 4,936.80	\$ 94.94	\$	13.56	
2025	\$ 146,600.00	-2%	\$ 4,837.80	\$ 93.03	\$	13.29	
2026	\$ 156,086.67	6.5%	\$ 5,150.86	\$ 99.06	\$	14.15	
2027	\$ 162,938.79	4.4%	\$ 5,376.98	\$ 103.40	\$	14.77	
2028	\$ 169,790.91	4.2%	\$ 5,603.10	\$ 107.75	\$	15.39	
2029	\$ 176,643.03	4.0%	\$ 5,829.22	\$ 112.10	\$	16.01	
2030	\$ 183,495.15	3.9%	\$ 6,055.34	\$ 116.45	\$	16.64	
2031	\$ 190,347.27	3.7%	\$ 6,281.46	\$ 120.80	\$	17.26	
2032	\$ 197,199.39	3.6%	\$ 6,507.58	\$ 125.15	\$	17.88	
2033	\$ 204,051.52	3.5%	\$ 6,733.70	\$ 129.49	\$	18.50	
2034	\$ 210,903.64	3.4%	\$ 6,959.82	\$ 133.84	\$	19.12	

<https://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/theme/household-income-median/map/timeseries/2024/wellington?accessedvia=wellington&transform=absolute>

- The average price per connection across the region in 2024 is \$1,711⁵⁶. The amount that this rises to could be up to twice current prices or a peak of about \$3,000 to \$4,000. However, it may be possible to reduce this peak price through financing arrangements and a sustainable price is estimated at about \$2,596 when the catch-up phase is completed in about 20 years' time. This sustainable price is about 51% above the level of current charges, meaning that this level of increase could be gradually managed over time.

Page 76 of the Scott Report (Oct 2024)

Options

- UHCC and others came up with 2 or 3 viable options as per government requirements. WCC had the option to go it alone where others did not.
- Government mandated that the Status Quo plus ownership provisions option must be included.
- In 2025 we in Upper Hutt submitted to council that the 2 options provided in UH were effectively the same.
- Ex Cr Carson, on the 11th October 2024, backed that up and stated the same.

Harmonization

A word that means Tiaki Wai will equalize prices for water in each sub-region, so we are all paying the same at the end. This will hit the regions who are currently paying the least, the most as they catch up. Estimated 28% increase in 2027/2028 for Upper Hutt.

<https://www.tiakiwai.co.nz/updates/tiaki-wai-opens-the-books-on-challenges-and-costs-of-fixing-water-services>

Your Host: Teresa Homan Email: tshoman@kinect.co.nz

Guarantor

Most councils lend from the LGFA (Local Government Funding Authority) and as a borrower are part of the agreement that they are standing guarantor for the debt LGFA arranges. As Tiaki Wai and other water entities around NZ will all be borrowing from LGFA, councils and effectively us are standing guarantor.

LGFA current debt level: **\$30.36 billion**

Tiaki Wai Revenue

26/27 approx. **\$385 million**.

27/28 estimates with 28% increase **\$493 million**.

Borrowing potential **\$1.93 billion** in 26/27 and estimated **\$2.46 billion** in 27/28, and that we stand guarantor for.

19 New Water Organisations - 12 in the North Island, 7 in the South Island.

<https://www.lgfa.co.nz/investors/guarantee-arrangements>



For more information head to:
www.nzempowered.com

Timing

We have been sold that Tiaki Wai had to be in on the 1st July 2026. This has been done through silence, statements that government mandated the changes or other such words.

Reality is, that the legislation states that the first Water Delivery plan from the water entity is not required before 30th June **2027**.

Meaning, Tiaki Wai didn't need to be taking over in 2026 and time could have been taken to iron out all the should's and could's and its intendeds from the documents and contracts.

No one would sign a contract with that many unknowns.

Most of the rest of the country have decided to take the time and not go until 2027. Councils like Selwyn who already manage their own 3 waters is one council who have gone early. **1st July 2025**, Selwyn Water Limited was created. On 8 July 2025, Hon. Simon Watts approved **Water Services Delivery Plan** (WSDP)

<i>Water services strategies</i>	
5	Timing of first water services strategies
(1)	Despite Part 4 coming into force sooner,—
(a)	a water service provider must prepare and adopt its first water services strategy under section 230 or 231 no later than 30 June 2027; and
(b)	a water service provider's first water services strategy must come into force on the earlier of—
(i)	1 July 2027; and
(ii)	a date determined by the water service provider when it adopts the strategy.
(2)	A water service provider's first water services strategy must—
(a)	commence on the earlier of—
(i)	1 July 2027; and
(ii)	the date determined under subclause (1)(b)(ii); and
(b)	continue in force until 30 June 2030.

From the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

Rates Rebate

Recently there has been an article which superannuants who have rates over \$2000 and meet the other criteria will be eligible for the full \$830 Rates Rebate. **What does that mean with Water Service removed?**

In the Rates Rebate Act (1973) it states that residential rates include, Local Council Rates, Regional Rates and Water Charges.

rates, in relation to a residential property, means—

(a) a general rate or targeted rate or uniform annual general charge that is assessed on the property, but does not include—

(b) charges set and collected under [section 86, 87, or 88](#) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025; and

From the Rates Rebate Act 1973

Meters

The total Project Cost for these meters has Increased significantly from earlier 2020 estimates of \$144 million to now over half a billion dollars.

Dec 2024 figures below chart which is \$100m under what they are suggesting now and that includes Wairarapa who aren't even in Tiaki Wai anymore.

A worrying thought weather you are comparing to Auckland or not.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/YH-WE2lijYs?t=4225s>

It has been stated that the installation of water meters on residential dwellings in Upper Hutt will come in at \$35m plus. Below is a table which shows what each council would be costing and as a region overall based on the Upper Hutt dwelling numbers and cost to install.

	Households	\$2,079 per meter install
Upper Hutt	16,833	\$ 35,000,000
Porirua	18,930	\$ 39,360,185
Kapiti Coast	25,465	\$ 52,948,078
Hutt City	39,678	\$ 82,500,446
Wellington City	81,003	\$ 168,425,414
Carterton	4,188	\$ 8,707,895
South Wairarapa	5,844	\$ 12,151,132
Masterton	11,472	\$ 23,853,146
Greater Wellington Regional	203,413	\$ 422,946,296

Overall to install water meters in all the above councils it would come to around \$423m and as was stated at the [13th Dec Wellington Water Meeting](#).

RAS and Hardship Policy

Rates Assistance Scheme - Basically a Reverse Mortgage.

Hardship Policy - No Disconnection: A core commitment is that water will not be turned off for those unable to pay, though supply restrictions may be used as a last resort.

Options include flexible payment plans, temporary fee waivers, and "practical support".

Application: Specifically supports residential customers facing genuine financial hardship as water costs and is available to owners not renters even though, in most cases, renters will get water costs passed on within rent increases.

Who can use RAS?

It's a voluntary scheme and any eligible ratepayer or developer can choose to access it once the RAS is in place. Ratepayers will be required to meet approval criteria.

How does RAS work?

RAS pays the council upfront and the ratepayer or developer repays RAS over time through a levy.

Is RAS a loan?

Yes, but it's cheaper and likely to be longer-term than other sources of borrowing. RAS loans are secured against the property and repaid through a levy or on sale of the property. The RAS is expected to offer lower interest rates than comparable mortgages (eg typically 2% - 2.5% below equivalent bank floating mortgage rates).

FAQ from LGNZ Website on Ratepayers Assistance Scheme

From what we see there will be no other assistance for private renters, yet the government is likely to foot the bill for those in social housing.

Minister Bishop from a recent meeting stated:

"The short answer is yes, they will pay water rates, but it would be paid for by the landlord" (Government).

Amalgamation Effects

In the Partners Agreement there is a clause which addresses what would happen if there was an amalgamation of councils.

Effectively it says that if councils amalgamate then the amalgamated councils merge into one representative on the Partners' Committee.

So, in one potential scenario where all councils amalgamate there could be 1 council rep and 2 Mana Wenua.

11. Shareholder Exit and amalgamation

11.1 Exiting shareholders

A Local Authority may cease to be a shareholder in the Company in accordance with the Constitution and the principles set out in Schedule 1 (a **Shareholder Exit**).

11.2 Amalgamation of Shareholders

If two or more of the Shareholders amalgamate into a single council (an **Amalgamation Event**), the Shares in the Company held by each of those Shareholders immediately prior to the date of amalgamation will transfer to the new amalgamated Shareholder. The new amalgamated Shareholder will only be entitled to one Partners Committee Representative, but the votes able to be cast by that Partners Committee Representative on any resolution of the Partners Committee will be the sum of the votes able to be cast by the Partners Committee Representatives of the amalgamating Shareholders.

Page 20 - Tiaki Wai Partners Agreement

Transfer of Land and Assets

At the 13th March 2026 Partners Committee meeting they have started to refer to **land** and assets. First time we have seen "LAND" as part of the discussions and now we also see it in the Hutt City Council papers for their meeting held today (13th May). Then in an addendum to the agenda, it excludes land. It's all very confusing.

We all understand assets are being transferred, but LAND?

Hutt City voted on their transfer agreement on the 13th of May and it doesn't have the list of Land parcels being transferred to Tiaki Wai. Page 97,98, 99 Blank..

https://huttcity.infocouncil.biz/Open/2026/05/HCC_13052026_AGN_6411_AT

Upper Hutt City Council is to vote on Wed 20th May 2026. Pg 16 specifies Land Parcels being handed to Tiaki Wai. Pg 102-103 shows the parcels are not listed but stated they are published elsewhere. Yet cannot be found.

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/3/meetings/2026/cycle-2/council-agenda-20260520.pdf>

We have asked UHCC about where this is and they have advised that it is not yet finalised and elected members have this information. Yet the transfer agreement will be voted on tomorrow.

From page 16 of the UHCC Agenda for the 20th of May 2026

These land parcels are not defined anywhere in the transfer agreement.

69. The Transfer Agreement addresses these complexities in a number of ways, by including provisions that work to achieve the transfer of relevant land, as follows:

- A. For Freehold Properties: The Council can agree to transfer such land (seven parcels identified to transfer) to Tiaki Wai pursuant to section 50 of the Public Works Act 1981 (PWA), on relevant terms and conditions. This is possible as Tiaki Wai will, after the transfer of responsibilities, be a "water service provider" and therefore a "local authority" under the PWA. As a local authority, the PWA processes will be available in relation to Tiaki Wai.
- B. For Council Reserves: Additional process steps arise for Council Reserves (28 parcels identified to transfer). Where any Reserve land is identified for transfer, based on the land being primarily used for water services, all necessary steps will be taken by the parties to apply to LINZ to arrange for

102	AGENDA ITEM 5 ATTACHMENT 2				
SCHEDULE 1 (Published Separately)					
RESERVE					
LAND USE	NAME	LOCATION	VALUATION ID	RECORD OF TITLE	LEGAL DESCRIPTION

5 ATTACHMENT 2

SCHEDULE 2 (Published Separately)					
FREEHOLD LAND					
LAND USE	NAME	VALUATION ID	RECORD OF TITLE	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	

Transfer of Land and Assets

nzempowered@gmail.com

From: Governance <Governance@uhcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2026 8:39 am
To: nzempowered@gmail.com
Cc: Governance; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Missing information from Agenda for 20th May Council Meeting

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry. I have forwarded it to the Chief Advisor and received the response below:

We have Paragraph 37 of the report sets out the status of the transfer schedule documents.

There is a considerable amount of detail recorded in the Transfer Schedules, and they are continuing to be finalised and reviewed at the time of Council decision-making. Links to the current draft schedules have been provided separately to Elected Members. To assist Elected Members an outline of the contents of particular schedules, and the approach taken to the documentation of the Schedules has been provided by way of the description of the key aspects of the Transfer Agreement in the next section of the report (paras 37-80).

The holding pages from the Transfer Agreement document for the schedules as referenced in the enquiry are intentionally blank, and will be completed/populated once the schedules are finalised.

I trust this has answered your question.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Governance Advisor
governance@uhcc.govt.nz

From: nzempowered@gmail.com <nzempowered@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:22 am
To: [REDACTED]@uhcc.govt.nz; Governance <Governance@uhcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Missing information from Agenda for 20th May Council Meeting

[REDACTED] Governance,

From Page 102 in the agenda there seems to be missing information (land parcels) for land and Reserve which UHCC is looking to hand over to Tiaki Wai. Can you please advise where these are and direct us to this info?

Item 69 states there are 7 parcels of land for freehold properties and 28 parcels for reserve.

- For Freehold Properties: The Council can agree to transfer such land (seven parcels identified to transfer) to Tiaki Wai)
- For Council Reserves: Additional process steps arise for Council Reserves (28 parcels identified to transfer).

It states these are published separately and would like to understand the details around this..

Accountability and Contacts

As part of understanding the Tiaki Wai Structure, the Partners committee is the shareholders (Councils) representatives. They are someone from each of the Councils and mana whenua who are our voice.

If you wish to raise anything regarding Tiaki Wai it would be good to raise it with your local rep or to all of them.

What is Tiaki Wai?

Tiaki Wai is your new water organisation that will deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across Lower Hutt, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Wellington from 1 July 2026.

Tiaki Wai is a publicly owned company established as a water organisation under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. It is accountable to the community through a Partners Committee, made up of representatives from each shareholding council and our mana whenua iwi partners, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika. All three waters assets remain in public ownership.

Tiaki Wai is better set up to deliver water services. It is different to Wellington Water and the councils it takes over from. It will own the assets rather than manage them and works under new legislation with clear statutory and regulatory responsibilities and financial accountability. The new set-up gives Tiaki Wai the resources, independence, and region wide perspective needed to improve the performance of water services for current and future consumers and communities.

Tiaki Wai website - Tiaki Wai is accountable to community through the Partners Committee

If you are concerned or have questions here are some emails which you can send your thoughts/concerns too.

Partners Committee

Dame Kerry Prendergast Chair -

kerry@prendergast.co.nz

Mayor Anita Baker PCC - **mayor@poriruacity.govt.nz**

Cr Simon Edwards HCC -

simon.edwards@huttcity.govt.nz

Cr Ros Connelly GWRC - **ros.connelly@gw.govt.nz**

Mayor Peri Zee UHCC - **peri.zee@uhcc.govt.nz**

Mayor Andrew Little WCC - **mayor@wcc.govt.nz**

Helmut Modlik IWI - **enquiries@ngatitoea.iwi.nz**

Kara Puketapu-Dentice IWI - **kara@portnicholson.org.nz**

Ministers and Other Government Officials

Simon Watts (Nat -LG Minister) - **S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz**

Kieran McAnulty - (Lab - Shadow LG Minister) -

kieran.mcanulty@parliament.govt.nz

Louise Upston - **L.Upston@ministers.govt.nz**

Chris Bishop - **C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz**

Winston Peters - **W.Peters@ministers.govt.nz**

David Seymour - **D.Seymour@ministers.govt.nz**

Chris Hipkins - **chris.hipkins@parliament.govt.nz**

Scott Simpson - **S.Simpson@ministers.govt.nz**

Katrina Casey - **katrina.casey@dia.govt.nz**

Write a Letter (Free No Stamp Required)

Writing letters to Ministers is an effective way to influence policy and raise concerns. Letters should be concise, polite, and focused on specific issues.

Best Practice: Handwritten or personally signed letters are more effective than photocopied.

Be Concise: Keep letters to a max of one page (about 250 words) and focus on only one issue.

Be Specific: State the issue and what you want done in the opening sentence.

Personalise: Explain how the issue affects you, your family, or your local community.

Use Facts: Include evidence and research to support your views rather than just emotions.

Be Polite: Maintain a courteous and respectful tone to encourage a constructive response.

Request a Response: Specifically ask for a response or action.

Key Things to Include

Your Contact Information: Always include your full name and address so they know you are a constituent. **Local MP:** If writing to a Cabinet Minister about a local issue, consider copying your local MP

**Hon [Minister Name]
Minister for/of
[Portfolio]
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160**

How to Address and Send Letters