

# Joint Water Services Bill Submission

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 31 March 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Donnicks Mugutso, Waters and Waste Manager

## Purpose | Ngā whāinga

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the four Northland Councils joint submission on the Water Services Bill that closed on 2 March 2021.

## Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

This report presents the Northland Councils' Joint Water Services Bill to Council for information purposes. A circulation of the submission was sent immediately after receipt to Elected Members on 1 March. Council sought relief on three items, namely the excessive offences and punishments, the requirement for Councils to take over failing private water supply systems and the annual registration fees. Staff incorporated these requests in the submission and noted that if the second relief is upheld, then the third will not be applicable; council would not need to pay the annual registration fees.

## Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council

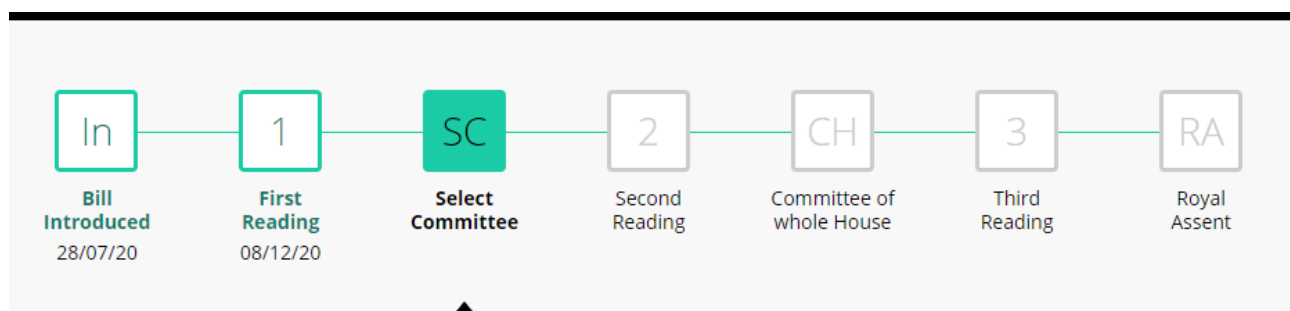
- a) Notes the Notes the Joint water Services Bill Submission report
- b) Requests further update on the Water Service Act once the Bill turns into law.

## Context | Horopaki

At the 3 February 2021 Council Briefing, staff presented the Water Services Bill report, with a timeline on the progression of the Bill. At the time, the process was open for submissions which closed on 2 March. The four Northland Councils decided to make a joint submission (**Attachment A**) by the due date. The report promised that staff would bring the Joint Water Service Bill Submission to the February Council meeting. During discussions of the report, Elected Members observed that may not be feasible to have the submission ready before the and a circulation would be appropriate under the circumstances. Staff circulated the submission on 1 March 2021, just after a final draft was approved and signed.

We present this report for completeness.

The timeline of events is shown below. The Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent later this year (2021).



The February Report discussed some aspects of the Bill including:

The Bill and the new Water Regulator – Taumata Arowai

The six Fundamental Principles of Drinking Water Safety

The Bill's trigger to the amendment of other legislation such as:

- Building Act 2002
- Civil Defence and Emergency management Act 2002
- Health Act 1956
- Local Government Official Information and meetings Act 1991, and instruments like;
- Building Regulations 1992
- Camping Grounds regulations 1985
- Corrections Regulations 2005
- Education Regulations 2005
- Food Regulations 2015
- Housing improvements Regulations 1947
- Medicines Regulations 1984.

During the discussion of the report, and in written questions, Elected Members requested that the following be addressed in the submission:

- The excessive offences and punishments (Part 3 subpart 10 clause 168) – we sought relief from the clause as it is currently written
- The requirement to have Councils take over a failing private water scheme (Part 5 Local Government Act Amendments – Subpart 7 Clause 127) – we sought relief from this clause
- annual registration payment – this was discussed, and we observed that the water supplier will be paying the annual registration fees. If the relief from clause 127 is upheld, then Council does not have any registration fees to pay.

## **Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero**

### **Policy and planning implications**

None.

### **Financial implications**

None.

### **Risks and mitigations**

There are no risks associated with submission to the Water Services Bill.

## **Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

## Next steps | E whaiake nei

Staff to track the progress of the Bill and brief Council of the Water Services Act and how this affects the Kaipara District Council.

## Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Joint Water Services Bill Submission