

Message from our Mayor and Chief Executive

Government's Local Water Done Well legislation means big changes are coming to the way our water is delivered and paid for.

This is a long term and a 'once in a generation' decision and will impact all members of the community. There will be governance, structural and financial impacts for our water users.

The provision of Three Waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services) is a core council function. It also requires significant investment.

Along with all councils in New Zealand, Mackenzie District Council has to create a Water Services Delivery Plan, approved by the Department of Internal Affairs. This will detail how we will meet central government's higher standards, future investment, and regulations.

We've looked closely at the options the government has provided to all councils, and we believe there are two broad options available to us for the future of water service delivery – either team up with our neighbouring councils, or go it alone. Our council have debated both options and believe that there are more benefits and slightly less costs by teaming up with our neighbours.

We ask for your input

The details and pros and cons of each option are outlined in a consultation document and we are now asking for your input. What we do know is that the rates and user charges paid by ratepayers for water will need to increase

significantly to meet the requirements set down by Government.

Given the importance of this decision, we ask that you take the time to read the information provided, understand the options, and provide feedback. We need to hear your thoughts on this key strategic decision.

Costs will rise

There are a number of reasons why costs are going to go up in our District. These include:

- increasing regulatory standards (particularly for wastewater treatment and disposal) which will cost more to meet,
- historic underfunding of the water network to keep rates low, and
- the effects of rapid and ongoing population growth, and visitor numbers in our region.

It is vital that a financially sustainable long-term option is selected that will benefit the water users of our communities. It is imperative that future standards are complied with and the ability to sustain a resilient service is vital.

Council will make a decision on which option we will look to pursue in early July 2025 and we want to ensure that, you have had a chance to have your say on the future of water in the Mackenzie District.

Kind regards / ngā mihi

KAREN MORGAN

Acting Mayor



ANGELA OOSTHUIZEN

Chief Executive



Water Reform

Things to remember:

- The status quo is not an option.
- Costs will continue to rise to meet upgrades and new standards.
- The Government has legislated requirements for financial sustainability...
...and have mandated water finances be kept separate from other Council activities.
- Water services will be subject to economic regulation from the Commerce Commission.
- Water consumers need an enduring option that is affordable with cost and capital efficiencies.
- We must deliver our Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs for approval by September 2025.
- This is a once-in-a generation decision and Council needs your input.

Find out more and have your say at letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz > Water Reform



Mackenzie District Water Assets

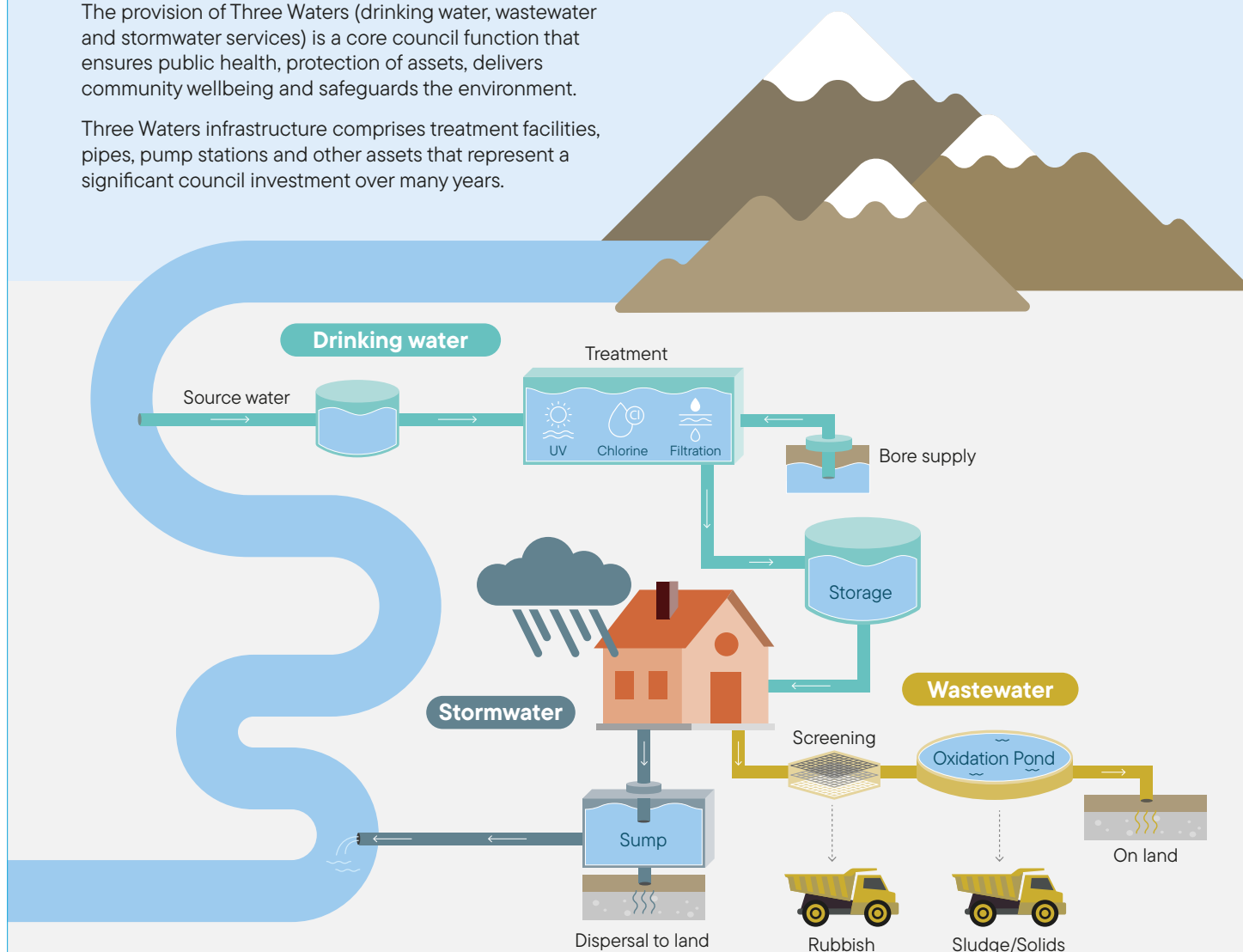


Mackenzie Water

OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE.

The provision of Three Waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services) is a core council function that ensures public health, protection of assets, delivers community wellbeing and safeguards the environment.

Three Waters infrastructure comprises treatment facilities, pipes, pump stations and other assets that represent a significant council investment over many years.



Drinking water

Assets

- 402.6 km of drinking water pipes for drinking water
- 9 water intakes
- 6 treatment plants
- 6 pump stations.

Total operating costs (excl depreciation)

Are estimated to be \$1.6M in 2025. Projected operating costs are expected to significantly increase over the next 10 years.

Replacement value*

For all water supply assets is \$55M as at the June 2024 asset valuation.

Stormwater

Assets

- 31.7 kilometres of stormwater pipes
- 409 manholes
- 494 sumps
- 5 retention/treatment areas

Total operating costs (excl depreciation)

Are estimated to be \$111,000 in 2025. Projected operating costs are expected to significantly increase over the next 10 years.

Replacement value*

For all stormwater assets is \$12.6M as at the June 2024 asset valuation. These values do not include stormwater assets that are located in the roading reserve, consisting of open channels, swales, and secondary flow paths.

Wastewater

Assets

- 91.9 kilometres of wastewater pipes
- 1,115 manholes
- 6 pump stations
- 4 treatment plants.

Total operating costs (excl depreciation)

Are estimated to be \$649,000 in 2025. Projected operating costs are expected to significantly increase over the next 10 years.

Replacement value*

For all wastewater assets is \$33.7M as at the June 2024 asset valuation.

Total replacement value of the three waters network is \$101.3 million*

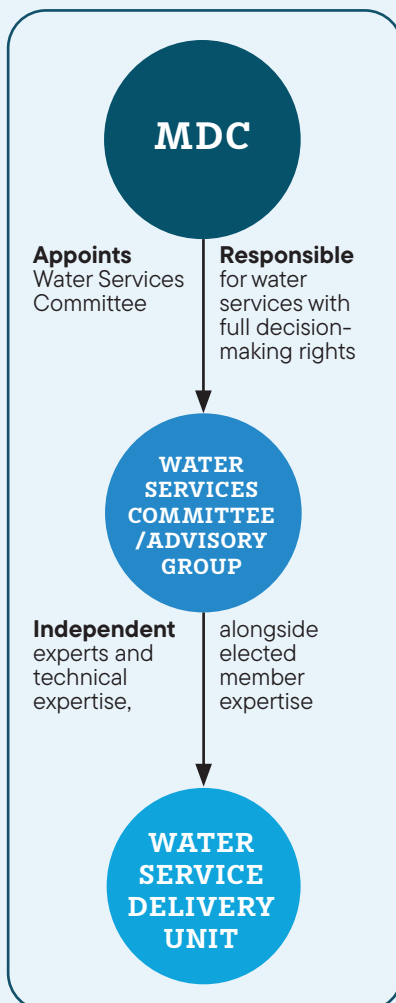
*Replacement values are given as ODRC (Optimised Depreciated Replacement Cost)

Your Options for Water Service Delivery

We have been looking closely at the options available to us including working with our neighbouring councils and seeking some expert advice to help us think about which option could be best for our community in the long-run. We think there are two viable options which are expected to meet the government's requirements.

OPTION 1

Internal Water Services Unit

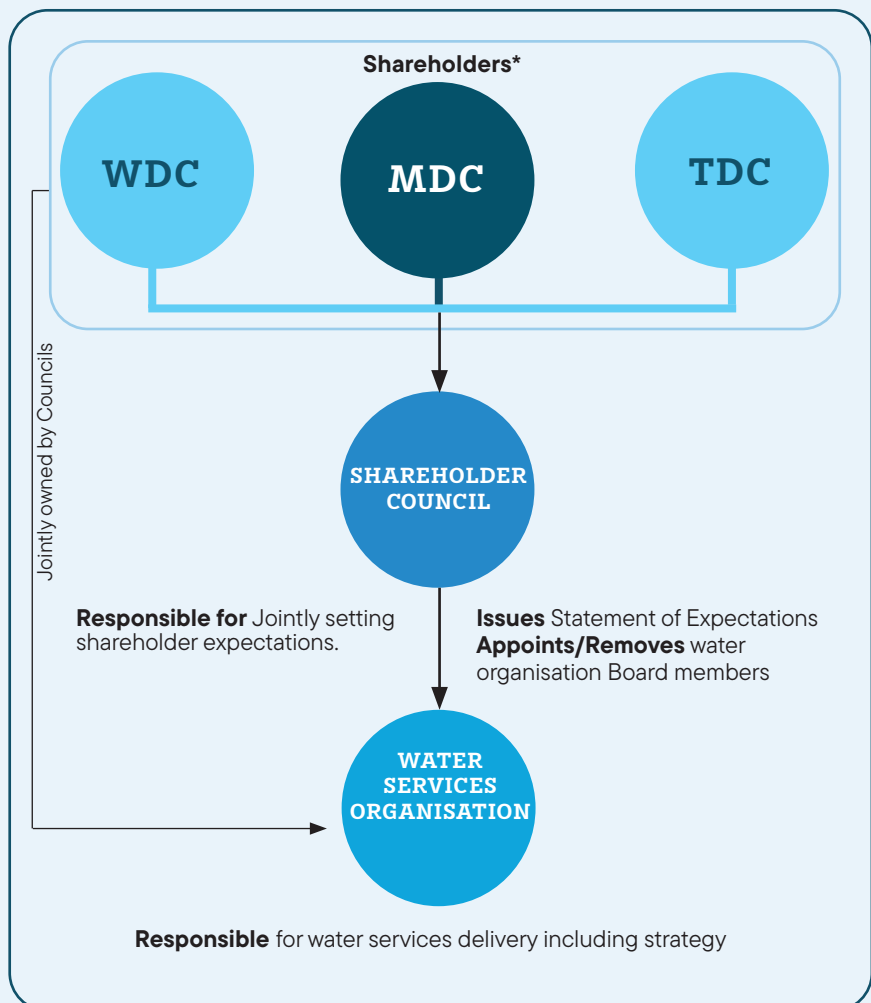


\$2,050

Indicative average cost per connection in today's dollars.

OPTION 2

Multi-Council Water Organisation



\$1,670

Three-council organisation
Indicative average cost per connection in today's dollars.

\$1,470

Four-council organisation

Indicative average cost per connection in today's dollars.

\$\$ PER YEAR

*A four-council variation could include Waitaki District. However, these combinations could change depending on the final decisions from other councils.



Find out more and have your say at
letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz > Water Reform



Rates in the Mackenzie District

Rates are the way that everyone pays for those essential community services that we all use every day. When most of you turn on the tap, drive on a local road, flush the toilet or go for a walk in the park, you're using a service you've helped pay for.

As part of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, for 2024/25 the average total amount of rates collected by the Council increased by 14.7%. Your individual rates bill may have increased by more than this or less depending on the services you receive at your property and the value of your land and improvements compared to other properties.

Rates are due and payable in four equal instalments on the following dates during the year:

Instalment	Due Date
1	20 September 2024
2	20 December 2024
3	20 March 2025
4	20 June 2025

Any outstanding amount unpaid at the due dates will attract a 10% penalty.

You can choose to pay smaller amounts on a more regular basis as long as they add up the full instalment amount by the quarterly date. If you would like to pay regular small amounts, please contact our rates team to discuss the details.

You can pay your rates via direct debit (EasyPay), credit card, internet banking, online on our website, or in person at one of our offices.

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a partial rebate for eligible, low income ratepayers who pay rates on their home to the Council.

The maximum rebate you can received is \$790 which is available as long as your gross (before tax) income is \$31,510 or less.

Even if your income exceeds the threshold, you may still be eligible, depending on the amount of rates you pay and number of dependants. If you think you may be eligible please contact Council on 03 685 9010.

Changes to water and public toilet charges and rates, and other fees and charges

Councillors want to hear the views of the community in relation to their proposed changes to both fees and charges and to rates.

Council is proposing some changes for:

- Water connection, use charges and rates
- Public toilet user charges and the rates allocation for toilet costs
- Some other user fees and charges (including for parks and reserves usage following community feedback)



Find out more and have your say at letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz

Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area?

You may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections in October 2025

You may like to vote in this election. Voting is a way to have your say on what happens in your local community. This information is designed to help you. It notes who you can contact to enrol, and ways you might qualify to vote.



There are two types of electors...

Residential Electors – If you are registered to vote on the electoral roll, you are automatically enrolled to vote in local authority elections. You will receive a voting document so that you can vote by post.

Ratepayer Electors – You may also be eligible to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector in a council district if both of these apply:

- you are on the district valuation roll and pay rates in the council district
- the address where you are registered as a Parliamentary elector is outside that council district.

Your eligibility to enrol or be nominated as a ratepayer elector may also depend on your individual circumstances as determined by criteria in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and its regulations.

An organisation can nominate one of its members or officers to vote on its behalf

If a firm, company, trust, corporation, society partners, joint tenants and tenants in common collectively pay rates on a property in a council district, one of the group may be nominated to be the ratepayer elector. The person nominating and the nominated person must be registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses outside the council district where the property is located.

You can only enrol once

You can only enrol, or be nominated to enrol, once in a council district, no matter how many properties you own in that council district. Council district includes: a city, district and regional council area; a community board area if established; the area of Auckland Council and the local boards.

New Ratepayer Electors

If you think you may be eligible to enrol or to nominate someone as a ratepayer elector, get an Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors from the local council where you pay your rates. The Electoral Officer will be able to help you with your application.

Further information is at votelocal.co.nz > Information for voters > Ratepayer roll

Enrol now – the Ratepayer Electoral Roll closes on 1 August 2025

