



Implementation roadmap

This document provides an overview of key activities and milestones for the implementation of Local Water Done Well.

It outlines the key steps in the overall Local Water Done Well programme to help councils and other stakeholders understand the timing of the programme. It is not intended to be comprehensive or cover related agency workstreams. All information and timeframes are indicative and subject to change.

Workstream	September - December 2025	January to June 2026	July to December 2026	January to June 2027	July 2027 onwards
LEGISLATION					
Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Preliminary Arrangements Act)	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) continues to provide guidance to support implementation of legislation				
Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (the standalone Act)	All legislation enacted				
Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act 2025 (the Repeals and Amendments Act)					
COUNCIL WATER SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS					
Water service delivery arrangements	Legislative requirements for local government water service providers in effect				
	Councils can establish new water organisation models provided through the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025				
Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs)	Councils submitted WSDPs to DIA for review and acceptance (by 3 Sep 2025)	Secretary for Local Govt assesses WSDPs (to end of Dec 2025)	Councils publish final WSDPs (Dec 2025)		Territorial authorities that have not transferred responsibility for water services to a water organisation must prepare WSDPs every 5 years and submit them to the Secretary for Local Government
	DIA monitors WSDPs Implementation Plans (Nov 2025 until complete)				
PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK FOR WATER SERVICES					
New planning and reporting framework for water service providers (councils and water organisations)	Water service providers begin to apply new financial (ring-fencing) principles as part of financial operations and policies	Shareholders in water organisations prepare statements of expectations to inform first water services strategy	Water service providers prepare first water services strategy – for adoption by 30 Jun 2027 (including forecast financial statements for water supply, wastewater and stormwater)		
			Councils include ‘standalone’ financial statements for water supply, wastewater and stormwater in annual report for FY 2026-27		

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ECONOMIC REGULATION

Crown monitor for Watercare (interim economic regulator for Watercare)	Crown monitor quarterly reporting and annual reporting (first report for year ending 30 Jun 2025, due 30 Nov 2025)				
	Watercare Charter in place (to Jun 2028)				
Information disclosure (ID)	Commerce Commission sets ID requirements within six months after commencement of the Repeals and Amendments Act				
	Wellington Water Ltd is subject to foundational information disclosure under the Preliminary Arrangements Act				
Ring-fencing	Ring-fencing of revenue requirements can apply (if required)				
Revenue thresholds	Revenue thresholds can apply (if required)				
Quality standards and performance requirements	Quality regulation and performance regulation can apply following designation (if required)				
Price-quality regulation	Price-quality regulation can apply following designation (if required)				

ENVIRONMENTAL & INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION

Drinking water

Drinking water quality regulatory environment	Territorial authorities must complete first assessment of their communities' access to drinking water by 1 July 2026 – input to source water risk management plans				
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Wastewater

Wastewater regulatory environment	First set of wastewater environmental performance standards in place (Nov 2025)				
	Discharges to air / other contaminants standards – policy development, drafting of regulations, and legislative process			Second set of wastewater environmental performance standards in place	
	Territorial authorities must complete first assessment of their communities' wastewater services by 1 July 2029				
Trade waste discharges	Trade waste discharge plans must be prepared by territorial authorities or water service organisations in consultation with interested parties and be issued by August 2027				

Stormwater

Stormwater management roles and responsibilities	New stormwater network risk management provisions in place				
	Stormwater network risk management plans must be in place by August 2028				
	Territorial authorities must complete first assessment of their communities' stormwater services by 1 July 2029				
Bylaws	Alternative bylaw options available to councils (e.g. connections approvals; trade waste discharge, stormwater risk management, water supply and waste management enforcement)				
	Territorial authorities must review all water service by-laws to ensure they are consistent with the legislation by August 2027 and make any changes required by August 2030				

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Design Solutions	Overall timing TBC	Policy work to determine need, timing and sequencing of infrastructure design solutions for modular plants			
	Overall timing TBC	Water Services Authority scope, develop and consult on draft NEDS	Drafting of regulations and legislative process to make NEDS	Water service providers transition to NEDS	
National Engineering Design Standards (NEDS)	Overall timing TBC	Water Services Authority scope, develop and consult on draft NEDS		Drafting of regulations and legislative process to make NEDS	Water service providers transition to NEDS
Water service providers' infrastructure powers	Powers to access land and control connections apply in place			Network maps for infrastructure capacity and asset details to be published by August 2029	