

Water done well

The Proposal

As part of developing a Water Services Delivery Plan under the Local Government Act 2024, Nelson City Council is required make a decision about how it will deliver water services to the community. Council is seeking community views on whether Council should remain with the existing approach for delivering water services.

The Explanation

Council currently owns, operates and maintains the majority of the three water networks within the city. The day-to-day operation and maintenance of the drinking water, storm water and wastewater networks is carried out by various contractors. Council considers that the existing approach for delivering water services has served the city well in the past and will continue to do so into the future.

A Model A

(Recommended)

Retain the existing approach for delivering water services:

Advantages

- Simplicity and economic efficiency.
- Structure already in place
- Nelson City utilities in good shape.

Disadvantages

- Borrowing capacity limited.

B Model B

Establish, join, or amend a water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO):

Advantages

- 'Arms-length' approach that could allow decision making focused on water service outcomes.
- Ability to access higher levels of borrowing.

Disadvantages

- Substantial unknowns.
- No ability to join or amend existing WSCCO.
- Cost of establishing & ongoing funding.
- May increase costs to Nelson to support other Councils.

C Model C

Establish, join, or amend a joint local government arrangement under the Local Government Act 2002:

Advantages

- Share costs of service delivery.

Disadvantages

- Substantial unknowns.
- Cost of establishing and ongoing funding.
- Some dilution of control.
- May increase costs to Nelson to support other Councils.



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