

# Kāpiti Coast

## Our water snapshot

March 2025



The Kāpiti Coast starts about 50 km north of Wellington and extends northwards along the coast for just over 40 km between the Tararua Ranges and the Tasman Sea. We're home to nearly 59,000 people living in several distinct towns and villages, and we're growing fast – our population is projected to exceed 80,000 by 2054.

Our communities are supplied with water from the Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers via 24,663 water connections.

### Our water services are in good shape

We have invested significantly in our water services and put in place many elements that contribute to managing our water well such as: water meters, a river recharge system, rainwater and grey water tank requirements, new reservoirs, and upgrades to our water and wastewater treatment plants and stormwater networks.

As a result, our district enjoys high quality drinking water and effective wastewater collection and treatment. It also means we've avoided water restrictions for over a decade. Our approach to managing water demand and the long-term supply of safe drinking water has been widely recognised.

Our current arrangements serve us well and we see no need to make significant changes, at least in the short- to medium-term.

### Some examples of the wide range of water assets we've invested in:



#### Water supply

We supply **17.2** million litres a day of safe drinking water via:

- **2** river intakes
- **5** treatment plants
- **15** bores (wells)
- **588** km of pipes
- **27.3** million litres of storage in **18** reservoirs
- **9** pump stations
- **2,423** water hydrants



#### Wastewater

We safely treat **10.9** million litres of wastewater a day via:

- **2** wastewater treatment plants
- **153** pump stations
- **6,242** manholes
- **354** km of pipes
- **21,057** service connections
- **5** storage ponds
- **2** biosolid facilities



#### Stormwater & flood protection

We upgrade and maintain **216** km of stormwater drainage pipes, and:

- **52.7** km of open waterways
- **18** pump stations
- **3,029** service lines
- myriad **soak pits, ponds and wetlands** are a major part of our stormwater network

## Kāpiti charges for water by how much you use

We started universal water metering and volumetric charging in 2014. Customers are charged a fixed charge plus an amount per cubic metre of water used. This has made charging fairer for small users, conserved water, improved our water management practices, and helps identify leaks in the network so we can fix them.

## Kāpiti Coast's water in the future

Right now, our water services assets are in a reasonable condition. We've assigned \$248 million for stormwater, \$610 million for drinking water, and \$275 million for wastewater renewals, replacements and upgrades over the next 30 years.

We'll also need to invest in resource consent renewals for the Ōtaki bore water take and Paraparaumu wastewater discharge, and new water storage reservoirs in 2050–2052 so we can maintain levels of service and cope with our district's projected growth.

## Our priorities for future water services delivery

Council has identified six priorities to help guide our decision on the future delivery of water services under the Government's Local Water Done Well programme:



Our water assets remain in public ownership



Our community continues to receive safe, reliable, efficient and effective water services



Mana whenua aspirations and concepts have meaningful influence in managing our water



Our water services are financially sustainable and maintain affordable, fair and transparent charging for customers



Our water services model recognises local priorities in planning for the future and catering for growth



Our water services model is resilient – it remains strong and functional in all circumstances

### Option 1

#### 'The One'

Keeping our water services delivery in-house as we do now, but with additional effort and resourcing required to ensure we meet regulatory requirements.

**Our preferred option**

### Option 2

#### 'The Four'

A four council-owned water services organisation with Horowhenua, Palmerston North, and Manawatū. This option would require Council to transfer its water assets to the new organisation of which Council would be a shareholder.



We're consulting from **10 March – 13 April**.  
Find out more at [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LocalWater](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LocalWater)