Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Associate Minister of Finance

Michael Brewster, Chief Executive
cc: Will Peet, Chair
Tiaki Wai Ltd

MIN-CB-531

Dear Michael,

Participation in the National Infrastructure Pipeline programme by water organisations and in-council delivery units

We are writing to inform you of the Government's expectation for your organisation and, when established, all new water organisations and in-council delivery units, to provide comprehensive information to the National Infrastructure Pipeline (Pipeline), New Zealand's dataset of infrastructure initiatives administered by the Infrastructure Commission (Commission).[1] This is a continuation and transfer of a preexisting expectation, where in the past, your shareholder councils or predecessor organisation provided water investment information to the Pipeline.

This expectation operates alongside other required reporting such as regulated disclosures to the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority (Taumata Arowai), and requests made by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT). Improving access to information and enabling quality advice forms a key tenet of the Government's response to the National Infrastructure Plan.[2] Regular updates to the Pipeline, ensuring it represents an accurate and up-to-date view, are central to this.

The Pipeline brings together information on central government, local government, and private sector infrastructure activity to form a single national picture, with visibility across all infrastructure sectors and regions – giving organisations like yours a shared view of upcoming projects, workforce demand, and market conditions. This supports improved transparency, coordination, and performance across the system, informing planning, investment, and policy decisions by the Government, infrastructure providers and other sector participants.

The establishment of water organisations around the country provides New Zealand with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get water infrastructure right. The scale of investment implied by water services delivery plans means how that investment is planned, sequenced, and prioritised will matter enormously. The Pipeline is how the Government and infrastructure providers maintain visibility of demand (both current and in-planning), and of delivery capacity, enabling smoother sequencing of projects in the context of the wider market.

Your organisation's participation and information will help ensure water sector investment needs are clearly represented when the Government and the Commission assess infrastructure investment priorities, model expected long-term investment requirements, and

[1] The Commission administers the Pipeline in delivery of its functions under the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga Act 2019. To read the Act visit: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2019/51/en/latest/#LMS155571

[2] The National Infrastructure Plan can be read on the Commission's website: https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/national-infrastructure-plan
The Government's response to the National Infrastructure Plan can be read on the Treasury's website: https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/infrastructure-plan/government-response-national-infrastructure-plan-2026

will help to inform spatial planning. It will also give the construction industry and suppliers better visibility of when projects are expected to enter procurement and construction, supporting their ability to build capability and competitiveness to deliver your work programme.

We encourage you to embed Pipeline reporting into your organisational processes from the outset as you establish or reshape your governance, staff responsibilities, and information systems. This will help make participation more straightforward, and help ensure that the Pipeline can provide greater and more useful insights about your region's full investment programme.

Please inform your team of the Government's expectations and:

1. **Contact the Commission** promptly to provide a responsible staff member's contact details and prepare for the September quarter Pipeline update. Do not wait until your establishment under the new regime is complete. The Commission has processes established to support transfer of reporting responsibility of in-flight water programmes from councils (and legacy organisations) to new water organisations and delivery units.
2. **Report comprehensively.** Regular submissions to the Pipeline should capture your full capital investment programme covering **new assets**, **enhancements**, and street-by-street **network renewals** packages (not just major projects), as well as **maintenance programmes** and repairs – across all water service types for which you are responsible, and for both current and proposed initiatives.

The Commission will keep the Government updated on your progress, and can be contacted at pipeline@tewaihanga.govt.nz to support your teams through the water services transition or to improve your Pipeline submissions. More information on the Pipeline is available on the Commission's website at https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/the-pipeline.

Thank you for supporting our work to lift performance of New Zealand's infrastructure system.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Local Government