

Priority Urgent

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

Local Government Briefing

Hon Rodney Hide
Minister of Local Government

Copy to: Hon John Carter
Associate Minister of Local Government

Title: Auckland governance legislation: provisions relating to Watercare Services Limited (Watercare)

Date: 8 May 2009

Key issues

The second Bill provides for Watercare to undertake the integration of water and wastewater services in the Auckland region using a process approved by Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) and under the oversight of ATA.

The second Bill also provides for Watercare to become the provider of integrated water supply and wastewater services in the Auckland region.

The third Bill will address the detailed powers, functions and duties of Watercare as the provider of water and wastewater services for the Auckland Region.

Action sought	Timeframe
Note the contents of this briefing.	11 May 2009

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		Suggested first contact
		direct line	after hours	
Anne Carter	Deputy Secretary	(04) 495 9323	021 229 6261	✓
Marilyn Little	Director Policy	(04) 494 0589	021 228 8118	

Return to: Karen Joyce
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Purpose of briefing

1. This briefing responds to your request for information on the provisions related to Watercare Services Ltd (Watercare) that are in the three Bills implementing the Auckland governance changes.

Background information

2. On 6 April 2009, Cabinet 'agreed in principle that all drinking and wastewater services in urban areas should be delivered by Watercare as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) of the Auckland Council' [CAB Min (09) 12/7].
3. On 4 May 2009, Cabinet agreed that 'the second Bill provide for Watercare Services Ltd to undertake the integration of water and wastewater services in Auckland, under the oversight of the ATA and in accordance with a process approved by the ATA [the Auckland Transition Agency]' [CAB Min (09) 15/11].

Second Bill

4. The second Bill provides that:
 - the ATA approve a process for, and oversee, the planning and management of the integration of Auckland's water supply and wastewater services by Watercare;
 - Watercare plan and manage the integration of water supply and wastewater services in Auckland under the oversight of ATA and in accordance with a process approved by ATA; and
 - Watercare become the provider of integrated water supply and wastewater services for the Auckland region.
5. These provisions enable integration to commence once the second Bill is passed.

Third Bill

6. In the time available it was not possible to address the detailed powers, functions and duties of Watercare as the provider of water and wastewater services for the Auckland Region in the second Bill. The third Bill will include relevant provisions on these matters and implement subsequent decisions by Ministers on matters such as the regulatory provisions to apply to Watercare.

7.

Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) and (g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982

Recommendation

8. The recommendation is that you **note** the contents of this briefing.



Anne Carter
Deputy Secretary
Local Government and Community Branch

seen by the Hon Rodney Hide

Hon Rodney Hide
Minister of Local Government