17 December 2020

**Save the Date – Three Waters Reform March 2021 engagement**

Tēnā koe,

The Department of Internal Affairs, in partnership with the Joint Steering Committee would like to notify you, and your colleagues of the proposed dates for the March 2021 workshops on the Three Waters Reform Programme. We have worked with LGNZ Zone Chairs to agree these dates so that they align with planned Zone meetings where possible.

***Please forward this Save the Date to elected members and council staff as appropriate.***

The purpose of this engagement is for the Crown, in partnership with the Steering Committee, to test a range of potential options for the proposed new water-service delivery arrangements with the local government sector, and with iwi/Māori. Feedback received in these workshops will inform our advice to Ministers.

This round of workshops is intended to be held with both local government and iwi/Māori together. However, the workshop design will cater for some separate break-outs with parallel presentations on matters specific to the sector and to iwi/Māori. The Department of Internal Affairs will write to iwi/Māori directly with an invitation to these workshops.

With the exception of Auckland, these workshops will be full-day sessions with break-out and Q&A opportunities to enable wide-ranging discussion. The face-to-face workshops will be complemented with online sessions and information releases across a range of the more technical matters.

To enable a more detailed localised discussion on the reform proposals and implications for councils, we encourage you to attend the meeting that corresponds with your LGNZ Zone/region where possible, rather than travel to a workshop on an alternate date/location.

Early next year we will send out a formal invitation including:

* Details on venue and times;
* A proposed agenda for the face-to-face workshop;
* An overview of the supporting online workshops;
* RSVP links for these workshops; and
* An indication of preparatory materials that will be available ahead of the workshops.

Please see the below table for the dates of these workshops. We have also included some other key engagements in red for your information.

Ngā mihi,

**Allan Prangnell** **Brian Hanna**

Executive Director Three Waters Independent Chair

Department of Internal Affairs Joint Three Waters Steering Committee

**Dates for March 2021 Workshops**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| March 2021 | | | | |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 1  Steering Committee meeting | 2 | 3 | 4  Rural and Provincial Sector meeting | 5  Rural and Provincial Sector meeting |
| 8 | 9  Te Tau Ihu Workshop - Nelson | 10  Te Maruata | 11  Zone 3 workshop, Palmerston North | 12  Auckland Zone meeting (morning)  Auckland Zone workshop (Afternoon Only) |
| 15  Zone 5 and 6 meeting | 16  Zone 5 and 6 meeting | 17  Zone 6 workshop - Wanaka | 18 | 19  Zone 4 Workshop - Wellington |
| 22 | 23  Zone 5 Workshop -  Christchurch | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29  Zone 1 meeting.  Steering Committee meeting | 30  Zone 1 workshop - Whangarei | 31 | 1 | 2  Easter |

**Please note possible dates for a Zone 2 workshop are still being tested with the Zone Chair.**