

		Water Services Delivery			Decision-making and ownership		
	Description	Who provides the water from my tap?	Who looks after wastewater (the stuff that goes down the sink and through the toilet)?	Who looks after stormwater?	Who makes decisions about waters infrastructure?	Level of community influence	Who owns the water infrastructure assets?
OPTION 1 PREFERRED Keep water services in-house for now	Council continues to deliver water services but joins Waikato Water as a limited shareholder for shared services only (such as joint procurement).	Taupō District Council	Taupō District Council	Taupō District Council	Taupō District Council in line with Government regulatory requirements.	Community will have influence through their elected members on the council.	Taupō District Council would continue to own all its water assets.
OPTION 2 Waikato Water, a multi council-controlled organisation	Taupō partners with other Waikato councils to form a multi council-controlled organisation which would deliver all water and wastewater services.	Waikato Water	Waikato Water	Taupō District Council would continue to own stormwater assets but Waikato Water would deliver stormwater services.	The Waikato Water board makes decisions in line with regulatory requirements and a Statement of Expectations agreed with councils.	Taupō District Council will represent its community as one of seven shareholders of Waikato Water.	Taupō District Council would be a shareholder but within five years our water assets would transfer to Waikato Water. Stormwater assets would remain with Taupō District Council.
OPTION 3 Taupō District Council-controlled organisation	A sole Taupō District Council-controlled organisation would be established to deliver water services. Taupō District Council would be the sole shareholder.	Taupō District Council-controlled water organisation (but it would look the same as Option 1)	Taupō District Council-controlled water organisation (but it would look the same as Option 1)	Taupō District Council-controlled water organisation (but it would look the same as Option 1)	The organisation would have an independent professional board which would make decisions in line with regulatory requirements and strategic direction set out by Taupō District Council.	Community will have influence through their elected members on the council who will in turn set strategic direction of Taupō Waters.	Water asset ownership would transfer to the Taupō council-controlled water organisation.

	Costs and Charging				How they compare		
	What will it cost me?	How will I be charged?	What's the effect on debt?	Will I be charged based on water use?	Pros	Cons	Additional information
OPTION 1 PREFERRED Keep water services in-house for now	\$2793* per ratepayer. This is a cost increase but costs are going up no matter which option is chosen.	You will likely continue to be charged for water and wastewater as separate lines on your general Council rates bill.	\$143 million net water debt in 2033/34.	Under all options water metering is likely in the future and you will eventually be charged based on the amount of water you use.	Clear, financially sustainable plan. Local focus and priority. Flexibility to adapt to future changes. Reduced financial risk. One invoice from Taupō District Council.	Limited economies of scale. Supplier and workforce risks, especially over time. May limit future options.	We would review this option in 2027. This option has slightly higher water charges but TDC has lower water debt.
OPTION 2 Waikato Water, a multi council-controlled organisation	\$2695* per ratepayer. This is a cost increase but costs are going up no matter which option is chosen. Under this model, net cost savings are projected to be realised after 10 years.	You will receive a separate water and wastewater invoice from Waikato Water. Stormwater will still be in your Taupō District Council general rate.	\$184 million net water debt in 2033/34.		Clear, financially sustainable plan. Local focus and priority. Flexibility to adapt to future changes. Reduced financial risk. One invoice from Taupō District Council.	Uncertainty and risks. Diminished local voice. Financial guarantee risks and likely higher debt. Council capacity is reduced. Separate invoice from Waikato Water.	Lower water charges but higher overall debt, which Taupō would share in.
OPTION 3 Taupō District Council-controlled organisation	\$2883* per ratepayer. This is a cost increase but costs are going up no matter which option is chosen. Costs will be higher than options 1 and 2 due to extra costs and no new efficiencies.	Over time you will likely receive a separate invoice for water services (water, wastewater, stormwater).	\$143 million net water debt in 2033/34.		Independent professional board. Clear financial separation from Council. Clear, financially sustainable plan. Local focus and priority. Reduced financial risk.	Additional costs and complexity compared to in-house model. Limited economies of scale. Supplier and workforce risks, especially over time. May limit future options.	This option has higher water charges but TDC has lower water debt.