



24 January 2025

The information contained below was submitted via the Taumata Arowai submissions portal.

**Consultation on Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai levy for councils and CCOs
Consultation Questions**

Question	Response
General	
Name	Arno Benadie Group Manager, Assets Infrastructure and Projects Rangitikei District Council <i>This submission is made on behalf of the Council: you may proactively publish it, including my name and email address.</i>
Email address	arno.benadie@rangitikei.govt.nz
Region	Manawatū-Whanganui
Introduction	
What are the most important issues that you/your organisation believes should be addressed by the Authority?	Finalisation of wastewater standards
How would you like the Authority to engage with you/your organisation?	Periodic visits from the Authority's Local government engagement specialist together with relevant technical staff.
Part 1 – Levy structure	
Do you/your organisation have views on the preferred option detailed in the Levy Structure section of the discussion document?	Rangitikei District Council considers that the Authority should be fully Crown funded. The entire purpose of the Authority is a public good. Local councils and their ratepayers should not be funding central government regulatory functions, especially as the consultation document notes that it is impractical to seek financial contributions from private water supply providers. We note that the levy is expressed on a GST exclusive basis. Councils will have to add GST when invoicing the levy to ratepayers.
Do you/your organisation agree with the focus, in the first levy period, on councils?	The initial focus should be on wastewater rather than drinking water, given the greater costs of effectively managing wastewater, the number of expired

	a complication for councils as by then they will have made their rate resolution for the 2025/26 year.
Would the proposed implementation approach create any challenges for your organisation? Do you/your organisation have a preference for when the levy should be reviewed next?	If central government insists on retaining the levy, Rangitīkei District Council considers that it should be reviewed annually in consultation with local government sector representatives to gain agreement on the following year's programme and costs.

Kind regards



Kevin Ross
Chief Executive