

14 December 2022

By email - helen.worboys@mdc.govt.nz

Three Waters Mayoral Declaration

Dear Mayor Worboys,

Further to your email of 5 December seeking an indication as to whether I would be prepared to add my name to the Mayoral Declaration regarding Three Waters reform, I am now in a position to be able to respond.

During our meeting this morning, Council resolved to approve, in principle, the draft Mayoral Declaration. As a consequence, it is my intention to add my name to the said declaration. Three Waters reform has been a divisive issue for our council, so I felt it important to gain such a resolution, rather than rely solely on my s41A LGA powers of providing leadership.

Whilst I am happy to express, on behalf of Council, our collective support for the five principles listed in the declaration, I would like to signal concerns with, and a desire for clarification on, some of the matters under the heading "Ensuring Better Investment". These include: the definition of "large councils", which might stand apart from RWOs and undermine the notion of cross-subsidisation of smaller councils by metro councils; and what might a practicable finance structure look like in terms of the ability to hold debt off the council balance sheets, whilst councils still maintained control as required by principle 2.

Notwithstanding the above, I look forward to working collaboratively with you and other councils towards a reform of Three Waters that achieves the best we can for our communities.

Yours sincerely,



James Denyer

Mayor

Western Bay of Plenty District Council