Pre-conference workshop – Lifting Productivity within Local Water Done Well

DIA Water Services Sector Performance: Issues and Opportunities report includes recommendations aimed at:

- **Strategy & Leadership**: Developing consensus on the direction of travel for the sector and widespread commitment to improving performance and the priorities for doing so
- **Labour Market & Workforce**: Ensuring water service providers and their suppliers have the workers they need to deliver on their Water Services Delivery Plans and Water Services Strategies
- **Supply Chain & Procurement**: Ensuring water service providers and their customers benefit from time and cost savings and quality improvements in renewing and developing their new water infrastructure
- **National Asset Data Standards**: Ensuring increased collaboration including shared service arrangements resulting in time and cost savings and other operational efficiencies
- **Technology & Innovation**: Enabling improved demand management and more effective use of existing infrastructure, networks are better maintained and faults fixed faster, and savings are realised in operating costs

The purpose of this pre-conference workshop is to create an understanding of the opportunities to lift productivity within the context of Local Water Done Well, and to identify initiatives Water New Zealand and the wider sector can undertake to make a difference for communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The report is available at this link: Water-Sector-Working-Group-Report-May-2026.pdf

Time	Topics	Speakers
8.30am	**Registration and coffee**	
8.45am	**Karakia** **Welcome**	Waikato Tainui Gillian Blythe, Chief Executive
9.00am	**Common interests** Panel discussion with perspectives shared from: - Electricity Networks Aotearoa - Waikato River Authority *Aim: to ensure "common interests" are front of mind throughout the day*	 Tracey Kai, Chief Executive Antoine Coffin, Chief Executive

9.30am – 10.45am 2 min introduction 35 mins panel discussion 35 mins workshop 3 mins wrap up	**Supply Chain & Procurement** *Panel facilitated by Jekabs Rozitis, Business Growth & Digital Optimisation Lead, Veolia* - Being an intelligent client, ensuring healthy markets, and partnering for strategic procurement outcomes - What is mana whenua's investment role in water? - Contractor and (former) council infrastructure manager perspective *Aim: identify actions (and owners) which support DIA Water Services Sector Performance Recommendations 8-13*	Jo Carvey, Head of Procurement, NZTA Helmut Modlik, Chief Executive, Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Simon Drew, National Water Manager, Fulton Hogan
10.45am - 11.15am	**Morning Tea**	
11.15am - 12.30pm 2 min introduction 35 mins panel discussion 35 mins workshop 3 mins wrap up	**Technology & Innovation; National Asset Data Standards** *Panel facilitated by Lorraine Kendrick - Business Director, Water Beca* - Driving innovation and transformation at Selwyn Water - Innovation in the water sector in Victoria, Australia *Aim: identify actions (and owners) which support DIA Water Services Sector Performance Recommendations 14-18*	Alex Cabrera, Chief Executive, Selwyn Water Jason Cotton, Intelligent Water Networks, Victoria
12.30pm - 1.15pm	**Lunch**	

1.15 - 2.30pm 2 min introduction 35 mins panel discussion 35 mins workshop 3 mins wrap up	**Labour Market & Workforce** *Panel facilitated by Rebecca Jackson, Three Waters Customer & Relationships Manager at IAWAI* - Vocational education's role - Champions for Change – lessons from energy - Young Water Professional perspective *Aim: identify actions (and owners) which support DIA Water Services Sector Performance Recommendations 5-7*	Philip Aldridge, Chief Executive, Energy & Infrastructure Industry Skills Board Brighid Kelly, Executive General Manager People, Transpower Roanna Purcaru, GHD and Young Water Professional of the Year, 2025
2.30pm – 3.45pm 2 min introduction 35 mins panel discussion 35 mins workshop 3 mins wrap up	**Strategy and Leadership** *Facilitated by Deborah Lind - Industry Leader, Water Aurecon* Panel - Water utility perspective - Customer and social licence - Governance perspective *Aim: actions (and owners) which support DIA Water Services Sector Performance Recommendations 3-4*	Jamie Sinclair, Chief Executive, Watercare Deborah Hart, Chair, Utilities Disputes Steve Maharey, Former Minister for Social Development of New Zealand
3.45pm	**Wrap up and closing karakia**	Gillian Blythe
4.00pm	**Water New Zealand AGM**	