24 November 2017

Shared Waters Management Company consultation

Strategy Unit

Hamilton City Council

Private Bag 3010

**Hamilton 3340**

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBMISSION FOR WATER NEW ZEALAND ON THE PROPOSED WAIKATO SHARED WATERS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

1. Water New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes and represents water professionals and organisations. It is the country's largest water industry body, providing leadership and support in the water sector through advocacy, collaboration and technical support. Our 1,900 plus members are drawn from all areas of the water management industry including regional councils and territorial authorities, consultants, suppliers, government agencies and scientists.
2. Water New Zealand supports the proposal as it is an important step towards more efficient water service provision and creates a greater critical mass of capability to cope with the challenges of running a water utility.
3. We consider the proposal should go one step further and transfer the underlying assets to the company. This would deliver greater overall financial efficiencies as is noted in the *Shared Waters Management Study* completed by Mott MacDonald report and published in October 2017. In particular, an asset-owning company would:

* Simplify the relationship between the customer and service provider, removing double handling of funding and asset management systems.
* Reduce political influence over funding decisions and provide the company more certainty and control over how it delivers water services.

1. Water New Zealand thanks Hamilton City Council and Waipa District Council for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal and is happy to elaborate if required.

**John Pfahlert**

**Chief Executive**