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# Reforming Three Waters: Planning and Procuring for the future

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# Reform proposals

- New central regulator
- RMA reform and new national policy documents
- What about service delivery and funding arrangements?
  1. Sector-led initiatives for aggregated service delivery
  2. Creation of dedicated, publicly-owned, aggregated service providers

# Planning across boundaries

- RMA is a devolved regime:
  - Plans align with the boundaries of local and regional authorities
  - Regional boundaries based on catchments
- Multi-regional infrastructure providers need to be involved in planning across the country:
  - NZTA, KiwiRail, Transpower
  - Infrastructure doesn't change across boundaries, but the plans do
  - Consistency is essential – but expensive and time-consuming

# Implications for aggregated water and wastewater providers?

- Involvement in planning across multiple regions and cities / districts, dealing with different councils, communities and expectations:
  - It can be done, but expensive and inefficient
  - Engagement on spatial planning critical, but currently not a statutory process
- Designation and consent applications / renewals:
  - RMA requires effects assessment at local / regional level – wider positive effects generally not relevant
  - Adverse effects could impact one particular community, but bring benefits across a much wider area
- Enforcement issues:
  - Enforcement action in one jurisdiction could impact service delivery in others

# Making it work?

- RMA reform – a “joined up” approach to sector reforms
- Existing tools to provide national direction and consistency could be used – NPS, NES and National Planning Standards
- Industry-led development of consistent planning provisions:
  - Development of the Infrastructure Chapter of the Auckland Unitary Plan is a good example

# Delivery considerations

- Transition
- Self-delivery or outsourced or hybrid etc
- Managing risks
- Enhancing or developing capability
- Cost considerations – cost certainty, whole of life costs, economies of scale, etc
- Building resilience
- Incentivising delivery

# Conclusion

- Strategic planning and ongoing management key to delivery
- There are different delivery models – dependent on your strategic intentions
- Compliance or opportunity to deliver more?