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**AGENDA ITEM D1**

**THREE WATERS REFORM UPDATE – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

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**Purpose of Report**

To update councillors on the Three Waters Reform RFI process.

**Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Three Waters Reform Update – Request For Information (RFI) Report.*

**1. Executive Summary**

At its 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 meeting South Wairarapa District Council resolved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on Three Waters Reform and receive water reform stimulus funding through a separate Funding Agreement.

As part of this process, DIA have issued a Request for Information (RFI) to all Councils seeking further information on a range of water service areas, including commercial arrangements, customer service data, asset management and financial information. Council responses are to be submitted to DIA by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

**2. Discussion**

In order to respond effectively to the Three Waters Reform RFI, Council officers are working closely with Wellington Water (WWL) and the other shareholding Councils. To facilitate this regional approach, Bryan Patchett has been appointed Project Director and an update is provided at Appendix 1 to this report.

**3. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Regional Water Reform Project – SWDC Briefing – Nov 2020

Contact Officer: Euan Stitt, GM Partnerships and Operations

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, CEO

# **Appendix 1 – Regional Water Reform Project – SWDC Briefing – Nov 2020**

# Three Waters Reform

## **Regional Water Reform Project**

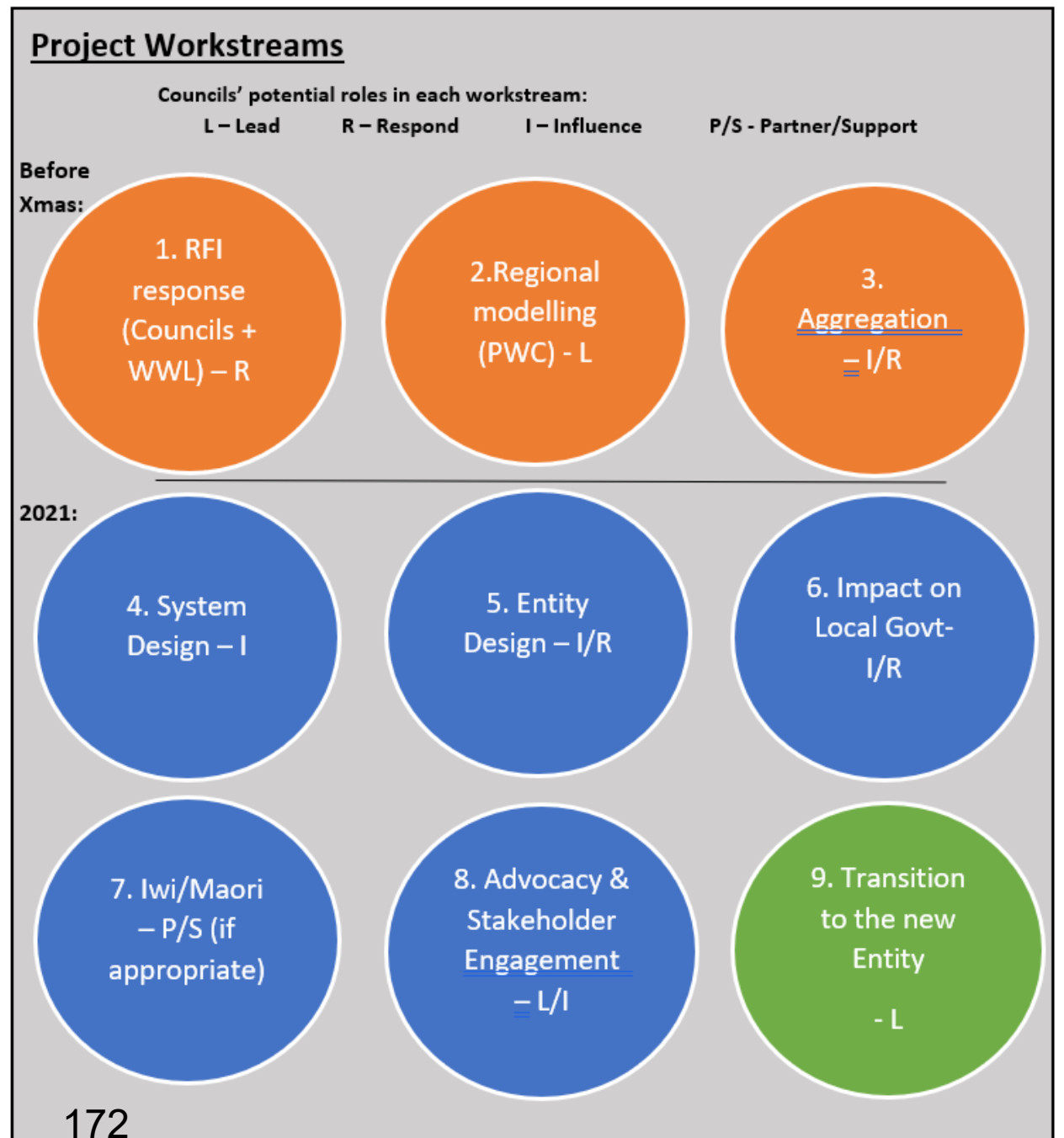
Briefing to South Wairarapa District Council – November 2020

Bryan Patchett, Project Director – Regional Water Reform Project

# Taking a regional approach

## Purpose:

- Provide a joined-up regional approach to the Government's Water Reform, that seeks to influence, shape and respond to the reform process (and its key decision points) in a timely and effective way.
- Help ensure Mayors/Chair/Councillors (and CEs) have best available information and advice to support their decision making on three waters reform.
- Optimise positive outcomes for the region regarding three waters.



# Project Milestones

## Milestones:

### 23 October 2020 - Release of RFI

DIA release the Request for Information – financial, regulatory, asset management data.

### Early December 2020 – Meeting with Central New Zealand CEs

CEs from Central NZ councils meet in Wellington to share information and update on RFI and reforms.

### 1 February 2021 - Submit RFI material

Final date for each council to submit material requested through RFI.

### February-March 2021 – DIA three waters reform roadshow

DIA roadshow for local government and Iwi on WICS modelling, shape of water reform including aggregation approach.

### May 2021 - Cabinet Paper on Three Waters Reform

Paper to Cabinet on number of entities, geographical boundaries, and mechanics of the system and design of entities.

### September/October 2021 - Three Waters Reform Legislation introduced

Legislation to reform three waters is introduced to Parliament.

### October 2021 - Public consultation on options

Local government public consultation on specific water reform proposals – Opt-in/Opt-out.

### June 2022 – Reforms enacted

Legislation for reform of three waters enacted.

# Project Governance

