

# Waitomo Way

## Thousands flock to The Great NZ Muster

It will be a day to remember for the Waitomo District after hosting one of the most successful street festival events since its inception, The Great New Zealand Muster. Thousands of people from all over the world flocked to Te Kūiti on Saturday 29 March to take part in the festivities.

The Great NZ Muster supports the annual three-day-long NZ Shearing Championships and NZ Shears Running of the Sheep.

The town was a buzz and the streets were full of people. Stall numbers increased on previous years, and patronage was an all-time high.

The Harmonic Resonators was also a popular hit with the crowd with their amazing melodies and unique take on classic popular songs.

Thank you to everyone for an amazing day and an even bigger thank you to Universal Beef Packers, The Lines Company, NZ Shearing Committee and Tomotuki Marae.

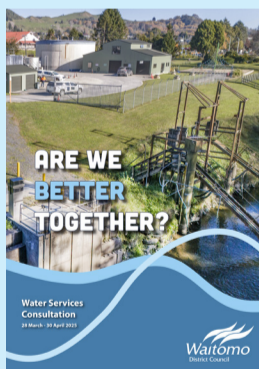


## Are we better together??

The Government has told every council across the country to look at the options for their water delivery services and to make sure everyone is getting a high-quality service that is affordable for the future.

Over the past decade, our council has spent a considerable amount on upgrading our wastewater infrastructure and water treatment plants.

However, significant investment is needed to continue upgrading and repairing aging water mains and pipes, and to meet new legislation and increased compliance. We are inviting submissions on two options



for delivering our water services:

- Stand-alone (existing arrangements)
- Creating a joint Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) with other Waikato councils

We have done a lot of work to determine what is best for our district, and the CCO proposal – currently called 'Waikato Water Done Well' – has emerged as Council's preferred option.

Do you agree? Have your say on our Water Services Consultation  
[www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/water-services-consultation/](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/water-services-consultation/)

## Have your say on our Annual Plan Consultation

We are seeking your feedback on three proposals within our Draft Annual Plan 2025 – 2026.

The first relates to the Waitomo District Landfill. As volumes of waste decrease due to reduced commercial volumes, and as operating costs increase, the viability of this landfill is becoming questionable.

The second relates to a seawall built by Council in Mōkau in 2015. This seawall is failing, and either needs to be removed or re-built. The cost of either option needs to be paid for out of rates, and so whether such costs should be covered by Mōkau, districtwide ratepayers, or a mix of both is a

question we're seeking feedback on.

The third relates to whether we should begin to remove the District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater whereby all properties in the district, whether connected or not to a public water or wastewater scheme, are rated equally to cover 10% of the costs of water and wastewater in urban areas.

We are also seeking feedback on our proposed fees and charges schedule, our Rates Remission Policy and Revenue and Financing Policy. Visit our website to make a submission: [www.waitomo.govt.nz/](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/)