



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Dr David Clark | Portfolio | Commerce and Consumer Affairs |
| Title of Cabinet paper | Approval to release discussion paper: Economic and consumer protection regulation of three waters services in New Zealand | Date to be published | 27 October 2021 |

| List of documents that have been proactively released | | |
|--|---|---|
| Date | Title | Author |
| 27 October 2021 | Approval to release discussion paper: Economic and consumer protection regulation of three waters services in New Zealand | Office of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs |
| 27 October 2021 | Economic and Consumer Protection Regulation of Three Waters Services: Discussion Document CBC-21-MIN-0110 | Cabinet Office |

Information redacted

YES / NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Economic and Consumer Protection Regulation of Three Waters Services: Discussion Document

Portfolio Commerce and Consumer Affairs

On 6 October 2021, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that economic and consumer protection regulation is likely to play a critical role in achieving the government's Three Waters Reform objectives;
- 2 **noted** that the discussion paper, attached to the submission under CBC-21-SUB-0110, seeks feedback on:
 - 2.1 whether New Zealand needs economic regulation of water services or entities and who this regulation should apply to;
 - 2.2 how an economic regulation regime for three waters could be designed, including the form and key features of this regime;
 - 2.3 whether New Zealand needs additional consumer protections for three waters and how any regime could be designed;
 - 2.4 how consumer disputes should be resolved in the three waters sector;
 - 2.5 who the economic and consumer protection regulator(s) should be;
 - 2.6 how economic and consumer protection regulation should be funded; and
 - 2.7 how economic and consumer protection regulation should interface with other aspects of three waters regulation and governance;
- 3 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will engage with international experts on economic regulation as they develop advice to the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on the appropriate economic regulatory settings for the New Zealand three waters sector;
- 4 **agreed** to the release of the discussion paper titled *Economic regulation and consumer protection for three waters services in New Zealand*, subject to any minor and technical amendments consistent with the policy direction in the paper under CBC-21-SUB-0110, in October 2021 for an eight-week public consultation;

- 5 **invited** the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (in consultation with the Minister of Local Government) to report back to the relevant Cabinet committee in April 2022 on the outcome of the consultation;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (in consultation with the Minister of Local Government) will issue a media statement on the release of the discussion paper.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Dr David Clark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet