



What is the issue?

Wellington Water provides water services to our local communities on behalf of our shareholder councils across the Wellington metropolitan region.

We can give the most value to all our stakeholders by taking a regional view of all the water networks, and advising our clients on the investments that result in the best value-for-money outcomes. This is because pipes, rivers and streams span the region and run through different council boundaries.

We want to put this regional advice into one plan that outlines the work programmes that are best for the region, and why. The plan is called a Regional Asset Management Plan (RAMP), and brings together asset management processes that will help councils make regionally-based decisions.

We've made this RAMP a company priority. At the moment we have five separate councils with five different sets of asset management planning tools, and produce 13 asset management plans. There are similarities in the development of work programmes and tools used to make decisions but there are still major differences, including the asset management system used to record information.

What does Wellington Water want to achieve?

Wellington Water wants to be able to focus councils' investment on the big issues for the region so that we deliver the best outcomes for the region.

We need to be able to advise our five council owners on how to give the greatest benefits to the rate payers across all five councils, rather than individually. At present we see opportunities for regional benefits in the following areas:

- Having a more regionally consistent and co-ordinated approach to how we deliver community education programmes
- Making sure our water supply networks are resilient enough to deliver drinking water quickly after a major earthquake
- Supporting the catchment (whaitua) approach to managing impacts on freshwater

How do we intend to achieve this?

We think this regional approach will be iterative and client councils will begin making decisions about what's best for the region in time.

As we focus more and more on what's best for the region, we'll shift information from our councils' asset management plans to a regional asset management plan. We'll also identify where there are opportunities for a regional approach to be applied to an issue.

Our first version of a regional asset management plan will identify the big issues for the region, starting with the three above – community education, water supply resilience and a catchment approach. It will set out an improvement programme that we'll carry out over the coming years which will advise councils on what is best for the collective rather than individual councils.

