

## BUSINESS CASE PROPOSAL

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**TITLE:** Code of Practice for Water Metering Updates

**SUMMARY:** Update the existing water meter code of practice and disseminate outcomes.

**BACKGROUND:** The water meter code of practice was developed in 2003. While much of the content of the document remains unchanged, there are a number of references are now out of date. There have also been advances in technology and legislation that are likely to impact on water metering which could be incorporated into the guide.

There are only nine authorities in New Zealand have full residential water metering, however the number is growing with installation underway at five other councils, and smart meter trials at least two. The implementation of water quantity limits through the National Policy Statement of Freshwater Management and increased pressure to manage rates increases are likely to see an increase of residential water metering in the future.

A few metering programs have used the code in development, however much has been developed using informal knowledge transfer from neighbouring councils. This is largely due to a low awareness of the existence of the code. Those that have used the code of found it to be generally fit for purpose with a few areas that would benefit from additional information.

**PURPOSE:** Currently there are no New Zealand standards that cover the installation, accuracy and use of water meters, and the use of water meters is currently exempt from the Weights and Measures Act 1987. The Water Meter Code of Practice is intended to prescribe good practice for the supply, use and operation of water meters. It refers specifically to the delivery of potable water to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

**DELIVERABLES:** The project would consist of two components;

1. **Updates the existing code of practice** to provide contemporary information on; technology, legislation, references. Draw on council experiences to elaborate on sections of the code which are lacking in detail.
2. **Knowledge sharing** to raise awareness of the code and the broader context of residential metering including; fresh water allocation reforms, related research and technology developments to smart meters and data intelligence platforms.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** Project scope and deliverables will be overseen by a project advisory group, consisting of member of Water Services Managers Group representatives and subject matter experts. Water New Zealand technical staff will draw on the experiences of the advisory group to complete the updates in house. It is proposed that knowledge sharing be provided as a half day forum appended to a Water Services Managers Group meeting.

**TIMETABLE:** Delivered in 2017.

**BUDGET:** A maximum budget allowance of \$5,000 (excluding GST) will be provided to cover; purchase of reference documents, publication costs and travel disbursements for presenters at the forum. The project will be funded through the Water Services Managers Group project levy.

**AUTHORITY:** John Pfahlert, Water New Zealand CEO.

**PROPOSER:** The Water Services Managers Group.