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Councils unite to shape future of Three Waters

As Waikato councils tackle one of the most significant reforms in local government history, the Waikato Chamber of Commerce is bringing together a panel of leaders for a no-nonsense discussion.

The Grow Waikato event at The Atrium at Wintec on April 8 will be moderated by Craigs Investment Partners CEO Kelvyn Eglinton. The panel will consist of Hamilton Mayor Paula Southgate, Waikato District Mayor Jacqui Church, Waipa Mayor Susan O'Regan and Department of Internal Affairs Three Waters Transition head of strategy Marlon Bridge.

“With water infrastructure representing up to 50 per cent of council asset bases and debt, these changes will directly impact household and business rates, service quality, and long-term financial planning across the region,” said Waikato Chamber of Commerce CEO Don Good.

“With water services affecting public health, environmental outcomes, and economic growth, the decisions councils make will shape the Waikato region for decades to come so we feel it’s important to host an event like this to help demystify what’s happening.”

The transition aims to balance rising infrastructure costs with community affordability.

Hamilton and Waikato District Councils are co-designing a joint CCO to operate water services. Waipā District Council along with six other councils are creating a regional model. Both groups are maintaining collaboration options with an eye on potentially joining together in the future.

The Department of Internal Affairs’ Three Waters Transition Unit, led by Marlon Bridge, ensures alignment with national reforms.

The reforms respond to urgent challenges including aging infrastructure, mushrooming population growth not just in Hamilton but regionally, and environmental commitments.

To register for the event go to [waikatochamber.co.nz/events/](https://www.waikatochamber.co.nz/events/).

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