

## 2022 Citizens' Assembly on the Future of Water in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

### *Information overview for stakeholders providing feedback on the process we're undertaking*

This document provides further detail about the citizens' assembly process that will take place in August & September 2022.

We will send 8000 invitations using the Watercare billing database and 4000 invitations by post using the NZ Post database to people on the Auckland metropolitan water network. Of these, 9,000 addresses will be obtained using the process of "random sampling", meaning that each address in either of the databases has the equal chance of being selected, and 3,000 will be sent to the city areas that have a higher-than-average proportion of renters. We know from our research last year that the Watercare email database is better suited for reaching homeowners than renters, so this process should compensate for this skew.

We will offer the participants a token of appreciation of \$800 to recognise their time commitment, and, where needed, assistance with travel and childcare. We will ask them to complete a brief demographic questionnaire, indicating their age group, ethnicity, gender, home ownership, education and place of residence within Auckland. This includes residents (regardless of citizenship status).

Based on our research experience and international literature, we expect a 5% response rate, or around 600 expressions of interest (EOI) to participate in the citizens' assembly. We will enter these EOIs into an electronic tool that allows us to conduct *stratified random selection* – that is, to select a group of 40 participants randomly while also making sure that the numbers within each of the categories (age, gender, etc) are such that they reflect the proportion of this population group in Auckland, based on the 2018 census data.

A week prior to the assembly, the selected 40 participants will receive the final version of the information booklet that will be used in the assembly, and also a summary of the stakeholder views.

The assembly itself will take place on four full Saturdays through August and September at a central University of Auckland location. Depending on the requests by the group, we might need to schedule additional online briefings by experts or stakeholders. The overall plan of the process is laid out in the table on the following page.

The final outcome of the process should be a set of well-considered recommendations for the Watercare decision-makers (the executive and governing board). The final day of the assembly will include the participants writing the recommendations and presenting them to representatives of Watercare's executive and Board (in person). Following the Board's acknowledgement of the recommendations when they are received, the Board commits to respond to each recommendation, and to share what they will or won't do as a result of them, and why.

**This event does not replace other forms of consultation – such as the continuing engagement of Watercare and the council with stakeholders.** Its purpose is to seek the input of everyday people, those who likely do not have strong views or knowledge about the water system but will be impacted by decisions made about it. At the same time, we want this input to be as well informed and the process of receiving it as equitable, inclusive and transparent as possible.

Table. Citizens' Assembly Plan

Assembly Day #1	Assembly Day #2	Assembly Day #3	Assembly Day #4
INFORMATION DAY	THE DISCUSSION DAY – IDENTIFYING IDEAS	THE WRITING & PRIORITISING DAY	RE-WRITING & FINAL AGREEMENT DAY
<b>Aims:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductions and welcomes</li> <li>- Explanation of process and timings</li> <li>- Citizen ownership of process</li> <li>- Understanding of the problem</li> </ul>	<b>Aims:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration of a range of perspectives on the issue</li> <li>- Shared learning experience</li> <li>- Develop shared vision</li> </ul>	<b>Aims:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop objectives that answer vision statements</li> <li>- Pair actions with objectives</li> <li>- Draft ideas</li> <li>- Invite participants to rate ideas</li> </ul>	<b>Aims:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalise recommendations</li> <li>- Agree on wording with emphasis on clarity of intent</li> <li>- Submit report</li> </ul>
<b>Key sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watercare presentation and Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Pre-selected speaker presentations</li> <li>- Info requests</li> </ul>	<b>Key sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speaker presentations/speed dialogue</li> <li>- Initial visioning session</li> <li>- Further info requests</li> </ul>	<b>Key sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objective brainstorming paired with actions to achieve them</li> <li>- Initial recommendation development</li> <li>- Idea rating</li> </ul>	<b>Key sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Response to the draft recommendations</li> <li>- Deliberation</li> <li>- Final agreement and finalisation of report</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs:</b> List of information needs List of requested speakers	<b>Outputs:</b> Information requests Vision statements	<b>Outputs:</b> Draft recommendations	<b>Outputs:</b> Final recommendations Hand over report