

Support for Water Governance Reform

Media Statement
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The New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development strongly supports the need for focused leadership to oversee the future development and management of the nation's water industry.

At first look, the Land and Water Report recommendations released today calling for establishment of a Land and Water Commission looks to be exactly what is needed.

"It is essential that New Zealand achieves optimal use of one of our most significant natural assets. Water needs to be managed in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner in the national interest whilst being respectful of cultural values surrounding its protection and use. There is also a significant need for improved co-ordination and collaboration and procurement of public water services across the industry", said Stephen Selwood, Chief Executive, New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development.

"The Report looks to be a very comprehensive document. NZCID looks forward to participating in the next phase of the water reform programme signaled by Ministers,

"We strongly support the establishment of a Commission with a clear mandate to oversee water infrastructure development and upgrading across both the rural and urban sectors," said Mr Selwood.

Many urban water authorities are facing huge capital investment to address ageing infrastructure and meet growth, while there is also a growing need to improve storage capability to meet dry year events and better manage opportunities for expanding agriculture through modern irrigation.

Enabling opportunities to meet the power development needs of our cities is also part of the water industry picture that we also need to keep close watch on.