

## Submission

---

### Beacon Pathway's Submission to the Local Government (Auckland Council) Bill

Date	24 June 2009
From	Nick Collins
	General Manager, Beacon Pathway Limited, PO Box 74-618, Market Road, Auckland 1543 Phone 09 522 5170 Email <a href="mailto:nickc@beaconpathway.co.nz">nickc@beaconpathway.co.nz</a>

*I wish to speak to the Select Committee in support of this submission*

Submission sent to: [AGL@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:AGL@parliament.govt.nz)

---

## About Beacon Pathway

Beacon Pathway (Beacon) is a research consortium that seeks to bring about a significant improvement in the quality and performance of New Zealand's housing stock through science-based research.

Beacon's shareholding partners are organisations with a considerable stake in the quality of the residential sector: BRANZ, Fletcher Building, New Zealand Steel, Scion and Waitakere City Council. Contributions from the shareholders are matched, dollar for dollar, by funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST).

More information about Beacon can be found at our website: [www.beaconpathway.co.nz](http://www.beaconpathway.co.nz)

---

## Beacon's focus

Beacon's interest in this Bill focuses on Part 4 Amendments to Local Government (Auckland Reorganisation) Act 2009, clause 30A which outlines how Auckland's water services will be integrated.

**“30A Watercare Services to plan and manage integration of water supply and wastewater services**

Watercare Services Limited must plan and manage the integration of water supply and wastewater services in Auckland—

- (a) under the oversight of the Transition Agency; and
- (b) in accordance with the process approved by the Transition Agency under section 13(1)(ca); and
- (c) in a way that ensures that Watercare Services Limited becomes the provider of integrated water supply and wastewater services to Auckland.”

---

## Preamble

Beacon has done significant research over the last 5 years to demonstrate the value of a resource-efficient building stock to the health, welfare and economy of New Zealand. Buildings, however, are set in a wider context of a house site, a street, a neighbourhood. A healthy living environment is the clear expectation of the community and Beacon has found that local and regional government can play a significant part in encouraging, regulating and using economic tools to ensure both of these outcomes.

---

## The four waters

Beacon sees the management of the water cycle: ‘water in’ (**water supply**) and ‘water out’ (**sewerage, stormwater, ground water**) as an important element in resource efficient and healthy neighbourhoods. The way these parts of the water cycle are managed will be influenced by the structures, policies and rules of the suggested Unitary Authority. It is on the first that this submission focuses.

What has become clear in Beacon’s research is that there is economic, social and environmental benefit in managing the four waters together in an **integrated** way.

*Beacon wishes to flag before the third piece of legislation that it supports a water-efficient approach for water supply which means taking a water demand management approach (making the best of water supplied and fitting water quality to purpose.)*

When this approach to water supply is taken there are clear examples of the benefits of integrated management to households and communities.

### **Water supply - sewerage**

If, for example, people are encouraged to have water efficient technology, such as a dual flush toilet of 3 litres (single flush) and 4.5 litres (full flush) instead of 11 litres per flush in the older toilets, this automatically affects the amount of water flushed away in the sewerage system. Cumulatively this can delay the need for upgrading the sewerage infrastructure (where a majority of the cost for residents lies in the ‘water in ’and’ water out’ equation.)

### **Water supply - stormwater**

Similarly water that is caught in water tanks, slows down stormwater and allows more filtration and cleansing of the stormwater, through either slower release or re-use in gardens, directly and indirectly affecting water quality in streams and harbours.

Thus integrated management has clear economic, environmental and social effects.

---

## Recommendations

Thus, in the structure of the new Auckland Council, Beacon requests either:

- a) that the four waters are managed in an integrated way by the new Watercare Services Ltd CCO in a way that demonstrably maximises the synergies that can be gained by integration.

**or**

- a) that, if Watercare does not manage stormwater and ground water, there be a requirement in the legislation that not only integrates the management of water and sewerage by the Watercare CCO, but requires it to work in an integrated way with the other two waters managed by the Auckland Council.

**and**

- b) that there is a formal structure put in place in the Auckland Council that oversees the integration of the management of the four waters to gain maximum synergies for the economic, environmental and social benefits of the people of Auckland.
-