

**TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI | HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of The Hutt City Council held in the Council Chambers,  
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on  
**Tuesday 11 March 2025 commencing at 4.00pm**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor C Barry (via audio-visual link)	Deputy Mayor T Lewis (Chair)
Cr G Barratt	Cr J Briggs (until 4.57pm)
Cr K Brown (via audio-visual link) (from 4.25pm until 5.40pm)	Cr B Dyer
Cr S Edwards	Cr A Mitchell
Cr K Morgan (until 5.40pm)	Cr C Parkin (until 5.39pm) (via audio-visual link from 5.42pm)
Cr N Shaw	Cr T Stallinger
Cr G Tupou (from 4.01pm until 5.34pm)	

**APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Miller, Chief Executive  
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities  
J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement (via audio-visual link)  
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development  
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer  
B Cato, Chief Legal Officer (part meeting)  
B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor  
N Geard, Planning Policy Manager  
C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office  
E Anand, Head of City Delivery  
M Schwalger, Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor (part meeting)  
B Tong, Project Manager – City Delivery (part meeting)  
O Harkin, Project Director (part meeting)  
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

## 1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
 Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
 Kia mākinakina ki uta  
 Kia mātaratara ki tai  
 E hī ake ana te atakura  
 He tio, he huka, he hau hū  
 Tihei mauri ora.

*Cease the winds from the west  
 Cease the winds from the south  
 Let the breeze blow over the land  
 Let the breeze blow over the ocean  
 Let the red-tipped dawn come with  
 a sharpened air.  
 A touch of frost, a promise of a  
 glorious day.*

Cr Tupou joined the meeting at 4.01pm.

## ITEM OF BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Briggs)

**Minute No. C 25101(3)**

*"That, in terms of Standing Order 10.12, Council:*

- (1) notes that the public matter of the 'Wellington Water Limited – Value for Money' was not listed on the agenda because the information was received after the agenda was distributed; and*
- (2) agrees to discuss the matters at this meeting due to the significance about the Local Water Done Well consultation."*

## 2. APOLOGIES

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Barratt)

**Minute No. C 25102(3)**

*"That the apology received from Cr Brown for lateness and from Cr Briggs for early departure be accepted."*

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

## **ITEM OF BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

### **WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED – VALUE FOR MONEY**

The Chief Executive elaborated on the report. She explained the actions taken by the officers in response to the reports from Wellington Water Limited (WWL). She clarified that the claim of overspending had been misrepresented. While acknowledging concerns regarding WWL's value for money, she noted that the increase in Opex and maintenance costs was likely due to the aging network. She stated that officers would work with WWL to understand these reasons. She advised that the main issue seemed to revolve around pipe renewals through the Contractor Panel, which raised concerns about potential overcharging or excessive design. She mentioned that officers were investigating costings and contracts and would continue to provide updates through the Long Term Plan. She emphasised the goal of achieving better outcomes from existing investments.

Cr Edwards reported on the extraordinary meeting of the Wellington Water Committee held on 10 March 2025. He highlighted a pricing misunderstanding that had skewed perceptions of WWL's costs. He said that WWL's Chief Executive committed to engaging with councils but ruled out conducting a historical cost audit. He noted that WWL was increasing its market testing and employing competitive tendering for larger projects, although it faced staffing constraints that limited its ability to tender for every job. He highlighted that WWL's Chief Executive expressed strong support for the Board Chair, stating that the Board Chair's resignation would hinder reform efforts.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive acknowledged that the graph on unplanned maintenance costs per kilometre could reflect Council's 2019 promise for increased leak repair funding and suggested highlighting this if accurate. She also agreed to clarify areas of overspending and to report on what could have been done to identify issues earlier. Emphasising the significance of public spending and value for money, she noted that the current water delivery model was inadequate and highlighted the need for water reform. She recognised that Council had made necessary investments in the water system to address past underinvestment.

Cr Brown joined the meeting at 4.25pm.

In response to further questions from members, the Chief Executive explained that the proposed new water entity would be regulated by both Taumata Arowai, which handled water quality, and the Commerce Commission, which handled economic regulation. She expressed confidence that this structure would provide consumers with good value for their money in the future, supported by thorough benchmarking.

The Strategic Advisor noted that officers were examining the time spent on each job in relation to operational expenditure and comparing it to similar jobs, despite potential data limitations. He also highlighted concerns regarding the Contractor Panel and the renewal of water and wastewater pipes. He mentioned that WWL would provide details of several contracts completed in the past year for review, acknowledging the variability in contracts due to multiple factors.

Cr Tupou emphasised the importance of residents seeing Council's support during the transition to the new water entity.

Mayor Barry emphasised the importance of thoroughly considering the review findings and their implications for each shareholder council. He mentioned that efforts were being made to understand the full extent of the review. He emphasised the need to reassure the community that no overcharging had occurred.

Deputy Mayor Lewis foreshadowed her intention to move several recommendations.

Cr Mitchell asked that part (7) include the wording "... while maintaining safety" at the end of the sentence.

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Edwards)

**Minute No. C 25103(3)**

*"That Council:*

- (1) notes that the current Wellington Water model for water infrastructure, with contractual arrangements going as far back as 2016, is not fit for purpose;*
- (2) reaffirms Hutt City Council's commitment to progressing regional reform at speed whilst making improvements to the current model;*
- (3) notes the recent reports into value for money at Wellington Water Limited;*
- (4) seeks further information from Wellington Water Limited on the extent of the impact on Hutt City Council projects and invites the Chief Executive and Board Chair to attend a future Council meeting;*
- (5) seeks further information from Wellington Water Limited on the extent to which, if any, Council has been overcharged by contractors;*
- (6) seeks assurance, via reporting to the Wellington Water Committee, that the recommendations outlined in the reports are being implemented; and*
- (7) notes that shareholder councils must also play their part in improving systems and processes at pace, including traffic management, to streamline activity and reduce costs while maintaining safety."*

## 5. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL - CONSULTATION ON WATER SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Report No. HCC2025/1/70 by the Strategic Advisor

The Strategic Advisor elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Strategic Advisor confirmed that metropolitan councils would direct submitters to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) survey to clarify its role in bulk water supply. However, he was unsure if the questions in GWRC's survey aligned with those of Council. The Chief Executive agreed to look into this matter further.

Cr Stallinger asked that the consultation document reference Wellington Water Limited's (WWL) Value for Money report. He questioned whether economies of scale would lead to savings, considering the new water entity was similar in size to WWL. He suggested including a comparative graph in the consultation document to illustrate the anticipated cost increase for residents under the new water services model.

The Chief Executive confirmed that legislation required the inclusion of graphs illustrating rates revenue and water charges in the consultation document. She emphasised the importance of clearly showing the rising costs of water. She mentioned that the officers would review the details and design of the document, which had already undergone a legal review.

Cr Mitchell shared his intention to understand how this would impact the ratepayers.

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Briggs)

**Minute No. C 25104(3)**

*"That Council:*

- (1) notes that in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Council is required to consider and consult on a future water services delivery model as part of preparing a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP);*
- (2) notes that the WSDP is required to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025;*
- (3) notes that at its meeting of 29 October 2024, Council agreed to consult on two options, being the status quo with changes to meet the new legal requirements and its preferred option of a new joint asset owning water services CCO model;*
- (4) notes that much of the content of the consultation material has been prepared in collaboration with the other participating councils considering the new regional model to ensure consistency and avoid possible confusion;*
- (5) notes that the financial modelling is based on an investment programme that is higher than what is in the LTP, to include critical regional projects such as the Seaview Outfall Pipe Renewal and Pakuratahi Lakes;*
- (6) notes that consultation for participating councils is planned to occur between mid to late March 2025 and mid to late April 2025;*
- (7) notes that consultation is being undertaken at a time when further legislation to complete the Local Water Done well reforms is still be finalised, and that some key aspects of the options*

*and details in the consultation material may change as a result of the final legislation which is expected to be enacted mid 2025;*

- (8) notes the feedback and direction provided to officers on the content of the draft consultation document, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;*
- (9) delegates the power to the Mayor and Committee Chairs to finalise the consultation document; and*
- (10) notes that the questionnaire and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are attached as Appendix 2."*

**6. RETROSPECTIVE ENDORSEMENT OF WELLINGTON'S JOINT SUBMISSION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WATER SERVICES) BILL**

Report No. HCC2025/1/58 by the Strategic Advisor

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Briggs)

**Minute No. C 25105(3)**

*"That Council endorses its contribution to the joint submission from Wellington Councils and Iwi Mana Whenua Partners on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill as attached as Appendix 1 to the report."*

7. **PROPOSED PRIVATE DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE 58: 12 SHAFTESBURY GROVE, STOKES VALLEY - REZONING TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY AREA**

Report No. HCC2025/1/59 by the Policy Planning Manager

The Policy Planning Manager elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Policy Planning Manager explained that the proposed Plan Change would not automatically impact any potential accessways in and out of Stokes Valley. He clarified that the Plan Change would enable the landowner to apply for subdivision consent, and at that stage, the proposed layout could influence the accessway. He mentioned that a slope assessment overlay would need to be evaluated as part of any future subdivision application.

Cr Briggs left the meeting at 4.57pm.

Cr Dyer acknowledged his role as a commissioner in the hearing and recognised the contributions of the two other commissioners.

Cr Edwards thanked the hearing panel for finding a balance between allowing more buildings and considering environmental impacts.

Cr Morgan and the Chair thanked the panel for their environmental focus on the application.

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Edwards)

**Minute No. C 25106(3)**

*"That Council:*

- (1) receives the report and recommendation of the hearing panel dated 16 December 2024 for Proposed Private District Plan Change 58: 12 Shaftesbury Grove, Stokes Valley – Rezoning to Medium Density Residential Activity Area (attached as Appendix 1 to this report);*
- (2) notes the process under the Resource Management Act 1991 for Proposed Private District Plan Change 58;*
- (3) adopts the recommended decisions on Proposed Private District Plan Change 58 and reasons for those decisions, set out in the hearing panel's report;*
- (4) approves Proposed Private District Plan Change 58 subject to the amendments recommended by the hearing panel, as recommended in section 8 of the hearing panel's report;*
- (5) resolves to publicly notify its decision on Proposed Private District Plan Change 58 within 10 working days of this decision and to serve that decision on the applicant and submitters; and*
- (6) instructs staff to work with Wellington Water Limited and the requester on Proposed Private District Plan Change 58 to identify and implement a solution that will unlock the development potential of the site, as well as address the wider water supply issues affecting the area."*

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM THE POLICY, FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Mitchell/Cr Dyer)

**Minute No. C 25107(3)**

*"That Council adopts the recommendations made on the following reports, and any amendments agreed at the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on 11 March 2025:*

- a) Urban Plus Limited Group Draft Statement of Intent 2025/26 to 2027/28; and*
- b) Seaview Marina Limited Draft Statement of Intent 2025/26 to 2027/28."*

9. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Lewis/Cr Tupou)

**Minute No. C 25108(3)**

*"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

11. *Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi Commercial Matters*

*The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>General subject of the matter to be considered.</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter.</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.</i>
<i>Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi Commercial Matters.</i>	<i>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s7(2)(h)). The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s7(2)(i)).</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exist.</i>



*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified in Column (B) above.*

*That Will Peet, the Independent Chair of Riverlink, be permitted to remain after the public section of the meeting, as he has knowledge that will assist Council in relation to the item."*

There being no further business, the Chair declared the public part of the meeting closed at 5.08pm. The public excluded part of the meeting closed at 5.51pm.

Deputy Mayor T Lewis  
**CHAIR**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record**  
**Dated this 29th day of May 2025**