

KOMITI NGĀ WAI HANGARUA | WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held in the Hutt City Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Monday 10 March 2025 commencing at 3:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor A Baker (PCC) (until 4:10pm and rejoined at 4:17pm via audio-visual link)
Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter (SWDC) (via audio-visual link)
Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Chair)
Mayor W Guppy (UHCC)
K Puketapu-Dentice (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika)
Mayor T Whanau (WCC)
R Faulkner (Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira)
Cr S Edwards, (HCC)

APOLOGIES: Mayor C Barry and H Modlik

IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Chief Executive, Hutt City Council
N Corry, Chief Executive, Greater Wellington Regional Council
J Smith, South Wairarapa District Council (via audio-visual link)
A Reaves, Acting Chief Executive, Wellington City Council
W Walker, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council
G Swainson, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council
K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services, Hutt City Council
J Kilty, Democracy Advisor, Hutt City Council

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.*

2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Cr Connelly/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25101

"That the apologies received from Mayor C Barry and H Modlik be accepted and a leave of absence granted."

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

The Chair gave precedence of business to item 6.

The item is listed in the order they appear on the agenda.

5. WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED - VALUE FOR MONEY

Report No. WWC2025/1/42 by Wellington Water Limited

Speaking under public comment, **Sean Rush** commented on the absence of infrastructure management capabilities and water engineering skills on the Wellington Water Limited Board.

With the Chair's permission, Peter Barlow spoke under public comment regarding an item not on the agenda. Peter Below highlighted that no audit opinion was attached to the Wellington Water Limited Year-End report for 2023/24.

Patrick Dougherty, Chief Executive and Nick Leggett, Board Chair of Wellington Water Limited (WWL), were in attendance for the item.

The Chief Executive WWL apologised for the loss of public confidence. He noted that WWL had addressed 95% of the recommendations in the Deloitte report. He stated that WWL were not paying three times as much for work as other councils, citing unavoidable external costs. He emphasised the Board Chair's key role in securing value for money and the benefit of the Chair's industry connections.

The Board Chair, WWL, apologised on behalf of the WWL Board. He addressed the perceived conflict of interest between his role as WWL Board Chair and his position as Chief Executive of Infrastructure NZ.

In response to a question from a member, the Board Chair, WWL, noted that the FieldForce report had been considered by the WWL Board and addressed through the 2024 Letter of Expectation. He said that the accountability shown by the Chief Executive and himself reflected the change in culture at WWL.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL said that WWL had been informally warned that the Commerce Commission was investigating a subcontractor. The Commerce Commission had determined that no further action was needed. He also noted that cost data was collected at a regional level. He added that some contracting jobs would be advertised, allowing local contractors to bid.

Mayor Baker noted that Porirua City Council (PCC) would welcome the Chief Executive to speak to the Council. She thanked the Board Chair and the Chief Executive for fronting up and emphasised that value for money was key.

In response to a further question from a member, the Chief Executive, WWL noted that WWL was developing a policy for future procurement. He said that WWL would be focusing on value for money key performance indicators.

Mayor Guppy said that the FieldForce report should have been considered earlier.

Deputy-Mayor Sadler-Futter requested a report on the overspend for each council.

The Chair noted that WWL needed to address each council regarding the costs of projects.

Mayor Whanau said that Wellington City Council (WCC) had committed to reform. She asked that the letter written by WCC be reviewed in good faith.

The Chair noted that the key actions from the meeting were to provide further benchmarking information, consider what council-by-council analysis would be appropriate to address overcharging and provide additional details on contractor procurement panel resets.

Kara Puketapu-Dentice noted that priorities needed to be set with the transition to the new entity in mind.

RESOLVED: (R Faulkner/Mayor Whanau)

Minute No. WWC 25102

"That the Committee:

- (1) notes the actions Wellington Water proactively implemented in advance of the reviews;*
- (2) notes the release of Deloitte's Report into concerns regarding Wellington Water's financial systems and processes and the Analysis of Panel Costs and Valuation Unit Rates; and*
- (3) notes the high level of unplanned water supply maintenance required to maintain the network in comparison to other peer councils."*

6. REPLACEMENT OF TARANAKI WHĀNUI KI TE UPOKO O TE IKA MANA WHENUA REPRESENTATIVE

Report No. WWC2025/1/40 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Mayor Baker/R Faulkner)

Minute No. WWC 25103

"That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the report;*
- (2) notes that Kara Puketapu-Dentice is to replace Lee Rauhina-August as the Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika nominated representative from 5 March 2025; and*
- (3) thanks Lee Rauhina-August for her valuable contributions to the work of the Committee."*

7. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Unuhia!	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia wātea, kia mā mā	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i>
ara takatū	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	
runga	
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.39 pm.

Cr R Connelly
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 30th day of May 2025