

**HUTT CITY COUNCIL****KOMITI NGĀ WAI HANGARUA | WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower  
Hutt on

**Friday 14 March 2025 commencing at 10:00 am**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor A Baker (PCC)  
Cr S Edwards (HCC) (via audio-visual link)  
Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter (SWDC)  
Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Chair)  
Mayor W Guppy (UHCC)  
K Puketapu-Dentice (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika)  
A Rutene (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui a Rua  
Treaty Settlement Trust)  
Mayor T Whanau (WCC)  
R Faulkner (Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira) (Alternate)

**APOLOGIES:**

Mayor Barry and H Modlik

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Miller, Chief Executive, Hutt City Council (via audio-visual link)  
J Smith, Chief Executive, South Wairarapa District Council  
N Corry, Chief Executive, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
G Swainson, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council  
W Walker, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council  
A Reaves, Chief Executive, Wellington City Council  
P Dougherty, Chief Executive, Wellington Water Limited  
C Barker, Chief Operating Officer, Wellington Water Limited  
W Maxwell, Chief Corporate Services Officer, Wellington Water  
Limited  
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 Whanau)

**Minute No. WWC 25101(2)**

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

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Baker/Mayor Guppy)

**Minute No. WWC 25102(2)**

*"That the minutes of the meeting of the Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua | Wellington Water Committee held on Friday, 13 December 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record."*

## 6. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Cr Connelly reflected on the meeting of 10 March 2025. She noted that changes needed to be made to the water infrastructure in the Wellington region.

## 7. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL - LEGISLATION AND WATER SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

Dougal List shared his presentation. The presentation is attached to pages 9-10 of the minutes.

## 8. COMPANY AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report No. WWC2025/1/34 by Wellington Water Limited

Mayor Baker announced that an amendment was passed during the Porirua City Council meeting on 13 March 2025. She stated that the amendment directed Wellington Water Limited to undertake a full investigation into how much ratepayer money was overcharged by Wellington Water and committed to exploring all legal and financial avenues, in a cost-effective and prudent manner, to recover these funds on behalf of ratepayers. Any recovered funds should be incorporated into future budgets to reduce costs for Porirua residents.

Patrick Dougherty, Chief Executive and Nick Leggett, Board Chair of Wellington Water Limited (WWL) elaborated on the report. The Board Chair said that the WWL Board and Chair understood the concerns around the Chair's potential conflict and were seeking independent advice on how to manage it.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL said that competitive tendering would reduce the number of jobs progressing, slowing down capital delivery programmes, and that discussions would need to be held with councils. He noted that South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) was not joining the metropolitan councils in the regional model, so the handover of information and transition plan would differ. He added that some staff would transfer to Wairarapa rather than the new Wellington regional entity, although he was not yet aware of which staff would do so. He noted that WWL had a protected disclosures officer and a protected disclosure policy in place. He explained that the procurement model would approach consultant and contractor panels, after which WWL would negotiate a price with an assigned contractor. He acknowledged there was concern that WWL had drifted away from real market prices.

In response to a question from a member, the Board Chair, WWL said that the slowing down of capital programmes was due to a longer procurement tender process.

In response to further questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL noted that WWL had adopted the procurement panel model when it was still a relatively small entity. He said now that it had grown significantly there needed to be a conversation about value for money. He stated that WWL should have been going through a proper tender process from the beginning, as the procurement panels had not ensured value for money. He added that WWL now needed to gather more data on value for money, and the only way to achieve this was by undertaking a tendering process.

Mayor Whanau stated that Wellington City Council (WCC) had made its view clear. She respected that changes to the Board would not occur. She said she wanted to move forward, but trust needed to be rebuilt between WWL and WCC. She noted that WWL staff were excellent and that the debate had been about governance.

Mayor Guppy said the recommendation to provide high-level analysis was not sufficient. He noted that the role of the Committee was to provide accountability, and therefore information on the overcharging was necessary.

Cr Connelly noted that WWL would discuss necessary analysis with individual councils.

Deputy-Mayor Sadler-Futter agreed with Mayor Guppy that 'high-level' analysis was not sufficient. She said ratepayers lacked information on how much they had been overcharged.

Cr Connelly noted that looking back at overcharging would cost significant money which councils would not be able to fund.

The Chief Executive, WWL stated that a high-level analysis would be feasible, but a more detailed examination of historical overcharging would be too costly.

Deputy-Mayor Sadler-Futter said SWDC wanted confidence and trust in WWL, but needed to have information on the overcharging to regain that trust and confidence in the organisation.

The Head of Design, Capital Delivery at WWL presented on the Western Hills Sewer Main Urgent Rehabilitation Project, attached to pages 11- 15 of the minutes.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Connelly / Mayor Whanau)

**Minute No. WWC 25103(2)**

*"That the Committee:*

*(1) receives and notes the report.*

*(2) notes that independent advice on how to address the Board Chair's conflict of interest be sought and the findings on how best to mitigate the conflict will be reported to the next meeting of the Wellington Water Committee;*

*(3) requests that the Chief Executive and Chair (or a Board member) of Wellington Water Limited to meet with shareholder Councils to:*

*(a) outline the changes Wellington Water Limited has made in response to the value for money reports;*

*(b) provide high-level analysis of the Alliance contract costs; and*

*(c) provide high-level analysis of the costs of select large capex projects for each Council between 2019 to 2024/25, to determine the extent, if any, of over-charging. The Committee notes that the difficulty of establishing a market price benchmark means this analysis may not yield specific figures for 'overcharging' but could identify a range and contributing factors;*

*(4) agrees to hold an additional Wellington Water Committee meeting to be scheduled between each quarterly meeting with a specific focus on oversight of the implementation of the recommendations from the financial error report, the value for money reports, and/or any other relevant workshops or matters that arise; and*

*(5) notes that the audited accounts for Wellington Water Limited for the 2023/24 year have not been published and requests that the Board present their final audit report to the Committee when available."*

Deputy-Mayor Sadler-Futter requested that her dissenting vote be recorded.

9. **WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED Q2 ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY PLAN**

Report No. WWC2025/1/39 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Corporate Services Officer, Wellington Water Limited elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from elected members, the Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL advised that the savings noted in the value for money report could not be allocated to this project. He said that there would be discussions about whether funds from other cost savings could be directed towards the Capability Plan.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Baker/ R Faulkner)

**Minute No. WWC 25104(2)**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) notes the content of the Q2 Organisational Capability Plan (Plan);*
- (2) notes that the full implementation of the plan can't be achieved due to lack of funding from councils for 2025/26, and therefore not all recommendations in the independent review into Wellington Water's Cost Estimation Error will be met;*
- (3) notes Wellington Water has done its best to optimise delivery of the Plan within existing resources; and*
- (4) notes the risk of future errors due to lack of funding to implement the Organisational Capability Plan."*

## 10. WATER SUPPLY RISK

Report No. WWC2025/1/36 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Operating Officer, WWL elaborated on the report.

Mayor Baker noted that there needed to be a stronger push to have private leaks fixed.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Baker/Faulkner)

**Minute No. WWC 25105(2)**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) notes the demand reduction continues to exceed the target set by Taumata Arowai;*
- (2) notes the likelihood of Water Restriction Levels for 24/25 has further reduced since December 2024 reporting;*
- (3) notes that this is the last report on the Acute Water Shortage risk for 24/25; and*
- (4) notes that Annual Planning is indicating there is a risk of insufficient regional funding for drinking water reactive renewals in FY 25/26 to maintain the reductions in water loss/leakage."*

## 11. WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED'S DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025-28

Report No. WWC2025/1/37 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL said that the Statement of Intent (SOI) was audited, so the information needed to be provable.

Representative Puketapu-Dentice stated that further discussion of the transition to the new water entity should be included in the SOI.

RESOLVED: (Cr Connelly/Mayor Guppy)

**Minute No. WWC 25106(2)**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) receives Wellington Water Limited's draft Statement of Intent 2025-28 attached as Appendix 1 to the report;*
- (2) provides combined shareholder feedback on Wellington Waters Limited's draft Statement of Intent by Friday 11 April 2025; and*
- (3) endorses the outlined approach to finalise Wellington Water Limited Statement of Intent 2025-28."*

Deputy-Mayor Sadler-Futter abstained from voting on the above matter.

**12. WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED HALF-YEAR REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Report No. WWC2025/1/38 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL elaborated on the report.

Representative Puketapu-Dentice stated that, as WWL was in breach of its consents regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant, there should have been more discussion of these breaches in the Half Year Report, including details of the mitigation being undertaken.

Mayor Baker requested that WWL attach the dashboards for the water treatment plants.

Representative Faulkner said that what was being measured regarding the compliance of treatment plants could be reviewed for future Half Year Reports.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Connelly/Mayor Baker)

**Minute No. WWC 25107(2)**

*"That the Committee receives and notes the Half-Year Report to 31 December 2024."*

### 13. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### a) Wellington Water Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 28 February 2025 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Cr Connelly/Mayor Baker)

**Minute No. WWC 25108(2)**

*"That the Committee receives and notes the attached draft Forward Programme and future workshop topics for the Wellington Water Committee for 2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the memorandum."*

### 14. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

### 15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: (Mayor Baker/Mayor Guppy)

**Minute No. WWC 25109(2)**

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

#### 16. *Minutes*

*13 December 2024*

*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:*

<i>(A)</i>	<i>(B)</i>	<i>(C)</i>
<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>Minutes of the Wellington Water Committee   Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on 13 December 2024</i>	<i>The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons. (s7(2)(a)). The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions</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>



*by or between or two  
members or officers or  
employees. (s7(2)(f)(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."*

There being no further business the Chair declared the public part meeting closed at 11.45 am. The public excluded part of the meeting closed at 12.00pm.

Cr R Connelly  
**CHAIR**

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

## Item 7: Local water done well

### Water services delivery planning for Wellington metropolitan councils

Wellington Water Committee

14 March 2025



## Key updates

### Key updates on Local Water Done Well and the WSDP

#### Local Government Water Services Bill.

- This Bill was introduced on 10 December
- Submissions have now been heard.
- A joint submission from the metro councils and GW was presented on 4 March.
- The timing for the passage of the Bill is unclear but expected by mid-2025.

#### Water Service Delivery Planning

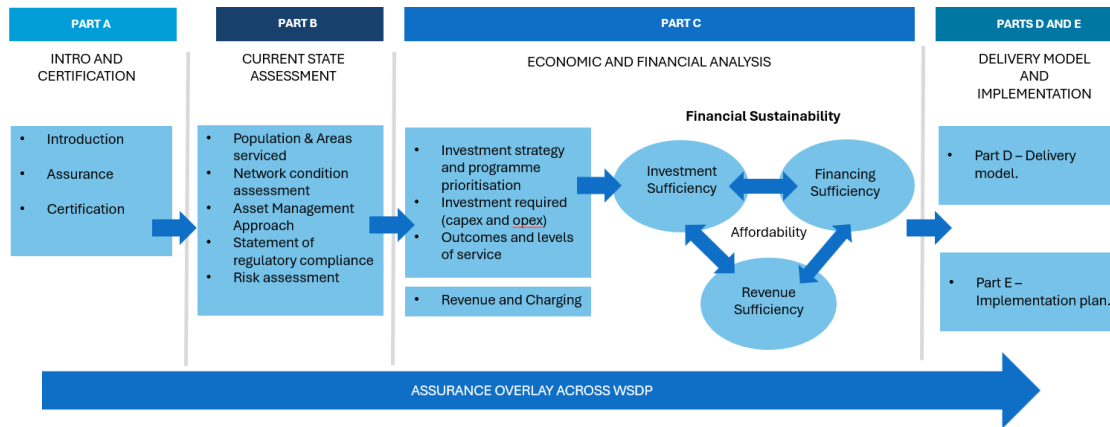
- All WWL shareholding councils are progressing with WSDP including consultation on delivery model options.
- The metro councils and GW plan to consult from around 20 March to 27 April (each council has specific dates).
- The drafting of the joint metro / GW WSDP is underway.
- This will be developed and tested on a staged basis to enable council decision making and adoption of the WSDP ahead of the 3 September due date.

#### Implementation planning

- In parallel to the WSDP, implementation planning for a new joint metro / GW water organization is underway.
- This targets:
  - Day 0: Establishment Board. 1 October 2025
  - Day 1: Accountability transfer. 1 July 2026

## Sections of the WSDP

### WSDP sections



## Key areas of alignment and interface with WWL

**The WSDP and implementation planning need ensure alignment of the future delivery model with current WWL activity and the WWL organisational capability plan**

### Key work and interfaces include

- Value for money reports
- Development of the WSDP and input of WWL data and knowledge to inform Part B and Part C
- WWL IT systems investment planning, costs and 'future fit'. Key interdependency = need for assurance of right scope, requirements, delivery and how this enables capability requirements
- Meters – programme planning, timing, investment and communications
- Contracts and major projects – maintaining momentum and also consideration of implications of contract renewals and value for money focus
- Contractor / supplier engagement
- Staff communications and pathways
- Plan and timing for disestablishment of WWL.

This will require ongoing involvement from WWL into the WSDP and the implementation plan.



## Western Hills Main Sewer Urgent Rehabilitation Project Briefing



Our water, our future.

### Purpose

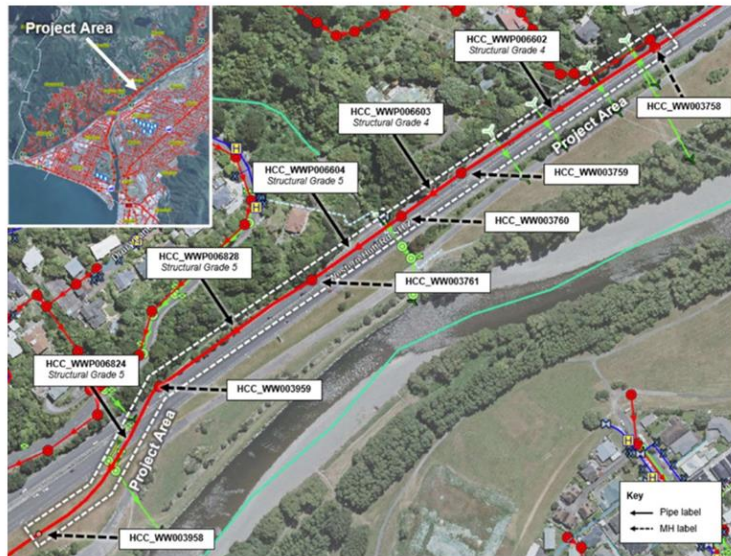


- To ensure the Wellington Water Committee are ready for the public and stakeholder reaction resulting from disruption on State Highway Two
- Provide assurance that the Western Hills Sewer Main rehabilitation is:
  - urgent and critical, and
  - is being delivered in a way to minimise the disruption to the public to the extent practicably possible

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Our water, our future.

## Location plan



Our water, our future.

## Flow in pipeline



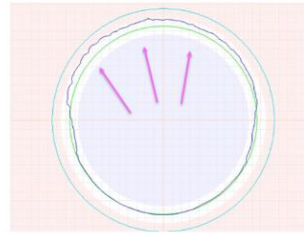
Our water, our future.



## Pipe condition



- The walls and roof appear to have suffered from hydrogen sulphide attack
- Around 30mm of the inside wall has been eroded at the top part of the pipe.
- Worst material loss about 37mm
- Original wall thickness is assumed to be 60mm

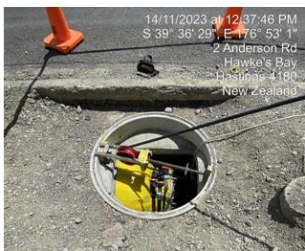


Our water, our future.

## Cured-in-place lining



- Resin impregnated 'sock' is pulled through the pipe
- Cured with UV lamps
- Flow must be re-routed during installation
- Pipes must be cleaned before installation
- Manholes will need to be cut down for access.



Our water, our future.

## Traffic Management Concept



During day in high traffic period:

- One lane closed north-bound. Remaining three lanes running with contra-flow; two lanes open northbound, one open south.

Modelled delays during peaks are:

- Negligible change heading north and
- 4.5min delay or 2.5km queue heading South

During night-time shift, we are proposing closing two lanes to maximise safety and efficiency. No or minimal delays expected during this period due to lower traffic.

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## Summary of engagement



- The project team are working to a comprehensive communications and engagement plan.
- This includes:
  - Briefings to all affected stakeholders (HCC, UHCC, GWRC, NZTA/WTB, [Metlink](#), [Kiwirail](#), [Riverlink](#))
  - Media releases
  - Website and social media
  - On the ground engagement with specific property owners
  - Daily briefings leading up to and during the works for stakeholders and public

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## Summary of key messages



- The pipeline beneath SH2 is critical wastewater infrastructure managed by Wellington Water on behalf of Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council. The councils have a duty to maintain essential services.
- The pipeline carries the majority of Upper Hutt's wastewater and the Western Hill suburbs.
- The work is scheduled for the Easter school holiday period when traffic volumes are lower, reducing overall disruption. The works will run 24/7 for two weeks.
- Delaying the work further increases the risk of unexpected failure, which could cause significant environmental and traffic issues.
- At each step of the project, Wellington Water has sought to mitigate the impact of the pipeline risk and minimise the disruption to public through a planned and collaborative approach

Our water, our future.

## Questions



Our water, our future.