

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 30 May 2025 commencing at 10:00 am

PRESENT:

Mayor C Barry (HCC) (Chair)
Mayor A Baker (PCC) Mayor C Barry (HCC) (Chair)
Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter (SWDC)
Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Deputy Chair)
Mayor W Guppy (UHCC)
H Modlik (Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira)
Mayor T Whanau (WCC) (via audio-visual link)

APOLOGIES:

K Puketapu-Dentice and A Rutene

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Walker, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council
J Miller, Chief Executive, Hutt City Council
M Prosser, Chief Executive, Wellington City Council
G Swainson, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council
J Smith, Chief Executive, South Wairarapa District Council
K Glanville, Senior Democracy, Hutt City Council
H Clegg, Minute Taker, 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
Tīhei 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: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25201(2)

"That the apologies from Kara Puketapu-Dentice and Andrea Rutene be received and 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.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25202(2)

"That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua | Wellington Water Committee held on Monday, 10 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25203(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua | Wellington Water Committee held on Friday, 14 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to adding the following wording under item 8: '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'."

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25204(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua | Wellington Water Committee held on Tuesday, 22 April 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

6. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair provided a verbal update, attached as page 10 to the minutes.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25205(2)

"That the Chair's Statement be noted."

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

The Programme Director, Water Reform – Wellington Water Councils gave a presentation that can be viewed here: [Local Water Done Well](#). He advised that all councils had been consulted on the available options for water service delivery. He said that while South Wairarapa District Council chose to consult on alternative options with neighbouring local authorities, the other councils in the Wellington region strongly supported the regional model. He noted that the draft Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) was 90% complete, with officer feedback currently being gathered. He confirmed that the draft WSDP met all legislative requirements.

The Programme Director, Water Reform, advised that a comprehensive report outlining governance proposals for the new entity would be presented at the next meeting. He also mentioned that the report would address the IT programme and the support available to councils as they make key decisions during the transition process.

In response to questions from members, the Programme Director, Water Reform, stated that day one of the new entity would focus on delivering a viable product, transferring functions from the former organisation, and maintaining accountability. He noted that while some systems would require more time to transition, a structured process would be implemented for effective management. He highlighted that further details would be shared later, acknowledging that the public might expect full operational readiness from day one.

8. COMPANY AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report No. WWC2025/2/66 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Executive, Board Chair and Chief Operating Officer of Wellington Water Limited (WWL) were in attendance for the item.

The Board Chair, WWL introduced Gillian Peacock as a new Board member, completing a full Board of seven directors, which now also included new members David Adamson and Ben Pitchforth. He elaborated on WWL's focus on three core workstreams: improvement, value for money and preparing for new systems. He noted that WWL was implementing structural changes, updating control systems, reviewing contracts, and enhancing risk management. He highlighted that direct engagement between the Chief Executive, WWL and councils had improved project oversight and cost efficiency.

The Chief Executive of WWL reported that ongoing collaboration with councils had led to improved contract reviews, reduced risks and resulted in lower tender prices. He mentioned that operational performance had improved, with reduced leaks, better attendance, and shorter resolution times. Although a recent staff survey showed low morale, attributed to negative media coverage, he expressed optimism about WWL's shift from a reactive to a proactive approach in project work.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, acknowledged concerns regarding the volume of water stored in reservoirs and noted that emergency water standard levels were not being met in certain areas. However, he confirmed that funding had been allocated to address the issue and assured members that there were no urgent risks.

The Chief Operating Officer, WWL, stated that the community felt well-informed and that their needs were prioritised regarding the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In response to further questions from members, the Chief Operating Officer of WWL explained that changes in funding allocation had resulted in underspending in some project accounts. He assured that these funds would be ring-fenced and carried forward, as significant spending typically happened in later project years. He committed to reporting on the Te Marua Plant upgrade and providing details on the underspent projects, while also highlighting improvements in WWL's forecasting.

Members commended WWL for successfully reducing the number of leaks.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25206(2)

"That the Committee receives and notes the report."

9. WELLINGTON WATER - CULTURE AND VALUE FOR MONEY

Report No. WWC2025/2/67 by Wellington Water Limited

Speaking under public comment, **Randall McDonnell** addressed issues with Wellington Water Limited (WWL) regarding a collapsed water main on his property. He urged that his unresolved case and other cases be addressed in the transition plans for the new entity. He called for satisfactory resolution and accountability from WWL.

The Chief Executive and Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL, elaborated on the report.

The Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL, recognised the strength of the report's recommendations and emphasised their prioritisation for implementation. She noted that the recommendations were themed for streamlined delivery and coordinated with the Local Water Done Well team for continuity.

In response to questions from members, the Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer of WWL confirmed that the audited performance report for the Alliance contract was available on the WWL website. She also mentioned that the audited Annual Report for 2024/2025 would be presented to the WWL Board at its upcoming meeting.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive, WWL acknowledged the connection between internal practices and external regulatory expectations. He attributed the challenges faced by WWL to an outdated business model. However, he noted that, since his appointment, there had been a rapid cultural change, driven by new staff and a shared commitment to improvement.

Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter left the meeting at 10.57am.

In response to a question from a member, the Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL, explained that WWL was enhancing data analytics through a new IT system and working with the Commerce Commission to improve access to contractor-held information. She highlighted that future governance and Alliance operations reporting would be presented to the committee, and guidance on staff protective disclosures from the Culture and Value for Money report would now set a standard for contractors and consultants.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, announced the appointment of a Transformation Lead to drive business improvement and systems review. He addressed concerns about previous recommendations, stating it would not be financially viable to revisit them. He emphasised that key recommendations were included in identified themes, which demanded significant effort and resources. He highlighted that WWL aimed to focus on progress and providing regular updates to the committee.

Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter rejoined the meeting at 11.04am.

Mayor Whanau left the meeting at 11.04am and rejoined the meeting at 11.06am.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25207(2)

"That the Committee:

- (1) notes that several significant actions have already been completed that demonstrate the organisation's commitment to change;*
- (2) endorses the categorisation of the 123 recommendations;*
- (3) receives the Wellington Water Culture and Value for Money Improvement Plan as Wellington Water's response to the seven reports and reviews;*
- (4) notes that the Improvement Plan exists in a complex operating environment for Wellington Water with competing priorities;*
 - a) changing the organisation to demonstrate value for money;*
 - b) technology systems investment;*
 - c) Local Water Done Well (potential transition to two new entities) and;*
 - d) all the while delivering three water services; and*
- (5) agrees that this Improvement Plan represents a shift towards the future and draws a line in the sand regarding re-interrogating the reviews that have occurred."*

10. OUR WATER, OUR FUTURE STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025-28

Report No. WWC2025/2/69 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Executive and Principal Advisor, WWL, elaborated on the report.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Guppy)

Minute No. WWC 25208(2)

"That the Committee:

(1) notes that the Wellington Water Constitution requires:

(a) the Wellington Water Board to deliver the completed Statement of Intent 2025-28 to the Committee, and

(b) the Wellington Water Committee to consider Wellington Water Limited's final Statement of Intent 2025-28;

(2) notes that the draft of the Statement of Intent was circulated to the Wellington Water Committee on 14 March 2025 and the subsequent feedback incorporated;

(3) receives the final Statement of Intent 2025-28, noting the amendment to Commitment of Delivery measure 7 to read: 'Percentage of targeted pipe replacement/renewal completed (8km) and measure 8 to read: Total capital delivery is between \$257M (75%) and \$308M (90%); and

(4) notes the Organisational Capability Plan has been superseded by the Wellington Water Limited Value for Money Improvement Plan."

11. **REPORTING OF DRINKING WATER ANNUAL MEASURES TO TAUMATA AROWAI**

Report No. WWC2025/2/70 by Wellington Water Limited

The Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL, elaborated on the report. She said that WWL had taken a pragmatic approach to compliance, marking items as non-compliant when evidence of compliance was lacking. She also noted that WWL could not confirm full control over the entire water network, as some data was managed by external parties.

Mayor Whanau left the meeting at 11.18am.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25209(2)

"That the Committee:

(1) notes the report; and

(2) notes that the data provided to Taumata Arowai will be published in the Drinking Water Regulation Report."

12. **INFORMATION ITEM**

Wellington Water Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 12 May 2025 by the Senior Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Guppy)

Minute No. WWC 25210(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."

13. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25211(2)

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

15. Minutes - 22 April 2025

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>Minutes of the Wellington Water Committee Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on 22 April 2025: Appointment of Directors to Wellington Water Limited.</i>	<i>The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons. (s7(2)(a)).</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."

There being no further business, the Chair declared the public part of the meeting closed at 11.23am and the public excluded part of the meeting closed at 11.26am.

Mayor C Barry
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 28th day of July 2025

Firstly, I want to say that I absolutely welcome the discussion today and the report from Wellington Water around value for money, including the recommendations that have been collated.

There's a real desire for us to move forward with the runway that we have as an organisation to implement what we can and navigate some of those other recommendations.

I also want to acknowledge the things that have already been done. Thank you to the team for the work that's gone into that, and I know we'll have a chance to discuss that later on.

On the governance front, I'd also like to congratulate Gillian Peacock, Ben Pitchforth, and David Adamson on their appointment to the Wellington Water Board.

Each of these individuals offers valuable expertise to guide the organisation, I know that they are welcomed and have had a good conversation with Nick Leggett about that as well. They are going to bring some really good experience.

I also want to acknowledge Nick Leggett, Mahina Puketapu and Bill Bayfield, whose terms were also extended by the committee.

I'd like to say a big well done to the Wellington Water team and contractors for the recent work on State Highway 2 where a wastewater pipe re-lining project was undertaken.

A pipe that, if it had failed, would have devastating impacts on our city but also the region given the number of vehicles which travel through the area each day.

This critical project was completed successfully and on time in just 2 weeks of around the clock work.

Starting mid-April, crews relined 589 metres of at-risk pipe beneath the State Highway.

It was a really good job, a job well done, even though we had some inclement weather towards the end of that project as well.

Looking ahead, as you know, Wellington's metropolitan councils are deciding on whether to establish a new combined water entity.

Wellington City (thank you Mayor Whanau) has made their decision, everyone would have seen that, and I know that the rest of the councils will be making their calls over the coming weeks as well.

It's a significant milestone as we start to see other councils around the country making their decisions on how they're going to move forward under Local Water Done Well.