

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI ITI MAHERE Ā-NGAHURUTANGA / MAHERE Ā-TAU  
LONG TERM PLAN/ANNUAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers,  
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on  
**Wednesday 4 June 2025 commencing at 9:30 am**

To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click the link here: [Long Term Plan/ Annual Plan Subcommittee - 4 June 2025](#)

**PRESENT:**

Mayor C Barry (Chair)	Deputy Mayor T Lewis
Cr G Barratt	Cr J Briggs
Cr K Brown (from 10.34am)	Cr B Dyer (via audio visual link)
Cr S Edwards	Cr A Mitchell
Cr K Morgan	Cr C Parkin
Cr N Shaw	Cr T Stallinger
Cr G Tupou	

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Brown for lateness

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Miller, Chief Executive  
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities  
J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement  
A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability  
J Kingsbury, Director, Economy and Development  
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer  
D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance  
G Campbell, Head of Mayor's Office  
P Hewitt, Head of Transport (part meeting)  
B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor (part meeting)  
A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager  
W Botha, Corporate Planning Lead  
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor  
H Clegg, Minute Taker

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: (Mayor Barry/Cr Stallinger)

**Minute No. LTPAP 25301(2)**

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

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

Mayor Barry congratulated Lower Hutt residents honoured in the King's Birthday Honours List, highlighting two recipients: Dr Alishia Rangiwhakawaitau Moeahu was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to Māori culture, and former Cr Margaret Cousins received a King's Service Medal for her long service to local government and the community from 1983 to 2019. He highlighted that formal acknowledgments for all recipients would occur later this year.

## 4. PRESENTATION

### Wellington Water Limited - Value for Money report back

Pat Dougherty, Chief Executive, Nick Leggett, Board Chair, and Charles Barker, Chief Operating Officer of Wellington Water Limited (WWL), were in attendance for the item.

The Board Chair of WWL apologised for the company's past underperformance and acknowledged Council's commitment to water management. He assured members that significant internal changes were underway to support the 2026 transition to a new water entity. He addressed a budget error from May 2024 that impacted Council planning, highlighting broader operational issues now being resolved. He refuted media claims about pricing, attributing higher costs to Wellington's unique conditions. He elaborated on the key improvements and noted that outdated systems had contributed to performance gaps. He said that communication with the Board had also improved, with clearer reporting in place.

The Chief Executive, WWL, stated that management was not surprised by recent review findings and responded with a swift restructuring to create a more efficient operating model. He noted improvements in workplace culture and the implementation of a new IT system to enhance information flow. He said the focus remained on completing the Water Services Plan by September 2025. He acknowledged that high pipe repair costs arise, along with the expense of road reinstatement. He said that while water system repairs were costly, stormwater and wastewater costs had stabilised. He noted that due to limited capacity for renewals, only urgent projects were prioritised. He assured members that procurement reforms and a revised Alliance arrangement had improved competition and performance, and that financial controls had been strengthened through team restructuring.

The Chief Operating Officer, WWL, advised that all projects would now be subject to open tendering to enhance cost competitiveness and procurement robustness, replacing the previous panel-based approach. He noted that while Alliance rates were currently deemed reasonable, they would continue to be reviewed. He mentioned that WWL lacked comprehensive network data due to past fragmentation, but new systems were being implemented to provide a reliable dataset for the future water entity.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, explained that moving all projects to open tender would leverage market rates and that increasing new pipe installations would lower operating costs. He noted that WWL was taking on more project risk, allowing contractors to reduce pricing contingencies. He emphasised the importance of economies of scale and warned that without a steady pipeline of future work, contractors might lose staff, affecting their responsiveness to future demand.

In response to questions from members, the Board Chair, WWL, highlighted that Council's funding for leak repairs had been instrumental in reducing pipe issues across Lower Hutt. He cautioned against seeking retrospective refunds for past projects, urging a forward-looking approach focused on efficiency, competitive pricing, improved contracts and strong oversight. He noted that previous projects adhered to the systems in place at the time and emphasised the need to direct limited resources towards preparing for a smooth transition to the new entity. He also acknowledged the difficulty in communicating WWL's work to the public, noting Council's positive efforts in community engagement. He clarified that water network operational costs were unlikely to decrease over time, even with system improvements, which the public may not fully appreciate.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Operating Officer, WWL, said it was too early to know if the new contract documents would lead to lower tender prices and agreed to update Council as data became available.

In response to questions from members, the Group Chief Financial Officer, HCC explained that a new valuer carried out a detailed analysis of all assets as part of the revaluation process, with WWL providing data for three water assets. She also mentioned that another revaluation of water-related assets was planned for June 2026, coinciding with the establishment of the new entity.

Cr Brown joined the meeting at 10.34am.

The Board Chair, WWL, acknowledged the potential for new issues to arise but expressed confidence that WWL was now better equipped to handle them. He believed that the company was providing value for money and operating efficiently. He stated that the upcoming transition to the new entity was expected to be as effective as possible.

The Chief Executive, WWL, assured members that they could be confident the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan budgets would be utilised effectively.

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI COUNCIL - 4 June 2025**

**PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Standing Order 10.4, the Chair accorded precedence to item 5b) Paid Parking Rate Options.

The item is recorded in the order in which it appeared on the agenda.

a) Final decisions for the Annual Plan 2025-26

The Group Chief Financial Officer elaborated on the report.

Cr Dyer expressed opposition to the proposed 12.6% rates increase, stating it showed Council was out of touch with households and businesses. While he acknowledged the need for a rates increase due to financial pressures, he suggested that Council should consider reducing depreciation funding for water assets, similar to what other councils in New Zealand had done.

Cr Stallinger expressed opposition to the proposed 12.6% rates increase, citing concerns about Council's cost control and Financial Strategy. Although he recognised external pressures, he felt Council could better manage the unjustified 8% rise in overheads and corporate services. He expressed frustration over inadequate responses to his questions about these costs. He pointed to Wellington Water Limited's (WWL) poor performance and Council's lack of attention to detail as key factors in rising expenses. He noted that these issues should have been identified earlier and that the backlog of infrastructure work had significantly increased.

Cr Mitchell expressed concerns regarding the record-high debt levels, particularly about the three waters infrastructure. He noted that despite the increased funding, a backlog of issues persisted. He acknowledged that choosing not to allocate funds for spending would result in a future decline in the condition of the network.

Cr Briggs acknowledged Council's challenges and warned against neglecting depreciation as a poor financial decision. He disagreed with Cr Stallinger but found reassurance in WWL's presentation. He pointed out workforce limitations as the main obstacle to resolving the three waters backlog and cautioned that underinvestment could have lasting consequences for future councils.

Cr Tupou recognised that, as a new homeowner, opposing the 12.6% rates increase would be personally advantageous for him. However, he chose to support the increase, trusting the diligent work of the officers. He emphasised the importance of strong leadership and careful planning. With a community mandate in place, he believed it was time for Council to move forward.

Mayor Barry acknowledged the challenges of the proposed rates increase. He emphasised that financial sustainability was a key concern for councils across New Zealand and affirmed that funding for infrastructure, particularly the three waters, was Council's top priority, driving this increase. He stated that while minor budget adjustments might be possible, significant cuts would compromise essential infrastructure investments. He expressed confidence in WWL's turnaround efforts and the information shared with the Subcommittee. Reflecting on his tenure since 2013, he noted that Council was in a strong position regarding governance information. He highlighted successes such as the \$1.5B Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (Riverlink) project and warned that underinvestment could burden future generations.

**RECOMMENDED:** (By Division) (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs)

**Minute No. LTPAP 25302(2)**

*“That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:*

- (1) *notes Council approved the draft Annual Plan 2025-26 and Engagement document, together with underlying information, for public engagement on 25 March 2025;*
- (2) *notes that the detailed analysis and results of public engagement were reported to Council on 16 May 2025;*
- (3) *notes that Council provided initial direction and progressed decisions for finalising the Annual Plan 2025-26 on 16 May 2025;*
- (4) *agrees to the budget matters as detailed in Table 2 for the final Annual Plan 2025-26;*
- (5) *notes the latest projected debt and debt headroom, as detailed in Section G and graphs 2 and 3;*
- (6) *notes the changes to the balanced operating budget target as defined in our Financial Strategy and changes to the prudence benchmark per the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act and Financial Reporting and Prudence Regulations 2014 as outlined in Section G of the report and graphs 4 and 5;*
- (7) *notes that the report includes financial projections based on several assumptions about final budgets and the associated rates increases;*
- (8) *agrees to the rates revenue increases (after growth) to be included in the final Annual Plan 2025-26 as follows (refer to Section G of the report) and agrees that these will be updated to reflect final Council decisions as required;*

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Rates revenue increase	12.6%	12.9%	12.9%	12.7%	12.3%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%

- (9) *notes that the projected rating impact for 2025-26 for the average residential ratepayer is \$8.90 per week, refer to Section H;*
- (10) *agrees that the fees and charges to be included in the final Annual Plan 2025-26, refer to Appendix 1 attached to the report;*
- (11) *notes the feedback provided on the Annual Plan 2025-26, which reflects the latest updates, refer to Appendix 1 attached to the report;*

- (12) notes the financial statements to be included in the final Annual Plan 2025-26, refer to Appendix 2 attached to the report;
- (13) adopts the final Development and Financial Contributions policy 2025, attached as Appendix 3 to the report;
- (14) notes that final reviews are being carried out and that further changes may be required to the Annual Plan 2025-26 as a result of this or because of budget decisions today;
- (15) agrees that the Annual Plan Working Group (the Mayor and Committee Chairs) be delegated the authority to make decisions as required in preparing the Annual Plan 2025-26 for Council adoption on 27 June 2025;
- (16) requires that any such decisions made by the Annual Plan Working Group be reported back to the Council meeting on 27 June 2025; and
- (17) notes the direction and guidance provided to officers ahead of the preparation of the final Annual Plan 2025-26 to be adopted by Council on 27 June 2025. “

The motion was declared CARRIED by division with the voting as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Mayor Barry	Cr Barratt
Deputy Mayor Lewis	Cr Dyer
Cr Briggs	Cr Stallinger
Cr Brown	
Cr Edwards	
Cr Mitchell	
Cr Morgan	
Cr Parkin	
Cr Shaw	
Cr Tupou	
<b>Total: 10</b>	<b>Total: 3</b>

b) Paid Parking Rate Options

Speaking under public comment, **Karen Yung, representing the Petone Community Board**, opposed the parking rate increase, citing a lack of supporting data. She also highlighted that some parking meters no longer accept cash and emphasised the Board's preference for maintaining cash payment options.

In response to questions from members, Karen Yung stated there was no formal Board discussion on the options and preferred to maintain the status quo until more data was available. She opposed increasing parking fees in Petone, warning it could harm local businesses.

The Head of Transport elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Transport stated that there was currently no data on the impact of paid parking on businesses. However, a 2016 study found no measurable effect on business activity.

Cr Edwards foreshadowed his intention to move an amendment that would include new parts. He said this amendment aimed to maintain the paid parking fees at an hourly rate of \$3 and to raise the daily rate to \$12 across the city, including Petone. He emphasised the need for a consistent approach to parking fees in all major shopping areas, especially considering the anticipated disruptions in the Lower Hutt CBD due to the Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (Riverlink) project. He questioned the rationale behind a 17% increase in parking fees in Petone after just one year of implementing paid parking, noting a lack of supporting data for this increase. While he supported the principle that drivers should contribute to funding road maintenance, he believed there should be an opportunity for compromise in Petone. He suggested that officers gather more data and re-evaluate the situation.

Mayor Barry clarified that any reports on the matter would go through the usual committee process. He confirmed that fee increases could not be implemented halfway through a financial year.

Cr Stallinger expressed support for the proposed amendment as a reasonable compromise, emphasising the need for more data to assess the effects on businesses.

Cr Morgan expressed support for the proposed amendment, emphasising that additional fees were undesirable given the current economic hardships.

Cr Briggs expressed support for a small increase in parking fees to help cover road maintenance costs, avoiding future burden on councils, while emphasising the need for adequate parking for business customers.

Cr Tupou expressed support for the proposed amendment, highlighting the need to balance visitor access, local shopping, and infrastructure funding.



**RECOMMENDED:** (Cr Edwards/Cr Stallinger) **Minute No. LTPAP 25303(2)**

*"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:*

- (1) receives and notes the report;*
- (2) notes that the information provided on paid parking options was based on an estimate, and officers will provide a further range of data upon which to update projections and make decisions appropriately;*
- (3) directs officers to include in the final Annual Plan 2025-26 paid parking fees at an hourly rate of \$3 per hour and a daily rate of \$12 per day, Citywide, including Petone – option d;*
- (4) directs officers to retain the current budgeted parking fee revenue and rates revenue settings, as outlined in the final Annual Plan 2025-26, without any adjustments; and*
- (5) notes that there are potential risks associated with achieving the projected level of parking revenue, and that this will be closely monitored with further decisions brought back to Council, and the appropriate committee, if required during 2025/26."*

**7. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

**8. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme sacredness</i>
Unuhia!	<i>of our tasks</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
takatū	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
runga	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārīre.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.19am.

C Barry  
**MAYOR**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record dated this 31st day of July 2025**