

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI NGĀ WAI HANGARUA | WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Monday 28 July 2025 commencing at 10:00 am

PRESENT:

Mayor C Barry (HCC) (Chair)
Mayor A Baker (PCC)
Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter (SWDC)
Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Deputy Chair)
Mayor W Guppy (UHCC)
K Puketapu-Dentice (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika)
Cr T Brown (WCC)

APOLOGIES:

H Modlik and Mayor T Whanau (WCC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Walker, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council
J Miller, Chief Executive, 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
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/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25301(2)

"That the apology from Mayor T Whanau and H Modlik be received and leave of absence granted."

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25302(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Water Committee | Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on Friday, 30 May 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25303(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Water Committee | Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on Wednesday, 25 June 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to an amendment deleting the attendance of Janice Smith, Chief Executive of South Wairarapa District Council, at the meeting."

6. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair provided a verbal update, attached as page 8 to the minutes.

7. **VARIATION OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Report No. WWC2025/3/91 by South Wairarapa District Council

Jessica Hughes, Principal Advisor Legal (Legal Executive) from South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) was in attendance for the item via audio-visual link.

The Principal Advisor Legal (Legal Executive), SWDC, elaborated on the report. She clarified that the contract end date on page 73 of the agenda should read 30 June 2026.

In response to questions from members, the Deputy Mayor, SWDC, advised that the Management Services Agreement was still in draft format and that SWDC was seeking legal advice, particularly regarding risk. She noted that all councils, including SWDC, would eventually exit the agreement with Wellington Water Limited as they transitioned to new entities.

RESOLVED: (UNANIMOUS) (Mayor Barry/Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)

Minute No. WWC 25304(2)

"That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the report;*
- (2) endorses the exclusion of capital projects from Wellington Water Limited's scope of services;*
- (3) supports the refined definitions and responsibilities in alignment with the Water Services Act 2021; and*
- (4) notes the draft status of the variation and encourages continued negotiation to finalise terms."*

8. COMPANY AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report No. WWC2025/3/88 by Wellington Water Limited

Pat Dougherty, Chief Executive, Nick Leggett, Board Chair, Erin Ganley, Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer (via audio-visual link) and Charles Barker, Chief Operating Officer from Wellington Water Limited (WWL) were in attendance for the item.

The Board Chair, WWL, reported positive progress, highlighting improved transparency and leadership, and a shift from crisis management to effective governance. He advised that with a full Board in place, the staff were preparing for a smooth transition to the new entity. He pointed out that staff morale was increasing, and new staff had been appointed. He noted that performance metrics were now publicly reported and shared with the Commerce Commission.

The Chief Executive, WWL, announced that the organisation had moved from a reactive to a proactive approach, driving performance improvements. He noted that while progress was evident, staffing remained a challenge due to multiple teams working on the transition and an evolving IT system. He emphasised that despite adding more staff, resources were still stretched, and a significant IT investment also demonstrated confidence in WWL's future. He expressed concern regarding health and safety issues at wastewater treatment plants. He mentioned that a formal letter had been sent to Veolia, and WWL's Board intended to meet with Veolia leadership, requesting the attendance of their regional Health and Safety Manager. He added that WWL had called for the appointment of a permanent Health and Safety Officer in Wellington.

The Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL, stated that the new and enhanced Culture and Value for Money Improvement Plan included the changes requested during the last meeting.

Mayor Baker congratulated the team on their successful reduction of leaks, stating that directing funding to this initiative had produced positive results.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, advised that Veolia was contracted to operate the wastewater treatment plants. At the same time, WWL was responsible for overseeing performance and commissioning independent reviews to ensure quality. He said that WWL leadership recommended against appointing its own Health and Safety Officer since the contract placed all risk on Veolia.

The Chief Operating Officer, WWL, stated that WWL had placed an increased focus on health and safety, notably by expanding the role of the contract manager.

The Board Chair, WWL, advised that the Board was reviewing past Veolia assessments to ensure ongoing accountability, emphasising that health and safety remained a top priority.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, stated that a budget cap had been set for the IT project, with discussions to occur later between the new entity, the interim CEO, and the transition teams. He noted that underspending was identified too late for Council engagement, but emphasised plans to detect it earlier in the future. He acknowledged concerns about losing earmarked funds during the transition and

assured members that improved forecasting would help prevent such losses.

In response to members' questions, the Chief Operating Officer of WWL stated that the \$111M underspend resulted from minor delays due to staff reorganisation, but work was back on track. He said that to ensure transparency, WWL had ring-fenced project funding, requiring council approval for reallocating underspent funds. He clarified that multiple leak repairs were seen as repairs, while significant section replacements are treated as renewals. He confirmed that water metering data would be shared with all councils once available, with no decisions made without their input.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25305(2)

"That the Committee receives and notes the report."

9. WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Report No. WWC2025/3/89 by Wellington Water Limited

Pat Dougherty, Chief Executive, Nick Leggett, Board Chair, and Wayne Maxwell, Chief Corporate Services Officer of Wellington Water Limited (WWL), were in attendance for the item.

The Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL, explained that the Auditor's qualification on maintenance was due to a delay in providing data to distinguish between planned and unplanned maintenance, which proved too complex to resolve. He also noted that Audit New Zealand's emphasis stemmed from uncertainty about water service delivery at the time of drafting the Annual Report. However, this uncertainty had since decreased with more explicit guidance from the new water entity.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Corporate Services Officer, WWL, explained that the planned versus unplanned maintenance item had been relocated from the Statement of Intent to a dedicated technical services improvement programme within the new IT system. He stated that this change would make data accessible to both the Committee and the public, alleviating any audit concerns. He mentioned that the new system would capture detailed transaction data to support financial reporting related to maintenance activities.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25306(2)

"That the Committee:

- (1) receives Wellington Water's Annual Report to 30 June 2024;*
- (2) notes the Audit Opinion includes two qualifications and two emphases of matter; and*
- (3) notes the Annual Report has been updated from the draft version presented to the Committee in September 2024:*
 - (a) updated dates and names for correctness as of the adoption date,*
 - (b) added and amended disclosures in the Financial Statements as outlined in the report, and*
 - (c) amendment to the reported result of the Water Loss Reduction Plan Statement of Intent measure."*

10. WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Report No. WWC2025/3/90 by Wellington Water Committee

Erin Ganley, Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer of Wellington Water Limited (WWL), was in attendance for the item.

The Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer elaborated on the report, explaining that this was a procedural matter.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL, agreed that arrangements would be made to introduce the Board Directors to the Committee following the local governance elections.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25307

"That the Committee signs the Shareholders' resolution in lieu of an Annual General Meeting for the 2024/25 Financial Year."

11. INFORMATION ITEM

Wellington Water Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 9 July 2025 by the Senior Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25308

"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."

12. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

13. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

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

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.50am.

Mayor C Barry
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 26th day of September 2025

Chair's statement – 28 July 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Since we last met, all five metropolitan councils have confirmed their support for the new, jointly owned water services entity. That means we now have a clear path forward. One that will allow for more investment in our network, better long term planning and a more sustainable way to deliver water services across the region. Recruitment for the interim board is underway, and work is progressing on our Water Services Delivery Plan ahead of the September deadline. I mention this as our roles, while dual at this committee will be important to ensure a smooth transition.

At the same time, we've got good news in regards to leaks across the region.

New figures from Wellington Water show leakage on the metropolitan network has dropped by 11 million litres a day over the last year. That's four Olympic swimming pools' worth of water saved every single day - enough to supply around 50,000 people.

These figures reflect a huge amount of effort from the teams on the ground. Eighteen months ago, we had a backlog of over 1,700 public leaks across the region. That number is now under 300 - an 83% reduction. That kind of turnaround doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of targeted funding, clearer priorities, and stronger delivery.

Many will remember how close we came to serious restrictions during the summer of 2023/24. These results show we've turned a corner. But they also reinforce how fragile the system is and why we can't take our foot off the pedal.

Fixing leaks is critical, but it's not a long-term solution. That's why councils have backed other steps too: planning for water meters, renewals, boosting treatment capacity at Te Mārua, and preparing for new water storage.

We're still working with an ageing network. But this 18 months has shown what can be achieved when we are laser focused on what we need to do.