

MINUTES

Record of a meeting of the HUTT VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE in Hutt City Council
Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on FRIDAY 22 August 2025 at 9.30
am

Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC)

Hutt City Council (HCC)

Present:	Cr J B Griffiths (Chair) Deputy Mayor H Swales (alternate) Cr H Newell	Cr T Stallinger (Co-Chair) Cr B Dyer Cr C Parkin Cr N Shaw
Apologies:	Mayor W N Guppy	
Absent:	Cr C B G Carson	
In attendance:	Lisa Kynaston, Principal Governance Advisor Fiona Murphy, Governance Advisor Brett Latimer, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager Tim Harty, Group Manager of Operations (via Zoom)	Alison Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability. Bruce Hodgins, Strategic Advisor (for items 1 to 5) Jörn Scherzer, Head of Climate and Waste and Resource Recovery (for items 1 to 6)
Also in Attendance:	Luke Rushton, Capital Deliveries Projects at Wellington Water Limited Jeremy McKibbin, Group Manager, Network Management Group at Wellington Water Limited (for items 1 to 5) Blair Johnson, Head of Waste Contract at Wellington Water Limited (for items 1 to 5)	

1. Apologies

An apology has been received from Mayor Guppy. Deputy Mayor Swales is in attendance as the alternate for this committee.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Deputy Mayor Swales

CARRIED: HVSC 250501

"That the apology from Mayor Guppy be accepted and leave of absence be granted."

2. Public Forum

There were no speakers.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Confirmation of the Committee minutes 2 May 2025

There were no questions about the record of the 2 May 2025 Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Councillor Newell

CARRIED: HVSC 250502

"That the committee receives the minutes of the 2 May 2025 Hutt Valley Services Committee meeting and accepts the record as an accurate and true account of the meeting."

5. Wastewater Joint Venture Update 1 April – 30 June 2025.

Jeremy McKibbin provided an update to the report advising that:

- Veolia has implemented a full-time resource for the focus on Health and Safety in the Wellington Region in response to the three serious incidents outlined in the report.
- There has been one odour complaint over the reporting period, and none further since the report.
- A successful major shutdown was completed, the first of two required, and involved renewing key components of the dryer.
- The plant is currently compliant but has fluctuated in and out of compliance over the reporting period. Until further renewals are undertaken, the plant won't achieve sustainable and reliable compliance.

Blair Johnson answered a member's question regarding the procedure change since the health and safety incident involving the crane, advising that a crowbar should have been used at the time, not the contractor's hand.

Jeremy McKibbin answered a member's questions regarding correspondence with GWRC around maintaining compliance.

Bruce Hodgins addressed members' questions about the incomplete, consented work and the strategy for completing it to new standards.

Blair Johnson responded to questions about pressure transmitter monitoring, noting no fault was found despite a pump shutdown. Maintenance of the outfall pipe was prioritised to ensure system integrity. Following the end of the financial year, teams were directed to revisit the fault to improve outfall capacity and reduce leakage risk. Three related incidents were reported to WorkSafe, but no formal response has been received.

In response to a member's question, Blair Johnson explained that much of the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant's equipment is sourced internationally, requiring careful planning around lead times and origin. While cost contingencies are included in estimates, unexpected factors—like fast-tracked procurement—can still cause budget overruns despite established costing methods.

In response to a member's question regarding the \$6 million allocation for the Seaview Wastewater Plant backup power source project, specifically the timing of expenditure across financial years, Blair Johnson confirmed that the project remains in the planning phase. Due to the scale of concurrent works at the plant, some funding may need to be carried over into FY 2026/27. The current focus is the UV renewal project.

A member sought clarification about Upper Hutt City Council's contribution to the Totara Park Bridge pipework seismic strengthening, which was not included in the financial commentary; officers advised a follow-up response would be provided. Bruce Hodgins responded to a query about surplus funds from under-budget projects, confirming that the remaining budget will be reinvested into renewal works within the [RiverLink](#) section of the Western Hills Sewer Main, where substantial upgrades are still needed.

Blair Johnson answered a member's question regarding the 10-year contract with Veolia, advising that the contract is set to expire on 30 June 2030, with a one-year notice period. Wellington Water holds two rights of renewal: one for a three-year extension and another for two years.

Blair Johnson confirmed improved risk indicators for the treatment plant, supported by approved funding. The table attached to the report titled Appendix A – Risk Description by Process Area reflects progress over the current three-year period, with renewal planning continuing beyond this timeframe.

The Chair expressed appreciation to officers for their contributions over the past three years, acknowledging the professionalism and resilience shown in addressing challenging questions throughout the term.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Councillor Stallinger

CARRIED: HVSC 250503

"That the Committee receives and notes the report entitled Wastewater Joint Venture Update 1 April – 30 June 2025."

6. Update on Silverstream Landfill and Resource Recovery

Jörn Scherzer explained that ex-borrow areas are former soil extraction sites for landfill construction. While these were once left to regenerate naturally, current practice involves restoring them with topsoil and native planting to aid ecological recovery.

Jörn Scherzer outlined the landfill's phased move toward full electrification, with key machinery arriving soon and electric rubbish trucks joining the fleet within months. Some will use the new on-site charging hub. Larger equipment conversions remain a long-term goal. The site's grid-linked charging system is considered resilient, and future integration of solar and battery systems may further enhance emergency readiness beyond diesel generators. Community hubs have backup power, though access may be limited during major events.

Jörn Scherzer answered a member's question regarding the diversion rates of green waste received at the transfer station and clarified that all green waste is mulched on-site and then transported to Composting New Zealand in Kāpiti, where it is processed at a windrow composting facility.

In response to further questions regarding the resilience of the EV charging hub during Grid outages, Jörn Scherzer noted that, although the EV charging hub is located near the power plant's grid connection, its ability to operate independently during extended outages—via solar, batteries, or landfill gas—requires further investigation.

In response to a member's question, Jörn Scherzer advised that the incident involving a temporary staff member at the landfill resulted in no injury and have since strengthened procedures and inductions.

Alison Geddes answered a member's question regarding the status of the Manor Park development. The developers have recently reactivated their consent, and the council will soon determine whether public notification is required.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Councillor Newell

CARRIED: HVSC 250504

"That the Committee receives and notes the report entitled Update on Silverstream Landfill and Resource Recovery."

7. Akatārawa Cemetery Update

Brett Latimer advised that the project has officially commenced on-site after a decade of planning. Approximately four hectares of vegetation have been cleared and mulched. The procurement plan for civil works, specifically the road infrastructure, has been approved, with tender documents expected to be finalised within the following week and construction is scheduled to take place between October 2025 and March 2026, contingent upon resolving issues related to silt control, which currently presents significant cost implications. Negotiations are underway to identify a more cost-effective solution.

Members recommended enhancing stakeholder engagement beyond the website.

In response to a member's question, Brett Latimer explained that revised cemetery capacity reflects more efficient land use and burial practices, including double interments. Earlier estimates were based on less accurate modelling. The growing use of ashes and alternative memorials is expected to further extend the cemetery's lifespan. Given these updated projections, members agreed that identifying new cemetery land in the Hutt Valley is not an immediate priority. However, they supported keeping the issue active for future review, particularly in the 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan, with decisions to be made by the next council.

Members praised the financial breakdown in the report, acknowledging staff efforts to find cost-saving solutions.

Brett Latimer confirmed that ground preparation at Akatārawa Cemetery will continue, but the site won't be used for burials for at least ten years. It will stay closed until the current cemetery is full and key infrastructure is established.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Councillor Stallinger

CARRIED: HVSC 250505

"That the Committee receives the report entitled Akatārawa Cemetery Update."

8. Hutt Valley Services Committee Forward Work Programme 2025

Members called for a review of the committee's structure ahead of next July's national water reforms, suggesting the December meeting kick off talks on deeper collaboration between Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils.

The committee agreed to add the future of joint collaboration and committee structure to the December agenda.

RESOLVED: Councillor Griffiths / Councillor Dyer

CARRIED: HVSC 250505

"That the committee receives and notes the Hutt Valley Services Committee forward work programme 2025."

The meeting closed at 10.24 am.

Cr B Griffiths

Chair