

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 26 September 2025 commencing at 10:00 am

To watch the livestream of this meeting, please click on the link here: [26 September 2025 Wellington Water Committee](#)

PRESENT:

Mayor A Baker (PCC)
Mayor C Barry (HCC) (Chair)
Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter (SWDC) (from 10.03am)
Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Deputy Chair)
K Puketapu-Dentice (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika)
Mayor T Whanau (WCC)
R Faulkner (Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira)
Deputy Mayor H Swales (UHCC)

APOLOGIES:

Mayor W Guppy and H Modlik

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Walker, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council
J Smith, Chief Executive, South Wairarapa District Council
N Corry, Chief Executive, Greater Wellington Regional Council
M Prosser, Chief Executive, Wellington City Council
G Swainson, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City 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.

*May peace be wide spread
May the sea be like greenstone
A pathway for us all this day
Let us show respect for each other
For one another
Bind us together!*

2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25401(2)

"That the apology from Mayor W Guppy 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 conflicts of interest declarations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25402(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Water Committee | Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on Monday, 28 July 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25403(2)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Water Committee | Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on Wednesday, 27 August 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter joined the meeting at 10.03am.

6. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair gave a verbal update, attached as pages 7 and 8 to the minutes.

7. COMPANY AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report No. WWC2025/4/107 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 Jeremy McKibbin, Group Manager Treatment and Control Systems from Wellington Water Limited (WWL) were in attendance for the item.

The Board Chair, WWL recognised the Chair's leadership and thanked the members for their contributions. He highlighted the improvements made over the past year and expressed confidence in a smooth transition to the new entity, despite needing more time and resources than initially anticipated. He provided a report covering the following points:

- The signing of Iwi partnership agreements.
- WWL was delivering greater value for money by managing responsibilities in-house and improving contractor oversight.
- A Culture and Value for Money Improvement Plan had been submitted to the Commerce Commission.
- Competitive tension had been achieved in the new procurement process.
- All key performance indicators had been confirmed.
- Additional funding from several councils had improved leak response and repair times.
- Regulatory compliance remained a challenge, with Veolia being held accountable.
- Health and safety continued to be a priority, supported by the new Sustainability and Resilience role, which aided growth.

The Chief Executive, WWL reported that WWL had become more accountable and transparent. He advised that the Information Technology Request for Proposal attracted twice the expected number of proposals, and a preferred contractor was expected to be chosen by December 2025. He acknowledged that transitioning to Metro Water was more complex and time consuming than anticipated, which had necessitated the employment of fixed term contractors to enable in-house staff to focus on routine operations. He also noted that the Alliance was performing well, with Fulton Hogan enhancing performance and supporting the implementation of new processes.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive, WWL acknowledged the harsh economic climate. He explained that while larger projects undergo an open tender process, more minor works are offered exclusively to panel members to support local companies. He stated that WWL had also changed its approach to project underspend, with reforecasting occurring after the first quarter, allowing early communication with councils about potential fund reallocations. Additionally, the water meter programme had been reset with a new Programme Manager, and a report was expected in December 2025 on the preferred meter type and business case.

In response to a question from a member about a recent abatement notice, the Group Manager of Treatment and Control Systems, WWL stated that independent external advice was sought regarding the Northland plant. He noted that, although there were no odour complaints, the plant was not meeting technical compliance standards, and an investigation was currently underway.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive, WWL stated that WWL was evaluating the 20-year investment needs for the Bulk Drinking Water Programme, which included new storage lakes and water meters. He highlighted that the current pipe renewal rate of 10 kilometres per year was insufficient compared to the required 80 kilometres, leading to increased leakage in the aging network. Additionally, he noted that new storage lakes would be needed within the next 10 years.

In response to questions from members, the Group Manager of Treatment and Control Systems, WWL explained that the chemical burn incident occurred due to a prolonged temporary solution resulting from project delays. He assured that this was not indicative of WWL's standard practices. He addressed the issue of untreated wastewater being discharged into Te Awa Kairangi at Silverstream, which resulted from tree branches blocking a storage tank inlet after being disposed of through a manhole. He clarified that this was not sabotage, but rather ignorance of consequences, noting similar issues with clothing and large items. He highlighted WWL's public education efforts, advising the public to flush only the "Three Ps" and avoid oil disposal, while noting that securing every manhole cover was not feasible.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive, WWL stated that he did not have information on Greater Wellington Regional Council's projects that were currently under budget. However, he promised to provide this information to officers next week and to update the committee about significant underspends. He also acknowledged the suggestions regarding how the work of the Sustainability and Resilience team influenced the decisions on WWL projects.

The Board Chair, WWL announced that the WWL Annual Report for 2024-25 would be signed next week. He noted that with the transition to Metro Water on 1 July 2026, the report was prepared on a disestablishment basis.

In response to a question from a member, the Acting Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, WWL confirmed that the Culture and Value for Money Improvement Plan (the Plan) included information that had already been reported to the committee. She stated that the final version of the Plan would be reported to the committee and published on both the Commerce Commission and WWL websites.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25404(2)

"That the Committee receives and notes the report."

8. METROPOLITAN ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE RISK - 2025/26 UPDATE

Report No. WWC2025/4/108 by Wellington Water Limited

Pat Dougherty, Chief Executive, and Nick Leggett, Board Chair, from Wellington Water Limited (WWL), were in attendance for the item.

The Chief Executive, WWL elaborated on the report, explaining that recent investments had reduced the risk of a water shortage this summer. However, he mentioned that long term weather forecasts were still being evaluated. He emphasised the importance of reminding the public that water was a precious resource. Additionally, he pointed out that many leaks could go undetected, making it crucial to reduce water usage to facilitate the renewal of pipes.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive, WWL clarified that funding for pipe renewal and leak programmes came from individual councils, limiting WWL's involvement to that funding.

The Chair noted that councils recognised the urgency of these programmes in 2023 and largely increased their funding, although medium and long term solutions required further analysis.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

Minute No. WWC 25405(2)

"That the Committee notes the report."

9. INFORMATION ITEM

Wellington Water Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 10 September 2025 by the Senior Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

Minute No. WWC 25406(2)

"That the Committee:

- (1) recommends to the incoming Committee that the Wellington Water Committee meeting cycle return to one meeting every three months; and*
- (2) 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."*

10. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

Mayor Baker thanked the Chair for his leadership of the committee over the past three years. In response, the Chair stated that it had been a privilege to serve as chair and thanked members and officers for their work.

11. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

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

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.02 am.

Mayor C Barry
CHAIR

W Walker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL

Wellington Water Chairs Statement – Friday 26 September

Kia ora koutou,

As we come to the end of the triennium, I wanted to take a moment to reflect.

Over the last few years, we've faced some harsh realities about the state of our water network: the continuation of burst pipes, lost water, storms that have tested our infrastructure, and a summer not long ago when we were at serious risk of water shortages. But through that challenge, I believe we've built a renewed focus, better systems, and above all, a shared commitment to do better.

One of the clearest signs of that progress has been the turnaround on leaks. Just eighteen months ago, we had more than 1,700 unresolved public leaks across the region. That number today is under 400, and now well within our agreed turnaround times to fix. In terms of water loss, we've saved over 11 million litres a day – well above the target set. That's not a small change. That's water back in the system, available for use.

Te Mārua treatment upgrade is now fully online, giving us more capacity at peak times. And we're seeing the impact of that already. This time last year, we were staring down a one-in-three chance of hitting Level 4 restrictions. This summer, under normal conditions, that risk is less than one percent. That is a remarkable shift, and it shows what happens when we invest, and stay focused. While this is good, we know the medium and long term solutions must stay at the forefront – renewals, meters and storage.

Reflect on the challenges with value for money reporting, but we've worked with Wellington Water on that are in a much stronger position than we were 12 months ago.

We've backed major upgrades and seen important capital works completed – for example: Te Mārua and Kaitoke to Barber Grove and Omārorō. We've invested in innovative approaches too, like the trenchless 'guided augur bore' method on Taranaki Street that reduced disruption and landfill, and the new Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge, now delivering resilience to our bulk water network.

We've fronted up to difficult truths about underinvestment and performance gaps. And we've built better partnerships with mana whenua, especially

through accords like the one in Porirua, which centres water services as part of restoring the health and life-force of Te Awarua o Porirua.

Alongside that physical work, there's been a shift in mindset, particularly around how we talk about water use. Conservation messaging is no longer just a summer campaign. It's now a year-round focus, because the challenge isn't seasonal. It's structural. And behaviour change takes time.

We all know however that these improvements are not the finish line. Delivery, navigating change,, long-term funding, affordability and public trust remain front and centre.

The new entity structure that councils have backed will help by aligning investment, planning and delivery across the region. But it won't be a silver bullet. The job of building a modern, resilient water network doesn't end with structural reform.

Personally, I want to thank all of you. Committee members, officers, Wellington Water staff, and our iwi partners, for your commitment, challenge and collaboration. I know these meetings haven't always been easy. But they've mattered. And we've moved the ball forward by having a culture of high trust and high challenge in equal measure.

As I step away from this role, my message is simple: stay focused. Stay honest about the scale of the challenge. And stay committed to the people we serve.

I wish you all the very best.