

TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI | HUTT CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of The Hutt City Council held in the
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Tuesday 7 October 2025 commencing at 2.34pm

To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click on the link here: [7 October 2025 Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee / Additional Council](#)

PRESENT:

Mayor C Barry (Chair)	Deputy Mayor T Lewis
Cr G Barratt	Cr J Briggs
Cr K Brown	Cr B Dyer
Cr S Edwards	Cr A Mitchell
Cr K Morgan	Cr C Parkin
Cr N Shaw (from 2.39pm via audio-visual link)	Cr T Stallinger
Cr G Tupou	

APOLOGIES:

Cr Shaw 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 (via audio-visual link)
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer
B Cato, Chief Legal Officer
K Butler-Hare, Tumuaki Māori
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>a sharpened air.</i>
Tihei mauri ora.	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a</i>
	<i>glorious day.</i>

2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry / Cr Briggs)

Minute No. C 25401(3)

"That the apology from Cr Shaw for lateness be accepted."

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM THE POLICY, FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2025

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. C 25402(3)

"That Council adopts the recommendations outlined in the following reports, as well as any amendments agreed upon during the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on 7 October 2025:

- a) Hutt City Council Group Annual Report 2024-2025;*
- b) Proposed budget changes for 2025/26; and*
- c) New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Annual General Meeting 2025."*

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Morgan)

Minute No. C 25403(3)

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council held on Monday, 29 September 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Mayor Barry asked if there were any comments on the correctness of the public excluded Council minutes from 29 September 2025. As there were none, he proposed that Council proceed with the item for procedural efficiency, noting that the minutes remained confidential.

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs)

Minute No. C 25404(3)

"That the public excluded minutes of the meeting of the Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council held on Monday, 29 September 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Cr Shaw joined the meeting at 2.39pm via audio-visual link.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITHOUT RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Komiti Iti Ahumoni I Tūraru | Audit and Risk Subcommittee

23 September 2025

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Edwards)

Minute No. C 25405(3)

"That the minutes of the Komiti Iti Ahumoni I Tūraru | Audit and Risk Subcommittee meeting held on 23 September 2025 be adopted."

8. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

The Tumuaki Māori reflected on the triennium, recognising Council's genuine commitment to partnership with mana whenua. He emphasised that the partnership was centred around people, connection and a shared vision for the future of Te Awa Kairangi. He highlighted the adoption of Rautaki Māori | Māori Strategy and Council's support for establishing a Māori ward. He spoke about the significance of making "mokopuna decisions".

9. VALEDICTORIES

Mayor Barry acknowledged all councillors for their contributions during this term, including those returning for the next triennium and those whose service concluded tonight. He then invited the voluntarily retiring councillors to deliver their valedictory speech.

Cr Briggs thanked his whānau, friends, the Chief Executive, officers, fellow elected members, and the community. He highlighted several key achievements, including strengthening the partnership with mana whenua, obtaining Living Wage accreditation, developing the Homelessness Strategy, creating the Les Dalton Dog Park, upgrading the Wainuiomata Town Centre, redeveloping the Te Ngaengae Pool and fitness suite, supporting the community during COVID-19, hosting the Young Elected Members hui in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai, and making progress on major works related to pipes and underground infrastructure. He also acknowledged Mayor Barry for his contributions.

Cr Tupou reflected on his time as a councillor, acknowledging past and present councillors, mayors, and officers. He thanked the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai community and acknowledged the efforts made to strengthen relationships with mana whenua and the various communities he served. He also recognised his whānau and their contributions to the community.

Mayor Barry provided the re-standing councillors with an opportunity to reflect on their experiences during the triennium.

Cr Dyer delivered a written speech attached as 6 to the minutes.

Cr Morgan delivered a written speech, attached as page 7 to the minutes.

Cr Parkin acknowledged the Chief Executive for her empathy and leadership; to Cr Briggs for his mentorship in climate change and sustainability; and thanked the officers, fellow elected members, and Mayor Barry.

Cr Edwards thanked Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs and Cr Tupou.

Cr Stallinger delivered a written speech, attached as page 8 to the minutes.

Cr Barratt delivered a written speech, attached as page 9 to the minutes.

Mayor Barry provided the returning councillors, who ran unopposed, with a chance to reflect on their experiences during the triennium.

Deputy Mayor Lewis delivered a written speech attached as page 10 to the minutes.

Cr Brown thanked Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs and Cr Tupou for their work and support. She recognised the Mayor and Chief Executive for their contributions in developing the Rautaki Māori | Māori Strategy.

Cr Shaw thanked Mayor Barry for his leadership and hard work, while also recognising Cr Briggs and Cr Tupou.

Cr Mitchell acknowledged Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs and Cr Tupou, recognising their achievements and the work undertaken in Naenae.

Council's Waiata group performed *Ko Te Awa Kairangi*.

Mayor Barry delivered a written speech attached as pages 11-15 to the minutes.

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor and Councillors for their service to the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai community. She emphasised that Council had been driven by purpose and focused on making the right decisions. Under Mayor Barry's leadership, governance and operations collaborated effectively with transparency, high challenge, and high support. She acknowledged Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs, and Cr Tupou, highlighting the positive political-managerial relationship she had developed with Mayor Barry.

Council's Waiata group performed *Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi*.

10. 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 mā mā	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
ara 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 mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.00pm.

C Barry
MAYOR

J Miller
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cr Brady Dyer

Kia ora koutou,

It's been a real privilege to serve on this Council over the past six years alongside a group of people who care deeply about our city.

Local government isn't always easy but it matters. Every decision we make shapes the place we all call home.

Wherever my seat is around this table for the next three years I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge Mayor Campbell Barry for his leadership over the past two terms.

Campbell, your commitment to this city has been unwavering. You've led through some incredibly challenging times, and you've done it with integrity, empathy, and a genuine love for the Hutt.

When I first reached out to you nearly a decade ago, wondering whether I should get involved in local politics, you gave me time, honest advice, and encouragement. That conversation meant a lot then, and it still does today. I've appreciated your friendship, your drive, and the example you've set for what leadership in local government can look like.

Wherever your next chapter takes you, I've got no doubt you'll continue to make a difference and I'm sure this won't be the last we see of your service to our city.

Ngā mihi nui, and thank you to everyone around this table for your mahi, the debates, the laughs, and the shared goal of making Lower Hutt better for the people who call it home.

Cr Karen Morgan

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to have been appointed as a City Wide Councillor, governing Hutt City.

First and foremost, thank you to the residents of our city who placed their trust in me over the past three years. Serving as your councillor has been an honour. Throughout my journey in the Hutt, I've met countless inspirational individuals - people who care deeply for our community and work tirelessly to uplift others. Every day, I'm reminded of the goodness that exists here and the many wonderful things our city offers.

To the hundreds of volunteers I've had the privilege to meet - our local heroes - thank you. You are the glue, the quiet force behind so much of what makes our city thrive. Often unseen, always impactful. Your dedication changes lives, makes a difference and your efforts are noticed. Your ongoing work is priceless.

To the council staff: while I haven't met you all, I deeply appreciate the work you all do. For those I have met, interacted with and seen in action - you are fantastic. Thank you for your professionalism, commitment and dedication. What a superb team.

To the democratic services team: your warmth and positivity is infectious. You've supported us quietly behind the scenes, with grace and precision, ensuring our meetings run smoothly and efficiently. It's been a pleasure working alongside you - thank you for everything.

To the council CLT, officers and Jo (CE): your leadership has been invaluable. You challenge the status quo, advocate for what's right, negotiate for what is best for our city, and put in countless hours to ensure quality information and advice. Thank you for helping us turn our vision into reality.

To Campbell as Mayor, and to my fellow councillors: thank you for your support, commitment and governance. It's been a pleasure to serve alongside you. As a governance group you've led with integrity, respect and made excellent decisions.

One of my proudest achievements has been championing the inclusion of a full-time FTE to engage with rangatahi. Seeing youth participation and engagement rise from 2% to 13% in just one year is proof of what's possible when we listen and invest in our young people. Thank you for backing this kaupapa - it's a win for Hutt City, may we have many more.

I have had a fabulous three years. It's been a privilege to serve our city - thank you all. I've learned so much, and feel ready for the next challenge. I can't wait for the next chapter which will be decided this Saturday, and let me tell you I am ready to create history by becoming the first woman Mayor of Hutt City.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Cr Tony Stallinger

Well, with three years as an elected councillor and campaigning for re-election winding down, it's been good to reflect on the last three years.

I'll start with some thanks.

First to Mayor Barry and fellow councillors. In 2022 I came on board after an assertive campaign that challenged aspects of Council affairs. Nevertheless, I was welcomed with respect, afforded fair opportunities to contribute and voice occasionally contrary views. While not changing the tide on some important matters, I've been given a fair hearing. I appreciate that, and your friendship along the way.

Secondly, to our staff. We have been well supported by our teams. Things such as new member induction, meeting procedures and report quality have been enhanced, and make a real difference to our ability as governors. I especially give a shout out to our front line customer facing teams who serve our community every day in what can sometimes be challenging circumstances.

There are many achievements worth celebrating. These have been well documented in our annual report and daily on the Mayor's Facebook page, so I won't run through a list. However, the RiverLink project is worth mentioning as the triennium highlight. It will bring huge transport benefits, enhance city centre opportunities, and most importantly reduce the risk of devastating flooding.

On the disappointing side, we've seen an unsustainable deterioration in our financial position and performance. That wasn't helped by a series of bad news from Wellington Water Ltd that combined to undermine the value we provide to ratepayers.

However, more recent progress in that space has been pleasing, especially the regional co-operation towards establishing a new water entity and the response actions being taken by Wellington Water Ltd. This will open a pathway for a Council reset post-election; a chance to ensure our rates and charges are affordable into the future.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve our community together with you all over the last three years. My best wishes to our retiring mayor and councillors and to those seeking re-election this weekend.

Cr Glenda Barratt

Firstly Mr Mayor I want to thank Crs Briggs and Tupou for their amazing speeches they have given as retiring Councillors. I stand in awe of what I have just heard and anyone would be hard pressed to speak with the quality they both have.

It is almost surreal to be standing at the waiting gates after a very fast three years, for which the decision for the re-standing candidates will be decided on Saturday. It is a place I have been many a time before and pragmatism tells me it will be what it will be.

What ever the vote should hold for me, I can honestly say I have always tried to hold true to the beliefs instilled in me by my parents, that whichever way I have indicated support or otherwise around this table, must be first and foremost with the thoughts and wishes of the residents and ratepayers who entrusted me into this position – those who asked for my help. This is seconded with the decisions I personally can live with as I make that vote.

Cr Briggs also did a sterling job of thanking the Officers which again, would be difficult to replicate.

Together we have had difficult conversations and decisions to make, one of these being the impact of huge rates rises that sadly are affecting our people daily. I personally thank my colleague Cr Tony Stallinger for standing with me from the start of this triennium as we voiced our concerns on behalf of the ratepayers.

Council can be congratulated on the increased consultation with the disabled and elderly sector of the community – I think we can be somewhat proud of that progress. Alongside the strong relationship we now hold with Mana Whenua.

Suffice to say we are a city on the rise. To be able to witness the Riverlink project that stands to revitalise the central city providing vital jobs and increased transport links for all is testament to that.

We also have Te Ngaengae pool with the addition of the new park to celebrate.

Saturday may very well see some new faces around this table so it will be a task to those who remain to keep a united and committed Council for the benefit of all.

Thank you all for the mahi you have done and continue to do. A life of service is never easy, but it can be rewarding with every small victory. I wish you all the very best.

Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis

Thank you, Josh and Gabriel, for all that you've contributed to this council and to our community.

Josh, I want to acknowledge and thank you for your governance expertise and the steady, thoughtful approach you've brought to every discussion. Your understanding of process, policy and good decision making has helped strengthen our council's work. Your input has been invaluable and your constructive leadership will be missed. I wish you all the very best with whatever you are planning next, and I know you'll continue to make a difference wherever you go.

Gabriel, it's been a real privilege to share years of work alongside you — including our time together on the Whaitua Committee at Greater Wellington Regional Council, where we worked on plans to restore mana to our freshwater bodies. That experience showed me your deep sense of purpose and connection to people and place. You've also been the ultimate diplomat — always composed, gracious, and confident when representing council. I want to personally thank you for stepping up to cover the role when myself or the Mayor were unavailable. I wish you all the best with these elections and whatever opportunities lie ahead.

Thank you both for your contribution to this city.

Campbell, thank you for seeing what this city needed — and for having the courage and heart to make it happen.

You've always led with people at the centre. The strong relationship you built with our Chief Executive and the connections you've made right across our communities have been a real hallmark of your leadership.

This term hasn't been an easy one. You've faced criticism, pressure, and personal attacks that no one should have to endure in public life. But through it all, you rose above — staying focused on serving our city with integrity.

That strength, and your commitment to doing what's right for the people of Te Awa Kairangi, has left the city and our infrastructure in a much better place for future generations.

One of the biggest positives I've seen under your leadership is the culture change within this room — the sense of teamwork, purpose, and respect that now defines how we work together.

It's been a privilege to serve as your Deputy Mayor and an honour to be on this council with you.

Thank you for your vision, your courage, and your heart. We wish you every success and happiness in the next chapter of your life.

Ngā mihi nui, Campbell — and thank you.

Mayor Campbell Barry

Kia ora mai tātou, everyone.

Thank you for all the very kind words directed to myself, to the staff, to each other. In the spirit of collaboration, it was our desire to make sure everyone around this table had an opportunity to say something, because it has always felt weird when we have had members around the table in their final meeting and then maybe not have got the result they were hoping for on Saturday, and not be able to say anything. So, thank you for your indulgence on that.

Can I first off acknowledge mana whenua – Te Āti Awa, Taranaki Whānui, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. One of my greatest pleasures has been working in partnership with our iwi partners to build on the foundations that have been laid by generations before me and generations before all of us. Between Hutt City Council and our iwi mana whenua, I have learnt so much, and they are learnings that I will take throughout the rest of my life. I just want to say thank you to everyone who has been part of that.

It is a strange feeling to be standing here this afternoon knowing that this is the last time that I will speak formally as the Mayor of Lower Hutt. Fifteen years ago, in 2010, a 19-year-old kid from Wainuiomata put up his hand to stand for the local community board. I had a hand-me-down suit, not quite as nice as this one, a printed flyer that looked like it came off Microsoft Paint. I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. That was the honesty around it - I really didn't know when I look back.

But my motivation to get involved back then is no different to now. It was through a desire to give back to my local community and to do what I can to make a difference for people, whether that be the small things, as Councillor Briggs said, or the big things that make a real difference. Back then, I never imagined that one day I'd be standing here in this chamber, wrapping up two terms as a councillor and two terms as a mayor and a total of 15 years here at the Hutt City Council. And I still look younger than all of you.

It's been a wild ride and an incredible privilege that I've never taken for granted. When I was first elected to Council in 2013, I was still the youngest around the table by a couple of decades at that point in time. And there were times where I felt like I was the kid sitting at the adults' table at Christmas. Everyone was being polite, but they were wondering, is he going to leave the table or what's he doing? What's he actually doing here? But over time I learned how things worked, and more importantly, how to get things working for our city and for our people. I've seen the highs and lows of local government — the frustrations, the breakthroughs, the heated debates over rubbish bins, SNAs, and even learning the difference between charred chicken and roast chicken. Some of you know what I'm talking about. And the moments where you realise actually, we're making a real difference for our people and for our city.

As Councillor Mitchell said, we can be incredibly proud of what we've been able to achieve in Naenae with Whakatupu Ngaengae, with the community, and all of the work that's happened from this council. On the 9th of April 2019, I still remember walking into this council chamber, alongside many of you. We were given a report that told us that Naenae Pool was stuffed, that you needed to close it as of 5am tomorrow morning. The impact that had on this room, and of course the impact it had on the Naenae community, was huge — not just on those who used the pool for their daily routine or connection, but on all those local businesses in Naenae as well. I remember some of our staff going

down there and being at the front doors and having people in tears just because of what this meant for the local community and not knowing what the future looked like for that facility.

Fast forward to the 4th of December 2024 — that's a pretty short period for such a significant project, right? — and we were able to open what is a world-class facility in the heart of Naenae. And not only that, working with our local community, we were able to transform an old post office building into Te Mako, which was going to become a bottle store. There was a risk of that building becoming a bottle store — it's now right at the heart of Hillary Court. And of course, just a few weeks ago, we were able to achieve a great outcome with Walter Mildenhall Park. We can all be, as this council, incredibly proud of the role we have played. And it demonstrates what's achievable and what's doable when you get in behind and you listen carefully, and you work with your local community as well.

I think about RiverLink, as was mentioned as well — a \$1.5 billion city deal. Do you guys like the framing on that? You know, we've got our own city deal here in Lower Hutt; we're not waiting for any region or anything. What that is going to do for our city is huge. That is a project that has been 30 years in the making. A lot of effort has gone into it. We are the council who have been able to get the final funding agreements in place. It will be the next council who will go through the journey of implementation and making the most of the opportunities. I wish them all the very best for that, and all of you who will be here.

The Living Wage — we were, of course, the third council in New Zealand to become a Living Wage employer, and that's something I'm incredibly proud of, and I know everyone around this table is as well. We have unanimous support from the current councillors and me for the Living Wage. That wasn't always the case six, seven, eight years ago. To know the difference that made for staff, for our contractors, and for so many people in our community who work with us, whether directly or indirectly, has always been very special and something that I will remember.

Not only do I reflect on the importance of the Living Wage and what that meant for the people who received it, I also reflect on how that was the start of our journey in better procurement — when it came to social outcomes, getting local people in on our major projects, looking after our environment, and supporting local businesses with how we deliver projects. I believe that has been a significant shift and something we can all be incredibly proud of, particularly thanks to council officers who have led that.

When it comes to our environment and waste, I always think about how, when I was a councillor, we were told that we just had to keep putting more things in the Silverstream Landfill because it brought in about \$2 million a year in profit, so we didn't have to put the rates up. That was some of the attitude leading our environmental decisions back then. Now, of course, we rolled out in 2021 our embedded rubbish and recycling bins. Thank you, Madam Chief Executive, for giving me the best advice of not doing that in an election year, because it was obviously quite a challenge rolling out over 120,000 bins to over 40,000 households. But now, when we look at the uplift in recycling that has occurred — making sure, from an equity lens, that every household in this city has access to a waste bin — and for most people it is cheaper than it would have been under the old system, we can be incredibly proud of what we did. As others have said, it wasn't an easy or popular decision at the time, but it was the right decision, and it's paying dividends now.

Our work on decarbonisation is something I'm incredibly proud of — and of course the 114,000 trees and plants that have been planted across the city. I think Councillor Mitchell planted about 10,000 of those. He's a bit of a guerrilla planter, actually — a number of them were where he wasn't meant to plant in the hills. But I did clarify with the area commander that they weren't *those* types of plants, so it's OK — you won't have them knocking on your door.

I think about the partnerships we, as a council, have been able to create — with iwi mana whenua, with central government, with regional government. You look at RiverLink, the \$100 million Infrastructure Acceleration Fund investment in our pipes, Tupua Horo Nuku, Naenae Pool, the rollout of EV chargers, and more. I think about Urban Plus and partnering again with iwi, putting a Te Ao Māori lens across how we do things. Māori Strategy, as Councillor Brown mentioned, and things like our Waiwhetu parking improvements with the rūnanga out there — it's something I hold very dear.

I also look at simple but important things, like the Silverstream pipe bridge from the Regional Council. If it wasn't for our involvement in that project in the early stages, there would not be pedestrian and cycling access on that bulk water bridge. That will connect up 30 kilometres of Hutt River Trail — one of the most incredible trails we've got in New Zealand. That's the final piece of the puzzle, and it shows what can happen when you keep those partnerships alive.

Of course, this wouldn't be a speech from me without talking about water. I am proud of what we've been able to do in fronting up to water investment in our city and region. I'm really proud of the Water Summit we held in 2023, where we spoke about the need to change — because if we didn't, we were literally going to run out of water in parts of our region. We've come a long way on things like water meters. To get from a 40% chance of level four restrictions down to a 1% chance in two summers shows that when we, collectively as councils, put our shoulders to the wheel and say, "this isn't good enough; we need to do something," we can make a real difference.

But we know that's only one piece of the puzzle, and I wish you all the best with the setup of the new regional entity. It's great to see the Department of Internal Affairs approve our Water Services Plan. That's fantastic news. And I believe, as Councillor Stallinger mentioned, that the next council will be well set up with a structure that can ultimately push for success in our region when it comes to water delivery.

I just want to talk briefly about these two pieces of paper. For my two terms as Mayor, I've had a mayoral priorities document. It's basically a document I put together from the election and campaign commitments I made, and from conversations I had early in the triennium. Some of you have seen it; some of you probably haven't — but it's the bible in the mayor's office around what we prioritise and where we focus our time and energy. I'm really proud that under each of the different areas and actions, everything is basically green — because we were able to stay focused and achieve what we set out to do. One of them is orange, and I'm not going to tell you what that is because that's a nice present — in the good sense — for the next Mayor to own. We didn't quite get there on that one.

I just want to acknowledge a number of you and everyone in this room. To Tui, my Deputy Mayor, it's been an absolute privilege working alongside you for the past six years. You've been everything a mayor could ask for. You've always had my back, you've always represented this council incredibly well, and you've been a passionate advocate for your local community — even though that's probably annoyed me a little bit sometimes. But you've never turned your back on your roots, and that's something we all appreciate around this table. I wish you all the very best.

To all of the councillors, particularly Councillor Briggs and Councillor Tupou — thank you for your camaraderie, your support, and the way you've gone about your business. It was mentioned before that the culture of this council and governance table is one that I think leads the country. In my Local Government New Zealand role, I do get around the country a bit. We are up there in the top tier when it comes to the culture we've created.

When people have asked me in the last six months what I'm most proud of at Hutt City Council, you could point to the pool or a number of projects. But actually, the thing I'm most proud of is the culture we've built — because through that culture come relationships; through relationships come partnerships; through partnerships come opportunities; and through opportunities comes investment back into the city. Without a strong culture, we wouldn't have achieved half of what we have over the last six years.

To Jo Miller, our Chief Executive — it's been an absolute privilege working alongside you. I wouldn't have been able to achieve, and this council wouldn't have achieved, its priorities without your leadership and without you building an organisation that reflects the communities we serve. You said when you first came in as Chief Executive that the best organisations in the world are the ones that reflect the people they serve — and I think you've done exactly that.

It's a testament to both of us that Local Government New Zealand have asked us, in the mayoral school post-election, to talk about what it means to have a high-functioning relationship between the Mayor and Chief Executive as an example of best practice. Our colleagues around the country and at LGNZ wouldn't have asked us to do that if they didn't think highly of what we've achieved.

Also, to the CLT team, to everyone, to Democratic Services — Kathryn, Kate, you're amazing. The number of times I've come in here and thought, "Which meeting is this again?" and Kate just makes it look easy — she's always got things under control. So, thank you so much.

To my family, to Laura — they've been an amazing part of this journey. I'm looking forward to supporting Laura more in the amazing work she's doing.

And finally, the big thank you, of course, is to our residents — to the people who put us in these positions to serve. We wouldn't be here without their trust, confidence, and support. Lower Hutt is one of the most multicultural communities in the country, and I've been blown away over the last six months by the kind words and support shown for this council.

Some advice — in any role, give yourself a nice long runway before actually leaving, and people will tell you all the good things you didn't hear for the other five and a half years.

I just want to say thank you to everyone listening online for your engagement, whether that's been through Catch Up with Campbell sessions, mayoral clinics, or the over 600 business visits I've been able to do. This is for you, and this is, ultimately as Kaanihi said, about making mokopuna decisions for our future.

I've always believed that in any leadership role, you should strive to leave things better than when you found them. I genuinely believe we've been able to do that. We've built things that will last and dealt with issues others have kicked for touch. We've laid foundations that can continue to be built on.

I've often said over the past six months: it's better to leave when people want you to stay, than stay when people want you to leave. As I finish up my time at Hutt City Council, I reflect on that — and on the words of the great philosopher Troye Sivan, who said, "My youth, my youth is yours." Hutt City Council — I've given you most of my youth: all of my 20s, half of my 30s. That's probably enough. But I do not regret a single moment of it. I thank you for the support you've given me, and it feels like a good time to move on.

In all seriousness, I'm proud of what we've achieved, confident in what comes next, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our city. I'm excited by the prospect of supporting the next Mayor — whoever they are — because if they succeed, we all succeed.

To sign off, I'll leave you with one final line from the musical *Hamilton*: "What is legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."

Being Mayor isn't the end goal; it's the opportunity to make a long-lasting difference. It's about planting seeds — projects, partnerships, and possibilities — that will grow long after we're gone.

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.