

**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  
**Wednesday 13 May 2026 commencing at 10.23am**

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To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click the link here:  
[13 May 2026 Strategy, Long Term Plan and Annual Plan Subcommittee followed by  
Additional Council](#)

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Fauono K Laban (Chair)	Deputy Mayor K Brown
Cr G Barratt	Cr TA Puketapu
Cr B Dyer	Cr P Ravi
Cr S Edwards	Cr N Shaw (from 10.24am)
Cr T Lewis	Cr T Stallinger
Cr A Mitchell	Cr M Tonga-Grant (via audio-visual link)
Cr C Parkin	Cr K Yung

**APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Miller, Chief Executive  
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities  
J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement  
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development  
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer  
B Cato, Chief Legal Officer  
S Gardner, Water Services Transition Manager  
H Bell, Advisor Water Services  
D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance  
A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager  
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA KAUNIHERA**

Tuia te mana akiaki	<i>Sow the seeds of courage</i>
Rarangahia te mana rangatira	<i>Weave the power of unity</i>
Kia tipu, kia puāwai	<i>To grow and prosper</i>
E ripo ngā wai	<i>There are ripples in</i>
O Te Awa Kairangi	<i>Te Awa Kairangi</i>
He Kaitiaki ki te whenua	<i>There are Kaitiaki on the land</i>
He oranga taiao	<i>Protected environment</i>
He oranga tangata	<i>Thriving people</i>
Haumi e, hui e Taiki e!	<i>Connected, united, affirmed!</i>

2. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**MINOR ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA: MAYORAL STATEMENT**

Mayor Fauono Laban spoke to his statement, attached as pages 8-9 to the minutes

Cr Shaw joined the meeting at 10.24am

4. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

## 5. TIAKI WAI LIMITED - TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Report No. HCC2026/2/35 by the Water Services Transition Manager

The Water Services Transition Manager elaborated on the report.

The Chief Executive advised that Lower Hutt was the first of the shareholder councils to consider the Transfer Agreement, with all shareholder councils expected to consider the matter by the end of May 2026.

Cr Parkin raised a procedural query as to whether the public excluded reports needed to be considered prior to the Transfer Agreements. The Chief Executive advised that this was not necessary.

Cr Parkin expressed support for the recommendations, noting that they represented the best outcome in light of the direction provided by central government. He acknowledged Tiaki Wai's work in relation to three waters delivery and urged central government to give consideration to affordability and equity matters.

Cr Edwards agreed with the comments made by Cr Parkin, noting that Council could not meet the demands of three waters delivery on its own. He also highlighted the benefits of depoliticisation, reducing infrastructure backlogs, and achieving procurement efficiencies.

Cr Dyer expressed support for the comments made by previous speakers and acknowledged the officers' work. He noted that increased water costs had already been anticipated through the Long Term Plan.

Cr Stallinger expressed support for the comments made by previous speakers and noted his view that Tiaki Wai represented a positive and efficient solution, particularly regarding network assets and any potential future amalgamations. He also expressed ongoing concern regarding the long-term affordability of three waters delivery.

Cr Ravi acknowledged the completed work, highlighted community concerns about affordability, and called for reassurance that the process undertaken had been thorough and robust.

Deputy Mayor Brown acknowledged the collaborative work undertaken throughout the process. She noted that a streamlined regional approach to water services was important in light of upcoming reforms and the potential for local government amalgamation.

Mayor Fauono Laban noted the significance of the decision and acknowledged its impact on the community. He commended Cr Edwards for his leadership and hard work throughout the process.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Stallinger/Cr Edwards)

**Minute No. C 26201**

*“That Council:*

- (1) *receives the report;*

*Transfer Agreement and related service level/support arrangements*

- (2) *pursuant to section 12(3) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 approves entry by the Council into the Transfer Agreement (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) with Tiaki Wai, noting that the terms and conditions of the Transfer Agreement have been developed with input from across all Shareholding Councils, the Tiaki Wai Establishment Team and legal advisors to all parties, and that the Tiaki Wai Board will be meeting to approve the Transfer Agreement on 11 June 2026;*
- (3) *approves the transfer of debt from the Council to Tiaki Wai, as provided for (and subject, where applicable, to the post-completion adjustments contemplated) by the Transfer Agreement;*
- (4) *approves the transfer of statutory responsibilities, land and interests in land, assets, contracts, approvals and all other matters from the Council to Tiaki Wai, subject to finalising the relevant Transfer Schedules that will be appended to the Transfer Agreement, resolution of any associated processes under the Transfer Agreement, and completion of all necessary processes and statutory requirements, and for that purpose:*
- (a) *delegates to the Mayor and Chief Executive of Hutt City Council the power to finalise the Transfer Schedules and sign all documents required to give effect to such transfers;*
- (5) *notes that not all land on which water services assets or infrastructure are located will transfer to Tiaki Wai, and as a consequence:*
- (a) *delegates to the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council the power to enter into any leases, licences to occupy and easements over Council land considered necessary to ensure appropriate rights to Tiaki Wai and the Council, where land does not transfer; and*
- (b) *until such time as formal access arrangements have been secured by way of other appropriate instruments, approves the grant of a standing licence in favour of Tiaki Wai in the form attached to the Transfer Agreement as Appendix 3 attached to the report Schedule 1;*
- (6) *delegates to the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council the power to enter into any leases, licences to occupy and easements over Council land considered necessary to ensure appropriate rights for Tiaki Wai and Council, where land does not transfer; and until such time as formal access arrangements have been secured by way of other appropriate instruments, approves the grant of a standing licence in favour of Tiaki Wai in the form attached to the Transfer Agreement as Appendix 3 attached to the report, Schedule 1;*
- (7) *approves the entering into of a Master Services Agreement with Tiaki Wai, which addresses various shared and transitional services that will be provided between Council and Tiaki Wai to ensure continuity of waters service delivery and other ancillary matters from 1 July 2026, and delegates to the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council the power to negotiate and agree the terms of the various shared and transitional services and execute those agreements on Council’s behalf;*
- (8) *approves Council entering into all associated agreements, deeds, notices, side letters and other documents contemplated by, or required in connection with the Transfer Agreement, with the final execution of those documents delegated to the Chief Executive of Hutt City*

Council (“Associated Agreements”);

*Bylaws*

- (9) *delegates to Tiaki Wai the power to administer and enforce the Trade Waste Bylaw 2016 and the Hutt City Council Water Supply Bylaw 2022 as per the attached Instrument of Delegation (Appendix 5 attached to the report); and*
- (10) *approves the making of an invitation to Tiaki Wai to undertake, for all Shareholding Councils, an initial review of all existing water services bylaws that apply across the Service Area, and to then report back to the Partners Committee by no later than 30 April 2027 with recommendations on whether new or amended bylaws should be made by the four territorial authority Shareholding Councils;*

*Final execution*

(11) *delegates to the Chief Executive and Mayor of Hutt City Council to:*

- (a) *agree any non-material amendments to the Transfer Agreement on behalf of the Council;*
- (b) *execute (and, in the case of any document executed as a deed, deliver on behalf of the Council) the Transfer Agreement, the Associated Agreements and any other documents, instruments, notices, and communications required in connection with them, with such documents to be executed by:*
  - A. *(in the case of agreements) the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council; and*
  - B. *(in the case of deeds) Chief Executive of Hutt City Council, in reliance on the Power of Attorney provided in relation to the execution of Deeds for Hutt City Council;*
- (c) *publish the final executed version of the Transfer Agreement on the Council’s website (with any appropriate or required redactions) by no later than 7 July 2026;*
- (d) *approve the final forms of the Associated Agreements, and all documents, instruments, notices, and communications, relating to or required in connection with, the Transfer Agreement and the Associated Agreements; and*
- (e) *do such other things in connection with the Transfer Agreement, as they may consider necessary; and*

*Reporting*

(12) *directs Council officers to report back when all processes and requirements have been completed.”*

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM THE STRATEGY, LONG TERM AND ANNUAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2026**

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Mitchell/Cr Dyer)

**Minute No. C 26202**

*"That Council adopts the recommendations made on the following reports, and any amendments agreed at the Strategy, Long Term and Annual Plan Subcommittee meeting held on 13 May 2026:*

- a) Progressing decisions on the final Annual Plan 2026-27 (including engagement analysis); and*
- b) Revenue and Financing Policy Update."*

7. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**MAJOR ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**RESOLVED:** (Deputy Mayor Brown/Cr Lewis)

**Minute No. C 26203**

*"That in terms of Standing Order 10.12 Council:*

- (1) notes that a report on the 'Tiaki Wai Transfer – Other Shareholder matters' was not listed on the public agenda for the reason that the information was not available until after the agenda had been distributed; and*
- (2) agrees to discuss the matter at this meeting due to the urgency of the matter."*

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Laban/Deputy Mayor Brown)

**Minute No. C 26204**

*"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- 9. *Tiaki Wai Limited - Shareholder Support*

*MAJOR ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA: Tiaki Wai Limited– Other Shareholder Matters*

*The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>General subject of the matter to be considered.</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of</i>

	<i>each matter.</i>	<i>this resolution.</i>
<i>Tiaki Wai Limited - Shareholder Support.</i>	<i>The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s7(2)(b)(ii)).</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exist.</i>
<i>Major item not on the agenda: Tiaki Wai Limited – Other Shareholder Matters</i>		

*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified in Column (B) above."*

There being no further business, the Chair declared the public part of the meeting closed at 10.56 am. The public excluded part of the meeting closed at 11.15am.

K Laban  
**MAYOR FAUONO**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record**  
**Dated this 26th day of May 2026**

## Mayoral Statement — Annual Plan Engagement

### Mayor Ken Laban (Chair)

Thank you, colleagues.

Before we move into deliberations, I want to acknowledge two significant losses to our wider community.

We honour the passing of **Vickie Amor-Ponter**, wife of Darren Ponter and a committed advocate for community voice, and **Councillor Adrienne Staples**, who served with compassion, integrity, and deep commitment to public service. Adrienne understood that leadership is about service, humility, and standing alongside people, especially in difficult times.

Our thoughts are with their families, friends, and all who worked with them. Their legacy reminds us why we do this work.

Colleagues, we are meeting at a time of real and significant change.

Across our city and across the region, people are navigating uncertainty. Water reform, the prospect of amalgamation, and ongoing cost of living pressures are weighing heavily on households. Many people are finding life incredibly hard, and they told us that plainly.

In that context, I want to acknowledge and congratulate councillors for the way you have led engagement on this Annual Plan.

This council has significantly led engagement across the wider region. You did not wait for people to come to you. You went out to where people are. That kind of leadership matters, and it builds trust.

Across more than 30 engagement opportunities, councillors spoke directly with over 300 people in workplaces, marae, health providers, community organisations, neighbourhood halls, and online. There was engagement with mana whenua, kaumatua and seniors in retirement villages and seniors day, and Grey Power. , Māori and Pasifika communities such as Kokiri and Pacific Health, young people, families, people with disabilities, businesses, developers, school staff, and frontline workers, many of whom are not regular submitters.

A highlight was being told by a developer to spend up big since we are amalgamating and being challenged to press ups!

That puts us in a strong position across the region. Not just for this Annual Plan, but especially in the context of amalgamation discussions that are ahead of us. We can say

with confidence that we have listened, that we understand the concerns, and that we know what matters to our communities.

And the messages were clear.

Affordability dominates. Confusion about water and total household costs is real. People were very clear that they do not want council spending on new or discretionary initiatives while financial pressure remains and core services are under strain.

They also told us what must be protected. Libraries, pools, community hubs, and social services are not luxuries. They are essential to community wellbeing.

There was also a strong call for transparency. People want clear communication, visible savings, and confidence that council is being disciplined and not spending on new shiny things! .

As Chair, I ask us to carry these voices into our deliberations.

The people we heard from may not always be in this chamber, but they were clear, thoughtful, and generous with their time. They have given us a strong mandate to proceed carefully, responsibly, and with our communities firmly at the centre of our decisions.

That is our responsibility, and I thank councillors for the leadership you have shown in earning that trust.