

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 12:30 PM**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Rebecca Gray, Cr Kaye McAulay, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Pip Maynard and Cr Aaron Woodcock.

APOLOGIES: Mayor Martin Connelly.

IN ATTENDANCE: Violet Edwards (Māori Standing Committee, Member), Storm Robertson (Martinborough Community Board, Chairperson)

Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Paul Gardner (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Peter Trafford (Principal Engineer – 3 Waters), Alex Pigou (Team Lead Communications), Robyn Wells (Programme Manager – Water Transition), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Rob Thomas (Manager, Stakeholder Relationships) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Johannes Ferreira (Carterton District Council).

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS: This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 12:31pm to 1:15pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGY

RESOLUTION DC2024/58

Moved: Cr P Maynard

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Council resolved to accept apologies from Mayor Connelly.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

7.1 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Deputy Mayor Sadler Futter noted significant decisions would be made today.

Ms Wells gave a summary of the journey to today's decision and the options for future arrangements to deliver water services, including discussions with a number of parties, multi criteria analysis and engagement with DIA. Next phase, IT infrastructure and internal team to formulate a development plan. First of a number of decisions in the next year to give the community a view on options for water services delivery plan.

Ms Wells responded to queries including: consultation options - what would status quo look like for consultation (current delivery model – non-asset owning CCO); consulting on two very distinct models; if go with Wai + T – what happens if we want to change in future? (independent board, regulators – opportunities for the board to make strategic decisions); lose control with the model? (letter of expectations, representation, accountability and measurements will be agreed – financial decisions won't be made by the Council); financial modelling; borrowing headroom – lack of info (this is due to EAP);

Members acknowledged the work done by Ms Wells and the team to date, noting the quality of the report and the analysis conducted.

Members noted the concerns of the community regarding the value and size of water bills, like idea that there is an option to set own destiny, team understood Wairarapa needs better than the Wellington, the reasons for exiting the regional option and prioritising the needs of the district (way of life being different from the metros);

Cr Olds thanked Councillors for nominating him to represent SWDC on the Local Water Done Well Advisory Group, as well as the project team for their work on presenting a Wairarapa option that considers the needs of rural and provincial communities.

RESOLUTION DC2024/59

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Local Waters Done Well Report.
2. Note the legislative changes enacted under the Government's plan, Local Water Done Well through the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, to address long standing water infrastructure challenges which includes:
 - a. the requirement for Councils to produce a Water Services Delivery Plan and accompanying implementation plan by 3 September 2025.
 - b. ensuring water services are financially sustainable; and
 - c. greater central government oversight through economic and quality regulation.
3. Note that the Government intends to introduce further water services legislation in December 2024 to be enacted in mid-2025 that will establish the economic and regulatory oversight regime for water services.
4. Note that Council is required by the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 to consider and consult on at least two options for the future delivery model for water services, being the status quo and an alternative.
5. Note that Council has been participating in the development of two joint arrangement projects as an alternative to the status quo being a ten council Wellington Region Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) option and a four council Wairarapa and Tararua WSDP option.
6. Receive the Wellington Regional Model Report dated 4 October 2024, on a recommended regional approach to a joint Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) and delivery model across the Wellington region attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
7. Receive the Wai + T Joint Arrangement Report attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

[Items 1-7 read together]

CARRIED

RESOLUTION DC2024/60

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr C Olds

Council resolved to exit the joint Wellington Region Water Services Delivery Plan project.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION DC2024/61

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Cr C Olds

Council resolved to continue the development of the Wairarapa and Tararua Water Services Delivery Plan option for consultation alongside the status quo model.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION DC2024/62

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Council resolved to note the Chief Executive will draft an agreement with participating Councils for the development of a joint Wai + T WSDP and bring this to Council for consideration once agreed.

CARRIED

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 1:16pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)