



**South Wairarapa District Council  
Enhanced Annual Plan Deliberations 2024-25  
Minutes from 22 May 2024**

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- Present:** Mayor Martin Connelly (Chair) Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Councillor Aidan Ellims, Colin Olds, Alistair Plimmer, Rebecca Gray (from 9:05am), Martin Bosley, Aaron Woodcock (from 9:02am), Pip Maynard and Kaye McAulay.
- In Attendance:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Nicki Ansell (Acting Manager, Stakeholder Relationships), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Paul Gardner (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Russell OLeary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Robyn Wells (Principal Advisor - Waters), Joelle Thomson (Communications Advisor) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor Democracy & Committees).  
Via Zoom: Andrew McEwan (Lead Regulatory Officer), Sara Edney (Building Control Manager), Mia Wilton (Manager, Environmental Services).
- Conduct of Business:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 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 9.00am to 2:14pm.
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- 1. Karakia Timatanga - Opening**  
Cr Maynard opened the meeting.

Cr Woodcock arrived to the meeting at 9:02am.

- 2. Apologies**

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/31) to accept apologies from Cr Gray for late arrival.  
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Olds)*

Carried

- 3. Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

#### 4. Decision Reports from the Chief Executive and Staff

Ms Smith provided an overview of each of the deliberations reports to be discussed by Council and confirmed that Council would have clear indication of the final rates percentage increase by end of the meeting.

Cr Gray arrived to the meeting at 9:05am.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/32)* to suspend Standing Orders for the duration of the meeting.

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/ Seconded Cr Woodcock)*

Carried

##### 4.1 Enhanced Annual Plan submissions 2024-2025 Deliberations Report

Ms Ansell and Ms Smith spoke to the report and responded to questions from members including: funding for Destination Wairarapa and discussions relating to the Long Term Plan 2025-2034; the level of response from ratepayers in comparison to previous years; the level of support for the Federated Farmers' submission; understanding and knowledge amongst community members regarding the linkage between plans, such as the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP), e.g. water storage and land use decision making (rules and regulations); how to encourage more submissions and capturing views in future consultations, e.g. drop in sessions; and understanding between capex and opex.

Ms Smith noted that a media piece regarding the WCDP changes in regard to water tanks/storage would be completed at the appropriate time.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/33)* to:

1. Receive the Enhanced Annual Plan submissions 2024-2025 Deliberations Report.
2. Provide council officers with direction on the options to prepare the final draft of the Annual Plan.
3. Note that a Council meeting is scheduled for 26 June 2024 to adopt the Enhanced Annual Plan for the 2024-25 financial year.

[Items 1-3 read together]

*(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Gray)*

Carried

##### 4.2 Hearings Outcome Deliberations Report

Ms Smith spoke to matters included in the report and the key themes of the Enhanced Annual Plan hearings held on 15 May 2024, and responded to queries from members including: support for Marae from the Community Development team and the Funding advisor in applying for grants; the possibility of rates remission policy for water use by Marae; how other districts manage water for

emergencies and civil defence; and helping all Marae to be self-sufficient for water (Kohunui and Papawai) wastewater and potable water.

Members discussed support for removing the proposed economic development rate. Ms Smith and Ms Clarke responded to queries from members including: refocusing the proposed rate and the potential figures that it would have generated; the source of current funding for Destination Wairarapa; the consistency and clarity of communications relating to rating units / SUIPs and the increase of rates; the definition of SUIPs and potential remissions for people not using separate units on their properties (use of statutory declarations); and the current funding and Memorandum of Understanding for the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS).

Cr Maynard left the meeting at 10:08am.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/34) to:*

1. Receive the Hearings Outcome Deliberations Report.
2. Provide direction to Council officers.

*(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Plimmer)*

Carried

#### **4.2 Fees and Charges Deliberations Report**

Cr Maynard returned to the meeting at 10:09am.

Ms Smith spoke to matters included in the report.

Members discussed alignment of fees and charges with MDC and CDC, adjustable financial contributions (WCDP), increases to private plan change application changes, other reasons for increases in fees and charges (inflation).

Action 234: Members requested further information regarding temporary emergency housing for animals in domestic violence situations and waiving fees and charges to support this action.

Ms Clarke spoke to matters relating to the key changes to fees and charges. Members queried the increase of costs in rubbish bags (alignment with other local councils and cost recovery).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31am.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:48am (Cr Bosley, Cr Ellims and Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter were not present).

Cr Woodcock left at 10:48am.

Cr Woodcock returned at 10:48am.

Members continued discussion regarding increases to refuse and recycling fees and charges.

Cr Ellims, Cr Bosley and Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter arrived to the meeting at 10:49am.

Members discussed the use of rubbish bags versus wheelie bins, the contract for refuse (costs comparisons, evaluation/modifications), running the transfer stations with internal staff versus contracting the work out.

Ms Clarke spoke to increases in charges for housing for seniors. Members queried subsidisation by rate payers versus the role of central government. Ms Smith noted that this item is on the workplan for the LTP next year and Councillor McAulay is currently working on the housing strategy.

Mr O'Leary responded to queries regarding the impounding fees and late fees, cost recovery for the dog pound. Ms Clarke responded to queries regarding fees charged by CDC and MDC. Members questioned spot fines for unleashed dogs and a deferment of decision of impounding fees.

Mr O'Leary regarding members also queried the following in relation to planning and resource management fees and charges: increase to Private Plan Change Applications and the use of the asterix (\*) on pages 17-19 which *denotes minimum fee deposit, all other fees are fixed.*

Mr Corbett responded to queries from members regarding the increase in relation to roading fees and charges for no spraying and Rapid numbers.

Ms Ansell and Ms Smith responded to queries regarding the current LGOIMA fees and charges and whether it was possible to raise this.

Mr O'Leary and Ms Edney responded to queries regarding Building Consents and PIMS – specifically in relation to costs for inspection/ Larger Farm Sheds.

Ms Smith noted the dog control impounding fees can be set at anytime, registration must be set today to allow for the notification times to the public as per legislation.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/35) to*

1. Receive the Fees and Charges Deliberations Report.  
(Moved Cr McAulay/Seconded Cr Ellims) Carried
2. Adopt the Fees and Charges 2024-2025 in Appendix one.  
(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)

Amendment:

Defer the decision on dog impounding fees until further advice is received from the Chief Executive.

(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Woodcock) Not carried

For: Mayor Connelly, Cr Woodcock and Cr Ellims.

Against: Cr Olds, Cr Maynard, Cr Gray, Cr Bosley, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Plimmer and Cr McAulay.

3. Adopt the Fees and Charges 2024-2025 in Appendix one.  
(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Sadler-Futter) Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56am.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:42pm (Councillor McAulay was not present).

### **4.3 Financial Deliberations Report**

Ms Smith and Ms Clarke spoke to matters in the report and provided further information via the rate increase spreadsheet.

Members queried in relation to increasing capital and reaching the debt ceiling.

Members queried 5 Town Trails Trust funding MOU timeframes.

Further information requested re: Riparian planting.

Cr McAulay returned to the meeting at 12:47pm.

Noted – water meters are read in January, invoicing in February. Have ability to send \$0 invoicing, reading information or educate on reading own water meters.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/36) to :*

1. Receive the Financial Deliberations Report.  
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried
2. Remove the Economic Development Rate from the rating model for 2024-25 and return the value to the General Rate.  
(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried

3. Approve the following additions to the Enhanced Annual Plan budget for 2024-25:

- a. Re-instate the Youth & Community grant fund at \$120,000.  
*(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray)* Carried
  
- b. Confirm \$60,000 as approved by the Council in November 2023, for Greytown Sports and Leisure. This is for 2024-25 only.  
*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Bosley)* Carried
  
- c. Provide \$20,000 for the 5 Towns Trails Trust to fund operational costs providing that the other 3 Council's (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council) all confirm their commitment to fund their share of the overall budget of \$120,000. This is for 2024-25 to 2026-27.  
*(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Bosley)*

Amendment:

Provide \$20,000 per year for the 5 Towns Trails Trust to fund operational costs providing that the other 3 Council's (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council) all confirm their commitment to fund their share of the overall budget of \$120,000. This is for 2024-25.  
*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Olds)* Carried

The amendment became a part of the substantive motion:

- c. Provide \$20,000 per year for the 5 Towns Trails Trust to fund operational costs providing that the other 3 Council's (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council) all confirm their commitment to fund their share of the overall budget of \$120,000. This is for 2024-25.  
*(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Bosley)* Carried  
For: Cr Olds, Cr Maynard, Cr Gray, Cr Bosley, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Plimmer, Cr Ellims and Cr McAulay.  
Against: Mayor Connelly and Cr Woodcock.
  
- d. Provide \$29,400 as part contribution to the Water Resilience Programme providing that the other 3 Council's (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District

Council) all confirm their commitment to fund their share of the overall budget \$149,500. This is for 2024-25 only.

*(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)* Carried

4. Adopt the following options from the Enhanced Annual Plan consultation:

a. *Decision One: How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services?*

Option 1: Maintain the current level of funding with an increase for unavoidable extra costs.

*(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Olds)* Carried

For: Mayor Connelly, Cr Olds, Cr Maynard, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Woodcock, Cr Ellims and Cr McAulay.

Against: Cr Gray, Cr Bosley and Cr Plimmer.

i) Agree the Greytown Riparian Planting Plan costing \$70,000 be added to Option 1.

*(Moved Cr McAulay/Seconded Cr Ellims)* Carried

For: Cr Olds, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Woodcock, Cr Ellims, Cr McAulay, Cr Gray, Cr Bosley and Cr Plimmer.

Against: Mayor Connelly and Cr Maynard.

ii) Agree the Martinborough Capacity Study costing \$75,000 to be added to Option 1.

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Ellims)* Carried

iii) Agree the Stormwater and Flood Modelling costing \$60,000 to be added to Option 1.

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Gray)* Carried

Against: Cr Woodcock

Amendment:

Agree that an additional \$1M is added to the 2024-25 water capital programme specifically for waterpipe replacement.

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Ellims)* Not Carried

For: Cr Plimmer, Cr Bosely, Cr Ellims and Cr Gray

Against: Mayor Connelly, Cr Olds, Cr Maynard, Cr Woodcock, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter and Cr McAulay.

b. *Decision Two: How should we charge for water?*

Option 2: Reduce the allocated quota to 250m<sup>3</sup> of water provided to all users (household or commercial) and increase the excess water charges to \$2.50 per m<sup>3</sup> for water used above this.

*(Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)* Carried

- c. *Decision Three: How should we pay for the replacement of our assets?*  
Option 1: Manage debt through cashflow analysis and only borrow what is needed as it is needed. Continue to fund an appropriate level of depreciation to fund future renewals.  
*(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter) Carried*

Following the above resolutions, the total rates increase was noted to be 14.7%. Ms Smith also noted that some ratepayers may have higher rates than this depending on recent valuations by Quotable Value (due to shift from land to capital value).

Noted that a Council meeting is scheduled for 26 June 2024 to adopt the Enhanced Annual Plan for the 2024-25 financial year.

**6 Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing**  
Cr Maynard closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:14pm

**Appendix 1: Adjusted Rates Increase AP 2024-25**

**Confirmed as a true and correct record**

.....(Mayor)

.....(Chief Executive)

.....(Date)

.....(Date)



## Rate Increase Annual Plan 2024/25

<b>Total rates 2023/24 (excl GST)</b>	<b>25,446,357</b>	
<b>Opening Rate Increase in Consultation Budget</b>	<b>29,339,665</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Increased insurance costs identified by LAPP	68,000	0.3%
<b>Interest costs</b>	<b>(59,505)</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Reforecasted interest costs from Capex 23/24	(115,055)	-0.5%
Increase from approved \$1.01m Wellington Water budget increase	55,550	0.2%
<b>Depreciation costs</b>	<b>(151,105)</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Reforecasted depreciation costs from Capex 23/24	(179,962)	-0.7%
Increase from approved \$1.01m Wellington Water budget increase	28,857	0.1%
<b>Governance</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Additional poll for Māori ward	20,000	0.1%
<b>Grants &amp; donations</b>	<b>229,400</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Youth and Community grants	120,000	0.5%
Greytown Sport & Leisure (approved by GCB)	60,000	0.2%
Five Town Trail Trust	20,000	0.1%
Water Resilience Role	29,400	0.1%
<b>Income (extra income) or reduced income</b>	<b>264,014</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Community Facilities & Services	1,233	0.0%
Finance & Corporate Support	-	0.0%
Governance	-	0.0%
Land Transport	-	0.0%
Planning & Regulatory Services	262,781	1.0%
Stormwater	-	0.0%
Wastewater	-	0.0%
Water Supply	-	0.0%
<b>Additional operating costs or (efficiency savings) identified:</b>	<b>(540,856)</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
Community Facilities & Services	(332,847)	-1.3%
Finance & Corporate Support	14,808	0.1%
Governance	(170,898)	-0.7%
Land Transport	73,835	0.3%
Planning & Regulatory Services	(43,362)	-0.2%
Stormwater	(19,035)	-0.1%
Wastewater	(50,918)	-0.2%
Water Supply	(12,438)	0.0%
<b>Consultation points</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Water operating budgets	205,000	0.8%
Water usage threshold	(200,000)	-0.8%
Collecting loan principal from rates	-	0.0%
<b>Current Rate Increase</b>	<b>29,174,613</b>	<b>14.7%</b>

Change since consultation budget (165,052) -0.6% pts