



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kia Reretahi Tātau

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Thursday, 30 July 2026

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 30 July 2026

Time: 1:30 pm

**Location: Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street
Martinborough**

**Janice Smith
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Kia hora te marino
 Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
 Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei
 Aroha atu, aroha mai
 Tātou i ā tātou katoa
 Hui ē! Tāiki ē!

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

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6 URGENT BUSINESS

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2026

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2026

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Fran Wilde (Chair), Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Chris Archer, Cr Andrea Rutene, Cr Simone Baker, Cr Rachel Clarke (via Teams), Cr Rupert Watson (25 June 2026 only), Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor.

Cr Collier Isaacs (present only in public excluded on 29 June 2026).

APOLOGIES: Cr Collier Isaacs (25 June 2026).

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Clare Barton (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory) James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Alex Pigou (Communications and Engagement Manager), Melissa Stockley (Manager, Community Operations), Nicki Ansell (Lead Advisor, Performance and Strategy), Bruce Vincent (Contract Manager - 3 Waters) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

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 11:00am to 12:03pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION DC2026/30

Moved: Cr C Archer

Seconded: Cr A Rutene

Council resolved to accept an apology from Cr Isaacs.

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

Mayor Wilde acknowledged former Councillor Colin Olds for his service to Council (2013–2019, 2021–2026), including contributions to local projects and community organisations.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2026

RESOLUTION DC2026/31

Moved: Deputy Mayor Taylor

Seconded: Cr Rutene

Council resolved to accept that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to change in the wording of item 10.4 regarding Rapaki Road – to acknowledge how the current name originated, and explicitly note that the recommendation already had a prior name before the new naming was applied.

CARRIED

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

9.1 ADOPTION OF 2026/27 ANNUAL PLAN

Ms Clarke spoke to the report and the following key points were noted:

- Lower-than-forecast rates increase due to reduced interest and deferred project timing.
- Additional investment in infrastructure resilience.
- Minor editorial corrections identified (no impact on financials) which were noted by Ms Clarke.

Members thanked council officers for their work on the Annual Plan.

RESOLUTION DC2026/32**Moved: Mayor Wilde****Seconded: Cr Bosley**

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan report.
2. Note that the 2026/27 Annual Plan has been prepared based on the resolution DC2026/07.
3. Approve an increasing adjustment factor of 12% for Financial Contributions as allowed in the Combined District Plan and Council's Financial Contributions Policy.
4. Adopt the 2026/27 Schedule of Fees and Charges, to come into effect for 1 July 2026
5. Adopt the 2026/27 Annual Plan
6. Approve carry-over of unspent capital budget from the 2025-26 financial year to the 2026-27 financial year where it represents delays to the programme.
7. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve minor editorial changes, that do not change the intent of the content, as part of the publication process.
8. Note that the 2026/27 Annual Plan will be published within one month of its adoption in accordance with section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002.

[Items 1-8 read together]

CARRIED**9.2 SETTING OF RATES, DUE DATES, AND PENALTIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2027**

Ms Clarke spoke to the report. Rates were set in accordance with adopted Annual Plan and existing revenue and financing policies.

Members requested that it should be noted that the Greytown urban water rate is included in the stormwater rate.

RESOLUTION DC2026/33**Moved: Mayor Wilde****Seconded: Cr Archer**

Council resolved:

1. To receive the "Setting of rates, due dates, and penalties for the year ending 30 June 2027" report.
2. That, in accordance with Section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (the Act), Council sets the rates as described below for the rating year starting on 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027.

All rates and charges are shown inclusive of GST.

General Rates

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

In accordance with Section 15 of the Act a Uniform Annual General Charge will be set per Separately Used on Inhabitable Part (SUIP) on every rateable rating unit.

Basis of Assessment		Rate
Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)	Per SUIP	\$491.47

General Rate

In accordance with Section 13 of the Act a General Rate will be set per dollar of rateable capital value.

No differentials are to be applied to the General Rate, i.e., every rateable property in the district is rated the same amount per dollar of capital value.

Basis of Assessment		Rate
General Rate	Per \$ of Capital Value	\$0.00135912

Targeted Rates

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act the following targeted rates will be set.

Footpaths

A rate will be set per dollar of rateable capital value, on properties within the urban zones of the district, according to the district plan.

Basis of Assessment		Rate
Footpath Rate	Per \$ of Capital Value	\$0.00004196

Infrastructure resilience

A rate will be set per dollar of rateable capital value, on a uniform basis across the district.

Basis of Assessment		Rate
Infrastructure Resilience Rate	Per \$ of Capital Value	\$0.00008208

Refuse & recycling

A uniform targeted rate will be set per rating unit that is serviced by, or capable of being serviced by, the districts refuse & recycling scheme. Ratepayers who request additional wheelie bins will incur an additional charge per bin requested.

Basis of Assessment		Rate
Refuse & Recycling Rate	Per Rating Unit	\$542.06
Additional wheelie bin rate	Per additional bin	\$542.06

Roading***Uniform roading rate***

A uniform targeted rate will be set per Separately Used on Inhabitable Part (SUIP) on every rateable rating unit.

	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Roading Charge	Per SUIP	\$190.62

Roading rate

A rate will be set per dollar of rateable capital value, on a uniform basis across the district.

	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Roading Rate	Per \$ of Capital Value	\$0.00041453

Stormwater

A rate will be set per dollar of rateable capital value, on properties within the urban zones of the district, according to the district plan.

	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Stormwater Rate	Per \$ of Capital Value	\$0.00026091

Wastewater

A uniform targeted rate will be set on every rating unit that is connected to, or capable of being connected to, the district wastewater network.

In addition to the differential rate, where the total number of toilets or urinals connected either directly or indirectly in a rating unit exceeds two per SUIP an additional pan rate will be assessed in respect of the third and every subsequent water closet or urinal (pan) per SUIP.

Differential	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Wastewater – Serviced	Per connected SUIP	\$1,290.00
Wastewater - Serviceable	Per rating unit	\$645.00
Additional pan rate	Per toilet or urinal	\$1,290.00

Water Supply

A uniform targeted rate will be set on every rating unit that is connected to, or capable of being connected to, the district water supply network as follows:

Differential	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Water Supply - Serviced	Per connected SUIP	\$1,350.15
Water Supply - Serviceable	Per rating unit	\$675.08

Water Supply by Meter

An additional targeted rate is proposed where the volume of metered water exceeds 250 m3 per year for all metered connections. This charge will be \$2.63 per m3 for the 2026-27 year.

Water Races

A rate will be set per dollar of rateable land value of each rating unit in the district that is serviced, or capable of being serviced, by the district's rural water races, on a differential basis according to provision of service.

Differential	Basis of Assessment	Rate
Water Race - Longwood	Per \$ of Land Value	\$0.00170022
Water Race - Moroa	Per \$ of Land Value	\$0.00037276

Due dates for payment of rates (excluding metered water usage)

In accordance with Section 24 of the Act all rates, excluding those set for metered water per Section 19 of the Act, are charged by way of four equal instalments.

Each instalment is to be paid on or before the due dates below.

Under section 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, a 10 percent (10%) penalty will be added to any portion of the current instalment that remains unpaid after the due date as shown below.

Rate Instalment	Due Date	Penalty Date
First instalment	20 th August 2026	31 st August 2026
Second instalment	20 th November 2026	30 th November 2026
Third instalment	20 th February 2027	26 th February 2027
Fourth instalment	20 th May 2027	31 st May 2027

Arrears penalties

Under section 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, an additional 10 percent (10%) penalty will be added on to any rates remaining unpaid from previous financial years on the dates below.

	Arrears Penalty Date
First arrears penalty	2 nd July 2026
Second arrears penalty	5 th January 2027

Due dates for payment of rates for metered water usage

Water meters will be read annually in June. Rates set for metered water per Section 19 of the Act, are charged by way of an annual instalment. Each instalment is to be paid on or before the due dates below.

Under section 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, a 10 percent (10%) penalty will be added to any portion of the current instalment that remains unpaid after the due date as shown below.

Rate Instalment	Due Date	Penalty Date
Annual reading to June 2027	20 th August 2027	31 st August 2027

Properties with high metered water usage will have an additional reading completed in January 2026.

Rate Instalment	Due Date	Penalty Date
High use reading to December 2026	20 th February 2027	26 th February 2027
Annual reading to June 2027	20 th August 2027	31 st August 2027

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

9.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATION

Council received updates from Mayor Wilde and Ms Smith regarding the options for amalgamation, proposals being due to central government by 9 August.

Members queried the current workstreams - there was confirmation that Council is participating in both the Wairarapa and Wellington regional workstreams.

Members discussed the direction of the proposal – Mayor Wilde noted that the key considerations identified are affordability and local representation / voice.

A report will be presented to Council on 30 July to approve the proposal.

RESOLUTION DC2026/34

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Local Government Amalgamation paper.
2. Receive the benchmarking report prepared by Morrison Low, acknowledging that it does not provide a conclusive position regarding the viability of a Wairarapa Unitary option.
3. Agree that South Wairarapa District Council will continue to work with the other regional councils to submit either a sub-regional (Wairarapa) or regional (Wellington - including all of the current region) application to the Head Start programme.
4. Approve the CE to work with Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council and Martin Jenkins to establish a financial model for a Wairarapa Unitary Council.
5. Note that the outcome of the modelling will be assessed alongside the Regional Unitary model before making a decision regarding next steps.
6. Note engagement with the community will be undertaken towards the end of July, if possible, to receive community views on the options.
7. Request a report be brought to Council at the end of July to enable a decision to be taken with regards to the most suitable option for the Wairarapa.

[Items 1-7 read together]

CARRIED

9.4 FUNDING REQUEST FOR NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE

Members debated the options included in the report regarding a \$11,000 contribution to a National Music Centre. Discussion included cultural and regional benefits especially for the youth of the district versus financial constraints and other priorities.

RESOLUTION DC2026/35

Moved: Cr Watson

Seconded: Cr Rutene

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Funding Request for National Music Centre Report.
2. Approve funding of \$11,227.68 for the National Music Centre from within existing budgets and delegates authority to the Chief Executive to identify the necessary savings to accommodate this funding request.

[Items 1-2 read together]

In Favour: Mayor Wilde, Cr Archer, Cr Rutene, Cr Clarke and Cr Watson

Against: Cr Bosley, Cr Ellims, Cr Baker and Deputy Mayor Taylor.

CARRIED 5/4

9.5 LGOIMA - POLICY UPDATE

Ms Hughes spoke to the report, noting that the Policy was updated to introduce clearer charging and request management processes. There is an emphasis on transparency, managing high-volume or complex requests and encouraging refinement of requests.

Members queried the frequency of charging (rare) and handling of vexatious requests (case by case under LGOIMA section 17(h)).

RESOLUTION DC2026/36

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Rutene

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the LGOIMA – Policy Update report
2. Adopt the LGOIMA - Charging and Proactive Release Policy
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to:
 - a) Make minor editorial or administrative amendments to the policy; and

- b) Update the policy as required to reflect changes in legislation, Ombudsman guidance, or Council processes, provided such changes do not materially alter the policy intent.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

9.6 APPOINTMENTS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Mayor Wilde noted that the Deputy Chair position will be appointed following the completion of the by-election in October 2026.

RESOLUTION DC2026/37

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the *Appointments to the Infrastructure Committee* report.
2. Appoint Councillor Aidan Ellims as the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee.

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

9.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NZ REMITS 2026

Members briefly discussed the remits and their preferences for voting / prioritisation at the LGNZ Annual General Meeting.

RESOLUTION DC2026/38

Moved: Deputy Mayor Taylor

Seconded: Cr Bosley

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Local Government NZ Remit 2026 report.
2. Appoint Mayor Fran Wilde as the primary nominee to attend the LGNZ Annual General Meeting on 31 July 2026 to vote on remits.
3. Authorise the primary nominee to endorse the LGNZ remits with the following vote:

Proposed Remit		Vote – Yes, No or Abstain
1	Priorities for Dog Control Act reform	Yes
2	Improved regulation of vape retailers	Yes
3	Financial support for government reform implementation costs	Yes

4	Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform	Yes
5	Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities	No
6	Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy	No
7	Bulk funding of transport activities	No
8	Improving LTP audit requirements	Yes
9	A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding	Yes

4. Authorise the primary nominee to prioritise the remits as follows:

- i. Financial support for government reform implementation costs
- ii. Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform
- iii. Improving LTP audit requirements
- iv. A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding
- v. Priorities for Dog Control Act reform
- vi. Improved regulation of vape retailers
- vii. Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities
- viii. Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy
- ix. Bulk funding of transport activities.

[Items 1-4 read together]

CARRIED

10 MAYORAL REPORTS

10.1 MAYORAL REPORT - ACTING ARRANGEMENTS JULY 2026

Noted: After the meeting had closed, Mayor Wilde confirmed she would be returning on the morning of 27 July, not 29 July.

RESOLUTION DC2026/39

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved to appoint Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor as Acting Mayor from 10 July – 28 July 2026 (inclusive).

CARRIED

11 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION DC2026/40****Moved:** Cr Ellims**Seconded:** Cr Bosley

Council resolved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
11.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2026	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7	These minutes relate to the following reports heard at this meeting: Destination Wairarapa MOU Extension, Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Review of Remission Application.
11.2 - Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades - Delivery Costs	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7	This relates to commercially sensitive information prior to the signing of contractual documents.
11.3 - Open Spaces Contract	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings	The report contains information relating to costs and

	Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	negotiations which have not yet been completed.
CARRIED			

Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.

Meeting resumed in public excluded at 12:40pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm until Monday, 29 June 2026 at 7:30pm.

Meeting resumed in public excluded on Monday, 29 June 2026 at 7:34pm.

12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 7:37pm on Monday, 29 June 2026.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Mayor)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

9.1 ADOPTION OF WAITĪ WATERS STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

Author: Katherine Meerman, Programme Director, Local Water Done Well

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number:

PURPOSE

This paper seeks the Council's approval to the Waitī Waters 2026-2036 Statement of Expectations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Statement of Expectations is an important part of the legislative accountability framework for a new water organisation. A Statement of Expectations is prepared every three years and must have a 10-year focus.
- Under s224 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (the Act), the purpose of the Statement of Expectations is to set out the shareholders' expectations of the water organisation and guide decisions of the water organisation and the preparation of its Water Services Strategy. A water organisation's Water Services Strategy must 'give effect to' the Statement of Expectations, making the Statement of Expectations the primary way the shareholders exercise influence in the company.
- The responsibility for developing the Waitī Waters' Statement of Expectations sits with the Stakeholders' Forum. The Forum has developed the appended Statement in line with the requirements in the Shareholders' Agreement and the Act and now recommends its adoption by shareholding Councils. The only change to the Statement since Councils were briefed in late June is the inclusion of a paragraph upfront on the anticipated need to review the Statement in the event of Council amalgamation.
- Following receipt of the Statement of Expectations, Waitī Waters will develop its Water Services Strategy, which will be provided to the Stakeholders' Forum for review and comment later this year. Waitī Waters will carry out public engagement on the Strategy in early 2027 to ensure communities across the region understand the change from Council service delivery to Waitī Waters and how it will affect them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That *Council*

1. **Note** the attached Waitī Waters Statement of Expectations:
 - a. has been developed by the Stakeholders' Forum in line with requirements of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and the Waitī Waters Shareholders' Agreement and
 - b. is recommended by the Stakeholders' Forum for adoption by shareholding Councils

2. **Adopt** the attached Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations 2026-2036
3. **Note** that following adoption by shareholding Councils, the Programme Director will issue the Statement of Expectations to the Chair of the Waiti Waters Board, the Chief Executive (when appointed), and the Stakeholders' Forum, as required by s12.2 of the Shareholders' Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (the Act), shareholders of a water organisation are required to prepare a Statement of Expectations six months (or earlier) before the water organisation is required to have a Water Services Strategy in place – Waiti Waters is required to adopt its Waters Services Strategy by the beginning of the 2027/28 financial year.

The Statement of Expectations is an important part of the new legislative accountability framework for water organisations. A Statement of Expectations is prepared every three years and must have a 10-year focus. Under s224 of the Act, the purpose of the Statement of Expectations is:

- a. to set out the shareholders' expectations of the water organisation; and
- b. to inform and guide—
 - (i) the decisions and actions of the water organisation; and
 - (ii) the water organisation's preparation of its water services strategy, including its strategic priorities.

A water organisation's Water Services Strategy must 'give effect to' the Statement of Expectations, making the Statement of Expectations the primary way the shareholders exercise influence in the company. The company's required regulatory reporting, including to the Commerce Commission and Taumata Arowai, is then directly linked to its Water Services Strategy, hereby providing a clear line of sight between the Statement of Expectations and regulatory monitoring and enforcement.

The Act sets out several requirements for a Statement of Expectations, including that it must:

- Relate to a period of at least 10 consecutive financial years
- Be consistent with a water organisation's legislative and regulatory obligations
- Be consistent with a water organisation's governing documentation (in this case the Waiti Waters Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement)
- Include the mandated content set out in s227 and can include the optional content set out in s227, and
- Not include expectations that compromise the financial independence of the water organisation or direct its operational activities.

The process being taken to develop a Statement of Expectations must be made available to the public. Information on the process followed for Waiti Waters was set out on the Waiti Waters website and is available here [Key Documents | Waiti Waters](#)

DISCUSSION

Development process

As set out in the Waiti Waters Shareholders' Agreement, the responsibility for developing the Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations sits with the Stakeholders' Forum (s12.2 of the Shareholders'

Agreement sets out the process to be followed, Schedule 4 provides the Terms of Reference for the Stakeholders' Forum and Schedule 8 summarises the matters to be included). Once developed and approved by the Stakeholders' Forum, it is adopted by the shareholder Councils and issued to Waiti Waters.

Under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (s229), a copy of the draft Statement of Expectations must be provided to the water organisation with sufficient time for the organisation to provide feedback, and then the views of the water organisation must be considered in finalising the Statement.

This process has been followed by the Stakeholders' Forum who provided the Waiti Waters Board with a draft of the Statement on 22 May 2026 and met with the Board on 5 June 2026 to discuss the draft. The Board then considered the Statement at its meeting on 5 June 2026 and provided the attached letter (Appendix 2) in response on 16 June 2026.

The process followed by the Stakeholders' Forum in developing the Statement of Expectations is in line with these Shareholders' Agreement and legislative requirements.

Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations

The attached Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations 2026-2036 (Appendix 1) has been developed to closely reflect the key legislative objectives of water organisations –

- Providing reliable water services
- Meeting customer expectations
- Ensuring financial sustainability
- Operating transparently and responsibly, and
- Being accountable to people and place.

As the first Statement of Expectations, the document includes expectations that relate to the initial establishment period for Waiti Waters as well as expectations that will apply to the full ten-year period.

The document is structured in three key parts:

- **Strategic direction and outcomes for Waiti Waters** – these outcomes and priorities must be reflected in the Water Services Strategy, which will be developed by Waiti Waters following receipt of the Statement of Expectations
- **Relationship between Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters** – the way in which the Stakeholders' Forum wishes to work with Waiti Waters
- **Expectations for Waiti Waters** – the establishment and enduring expectations structured according to the legislative objectives set out above.

The key outcomes for Waiti Waters which now need to be reflected in the Water Services Strategy are:

- Effective establishment of a **“one-organisation” regional entity**, and seamless transition of the delivery of water services from the four Councils to this entity
- Effective operation, maintenance, renewal and development of the three water networks to ensure **statutory compliance**, and meet public health, environmental and economic **regulatory standards**

- Building a **customer-focused** organisation with a strong community **presence across the region**
- Building towards **best-practice infrastructure asset management** practices and the development of a regional capital programme that balances necessary infrastructure investment with affordability for customers
- While meeting financial sustainability requirements, a strong focus on **efficiency improvement**, and affordability **and value-for-money** for communities.

Water Services Strategy

Following receipt of the Statement of Expectations, Waitī Waters will now develop its Water Services Strategy, which will be provided to the Stakeholders' Forum in draft form later this year for review and comment.

Waitī Waters will carry out public engagement on the Strategy in early 2027 to ensure communities across the region understand the change from Council service delivery to Waitī Waters and how it will affect them and have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategy. Councils and Waitī Waters will consider how consultation processes for upcoming LTPs can be coordinated with consultation on the Water Services Strategy.

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

There is no financial impact resulting from the decisions in this paper.

Climate Change

There are no positive or negative effects on climate change from this decision.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	The water transition is a matter of high significance and has previously been consulted on in March/April 2025. The Council has also previously submitted its Water Services Delivery Plan to DIA in August 2025. The particular decision in this paper is consistent with the Council's previous decisions

	and the implementation plan set out in the Council's Water Services Delivery Plan so is considered to be of low significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with requirements for Statements of Expectations as set out in the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	The Statement of Expectations has been developed by the Stakeholders' Forum which includes representation from Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu. It includes specific expectations in relation to the intended partnership between Waiti Waters and iwi, as well as expectations in relation to Treaty Settlement legislation.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	There are no health and safety implications resulting from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 **Statement of Expectations**

Appendix 2 **Board response letter**

Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations 2026-2036

Background to Waiti Waters

South Wairarapa, Tararua, Masterton and Carterton District Councils, together with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu, are establishing a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation named Waiti Waters under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 to deliver water services to the region.

This three-waters company will manage approximately 25,000 connections and be responsible for drinking, waste and stormwater services. Responsibilities for water services will transfer from the Councils to Waiti Waters on or before 1 July 2027.

Waiti Waters is being established to serve the Wairarapa and Tararua regions. Throughout this document we reference 'the region' – this refers to the service area covered by Waiti Waters at establishment and refers to the combined area of Wairarapa and Tararua.

The Stakeholders' Forum notes that the local government structures within the region may change during the life of this Statement of Expectations, including through amalgamation, or other local government reorganisation. If such changes occur, the Stakeholders' Forum will review this Statement as soon as reasonably practicable to determine whether amendments are required to ensure it remains aligned with the governing documents.

A regional entity with an intergenerational focus

The decision by Councils and iwi to establish a regional water services company came after engagement with the community and careful consideration of the costs and benefits of other approaches. The Councils have similar sized communities, geography and climate and face similar infrastructure challenges and opportunities. Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu are mana whenua iwi across Wairarapa and Tararua, and both iwi also have general and specific rights and interests in fresh-water bodies across our region arising from their respective Treaty Settlements. These circumstances make a grouping of these four Councils and two iwi a logical and impactful choice when it came to considering the future of water services delivery.

Councils and iwi partners are seeking to establish a truly regional organisation (not simply an aggregation of four current districts) that operates with an intergenerational perspective. We want to see this regional focus prioritised and driving Waiti Waters from day one, and building over time, to ensure that Waiti Waters delivers for customers the full range of benefits anticipated by the Local Water Done Well reforms.

In particular, the Water Services Delivery Plans identified the following expected benefits from change:

- more affordable (relative to other options) and resilient water services for communities,
- increased access to finance to enable delivery of necessary investment programmes,
- operational efficiency and cost savings resulting from a single entity planning, contracting and delivering works across the region,
- regional employment opportunities from a larger, locally based infrastructure provider, and
- enabling a professional infrastructure entity solely focused on water services delivery.

Overview of this Statement of Expectations

This document sets out the Stakeholders' Forum's expectations of Waiti Waters as required by s224 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. Under the Waiti Waters Shareholders' Agreement, the statement is developed by the Stakeholders' Forum and issued to Waiti Waters by Shareholding Councils.

This Statement of Expectations relates to the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2036. As the first Statement of Expectations, it has a dual focus on success in two time periods. Note the foundation phase includes the 2026/27 year of transition and first two years of operation.

The Stakeholders' Forum anticipates reviewing this statement at the conclusion of the foundation phase to determine if any changes should be made following the experience from early years of operation. The Forum also notes the extent of current change in the wider local government sector, which may require change to the statement outside of this anticipated review period.

YEARS 1-3 FOUNDATION PHASE

This phase focuses on establishing the new organisation's core foundations - governance, systems, workforce, data, and delivery capability - while maintaining reliable service to communities.

YEARS 4-10 TRANSFORMATION PHASE

This phase focuses on shifting from establishment to long-term transformation - scaling capital delivery, improving network performance, strengthening resilience, and maturing into a stable, financially sustainable regional water provider.

The Stakeholders' Forum notes that Waiti Waters' first Water Services Strategy is required under Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 to give effect to this Statement of Expectations, and the Forum looks forward to receiving the draft Strategy for review and comment. In addition to the obligation on Waiti Waters to prepare the Strategy, this Statement asks Waiti Waters to respond to the Forum with its intended plan to deliver on this Statement.

The Stakeholders' Forum acknowledges that during the foundation phase, as Waiti Waters seeks to establish itself and transition into full operational business-as-usual, it may require assistance from Councils in relation to some of the expectations set out in this statement. Councils will provide all reasonable (non-financial) assistance as is identified to be required. Where any support extends beyond July 2027 in the form of an agreed service provision arrangement (e.g., transitional billing support), the costs of this support will be recovered by Councils from Waiti Waters.

Beyond the foundation phase, the Councils commit to partnering and providing support to Waiti Waters on an ongoing basis, consistent with each organisation's roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective water services delivery for the region.

Document structure

This Statement includes:

- **Strategic direction and outcomes for Waiti Waters** – which the Stakeholders' Forum expects to be reflected in the Water Services Strategy and guiding the organisation's decision making
- **Relationship between Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters** – the way in which the Stakeholders' Forum wishes to work with Waiti Waters

- **Expectations of the Stakeholders' Forum for Waiti Waters** – transition and enduring expectations structured according to the legislative objectives of Water Services Providers.

Strategic direction and outcomes

Waiti Waters' purpose is to deliver drinking water, wastewater and storm water services within the region. It is to do this in accordance with the objectives of water services providers in section 17 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.

Waiti Waters is to deliver high-quality water services in a manner that is efficient, safe and reliable, financially and environmentally sustainable and affordable for the region's current and future customers. It must plan for and manage infrastructure assets with a long-term focus, befitting an organisation that is a critical part of the community and region, and here to make an intergenerational difference.

The strategic priorities for the period of this Statement of Expectations that the Stakeholders' Forum expects to see reflected in the Water Services Strategy are:

- Effective establishment of a "one-organisation" regional entity, and seamless transition of the delivery of water services from the four Councils to this entity
- Effective operation, maintenance, renewal and development of the three water networks to ensure statutory compliance, and meet public health, environmental and economic regulatory standards
- Building a customer-focused organisation with a strong community presence across the region
- Building and maturing towards best-practice infrastructure asset management practices and the development of a regional capital programme that balances necessary infrastructure investment with affordability for customers
- While meeting financial sustainability requirements, a strong focus on efficiency improvement and affordability and value-for-money for communities.

Working relationship between the Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters

The Stakeholders' Forum is seeking to create a strong and constructive working partnership with Waiti Waters, with both parties focused on the successful transition from current Council water services arrangements and on the long-term delivery of high-quality water services for the region.

It is important to the Stakeholders' Forum that this relationship is based on:

- Openness, honesty, integrity and professionalism
- Respect for each other's role in the delivery and oversight of water services for the region
- Transparency, accountability, good faith and no surprises
- Early identification of disagreements or differences of view, and a commitment to rapid resolution, always seeking to maintain a long-term collaborative relationship.

The expectations that follow in this statement set out the anticipated meeting and reporting arrangements between the Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters and include a combination of informal and formal arrangements.

Expectations for Waiti Waters

The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 sets out the core purpose and five key objectives for water services providers. We have structured our expectations according to these five objectives –

1. reliable water services,

2. meeting customer expectations,
3. financial sustainability,
4. transparent and responsible,
5. accountable to and reflective of people and place

describing in each case what success looks like to us during the early foundation phase and over the full ten-year period. Unless otherwise identified under the foundation phase heading, all expectations relate to the full ten-year period covered by the Statement.

These expectations do not explicitly address Waiti Waters' legislative and regulatory obligations or the foundations for Waiti Waters set out in governing documentation; these obligations are taken as given and this statement focuses on areas of priority or emphasis expected by the Stakeholders' Forum.

Reliable water services – what does this mean to us?

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

Foundation phase

- Waiti Waters must “hit the ground running”, ensuring service continuity for customers across the transition period. Waiti Waters must deliver safe, compliant water services over the transition and early years of operation, with no degradation of performance.

Service delivery and continuity

- Waiti Waters' top priority must always be the delivery of safe, reliable water services, reflecting their value as an essential community service and public good.
- Waiti Waters must at least maintain levels of service and consistently seek to optimise service levels across our region over time. Waiti Waters will develop clear and consistent performance measures of service quality, by July 2027, that apply across the region (with reference to external reporting requirements e.g., Taumata Arowai, Commerce Commission, and others as required). These will be developed following an audit/baseline of current performance for 2025/26.
- Waiti Waters and Councils will be strong and active partners in areas of shared service delivery or responsibility, with those areas of shared responsibility to be reflected in the Transfer Agreements (e.g., stormwater management).

Resilience and risk management

- Waiti Waters will plan and deliver water services that are resilient to future challenges, including the impacts of climate change, natural hazards and other localised risks.
- Waiti Waters will be an essential infrastructure provider under the new Emergency Management Act and is expected to lead water community resilience before, during and after any emergency event. Waiti Waters must have clear operational plans in place to fulfil this role.
- Waiti Waters will build best practice asset management capability and maturity to ensure high-quality asset data supports well-planned and timely infrastructure investment over asset life.

Meet customer expectations – what does this mean to us?

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

Foundation phase

- Waiti Waters will operate as a fully customer facing organisation from Day 1, as long as it does not introduce unnecessary risk to achieving a successful establishment and transition. Any interim support that may be required from Councils if this expectation cannot be achieved should be:
 - For an agreed, finite period
 - Be appropriately scoped and documented in a service level agreement (or similar)
 - Have a clear and agreed plan to migrate off Council support
 - With costs recovered by Councils from Waiti Waters
- Waiti Waters will develop a customer communications strategy, to be agreed with Councils, to support the lead up and cutover of service delivery responsibility, with a particular focus on the change of billing responsibility, responsiveness to network faults, and new connections.

Customer focus

- Waiti Waters will operate as a customer-focused service organisation, with a focus on transparency, accountability and responsiveness to customer expectations through a strong and consistent presence across our region
- Waiti Waters must work towards the adoption of consistent service levels, standards and targets across the region to provide a common customer experience (refer service delivery expectations)
- Waiti Waters will maintain a focus on service efficiency and value-for-money for communities
- Waiti Waters will have appropriate policies, processes or mechanisms (which are proactively communicated) for customers to:
 - understand their services and charges
 - raise and manage disputes
 - manage financial hardship and payment
 - engage directly with Waiti Waters on critical priorities/issues
- Waiti Waters will develop a Customer Charter that is the basis for its relationships with its customers and is the customer-facing version of this Statement of Expectations. This Charter will be developed prior to July 2027 (or at the earliest opportunity following July 2027), with a draft to be discussed with the Stakeholders' Forum as part of the regular quarterly meetings.
- Waiti Waters will build and maintain its presence in the community and its social licence to operate through proactive customer communication and demonstration of early results.
- Waiti Waters will develop appropriate regular and proactive reporting on service performance (e.g., service level targets, project delivery etc) and customer satisfaction direct to its customers as part of delivering a high-quality service. This will include the publication of a plain-English annual report for customers.

Financial sustainability – what does this mean to us?

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

Pricing and affordability

- Waiti Waters' charges will follow the principles in the Shareholders' Agreement, and will reflect the cost to serve each Council district, at incorporation, for nine years (unless otherwise agreed by shareholders, following advice from Waiti Waters)

- While maintaining cost to serve pricing (as well as regulatory and other requirements), Waiti Waters should carefully consider current and future community affordability as it sets its capital programme and operating costs.

Efficiency

- Waiti Waters must deliver services as efficiently as practical for customers, and customers in all parts of our region should share in efficiency gains achieved
- Waiti Waters' charges should move to a standard pricing structure (tariff structure), while maintaining consistency with cost to serve, by a date to be agreed between Waiti Waters and the Stakeholders' Forum during the transition and ensure:
 - Large price changes/spikes are avoided in the transition period
 - Charging structures consider the ability of different groups of customers to pay for water services
 - Growth related costs are fully recovered
- Volumetric charging, along with supporting customer education in relation to demand management, must be introduced to promote efficient water use, with Waiti Waters to confirm a feasible date and approach for this transition. This introduction should be supported by adequate levels of maintenance work to reduce water loss through leaks.

Capital programme

- Waiti Waters must develop a capital programme that has a whole region perspective and:
 - At all times ensures regulatory and compliance requirements are met
 - Phases investment across our region in a way that balances affordability and infrastructure investment need
 - Seeks maximum efficiency gains in programme delivery
 - Takes a long-term view consistent with best practice infrastructure asset management and minimisation of whole-of-life costs.
- Waiti Waters must explore opportunities to determine if there are ways to use other investment funding and financing tools or syndicated procurement options to deliver the region's capital programme most efficiently, including with iwi partners, National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Company, and others as appropriate.

Transparent and responsible – what does this mean to us?

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

Adopting best practice

- Waiti Waters will operate in accordance with governance best practice and sound business practices that promote community, customer and shareholder confidence.

Regulatory compliance

- Waiti Waters must ensure it maintains compliance with all environmental, economic and other regulatory requirements over time (noting these are minimum standards expected, not a benchmark to aim for). Any non-compliance should be well signalled to the Stakeholder Forum and relevant regulators early, along with clear plans to address and return to full compliance.
- Waiti Waters should work towards more "real-time" regulatory and standards compliance, as opposed to historical performance reporting, to promote transparency for the community, customers, regulators and shareholders.

Improvement focus

- Waiti Waters actively explores opportunities for innovation/improvement in service delivery to improve customer, financial or regulatory outcomes.
- Waiti Waters will be an active participant in the wider/national water sector seeking to be part of sector performance improvement and influencing policy and/or sector debate in a way that benefits smaller, regionally based water services providers and their customers.

Reporting and performance

- Waiti Waters must formally report to the Stakeholders' Forum on its intended approach to demonstrating it is delivering against the expectations in this statement including:
 - how performance against expectations will be monitored and reported to the Forum
 - aligning reporting with regulatory reporting requirements to ensure the Forum maintains visibility of regulatory performance and to enable efficiency in reporting processes.
- The relationship between Waiti Waters and the Stakeholders Forum will be managed through:
 - Quarterly meetings focused on progress, delivery of major projects, operational and network performance, service standards, emerging risks, and relationship issues. The frequency of meetings could reduce over time, by agreement, once confidence in the new organisation has been built. If required by either party, these meetings will be more frequent during the transition.
 - Regular/informal meetings between the Chairs of Waiti Waters and the Forum.
- Waiti Waters will formally report to the Stakeholders forum six-monthly including on:
 - financial and operational (including health and safety) performance, including network performance and service standards
 - delivery against the Water Services Strategy capital programme
 - regulatory compliance and other consenting issues (including plant capacity issues)
 - strategic and operational risks
 - progress and results delivered by way of efficiency improvement
 - benefits of Waiti Waters' operations to the region in terms of growth aspirations, economic, social, environmental (including climate change) and cultural impacts
 - if/where developed during transition, maturity/improvement plans for areas of organisational performance (to be reported on for an agreed period of time)
 - any other reasonable matters identified by the Stakeholders Forum and advised to Waiti Waters in the quarterly meeting prior to the presentation of the six-monthly report.

Accountable to and reflective of people and place – what does this mean to us?

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

Foundation phase

- Beginning in the transition period, Waiti Waters will seek to establish itself both internally and externally with a "one organisation" focus – not an organisation of four parts – and to build this focus into its culture, strategy, operations, management and governance.
- Waiti Waters will work with Councils and the Stakeholders' Forum to manage establishment and transition risk as a priority; considerations of future service and/or organisational transformation should not affect achievement of a successful transition.
- Waiti Waters will engage with, and support, affected Council staff through the transition, with a particular focus on providing continuity of employment for water services operational staff.

Regional perspective and presence

- Waiti Waters is a critical part of the regional community. It is expected to govern and manage water services in the interests of the region as a whole, not the current individual Council Districts, and in the interests of current and future consumers. It must have a strong and consistent presence (in terms of governance, leadership and operations) throughout the region.

Partnerships

- Waiti Waters will, to the extent consistent with its roles and responsibilities, uphold Treaty settlement obligations and principles, as outlined in the following pieces of legislation:
 - Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017
 - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022
 - Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022
- Waiti Waters will have appropriate arrangements in place at governance and operational levels that reflect the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of water resources and meaningful partnership with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu and their associated hapū and organisations in the management of the region's water resources and services
- Waiti Waters Board and Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu will work together to develop a shared view of the most effective ways to give effect to this commitment to partnership.
- Waiti Waters will be an organisation with community presence across the region, building relationships to support organisational success.

Working together for regional growth and environmental outcomes

- Waiti Waters will actively enable housing growth across the region, with a particular early focus in areas where this is currently constrained due to water infrastructure capacity
- Waiti Waters will actively work with shareholders on relevant regulatory matters, including resource management and land use planning, development of Council growth strategies and Long-Term Plans (e.g., Tararua Growth Strategy, Tararua District Plan, Carterton Eastern Growth Strategy, Combined Wairarapa District Plan, MDC Development Plan, SWDC Spatial plan, the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Iwi Environmental Management Plan, Kahungunu Pae-Tata Kahungunu Pae-Tawhiti Taiao Management Plan, or other subsequent revised/new strategies), and in any coordination with the development community
- Waiti Waters will seek opportunities to contribute to regional growth and the local economy through its contracting, supplier management, procurement practices wherever possible, as long as that is consistent with delivering quality services efficiently and affordably for customers
- Waiti Waters will act as steward of the environment, pursuing improvement in environmental outcomes and seeking to mitigate adverse effects to the extent reasonably practical.

Workforce

- Waiti Waters will develop and maintain a regionally-present skilled, safe and high performing workforce that enables Waiti Waters to meet its legislative and regulatory obligations, partnership commitments with iwi, and deliver high-quality services to customers.
- Waiti Waters will consider how it can develop employment pathways to support regional workforce sustainability over time.



16 June 2026

Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Stakeholders' Forum on 5 June to discuss the draft Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations. We found the discussion valuable both to understand your priorities and to begin to develop the close and constructive partnership we are all seeking, and which we know is essential for Waiti Waters' success.

We acknowledge the journey the Councils and iwi partners have been on over several years to progress water reform and the strong basis that your groundwork provides to move forward. We also acknowledge and support your focus on establishing a truly regional water organisation with a long-term focus on current and future customers and communities, and on the specific benefits identified in your Water Services Delivery Plans that you are seeking to achieve from this change.

We note under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (s229), the Stakeholders' Forum is required to provide a draft of the Statement to Waiti Waters, with sufficient time available to provide feedback. This letter confirms that we been provided with the draft, that the process the Forum has followed has provided us with sufficient time to consider the document and, based on our discussion, that we are comfortable that the draft provides a clear articulation of your expectations of us and our organisation.

In confirming our comfort with the Statement and our firm commitment to work towards its delivery, we do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the challenges ahead, including:

- complying with new, comprehensive regulatory regimes and performing well under increasing, and justified, regulatory scrutiny,
- balancing regulatory requirements for financial sustainability and the need for significant investment in the network with the Stakeholders' Forum and community expectations of affordable water services,
- meeting customer expectations of service delivery and responsiveness, which will rightly grow in response to necessary price increases, and supporting customers through coming change (e.g., the introduction of volumetric charging),
- building new ways of working between ourselves and Councils to co-deliver areas of shared interest and responsibility (e.g., stormwater, infrastructure planning and regional growth), and
- bringing together parts of four organisations into one new regional entity and building new systems, processes, capabilities and culture to enable success.

We valued the chance to discuss these challenges with you and appreciate that you share our view on the size of the job, and the sustained effort and careful balancing act that will be required. To succeed, we will need to prioritise – we will communicate clearly with you on our choices and focus, including how these priorities change over time as our organisation matures. Maintaining a view of the Statement of Expectations as a living document that we continue to discuss between our organisations will support this.



The Board will now move forward over the coming months to develop the draft Water Services Strategy, in line with the strategic priorities and the specific expectations you have identified for the next 10 years. We note the additional expectation included to formally respond to you with our plan to deliver on the Statement. We will provide this to you alongside the draft Water Services Strategy, once we are further through our transition work and have had the opportunity to develop our organisational strategy and priorities with our incoming Chief Executive.

Following the Councils' adoption of the Statement, which we understand to be planned for meetings in late July/early August, we will publish the finalised Statement and this letter on the Waiti Waters website.

Nā mātou noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Young-Cooper".

Adrienne Young-Cooper
On behalf of Waiti Waters Board

9.2 MARTINBOROUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: STAGE 2 IMPROVEMENTS - IRRIGATION OF TREATED WASTEWATER TO LAND

Author: James O'Connor, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

1. To seek endorsement from Council to lodge resource consent applications and a notice of requirement (NoR) to designate land under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to authorise the irrigation of treated wastewater from Martinborough WWTP to the land located to the north of Pain Farm.
2. To seek approval from Council that the preliminary design is the most cost-effective option, as per section 254 of the Local Government Water Services Act 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The existing consent for Martinborough WWTP specifies that treated wastewater is to be irrigated to land at Pain Farm. This is no longer proposed and an alternate 74-hectare section of land (Lot 1 DP 623017 & Lot 12 DP 540067) located to the north of Pain Farm was acquired for this purpose in 2025.
- New RMA consents and approvals are needed to authorise the discharge of treated wastewater to land north of Pain Farm.
- Following detailed investigations (including consultation and engagement), it is now proposed to lodge the application for resource consents to Greater Wellington Regional Council and a notice of requirement to designate the land north of Pain Farm to South Wairarapa District Council concurrently.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Officers recommend that Council:

1. Receive the Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant: stage 2 improvements report.
2. Endorse lodgement of applications for consent to discharge treated wastewater and a notice of requirement to designate the land to enable the irrigation of treated wastewater from Martinborough Wastewater Treatment to the land located north of Pain Farm (Lot 1 DP 623017 & Lot 12 DP 540067).
3. Approve the preliminary design as the most cost-effective option, as per section 254 of the Local Government Water Services Act 2025.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, SWDC adopted a Wastewater Management Strategy to guide long-term improvements to wastewater treatment across the district. In keeping with this strategy, Council lodged RMA applications which were approved in 2016, requiring progressive upgrade of the Martinborough WWTP:

- Stage 1A – treatment plant upgrades [COMPLETED];
- Stage 1B – limited discharge to land adjacent to the oxidation ponds [COMPLETED];
- Stage 2A – 46% of treated wastewater irrigated to land at Pain Farm by 2030; and,
- Stage 2B – 76% of treated wastewater irrigated to land at Pain Farm by 2035.

Council is no longer proposing to irrigate treated wastewater to land at Pain Farm. Authorisation is now sought for the same activity (discharge of treated wastewater to land to meet Stage 2A and 2B requirements) on adjoining land located to the north of Pain Farm.

Detailed site investigations began in August 2025, informed by an independent team of experts in:

- hydrology and hydrogeology;
- soil science and wastewater irrigation;
- ecology; and,
- RMA planning.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa cultural impact assessments have also informed the design, notably to ensure that treated wastewater does not affect Kellys Stream, wetlands and groundwater, and that the proposed pipeline from the WWTP to the irrigation area avoids archaeology and sites of cultural significance. In addition, consultation and engagement with neighbours and the community was undertaken in the period February to March 2026.

The outcome of these processes is the preliminary design below.

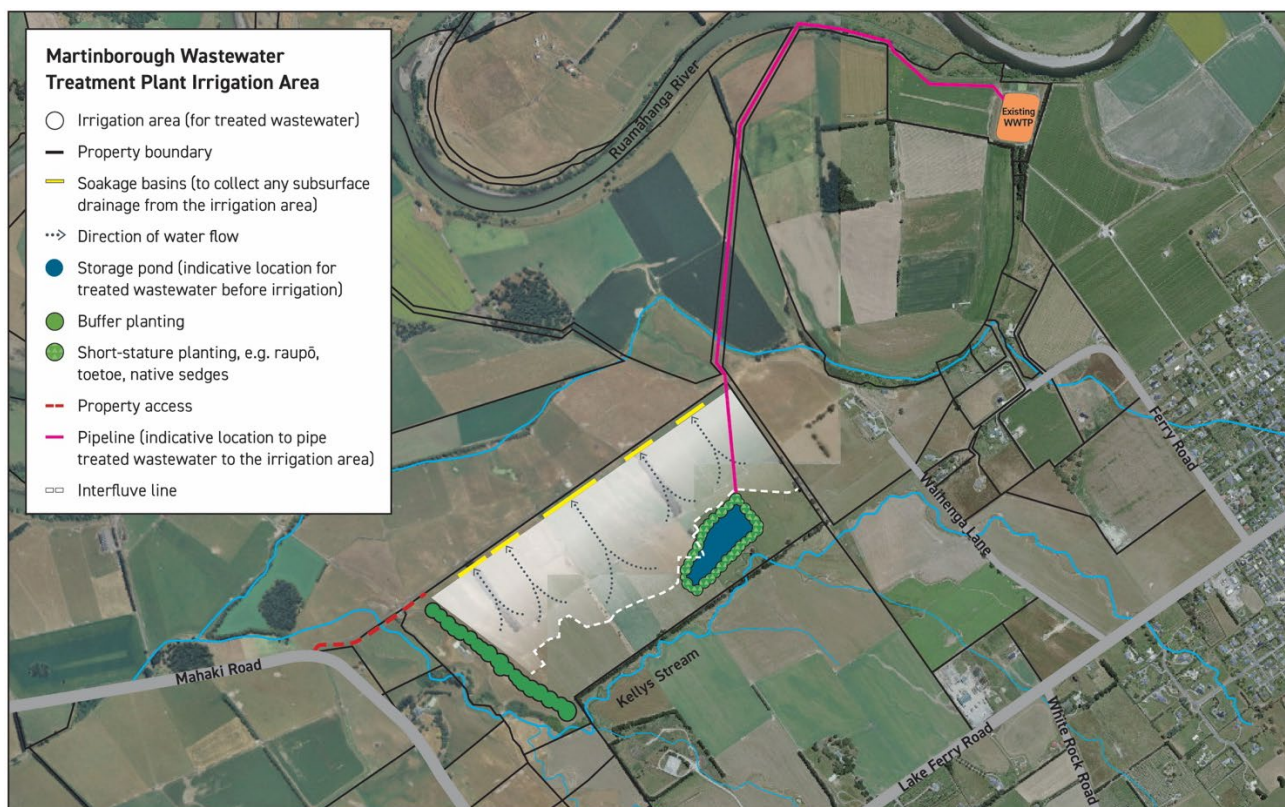


Figure 1: Preliminary design for irrigating treated wastewater to land north of Pain Farm

Design specification

The site serves irrigation purposes very well. The irrigation area is to be used for cut and carry baleage, as a commercial operation. The irrigation system has been designed so that treated wastewater is irrigated at a rate that the soil can accommodate. This means that moisture is held in the soil and taken up by grass roots. Soil moisture probes will be used to ensure that there is no over irrigation. Any excess irrigation water will be collected by underground drains that discharge to soakage basins for further treatment. Note that wind speed and rain cut off mechanisms will manage any cross-boundary effects.

If the treated wastewater is not able to be irrigated to land (because of wind, rain, soil moisture content) and there is no space left in the storage pond, then treated wastewater will be discharged to the Ruamāhanga River; in keeping with consent conditions.

The preliminary design has been developed to allow staged delivery of the irrigation (as per the 2016 consents) to ultimately be able to meet the demand from Martinborough's projected population in 2060. The irrigation area requirement at 2060 is 38 hectares and the area that is available to be irrigated (shaded white in the figure above) is 46 hectares providing implementation and management flexibility.

The 2016 consents require 76% of treated wastewater to be irrigated to land and the remainder to the Ruamāhanga River, whereas the design (using 38 hectares) is projected to achieve up to 95% discharge of treated wastewater to land.

DISCUSSION

Effects Management

The preliminary design has been subject to an iterative effects assessment process, where the design has been adjusted to manage, avoid or mitigate effects where appropriate. Key components of the approach to effects management are:

1. Specified irrigation area of 46 hectares (the white shaded area in the figure above);
2. This irrigation area is located to the west of the Kellys Stream catchment, avoiding discharges to this stream;
3. Buffer planting between the irrigation area and pond, and neighbouring residential property;
4. Retention of existing underground drains (repaired if necessary) and installation of new underground drains to capture any excess irrigation;
5. Monitoring of any water present in soakage basins (when present);
6. Soil monitoring (moisture content (continuous) and occasional monitoring of soil condition/health);
7. Storage pond sized and designed to ensure no spillage into Kellys Stream in either a seismic or flooding event. Pumps can be redirected to emptying the pond if needed;
8. Archaeology Discovery Protocol (note: Archaeological Authority for earthworks associated with pipeline likely to be needed);
9. Iwi / kaitiaki involvement in detailed design and implementation phases

It is acknowledged that near neighbours are concerned about the proposals, notably about the potential effects of spray drift and odour. Windspeed cut offs, low pressure water spraying, medium droplet size and an up to 1.54m in height of spray nozzles are proposed to manage these effects. Buffer planting is proposed to further ensure no edge effects occur. It is also noted that, as compared with Pain Farm where nearest residential façade was approximately 80m away, the nearest property façade is 350m south of the irrigation area. The nearest property façade down wind of the prevailing wind (nor-wester) is more than 1.2km away.

Best Practicable Option

As part of preparing the consent applications for 2016 consent process, Council selected the best practicable option as being irrigation of treated wastewater to land. The current application has focused on developing a best practicable option design for irrigating treated wastewater to land.

This process has entailed developing and then assessing irrigation options against the following criteria:

- cultural values
- soil science
- ecology
- hydrology and hydrogeology
- amenity
- capital and operational expenditure

Further design refinement has occurred in response to:

- community and neighbour feedback

- discussions with landowners traversed by the pipeline between the WWTP and the irrigation area
- iwi and archaeological information

This process has allowed careful evaluation of options against a range of criteria, and ultimately selection of an option that carefully balances effects and costs, notably:

- Avoids effects on groundwater, streams and wetlands / Lowest risk of effect;
- Visual monitoring benefits;
- Environmental benefits to Kellys Stream and wetlands;
- Avoids effects on archaeology and sites and areas of significance to Māori; and,
- Uses paper road and fence lines / access tracks otherwise.

Accordingly, the proposed irrigation design represents the Best Practicable Option for the long-term management of treated wastewater at this site.

Most Cost-Effective Option

The preferred irrigation option is considered the most cost-effective solution as it makes full use of the soil profile and natural evapotranspiration processes, enabling efficient treatment and disposal of treated wastewater. The system is straightforward to monitor and avoids adverse effects on streams, groundwater and wetlands, thereby reducing the need for additional mitigation measures. The proposed pipeline route follows the existing paper road, providing the shortest connection across public land and further limiting potential environmental or landowner impacts. In contrast, below-ground irrigation would be significantly more expensive to construct and maintain and would require a larger land area. This is because a below ground design does not use the full soil profile or benefit from land evaporation.

On this basis, the preferred option is consistent with section 254 of the Local Government Act 2002 (Water Services), which requires providers to select the option that is the most cost-effective over the life of the infrastructure assets needed to implement it. The assessment undertaken demonstrates that the proposed irrigation approach meets this obligation while delivering a balanced and practicable long-term solution for wastewater management.

Timeframes

This report requests approval to lodge with the authorities in August 2026. This allows Council to comply with its resource consent requirements (to commence irrigation to land by 2030) and supports continued urban growth of Martinborough.

At the same time, the project team will proactively make the application documents publicly available. A follow-up public engagement session will be arranged to ensure that the technical information is spoken to so that the information is accessible and readily understood.

When the regulators advise their decision, further planning work can be done alongside the associated budget and programme.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of high significance. There are some strong community views related to the irrigation of wastewater to land, and in general about the performance of the wastewater system, and also in general about the ability of the township population to grow.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with resource consent for Martinborough WWTP, which requires Stage 2A be in operation by 2030, and is an LTP project.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	The following implications for Māori include: • Reduce wastewater to the Ruamāhanga awa • Working with Mana Whenua to ensure design changes can be made to ensure areas of cultural significance are protected.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report. The consent application presents evidence that the effects are no more than minor and therefore requests a non-notified consent from the regulators. If either regulator disagrees, a consent hearing may be required and this will increase the cost and duration of the consent process.
State the possible implications for health and safety	This will improve public health for users of the Ruamāhanga awa, albeit that the river has other sources of contaminants.

APPENDICES

Nil

9.3 DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF AN ELECTED MEMBER AS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Author: Mia Wilton, Manager, Environmental Services

Authoriser: Clare Barton, Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory

File Number:

PURPOSE

To enable:

- a) Council to appoint an Elected Member as Deputy Chairperson of the South Wairarapa District Licensing Committee (DLC); and
- b) Ensure the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are included on the combined Wairarapa council approved list of District Licensing Committee members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Section 189(3) of the Sale & Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 provides that a territorial authority may appoint a member of the territorial authority to be Deputy Chairperson. That person can act in place of the Chairperson if they are unable to act because of illness or absence from New Zealand, or for other sufficient reason. While acting in place of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson is a member of the Committee and has all the powers and duties of the chairperson. A member of a territorial authority means an elected member of a territorial authority. A territorial authority must not approve a person to be included on the list unless that person has experience relevant to alcohol licensing matters.
- Provide for all current appointments to the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the South Wairarapa, Masterton and Carterton District Licensing Committee to be included in the combined list of approved District Licensing Committee members

RECOMMENDATIONS

Officers recommend that Council

1. Receive the District Licensing Committee (DLC) appointment of an Elected Member as Deputy Chairperson report.
2. Appoint Councillor Robert Taylor as Deputy Chairperson of the DLC for South Wairarapa District Council.
3. Agree that all current appointments to the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the South Wairarapa, Masterton and Carterton District Licensing Committee be included in the combined list of approved District Licensing Committee members.

BACKGROUND

On 11 March 2026, South Wairarapa District Council resolved (Decision DC2026/14) to appoint two Commissioners to the South Wairarapa District Council District Licensing Committee. Catherine

Rossiter Stead was appointed as Commissioner. The second appointed Dual Commissioner resigned from the appointment leaving the South Wairarapa District Licensing Committee with the Deputy Chairperson position vacant.

It has previously been agreed, during the 2024 list member recruitment process undertaken jointly by all three councils, that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each council would also be included on the combined list of approved District Licensing Committee members.

DISCUSSION

Section 189(3) does not require a territorial authority to appoint a Deputy Chairperson however, having a single Commissioner is a risk with no contingency should a conflict of interest arise, or the Commissioner is unavailable. There is then a risk of not being able to deliver the service to the community. Councillor Robert Taylor has undertaken specific training on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 which involved District Licensing Committee functions, processing and administration. This training is considered necessary before appointment.

From a process perspective all Chairs and Deputies, approved to be DLC members, of all three councils should be included in the combined list.

Financial

There is no additional financial impact as current budgets already have provision for remuneration of District Licensing Committee members. Financial considerations have been incorporated into the Annual and Long-Term Plan. Remuneration figures are set in legislation for committee members.

Climate Change

There are no positive or negative effects on climate change from this decision.

CONCLUSION

The appointment of an Elected Member as Deputy Chairperson supports operational continuity if the Chairperson is unable to act because of illness or absence from New Zealand, or for other sufficient reason, for example a conflict of interest. The appointment will provide stability long term.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of low significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with relevant legislation, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	There are no implications for Māori.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	There are no identified implications for health and safety.

APPENDICES**Nil**

10 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
10.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2026	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7	The minutes contain discussions relating to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades - Delivery Costs and the Open Spaces Contract reports.

11 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi
Mō tēnei wā
Manaakitia mai mā katoa
O mātou hoa
O mātou whānau
Aio ki te Aorangi

Our work is finished
For the moment
Blessing upon us all
Our friends
Our families
Peace to the Universe