

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH  
ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Colin Olds (Chair), Cr Aidan Ellims (Deputy Chair), Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rachel Clarke, Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor and Mayor Fran Wilde.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Martin Bosley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Simone Baker and Cr Rupert Watson.

Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), James O'Connor (Acting Group Manager, Infrastructure & Community Operations), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Alex Pigou (Manager, Communications), Katherine Meerman (Programme Director, Local Water Done Well), Graham Carson (Manager, Roading) Tim Langley (Principal Advisor, Roading), Peter Trafford (Principal Engineer, Three Waters), Melissa Stockley (Acting Manager, Community Operations), Paul Gardiner (Principal Advisor, Water Transition) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Nil

**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 1:30pm to 3:27pm except where expressly noted.

**OPEN SECTION**

**1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING**

All in attendance opened the meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

**2.1 APOLOGIES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/01**

**Moved:** Cr A Ellims

**Seconded:** Cr R Clarke

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to accept apologies from Cr Bosley.

**CARRIED**

**3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

**4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES**

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

**5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nil.

**6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nil.

**7 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Nil

**9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Nil.

**10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF****10.1 HUANGARUA BRIDGE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr O'Connor, supported by Mr Carson, spoke to the report and responded to members queries regarding crash data and tracking this in future, speed reductions and work priorities regarding bridges across the district.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/02**

**Moved:** Cr A Ellims

**Seconded:** Cr C Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to receive the *Huangarua Bridge Safety Improvements Report*.

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/03**

**Moved:** Cr R Clarke

**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor R Taylor

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Approve recommendation one regarding the safety improvements to the Huangarua Bridge on Ponatahi Road by converting the bridge from two-lanes to one-lane;
2. Note the estimated cost of this project is \$20,000, budgeted for in the Long-Term plan and subsidised 51% by NZTA as of the Financial Assistance Rate (FAR); and
3. Note this project aligns with the SWDC Infrastructure Strategy, Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024, and outcomes from the Long-Term Plan.

**CARRIED**

## 11 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

### 11.1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY OPERATIONS GROUP REPORTS

#### Roading

- Mr O'Connor spoke to items in the roading report, noting the section 17a review will be tabled at the next meeting, along with explaining how contractor performance is measured.
- Mr Carson reported Ruamahanga Roads is tracking well within budget with ongoing work progressing.
- Queries were raised regarding:
  - Road widening.
  - Emergency works on Cape Palliser Road and extension of the eco-reef.
  - Corridor management (applications, traffic control, TMP monitoring).
  - Bridge conditions and inspection guidelines. Debris is being cleared from under bridges.
- **Lower Valley Bridge:** speed reduced due to weight restrictions; bridge will close when SH53 is closed. Further clarity to be provided. Gates are on order. A drafted media release was not issued.
- Discussion on willow trees near bridges/rivers and communication with residents.
- A meeting is being scheduled with GWRC to discuss a list of issues, including bridges and access to/from Martinborough.
- Contract management for Ruamahanga Roads was discussed, including day-to-day management and processes for bridge-closure decisions.
- Concerns raised about the inadequate budget for maintenance; re-prioritisation and future NZTA funding rounds were noted.
- A workshop will be held to discuss findings from the recent road trip and prioritisation.
- NZTA issues will also be raised by the Mayor.

- **Ponatahi Road Safety project:** cost is \$112k under the Low Cost Low Risk category; associated bridge work included.

### Water Services

- Mr O'Connor addressed water services delivery matters.
- Mr Trafford provided an update on the CAPEX dashboard:
  - Handover of services is scheduled for July 2027 but may occur earlier.
  - WWTP tender outcomes and savings noted; a report will come to Council.

**Action IC2026/04:** Officers to provide Council with a briefing on the Moroa and Longwood water race systems. (P Trafford / P Gardiner)

### Community Operations

- Issues reported around vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and an attempted break-in at the water treatment plant. Ms Stockley noted CAPEX is tracking under budget for the year; project updates were provided. Welcome to Featherston signage work is ongoing.
- Swimming pool operating hours: extension would increase costs; to be considered in the next LTP.
- Carkeek Reserve tree will be trimmed; structural protection planned.
- Otauira Reserve outside of Featherston is locked in evenings.
- Discussion included:
  - Featherston Stadium access and booking system.
  - Greytown greenspace shortage—potential to revisit.
  - Greytown Town Centre: repiling to proceed.
  - Venues (Waihenga Centre/Greytown) – focus on maximising usage, advertising, online access, and coded entry systems.
- Cr Taylor noted he had previously raised some concerns regarding tree management and thanked staff for progressing actions in relation to this.

### Waste & Recycling

- Queries included battery recycling, trialling recycling clips, and increasing e-waste collection (potentially twice yearly, pending cost considerations).
- Greenwaste collection after storms and support for rural/peripheral residents was discussed.
- Members requested a progress table showing improvements over time in future reports.

**Action IC2026/05:** Officers to provide Council with a briefing on waste management. (M Stockley)

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/06****Moved:** Cr C Isaacs**Seconded:** Cr A Ellims

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the information included in this report.

**CARRIED****11.2 WAIRARAPA TARARUA WATER ESTABLISHMENT AND TRANSITION**

Ms Meerman spoke to the report, outlining the announcement of board members and noting that the induction process will take place over the coming months. She confirmed that the board will comprise between five and seven members, with appointments made by the Stakeholders Forum, and a full complement is expected.

Work is already underway to build understanding of contracts, assets, and the due-diligence process. Members raised questions about the organisational strategy, including the anticipated scale of operations, staffing levels, and service delivery expectations.

Ms Meerman clarified that the board's influence during the transition phase will be limited, with all current arrangements remaining in place until July 2027. Between April and June 2027, the board will assume decision-making responsibilities, including matters such as price setting.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/07****Moved:** Cr C Olds**Seconded:** Cr A Ellims

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the information included in the report.

**CARRIED****11.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER SERVICE PROVISION 2026/2027**

Mr Gardiner spoke to the report, addressing queries around the organisation's ability to successfully manage the upcoming transition within the current timeframe. He assured members that the community would not experience any change to the level of service currently provided and expressed full confidence in a smooth transition, including in relation to ongoing land developments.

In discussion about contract negotiations, members emphasised the importance of robust dispute-resolution processes and performance-review measures. Officers advised that the contract contains a range of provisions to support this, including regular contract-management

reporting. They also noted that operational contact and responsibility for capital expenditure will remain with SWDC, consistent with current arrangements.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/08****Moved:** Cr A Ellims**Seconded:** Cr R Clarke

1. To receive the report.
2. To note the information included in the report.

**CARRIED****12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING**

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 3:27pm.

**Confirmed as a true and correct record.**

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)