MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026 AT 1:30 PM

PRESENT:	Cr Aidan Ellims (Deputy Chair), Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Rachel Clarke (from 1:32pm), Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor and Mayor Fran Wilde.
APOLOGIES:	Cr Collier Isaacs.
IN ATTENDANCE:	James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Peter Trafford (Principal Engineer 3 Waters), Dave Skelton (Water Races Overseer), Graham Carson (Roading Manager) Tim Langley (Principal Engineer, Roading), Melissa Stockley (Manager, Community Operations), Katherine Meerman (Programme Director, Waitī Waters Establishment), Alex Pigou (Partnership and Communications Manager) 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 1:30pm to 3:25pm except where expressly noted.

Note: Due to the resignation of Colin Olds from South Wairarapa District Council, Councillor Aidan Ellims chaired the meeting. Appointments to this Committee will be made at the Council meeting on 25 June.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/22

Moved: Mayor Wilde
Seconded: Cr Bosley

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to accept apologies 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

Cr Ellims acknowledged Colin Olds – former SWDC Councillor who recently resigned, for his many years service to the local community.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/23

Moved: Cr Bosley
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Taylor

The Infrastructure Committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY OPERATIONS GROUP REPORTS

Community Operations

Ms Stockley spoke to the report. The Committee noted steady progress across infrastructure, open spaces procurement, and coastal restoration works, with minor weather-related delays. Lake Ferry upgrades were positively highlighted following successful TIF funding, and engagement with the Tora community was commended.

During discussion, members queried several "red" and "orange" RAG-rated projects, particularly the Waihinga Centre acoustic dampening and Longwood upgrade. Staff advised the acoustic dampening project was a legacy item with limited current value. Members sought clarity on whether discontinuation was appropriate and agreed this was the most practical course (foreshadowed motion).

Questions were also raised regarding projects on hold, including the Featherston climbing wall, and whether funding would be reallocated. Staff confirmed broader asset priorities were influencing decisions. Members further queried protections for Tora riparian planting, with staff confirming iwi and community collaboration alongside physical mitigation measures.

The Committee supported proceeding with the Featherston toilets project without further delay once a solution is finalised.

Water Capital Projects

Members noted strong progress overall, with some projects extending slightly beyond the financial year. The successful replacement of the Greytown bore pump, and confirmation of the bore's condition, was a notable positive outcome.

Members sought clarification on challenges referenced in the report, particularly inaccuracies in underground asset data. Staff advised these had required redesign and increased site investigation. Members also queried the impact of cost escalation related to fuel, with staff confirming most increases were modest and managed within contingencies.

Questions were raised on future improvements to asset data and whether underground infrastructure was adequately captured. Staff confirmed this remained a priority, with system and verification improvements underway.

Land Transport

The Committee noted strong contractor performance and delivery against maintenance targets, despite disruption caused by storm events. Progress on resealing, grading, and other routine works was acknowledged.

Members queried the underspend in the budget, with staff confirming this reflected time lost to storm response work, with efforts underway to recover delivery. Questions were also raised regarding ongoing damage to Te Rata Road and affected bridges across the network. Staff confirmed that while some structures required work, they remained safe, and prioritisation of works was ongoing.

The Eco Reef extension and storm recovery projects were noted as positive developments. Members also sought clarification on how coastal protection works were monitored and maintained.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/24

Moved: Deputy Mayor Taylor
Seconded: Cr Bosley

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the *Infrastructure and Community Operations Group* reports.

2. Note the information included in this report.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/25

Moved: Cr Bosley
Seconded: Cr Clarke

The Infrastructure Committee resolved that the acoustic dampening project in the Waihinga Centre is discontinued from the Community Operations work programme.

CARRIED

10.2 TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVE THREE WATERS SERVICE PROVISION (2026/27)

Mr O'Connor spoke to the report and provided the Committee with an update on the transition from Wellington Water to City Care Water. Members asked whether all staff would transfer and how costs would be managed. Staff confirmed staff would transition via Council and that increased personnel costs had been accounted for in planning.

Members noted the formal exit from Wellington Water and emphasised the importance of maintaining service continuity through the transition.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/26

Moved: Cr Clarke
Seconded: Mayor Wilde

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to receive the *Transition to alternative Three Waters Service Provision (2026/27)* report.

CARRIED

10.3 WAITĪ WATERS TRANSITION UPDATE

Ms Meerman spoke to the report. Members noted the progress on the establishment of Waitī Waters was noted, including Board activity, CEO recruitment, and system procurement.

Members asked whether there were opportunities to align systems with other water entities to improve efficiency. Staff advised that while alignment was desirable, each entity was progressing independently, with some natural convergence expected.

The Committee requested further discussion on the Statement of Expectations, to be addressed at a forthcoming briefing to members.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/27

Moved: Deputy Mayor Taylor
Seconded: Cr Bosley

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to note the *Waitī Waters Transition Update* report.

CARRIED

10.4 CAPE PALLISER ROAD UPDATES

Mr Langley spoke to the report. The Committee noted that a programme business case had been submitted to NZTA, addressing coastal resilience and long-term infrastructure challenges.

Members queried timelines for NZTA feedback and were advised decisions were expected later in the year within standard transport planning processes. Questions were also raised regarding geotechnical risks at Johnson's Hill, and ongoing vandalism of access infrastructure to the unformed legal road beyond the lighthouse. Staff confirmed these risks were well understood and being actively managed.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/28

Moved: Mayor Wilde
Seconded: Cr Clarke

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to receive the *Cape Palliser Road Updates* Report.

CARRIED

10.5 WATER RACES UPDATE

A presentation was given by Mr Trafford and Mr Skelton.

10.5 Tabled-Presentation SWDC-Water-Races-Overview-2026.pdf

The Committee received a comprehensive overview of the water race network, noting its scale, complexity, and reliance on proactive management.

Members questioned system efficiency, maintenance responsibilities, and variability in landowner engagement. Staff advised that while the system remains functional, performance is dependent on ongoing maintenance and cooperation between users.

Questions were also raised regarding water allocation measurement requirements, fencing impacts, and flood management in Greytown. Staff confirmed increasing regulatory requirements and acknowledged operational pressures, while outlining current practices and adaptations.

Members noted the importance of maintaining a proactive approach as management transitions to City Care.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/29

Moved: Cr Bosley
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Taylor

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to receive the *Water Races Update* Report.

CARRIED

10.6 ACTION ITEMS

2026/13 - Members reviewed action items and asked about progress on a communications plan addressing vandalism. Staff confirmed this was in development and would include coordination with enforcement agencies and community engagement.

11 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/30

Moved: Deputy Mayor Taylor
Seconded: Cr Bosley

The Infrastructure Committee 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 Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2026	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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 of the meeting relate to item 11.1 - Waters Capital Projects Budget Savings report.

CARRIED

12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 3:25pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

……………………………………….. (Chair)

……………………………………….. (Date)

……………………………………….. (Chief Executive)

……………………………………….. (Date)