MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026 AT 10:00 AM

PRESENT: Cr Aidan Ellims (Chair), Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rachel Clarke, Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor, Cr Martin Bosley (from 10:35am) and Mayor Fran Wilde.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Peter Biggs.

Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Melissa Stockley (Manager, Community Operations), Bruce Vincent (Contract Manager - 3 Waters), Paul Gardiner (Principal Advisor – Water Transition), Alex Pigou (Manager, Partnership and Communications), Katherine Meerman (Programme Director, Waitī Waters Establishment) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Jason Franklin and Michael O'Brien (PowerCo).

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 10:01am to 12:40pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES – 29 OCTOBER 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/42

Moved: Cr Ellims
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to accept apologies from Cr Bosley for late arrival.

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 the retirement announcement of Ms Smith, Chief Executive, and thanked her for her leadership and significant contribution to the organisation and district over the past three years. Committee members acknowledged her service and wished her well for the future.

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 13 AUGUST 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/43

Moved: Cr Clarke
Seconded: Cr Taylor

The Infrastructure Committee resolved that the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 13 August 2026 are 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 FUTURE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE REGION

Mr Franklin and Mr O'Brien delivered the presentation:

Cr Bosley arrived at 10:35am.

Members discussed the resilience and security of electricity supply across the Wairarapa and considered whether future network capacity would be sufficient to meet projected population growth and housing demand. They also discussed the increasing role of solar generation, including feed-in tariffs and opportunities to support greater uptake of renewable energy. Members explored the potential benefits of battery technology, community microgrids, and other resilience initiatives to improve energy security during outages.

Discussion also covered the need to protect critical infrastructure, particularly water and wastewater treatment plants, from power disruptions. Members further considered the costs and practical challenges associated with undergrounding electricity networks

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/44

Moved: Mayor Wilde
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the presentation on *Future Energy Infrastructure for the Region; and*
2. Note the information provided by the presenters.

CARRIED

10.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY OPERATIONS GROUP REPORTS

Ms Stockley provided an update on community operations projects, noting the completion of the Lake Ferry Campground bathroom renovations, the Carkeek Observatory protective structure, and the Martinborough swimming pool changing room roof replacement. Good progress was also reported on the Farley Avenue planting programme, Featherston public toilet upgrades, the Featherston South Entrance sign project, and preparations for resurfacing the South Wairarapa Workingmen's Club public carpark. Members discussed the importance of proactive communication with communities and ensuring elected members are kept informed of significant infrastructure projects.

Mr Vincent updated the Committee on water capital projects progress and that engagement with Papawai regarding the Greytown desludging project has been positive. Progress was also reported on the Greytown Water Treatment Plant upgrade, the Martinborough and Featherston wastewater treatment plant projects, the Pirinoa water tank replacement, and Lake Ferry consenting activities. Members discussed project timelines, delays, the upcoming transition of wastewater projects to Waitī Waters, future water supply arrangements at Pirinoa, and constraints on future wastewater network development.

Mr O'Connor provided the update on roads and transport activities, including continued storm recovery works, bridge monitoring, NZTA approvals processes, and planning for future network resilience. Members acknowledged the progress made on recovery works, requested further reporting on bridge prioritisation and resilience planning, and noted ongoing concerns regarding long-term roading funding challenges.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/45

Moved: Cr Taylor
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Infrastructure and Community Operations reports.
2. Note the information included in this report.

CARRIED

10.3 WAITĪ WATERS ESTABLISHMENT UPDATE

Ms Meerman provided updates and noted the sign off of LGFA is happening today.

Programme work progressing including billing systems.

Concerns around digital – decisions to be made etc. Funding concerns now resolved.

An update was provided on the establishment of Waiti Water, including staffing, funding arrangements, digital systems, and preparations for the transfer of assets and services. Members discussed readiness, data quality, and implementation risks (some concerns noted around digital; funding concerns have now been resolved).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/46

Moved: Cr R Clarke
Seconded: Cr C Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Waitī Waters establishment update; and
2. Note the information in the report.

CARRIED

10.4 CITY CARE WATER UPDATE REPORT

Officers reported that water operations were generally performing well, with no significant environmental incidents recorded. Discussion focused on wastewater treatment plant performance, summer water shortage planning, customer communications, and operational reporting.

Mayor Wilde left the meeting at 12:07pm.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/47

Moved: Mayor Wilde
Seconded: Cr Taylor

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to the meeting past two hours until the end of the meeting.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/48

Moved: Cr Bosley
Seconded: Cr Clarke

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Citycare Water Update Report.

2. Note the establishment of a process for monitoring summer water shortage risks and a Water Shortage Risk Advisory Group to assess risks and recommend potential responses to Council.
3. Note the ongoing work by Council officers to identify gaps in water races management.
4. Note the reported contractual service performance and the ongoing focus on response-time performance and infrastructure project delivery.

CARRIED

10.5 WATER RACES UPDATE REPORT

Mayor Wilde returned to the meeting at 12:08pm.

Officers advised that maintenance activities continue to be delivered while work is undertaken to establish a longer-term management arrangement. Members noted the importance of retaining expertise and maintaining relationships with stakeholders.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/49

Moved: Cr Taylor
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Water Races Update Report; and
2. Note that Council is working with its existing contractors and Greater Wellington Regional Council to confirm responsibilities, establish the status of consent requirements, identify any delivery arrangement gaps and requisite action to resolve them.

CARRIED

10.6 GREYTOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Members were advised that the existing bore remains viable for the foreseeable future and that an additional bore is not currently required. Further investigation has reduced the anticipated cost of treatment plant upgrades.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/50

Moved: Cr Bosley
Seconded: Cr Clarke

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Greytown Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Report; and
2. Note that: There is not an immediate need for a new production bore at Memorial Park solely for capacity. However, the operations team will schedule bore maintenance and updated performance testing.

CARRIED

10.7 BRIDGE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

Officers provided an overview of bridge inspection processes, bridge condition assessments, prioritisation methodology, future asset management planning, and Lower Valley Bridge investigations and options.

Members requested future prioritised bridge renewal reporting, further updates on funding pathways and resilience planning, and information regarding Lower Valley Bridge restrictions (noted that communications will be going out today and next week regarding restrictions and contact with impacted local residents/users).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/51

Moved: Cr Ellims
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Bridge Inspection and Maintenance Report.
2. Note the information contained within this report.

CARRIED

10.8 ACTION ITEMS

- Action 2026/12 – to be closed: the bridge inspection and maintenance report was discussed at today's meeting.
- Action 2026/32 – Noted that a meeting schedule with Kiwirail/NZTA has been cancelled. Action remains open.
- Action 2026/33 – to be closed: Mayor Wilde and Cr Clarke noted they had met with Underhill Road residents; officers noted they haven't met with residents yet, but have completed some site visits and will address blocked culverts in the work programme for November.
- Action 2026/36 – Ms Smith noted she has met with Paul Floyd, the CE of Waitī Waters and discussed the issue of water meters and he will take it to their Board for further review. No solution as yet. Action remains open.

Members requested Action Items report is brought forward to be discussed after the confirmation of the minutes in future meetings.

11 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

11.1 APPOINTMENTS - GREATER WELLINGTON ADVISORY GROUPS - VERBAL UPDATE

Cr Taylor and Cr Isaacs respectively provided an update on the progress of the Lower Ruamahanga Advisory Group and the Waiohine Advisory Group including flood protection planning, river management activities, budget planning and erosion protection priorities. Both groups have completed site visits and will provide further updates in the new year.

ACTION IC2026/52

Members sought further information regarding the status of the Jenkins Dip floodway bridge.

Assigned to: J Smith

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/53

Moved: Cr Clarke
Seconded: Cr Ellims

The Infrastructure Committee resolved to receive the Appointments – Greater Wellington Advisory Groups – Verbal Update.

CARRIED

12 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IC2026/54

Moved: Cr Clarke
Seconded: Cr Isaacs

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
12.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 13 August 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 includes discussion on the consideration being given to a contract rollover for the roading contract currently held by Fulton Hogan.

CARRIED

13 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12:40pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

…….. (Chair)

…….. (Date)

…….. (Chief Executive)

…….. (Date)