

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE**

**LOCAL WATER DONE WELL DELIBERATIONS
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Mayor Martin Connelly, Cr Rebecca Gray, Ms Violet Edwards.

APOLOGIES: Cr Kaye McAulay, Cr Aidan Ellims and Cr Pip Maynard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Robyn Wells (Programme Manager, Water Transition), Katherine Meerman (Programme Director, Local Water Done Well), Alex Pigou (Manager Communications), Charly Clarke (Chief Fin 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 10:03am to 11:08am except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/55

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Cr Ellims, Cr McAulay and Cr Maynard.

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.

Cr Gray acknowledged the high volume of work that has gone into Local Water Done Well (LWDW) oversight and consultation process, and that council had followed all legislation and expectations of central government. Cr Gray went on to reference the Pay Equity Amendment Bill, and her concerns regarding a lack of openness and public engagement on this legislation. stating there hadn't been open consultation and opportunity for public engagement and challenged central government to call a snap election, and to recognise they are not acting in the best interest of the country.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

There is no urgent business.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/56

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr M Bosley

The Strategy Working Committee resolved that the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 23 April 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

7 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

7.1 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL DELIBERATIONS

Ms Wells acknowledged team members, Johannes Ferriera, Peter Wimsett and Genevieve Drake in putting information together and getting to this point today.

Ms Wells highlighted the process and journey to this point, including the development of multi-criteria assessment and joint agreement.

Ms Wells spoke about the elements which went into the arriving at the options, such as looking into a council CCO, existing arrangements and settling on the Wairarapa + Tararua as the preferred option.

Ms Wells acknowledged iwi were involved in the multi-criteria assessment and discussions during this process, and outlined the consultation process, and summarised the responses received, noting feedback had been built into the recommendations for decision today.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14am.

Meeting resumed at 10:43am.

Ms Wells summarised the themes of the submissions received from the community, noting that the majority validated the journey taken to arrive at the recommendations, including the future guidelines for governance and decision making, and sharing information with the community moving forward.

Noted that under new entities and government acts/bills, they cannot be privatised. Entities will be regulated through the Commerce Commission.

Ms Wells encouraged members to consider all feedback from the submissions received and the recommendations from staff.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/57

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the Local Water Done Well Deliberations Report.

CARRIED

Ms Wells confirmed the multi-criteria assessment been made available to the public and is available on the SWDC website, as well as the AOG information is also available on website.

Also noted for next steps: the Programme Director will be putting processes and a detailed budget together in due course; the communications/engagement plan is in place working with other councils. The Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) and agreement with other councils only came up to the point of consultation, therefore, a reset of governance oversight structures will occur once decisions have been made by all four councils.

Ms Smith responded to a query on the debt levels of each council per household for LWDW and provided informal/unverified information:

- just under \$6,000 per household for SWDC;
- \$12,000 per household for Tararua District Council;
- \$4,000 per household for Masterton District Council; and
- \$7,000 per household for Carterton District Council.

Ms Wells also responded to questions regarding work across councils (smoothing of investment and debt funding, leveraging utilities, delivering in most optimal and efficient way).

Cr Woodcock stated he held concerns about any CCO model, the inclusion of stormwater and the cost of bureaucratic oversight. Cr Woodcock stated he would: like council to mandate on keeping administration and governance to a minimum percentage of any work done; to remove consultant costs; mandate for local contractors to be used wherever possible; entity staff take local contractors and drainlayers advice on board for projects and maintenance; and entity governance group to push back to government on consent processes and costs.

Deputy Mayor Sadler Futter noted some of Cr Woodcock's requests will be included in the letter of expectations to the entity governance group.

Ms Wells also noted that these issues will be addressed and flow through in the next phase, and that each council wants best for mana whenua and the local community.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/58

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working Committee resolved that the preferred option to deliver South Wairarapa's water services into the future is option 1 – the Wairarapa-Tararua multi-council Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/59

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Cr A Woodcock

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to confirm that Councillor Olds and Councillor Sadler Futter remain as the SWDC elected members providing oversight to the CEO on the decisions to be made on the Wairarapa-Tararua multi-council Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) in preparing the required water services delivery plan in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/60

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to confirm that the water services CCO entity will be an asset owning entity managing water, wastewater, and stormwater assets.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr R Gray and Ms V Edwards

Against: Mayor M Connelly and Cr A Woodcock

CARRIED 6/2

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/61

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to confirm that that water race assets and service provision will remain with SWDC as green infrastructure, subject to anticipated legislative requirements.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/62

Moved: Cr C Olds

<p>Seconded: Cr A Plimmer</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to confirm that, subject to approval of the Water Services Delivery Plan, it is the intention that the new entity will progress through a staged implementation beginning with legal formation by 1 July 2026 to a full “go-live” by no later than 1 July 2027.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/63</p> <p>Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr A Plimmer</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to continue to follow the high-level roadmap to implement Local Water Done Well as published by DIA.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/64</p> <p>Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr R Gray</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to utilise the guidelines and templates provided by DIA to make best use of time and efficiencies.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/65</p> <p>Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr C Olds</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to delegate the authority for the decision-making process around affordability and financial sustainability to the CEO with oversight from nominated elected members.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/66</p> <p>Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr A Woodcock</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to proactively release information on decision making to ensure transparency and accountability to the community.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/67</p> <p>Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr A Woodcock</p> <p>The Strategy Working Committee resolved to note that an experienced Project Director has been appointed on a 12-month fixed term contract to lead the LWDW programme reporting to the CEO.</p>

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor noted the Masterton, Carterton and Tararua District Councils will be voting on their decisions in the coming weeks.

Cr Olds acknowledged Ms Wells for all her great work on LWDW, noting that this was a milestone day. Cr Olds highlighted the passion Ms Wells demonstrated throughout her time at SWDC, and the difference she has made in her role. Members thanked Ms Wells for all her contributions.

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:08am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)