

Thursday, 31 July 2025

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council: Council Meeting

Ngā Minitī

Minutes

Te Rā Hui:
Meeting date: **Thursday, 31 July 2025**

Venue **Council Chamber
Ground Floor
Civic Administration Building
Lyndon Road East
Hastings**

Time start - end **1.00pm – 3.20pm**

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Kua Tae ā-tinana: **Chair - Tiamana:** Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst
Present: **Councillors - Ngā KaiKaunihera:**
Councillors Ana Apatu, Marcus Buddo, Alwyn Corban, Malcolm Dixon, Michael Fowler, Damon Harvey, Henry Heke, Kellie Jessup, Tania Kerr (Deputy Mayor), Hana Montaperto-Hendry, Simon Nixon, Wendy Schollum, Heather Te Au-Skipworth and Kevin Watkins

Kua Tatū:
In attendance: Chief Executive - Nigel Bickle
Deputy Chief Executive - Bruce Allan
Group Manager: Infrastructure - Craig Thew
Group Manager: Democracy and Emergency Management – Craig Cameron
Group Manager: Marketing and Communications – Naomi Fergusson
Chief Financial Officer – Graham Watson
General Counsel – Scott Smith
Strategic Financial Advisor – Jess Noiseux
Pou Ahurea – Advisor Relationships, Responsiveness and Heritage – Charlie Ropitini
3 Waters Manager – Steve Cave
Manager: Democracy and Governance Services – Louise Stettner
Democracy and Governance Services Advisor – Caitlyn Dine
Senior Advisor – Democracy and Governance Services – Lynne Cox

1. OPENING PRAYER - KARAKIA

The opening prayer was given by Councillor Heke.

2. APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE - NGĀ WHAKAPĀHATANGA ME TE WEHENGĀ Ā-HUI

No apologies or leave of absence were received.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - HE NGĀKAU KŌNATUNATU

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - *TE WHAKAMANA I NGĀ MINITI*

There were no minutes to be confirmed.

5. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL DECISION

(Document ref 25/291)

Chief Financial Officer, Graham Watson, Strategic Financial Advisor, Jess Noiseux and Group Manager: Infrastructure, Craig Thew, spoke to the report, presented a PowerPoint presentation (CG-17-1-01786) and responded to questions from the meeting.

Councillor Jessup left the meeting at 1.05pm and returned at 1.14pm.

The meeting engaged in extensive discussion.

Councillor Jessup left the meeting at 2.07pm and returned at 2.29pm.

Mayor Hazlehurst expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by officers throughout this process.

Councillor Jessup left the meeting at 2.30pm and did not return.

Councillor Schollum/Councillor Fowler

- A) That Council receive the report titled Local Water Done Well Decision dated 31 July 2025.
- B) Notes that this matter and decision is recognised as of high significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement policy.
- C) That Council approves, as its future Water Service Delivery Model, a joint Water Services Organisation (in the form of a Water Service Council-Controlled Organisation) – with at least Napier City Council and the other Hawke's Bay territorial authorities (being Wairoa District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council) if they also decide to form a joint Water Services Organisation.
- D) That Council directs the Officers to prepare a joint Water Service Delivery Plan in conjunction with the other participating Hawke's Bay Councils, with the final plan to be brought back to Council in August for approval prior to submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.
- E) Council endorses the draft Heads of Agreement document (Attachment 1) excluding Schedules 4 and 5 outlining key transition arrangements and agreed terms/commitments to achieve the joint operating model and objectives. Noting changes required to remove Wairoa District Council from the Heads of Agreement and make necessary changes to any affected clauses.
- F) Council authorises and delegates to the Chief Executive to execute the revised Heads of Agreement (with Wairoa District Council removed) on behalf of Council, which begins the process to establish a joint WSCCO alongside the other participating Councils.

- G) That it is noted that the Transitional Governance Group (TGG) as detailed in the Heads of Agreement states that the Mayor of Hastings District Council, and one other member (either elected member or appointee) are appointed to the TGG. That the Mayor be therefore delegated responsibility to appoint the other member to the TGG and that they both be delegated to represent Hastings District Council on the TGG through to the end of the triennium (11 October 2025). Noting that between August 2025 and the 2025 local government elections that the main focus of the TGG will be to appoint the Establishment Board and approve its terms of reference, therefore any continuity sought can be mitigated.
- H) Notes that resolutions C) – D) above are contingent on at least Napier City Council also deciding to form a joint Water Services Organisation.
- I) Notes that resolutions E) – F) above are contingent on the substantive decisions of the other three Hawke’s Bay territorial authorities regarding water service delivery. At the time of writing, Central Hawke’s Bay District Council has met (24 July) and agreed to the establishment of a joint WSCCO. Napier City Council is scheduled to meet on the same day as Hastings District Council to consider this decision. Wairoa District Council is scheduled to meet on 29 July to take its decisions on this matter. Should Wairoa District Council choose not to participate in the regional WSCCO, the draft Heads of Agreement will be brought back to Council for approval after amendments have been made to remove Wairoa from the agreement.
- J) That Council notes, in adopting the Regional Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) as the delivery model for Local Water Done Well, that a key factor in this decision is the restoration of debt capacity through balance sheet separation. Accordingly, this Council expects that the next Council will, as part of its 2027–37 Long Term Plan and Financial Strategy review, reinstate a borrowing limit of 150% of revenue, to reflect the changed debt environment and preserve prudent fiscal management for ratepayers
- K) That Council confirms with the Chief Executive that he will during the process of the establishment of the WSCCO, make best efforts to ensure that the community aspirations and risk mitigations (as reflected during the formal community consultation) are included into the corporate documents and associated accountabilities for the WSCCO to report to Council in its role both as Local Government and a shareholder in the WSCCO.

CARRIED

Councillors Nixon and Te Au-Skipworth vote AGAINST the motion was recorded.

6. MINOR ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE ITI

There were no additional business items.

7. URGENT ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE WHAKAHIHIRI

There were no extraordinary business items.

8 RECOMMENDATION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM ITEM 9

SECTION 48, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

Councillor Kerr/Councillor Buddo

THAT the public now be excluded from the following parts of the meeting, namely;

9 Local Water Done Well - Heads of Agreement Schedules 4 and 5

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this Resolution in relation to the matter and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this Resolution is as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND PARTICULAR INTERESTS PROTECTED	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF EACH RESOLUTION
9 Local Water Done Well - Heads of Agreement Schedules 4 and 5	<p>Section 7 (2) (h)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Matters outlined in the attachments to this paper are subject to commercial negotiations and should be reviewed separately.</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a)(i)</p> <p>Where the Local Authority is named or specified in the First Schedule to this Act under Section 6 or 7 (except Section 7(2)(f)(i)) of this Act.</p>

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 2.35pm
And resumed in public excluded at 2.56pm.*

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Confirmed:

Chairman:

Date: