
Thursday, 30 April 2026

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Administered by Hastings District Council: Transitional Governance Group Meeting

Ngā Minitī

Minutes

Te Rā Hui:
Meeting date: **Thursday, 30 April 2026**

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

Time start – end: **1.00pm – 1.50pm**

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Hastings District Council: Transitional Governance Group Meeting

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Kua Tae ā-tinana: **Independent Chair:** Jon Nichols
Present: **Deputy Chair:** Cr Keith Price (NCC)

Members:

Hastings District Council

Mayor Wendy Schollum (HDC)

Cr Michael Fowler (HDC)

Napier City Council

Mayor Richard McGrath (NCC)

Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Mayor Will Foley (CHBDC)

Cr Brent Muggeridge (CHBDC)

Kua Tatū:

In attendance:

Chief Executive - Nigel Bickle (HDC)

Chief Infrastructure Officer - Craig Thew (HDC)

Chief Financial Officer - Graham Watson (HDC)

Senior Advisor: Democracy & Governance Services - Lynne Cox (HDC)

Interim Chief Executive – Ross McLeod (CHBDC)

Executive Director Water Services - Russell Bond (NCC)

Manager Regional Waters, Bevan Trotman (NCC)

Deputy Mayor, Graeme Taylor (NCC)

Chief Executive – Louise Miller (NCC)

Kei Konei:

Also present:

Establishment Advisory Board

Interim Chief Executive, Chris O'Reilly

Mayor Schollum (HDC) opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. APOLOGIES – *NGĀ WHAKAPĀHATANGA*

There were no apologies.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - *HE NGĀKAU KŌNATUNATU*

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

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

Councillor Price/Councillor Fowler

That the minutes of the Transitional Governance Group held Tuesday 31 March 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

4. INDEPENDENT CHAIR FINAL REPORT

(Document 26/190)

Independent Chair, Jon Nichols spoke to the report and gave a PowerPoint presentation (CG-18-10-00030)

It was noted that the Shareholders Agreement (SHA) and Constitution have been agreed by all three participating Councils and the Company. This means the Transitional Governance Group will come to an end, and this will be replaced by the Shareholders Representative Forum (SRF) which will:

- Provide governance oversight of the Company which provides Water Services
- Provide a forum for the representatives of the Company's shareholders to meet, discuss and coordinate on relevant issues
- Appoint the Board of Directors

Jon Nichols advised that there would be a period of time between this being his last meeting as Chair of the Transitional Governance Group and the setup of the Shareholders Representative Forum. Jon Nichols moved a motion to appoint an interim Chair and Deputy Chair to the Group for the remainder of the transition. It was agreed that Councillor Price (NCC), currently the Deputy Chair would move to the role of Chair and Councillor Fowler (HDC) would move to the role of Deputy Chair.

Jon Nichols emphasised the importance of advertising for the recruitment of the Chair of the Shareholders Representative Forum as soon as possible.

Mayor Schollum and Mayor Foley acknowledged that this was Jon Nichols last meeting as Chair of this Group. They thanked Jon for his service on this Group and wished him well for the future.

Jon Nichols/Mayor Schollum

- A) That the Transitional Governance Group receive the report titled Independent Chair Final Report dated 30 April 2026.

- B) That the Group approves an interim Chair, Councillor Price (Napier City Council) and Deputy Chair, Councillor Fowler (Hastings District Council) until the establishment of the Shareholders Representative Forum.

CARRIED

5. TRANSITION UPDATE

(Document 26/193)

Interim Establishment Board Chief Executive, Chris O'Reilly spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Group.

As per the Water Reform Legislation, a quarterly report on the Water Services Delivery Plan was submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs on 22 April 2026. This report was approved by the Programme Steering Group and Establishment Advisory Board prior to submission.

Resourcing for a Programme Manager and 4 Programme Leads have been identified and all five are coming on board.

Mayor Foley/Councillor Price

- A) That the Transitional Governance Group receive the report titled Transition Update dated 30 April 2026.
- B) That the Group endorse the attached Quarterly update report documenting progress against the approved Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP).
- C) That the Group note the brief updates provided in regards to resourcing, the proposed transition agreement, and approach to setting incorporation date.

CARRIED

6. MINOR ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE ITI

There were no additional business items.

7. URGENT ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE WHAKAHIHIRI

There were no extraordinary business items.

Mayor Schollum closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm

Confirmed:

Chair:

Date: