



# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

## Open Minutes

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Meeting Date: Monday 21 July 2025

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Time: 9.30am – 12.00pm (Local Water Done Well Hearing)

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Venue Large Exhibition Hall  
War Memorial Centre  
Marine Parade  
Napier

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*Livestreamed via Council's Facebook page*

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Present **Chair:** Mayor Wise  
**Members:** Deputy Mayor Brosnan, Councillors Boag, Browne, Chrystal, Crown, Greig, Mawson, McGrath, Price, Simpson and Taylor

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In Attendance Acting Chief Executive (Jessica Ellerm)  
Executive Director Infrastructure Services (Russell Bond)  
Manager Water Reforms Transition (Andrew Lebioda)  
**Sign Language Interpreters:** Sarah Billing and Cathie Siebert

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**Submitters Speaking:** Jon Nichols, Bob Howe, Mark Pledsted, Angie Denby and Sue McDonald (Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society), Pauline Doyle, Warwick Marshall and Dr Nicolas Jones (Health New Zealand)

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Administration Governance Advisors (Carolyn Hunt and Jemma McDade)

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### Karakia

The meeting opened the Council karakia.

### Apologies

Councillors Crown / Price

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That the apology for lateness from Deputy Mayor Brosnan be accepted.

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Carried

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Councillor Tareha did not attend at the meeting.

### Conflicts of interest

Nil

### Public forum

Nil

### Announcements by the Mayor

Nil

### Announcements by the management

Nil

### Confirmation of minutes

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#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Councillors Mawson / Taylor

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That the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 26 June 2025, including the Public Excluded minutes previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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Carried

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# AGENDA ITEMS

## 1. LOCAL WATER DONE WELL - SUBMISSIONS

Type of Report:	Legal and Operational
Legal Reference:	Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024
Document ID:	1864148
Reporting Officer/s & Unit:	Andrew Lebioda, Manager Water Reforms Transition

### 1.1 Purpose of Report

Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Council is required to publicly consult on the options evaluated for the delivery of water services in response to Local Water Done Well (LWDW) policy. The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide the opportunity to those who chose to speak to their submissions on the consultation, and;
- Provide Council with a summary of the outcomes of this public consultation.

## PRESENTATION OF ORAL SUBMISSIONS

The following submitters spoke to their submissions in relation to the Local Water Done Well options.

**Jon Nicols (#234)** spoke to his submission in support of the Region-wide council controlled organisation (CCO). Mr Nicols highlighted the following points:

- Having a larger asset and customer base enables fixed overhead costs to be spread better.
- Large scale operations can encourage contractors to set up a base in the region with a depot and training centre.
- A larger entity would allow for standardisation on replacements and new assets and doing it the Hawke's Bay way.
- Any Board set up to run this entity will want good people in the regulatory space, so larger scale enables this to happen and easier to afford investment and technology.
- The Asset Management Plan needs to ensure that it is reflective of the four communities, and the new entity is well governed with clear expectations from the owners.
- Establishment of foundational documents are crucial to form a truly regional company with assets in the billions.
- This entity will be the biggest limited liability company in Hawke's Bay and should deliver better and more cost-effective outcomes.

*Councillor Browne withdrew from the meeting at 9.39am*

**Bob Howe (#6)** spoke to his submission opposing Council's preferred option of regional delivery and preferred to have the in-house delivery model.

*Councillor Browne rejoined the meeting at 9.42am*

Mr Howe advocated setting up a water model with no water meters and built by Team Napier and operated out of the Napier City Council Depot by waterworks staff.

*Councillor Mawson withdrew from the meeting at 9.55am*

**Mark Plested (#11)** spoke to his submission in support of Council's preferred option for regional water delivery. Mr Plested highlighted the following points:

*Councillor Mawson rejoined the meeting at 9.57am*

- Concerns raised in his submission were substantially allayed when he viewed the 2020 Morrison Low Water Services Plan report and the Local Water Done Well report.
- The recommended future delivery option requires good, stable planning, funding and information managements and interaction between Council and the CCO to be efficient and effective.
- Maintaining institutional knowledge will be a challenge and need to ensure systems track stages of development.
- CCO must be held accountable.
- There are risks in preparing any document and uncertainties however, there needs to be a section within the document that discusses the risks and uncertainties and not presented as error bars and confuse the general message. The risks need to be disclosed.

**Angie Denby (Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society) (#650)** spoke to her submission in support of the Region-wide CCO. She displayed a PowerPoint presentation (Doc Id 1866291) highlighting the importance of putting adequate resources into cleaning up stormwater and acknowledged planning is established for Ahuriri Regional Park Stormwater wetlands. However, she expressed major concerns about how much of the stormwater could be diverted to these wetlands.

**Warwick Marshall (#633)** spoke to his submission and did not support Council's preferred option of a regional CCO as felt it could be subsidising what they want. Mr Marshall supported an in-house model.

*Deputy Mayor Brosnan joined the meeting at 10.24am*

The Estuary has a critical function to drain the water from Bay View and be maintained to be fit for purpose as a drain. It can work together with the environment but must be kept in balance. Mr Marshall expressed concern if the project gets out of hand, the cost and the benefits.

*The meeting adjourned at 10.30am and reconvened at 11.00am*

## Presentation of Officer's Report

**The Manager Water Reforms Transition, Mr Lebioda** took the report as read which outlined a brief summary of the 666 submissions received and analysis following public consultation.

A total of 79% of submissions chose Council's preferred option of a CCO owned by the four councils of Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Hastings District Council, Napier Cit Council, and Wairoa District Council.

Mr Lebioda advised that key themes of submissions were affordability, potential loss of local voice, water metering and investment and transparency of where money is going if there were conflicting priorities.

There is no mention of water metering in the preferred option. However, there is mention under Bill 3 when it is enacted that Water Organisations will have five years to transition from any capital value or land based charging to an alternative revenue collecting stream.

The four Councils all consulted on the Regional CCO as their preferred option. Central Hawke's Bay met on 3 July 2025 to continue with a Regional CCO, Wairoa District will meet this week and both Napier City and Hastings District Councils will meet on 31 July 2025 to make the final decision.

### Oral Submissions (contd.)

**Pauline Doyle (#323)** spoke to her submission in support of Council's preferred option of a Regional CCO and supported permanent water treatment plants to replace the ten incident standard chlorinators. Ms Doyle also displayed at the meeting a response to an official information request made in 2018 (Doc Id 1865366) in regard to water chlorination.

She advised that Hastings District Council are considering universal water meters. Ms Doyle was pleased to hear that Napier City Council had allocated \$26.14m in the Long-Term Plan from 2029 to support the installation of universal water meters across the city. Metering will ensure a fairer consumption approach and more responsible approach to water use.

*It was noted that water meters were included in the 3 Year Plan and the decision to adopt the Plan with 12 For and 1 Against*

*Councillor Taylor left the meeting at 11.20am*

*The meeting adjourned at 11.20am and reconvened at 11.53am*

**Dr Nicholas Jones (Health New Zealand) (#601)** spoke to his submission in support of Council's preferred option of a Regional CCO. Dr Jones highlighted the following:

- The preferred option seems to be the most cost effective of the Government supported options.
- The proposed CCO structure has potential to enable a more co-ordinated and effective response to climate related challenges.
- Look at amalgamating water in some way expertise and finance.
- Noted that some detail including Government arrangements are yet to be finalised.
- Will be important to mitigate risk
- Health New Zealand is no longer a regulator but is responsible for surveillance and management of water borne illness and they work closely with Taumata Arowai. They also wish to continue to work closely with Councils.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Mayor Wise / Councillor Price

That Council:

- a) **Receive** the report titled Local Water Done Well – Submissions dated 21 July 2025.

- b) **Note** that officers will prepare a report for the 31 July 2025 Council Meeting to further deliberate and resolve a substantive decision on the preferred delivery model to inform a Water Services Delivery Plan.
- c) **Note** the points made by submitters and thanks the community for their engagement.

**ACTION:**

**Direct** officers to respond to the following questions asked by the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society at the meeting:

- If the 'In-House' solution is chosen, what hasn't gone well up till now?
- If a 'Consortium' is chosen, our concerns are: will the service and skill base be spread too thin?
- Will the Napier person who is focused on Ahuriri Estuary be competing with Wairoa?
- Will the knowledge base within NCC that know the history of the Ahuriri Estuary and waterways be available?
- Where has the 2018 Ahuriri Estuary and Coastal Edge Masterplan gone? The changes are not transparent to the public.
- Who will own the waterways? Who will benefit?

**Direct** officers to respond to the following questions asked by Mr Marshall

Has a cost benefit analysis been done on this proposed project?

- whatever option is adopted will have a very significant effect on many households, what consideration is given to them?
- given that you have shown varying costs for these options, please provide justification for those costs by describing exactly what actually will be done also management costs?
- please confirm that all costs relating to water, stormwater and sewage currently included in our rates will be removed for our rates i.e. they would then be paid separately to the new provider.
- The development / financial contributions collected over recent years, where has that money gone?
- for those areas in a better situation some others will they be subsidizing those where more work is required?
- What if any assistance does central government give to local government to undertake their policies?

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Carried

**Attachments**

- 1 Angie Denby, Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society Presentation (Doc Id 1866291)
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## Minor matters

There were no matters to discuss.

*The meeting closed with a karakia at 12.00pm*

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Approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairperson .....

Date of approval .....