



# **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Water Organisation Joint Committee  
meeting**

**Friday, 19 June 2026**

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
WATER ORGANISATION JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,  
TAURANGA  
ON FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Glen Crowther, Mayor James Denyer, Cr Graeme Elvin, Cr Margaret Murray Bengé, Tangata Whenua Representative Mr Hakopa Tapiata, Tangata Whenua Representative Hon Kiritapu Allan, Tangata Whenua Representative Ms Kylie Smallman,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **Water Organisation**

Kevin Lavery (Establishment Chief Executive), Cathy Davidson (Water Organisation Establishment Lead), Ariell King (Strategy, Policy and Bylaws Workstream Lead), Rachel McLeod (Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist)

**Tauranga City Council**

Christine Jones (General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Sarah Holmes (Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

**Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

Cr Rodney Joyce, Cr Tracey Coxhead, Chris Nepia (Strategic Kaupapa Māori Manager), Adele Henderson (Interim General Manager – Corporate Services)

Timestamps are included at the start of each item and signal where the agenda item can be found in the recording of the meeting held on 19 June 2026 at [Council's YouTube Channel](#).

**1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Tangata Whenua Representative Mr Hakopa Tapiata opened the meeting with a karakia.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

**4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**

Nil

**6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Nil

**7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**8 BUSINESS**

Timestamp: 7 minutes and 25 seconds

**8.1 Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson****Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WO1CC/26/0/1**

Moved: Mayor James Denyer

Seconded: Cr Margaret Murray Bengé

That the Water Organisation Joint Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson".
- (b) Appoints Cr Marten Rozeboom as the Chairperson
- (c) Approves that the first rotation cycle of the Chair and Deputy Chair roles will be for the period 19 June 2026 to 30 November 2027.

**CARRIED****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WO1CC/26/0/2**

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Margaret Murray Bengé

That the Water Organisation Joint Committee:

- (d) Appoints Mayor Denyer as the Deputy Chairperson.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 12 minutes and 35 seconds

## 8.2 Recruitment of the Board (Verbal Update)

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

The General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships and Growth, provided the Committee with an update on board recruitment noting the following:

- Independent recruitment firm, JacksonStone, was managing the process. The director roles were widely advertised and had attracted 53 applications.
- A longlist of 12 candidates had been selected and interviews were progressing, overseen by the Joint Working Group. Candidates were being assessed against the board skills matrix previously approved by the councils, with the aim of achieving a balanced mix of those skills.
- While the intention was to appoint the first three directors, the interview panel may recommend appointing more than three candidates if this would provide a stronger overall skills mix, with appointments potentially phased over time.
- Interviews were scheduled for early July, with board appointments expected to be considered by the Committee and councils in late July or August, followed by induction of successful candidates.
- The interview panel included representatives from Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and tangata whenua, supported by independent expert advisor Raveen Jaduram and Miriam Taris. This provided a strong and experienced selection panel.

### In response to questions

- Applicants had already indicated whether they were interested in the Chair role, Director role, or both.
- Once a preferred Chair candidate was identified, the panel could discuss the other preferred candidates with that person, provided all parties consented to sharing their names, as applications were confidential.
- This approach was considered practical and sensible, allowing the prospective Chair to provide input on the composition of the wider board before final recommendations were made.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WO1CC/26/0/3

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Kevin Schuler

That the Water Organisation Joint Committee:

- (a) Receives the update 'Recruitment of the Board'.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 18 minutes and 5 seconds

### 8.3 Update from the CEO - The First 50 Days Review (Presentation)

**Staff** Kevin Lavery, Chief Executive

The Chief Executive presented his First 50 Days Review with a PowerPoint presentation (attached) outlining the following:

- The findings from engagement with staff, councils, iwi and stakeholders.
- Key themes including maintaining a safe transition to the new organisation, ensuring growth paid for growth, addressing workforce and stormwater challenges, strengthening community and iwi engagement, and delivering moderate customer charges through efficient service delivery.

#### In response to questions

- New income streams: Growth should pay for growth through improved cost recovery, development and financial contributions, and possible growth levies.
- Decision-making before establishment: The future board should be appointed early and guide major strategic decisions through the Water Services Strategy.
- Workforce pressures: Workforce risks would be managed through contractor partnerships, apprenticeships, cadetships, tertiary links and a mix of delivery models.
- Staff transition: A safe transition approach was preferred, giving staff certainty and avoiding unnecessary disruption or full reapplication processes.
- Value of the new organisation: Success would be shown through better investment delivery, lower long-term costs, shared-service efficiencies and moderate customer charges.
- Community engagement: The organisation would use proactive engagement with community groups, iwi, developers, contractors and other networks.
- Inflation and contractor accountability: Longer-term partnerships, smoother capital programmes and performance-based work allocation would help manage costs and accountability.
- Council and board relationships: Regular workshops, early engagement and alignment with the future board chair would be important.
- Developers: The organisation should work constructively with developers and councils to support growth.
- Iwi and Treaty relationships: Early engagement, listening, no surprises and tangible outcomes through the Water Services Strategy were emphasised.
- Stormwater: Stormwater was identified as the main challenge due to climate risks, funding pressures and legislative constraints.
- Day one for customers: Customers should ideally notice little change, with service continuity, moderate charges and trust-building as priorities.

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WO1CC/26/0/4

Moved: Cr Margaret Murray Bengé

Seconded: Cr Glen Crowther

That the Water Organisation Joint Committee:

- (a) Receives the Update from the CEO – The First 50 Days Review.

**CARRIED**

#### Attachments

- 1 CEO Presentation - The First 50 Days Review

Timestamp: 1 hour and 23 minutes

## 8.4 Establishment Programme Work Plan

**Staff** Cathy Davidson, Water Organisation Establishment Lead  
Kevin Lavery, Establishment Chief Executive Officer for the Water Organisation

- The work plan would form part of a future Transition Agreement between the shareholder councils and the new water organisation, replacing the current Commitment Agreement.
- The programme was focused on customer outcomes, financial sustainability, network reliability, compliance, safety, integrated service delivery and a safe staff transition.
- Workstream leads had been appointed, including a new Strategy, Policy and Bylaws workstream to manage the significant programme of policy and bylaw review required before establishment.
- The Chief Executive advised that lessons from his 50-Day Review had been incorporated into the establishment programme, particularly around workforce transition, stakeholder engagement and stormwater challenges.
- Members discussed the need for a clear engagement roadmap with councils, iwi, developers and communities, along with early public engagement ahead of consultation on the future Water Services Strategy.
- The committee noted the significant amount of work required before July 2027 and emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum and avoiding delays.

### In response to questions

- Timing of foundational documents (June 2026 milestone): Most of the drafting work had already been completed. The documents were to come to the Joint Committee first, with council consideration expected later, likely around July.
- Regarding how unresolved issues from earlier decisions would be addressed, the organisation would inherit and continue progressing those matters, with the new board and organisation expected to have the capability and responsibility to advance solutions.
- Recruitment of a Tāngata Whenua specialist: The role was intended to ensure ongoing engagement and relationship management across all iwi and hapū in the region, particularly during establishment. The CEO noted the role could potentially be filled by someone already working within the current system.
- Regarding how consultation on the Water Services Strategy would fit alongside Long-Term Plan consultation, the CEO considered alignment with council LTP consultation beneficial, but agreed early pre-engagement would be required so communities understood the new organisation before formal consultation began.
- The CEO confirmed the Water Services Act required a 10-year strategy and a 3-year pricing plan, which would be consulted on and integrated as closely as possible with council planning processes.
- On a question about how Treaty settlement obligations and iwi relationships would be managed, the CEO acknowledged the complexity of existing and emerging Treaty settlement obligations and indicated the organisation would need internal capability, training, and specialist advice to ensure those obligations were understood and met.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WO1CC/26/0/5

Moved: Mayor James Denyer

Seconded: Tangata Whenua Representative Mr Hakopa Tapiata

That the Water Organisation Joint Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Establishment Programme Work Plan".

- (b) Notes the summary of the Establishment Work Plan incorporates the findings of the Water Organisation's CEO 50 day review.
- (c) Notes the summary of the Establishment Work Plan, as provided by this report.
- (d) Notes the upcoming work programme for the Joint Committee, which is provided by Attachment 1 to this report and includes:
  - (i) Providing comments on foundational documents (Statement of Expectations, Constitution, and Shareholders Agreement).
  - (ii) consideration of the transition arrangements
  - (iii) continued programme monitoring

**CARRIED**

### **Attachments**

- 1 Presentation: Establishment Programme Work Plan

### **9 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

### **10 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Tangata Whenua Representative Mr Hakopa Tapiata closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 11.54am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Water Organisation Joint Committee meeting held on 7 August 2026.**