



DRAFT MINUTES

**Wastewater Management Review
Committee meeting**

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,
TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026 AT 3:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr Spencer Webster (Chair), Ms Lara Burkhardt, Mr Des Heke, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor, Cr Hēmi Rolleston (online)

IN ATTENDANCE: Reneke van Soest (General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Radleigh Cairns (Manager: Drainage Services, Tauranga City Council), Jim Summers (Environmental Programme Leader), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

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 17 June 2026 on [Council's YouTube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

A karakia was given at the Waste Water Management Review committee workshop earlier in the day.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/1

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Cr Rod Taylor

That apologies from Cr Rick Curach be received and accepted.

CARRIED

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 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Timestamp: 4 minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/2

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Mr Whitiora McLeod

That the Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 4 minutes and 55 seconds

9.1 Water Services Organisation (Verbal Update)

Staff Reneke van Soest

- Councils had agreed to establish a Water Services Organisation (WSO) that will assume ownership of three waters assets and consents (stormwater, drinking water, wastewater).
- Wastewater consents (and this committee) were expected to transfer to the WSO, although the future structure and membership of the committee remained unclear.
- A transition team was overseeing establishment; currently the organisation was in an early phase (Chief Executive appointed, further roles such as Chief Financial Officer and a Tangata Whenua advisor being recruited).
- Consent conditions would transfer unchanged to the WSO; no changes to requirements were anticipated unless formally varied.
- Members emphasised the need to manage the transition carefully to retain progress made by the committee, including potential knowledge transfer/mentoring between existing and future members.
- It was noted that Tangata Whenua representation was driven by consent conditions tied to rohe, and was expected to continue under the new entity.
- There may be a need to include key elements (e.g. arrangements or expectations) in transfer or foundation documents to preserve current practices and intent.
- The key implication was that the committee would likely transition into the WSO environment, but governance arrangements (membership, roles, and supporting mechanisms) were still to be defined through the transition process.

Action Requested:

- That staff engage with the General Manager, Strategy, Partnerships & Growth to ensure this transition is actively managed to support engagement and transition considerations, and to look at the possibility of coaching and/or supporting incoming members.

Timestamp: 10 minutes and 40 seconds

9.2 Wastewater Activity Report

Staff Jim Summers, Environmental Programme Leader
Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

The Environmental Programme Leader and the Manager: Drainage Services spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and provided the following points:

- All wastewater discharges and seepages were reported as within consent conditions, with no significant issues raised.
- Regional Council feedback (Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review report (MUTR)) supported a Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan and inclusion of emerging contaminants monitoring, with a recommendation for a site management plan for the treatment plant.
- Overflows: 38 blockages were recorded since the last meeting; most contained within the network (33), with 5 reaching the receiving environment. Standard notification and water quality monitoring processes were followed.
- Capital projects (Tauranga plant): Clarifier 3: construction and preliminary commissioning complete; final commissioning pending completion of Bioreactor 2. Bioreactor 2: progressing well; expected completion late 2026 and operational early 2027.
- Network and infrastructure works: Opal Drive pump station nearing completion (commissioning underway).
- Waiāri pump station consent granted; construction expected to commence shortly.
- Ongoing renewals (e.g. Mansels Road, Ferguson Park) completed or in service.
- Future planning / strategy: Work progressing on biosolids management, including stabilisation and options such as anaerobic digestion.
- Acknowledged cost risk for vermicomposting if supply inputs decline, emphasizing need for multiple disposal options.
- Environmental Mitigation Fund (EMF): Committee confirmed it can review policy and guidelines but does not hold full decision-making delegation. Working group to be established to explore more flexible use of the fund.
- Overall theme: Operations were compliant and stable, with steady progress on capital works, while attention was shifting to long-term monitoring, biosolids strategy, and funding/flexibility of the EMF.

In response to questions

- Opal Drive contaminated soil: officers indicated the removed soil had likely been replaced. This would be followed up.
- Biosolids / vermicomposting risk: the risk was not loss of the option, but increasing costs over time as supply inputs (e.g. woodchip/mill by-products) reduced. Emphasis on ensuring multiple disposal options to improve resilience.
- MUTR recommendations: officers confirmed work would identify how each recommendation would be implemented (or not), acknowledging some may be impractical or too costly.
- Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan approach: clarified that the current draft is not final; further work is required to finalise the plan and develop an implementation approach and indicative costs. Funding constraints were noted — the committee could not commit operational funding, and external funding mechanisms (e.g. EMF) may assist with development only.

Discussion

- Refinement of MUTR recommendations: agreement that staff should report back on how each recommendation will be implemented or not, rather than assuming full adoption.
- Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan – next steps: extensive discussion on whether to progress the draft

plan, scope it further, or finalise it. Consensus was to direct staff and tangata whenua representatives to collaborate to finalise the plan and develop an implementation approach with costs.

- Funding constraints and approach: it was noted the Committee could not commit unbudgeted or ongoing operational expenditure. EMF funding considered for development work only (not ongoing monitoring), with uncertainty about appropriate use requiring further work.
- Working group / follow-up: A working group (including EMF focus) to meet to clarify funding options and policy settings.

Actions Requested:

That staff:

- Prepare a plan and costings for completing:
 - The Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan
 - The implementation of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan
- Report back on the total cost and timeline as soon as practicable, with potential funding options.
- Note that if (1) above is within budget, this can proceed immediately and does not need to wait for a future Waste Water Management Review Committee meeting for approval.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/3

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Cr Rod Taylor

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Wastewater Activity Report".
- (b) Directs staff to provide the Committee with detailed joint recommendations from staff and Tangata Whenua on the implementation, or not, of all Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review report recommendations, apart from the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan, for the Waste Water Management Review Committee to accept implementation steps, to be brought back to the committee at the next meeting.
- (c) Directs staff to provide the Committee with a preferred consenting pathway for the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan to be brought back to the next meeting.

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Hēmi Rolleston closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 9 September 2026.