

**KOMITI NGĀ WAI HANGARUA | WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held in the Hutt City Council Chambers on  
**Friday 6 October 2023 commencing at 10.00am**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor A Baker (PCC)  
 Mayor C Barry (HCC) (Chair)  
 Cr T Brown (WCC)  
 Mayor M Connelly (SWDC)  
 Cr R Connelly (GWRC) (Deputy Chair)  
 Mayor W Guppy (UHCC)  
 L Rauhina-August (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika)  
 (via audio visual link)  
 J Smeaton, (Te Rūnunga O Toa Rangatira interim  
 representative)

**APOLOGIES:**

A Rutene, H Modlik, R Faulkner

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Deputy Mayor H Swales, (Alternate, UHCC) (via audio visual link)  
 W Walker, Chief Executive, PCC  
 D List, Programme Director, Water Reform – Wellington Water Councils (part meeting)  
 G Swainson, Director, Asset Management and Operations, UHCC (via audio visual link)  
 J McKibbin, Acting Chief Executive, WWL  
 J Alexander, Group Manager, Network Strategy and Planning, WWL  
 T Harty, Acting Group Manager, Customer Operations, WWL  
 M Ford, Chief Financial Officer, WWL  
 H Raynor, Chief Digital Officer, WWL  
 F Clark, Head of Strategy, WWL  
 P Clarke, Tumuaki Māori, Principle Māori Advisor, WWL  
 P Wells, Manager, Service Planning, WWL  
 N Crane, Principle Advisor, Chief Executive's Office, WWL  
 V MacFarlane, Manager, Communications and Community Engagement, WWL  
 N Leggett, Chair, WWL Board  
 B Bayfield, Member, WWL Board  
 P Dougherty, Member, WWL Board (via audio visual link)  
 M Puketapu, Member, WWL Board (via audio visual link)  
 L Southey, Member, WWL Board (via audio visual link)  
 C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office, HCC  
 A Doornebosch, Democracy Advisor, HCC

## PUBLIC BUSINESS

### 1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.</i>
Tīhei mauri ora.	

The Chair welcomed J Smeaton representing H Modlik as interim representative for Te Rūnunga O Toa Rangatira.

The Chair highlighted that Wellington City Council had formally appointed Cr T Brown as their member representative on the Committee. Mayor T Whanau was the alternate representative. The Chair welcomed Cr Brown to the new role.

### 2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

**Minute No. WWC 23401**

*"That the apologies received from A Rutene, H Modlik and R Faulkner be accepted and leave of absence be granted."*

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

### 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

### 5. CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Chair read his statement attached as page 7 to the minutes.

### 6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

**Minute No. WWC 23402**

*"That the minutes of the meetings of the Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua | Wellington Water Committee held on Monday, 24 July 2023 and Thursday, 24 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record."*

7. THREE WATERS REFORMS - LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Programme Director, Water Reform - Wellington Water Councils provided a presentation attached as pages 8-11 to the minutes.

8. COMPANY AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report No. WWC2023/5/133 by Wellington Water Limited

Speaking under public comment, **Cr Diane Calvert** stated that she represented the Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward for Wellington City Council (WCC). She showed a photo of a pipe that had been removed from her residential street attached as page 12 to the minutes. She wanted to provide a view as both a councillor and a member of the public. She had been advised the work for the pipe replacement would start in May 2023. She noted this was to be followed up with stormwater pipe replacement. She highlighted the stormwater upgrade was now not going ahead due to funding shortages. She questioned why this had been removed from the work plan. She further questioned if there was a monitoring system for general water leak repairs and maintenance to manage costs for repairs.

In response to questions from members, Cr Calvert considered the capital works programme provided by Wellington Water Limited (WWL) to be managed well. She noted quality concerns about general repairs and maintenance by WWL's contractors. She noted that WCC decided in May 2023 to request an independent review and that a report was commissioned to report on operational repairs and maintenance provided by WWL. She believed this review had been presented to WCC officers in August 2023 and submitted to WWL for feedback. She noted she could not access the report on the review and asked for the reasons for the delay.

The Board Chair and Acting Chief Executive, WWL elaborated on the report.

In response to a question from a member, the Acting Chief Executive, WWL advised four health and safety incidents were reported in the first quarter of 2023. He noted WWL would take learnings from the incidents going forward with the contractor panels.

In response to a question from a member, the Board Chair, WWL highlighted the Board was paying particular attention to health and safety incidents and was working with the Chief Executive on remediations.

Mayor Baker noted that due to water reforms, all council budgets were under significant pressure. She asked WWL to signal to central government that assistance was required.

Cr Connelly highlighted GWRC's concerns regarding the growth potential in the region. She emphasised the need for more housing but also pointed out the additional pressure it would put on renewal demands. She considered more granularity was required about the location of growth areas and how WWL intended to provide water services for them.

Members asked WWL staff to provide a growth update report to the Committee in mid-2024. Members noted this would follow consultation from the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua Future Development Strategy.

Cr Connelly expressed her discomfort with the comments made in the report about the fluoride update. She said the Fluoride Inquiry had identified several broader themes surrounding the function and culture at WWL. She foreshadowed her intention to move an additional recommendation, asking WWL to provide a report to the Committee outlining the assessment and programme of action to address the broader themes identified in the Fluoride Inquiry.

In response to questions from a member, the Head of Strategy, WWL confirmed that WWL had been participating in the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee process on developing their Future Development Strategy. He noted this would affect the National Policy Statement on Urban Development to consider infrastructure needs. He said that, where possible, WWL had been providing information on this process from growth studies completed for shareholding councils. He advised each council had funded their growth studies to differing degrees. He said as a result, there were differing understandings of what those needs were, and more work was required to understand growth needs across the region.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Connelly/Mayor Connelly)

**Minute No. WWC 23403**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) *receives and notes the report; and*
- (2) *asks that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Wellington Water Committee outlining the assessment of, and programme of action towards remedying, the broader themes identified in the June 2022 Inquiry into the Cessation of Water Fluoridation by Wellington Water. This is to cover asset management maturity, internal audit and quality assurance functions, the organisational culture of reactivity and learned helplessness, issue escalation processes, communication with councils and the public, and the proactive release of information."*

## **9. WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND RISK FOR 2023/24 SUMMER - UPDATE**

Report No. WWC2023/5/134 by Wellington Water Limited

The Acting Group Manager, Customer Operations, WWL elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Acting Group Manager, Customer Operations, WWL said WWL currently had 107 pressure-reducing valves in operation to mitigate water use. He advised that when water pressure was reduced, WWL ensured fire flow was maintained and water pressure did not drop below agreed service levels. He said consumers could notice a slight reduction in water pressure. He advised WWL staff would conduct an audit of the condition of the valves to ensure operational status with reduced water pressure.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

**Minute No. WWC 23404**

*"That the Committee receives and notes the report."*

10. **WELLINGTON WATER LIMITED'S ANNUAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2023**

Report No. WWC2023/5/135 by Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Financial Officer, WWL elaborated on the report.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Financial Officer, WWL said WWL followed a customer alliance of employing 50% WWL staff and 50% contractors from Fulton Hogan for water pipe replacements. He noted approximately 20% of work was subcontracted out when required.

The Chair acknowledged the significant uplift in capital programme delivery. He highlighted the Barber Grove to Seaview wastewater pipe renewal had gone extremely well. He said he had received positive feedback from the community on the excellent communication provided to ensure as little inconvenience as possible.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

**Minute No. WWC 23405**

*"That the Committee receives Wellington Water Limited's Annual Report to 30 June 2023."*

11. **INFORMATION ITEM - WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2023/24**

Memorandum dated 27 September 2023 by the Democracy Advisor

The Chair noted the report requesting the assessment and programme of action on broader themes identified in the June 2022 Inquiry into the Cessation of Water Fluoridation by WWL would be included in the Forward Programme for the Committee meeting to be held on 8 December 2023.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Barry/Cr Connelly)

**Minute No. WWC 23406**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) receives and notes the Forward Programme items for the Wellington Water Committee to be held on 8 December 2023; and*
- (2) receives and notes the draft Forward Programme and future workshop topics for the Wellington Water Committee for 2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."*

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Barry/Mayor Baker)

**Minute No. WWC 23407**

*"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- 13. Minutes - 24 August 2023*

*The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each 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 are as follows:*

(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>General subject of the matter to be considered.</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter.</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.</i>
<i>Minutes of the Wellington Water Committee   Komiti Ngā Wai Hangarua held on 24 August 2023 Appointment of Directors to Wellington Water Board</i>	<i>The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons. (s7(2)(a)).</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exist.</i>

*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified in Column (B) above."*

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.11am. The non-public part of the meeting closed at 11.13am.

Mayor C Barry  
**CHAIR**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record  
Dated this 11th day of December 2023**

## **Wellington Water Committee meeting - Friday 6 October Chair's Statement**

Kia ora koutou, before we begin, I'd like to give a brief statement.

### **Water Shortage Summit**

We hosted a Water Shortage Summit on September 11. Over 60 mayors, councillors and mana whenua from across the metropolitan Wellington region reached near unanimous agreement that urgent action is needed to face the challenges we have with our water network. There were three recommendations from Wellington Water to tackle the issues we're facing: universal meters, pipe renewals and an additional storage lake. The overwhelming majority agreed that these recommendations get taken to each council's Long Term Plans for decision.

### **Water restrictions**

Level 1 Water Restrictions came into effect for the whole region on Sunday 24 September. We are expecting, if we have a dry summer, that we may have to go to Level 4 restrictions – something we've never done before. Wellington Water will be launching a public campaign on water restrictions soon.

### **Major projects**

#### **Donald St pump station**

Last Friday, Wellington Water switched on the Donald Street Wastewater Pump Station, marking a big milestone on an important project for Featherston's residents. The new pump station is more efficient, powerful and brings greater storage resilience. It'll significantly reduce wastewater overflows in the eastern part of town.

The project was delivered on time and is on track to come in under budget. The project team were able to expand the scope of the project and replaced the associated wastewater pipe that sends the wastewater on its way to the treatment facilities, without adding anything to the budget.

#### **Te Mārua Water Treatment Plant Capacity Optimisation Project**

In early September, we reached an important milestone in the Te Mārua Water Treatment Plant Capacity Optimisation Project, where crews commissioned the new CO2 tank on site. This was a big milestone in the journey to increase the plant's capacity from 80 to 120 million litres per day, which will improve our resilience against future water shortages and help prepare us for growth.

#### **Kaitoke Pipe Bridge Project**

Another great example of increasing the resilience of the region's network was seen in August with a key stage in the Kaitoke Pipe Bridge project being completed. Following a year and half of challenging and complex construction, the 24-tonne, 52-metre-long steel arch bridge has been lifted onto its new home across Te Awa Kairangi.

The bridge will support a 1.5m diameter pipe, designed and built in Japan and the largest of its type installed in Aotearoa. This pipe will transport a significant amount of Wellington's drinking water – up to 140 million litres a day.

#### **Leaks**

Since July 1, Wellington Water has fixed 2310 leaks, including 700 in September. There are currently 2732 open confirmed leaks.

# Wellington Water Committee

## Item 7: Three waters reform

### Key updates on legislation and programme

10 October 2023  
Dougal List, Programme Director

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## Key matters to be covered in this update

### Matters for update

- Legislation update
- Reforms programme and timeline
- Programme dashboard



## Legislative process

The Government has now passed a package of legislation to give effect to water reforms.

This includes:

- The Water Services Entities Act 2022
- The Water Services Legislation Act 2023
- The Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023

Nb. This legislation is yet to be packaged into a consolidated version.

And

- The Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Act 2023

## Legislative implications

### The Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023

- Amends the principle Act
- Sets an establishment date for Wai Tāmaki ki Te Hiku (Auckland / Northland) for 1 July 2024
- Requires Government to confirm the establishment dates for the other 9 entities for between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026
- This process includes a requirement to engage with councils and mana whenua
- Establishment dates must be confirmed through an Order in Council within 6 months of the legislation being enacted (= by February 2024)
- The preliminary recommended establishment date for Entity G Wellington region is 1 October 2024.
- This is same date as for Hawkes Bay / Tairāwhiti (Entity F)

## Establishment requirements

### Milestones required to legally form Entity G by 1 October 2024 appear challenging

#### Key milestones 2023

- Confirmation of Government policy direction after the election

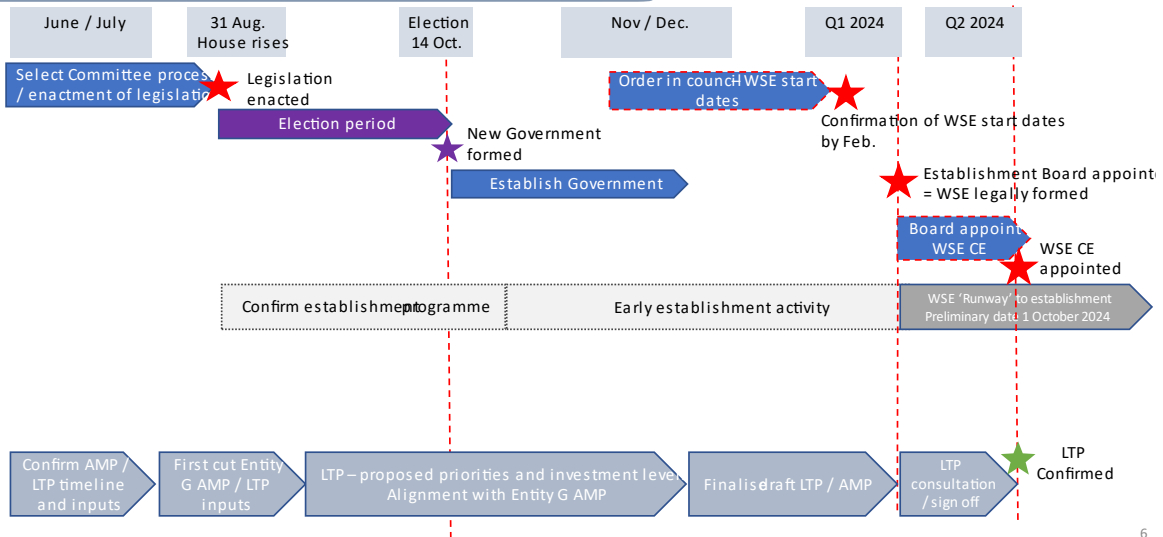
#### Key milestones Q3 FY23/24

- Order in Council to confirm go live dates
- Appoint establishment Board = legal establishment of WSE
- Agree constitution
- Form RRG

#### Key milestones Q4 FY23/24

- Appoint CE
- Appoint Tier 2

## Legislated Timeline and milestones



## Current activity

In preparation for establishment of the WSE, a range of activity is underway, involving several parts of WWL, staff from councils and mana whenua:

- Input to the programme planning for establishment of the entity
- Debt settlement for councils and financing / funding arrangements
- Billing arrangements
- Asset identification and transfer arrangements
- Entity AMP and alignment with council LTPs
- Development of national standards
- IT systems and data transfer
- High level organisation design
- Staff engagement

Wellington Water Committee – Three Waters reforms update 10 October 2023

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## Water reforms – WWLASC programme dashboard

Programme	Status	Commentary
Budget, costs and resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTU have confirmed further council transition funding for first 6 months of FY23/24</li> <li>• Resourcing appears challenging for DIA</li> </ul>
Risks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts of election – direction and timing</li> <li>• Limited progress to confirm establishment programme</li> <li>• Unclear tasks and timeline ahead inc. key milestones</li> <li>• Timing of reforms and ability to meet milestones to establish WSE</li> <li>• Resourcing, including loss of key staff</li> </ul>
Progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Entity G Steering Group with NTU / CEs</li> <li>• Formation of Regional Establishment Group in NTU for Entity G and programme planning</li> </ul>
Critical activities next quarter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government direction</li> <li>• Confirmed NTU programme for Entity G and establishment date engagement</li> <li>• Confirmation of funding and resource requirements</li> <li>• LTP / AMP process and inputs</li> </ul>

Wellington Water Committee – Three Waters reforms update 10 October 2023

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