

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.32am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand (until 12.10pm)
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of the Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Wesley Gyles-Bedford spoke to agenda item 12 – Adoption of Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035.

John Morrison spoke to agenda item 10 – Local Water Done Well Delivery Model.

Graeme Clarke, Wellington Residents' Coalition, spoke to agenda item 10 – Local Water Done Well Delivery Model.

Neil Deans, Te Hononga – Wellington Catchments Collective, spoke to agenda item 6 – Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan.

Pat van Berkel spoke to agenda item 6 – Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan.

Kara Puketapu-Dentice, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, spoke to agenda item 6 – Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan.

Stu Farrant spoke to agenda item 6 – Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan.

Jon Thompson, Parkvale Rd Ltd, spoke to agenda item 6 – Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report 25.283

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Saw

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report 25.283.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report RPE25.284

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Laban

That Council confirms the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report RPE284.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45am and resumed at 11.03am.

6 Understanding the Implications of National Direction for Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan – Report 25.307

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Approves Option 2 to pause Plan Change 1 until Council has enough confidence in government direction to proceed with Plan Change 1.
- 2 Delegates to the Chief Executive its power under clause 16A of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991 to initiate a variation to Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region relating to financial contributions, and hydrological controls for small sites.
- 3 Notes the submission of the Port Nicholson Settlement Trust and Ngāti Toa made in Public Participation at this meeting, and the conditions that they consider should be advanced in progressing Option 2.
- 4 Notes that, in line with recent research and economic analysis, PC1 encourages more fiscally responsible long term urban development and infrastructure investment that will contribute to a stronger and more resilient regional economy and that PC1 does not unnecessarily hamper development capacity, economic growth or employment.

The motion was taken in parts:

Part 1 was put, and a division vote was called:

Votes for Part 1 were: Councillors Bassett, Gaylor, Kirk-Burnnand, Lee, Ponter, Staples and Woolf.

Votes against Part 1 were: Councillors Connelly, Duthie, Laban, Nash, Ropata and Saw.

Part 1 of the motion was **carried** by 7 votes to 6.

Part 2 was put and was **carried**. Councillor Duthie voted against Part 2 and requested that his vote against this Part be recorded.

Parts 3 and 4 were put separately and were **carried** separately.

The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm and resumed at 12.19pm.

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand left the meeting at 12.10pm and did not return.

7 Adoption of 2025/26 Annual Plan – Report 25.294

Tyler Dunkel, Manager Corporate Planning and Reporting, spoke to the report. A design sample of the Annual Plan 2025/26 was tabled.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Connelly

That Council:

- 1 Notes that in accordance with section 95(2A) of the Local Government Act 2002, formal public consultation was not undertaken in the preparation of the 2025/26 Annual Plan as no significant or material changes have been proposed from year two of Greater Wellington's 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
- 2 Adopts the 2025/26 Annual Plan (Attachment 1).
- 3 Authorises the Chief Executive the ability to make minor editorial changes to the 2025/26 Annual Plan prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.
- 4 Authorises the Group Manager Finance & Risk to enter into any debt facilities or borrowing that are required to implement the 2025/26 Annual Plan that are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.
- 5 Notes that separate reports are being considered at this Council meeting to set the:
 - a Wellington Regional Council Rates 2025/26 (Report 25.254)
 - b Wholesale Water Levy 2025/26 (Report 25.255).

The motion was **carried**.

8 Setting of Wellington Regional Council Rates for 2025/26 – Report 25.254

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Sets, pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, the rates as set out in paragraphs 15 to 29 of this report, for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and concluding 30 June 2026, with all dollar amounts being inclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- 2 Sets the instalment due dates as set out in paragraph 30.
- 3 Resolves, pursuant to sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, to add penalties to unpaid rates as set out in paragraphs 30 and 31.
- 4 Requests officers to send a copy of these resolutions to all territorial authorities that act as Wellington Regional Council's agents for rates collection purposes, with a request that each territorial authority respond with an acknowledgment of the changes to rates and the funding methods when compared to the previous financial year.
- 5 Requests officers to place these resolutions on Greater Wellington's website.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Wholesale Water Levy 2025/26 and End of Year Adjustment for Levy 2024/25 – Report 25.255

Alison Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, and Julie Knauf, Group Manager Corporate Services, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Bassett

That Council:

- 1 Approves the wholesale water contributions payable by constituent authorities for 2025/26, pursuant to section 91 of the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972, as follows:

	2025/26 Levy (GST exclusive)
Hutt City Council	\$ 21,229,102
Porirua City Council	\$ 8,976,525
Upper Hutt City Council	\$ 9,393,031
Wellington City Council	\$ 38,907,497
Total	\$ 78,506,155

- 2 Approves the end of year levies adjustments for 2024/25 as follows:

	2024/25 Levy Adjustments (GST exclusive)	
Hutt City Council	\$ 100,943	To Pay
Porirua City Council	\$ 138,647	To Pay
Upper Hutt City Council	\$ 315,038	To Pay
Wellington City Council	-\$ 554,628	Refund

The motion was **carried**.

10 Local Water Done Well Delivery Model – Report 25.250

Julie Knauf, Group Manager Corporate Services, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Notes the results from public consultation which heavily supported the multi-council model for water services.
- 2 Notes the feedback from consultation to ensure consumers are protected and water services remain publicly owned.
- 3 Agrees to jointly establish and co-own a new water services Council-controlled organisation (CCO) for three waters, together with Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council.
- 4 Notes that except for land associated with bulk water supply which will remain in Greater Wellington's ownership, the intention is to transfer

Greater Wellington's assets, debt, liabilities and services in relation to bulk water supply to the new jointly owned CCO on or by transition after 1 July 2026.

- 5 Requests that officers develop a joint Water Services Delivery Plan and draft foundation documents for Council's approval in August 2025, prior to submission to the Secretary of Local Government (Department of Internal Affairs) by 3 September 2025.
- 6 Requests that officers ensure Te Tiriti is upheld and mana whenua partner priorities and outcomes are fully delivered upon in the Water Services Delivery Plan and foundation documents.
- 7 Notes that in line with the agreed direction outlined in Report 24.167, Regional Collaboration on a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), and the clarification letter referred to in that report and issued to the Chair of the Advisory Oversight Group and the Mayors of the councils in the Wellington Region on 7 May 2024, it was the intention of Council to explore options to release its responsibility for bulk water supply to the metropolitan areas of the Wellington Region once the new entity is appropriately established as a viable and effective entity.
- 8 Notes that the original parameters that were considered of importance at the time of the decision to support regional collaboration on the WSDP were that Greater Wellington would retain its environmental regulatory power, retain ownership of land associated with the delivery of bulk water, have a suitable financial arrangement with the new entity associated with the disposal of bulk water supply assets and associated debt, and the importance of strengthening and level of involvement of iwi / Māori at all stages of the entity design stage.
- 9 Requests that:
 - a officers investigate all reasonable options available to facilitate any potential exit by Greater Wellington from the shareholding of the new entity and any statutory responsibility for the delivery of bulk water, including without limitation the above noted considerations, appropriate timing of a withdrawal, any legislative changes necessary to give effect to that withdrawal, and the advantages and disadvantages associated with such a withdrawal along with the advantages and disadvantages of staying within the entity, to support the informed consideration of Council of a potential exit strategy; and
 - b report back to Council on its findings and recommendations no later than August 2026.
- 10 Requests that in the development of the foundation documents for a future regional water services entity, officers and the AOG representative ensure that Greater Wellington's initial positions are clearly reflected, including the following principles and requirements:

- a **Water as a Public Good;** water services must remain publicly owned and operated for public benefit, with all surpluses reinvested back into the system.
 - b **Responsibility as kaitiaki for te Taiao;** any water services entity has a key relationship with the natural environment and must take this responsibility seriously.
 - c **Takes an integrated catchment view;** water services must be viewed in a catchment context and include approaches such as nature-based solutions, water sensitive design, and be cognisant of the long-term costs of infrastructure to support urban growth.
 - d **Te Tiriti and Te Mana o te Wai,** where Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principle of Te Mana o te Wai must be upheld, including through equitable partnership with mana whenua and a commitment to improving water quality.
 - e **Gives effect to existing community and mana whenua expectations for water outcomes;** the whitua and other processes have articulated pathways to achieve Te Mana o Te Wai and should be guiding documents for the new entity. This includes Whitua Implementation Programmes, Te Mahere Wai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statement and Te Wai Ora o Parirua – Porirua Harbour Accord.
 - f **Transparency and Accountability;** the new entity must operate openly, with clear and accessible information for communities and governance.
 - g **Fair and equitable customer relationship;** pricing must be transparent, equitable, and consistently applied across the region and any establishment includes a dispute resolution system.
 - h **Enabling Potential Future State:** nothing in the foundation documents or the establishment and ongoing development of the entity should prevent Greater Wellington from surrendering its shareholding or transferring any legislative powers it may currently have relating to bulk water supply without penalty should such a decision be made by Council.
- 11 Agrees to amend the terms of reference for the Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) as set out in Attachment 2.
- 12 Agrees to:
- a reconfirm its representative on the AOG as Councillor Connelly, with Councillor Ponter the alternate, and
 - b delegate to Councillor Connelly, and Councillor Ponter as alternate, the ability to make decisions as a member of AOG on the following establishment activities only:
 - i the appointment, removal, and remuneration of interim directors of the new water organisation and

- ii the development of the new water organisation's draft Constitution and draft Stakeholders Agreement for recommendation to Council for final approval and ratification, and
 - c the AOG member consulting with the Council Chair (or Councillor Ponter, as alternate, consulting with the AOG member) on the matters in (b) prior to the exercise of their delegation.
- 13 Notes that the final decision to approve and ratify the new water organisation's Constitution and Stakeholders Agreement will be made by each of the individual participating councils.
- 14 Notes that more work in relation to stormwater and the stormwater/ flood management interface needs to be undertaken and communicated to elected members through their AOG representative ahead of the final version of the water services plan being developed.
- 15 Notes that the situations of large families or multifamily households, people on low incomes and renters need to be considered in the development and adoption of the consumer charter.

The motion was taken in parts:

Parts 1 to 11 were put together and were **carried**.

Part 12 was put and was **carried**. Councillors Connelly and Ponter requested that their abstention from the vote on Part 12 be recorded.

Parts 13 to 15 were put together and were **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 12.51pm and reconvened at 1.30pm.

11 Report on the Regional Public Transport Plan Hearing – Report 25.296

Councillor Nash, Chair, Transport Committee, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Duthie

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the Transport Committee heard submissions on the draft Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui - Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan (Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan) from Tuesday, 6 May to Wednesday, 7 May 2025.
- 2 Agrees to the recommendations arising from Transport Committee deliberations, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Adoption of Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 – Report 25.295

Emmet McElhatton, Manager Policy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Saw

That Council:

- 1 Adopts Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 attached as Attachment 1 to this report.
- 2 Notes that a regional public transport plan takes effect 20 working days after the date on which the regional council adopts the plan.

The motion was **carried**.

13 Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Structural Works Implementation – Review – Report 25.278

Tina Love, Team Leader Infrastructure Projects, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That Council:

- 1 Agrees to the construction of Stages 3 to 5 of the Pinehaven FMP structural works remaining on hold.
- 2 Requests officers to develop, over the next 12 months, alternative options for Stages 3, 4, and 5 of the Pinehaven FMP structural works, and report to Council and its relevant Sub/committees on the options.

The motion was **carried**.

14 Finance Report Update – May 2025 – Report 25.298 [For Information]

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, and Alison Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk spoke to the report.

Resolution to exclude the public

15 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.306

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Gaylor

That Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report PE25.282

Bus procurement: Transition update – Report RPE25.265

Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: Funding arrangements for future assets – Report RPE25.292

Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: Contract update – Report RPE 25.266

Chief Executive Performance Indicators for 2025/26 – Report RPE25.207

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific ground/s under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 12 June 2025 – Report PE25.282	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
Information contained in these minutes relates to future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of this part of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Bus procurement: Transition update – Report RPE25.265	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
Certain information contained in this report relates to future bus service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations and may affect the probity of the bus services procurement process. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	
Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: Funding arrangements for future assets – Report RPE25.292	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
Certain information contained in this report relates to future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: Contract update – Report RPE 25.266	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
Certain information contained in this report relates to future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	
Chief Executive Performance Indicators for 2025/26 – Report RPE25.207	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
This report contains information relating to the current Chief Executive's performance agreement. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 1.57pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair



Date: