



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O
ŌTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Open Minutes of an **extra-ordinary** meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council was held in Waikōwhitiwhiti (Council Chambers), Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga on Tuesday, 8 April 2025 commencing at 10.00am.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

10 April 2025

Ōtorohanga District Council attendance

Chairperson	His Worship the Mayor, Max Baxter	Attended
Deputy Chairperson/Kāwhia Tihiroa Councillor	Deputy Mayor, Annette Williams	Attended
Kāwhia Tihiroa Councillor	Kit Jeffries	Attended
Kio Kio Korakonui Councillor	Rodney Dow	Attended
Ōtorohanga Councillor	Katrina Christison	Attended
Ōtorohanga Councillor	Steve Hughes	Attended
Rangiātea Councillor	Jaimee Tamaki	Attended
Rangiātea Councillor	Roy Willison	Apology
Waipā Councillor	Roy Johnson	Attended
Wharepūhanga Councillor	Cathy Prendergast	Attended

Senior staff in attendance

Chief Executive	Tanya Winter	Attended
Group Manager Business Enablement	Graham Bunn	Attended
Group Manager Engineering & Assets	Mark Lewis	Attended
Group Manager Regulatory & Growth	Tony Quickfall	Attended
Group Manager Strategy & Community	Nardia Gower	Attended
Chief Advisor	Ross McNeil	Apology

Opening formalities	Ngā tikanga mihimihi	
Commencement of meeting	Te tīmatanga o te hui	3
Opening prayer/reflection/words of wisdom	Karakia/huitao/whakataukī	3
Apologies	Ngā hōnea	3
Late items	Ngā take tōmuri	3
Declaration of conflict of interest	Te whakapuakanga pānga taharua	3

Decision reports	Ngā pūrongo whakatau	
Item 225 Local Water Done Well options analysis & identification of Preferred Option		3
Item 226 Local Water Done Well consultation document		5

Information only reports	Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake	
There are no reports.		

Public excluded	Take matatapu	
There are no reports.		

Closing formalities	Ngā tikanga whakakapi	
Closing prayer/reflection/words of wisdom	Karakia/huritao/whakataukī	6
Meeting closure	Katinga o te hui	6

This Open Agenda was prepared by Manager Governance, Kaia King and approved for distribution by Chief Executive, Tanya Winter on 8 April 2025.

Commencement of meeting**Te tīmatanga o te hui**

His Worship the Mayor declared the meeting open at 10.00am.

Opening prayer/reflection/words of wisdom**Karakia/huitao/whakataukī**

ŌDC's Tanya Winter led Councillors in a recitation of the karakia included in the agenda.

Apologies**Ngā hōnea**

Resolved C353: That Ōtorohanga District Council receive and accept the apology from Councillor Roy Willison for non-attendance.

His Worship the Mayor | Councillor Tamaki

Late items**Ngā take tōmuri**

There were no late items.

Declaration of conflict of interest**Te whakapuakanga pānga taharua**

There were no declarations made.

Decision reports**Ngā pūrongo whakatau****Item 225 Local Water Done Well options analysis & identification of Preferred Option**

ŌDC's Mark Lewis acknowledged the work undertaken by the Three Waters Project Team and ŌDC staff. He spoke on Central Government's water reform over the previous five years. He acknowledged the report seeks one of the most important decisions that will be made in this Triennium. Mr Lewis spoke on the options analysis and the process for consideration and shortlisting resulting in the two options to be considered at the meeting. He noted the Waikato Water Done Well was the staff recommendation as the preferred option for consultation for the reasons outlined in the staff report. He advised that if ŌDC approve participation as a Stage One shareholder it would enable ŌDC to continue to have influence in the co-design process.

His Worship the Mayor noted the work undertaken by the project team and staff to get to a decision point and commented on the importance to take the future requirements of the district into the consideration. Councillor Prendergast reiterated the comments by His Worship.

Councillor Jeffries endorsed the comments by His Worship and Councillor Prendergast. He spoke on the intent to be 'no worse off' and wanted to ensure that the debts would be taken on by the new entity. He also noted the stranded overheads would be considered in the next stage.

Councillor Johnson agreed with the comments made, noting it was important to make sure there was a pathway for local voices to be heard. He sought the inclusion of a clear pathway in the statement of expectations work. ŌDC's Tanya Winter noted there would be an earlier opportunity to influence the CCO through the Shareholders Agreement.

Councillor Dow acknowledged the work undertaken to date. He noted that the current Waters team had the ability to provide the 'Enhanced Status Quo' (ESQ) service. He advised that although he preferred the ESQ he would support the decision made, noting there would be a further decision following public consultation. His Worship the Mayor stated that the inclusion of the 'no worse off' portion in the staff recommendation was a beneficial inclusion. He noted the consultation is an indication of what the public prefer rather than a referendum.

Resolved C354: That Ōtorohanga District Council:

- 1) Receive the following reports –
 - a. 'Water Services Option Analysis' (document number 815433);
 - b. 'Assessment of Viability and Sustainability of Water Services Delivery' dated December 2024 and 'Progress Update and Options Discussion' dated February 2025 from BECA, MARTINJENKINS & mafic (document numbers 815434 and 815435);
 - c. 'Proposal for Waikato Water Done Well' dated 20 March 2025 and 'Supplementary Financial Analysis for Ōtorohanga District Council' dated 20 March 2025 (document numbers 815436 and 815437);
- 2) Note that following consideration of the water services arrangement options available to Council, only two options were deemed likely to meet the legislative requirements, these being an Enhanced Status Quo option and a multi council CCO option – Waikato Water Done Well (WWDW);
- 3) Endorse Waikato Water Done Well (WWDW) as the preferred option for community consultation noting that –
 - a. It is Council's intention to initially become a Stage One shareholder;
 - b. Transition to becoming a Stage Two shareholder in 2027/28 is on the proviso that the district is no worse off - financially and operationally - under WWDW than it would be under the Enhanced Status Quo Model;

- 4) Make available, as part of the community consultation process, information relating to the analysis of the Enhanced Status Quo as the other 'reasonably practicable option(s)' identified under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 [S64(2)(b)(i)].

His Worship the Mayor | Councillor Prendergast

Councillor Rodney Dow requested his vote against the motion be recorded.

Item 226 Local Water Done Well consultation document

ŌDC's Nardia Gower acknowledged the work undertaken by ŌDC staff to develop the consultation document. She noted Council's previous decision to undertake a four week consultation process.

Councillor Christison acknowledged the consultation document's ease of reading. Councillor Jeffries queried what would happen if ŌDC decided not to move to stage two. His Worship the Mayor noted conversations were had with the Waikato Water Done Well members. ŌDC's Tanya Winter noted that over the next two years, other options might arise including joining with one other council who chooses not to join the Waikato Water Done Well. His Worship the Mayor noted the importance of being a stage one shareholder to influence the development of the model.

Councillor Johnson spoke on the section stating rural water schemes will no longer be required however they will continue to exist. He requested the wording be amended however Ms Winter advised it was correct. His Worship the Mayor noted that any rural water scheme providing drinking water running independently would still need to comply with the requirements of Taumata Arowai. Councillor Johnson queried how rural water schemes would have a local voice in the shareholders group. Ms Winter stated that it was unknown as the Shareholders Agreement was still under development, but the need to include local voices was part of the ongoing discussions.

Councillor Dow spoke on the ownership and management of the four schemes. Ms Winter noted that Simpson Grierson were unable to provide a legal opinion on the ownership. Councillor Dow commented that the inclusion or exclusion of the schemes would make a difference to the financial modelling. He stated there was a need to separate out the town and rural cost centres to avoid the perception that one was subsidising the other.

Deputy Mayor Williams noted there were four rural water supply schemes in the Ōtorohanga district, but there were other Waikato rural water supply schemes. The representation at the shareholder level would need to represent all rural scheme users.

Resolved C355: That Ōtorohanga District Council approve 'Kōrero Wai – Let's Talk Water, Local Water Done Well Consultation Document' (document number 815027).

His Worship the Mayor | Councillor Tamaki

Information only reports

Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake

There were no reports.

Public excluded

Take matatapu

There were no reports.

Closing prayer/reflection/words of wisdom

Karakia/huritao/whakataukī

His Worship the Mayor led Councillors in a recitation of the karakia provided in the agenda.

Meeting closure

Katinga o te hui

His Worship the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.33am.