



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O  
**ŌTOROHANGA**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Open Minutes

## **ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING**

10 June 2025

Open Minutes of an extra-ordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council held in Waikōwhitiwhiti (Council Chambers), Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga on Tuesday, 10 June 2025 commencing at 10.00am.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

17 June 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	Attended
Waipā Councillor	Roy Johnson	Attended
Wharepūhunga 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	Attended

<b>Opening formalities</b>	<b>Ngā tikanga mihimihi</b>	
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Opening prayer/reflection/words of wisdom	Karakia/huitao/whakataukī	4
Apologies	Ngā hōnea	4
Late items	Ngā take tōmuri	4
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<b>Decision reports</b>	<b>Ngā pūrongo whakatau</b>
There were no reports.	

<b>Information only reports</b>	<b>Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake</b>
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<b>Closing formalities</b>	<b>Ngā tikanga whakakapi</b>	
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These Open Minutes were prepared by Manager Governance, Kaia King and approved for distribution by Chief Executive, Tanya Winter on 17 June 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**

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

## **Apologies**

## **Ngā hōnea**

There were no apologies tendered.

## **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**

There were no reports.

## **Information only reports**

## **Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake**

### **Item 247 - Preferred Model for Delivery of Water Services - Deliberations Report**

ŌDC's Mark Lewis, Nardia Gower and Anne McLeod presented the report.

Mr Lewis noted no decision was required to be made at the meeting, but the submissions were presented for consideration. He then referred to the staff responses to submissions received noting they were included for feedback and would be confirmed at the 24 June meeting along with the final decision on the preferred option. He noted an alignment between the submissions and Council's objectives going into the process.

Councillor Jeffries queried if the response to submitters 2 and 4 should include reference to the enhanced opportunity for capital projects through greater capacity for debt funding by joining the proposed Council Controller Organisation (CCO). Councillor Dow questioned whether that would provide false hope as any capital projects would be prioritised against all the required projects by the CCO shareholders.

Deputy Mayor Williams commented on the small number of submissions received. She referred to the submitter who preferred enhanced status quo noting ensuring local voices were heard had been top of mind throughout the process. His Worship the Mayor noted the Mayors and CEs were discussing mana whenua representation on the proposed CCO.

Councillor Christison spoke about the \$1M loan to reduce the water deficit which was a burden on the Ōtorohanga community. She advised at the Ōtorohanga Community Board meeting the Board raised concern around the increases and following discussions and then decided to provide a recommendation to ŌDC that was different to the staff recommendation. The resolution also included a recommendation to communicate with the community on the state of the water and why the water rates were going up. Councillor Christison spoke on the increasing water prices encouraging people to install water tanks which would then push prices higher as consumption was reduced. His Worship commented on the same deficit issue which was faced by the rural water schemes especially should one of the larger water users pull out of the scheme.

Councillor Tamaki spoke on change communication needed to make sure that the community is reassured that the focus is on long term sustainability. She spoke on the importance of elected members communicating that reassurance.

Councillor Dow raised concern about admin costs and ŌDC's Tanya Winter advised the Chief Executives were working through a proposed structure and His Worship reiterated that ŌDC's stated intention was to be no worse off than under the enhanced status quo option. He stated that ŌDC needed to believe in the system in order to be comfortable with making a final decision in favour of the proposed CCO.

Councillor Hughes spoke on the Ōtorohanga Community Board meeting where staff presented a comparison of fixed and usage charges of similar small rural councils and noted ŌDC have been charging quite low in comparison. His Worship noted the deficits for Ōtorohanga were lower than those councils and there was always a balancing act. He also noted procurement, and staffing costs had changed considerably since 2020. Councillor Hughes advised the Ōtorohanga water deficit was increasing by approximately \$250k per annum while water regulations were increasing.

Councillor Jeffries commented on the difference of 'affordability' between ŌDC itself and the community. Ms Winter spoke on the balance that ensured assets were fit for the future to ensure safe potable water with wastewater being disposed of appropriately, on a price path that was realistic for the community. She noted central Government were intending to review councils forward works programme to ensure compliance with environmental and health regulations and assess if the budget has adequate provision to complete those works. Councillor Prendergast spoke on the level of expectation regarding accountability from the combined councils that the CCO Board would have to adhere to.

In response to a comment from Councillor Dow, Ms Winter noted staff had presented on the need to ensure enough revenue is received to keep water deficits low several times during the development of the Long Term Plan and the Waikato Water Done Well process. His Worship noted it was up to elected members to make courageous decisions in the best long term benefit for the community. Councillor Jeffries noted the receipt of four submissions on what was arguably the biggest decision to be made by ŌDC in recent years.

Resolved C387: That the Ōtorohanga District Council receive the report titled 'Preferred Model for Delivery of Water Services - Deliberations Report (document number 827430) noting:

- a) the staff recommendations/suggested responses to submitters; and,
- b) a decision on the final preferred water services delivery option for inclusion in ŌDC's Water Services Delivery Plan will be made on 24 June 2025.

His Worship the Mayor | Deputy Mayor Williams

## 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 10.35am.