

Three Waters Committee – 10/09/25

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 September 2025, commencing at 9.30am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown; Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett and Liz McMillan

Also present: Crs Richard Wilson, Rob Mackle and Leen Braam.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager) and Heather Stoddart (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Crs Carolyn Cameron and Tony Todd

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 30/07/25

That the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 30 July 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Hooper/Lovett

Carried

5 Three Waters Operations

5.1 General Operations and Maintenance

- 16 letters were sent out to houses regarding stormwater run-off. Four houses are requesting an extension to the stated September deadline to correct the issue.
- 60-metre length of pipe, 13 or 14 leaks where fat/grease has built up. Need to put a programme together on how they manage the Tinwald wastewater network. The strategy also includes forecasting for future needs/requirements.

5.2 Ocean Farm

- The activities at Ocean Farm have been divided down and ACL now manages several jobs that were previously over seen by the Farm Manager (which ADC longer employs).

6 Projects

6.1 Drinking Water

- Source Risk Management Plan – have commenced work on this since the agenda was created.
- NE Ashburton Watermain Extensions – this work has been handed over to the Operations team to get underway. 35 connections have identified, which was more than forecasted originally.
- Backflow Investigations and Implementation – hoping to be in Rakaia by mid-October.
- Advanced Water Metering Trial – still working on the “dark spots” in Rakaia and working with Spark to resolve the issue. This will close on 1 October, and a report will then be prepared. Approx 350 meters into Rakaia. Need a data analyst to actually analyse the readings that are produced from the meters across all the metered networks, so we can actually make decisions/plans with the data.

6.2 Wastewater

- Ocean Farm Connectivity Upgrade – allowed to create a private network which will allow us the freedom to put in cameras which will help monitor the site.
- Faecal Source Tracking (Ocean Farm Action Plan) – in response to ECans concerns, carrying this exercise. Waiting for the full monitoring to be completed. The water quality deteriorates through the wetland, which Ecan says is non-compliant. However, it’s hard for ADC to be held accountable for the avian populations in the wetlands. Perhaps, change the monitoring point so that the avian populations aren’t an issue for the consent.
- District Wastewater Strategy (Ocean Farm Action Plan) – a report will come back to the Committee with the findings and a contract won’t be awarded until it’s been to Council to be finalised. It will be a staged approach and will keep committee informed.
- Installation of Zone Flow Meters (Ocean Farm Action Plan) – received 5 replies. Hoping to get the response within the next 3 weeks. Trying to understand the quality of the flows into the plant. This all has an impact on the decision of what irrigation will be decided going forward. Council has made no commitment to the irrigation at this point. This strategy is trying to address the flow measurements to satisfy ECans request – to gain consents.

6.3 Stormwater

- Industrial Sites Stormwater Risk Prioritisation – this report will be made available to Council.

6.4 Asset Management

- National Environmental Performance Reporting – error- should read “Network Environmental Performance Reporting”.
- Local Government (Water Services) Bill – property have an asset person working through the risk assessment of the household supplies (community halls etc) so figures are being gathered.
- Montalto scheme update – last Friday , ADC received the report, no changes to what we envisaged. We need to put UV, chlorine, and holding tank and provide back-flow to all of the supplies. Testing is underway of the water quality. Does the trial behave with the cartridge filtration. Will get these results out of the trial. Closer look at bacteria and toxins.

The Committee adjourned from 10.33am to 10.48am.

7 Drinking Water Compliance

- No further updates.

8 RMA Consents Compliance

- No further updates

9 Financials

- Only till the end of July.
- Figures don't show the ACL claim (timing of the claim processing).
- Capital, slow start but compared to previous years it is early and over the the coming months, will be fixed.
- There were cost overruns from drinking water and wastewater and can end up with financial pressures due to the way the contracts are managed. Watching the financials very carefully. Also mindful of the budget time and have sufficient budget to keep operating as it should.

10 Procurement

- Wetland Top Channel Improvements – proposal coming through from the contractor who currently manages this, expect this on Friday.

11 Photos

- Report back on the type of pipes that have come out of Tancred street and Philip street and the condition of them.

Mayor Brown requested to see the 3waters management asset plans – officers to share with the Councillors via Stellar.

Business transacted with the public excluded 11:03am

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

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
12	Minutes 30/07/25	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Brown/McMillan

Carried

The meeting concluded at 11:09am.