

Three Waters Committee

5 December 2024



Three Waters Committee Minutes

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Lynette Lovett, Liz McMillan and Tony Todd.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (CE), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Tania Paddock (Acting GM Business Support), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Cr Phill Hooper

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business, item 4.3.

- Water demand management

Lovett/Todd

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Three Waters Operations

4.1 General operations and maintenance activities

Three portable generators are available to be used around various sites during power shortages. This includes a generator with the capacity to run for 24 hours.

Officers reported there are predictions of power outages in the near future – NIWA are reporting an upcoming solar storm which is predicted to have an impact on power supplies and communication systems.

4.2 Ocean Farm

The contract for grazing stock at Ocean Farm has gone out for tender, closing 13 December 2024.

The Committee noted that drone spraying was recently carried out and asked for more detail on the areas of the farm that have received additional fertiliser. The Committee will be updated in February.

5 Projects

- **UV filtration – Dromore**

The Dromore site is on hold, due to land access issues. While the possibility of gaining access will continue to be pursued, Officers also are looking at the option of a different site or connecting to the Ashburton scheme.

- **Rakaia sludge drying beds**

Work has been completed and the site was commissioned today.

- **NE Ashburton wastewater**

Design work has been completed for the first stage. Officers will update the Committee in February. The consultant has identified the need for three pump stations and officers have asked for further information on the extent of area the pumps would service to determine whether all properties will be able to connect. A pressure sewer is an option but will firstly determine whether the gravity option will work. Once the required number of pump stations is known, all options will be costed.

- **Ocean Farm irrigation investigation**

Proposals were requested from two companies and both have submitted. These are being reviewed by officers and will be reported back to the Committee in February.

The Committee noted there is currently no funding for an irrigation upgrade, due to the uncertainty of how it will look.

4.3 Extraordinary business – Water Demand Management

Officers are aware that some water supplies are coming under pressure at certain times of the day with high use attributed to recent hot weather. Hosing restrictions haven't been applied on the Ashburton scheme in recent years, but consideration will need to be given to making the community aware of the potential for water restrictions to be introduced.

The Committee agreed that an educational approach should be undertaken initially with district-wide messaging to raise awareness of the need to water sensibly and avoid hosing at the times when household use is likely to be greater.

The Committee supported water restrictions being imposed if levels of service need to be kept.

4.4 Drinking water compliance

Officers reported that a solution for the Montalto scheme continues to be addressed with the support of Taumata Arowai.

Further reporting on this and other compliance matters will be provided to the Committee.

6 Election of Deputy Chair

Recommendation to Council

That Councillor Liz McMillan be appointed as the Three Waters Committee Deputy Chair.

Mayor/Ellis

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.08pm.