

Three Waters Committee – 19/11/25

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025, commencing at 1:00pm, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakare, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Phill Hooper, Carolyn Cameron, Deb Gilkison and Phill Everest.

Also present: Crs Richard Wilson, Tony Todd, Jeanette Maxwell, Julie Moffett.

In attendance

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

1 Apologies

Cr Phill Everest (lateness)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Cr Everest arrived at 1:06pm

4 Three Waters Operations

Introduction of officers involved in Three Waters and a discussion on the structure of the team.

A slide showing the organisational structure of the In-House Business Unit (IBU) from the Water Services Delivery Plan was shown to provide a visual context of the Local Water Done Well framework, including external and internal partners and governance.

Matters arising

- It was noted that the lightning strike at the Methven water treatment plant was a strike into the ground (not the actual plant) which hit the cable underground, which feeds into the switchboard, causing damage. Officers are looking into resilience and minimising the risk of this happening again. Going forward, will ensure there are spare parts kept on-site.

5 Projects

• Drinking water project commentary

Advanced water metering trial – officers have discussed the work being undertaken with Intellihub in sourcing and installing the water meters, which will provide real time water monitoring of water usage for operational benefits. There is currently no intention to use metering for charging purposes.

- **Wastewater project status**

Wetland top channel improvements – Treated effluent gravity feeds from Wilkins Rd through to Ocean Farm. Improvements will allow a better understanding of routine and bypass flows. The wetland itself is going to be looked at as part of the Wastewater Strategy.

Continuous Nitrate Monitoring – (Ocean Farm currently not compliant) - installing a nitrate probe in top channel to better understand the nitrogen loading on the land.

- **Stormwater project status**

Assessment of higher risk properties discharging stormwater to Ashburton network. GIS tool will allow this assessment to be done without having to get an external service provider every time.

6 Drinking Water Compliance

- **Montalto Water Supply Trial**

Officers are waiting for the costing of the installation and hoping that it will be installed prior to Christmas. Main issue is the backflow prevention and ensuring contamination isn't drawn into the water supply scheme. Solution needs to be pragmatic.

7 RMA Consents Compliance

- It was confirmed that the non-compliance reported in Appendix B refers to wastewater irrigation at Ocean Farm, and the nitrogen loading rates being exceeded.

8 Financials

- There should be no difference between the WSDP and the Annual Plan and if there is, it would be work needed over and above the WSDP. The AP for water is considered as already done. The WSDP is the approved budget for the AP. Charges for 3 Waters Services shows a 12% increase already approved by previous Council. There will be differences between year 3 of the LTP against the updated AP. Urge all members of the committee and Councillors to become familiar with our WSDP which is on our website.
- Capital expenditure is 54% and capital income is \$0, which won't be picked up till the end of the year as they are through loans.
- The breakdown of debt levels by activity will be shown in the financial report to the Audit & Risk Committee.
- 3Waters must be clearly ring-fenced and separated from other Council spending. The focus will be on getting the independent business unit set up to ensure Council is delivering to the Commerce Commission's requirements.

The meeting concluded at 1:54pm.