

Three Waters Committee

11 February 2026



Three Waters Committee – 11/02/26

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 February 2026, commencing at 10am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

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

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

In attendance

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

1 Apologies

Cr Phill Everest

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes 19/11/25

That the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 19 November 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Gilkison

Carried

5 Three Waters Operations

- Methven Water supply had a problem with the control system. The issue has been rectified. Early alerts will be put in place in the event there is another treatment plant issue, so an earlier warning is received.

6 Projects

Drinking water project commentary

- Dromore WTP UV/filtration upgrade will be commissioned either today or tomorrow.
- All projects on track to be completed by the end of the financial year.
- Watching brief on nitrates in Tinwald. WSDP includes a project for Tinwald nitrate management in 2028/29 – may involve a bore but nitrate removal treatment could also be explored. Budget might need to be brought forward if upward trends increases. Also need to get an

understanding of how the water from Tinwald mixes with water from the other Ashburton sources so additional zone sampling has commenced.

- Compliance certificates for UV filtrations usually arrive 2-4 weeks after assessment.
- If Tinwald was solely reliant on pipe supply from Ashburton and the 2nd Bridge pipeline was in place, it would improve the service level to Tinwald.
- Assessment of Communities' Access to Drinking Water: new legislation under the Local Government (Water Supply) ACT 2025. This requirement is very similar to the 'water and sanitary' services assessment required under previous legislation. It could be as simple as reviewing and refreshing this document to make it in line with the new legislation.
- Officers will check the provision of scheme suppliers and numbers, as it was lifted, but whether it has been reinstated.

7 Drinking Water Compliance

- **Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules**

The Officers' submission on proposed changes to the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules has been circulated for Councillors' information.

8 RMA Consents Compliance

- **Wastewater Standards**

These will influence future consent renewal processes.

9 Financials

Electricity plays a pivotal role in budgets and can be unpredictable. Need to monitor closely.

10 Procurement

Around April & May Officers plan to do some procurement for some smaller planned projects.

Officers will provide a list of projects for the next financial year in the next Committee report.

- Starting to receive data from the 180 meters that were installed which will highlight leaks on private properties and on ADC networks. Once the data can be read, Officers can come back to Councillors with the results of the data and findings. There will need to be consideration given to balance the resources against the priority of issues. There will be significant cost management required as reports are received to ensure no upward pressure on budgets.
- Long-term plan considerations – policy settings in line with the Revenue and Finance policy, perhaps will require a different mechanism. Discussions to charge for extraordinary use of water, which can be monitored from the water meters. Officers advised the data could be used from other councils which have implemented a similar fee. A report will be provided for discussion in line with the LTP.

11 Water Service Delivery Plan - Implementation

- Councillors will have opportunity to see the quarterly monitoring report before it is submitted to the DIA.
- Recruitment is also ongoing – a finance position with a sole focus on water wasn't budgeted until July 1, but a decision has been made to bring that forward, due to the critical importance of the role. It'll only work out to be a month early, by the time the recruitment process has been completed.

- Revision of the 3 Waters Committee terms of reference; to become a governance unit to a business unit. A report will come to Council in due course as to how ADC might start to do that. There are issues around terms of reference as well as representation. Councillors wish to set the direction.
- Next 3 Waters Committee meeting, the Committee could have a conversation about it, using a blank skills matrix and start the discussions about what is required. It's an internal business unit, so ultimately, officers will scaffold and the Councillors will make the final decision.

Officers will provide Councillors with a link to the Water Services Delivery Plan.

Water Services Strategy

The Water Service Strategy to sit next to the LTP and will consult at the same time.

Ocean Farm

Trial on fixed grid sprinklers. Annual plan – budgets are forecasted based on the information and data that we have at the time. Won't proceed with physical work without signed off solutions. The numbers are very best estimates/placeholders, the final work and cost of those projects will be for the scrutiny of elected members.

Montalto Point of Supply treatment trial

Officers will report back on the costings from the trial and the water quality monitoring that they have received so far. A breakdown of household costs incurred versus supplier costs incurred. Initial results to be presented at the 15 March Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:07am.