

### *Three Waters Committee Minutes*

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2025, commencing at 10.30am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

#### **Present**

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

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

#### **In attendance**

Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Support).

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 12/02/25**

**That** the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 12 February 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Hooper/Lovett

Carried

A powerpoint presentation accompanied the activity reports.

#### **5 Three Waters operations & maintenance**

##### **• Ocean Farm**

Weighbridge automation – capturing data electronically will give a better understanding of what's coming in and out, and will assist with resource consent compliance and reporting requirements. It's intended that there will be one access, with a monitoring camera.

#### **6 Projects**

##### **• Methven reservoir**

Work is now complete on the reservoir that had been taken offline for maintenance. Council acknowledged the Methven community for complying with the hand-held hosing restrictions, noting the positive outcome of having sufficient capacity in the remaining reservoir while maintenance was undertaken on the other.

- **Ocean Farm irrigation**

Not complying with resource consent conditions (nitrogen levels) due mainly to the irrigation system not covering the full area.

Officers are suggesting that Council develops a wastewater strategy for Ashburton before making a decision and investing in a new irrigation system. With the possibility of a large trade waste company looking to connect to the wastewater, there needs to be a good understanding of this and other planned development over the next 15-30 years.

Discussion will be held with ECan who require more data on flows into the various irrigation zones and the losses/leakage.

It's anticipated that some funding will be available through savings in the renewals programme (specifically the grit chamber pipeline project) but will need to go to the market to get an understanding of costs.

The Mayor agreed that a Strategy is a good idea but there is an urgency to deal with the issues at Ocean Farm. He suggested that the contractors' proposals be further looked at to find an immediate solution.

Officers noted there is also urgency to talk to ECan about non-compliance and how they see the issues being addressed. Discussion will address the question on whether an additional block of land could be opened up to spread the loading.

- **Source water risk management plans**

Proposing to progress this with in-house resource and looking to extend the outsourcing of compliance reporting work for a further 16 months to enable this.

Officers confirmed that they will engage with affected landowners (in the various zones), where necessary, as the work progresses.

The Committee will be provided with the water services staff structure chart.

- **Montalto water supply**

In discussion with Taumata Arowai in respect to this scheme to find solutions for mixed use rural water supplies. Trialling point of entry treatment (UV and cartridge filtration). Even if successful, there is backflow prevention risk.

Detailed work has been done based on the old rules (between \$5-7m) – a lot of investment for a small supply (32 houses).

Awaiting Taumata Arowai guidelines which will likely be available in June.

- **NE Ashburton wastewater service concepts**

The first stage of work on a gravity solution has been completed and it appears that this option will be pursued. Properties that can't be serviced by the network may have to go to individual (private) pump-ups.

Beca is awaiting Council's feedback before detailed costs can be provided. A report will be prepared for Council.

## **7 Drinking Water Compliance**

Overview of the internal assessment against the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (many and varied).

## **8 RMA Consent Compliance**

Overview of the five new compliance monitoring reports (CMRs) received since the last meeting and actions taken (shown in appendix B)

## **9 Financials**

- **Drinking water capital expenditure**

The Committee will be updated with more detail at the next meeting.

- **DIA water supply compliance rules**

Officers are yet to receive guidance from DIA on the water compliance rules and regulatory changes.

- **Buckleys Tc request for wastewater service**

Of the 12 properties asked for feedback, 11 responses were received with approximately 33% in favour of connection, but supporting only if Council changes the zoning to allow properties smaller than 4000m<sup>2</sup> to subdivided.

- **Taumata Arowai wastewater performance standards**

Taumata Arowai (the Water Services Authority) is consulting on a set of proposed national wastewater environmental performance standards.

Officers will be attending a Canterbury Wastewater Managers meeting tomorrow and are looking to prepare a joint submission.

Council heard that the Minister of Local Government has offered for the Commerce Commission to visit councils. A date will be arranged for the Commission to meet with ADC and talk about their requirements around wastewater standards.

Council asked whether there are sufficient resources in place to respond to the increasing requirements and provision of data to ensure accurate reporting.

Officers confirmed that, regardless of the final structure, there will be an impact on a number of areas within Council's operations, and Council's contractors in the transition to a new way of delivering water services.

- **Water Services site visits**

Site visits will be scheduled on the morning of Thursday 8 May, including the laboratory (in-house), grit chamber pipeline renewal, UV and filtration upgrades and Rakaia sludge drying beds.

Councillors were asked to notify officers if there are other sites they'd like to view.

The meeting concluded at 11.13am.