Report 25.486

Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 9 October 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 2.00pm.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Duthie

That the Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Woolf.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee meeting on 12 August 2025 – Report 25.434

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Laban

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee meeting on 12 August 2025 – Report 25.434.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti meeting on 26 August 2025 – Report 25.337

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Ropata

That Council confirms the Public minutes of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti meeting on 26 August 2025 – Report 25.337.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 9 September 2025 – Report 25.362

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Duthie

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 9 September 2025 – Report 25.362, as corrected.

The motion was **carried**.

The minutes were corrected to record that the motion relating to Donald's and Abbots Creeks Flood Hazard Maps – Report 25.403 was carried.

7 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 16 September 2025 – Report 25.365

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Connelly

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 16 September 2025 – Report 25.365.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Transport Committee meeting on 18 September 2025 – Report 25.361

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Transport Committee meeting on 18 September 2025 – Report 25.361.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 18 September 2025 – Report 25.364

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Saw

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 18 September – Report 25.364.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 23 September 2025 – Report 25.363

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Laban

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 23 September 2025 – Report 25.363.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 25 September 2025 – Report 25.366

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Lee

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 25 September 2025 – Report 25.366.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting on 30 September 2025 – Report 25.367

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting on 30 September 2025 – Report 25.367.

The motion was **carried**.

13 Adoption of Greater Wellington Regional Council 2024/25 Annual Report – Report 25.482

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, and Clint Ramoo, Audit New Zealand, spoke to the report. Updated recommendations were tabled.

Mr Ramoo acknowledged the support of Councillors and management for the audit process. He advised that the Audit opinion is unqualified while acknowledging the uncertainty in the climate emissions area which has led to a related emphasis of matter. Mr Ramoo also advised that in common with other local authorities there is also an emphasis of matter regarding Local Water Done Well.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Duthie

That Council:

1 Adopts Greater Wellington Regional Council's Annual Report (Attachments 1 and 2) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

2 Notes that the Summary of the Annual Report (Attachment 3) will be finalised and published in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 once the Audit Opinion for the Summary Report has been completed.

3 Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor changes that may arise as part of finalising the audited Annual Report and Summary of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

14 Rangitāne Iwi Environmental Management Plan *Hāmuatanga* – Report 25.479

Natasha Tomic, Team Leader Policy spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Connelly

That Council:

1 Receives the Hāmuatanga, Te Mahere Whakahaere o Rangitāne Tū mai Rā Trust Iwi Environmental Management Plan.

The motion was **carried**.

15 End of Triennium Matters – Report 25.411

Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, and Will Ogier, Principal Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

1 Delegates to the Chief Executive the power to act on any emergency matters arising during the period between the discharge of the current Council and its committees and the meeting at which the elected members of the incoming Council make their declarations.

2 Instructs the Chief Executive to report to the incoming Council, as soon as practicable, on any exercise of this delegated power.

3 Notes that, under Standing Order 3.15.2, the Chairperson and the Chief Executive shall authenticate the minutes of this last Council meeting of the triennium prior to the next election of members.

4 Notes that, under section 12(2) of the Civil Defence Management Act 2002, the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group cannot be discharged following each triennial election.

5 Notes that Council has resolved previously that the following Council joint committees shall not be deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members elected at the 2025 triennial local elections:

a. Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (Report 23.344)

b. Wellington Water Committee (Report 19.118).

6 Notes that under the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee is a permanent committee of Council that may only be discharged by Council on that committee's recommendation.

7 Notes that, under clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, Council's committees and subcommittee, except Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee, are deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members elected at the 2025 triennial local elections.

8 Notes that Council's advisory bodies, except Ara Tahi, are dissolved (in accordance with their terms of reference) on the coming into office of the members elected at the 2025 triennial general election of the Council (Report 22.524).

The motion was **carried**.

16 Delegation to Chief Executive – Local Water Done Well Delivery Model – Report 25.458

Amanda Cox, Programme Director Local Water Done Well, and Julie Knauf, Group Manager Corporate Services, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That Council:

1 Notes that on 26 June 2025, Council considered Report 25.250 – Local Water Done Well Delivery Model and agreed to:

a. delegate to Councillor Connelly, and Cr Ponter as alternate, the ability to make decisions as a member of AOG on the following establishment activities only:

i. the appointment, removal, and remuneration of interim directors of the new water organisation and

ii. the development of the new water organisation's draft Constitution and draft Stakeholders Agreement for recommendation to Council for final approval and ratification, and

b. the AOG member consulting with the Council Chair (or Cr Ponter, as alternate, consulting with the AOG member) on the matters in (a) prior to the exercise of their delegation.

2 Notes that the terms of reference of the Advisory Oversight Group (the AOG) originally envisaged that:

a. Once the shareholding councils agree the water service delivery model, each shareholding council would delegate to its elected member on the AOG, and that person's alternate, all responsibilities and powers in relation to specific establishment activities; and

b. These delegations would be exercised before the 2025 triennial local elections on 11 October 2025.

3 Notes that at the AOG's final meeting on 26 September 2025 it:

a. Noted progress on (but did not approve) the Foundation Documents (including the draft Constitution, draft terms for the Partners' Agreement, principles for the development of the Statement of Expectations, and principles to assist the new organisation to develop a Customer Charter); and

b. Agreed key matters to be integrated into the Partners' Agreement, including the voting model and a minimum commitment period for the shareholders to Metro Water.

4 Notes that the regional programme team and council officers will progress the Foundation Documents on this basis.

5 Notes that, as the current delegation (Recommendation 1) ceases at the 2025 triennial local elections, a further decision-making process is needed to enable preparation of final drafts so that the new councils can consider approval and ratification of the draft Constitution and Partners Agreement for the new water services council-controlled organisation in December 2025.

6 Agrees to:

a. Delegate to the Chief Executive the ability to make decisions, jointly with the chief executives of the shareholding councils, on the development of the new water services council-controlled organisation's final draft Foundation Documents (including the draft Constitution, draft terms for the Partners' Agreement, principles for the development of the Statement of Expectations, and principles to assist the new organisation to develop a Customer Charter) for recommendation to Council for its approval and ratification; and

b. Make the Chief Executive's exercise of this delegation subject to prior consultation with Councillor Connelly and engagement with Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners.

The motion was **carried**.

17 Shareholder Resolutions in Lieu of Annual General Meeting: WRC Holdings Limited – Report 25.473

Jan de Bruin, Senior Advisor Company Portfolio and Economic Development, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Bassett

That Council:

1 Agrees, as sole shareholder of WRC Holdings Limited, that the company is not required to hold an Annual General Meeting relating to the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

2 Resolves the written resolutions contained in Attachment 1 (Shareholder resolutions for WRC Holdings Limited).

3 Authorises the Council Chair to sign the resolutions of the sole shareholder contained in Attachment 1.

The motion was **carried**.

18 Issue of Unpaid Share Capital to Fund Greater Wellington Rail Limited Capital Expenditure for 2025/26 – Report 25.481

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

1 Notes that the amount of $144 million is required by Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) to fund Greater Wellington Regional Rail's budgeted 2025/26 year capital expenditure.

2 Notes that, GWRL's budgeted 2025/26 year capital expenditure will be funded by:

   a. The issue of 82.6 million unpaid ordinary $1 shares by GWRL to WRC Holdings Limited (WRCHL).

   b. The issue of 82.6 million unpaid ordinary $1 shares by WRCHL to Council.

   c. The utilisation of 61.4 million existing unpaid ordinary $1 shares by GWRL to WRCHL.

   d. The utilisation of 61.4 million existing unpaid ordinary $1 shares by WRCHL to Council.

3 Approves the issue of 82.6 million unpaid ordinary shares in WRCHL to Council.

4 Endorses WRCHL approving the issue of 82.6 million unpaid ordinary $1 shares in GWRL to WRCHL.

5 Authorises the Council Chair and Deputy Chair to sign the required Entitled Persons Agreement (Attachment 1) approving and consenting to the issue of shares on behalf of Council.

6 Authorises the Council Chair to sign the agreement (Attachment 2) for the issue of shares approving the basis upon which the respective WRCHL and GWRL boards may make calls for payment of the shares.

7 Requests that the Council Chair confirms the consent and approvals referred to in this report, in writing to WRCHL.

The motion was **carried**.

19 Finance Update – August 2025 – Report 25.475 [For Information]

Alison Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, and Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

20 Valedictory speeches

Councillors Bassett, Kirk-Burnnand, Laban, Lee and Nash gave valedictory speeches, reflecting on their time serving on Council.

Resolution to exclude the public

21 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.484

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Gaylor

That the Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

WRC Holdings – Director reappointment and interim Chair appointment – PE25.480

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded Minutes of the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee meeting on 12 August 2025 – RPE25.434

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded Minutes of the Council meeting on 18 September 2025 – RPE25.469

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific ground/s under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

WRC Holdings – Director reappointment and interim Chair appointment – PE25.480	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per

information about the proposed candidates for appointment as a director and as an Interim Chair of WRC Holdings Limited. Withholding this information prior to Council's decision is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration as board members of WRC Holdings. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).
Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee meeting on 12 August 2025 – RPE25.434	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
These minutes contain information relating to the current Chief Executive's full year performance and remuneration reviews. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).
Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 18 September 2025 – RPE25.469	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
Information contained in these minutes is commercially sensitive. Release of	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per

this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on commercial negotiations (section 7(2)(i)). Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 3.22pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Nigel Corry

Chief Executive

Date: 14/10/2025