If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Council

Thursday 3 September 2026, 10:00am

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: *Seven Councillors*

Members

Councillors

Daran Ponter (Chair)	Ros Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Quentin Duthie	Nigel Elder
Sarah Free	Penny Gaylor
John Hart	Tom James
Claire Johnstone	Shamia Makarini
Phil Rhodes	Yadana Saw
Gabriel Tupou	Simon Woolf

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Council

Thursday, 3 September 2026, 10.00am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

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Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.310

For Information

DECLARATION BY COUNCILLOR

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. For Councillor John Hart to make the declaration required by clause 14 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, following their election as the Wairarapa General Constituency Councillor.

Declaration

2. Councillor John Hart will make the following declaration:

   I, John Stuart Hart, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wellington Region, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as a member of the Wellington Regional Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 3 September 2026.

Report 26.347

Public minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 4 August 2026

Taumata Korero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington at 10.02am.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Free and Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Connelly

That the Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Tupou, and apology for early departure 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 Council meeting of 25 June 2026 - Report 26.291

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Rhodes

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 25 June 2026 - Report 26.291.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 25 June 2026 - Report RPE26.295

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Duthie

That Council confirms the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 25 June 2026 - Report RPE26.295.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Wellington Region Headstart Proposal – Report 26.336

Cr Ponter spoke to the report and tabled updated recommendations.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Saw

That Council:

1 Notes that the *Head Start Pathway: Simplifying Local Government* document does not adequately describe the costs and benefits of local government reform, with a simple proposition that “less is more”.

2 Notes that the *Head Start Pathway: Simplifying Local Government* document, inviting proposals for local government reform, explicitly excludes the involvement of regional councils.

3 Notes that the Head Start proposal timeframe has not allowed sufficient time for appropriate involvement of elected members, iwi representatives, and communities, into the process to date.

4 Notes that short timeframes imposed by the Government has led to cursory engagement with communities across the region to the point that no proposal to the Government can be said to be the result of quality and sustained community involvement.

5 Notes that territorial councils undertook bespoke surveys that mean that there is limited ability to compare reactions to reform proposals across the region.

6 Notes that the Greater Wellington Regional Council has extensive Treaty settlement commitments that will need to be upheld under any new form of local government for the Wellington Region.

7 Notes that the Greater Wellington Regional Council has longstanding and comprehensive relations with mana whenua which must be transitioned and sustained by any new form of local government for the Wellington Region.

8 Notes that a thorough economic evaluation and costing needs to be undertaken of all regional and territorial authority functions to identify the current value added and the potential costs and benefits of reform.

9 Notes the proposal for a single unitary authority for the Wellington Region developed by the Wellington Mayoral Forum, and the various alternative proposals identified by territorial authorities, namely:

a. a proposal for a separate Kapiti unitary authority

b. a proposal for a separate Wairarapa unitary authority

c. possible different formulations for the Hutt Valley.

10 Agrees that the Greater Wellington Regional Council's functions and responsibilities in flood management, public transport, environment management, harbours management and regional spatial planning, are most effectively managed at scale.

11 Agrees that multiple unitary authorities across the Wellington Region will introduce new complexities rather than simplify local government in the region.

12 Agrees that irrespective of the proposal(s) put forward to Government, all councils, their elected members, and iwi should be included in the next phase of reform with a transparent process supported by publicly open meetings and documentation inherent in the next stage.

13 Agrees that councils are inherently community bodies and decisions to reform local government should be subject to a regional public referendum.

14 Invites the Council Chair to write to the Ministers of Local Government, Resource Management Reform, Housing and Transport, and Leaders of all elected political parties, advocating for:

a. single unitary authority for the Wellington Region that retains local voice while providing effectively for regional functions (i.e. the proposal originally worked up by the Mayoral Forum – Attachment 2)

b. co-design with all councils and iwi authorities by Government on its proposal for local government reform in Te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui – the Wellington Region

c. active community engagement by Government on proposals for reform, and a regional referendum on any final proposal advanced by the Government

d. the Government to commit to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including all Treaty settlement instruments and a minimum effect of current commitments, in any new local government model for te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui; and

e. Strategic public assets - such as regional parks, Centreport shareholding and Metlink assets - being protected from sale in the reform process.

Voting on the motion was taken in parts: Parts 1 to 6 were put to the vote and were **carried**; Part 7 was put to the vote and was **carried**; Parts 8 to 10 were put to the vote and were **carried**; Part 11 was put to the vote and was **carried**; Parts 12 and 13 were put to the vote and were **carried**, and Part 14 was put to the vote and was **carried**.

Councillor Elder requested that his vote against Parts 7 and 14 of the motion be recorded.

Councillors Free and Rhodes requested that their vote against Part 11 of the motion be recorded.

The motion was **carried**.

Resolution to exclude the public

7 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 26.309

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Makarini

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

Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 25 June 2026 – Report PE26.293

Appointment of mana whenua members to Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Report PE26.431

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:

Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 25 June 2026 – Report PE26.293	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*

The matters contained in these minutes relate to Review of the Waterloo Transit Oriented Development: Proposal Final Initial Business Case. Release of this information is likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council to carry on negotiations with potential investors and/or developer (section 7(2)(i) of the Act). 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.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act, to enable Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
Appointment of mana whenua members to Te Tirit o Waitangi Komiti – Report PE26.431	
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 this report includes personal and identifying information about persons for appointment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti. Release of this information is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment as a Komiti member. Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Elder requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.01am.

Councillor Ros Connelly

Deputy Council Chair

Date:

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 3 September 2026.

The matters referred to in these minutes were considered by the Council in Public Excluded business. These minutes do not require confidentiality and may be considered in the public part of the meeting.

Report PE26.346

Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 4 August 2026

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington at 11.01am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf (until 11.05am)

Councillors Free and Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Public Excluded Business

1 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 25 June 2026 - Report PE26.293

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Duthie

That the Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 25 June 2026 - Report PE26.293.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Appointment of Mana Whenua members to Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti – Report PE26.341

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Connelly

That the Council:

1 Notes the terms of reference for Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti provide for each mana whenua partner to nominate a member and alternate to Council for appointment.

2 Appoints to Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti:

a Rawiri Faulkner, as a member, on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc.

b Helena Gerretzen Parata, as a member, on the nomination of Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust

c Mihirangi Hollings, as a member, on the nomination of Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 11.08am.

Councillor Ros Connelly

Deputy Council Chair

Date:

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.356

For Decision

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek Council's approval of the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan.

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. The Environment and Climate Committee (the Committee) has recommended that Council adopt a refreshed Climate Change Strategy and a new Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan.
3. The refreshed Climate Change Strategy was considered by the Committee on 18 June 2026 (Report 26.262)[1] and recommended for Council adoption subject to two amendments relating to adding a statement on using the most up-to-date and locally relevant climate change projections to guide risk management and resilience planning, and adding a fourth objective to "recognise and work in partnership to further mana whenua climate objectives and policies" and associated text explaining this objective and Council's role. Those amendments have been incorporated into the proposed Climate Change Strategy (**Attachment 1**).
4. The Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan was considered by the Committee on 20 August 2026 (Report 26.338)[2] and recommended for Council adoption without changes (**Attachment 2**).
5. The Climate Change Strategy provides Greater Wellington's long-term framework for responding to climate change, guiding decision-making, investment, advocacy and partnerships over time. The Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan identifies the priority actions required to deliver on the Climate Change Strategy over the 2027-2030 period.

[1] www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2026/06/Environment-and-Climate-Committee-18-June-2026-Order-Paper.pdf – see pages 87 - 96

[2] www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2026/08/Environment-and-Climate-Committee-20-August-2026-Order-Paper.pdf - see pages 10 - 18

6. The Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan consolidates and replaces the previous Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan and two (regional and organisational) Climate Emergency Action Plans, recognising that many climate-related activities are now embedded within existing programmes, asset management processes and Long Term Plan (LTP) commitments. Some actions have been removed because they have been completed.

7. Together, the Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan provide a clear and integrated framework for Greater Wellington's response to climate change, and support delivery of the LTP strategic objective of *leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction*.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1 **Approves** the refreshed Climate Change Strategy (Attachment 1).

2 **Approves** the proposed Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan (Attachment 2).

He huritaonga nō te Kōmiti
Consideration by Committee

8. Following review by the Environment and Climate Committee at its meeting on 18 June 2026 (Report 26.262), the refreshed Climate Change Strategy (**Attachment 1**) is recommended for Council adoption, with the inclusion of the following two amendments:

   a adding a statement on using the most up-to-date and locally relevant climate change projections to guide risk management and resilience planning (ref top of page 3 of Attachment 1); and

   b adding a fourth objective to “recognise and work in partnership to further mana whenua climate objectives and policies” and associated text explaining this objective and Council’s role (ref top of page 4 of Attachment 1).

9. Following review by the Environment and Climate Committee at its meeting on 20 August 2026 (Report 26.338), the proposed Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan (**Attachment 2**) is recommended for Council adoption.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

10. Greater Wellington’s Climate Change Strategy was first adopted in 2015 and has provided the overarching framework for Greater Wellington’s response to climate change for more than a decade. Since its adoption, much of the information in the document has become dated due to contextual changes including climate projections, legislation and national policy settings.

11. To ensure the Strategy remains relevant and fit for purpose, it has been refreshed to provide an enduring and adaptable framework for Greater Wellington's response to climate change. The Environment and Climate Committee considered the refreshed Strategy on 18 June 2026 and recommended that Council adopt it, subject to two amendments relating to climate change projections and partnership with mana whenua.

12. The original 2015 Climate Change Strategy included an Implementation Plan, which was then superseded in 2019 by two ten-point Climate Emergency Action Plans (regional and organisational). These evolved into a summary of actions that were included in the LTPs adopted in 2021 and 2024. A progress update on the Climate Emergency Action Plans was presented to the Climate Committee on 16 September 2025 (Report 25.386)[3]. This update was also included in Report 26.35 to the Environment and Climate Committee on 26 February 2026[4].

13. A new Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan has been developed to provide a single framework for Greater Wellington's priority climate actions. The Environment and Climate Committee considered the Implementation Plan on 20 August 2026 and recommended that Council adopt it.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

14. The refreshed Climate Change Strategy (Attachment 1) and proposed Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan (Attachment 2) have been developed as complementary documents. The Strategy provides Greater Wellington's long-term direction for responding to climate change, while the Implementation Plan identifies the priority actions required to support delivery of that direction between 2027 and 2030. Together, they provide a clear and integrated framework for climate action across the organisation.

15. The refreshed Strategy retains the vision, objectives and intent of the 2015 Strategy while removing dated and time-bound content. It is designed to provide a more enduring framework that can remain relevant with developments in climate science, legislation and policy settings.

16. The Implementation Plan translates the Strategy into action by identifying 12 areas where sustained organisational leadership, coordination or intervention is required. It focuses on Greater Wellington's highest-priority climate actions and provides a practical mechanism for delivering the Strategy's objectives.

17. The Implementation Plan also simplifies Greater Wellington's climate change framework by replacing the original 2015 Implementation Plan and the two Climate Emergency Action Plans. A single implementation plan provides greater clarity and alignment while recognising that many climate-related activities are

[3] www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2025/09/Climate-Committee-16-September-2025-Order-Paper.pdf - see pages 9-25

[4] www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2026/02/Environment-and-Climate-Committee-26-February-2026-Order-Paper.pdf - see pages 237 - 254

now embedded in business-as-usual programmes, asset management processes and LTP commitments.

18. Neither the refreshed Strategy nor the proposed Implementation Plan introduces new activities or funding commitments. Officers consider that adopting both documents will strengthen the strategic direction and coordination of Greater Wellington's climate response, support delivery of the LTP objective of leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction, and succinctly answer the question *What is Greater Wellington doing to respond to the climate emergency?*

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

19. The refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan do not introduce new activities and have no additional cost implications for Council beyond its existing commitments.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

20. Mana whenua partners were engaged in the development of the original Climate Change Strategy in 2015. Given the targeted nature of the refresh of the Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan, no specific mana whenua engagement has been undertaken. However, Greater Wellington recognises that its response to climate change remains of particular importance to mana whenua, given the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Māori, including effects on cultural values, natural resources, and community wellbeing. This is also consistent with Greater Wellington's commitments under our Te Tiriti o Waitangi policy and the recognition of Māori rights and interests in decision-making.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi
Consideration of climate change

21. Climate change is the focus of this paper. The refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan support the LTP strategic objective of *Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction* and provide detail on how climate change is considered across Council activities.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

22. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

23. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of this matter, taking into account Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that this matter is of low significance, as the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan do not introduce new activities or have any additional cost implications.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

24. Given the limited scope of the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan and that no new activities are introduced, no community engagement has been undertaken.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

25. Once the Council has adopted the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and proposed Implementation Plan, they will be formatted into a Council style and published on Greater Wellington's website, replacing the 2015 Strategy and Implementation Plan and two ten-point climate emergency action plans.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Climate Change Strategy
2	Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Angela Sutherland – Kaitohutohu Matua | Senior Advisor Climate Change Adaptation
Approvers	Jake Roos – Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Manager Climate Change Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | Group Manager Strategy (Acting)

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council considers and adopts key strategies, policies, and plans … and ensures that Council's decision making considers climate change-related risks and is consistent with Council's plans and initiatives to give effect to Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 21 August 2019.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies The Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan support delivery of the LTP strategic objective of *Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction*.
Internal consultation Officers from across the organisation were consulted on the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Climate Emergency Response Programme Board approved the Strategy and Implementation Plan to be presented to the Environment and Climate Committee for endorsement. Amendments to the Climate Change Strategy requested by the Environment and Climate Committee (see paragraph 8 in the report) were made in consultation with Te Hunga Whiriwhiri and have been reviewed and supported by the Chairs of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti and Environment and Climate Committee.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. No legal or health and safety risks have been identified in relation to the matter for decision.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.356

Refreshed Greater Wellington Climate Change Strategy

Strategy purpose

Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GW) Climate Change Strategy sets out an enduring framework for GW's response to climate change. It provides a foundation to guide decision-making, investment, advocacy, and partnership over time, while being adaptable to shifts in policy settings, climate projections, technologies, or national and international targets as required.

Strategic Context

Climate change presents growing and compounding risks to the Wellington region. While uncertainty will remain about the timing and scale of impacts, the direction of change is clear. Delaying action will increase long-term costs and risks.

GW has a critical role in responding to climate change through responsibilities for:

- Natural hazard management and flood protection.
- Regional planning and policy.
- Transport planning and public transport services.
- Environmental management – freshwater, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems and their biodiversity.
- Regional resilience and emergency management.
- Partnership with councils, mana whenua, communities, and central government.

This strategy recognises that climate change is both a risk management challenge and a long-term transformation challenge. Resilience is not about preserving the status quo, but about enabling communities and ecosystems to adapt and thrive over time. GW also has a critical role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to achieving Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction targets.

Vision

Greater Wellington strengthens the long-term resilience and sustainability of the Wellington region through partnership, climate action and awareness.

This vision is grounded in:

- **Resilience**: the capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and recover from climate impacts, while maintaining essential functions and services.

- **Sustainability**: improving quality of life while living within environmental limits and safeguarding opportunities for future generations.
- **Adaptability**: recognising that change is inevitable, uncertainty persists, and flexible pathways are needed.

Overarching Objectives

GW's climate change response is structured around three interconnected objectives.

1. Reducing emissions and supporting a low-emissions economy:

GW will act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all areas of influence, including its own operations, while helping to create the conditions that will support and enable a resilient, low-emissions regional economy.

This objective recognises that:

- Emissions reduction is essential for limiting long-term climate change and associated risks.
- Local government influence is exercised through planning, investment, procurement, infrastructure, transport, land management, and partnerships rather than direct regulation of emissions.
- Leadership by example is important, especially through GW's own assets, services, and investments.

GW's role is to enable, promote, influence, and demonstrate low-emissions outcomes within its statutory remit and partnerships.

2. Managing climate risks and increasing resilience:

GW will work to reduce and manage risks from climate-related impacts and increase resilience through consistent, evidence-based adaptation planning and action.

This objective acknowledges that:

- Many climate impacts are already locked in and will intensify over time.
- Climate change must be treated as a core risk driver, not a separate environmental issue.
- Adaptation decisions often involve difficult trade-offs and long timeframes.
- Working with uncertainty is essential when managing climate risk.

GW will:

- Integrate climate change considerations into all relevant planning, policy, investment, and asset decisions.
- Promote approaches that are flexible, staged, and responsive to new information.
- Prioritise solutions that reduce long-term exposure and vulnerability rather than transferring risk to the future.
- Use the most up-to-date and locally relevant climate change projections to guide risk management and resilience planning.

Adaptation is both a technical and social challenge that needs robust processes, transparent decision-making, and long-term partnerships to achieve effective and equitable outcomes.

3. Increasing awareness, capability and collective action:

GW will increase community awareness of climate change risks and solutions, and support organisations and individuals to contribute to the long-term resilience and sustainability of the region.

This objective reflects that:

- Most emissions and many adaptation decisions sit outside direct council control.
- Long-term success depends on shared understanding, trust, and coordinated action across sectors and communities.
- Public engagement is essential for building support for complex and sometimes confronting adaptation and mitigation choices.

GW's role includes:

- Sharing credible, accessible information.
- Supporting evidence-based conversations about risk and change.
- Facilitating collaboration across councils, iwi, communities, and central government.
- Advocating for regional interests where national decisions affect local outcomes.

4. Work in partnership with mana whenua

GW will recognise and work in partnership with mana whenua to support and advance climate objectives and policies.

This objective acknowledges that:

- A strong partnership approach reflects commitment to our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and will strengthen regional resilience and effective climate actions.
- Mana whenua, bring deep connections, unique rights and interests to support climate resilience efforts.
- Mātauranga Māori knowledge and te Ao Māori perspectives are enablers for climate change actions.

GW's role includes:

- Enabling meaningful partnership with mana whenua in climate-related planning, policy, and decision-making.
- Integrating mana whenua priorities to support initiatives relating to climate change.
- Incorporating mātauranga Māori alongside other evidence to inform adaptation and resilience approaches.
- Recognising and providing for cultural values and sites affected by climate impacts.
- Building organisational capability to engage effectively with mana whenua.

Guiding Principles

GW's approach to climate change will be guided by the following enduring principles:

Act for the long term while responding now: Balance immediate needs with long-term resilience thinking, recognising that today's decisions affect future generations.

Make decisions in the face of uncertainty: Accept that uncertainty is inherent and not a reason for inaction. Use risk-based approaches and adaptive pathways rather than waiting for perfect information.

Embed climate considerations across the organisation: Treat climate change as a core consideration across all relevant functions, not as a standalone issue.

Lead through partnership and influence: Work collaboratively across jurisdictions, sectors, and communities, recognising shared responsibilities and different levers for change.

Attachment 2 to Report 26.356

Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan (2027 – 2030)

This plan identifies the high-priority, high-impact climate actions for Greater Wellington that require its sustained strategic focus, leadership, or deliberate intervention to make progress towards the objectives of its Climate Change Strategy.

1. Reduce organisational emissions: Progress and deliver Greater Wellington's emissions management and reduction plan, including actions across transport, energy, procurement, fleet, land management, investment, and partnerships, to reduce organisational greenhouse gas emissions in line with adopted targets and emissions reduction pathways**.** In reducing emissions, seek to achieve co-benefits for the environment and community wellbeing as far as possible.

This includes: Metlink bus and train electrification, grazing retirement and environmental restoration on Greater Wellington managed land (including Toitū te Whenua), securing emissions-free electricity supplies and other emissions reduction actions large and small by the Council itself, its suppliers, CentrePort and Hnry Stadium.

2. Operate robust emissions management and reporting systems: Operate robust emissions measurement, reporting, and programme management systems to support delivery of Greater Wellington's emissions reduction pathway and co-benefits, including tracking emissions and sequestration, managing emissions programmes and funds, and ensuring transparency and accountability.

This includes: regularly and consistently measuring and reporting organisational greenhouse gas emissions and co-benefits (e.g. water quality, biodiversity, erosion control), tracking carbon storage on Greater Wellington managed land, monitoring and managing progress against emissions reduction pathways, maintaining oversight of emissions related programmes and funding mechanisms (e.g. Low Carbon Acceleration Fund), and reporting across the organisation and relevant Council Controlled Organisations.

3. Embed climate considerations into all material decisions and investments made by Greater Wellington: Ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation considerations and actions are systematically embedded into all significant council decisions, investments, business planning and asset planning, including long lived infrastructure, land use, transport, and funding decisions.

This includes: explicit consideration of climate risks and emissions impacts in decision-making; avoiding or minimising increases in emissions and risks of climate-related impacts; supporting choices that reduce long-term exposure and cost.

4. Strengthen governance, leadership, and organisational capability for climate action: Maintain strong governance arrangements and executive leadership for climate change, including clear key performance indicators and accountability, senior sponsorship, and organisational capability to deliver both mitigation and adaptation outcomes.

This includes: sustained executive and governance ownership of climate priorities; clarity on the organisation's position and approach to adaptation pathway planning; internal capability building and culture change; and alignment across teams and functions.

5. Embed mana whenua priorities and mātauranga Māori into climate planning and action: Partner with mana whenua to ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation planning reflects mana whenua priorities, mātauranga Māori, and long-term aspirations, including through catchment-scale planning and land management.

This includes: supporting mana whenua-led climate adaptation planning; enabling mana whenua authority over the use and application of their mātauranga Māori into spatial, catchment, and ecosystem-based approaches; and resourcing partnership appropriately.

6. Lead development of a coordinated, evidence-based approach to regional climate adaptation planning: Lead development of a coordinated, region-wide approach to climate adaptation, working collaboratively with councils, mana whenua, communities, central government agencies, and key stakeholders.

This includes: shared hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and impact tools, and consistent use across planning and investment decisions; supporting consistent, risk-based adaptation planning through participatory engagement; helping unblock politically and socially complex issues such as managed retreat.

7. Prioritise nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emissions reduction co-benefits: Identify, prioritise, and implement nature-based solutions that contribute to regional emissions reductions and/ or increased resilience to climate impacts such as sea level rise, flooding, storms, drought, and ecosystem stress.

This includes: restoring and protecting indigenous ecosystems; improving catchment, floodplain, and coastal resilience; and integrating biodiversity, carbon, and hazard outcomes.

8. Use pest management to support climate and ecosystem outcomes: Strengthen pest animal and pest plant control across Greater Wellington managed land to support healthy ecosystems, biodiversity resilience, and carbon sequestration.

This includes: recognising and responding to the role of pest animals and plants in exacerbating climate change by degrading ecosystems that store carbon, regulate water, buffer hazards and reduce long term resilience.

9. Drive implementation of Greater Wellington's climate change policy directions: Actively steward and support the implementation of climate change provisions in the Regional Policy Statement and related planning instruments.

This includes: addressing barriers to delivery and turning policy into practice, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the region and to make it more resilient to climate change impacts.

10. Advocate for national climate policy that enables local action: Advocate to central government for strong, effective climate mitigation and adaptation settings.

This includes: legislation, policy, and funding frameworks that enable Greater Wellington and its partners to act at pace and scale.

11. Develop and maintain an organisational climate risk assessment and organisational climate adaptation plan: These will identify, prioritise, and mitigate the risks climate change poses to Greater Wellington's people, functions, services, assets, and operations over the short, medium, and long term.

This includes: ensuring that climate-related risks are systematically identified and understood; adaptation priorities are clearly identified and integrated into organisational planning and decision-making; and responsibilities for managing climate risks are clear and coordinated across the organisation.

12. Ensure catchment plans reflect climate goals and initiatives and are coordinated at place: Environment Group catchment and sub-catchment action plans contain climate priorities as identified by councils, agencies, mana whenua and communities. Internal and external collaboration at place enables services delivering on this plan to become increasingly coordinated and better deliver on multiple outcomes in an integrated way.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.288

For Decision

ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR THE COUNCIL'S 2028 AND 2031 TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To advise Council on the electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. Council is asked to consider whether to retain the Single Transferable Vote electoral system or change to First Past the Post for the Council's 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.
3. If Council does not resolve to change the electoral system, Single Transferable Vote will continue to apply. Council may also decide to hold a binding poll of electors, or electors may demand a poll under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

Choice of electoral system

1 *Either*

a **Notes** the report (in which case the Single Transferable Vote electoral system continues for the Council's elections).

Or

b **Resolves** to change to the First Past the Post electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

Poll of electors

2 **Notes** that Council can decide, by 11 December 2026, that a binding poll of electors is held on a proposal that a specified electoral system be used for Council's triennial elections in 2028 and 2031.

3 *Either*

a **Notes** the statutory poll provisions.

Or

b **Resolves** to hold a poll on the electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

Or

c **Resolves** to hold a poll on the electoral system at the time of the Council's 2028 triennial elections, for the Council's 2031 and 2034 triennial elections.

4 **Notes** that public notice will be given by 19 September 2026 of electors' right to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used for future Council triennial elections, and, if Council so decides, of Council's resolution to change the electoral system for the next two Council triennial elections.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

4. The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) governs the conduct of local government triennial elections and polls of electors. With effect from the 2004 triennial elections, the LEA has required that local government triennial elections (local elections) are conducted using either the First Past the Post (FPP) or Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system

5. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) currently uses Single Transferable Vote and has used it since the 2013 local elections.

6. Council's practice is to review its electoral system decision each triennium for the following two local elections.

7. The 15 councils that used STV at the 2025 local elections were (with the local election where STV was first used in brackets):

- Dunedin City Council (2004)
- Far North District Council (2022)
- Gisborne District Council (2022)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council (2013)
- Hamilton City Council (2022)
- Kāpiti Coast District Council (2004)
- Marlborough District Council (2004)
- Nelson City Council (2022)
- New Plymouth District Council (2019)
- Otago Regional Council (2025 - 1st time)
- Palmerston North City Council (2013)
- Porirua City Council (2004)
- Ruapehu District Council (2019)
- Wellington City Council (2004)

- Whangarei District Council (2025 -1st time)

8. While discussions about local government reform are continuing, no decisions have been made that remove Council's current statutory responsibilities under the LEA. Council is therefore asked to consider the electoral system to be used for its 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

9. At the time of writing this report there are no changes to the electoral system applied for the 2028 triennial local elections by each of the eight territorial authorities in the Wellington Region.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

10. By 12 September 2026 Council may resolve to change the electoral system to be used for the Council's 2028 and 2031 local elections. If Council does not resolve to change the electoral system, Single Transferable Vote continues to apply.

11. Council may also resolve, by 11 December 2026, to hold a binding poll of electors on the electoral system. If the outcome of the poll is to take effect for the 2028 and 2031 elections the poll must be held by 28 March 2027.

12. Section 28 of the LEA sets out the requirement for a local authority to issue a public notice setting out the right of the public to demand a poll on the electoral system. The deadline for the issuance of the public notice is 19 September 2026.

13. Section 29 states that a "specified number of electors" may demand a poll, and "specified number of electors" is defined in section 29 as "specified number of electors, in relation to a local authority, means a number of electors equal to or greater than 5% of the number of electors enrolled as eligible to vote at the previous general election of the local authority".

14. The total number of electors for Greater Wellington's 2025 triennial local elections was 396,437, with five percent of this total being 19,822 electors.

Single Transferable Vote

15. Greater Wellington currently uses STV as its electoral system. Of the eight territorial authorities in the Wellington Region, three - Kāpiti Coast District Council (43,664 electors), Porirua City Council (43,032 electors), and Wellington City Council (161,318 electors) - used STV for their 2025 local elections.

16. Electors of those three STV territorial authorities totalled 248,014 electors for the 2025 local elections, representing approximately 62.5 percent of all Wellington Region electors.

Characteristics of Single Transferable Vote

17. STV is a form of preferential or proportional voting, where voters use numbers to rank candidates in their order of preference.

18. In an election, voters can rank as few or as many candidates as they wish. To cast a valid vote, a voter needs to express a first preference for one candidate.

19. A quota, determined from the number of valid votes and number of positions to be filled, is then used to determine who is elected first. First preference votes are counted and candidates whose first preference votes reach or exceed the quota are elected.

20. If insufficient candidates are elected, the proportion of votes for an elected candidate above the quota is redistributed according to voters' second or subsequent preferences. Candidates who then reach the quota are elected, and the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded.

21. The votes for the excluded candidate are redistributed according to voters' further preferences.

22. This process is repeated until the required number of candidates is elected.

First Past the Post

23. Of the eight territorial authorities in the Wellington Region, five - Hutt City Council (79,026 electors), Upper Hutt City Council (33,100 electors), South Wairarapa District Council (9,346 electors), Carterton District Council (7,718 electors), and Masterton District Council (20,108 electors) - used FPP for their 2025 local elections.

24. Electors of the five FPP territorial authorities totalled 149,298 electors for the 2025 local elections, representing approximately 37.5 percent of all Wellington Region electors.

25. At the 2022 local elections, Hutt City Council conducted a binding poll on the electoral system to apply for its 2025 and 2028 local triennial elections. A majority of voters supported retaining FPP.

Characteristics of First Past the Post

26. FPP is not a proportional voting system; instead, it is a plurality voting method. Candidates can be elected without receiving a majority of the votes.

27. A voter can vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. In a multi-member election, the candidates equal to the number of positions with the highest number of votes are elected.

Public notice of right to demand a poll on the electoral system

28. By 19 September 2026, Greater Wellington Regional Council must give public notice of the statutory right of electors to demand a binding poll on the specific electoral system to be used for the Council's elections. Such a poll enables electors to countermand Council's choice of electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 local elections. If Council resolves to change the electoral system, the public notice must include a copy of that resolution.

Holding a poll of electors

Council resolution

29. Council may decide, by 11 December 2026, that a binding poll of electors is held on a proposal that a specified electoral system be used for the Council's

elections. If Council agrees to such a poll by that date, the poll results determine the electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 local elections.

30. If Council chooses at this meeting to hold such a poll, the resolution may specify a date on which the poll will be held. Regardless, the Chief Executive must give notice of the resolution to Greater Wellington's Electoral Officer as follows:

    - If no date is specified, as soon as is practicable.
    - If a specific date is agreed, at an appropriate time that enables the poll to be conducted within 89 days of the Electoral Officer's receipt of the Chief Executive's notice of Council's resolution.

31. The Electoral Officer must, as soon as practicable after receiving notice from the Chief Executive, give public notice of the poll.

32. The related advantages and disadvantages of Council deciding to hold a poll of electors are set out below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
Community decision – every eligible elector can vote.	Financial implications not budgeted for. Potential for lower voter turnout, which could result in misrepresentation of the wider community's preference.

33. Council also has the option of holding a poll at the time of the Council elections in October 2028. The outcome of such a poll would apply for the Council's 2031 and 2034 elections.

Electors demand a poll

34. In addition, at any time, five percent of the number of electors enrolled at the 2025 local triennial elections for Greater Wellington Regional Council - 19,822 electors - may demand, in writing, a poll on the electoral system.

35. If such a demand for a poll is received by 11 December 2026, then the poll must be held by 28 March 2027, with the poll results applying for the Council's 2028 and 2031 local elections.

36. If such a demand for a poll is received after 11 December 2026, then the poll must be held after 28 March 2027, with the poll results applying for the Council's 2031 and 2034 local elections.

Nga kōwhiringa
Options

Changing the electoral system

37. If Council wishes to retain the current electoral system (STV) for its local elections (Option One), then Council can simply note this report (recommendation 1a). Alternatively, Council can choose to change the electoral system to FPP (Option Two and recommendation 1b). The advantages and disadvantages of these options are set out below.

Option One – retain the current electoral system (STV)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Results better reflect the preferences of a greater number of votes.	Counting system is more complex.
Broad proportionality in multi-member constituencies.	Perceived complexity of voting.
More equitable minority representation.	

Option Two – change the electoral system to FPP

Advantages	Disadvantages
Counting process is easy to understand.	Candidates can be elected with small amounts of voter support.
Results are easy to understand.	Higher number of wasted votes.
	Potential for disproportionate election results, including the 'less representative' nature of councils using FPP.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

38. There would be minimal additional election costs associated with a decision to change the electoral system to First Past the Post.

39. If Council decides to hold a poll with the 2028 local elections, the additional cost would be substantially lower than a stand-alone poll. However, the cost would be significant and unbudgeted, with an indicative estimated cost of $500,000 (GST exclusive).

40. A poll held separately to the triennial local elections would require additional budget provision, with the indicative cost for conducting the poll being $1.5 million (GST exclusive). There is currently no budget provision to meet the cost of such poll.

41. The estimated costs outlined above are exclusive of the costs incurred in conducting a factual elector awareness campaign to inform the community of relevant matters so that electors can cast an informed vote.

42. There is currently no budget provision to meet the cost of a poll and the associated elector awareness campaign.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

43. Single Transferable Vote is regarded as a proportional electoral system, which can support more equitable minority representation.

44. Changing to First Past the Post may make it more difficult for Māori to be elected and could result in a less representative Council.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

45. The decision-making process is prescribed by sections 27 to 34 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. The relevant statutory provisions are addressed in the Background and Analysis sections of this report.

46. Council has the information necessary to make the decisions recommended in this report.

Te hiranga
Significance

47. The decisions in this report are not considered significant under Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy*.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

48. No community engagement has been undertaken in preparing this report. Public notice of the right to demand a poll will be given in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

49. A public notice will be published by 19 September 2026 advising electors of their right to demand a poll on the electoral system and, if Council so decides, of Council's resolution to change the electoral system for the next two triennial local elections.

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Oliver Greig – Kaitohutohu Ratonga Manapori | Democratic Services Advisor
Approvers	Priscila Firmo - Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Manapori | Manager Democratic Services Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori | Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council has the related decision-making responsibilities under the Local Electoral Act 2001.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies There are no implications arising from this report for Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies, policies and plans.
Internal consultation There was no internal consultation in preparing this report.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no known risks arising from the matters for decision.

Council
Report 26.321
3 September 2026

For Decision

DISCHARGE OF THE WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for Council, in its capacity as a former shareholder of Wellington Water Limited (Wellington Water), to discharge the Wellington Water Committee (Committee).

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Wellington City Council and Upper Hutt City Council were the former shareholders of Wellington Water, a council-controlled organisation established to manage the provision of water supply and wastewater services across respective Shareholding Councils' districts, up until 30 June 2026.
3. South Wairarapa District Council agreed to the buyback and cancellation of its shares on 11 June 2026, which left the remaining councils as the shareholders of Wellington Water at 30 June 2026 (Shareholding Councils).
4. Those Shareholding Councils separately decided to establish a new water services organisation, Tiaki Wai, to take over responsibility for delivering water, wastewater and stormwater services across the Metropolitan Wellington Area from 1 July 2026.
5. As part of the establishment of Tiaki Wai, it was decided that Wellington Water would be amalgamated with Tiaki Wai, with the effect that Wellington Water would cease to exist as a separate entity. This amalgamation occurred on 1 July 2026, and Wellington Water was removed from the Companies Register on that same date.
6. Wellington Water was overseen by the Committee, established by the Shareholding Councils as a joint committee under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and provided governance oversight of Wellington Water. As Tiaki Wai is the surviving company post amalgamation, with the Tiaki Wai Partners Committee providing oversight on behalf of the Shareholding Councils, the Committee is no longer required and can be discharged.
7. This report seeks a formal resolution from Council to discharge the Committee, with the other Shareholding Councils to provide the same.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1 **Notes** that, as Wellington Water Limited has been amalgamated with Tiaki Wai Limited and removed from the Companies Register, the Wellington Water Committee has no continuing purpose.

2 **Resolves** pursuant to clause 30(5) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, to discharge the Wellington Water Committee with effect from the date of the final Shareholding Council's resolution.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

8. The Committee was established as a joint committee to

   a Provide governance and leadership across issues which are related to the planning, delivery and management of water services to communities serviced by Wellington Water Limited;

   b Provide governance oversight of Wellington Water Limited, including by exhibiting good governance practice;

   c Provide a forum for the representatives of Wellington Water Limited's shareholders and mana whenua to meet, discuss and co-ordinate on relevant issues and, through their representatives to exercise their powers; and

   d Strive for consistency across all client councils so all customers receive a similar level of service.

9. The discharge of the Committee is an administrative decision which follows the amalgamation of Wellington Water with Tiaki Wai Limited (Tiaki Wai), which took effect from 1 July 2026. It recognises that the ongoing company is Tiaki Wai, which is overseen by the Tiaki Wai Partners Committee.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

10. As Wellington Water no longer exists as a legal entity, with Tiaki Wai the continuing company, the Committee has no continuing purpose. The Tiaki Wai Partners Committee (on behalf of the Shareholding Councils) now provides oversight of Tiaki Wai, as the relevant water service provider.

11. It is therefore appropriate for each Shareholding Council to exercise its power under clause 30(5) of Schedule 7 of the LGA to formally discharge the Committee, effective from the date of the final Shareholding Council's resolution.

12. The discharge is expected to occur in September 2026, once each Shareholding Council makes the relevant decision and associated resolutions.

13. This decision is considered an administrative matter consequential to earlier decisions to establish Tiaki Wai and amalgamate Wellington Water with Tiaki Wai on 1 July 2026. It does not involve any policy change or alteration to service delivery and does not put at risk any shareholder oversight arrangements. It will mean that the appointed members of the Committee are also discharged, but as the Committee serves no continuing purpose, that is again, an administrative matter.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

14. There are no financial implications or need for budgetary provision as a result of this report. The Committee was a governance body only, supported by the Shareholding Councils, and did not hold any assets that require distribution on discharge.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

15. The Tiaki Wai Partners Committee comprises representatives from mana whenua, which provides a continuing opportunity for Māori input into the oversight and governance of Tiaki Wai.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi
Consideration of climate change

16. There are no implications for climate change as a result of this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

17. Officers consider that this report and its recommendations are consistent with Council's previous decisions to establish Tiaki Wai.

Te hiranga
Significance

18. While Council's earlier decisions to establish Tiaki Wai were assessed as high significance, this report and recommendations are considered to be administrative in nature, and a consequence of the transition to Tiaki Wai. Officers consider that the significance of the matter addressed in this report is low.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

19. No engagement is considered necessary as a result of this report.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

20. Subject to Council approval:

    a officers will notify the other Shareholding Councils of the Council's resolution; and

    b once all equivalent resolutions have been passed by each of the other Shareholding Councils, the discharge of the Committee will be complete.

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Amanda Cox – Kaiwhakahaere Matua (GW) – Local Water Done Well
Approver	Julie Knauf - Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Rangapū | Group Manager Corporate Services

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Greater Wellington is a former shareholder of Wellington Water Limited, and a member of the Joint Committee. Council's approval is required to disestablish the Wellington Water Committee.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies The decision is consistent with Greater Wellington's decision to establish Tiaki Wai, including the establishment of the joint Tiaki Wai Partners Committee, and the amalgamation of Tiaki Wai and Wellington Water.
Internal consultation Democratic Services was consulted in the preparation of this report.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. As outlined above, the legal considerations arise from earlier decisions made by the Shareholding Councils. No amendments to any Council policy or bylaws will be involved, with the decision to discharge the Committee being administrative only. There are no risks arising from this report.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.399

For Decision

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO SIGN DEEDS

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To advise Council on proposed changes to the delegated authority of officers to exercise a power of attorney to sign deeds on behalf of Council.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1 **Revokes**, effective 3 September 2026, the Power of Attorney to sign deeds on behalf of Council, granted to Julie Knauf, Group Manager.

2 **Grants**, effective 3 September 2026, a Power of Attorney to Nicky Chilton, Group Manager, to sign deeds on behalf of Council.

3 **Confirms** the Power of Attorney granted to Samantha Gain, Group Manager.

4 **Confirms** the Power of Attorney granted to Nigel Corry, Chief Executive.

5 **Authorises** two Councillors to sign the Power of Attorney document for Nicky Chilton, Group Manager (Attachment 1) as a deed.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

2. Legal requirements for executing deeds are set out in the Property Law Act 2007 (the Act). Section 6 of the Act states that anything that must or may be done by a person under the Act may be done by that person's attorney as long as the attorney has been given authority. For an attorney to execute deeds on its behalf, Council must appoint the attorney by deed.
3. Council decided in February 2009 that at least two officers should be granted a Power of Attorney to sign deeds on behalf of the Council.
4. Council has granted the following officers a Power of Attorney to sign deeds on behalf of Council:
    a Julie Knauf, Group Manager (effective 11 December 2023);
    b Samantha Gain, Group Manager (effective 21 June 2019); and

c Nigel Corry, Chief Executive (on 28 September 2021).

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

5. From 31 August 2026 Julie Knauf ceased her role as Group Manager Corporate Services and moved to her new role as Group Manager Environment. Julie Knauf no longer requires a Power of Attorney in her new role.
6. Officers propose that Council revokes Julie Knauf's Power of Attorney and grants a Power of Attorney to Nicky Chilton, Group Manager People and Corporate Services. The Power of Attorney document for Nicky Chilton is attached as Attachment 1.
7. In addition, we propose that the Council confirms the current Power of Attorney for each of Samantha Gain, Group Manager and Nigel Corry, Chief Executive.
8. This approach aligns with previous Council practice and the direction that there should be at all times at least two officers with this delegated authority.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from the decisions in this report.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

10. There are no implications for Māori arising from this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

11. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

12. Officers considered the significance of the matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that these matters are of low significance, due to their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

13. Engagement was not considered necessary given the low significance of the decisions on these matters.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

14. Officers will advise Nicky Chilton of the Power of Attorney granted to her, and Julie Knauf of the revocation of her Power of Attorney; and will reflect these changes in Greater Wellington's *Delegations Manual*.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment

Number	Title
1	Power of Attorney to Sign Deeds on behalf of Council

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua | Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Head of Governance and Democracy Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | Acting Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council is responsible for granting Powers of Attorney to officers.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies There is no contribution to Council's key strategies and policies.
Internal consultation The two Group Managers with current Powers of Attorney were consulted.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no risks associated with the decisions proposed in this report.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.399

Power of Attorney to sign Deeds on behalf of Council

Power of Attorney to sign Deeds on behalf of the Council

This is a Power of Attorney by way of a Deed signed by two elected Councillors of the Wellington Regional Council, a council under the Local Government Act 2002, on the third day of September 2026.

Background

1. Wellington Regional Council (Council) is a council under the Local Government Act 2002 and is authorised to enter into deeds.
2. Council wishes to grant to Nicola Jane Chilton, Group Manager, a Power of Attorney to sign deeds on behalf of Council.

By this Deed

3. Council hereby appoints Nicola Jane Chilton of Wellington, Group Manager, (the Attorney) to be Council's attorney to do the following on Council's behalf to:
    a Sign by way of deeds all documents which Council is authorised to sign, and
    b Continue to exercise the power under paragraph (a) until such time as the Attorney receives notice in writing from Council of the revocation of this Power of Attorney.
4. Council covenants to rectify any agreement or obligation assumed by the Attorney under any deed signed by the Attorney pursuant to or under this Power of Attorney, and to ratify any act, agreement or obligation assumed by the Attorney and necessary to render the foregoing effectual.

Signed as a Deed on the above date

Signed by _____

(name) _____

an elected member of the Wellington Regional Council

in the presence of_____.

Signed by _____

(name) _____

an elected member of the Wellington Regional Council

in the presence of _____.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.400

For Decision

DELEGATION TO AFFIX THE COMMON SEAL

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To seek delegations of the power to affix the common seal of Council to documents where Council is required by law to affix its seal or it is prudent to do so and in the interests of good local government.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1 **Revokes** (effective 3 September 2026) the delegations made by Council on:

a 20 May 2019 to the General Manager Corporate Services to affix the Common Seal; and

b 31 August 2015 to the General Manager People and Customer to affix the Common Seal.

2 **Delegates** authority to the Group Manager People and Corporate Services (effective 3 September 2026) the power to affix the Common Seal of Council when it is required to be fixed by law, or when it is prudent and in the interests of good local government to affix the seal to a document.

3 **Confirms** that the delegation to the Chief Executive to affix the Common Seal, made by the Council on 21 May 2014 remains in effect.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

2. There are a number of circumstances when the common seal of the Wellington Regional Council (Council) must be affixed to documents, including:

a When issuing a warrant to any officer authorised to enter private land on behalf of the Council in accordance with section 174(1) of the Local Government Act 2002;

b When approving a plan of survey of reclamation (as the consent authority) in accordance with section 245(5) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA);

c When effecting any policy statement or plan (other than a regional coastal plan) under clause 17(3) of the First Schedule to the RMA;

d When effecting the adoption any regional coastal plan under clause 18(2) of the First Schedule to the RMA;

e When executing any Memorandum of Transfer pursuant to section 80 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002;

f When adopting a regional pest management plan under section 77 of the Biosecurity Act 1993; and

g When adopting a regional pathway management plan under section 97 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

3. In addition, while there may be no legal requirement to do so, Council is entitled to seal documents if it considers this to be prudent and in the interests of good local government.

4. The purpose of affixing the Common Seal to a document is to acknowledge that it is a formal document of Council. Accordingly, the Common Seal will only be affixed to a document to give effect to a decision made by Council or under delegated authority.

5. From 31 August 2026, the Chief Executive disestablished the positions of Group Manager Corporate Services and Group Manager People and Culture and established the new position of Group Manager People and Corporate Services.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

6. Council has previously delegated the authority to affix its Common Seal to the:

a Chief Executive on 21 May 2014 (Report 14.229);

b General Manager People and Customer on 31 August 2015 (Report 15.367); and

c General Manager Corporate Services on 20 May 2019 (Report 19.206).

7. Officers propose that:

a The current delegation to the Chief Executive remains in place, and is confirmed;

b Effective 3 September 2026:

i The current delegations to the General Manager People and Customer and the General Manager Corporate Services are revoked; and

ii A new delegation is made to the Group Manager People and Corporate Services.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from the decisions in this report.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

9. There are no implications for Māori arising from this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

10. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

11. Officers considered the significance of the matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that these matters are of low significance, due to their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

12. No engagement was considered necessary given the low significance of the matters for decision.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

13. The Group Manager People and Corporate Services will be advised of their delegation, which will be reflected in Greater Wellington's *Delegations Manual*.

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua | Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Matua |Head of Governance and Democracy Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | Acting Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council is responsible for delegating use of the common seal on its behalf.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies There are no contributions to Council's key strategies and policies.
Internal consultation There was no internal consultation.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no risks associated with the decisions proposed in this report.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.311

For Information

TE WAI TAKAMORI O TE AWA KAIRANGI (RIVERLINK) – QUARTERLY UPDATE: Q4 2025/26 (APRIL–JUNE 2026)

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To inform Council of:
   a the progress of the RiverLink programme during the fourth quarter of 2025/26 (April–June 2026);
   b the current forecast cost, funding position and principal programme risks;
   c how Councillors can support community understanding of the RiverLink programme and its flood resilience outcomes through their engagement with local communities and stakeholders;
   d the impact of programme construction on public transport services.

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. The Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) programme continues to progress in Lower Hutt across flood protection, urban development and public transport workstreams, with increased construction activity and ongoing coordination between Greater Wellington, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Hutt City Council (HCC), mana whenua, utility providers, and Metlink.
3. Key achievements during Quarter Four include the substantial completion of demolition works at High, Daly and Marsden Streets, progression of the Mills Street Stopbank, mobilisation of Outlet 40 construction works, advancement of river corridor and bioengineering works, and completion of key Wellington Electricity utility relocation milestones. Approximately forty percent of planned rockline works have now been completed.
4. Greater Wellington's flood-protection scope is currently scheduled for completion in 2032. Delayed 2025/26 activities have been rephased within the programme, and officers are managing their effects on the integrated schedule. Any material change to the expected completion date will be reported to Council.
5. The wider programme continues to impact the Lower Hutt community as construction activity increases. Traffic delays and disruption, particularly during peak periods, are expected to continue while major road works continue. Following the closure of Melling Station in December 2025, Metlink implemented enhanced

bus services, retained rail services to Western Hutt Station, and provided additional park and ride capacity. Increased bus patronage suggests users are adapting to these temporary arrangements.

6. Targeted communications and community engagement activities continue to support residents, businesses, commuters, and stakeholders affected by construction.

7. Partner relationships and coordination improved during the quarter through effective use of cross-partner programme groups that have been established to connect HCC, NZTA, and Greater Wellington at operational, management, and programme governance levels (the Teams of Teams forum, Programme Leadership Team and Programme Governance Group). Several cross-partner design and sequencing matters remain under active management.

8. At 30 June 2026, Greater Wellington had incurred $242.1 million of capital expenditure on its RiverLink flood-protection scope and had $108.5 million of approved capital funding remaining, giving a total approved programme provision of $350.6 million.

9. The current P50 planning position indicates an estimated cost at completion of $535.4 million and a forecast funding gap of approximately $184.9 million. Officers propose to use the P50 scenario as the provisional planning basis for the 2027–37 Long Term Plan and to reduce the remaining risk and uncertainty through tight financial, commercial and programme controls. The forecast funding gap is a whole-of-programme planning shortfall, not an amount required in the current financial year, and no funding decision is sought through this paper.

10. The figures are undergoing detailed reconciliation before the proposed RiverLink provision for the 2027–37 Long Term Plan is finalised. Officers' current planning basis retains the full, integrated flood-protection scope. Officers are refining the programme cost, risk, schedule and funding information for the 2027–37 Long Term Plan and are continuing to pursue cost reductions, appropriate partner contributions and potential external funding opportunities.

11. The programme's overall residual risk profile remains High. Four of the six principal risks are rated High: funding and affordability; programme dependencies, commercial exposure and partner interfaces; health and safety across shared worksites; and flood protection during construction. Bioengineering and future maintenance, and public disruption and reputation, are rated Moderate. Separately, the residual financial risk associated with the need for immediate gravel removal has been reassessed as Low since the April update (Report PE26.101 - Te Wai Takamori o te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) – quarterly update).

12. Over the next quarter (July to September), officers will complete the remaining demolition and archaeological works; (progress Outlet 40, the Mills Street Stopbank Stage 2 procurement and the temporary rockline package; advance utility relocations, river-corridor design and bioengineering; and continue managing community, transport, cost, funding and partner-interface risks.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

Programme overview and delivery model

13. The RiverLink Programme is a multi-agency programme established in 2012 to transform a three-kilometre stretch of Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River between Kennedy Good and Ewen Bridges, including adjacent urban areas and part of the Lower Hutt CBD. The programme brings together Greater Wellington, HCC, NZTA, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika.

14. The primary expected outcomes and benefits delivered by Greater Wellington's RiverLink Programme as part of the wider Te Awa Kairangi Programme are:

    a. improve the flood-protection system between Kennedy Good Bridge and Ewen Bridge, increasing the design standard for much of Lower Hutt from approximately a 1-in-60-year flood event to a 1-in-440-year flood event, in accordance with the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan 2001 and subsequent amendments and alterations; and

    b. enhance the mana and mauri of Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River and its people between Ewen Bridge and Kennedy Good Bridge through design and the practice of kaitiakitanga.

15. The Greater Wellington Programme also contributes to the overall Te Awa Kairangi Programme outcomes by enabling;

    a. resilient transport choices allowing all people and businesses to safely and reliably move to, from and within the Lower Hutt city centre;

    b. urban regeneration and economic development;

    c. growth and the regeneration of the Lower Hutt city centre and promoting commercial and residential development.

16. Within the wider RiverLink programme, Greater Wellington is responsible for the flood-protection works; NZTA is responsible for the new Melling interchange, replacement Melling Bridge and relocation of Melling Station; and HCC is responsible for the city-link bridge and related city-centre integration works. NZTA is delivering works through an alliance model, Te Awa Kairangi (Alliance). Through the Alliance, NZTA is delivering the public-transport assets associated with the station relocation on Greater Wellington's behalf, with those assets to be transferred to Greater Wellington on completion. This report therefore focuses primarily on Greater Wellington's flood-protection and public-transport interests.

17. Greater Wellington was initially part of the Alliance but chose to exit to gain greater control over the timing, cost and delivery of its flood protection scope. The relevant Council reports are Report RPE24.136: RiverLink Project – Variation 3 to the Project Partner Agreement and Report PE25.79: Entry into Relationship Agreement and Commercial Development Agreement for Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink).

18. The decision involved trade-offs and did not remove all potential increases in delivery costs. At the time of exiting the Alliance, the comparative costs of the alternative delivery arrangements could not be quantified with certainty.

19. Council was advised that Greater Wellington would assume greater direct responsibility for construction-phase risks, including flood risk during construction, interfaces with Alliance-delivered works, and programme-scale governance and commercial arrangements. At the time, Council considered these risks alongside the affordability and cost-control risks associated with continued Alliance delivery and agreed that direct delivery was the preferred approach.

20. The change in delivery model has also increased coordination complexity across the programme. As partners now deliver their respective scopes independently, programme sequencing has become more fragmented and additional interfaces have arisen. Because these works overlap within a constrained river and urban corridor, decisions by one partner can affect another partner's design, consenting, site access, health and safety, construction sequencing, cost and delivery timing.

21. In April 2026, officers presented Report PE26.101 to Council on the revised cost estimates and, in particular, the risk associated with gravel management. The overall risk position has since been reassessed, and the current position is set out in this report.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

Progress update

Flood Protection

22. Since the April quarterly update, on-site activity by Greater Wellington and the Alliance has increased significantly, despite challenging weather, and this has been supported by changes in project governance and leadership roles and a clearer shared focus on coordinated delivery.

Partner Interface

23. Ongoing collaboration has enabled Greater Wellington, NZTA and HCC to progress planning, design and construction activities. A collaborative workshop was held with senior staff from each Partner organisation in June to prioritise key risks and issues. Relationships and coordination have improved following a deliberate focus on how the operational Teams of Teams forum, Programme Leadership Team and Programme Governance Group identify, manage and escalate cross-partner issues.

24. Over the last quarter, significant effort focused on resolving the Daly Street promenade and stopbank interface between Greater Wellington and HCC. This has required development of background information and position material to support a structured and evidence-based discussion. Good progress has been made on reconciling the two councils' positions and agreeing a final design. A similar approach is being taken for other areas of design tension, such as a service lane at the rear of Daly St.

25. A major area of focus has been coordination around the shared haul roads and broader construction interfaces shared with NZTA and the Alliance. Discussions through leadership and partner forums highlighted challenges associated with day-

to-day construction coordination, access arrangements, safety, and productivity impacts. The quarter saw progress on cross-organisational planning and protocols but ongoing work will be required to manage costs, impacts, and opportunities within the shared construction area.

Design and consenting

26. Work has continued on river corridor and landscape design, maintenance access, utility coordination and construction readiness. Specific matters being worked through with HCC include integrating the Daly Street promenade and service lane with the stopbank design and maintenance requirements and ensuring that the Rutherford Street access meets Greater Wellington's river-maintenance and flood-response needs while managing effects on the road, parking and walking and cycling facilities.

27. Wellington Electricity Limited's cable relocation work is progressing through the centre of Hutt City. Cable hauling commenced during the quarter following the trenching works. The cable decommissioning milestone was achieved on 6 July. The remaining cable hauling is a key dependency for Mills Street Stopbank Stage 2 and is being closely monitored.

28. HCC Regulation has agreed a minor alteration to designation conditions to replace the consented Active Transport Plan Long Plot Rev J, to the Programme Wide Active Modes Plan Revised 11/12/2025. 'Active Modes' refers to all recreational and cycle path infrastructure to be delivered by all partners. The key revision requested to benefit Greater Wellington was the inclusion of four metre wide compressed gravel maintenance paths and maintenance access strips on both sides of the river corridor, previously omitted from the consented design. Maintenance paths will be used for a dual-purpose recreation function, similar to existing Te Awa Kairangi river trail paths.

Delivery works and construction

29. High Street, Daly Street and Marsden Street demolitions are now largely complete. Archaeological delays were experienced at Marsden Street and an archaeological hold was recently lifted on the site adjacent to the cemetery in Marsden Street. Remaining work is focused on final close-out.

30. Construction of the Mills Street Stopbank has also advanced. For Outlet 40 (at Melling Rd), Brian Perry Civil has mobilised and works are now well underway. The procurement package for Mills Street Stopbank Stage 2 earthworks is being prepared for release to Greater Wellington's earthworks panel, alongside engagement with affected local businesses in September.

31. Gravel extraction for NZTA works is well underway. Approximately 35,000m^3 of river-won gravel has been extracted and stockpiled to date, with a further 6,000m^3 planned for extraction and stockpiling, including allocation for NZTA use.

32. The third season of bioengineering works is underway. These works use willow poles, willow structures and planting to help manage erosion and establish the future river edge.

33. Construction of permanent rocklines to provide permanent erosion protection has also continued. Approximately forty percent of the planned rockline length has been completed to date.

34. A $5.4 million works package, comprising approximately 310 metres of temporary rockline and associated riverworks and further bioengineering earthworks, has been approved. The temporary rockline is necessary to protect the existing stopbank and Western Hills Main Sewer for approximately 18 to 36 months while permanent river-edge protection cannot be completed because of the sequencing of other works. The rock is intended to be recovered and reused in the permanent works, which will reduce cost.

Health and safety

35. Health and safety performance has remained stable, with no significant site incidents reported during June/July. The shared haul road with NZTA remains a focus, and bird flu has been treated as an emerging biosecurity risk following confirmed cases in the Wellington Region. Greater Wellington's protocols have been shared with the programme team and partners.

36. The next quarter will focus on completing remaining demolition and archaeological activities, completing the Outlet 40 construction, releasing the Mills Street Stopbank Stage 2 procurement package, progressing utility relocations, resolving shared haul road and partner interface matters, continuing bioengineering and planting planning, and maintaining strong governance over cost, risk, funding and programme delivery.

Public transport

Melling Station closure and mitigation measures

37. Melling Station closed on 24 December 2025 and is expected to remain temporarily closed for approximately three years while RiverLink construction is undertaken. During the closure, Melling Line services terminate at Western Hutt Station. Metlink's mitigation measures, previously reported to the Transport Committee on 3 April 2025 (Report 25.100), include an additional park-and-ride facility at Petone Station, extending Routes 145 and 149 to connect with Waterloo Station, retaining Melling Line services to Western Hutt Station, and targeted communications and engagement with affected customers.

Public transport performance during the quarter

38. RiverLink and other planned works are expected to cause fluctuating road-traffic delays, particularly during the afternoon peak, over the next 18 to 24 months.

39. Recent data shows that off-peak road travel times are broadly aligned with timetables. Afternoon-peak bus services remain affected by Hutt Valley congestion, but typical delays have reduced from 40–50 minutes earlier in the year to approximately 20 minutes. Unplanned network incidents can still cause significant late running.

40. Patronage on the extended bus routes serving Waterloo Station has increased substantially. Between June 2025 and June 2026, patronage increased by 93 per cent on Route 145 and 86 per cent on Route 149.

41. This suggests that many customers who previously used Melling Station or its park-and-ride are using the extended bus services to connect with Hutt Valley Line trains at Waterloo.

Transport coordination and upcoming disruption

42. The Hutt Transport Coordination Group meets monthly to minimise transport disruption across the Hutt Valley by coordinating planned works, understanding cumulative network impacts, considering mitigation measures, and escalating issues where required.

43. Anticipated disruption over the next 18 to 24 months includes utility works, Tiaki Wai projects, HCC road-resilience and resurfacing programmes, NZTA construction, and KiwiRail's annual block of line. Timing remains subject to change and will be coordinated through the Hutt Transport Coordination Group.

44. Mitigations include coordinated work planning, advance communications, clear signage and traffic management, temporary bus stops and shelters, bus-route changes, bus-replacement services during rail closures, promotion of alternative travel options and maintaining access where practicable. Metlink is working with partners and affected stakeholders to monitor impacts and maintain customer access.

Ngā *take e hāngai ana ki te iwi Māori*
Implications for Māori

45. Mana whenua partners, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui, remain engaged through the Programme Governance Group and Programme Leadership Team under the Relationship Agreement. The Mana Whenua Values Plan guides programme design and delivery and supports the programme outcome of enhancing the mana and mauri of Te Awa Kairangi.

46. During the reporting period, mana whenua cultural advisers have worked with the programme team on landscape and cultural elements. Landscape material is being referred to iwi for direct review and contribution as the design develops.

47. Officers are working through activities that will support the three mana whenua-specific objectives guiding delivery of the Te Awa Kairangi Programme:

    a. Ora Tangata: Iwi Mana Whenua and Māori people capability is uplifted

    b. Ora Taiao: Te Awa Kairangi and the natural environment is healthier

    c. Ora Wairua: Iwi identity is prominent and Programme is mana-enhancing for all

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

Communications and Councillor engagement

48. Communications and engagement during the quarter included programme updates, construction notifications, stakeholder engagement, digital and media communications, and on-site information. The focus has been on giving residents, businesses and transport users timely and accurate information about upcoming works, disruption and travel options.

49. The revised "Protecting Our Place" framework **(Attachment 1)** provides consistent messages about flood risk, why resilience investment is needed, the purpose of current works and the outcomes sought through RiverLink.

50. As construction activity increases, communications will continue to provide advance notice, explain programme progress and how individual projects contribute to flood-protection, transport and environmental outcomes, and respond to community questions.

51. Councillors can support community understanding by sharing consistent programme information, relaying feedback and emerging issues to officers, and participating in site visits or community events where useful. Officers will provide regular updates, key messages and visual material to support this role.

Ngā tūraru

Risks

52. The programme's overall residual risk profile remains High. Four of the six principal risks are rated High and two are rated Moderate. The table below summarises the principal risks, their potential effects and current treatments as at August 2026.

53. The multi-agency delivery model is a key risk. Delivery depends on coordinated sequencing, timely decisions and effective performance across Greater Wellington, NZTA, HCC, utilities, designers and contractors.

Description	Residual risk rating	Key treatments
Funding and affordability If the validated forecast exceeds approved funding and additional Long Term Plan provision is not confirmed, works may need to be delayed or reprioritised, affecting delivery of the flood-protection outcomes.	**High**	Validate the cost-to-complete estimate, cashflow and risk allowances, including costs attributable to Greater Wellington and the potential rates impact. Develop any required Long Term Plan or Annual Plan provision for Council decision and confirm funding before major procurement commitments. Continue programme optimisation and savings through design refinement, sequencing, partner contributions, gravel reuse, contaminated-land management and appropriate property sales, while protecting the agreed programme outcomes.

Description	Residual risk rating	Key treatments
Programme dependencies, commercial exposure and partner interfaces Delays or unresolved dependencies across utilities, partner works, design, approvals, access and shared worksites could require re-sequencing, increasing costs, claims, rework and programme duration.	**High**	Maintain one integrated partner programme with clear decisions, dates, accountabilities and recovery actions. Use governance forums to resolve issues early. Strengthen commercial controls, clarify interfaces and cost allocations, and challenge costs or claims not demonstrably attributable to Greater Wellington.
Health and safety across shared worksites. Failure to control critical construction risks or coordinate duties across shared worksites could result in serious injury or loss of life, regulatory action, programme disruption and reputational harm.	**Moderate**	Apply risk-based procurement, approved safety plans, competent supervision, critical-risk controls, inspections, incident reporting and independent assurance where required. At shared interfaces, maintain agreed lead controls, coordinated work and traffic plans, access protocols, common emergency procedures and formal hazard handovers.
Flood protection during construction If temporary protection and incomplete permanent works are not effectively managed, a flood or erosion event could damage assets, delay construction and increase costs.	**High**	Maintain construction flood-risk and temporary-works plans, temporary protection measures, and river and weather monitoring. Continue technical assurance of stopbanks, rocklines, river-edge works and works around the Western Hills Main Sewer, with clear response, recovery and escalation responsibilities until handover.
Asset-owner acceptance and flood-protection integrity If designs or completed assets do not meet asset-owner or Greater Wellington flood-protection requirements, redesign, delays, additional costs and increased flood risk may result.	**High**	Confirm requirements early, maintain Greater Wellington technical reviews and hold points, resolve interfaces before construction, and document approvals, handover and maintenance responsibilities.
Disruption to the public and reputation Construction disruption and inconsistent partner communications could adversely affect businesses, residents and transport users, undermine public confidence and cause complaints, delay and additional cost.	**Moderate**	Coordinate public-transport mitigation and partner communications. Provide early notice of disruption and continue direct engagement with affected businesses, residents and users. Keep Councillors informed while protecting commercially sensitive information.

54. The immediate gravel-removal financial risk has reduced to Low because the full volume need not be removed at once and reuse and commercial options are being developed. Gravel-management costs remain in the forecast and will continue to be tested and monitored.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

55. At 30 June 2026, Greater Wellington had incurred $242.1 million of capital expenditure on its RiverLink flood-protection scope. RiverLink implementation expenditure was approximately $44 million below budget in the financial year 2025/26 ending on June 30, 2026. Of this, approximately $24.1 million related to contingency that was not required in that financial year, with the balance principally relating to delays in utility relocation, procurement, demolition and river-corridor design. Of the total underspend, $43.7 million has been carried forward: $8 million to 2026/27 and $35.7 million to 2027/28. This is deferred expenditure rather than a saving because the underlying work remains to be delivered.

56. The approved 2026/27 Annual Plan budget is $41.1 million. Total approved programme capital funding is $350.6 million, comprising expenditure to date and approved current and future-year provisions. This leaves $108.5 million of approved capital funding available.

57. The remaining approved funding for the programme is insufficient to complete the flood protection programme. The current Base and P50 forecast positions are summarised below.

Table: Updated financial position for Greater Wellington's RiverLink flood-protection scope

Scenario	Approved programme provision	Expenditure to 30 June 2026	Unspent approved provision	Estimated costs remaining	Estimated cost at completion	Forecast funding gap
Base forecast	$350.6m	$242.1m	$108.5m	$222.3m	$464.3m	$113.8m
P50 planning position	$350.6m	$242.1m	$108.5m	$293.3m	$535.4m	$184.9m

All figures are in millions of dollars and are rounded to one decimal place. The approved programme provision, expenditure and unspent provision are as at 30 June 2026. The Base forecast represents the current forecast without P50 contingency. The P50 estimate includes $71.1 million of contingency and represents a 50 per cent confidence level that the final cost will not exceed the estimate. Totals have been calculated using unrounded figures and may not add precisely due to rounding.

58. Estimates indicate that additional programme provision will be required through the 2027–37 Long Term Plan. Officers propose to use the current P50 scenario as the provisional planning basis while detailed reconciliation of actual expenditure, commitments, forecast cash flow, partner cost allocations and risk allowances continues. Officers will aim to reduce the remaining risk and uncertainty through

tight financial, commercial and programme controls. A further update in September or October 2026 will set out any changes to the estimated cost at completion, the proposed Long Term Plan provision, and indicative borrowing, debt-servicing and rates implications.

59. The funding gap reflects the cumulative effect of factors previously reported to Council, including the direct-delivery model, partner design and sequencing interfaces, escalation, utilities and materials management, commercial exposure and construction flood risk.

60. The current P50 estimated cost at completion of $535.4 million is lower than the $603 million P50 estimate reported to Council in April 2026. This is consistent with the updated risk position, including the reduced immediate gravel-removal risk. The detailed reconciliation will confirm the extent to which changes in risk allowances and other cost movements account for the reduction.

61. Additional capital provision would increase Greater Wellington's borrowing and debt-servicing costs and place upward pressure on future rates. Officers are pursuing cost reductions, appropriate partner contributions and potential external funding opportunities. Officers will continue to manage scope, schedule, cost and risk and will bring any proposed material change to the agreed outcomes back to Council.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

62. Over the next quarter, officers will focus on completing the remaining demolition and archaeological works; progressing Outlet 40; releasing the Mills Street Stopbank Stage 2 earthworks package; commencing the temporary rockline package; continuing utility relocations and river-corridor and bioengineering design; and resolving shared haul-road and other partner-interface matters.

63. Officers will continue to refine programme cost, risk, schedule and funding information for the 2027–37 Long Term Plan. Cost and risk reduction will remain a focus through procurement planning, construction sequencing, partner contributions, property decisions, material reuse and other efficiency opportunities, while preserving the agreed flood-protection outcomes.

64. Councillors will receive further updates through Council reporting, programme-governance reporting and Long Term Plan workshops as the estimate, cashflow, affordability and rates implications are confirmed.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Protecting our Place Comms Plan – Aug-Dec 2026

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writers	Tracy Berghan – Manager Projects and Programmes, RiverLink Paul Tawharu – Senior Manager Operations, Metlink
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director, Delivery Fathima Iftikar – Group Manager Environment Samantha Gain - Group Manager, Metlink

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council has overall responsibility for RiverLink
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies RiverLink contributes to the delivery of Greater Wellington's strategic priorities of Regional Resilience, Freshwater Quality and Biodiversity, and Public Transport.
Internal consultation Inputs from Metlink, Riverlink, Communications and Finance have been included.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. The programme's principal financial, delivery, health and safety, flood-construction and reputational risks, and their treatments, are set out in the Risks section.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.311

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Setting the scene

Why we're doing this

- Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River is a dynamic river that naturally changes course over time. Greater Wellington manages flood risk by balancing engineering, environmental, cultural and community outcomes while working with the river's natural processes.
- The community can see a range of river-management activities taking place, but may not understand how these activities contribute to Greater Wellington's long-term flood resilience strategy, as part of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi. Without a clear narrative, river realignment could be perceived as a standalone construction project rather than a key component of a wider flood resilience programme.
- Without a clear narrative, river realignment could be perceived as a standalone construction project rather than a key component of Te Awai Takamori and a wider flood resilience programme.

Who's involved (RASCI)

Role	Who
Responsible	Diane Robinson
Approval	Tracy Berghan, David Dillon
Support	M&C/BID/Digital/Media, Robbie Woods, Kim Longman
Consult	Programme Partners, IGG (31 July)
Inform	Rest of Comms Dept, Contact Centre, Councillors

Our plan

Communication objective

By May 2027, when river realignment begins, there will be increased public understanding of the role river realignment plays in long-term flood resilience. This will be demonstrated through engagement feedback, stakeholder sentiment, reduced rationale-based enquiries, and positive or neutral community response to river realignment works.

Strategic approach

We will build understanding progressively through a series of practical and visible river-management stories. By explaining the range of tools used to manage flood risk, including gravel extraction, tree removal, bioengineering, stopbanks and river-edge protection, we will demonstrate how rivers naturally move and

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

change, why intervention is sometimes required, and how decisions balance engineering, environmental, cultural and community outcomes. Communications will be delivered in three stages:

Stage	Timing	Focus
Stage 1: Build understanding	**Jul–Dec 2026**	Build understanding of how Te Awa Kairangi naturally functions and how Greater Wellington uses a range of tools to manage flood risk and build resilience.
Stage 2: Why giving the river more room matters	**Jan–Feb 2027**	Build understanding of why creating more space for the river is an important part of long-term flood resilience and protecting communities, infrastructure and the environment.
Stage 3: River realignment	**Feb 2027 onwards**	Support understanding and acceptance of river realignment as the next step in Greater Wellington's wider flood resilience programme, while keeping communities informed as works progress.

Communications tactics

Internal	External
• Staff intranet stories • Nigel's update • Contact centre briefings • PLT and IGG updates	• Monthly story series in Te Awa Kairangi newsletter and website, and on GW regional news content webpage – as set out in the calendar below • Progress pix and updates featured on GW FB pages and shared to TAK FB page GW councillors equipped with key messages, as above, as well as for each initiative so they can help tell our story via GW shareable content and their own SM posts • Programme leads to present at least 1 f2f presentations bi-monthly to local interest and resident orgs • Regular short FB reels • Written updates/check-ins with local residents' associations • Schools partnership

Attachment 1 to Report 26.311

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Stage 1: Building understanding July-Dec 2026

Channel	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Te Awa Kairangi e-newsletter and website (published mid-month) GW website – regional news content: www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/news/ content	Rivers naturally move: Why we are removing gravel from the river	Why we are tree felling at Marsden St and sth of Melling Bridge River management involves choices: making decisions with mana whenua	Protecting our assets: Why we are building a temporary rockline at Marsden st (Why is it temporary?) Daly st/High st demolition due to be completed.	Working in the river, the environmental rules and regs we must follow (good timing cos Sept-Nov = no work in river)	Protecting our assets: what makes a good stopbank? Why we are upgrading Outlet 40 Stage 2 MSSB	Reflection and progress in 2026
Te Awa Kairangi and GW FB updates Councillor updates and info for their own SM channels	As above, PLUS: Heads up re willow removal (scheduled to begin at end of July)	As above, PLUS Heads up re work starting on temp rockline scheduled to begin in August	As above	As above	As above	As above
Video/reels		Quentin Duthie video – what comes after the demolition?				Progress reel or drone flyover
F2F presentations/ updates to local community groups and/or residents associations		Connect with local residents groups	1 (deets t/c)	Connect with local residents groups	1 (deets t/c)	
Engagement event (Riverbank pop-up)	July 18	August 15	September 19	October 17	November 21	No event
Internal/councillor comms	✓		✓		✓	
School partnerships (enviro schools)	Collaboration plan in development	✓		✓		
Media release	Combined wider programme media pitch planned					

Attachment 1 to Report 26.311

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Stage 2 and 3: Creating more room for the river Jan-March 2027

Channel	January	February	March	April	May	June
Te Awa Kairangi e-newsletter and website (published mid-month) GW website – regional news content: www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/news/ content	Why creating more room for the river matters (Moving Daly St sub-station)	Creating 50 metres of additional room for the river - why	Creating 50 metres of additional room for the river - how	Progress updates	Progress udpates	Progress updates
Te Awa Kairangi and GW FB updates Councillor updates and info for their own SM channels	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Video/reels		✓		✓		✓
F2F presentations/ updates to local community groups and/or residents associations	Connect with local residents groups	F2F presentation	Connect with local residents groups	F2F presentation	Connect with local residents groups	F2F presentation
Monthly Engagement event: Riverbank market	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal/councillor comms		✓		✓		✓
School partnerships (enviro schools)	✓		✓		✓	
Media	Media pitch re river re-alignment to be developed					

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Implementation essentials

Primary audiences

While the campaign is aimed broadly at Hutt Valley communities, messaging and engagement will be tailored to reflect the different interests and information needs of each audience group.

Audience	What they need to know	What they care about
Hutt Valley residents and business owners	Flood risk, disruption, property and business impacts, value for rates. Value for money, resilience outcomes, long-term investment decisions.	Why the work is happening, how it reduces flood risk, project timing and benefits. Why investment is needed and how it contributes to protecting communities and infrastructure.
Recreational river users	Access, environmental outcomes, river health, temporary disruptions.	How works affect river access and how flood protection, environmental and recreational values are balanced.
Commuters	Transport reliability, road and bridge access, travel delays and disruptions.	How flood resilience work helps protect critical transport corridors and infrastructure, and what impacts they may experience during construction.
Cyclists and walkers	Access to shared pathways, safety, recreation and amenity values.	How works may affect river trails and pathways, what alternative routes are
Schools, students and Enviroschools	Protecting and restoring the natural environment, climate change, biodiversity, river health and opportunities to participate in local projects.	How Te Awa Kairangi naturally functions, why rivers need room to move, how flood resilience and environmental outcomes can work together, and how today's decisions help protect communities and the river for future generations.
GW councillors and programme partners	Community confidence, programme progress, reputation, strategic outcomes.	Consistent messaging, project rationale, emerging issues and community sentiment.
GW staff	Understanding organisational priorities and being able to respond to enquiries.	Key messages, programme milestones and the strategic narrative.

Protecting our place:
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Secondary audiences / stakeholders (*these are trusted community voices, amplifiers of key messages, and an important source of feedback on community understanding, trust and social licence.*

- Community associations and residents' groups
- Environmental and conservation organisations
- Business associations
- Special interest groups (e.g. cycling, angling, recreation)
- Media

What they need to know	What they care about
Why work is taking place, how decisions are made, how community interests have been considered, what benefits the work will deliver, and how they can help share information and provide feedback.	The interests of their members, community wellbeing, project impacts, transparency, opportunities for input, and the long-term future of Te Awa Kairangi.

Key message

Greater Wellington is working to protect our place by giving the river room to move.

Included in each comms channel or touch point we will bring the separate projects together with this paragraph: *"This work is part of Greater Wellington's wider flood resilience programme for Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River. Managing flood risk is about understanding how the river naturally moves and working with those processes to protect people, infrastructure and the environment. That's how we're helping protect our place while giving the river room to move."*

Supporting messages

1. Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River is a naturally dynamic river
2. Rivers need space to move and adapt over time – over the years Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River's natural flow has been constrained.
3. Greater Wellington actively manages river movement to reduce flood risk
4. Our work to strengthen flood resilience on Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River involves a range of tools, including gravel management, stopbanks, bioengineering, river-edge protection and river realignment
5. River management decisions balance engineering, environmental, cultural and community outcomes
6. Creating more room for the river can improve long-term resilience while protecting people and infrastructure

Risks & mitigations

Risks	Mitigations
• The community perceives our flood resilience work in piecemeal fashion – an assortment of initiatives with no cohesive overview of how they are connected or work together to protect our place • The community may question the value of investment in a 1-in-440-year level of	• Use every communication touchpoint to connect individual projects back to the overarching narrative about why and how we are giving the river room to move • We will make full use of all our channels to re-iterate our story inside and outside of GW

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

protection given the low annual probability of a flood of that size. • There is concern that environmental outcomes are secondary to engineering outcomes. • There is confusion about how we work with mana whenua and/or within regulatory rules to manage the health of the river	• Our narrative will promote the benefits and value of our flood resilience work in protecting our place, its people, infrastructure and buildings from a natural disaster • Our story will weave in our decision-making approach, how we work with our partners and how we manage the health of the river • Our narrative will focus on our ultimate aim of protecting our place while giving the river room to move.

Opportunities

- Increase awareness of Greater Wellington's flood protection role
- Demonstrate value delivered through rates-funded infrastructure
- Improve understanding of natural river processes
- Highlight GW councillor roles and as conduits of information
- Highlight our partnership with mana whenua
- Establish community support and understanding for our flood resilience work
- Position Greater Wellington as a leader in climate resilience and river management

Evaluation - quantitative

- Community and stakeholder feedback demonstrating understanding of the link between river management activities and river realignment.
- Public enquiries increasingly focused on implementation ("how") rather than rationale ("why").
- Positive or neutral sentiment across engagement activities and social media channels.
- Delivery of all planned communications activities.
- Governance Group and councillor confidence that the community understands the rationale for the programme.

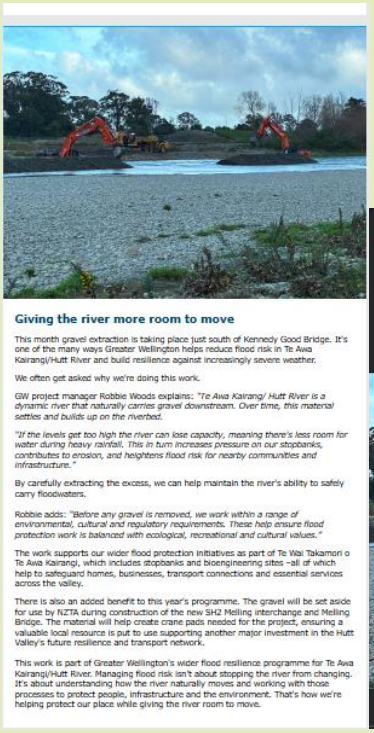
Budget

- Primarily BAU communications activity involving External Communications for planning, account management, key messages, social media
- Media - media relations, media releases
- Digital - GW website updates
- Studio/design - videos, social tiles
- Subject matter experts.

Protecting our place:
Giving the river more room to move

What will it look like

Te Awa Kairangi e-newsletter



Giving the river more room to move

This month gravel extraction is taking place just south of Kennedy Good Bridge. It's one of the many ways Greater Wellington helps reduce flood risk in Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River and build resilience against increasingly severe weather.

We often get asked why we're doing this work.

GW project manager Robbie Woods explains: *"Te Awa Kairangi/ Hutt River is a dynamic river that naturally carries gravel downstream. Over time, this material settles and builds up on the riverbed.*

"If the levels get too high the river can lose capacity, meaning there's less room for water during heavy rainfall. This in turn increases pressure on our stopbanks, contributes to erosion, and heightens flood risk for nearby communities and infrastructure."

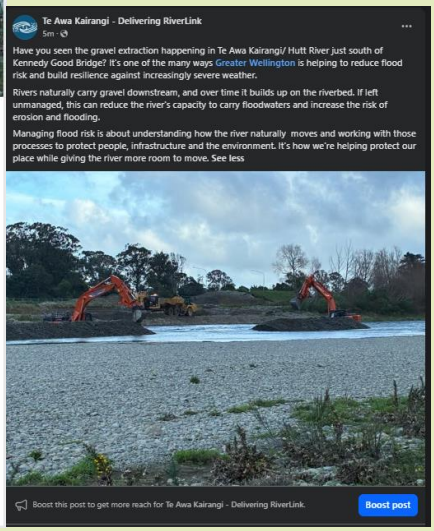
By carefully extracting the excess, we can help maintain the river's ability to safely carry floodwaters.

Robbie adds: *"Before any gravel is removed, we work within a range of environmental, cultural and regulatory requirements. These help ensure flood protection work is balanced with ecological, recreational and cultural values."*

The work supports our wider flood protection initiatives as part of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi, which includes stopbanks and bioengineering sites –all of which help to safeguard homes, businesses, transport connections and essential services across the valley.

There is also an added benefit to this year's programme. The gravel will be set aside for use by NZTA during construction of the new SH2 Melling interchange and Melling Bridge. The material will help create crane pads needed for the project, ensuring a valuable local resource is put to use supporting another major investment in the Hutt Valley's future resilience and transport network.

This work is part of Greater Wellington's wider flood resilience programme for Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River. Managing flood risk isn't about stopping the river from changing. It's about understanding how the river naturally moves and working with those processes to protect people, infrastructure and the environment. That's how we're helping protect our place while giving the river room to move.



Visual approach will include:

- Consistent campaign branding – in speeches, presentations, written content, SM content "GW is working to protect our place by giving the river room to move."
- Maps/diagrams showing river movement
- GW councillors as advocates
- Before-and-after imagery
- People working in the river environment
- Seasonal progress updates
- Drone imagery/reels reflecting our progress

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.374

For Decision

ISSUE OF UNPAID SHARE CAPITAL TO FUND GREATER WELLINGTON RAIL LIMITED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2026/27

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To advise Council of:

   a the issue of 98.7 million unpaid $1 shares by WRC Holdings Limited (WRCHL) to Council

   b WRC Holdings Limited approving the issue of 98.7 million unpaid $1 shares by Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) to WRC Holdings Limited

   c an agreement for the issue of shares which makes provision for the respective boards to make calls for payment of the shares as Greater Wellington Rail Limited's 2026/27 budget capital expenditure becomes due for payment.

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) requires funding of $155 million to deliver its budgeted capital programme for the 2026/27 financial year, including significant investment in the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) project. Consistent with previous years, this funding will be provided through the issue of uncalled share capital, with cash only being drawn down as capital expenditure is incurred.

3. At 30 June 2026, $56.3 million of previously issued uncalled shares remained available to fund future expenditure. To provide sufficient funding capacity for the 2026/27 capital programme, 98.7 million new unpaid ordinary $1 shares are required. These shares will be issued by GWRL to WRC Holdings Limited (WRCHL), and in turn by WRCHL to Greater Wellington Regional Council, bringing the total available uncalled share capital to $155 million.

4. The proposed arrangements ensure that funding is aligned with actual capital expenditure, with share calls only being made when GWRL incurs eligible capital costs. This approach provides an efficient and prudent mechanism for funding the rail capital programme.

5. Council approval is sought for the issue of the new shares, endorsement of the corresponding share issue by GWRL to WRCHL, and authorisation for the Council Chair and Deputy Chair to execute the required agreements. The proposal is within the approved 2026/27 capital budget, has no additional financial impact beyond budgeted expenditure, and is assessed as being of low significance as it implements funding arrangements already anticipated through the Long Term Plan.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1. **Notes** that the amount of $155 million is required by Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) to fund Greater Wellington Regional Rail's budgeted 2026/27 year capital expenditure.
2. **Notes** that, GWRL's budgeted 2026/27 year capital expenditure will be funded by:
    - The issue of 98.7 million unpaid ordinary $1 shares by GWRL to WRC Holdings Limited (WRCHL).
    - The issue of 98.7 million unpaid ordinary $1 shares by WRCHL to Council.
    - The utilisation of 56.3 million existing unpaid ordinary $1 shares by GWRL to WRCHL.
    - The utilisation of 56.3 million existing unpaid ordinary $1 shares by WRCHL to Council.
3. **Approves** the issue of 98.7 million unpaid ordinary shares in WRCHL to Council.
4. **Endorses** WRCHL approving the issue of 98.7 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.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

6. Each year Council approves the issuance of share capital by WRCHL and in turn by GWRL to fund GWRL's capital programme.

7. The shares are issued as uncalled and when the funds are spent in GWRL the monies are drawn down against the respective shares.

8. On 16 June 2026 the Board of WRCHL approved the Statement of Intent (SOI) for WRCHL for the three years ending June 2029. The SOI includes budgeted capital expenditure which is to be 100% funded by share capital.

9. The 2026/27 budgeted capital expenditure for GWRL is $155 million.

10. A significant portion of the capital expenditure relates to the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) project of $124 million. Any funding changes for this project will impact the share call amount. The share call will only be based on the actual capital spend of GWRL.

11. As with all budgets they are estimates of expenditure. Shares which were issued in previous years and have not yet been called to match capital expenditure remain uncalled. This has occurred due to timing of expenditures and with project coming in under budget due to either savings or non-utilisation of contingency allowances.

12. At 30 June 2026, after the call on shares for the 2025/26 year, the total value of uncalled shares remaining was $56.3 million ($38.3 million for LNIRIM and $18 million for other projects).

13. Thus, the total available shares (after all necessary approvals have been obtained) is 56.3 million existing $1 shares, plus 98.7 million $1 shares equating to 155 million $1 shares which is equal to this years budgeted capital expenditure in GWRL of $155 million.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

14. The issue of the new unpaid shares required to fund part of GWRL's $155 million budgeted 2026/27 year capital expenditure will occur as follows, and requires the following approvals:

    a Council as the sole shareholder and entitled person of WRCHL is required to approve the issue of unpaid ordinary $1 shares by WRCHL equivalent to $98.7 million (being the balancing amount required to fund GWRL's budgeted 2026/27 year capital expenditure).

    b This is approved by authorising the signing of an entitled persons agreement (refer **Attachment 1**).

    c Council is required to approve and authorise the signing of the agreement for the issue of shares to record the basis upon which the respective boards of WRCHL and GWRL make calls for the payment of the shares (refer **Attachment 2**).

    d The Directors of WRCHL, subject to Council approval have approved the issue of unpaid shares to Council at the WRCHL meeting on 11 August 2026.

    e The Directors of GWRL, subject to Council approval have approved the issue of unpaid shares to WRCHL at the GWRL meeting on 11 August 2026.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

15. There are financial implications to the issue of $98.7 million shares in both WRCHL and GWRL. However, this is within the budgeted 2026/27 year capital expenditure of GWRL.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

16. There are no known impacts for Māori.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi
Consideration of climate change

17. The matter for decision in this report is of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct climate change assessment.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

18. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

Te hiranga
Significance

19. Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term ‘significance’ has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

20. Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's *Significance And Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington’s *Decision-Making Guidelines* into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance. As set out above, the matters for decision in this report implement budgeted capital expenditure set out in the Long Term Plan.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

21. Engagement on the matters contained in this report took place when the budgeted capital expenditure was consulted on as part of the Council’s Long Term Plan.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

22. Once approval has been received the Share Registers for WRCHL and GWRL will be updated to reflect the issue of the shares.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Entitled Person Agreement of GWRC
2	Agreement for the issue of shares

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Rajesh J Ratanjee – Kaikaute Pūtea | Financial Controller
Approvers	Ashwin Pai, Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Head of Finance Alison Trustrum-Rainey – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Pūtea me ngā Tūraru | Group Manager Finance and Risk

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference Council is responsible for approving the issue of shares with WRCHL and GWRL.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies The matters for decision implement budgeted capital expenditure set out in the Annual Plan.
Internal consultation Finance, Metlink, Strategic and Corporate Planning teams were consulted in preparing this report.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.374

WRC HOLDINGS LIMITED
(363481)
(the *Company*)

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
(the Shareholder)

Agreement of the sole shareholder and entitled person of the Company pursuant to section 107 of the Companies Act 1993 (the *Act*) and dated 3 September 2026

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1 The Shareholder, being the sole shareholder and entitled person of the Company agrees to the issue of 98.7 million ordinary unpaid shares valued at $1 each by the Company (**the Shares**) to the Shareholder, on the terms set out in the annexed resolution of directors (the **Board Resolution**).

2 The Shares be unpaid, but otherwise issued on the same terms as, and ranking equally with the existing ordinary shares in the Company but to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the additional terms contained in the Board Resolution.

3 In accordance with section 50 of the Act, the Shareholder consents to becoming the holder of the Shares.

Signed by the **Wellington Regional Council**, being the sole shareholder and entitled person of the Company, by*:*

_____ _____

Authorised Person Authorised Person

COPY OF RESOLUTION SIGNED BY THE BOARD OF WRC HOLDINGS LIMITED AT ITS MEETING ON 11 August 2026

WRC HOLDINGS LIMITED

(363481)
(the *Company*)

Directors' written resolution pursuant to clause 32 of the Company's Constitution and dated 11 August 2026

Resolved that:

1 Subject to the agreement of the sole shareholder and entitled person of the Company, Wellington Regional Council (the ***Shareholder***), under section 107(2) of the Companies Act 1993, and approval of the issue by special resolution as a major transaction and significant transaction under clause 4 of the constitution of the Company, the Company issue 98.7 million ordinary unpaid shares (**the *Shares***) for an issue consideration of $1 each to the Shareholder.

2 The Shares be unpaid, but otherwise issued on the same terms as, and ranking equally with, the existing ordinary shares of the Company and shall be issued in accordance with the Agreement for the issue of those shares in the form presented to the board with this resolution.

3 The share register of the Company be updated accordingly to reflect the issue of the Shares.

4 The Company acquire a further 98.7 million ordinary unpaid shares (***Further Shares***) for an issue consideration of $1 each in the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, Greater Wellington Rail Limited (***GWRL***), on the same terms as, and ranking equally with, the Company's existing ordinary shares in GWRL.

Acknowledged that:

5 No call shall be made by the Company in respect of the Shares that is in excess of any amount reasonably considered by the board to be required by the Company to fund all or a part of the Company's budgeted 2026/27 capital expenditure of up to $155 million.

Signed by all the directors of **WRC Holdings Limited**:

L Elwood

D M Ponter

C H Johnstone

R B T Connell

N P Elder

H Modlik

R Evan

4022516_1

Agreement for the issue of shares (GWRL capital expenditure)

Wellington Regional Council

WRC Holdings Limited

Greater Wellington Rail Limited

Parties

Wellington Regional Council (**WRC**)

WRC Holdings Limited, registered number 363481 (**WRCHL**)

Greater Wellington Rail Limited, registered number 1846367 (**GWRL**)

Background

A. GWRL is a company wholly owned by WRCHL, which in turn is a company wholly owned by WRC.

B. The Board of GWRL, with the prior approval of all entitled persons, has resolved to issue to WRCHL 98.7 million unpaid ordinary shares for an issue consideration of $1 each.

C. The Board of WRCHL, with the prior approval of all entitled persons, has resolved to issue to WRC 98.7 million unpaid ordinary shares for an issue consideration of $1 each.

D. The shares are being issued to provide funding for GWRL to partly meet budgeted capital expenditure of $155 million (the **Capital Expenditure**).

E. WRC, WRCHL and GWRL are entering this contract for the issue of those shares to record WRC's and WRCHL's agreement to the issue of the shares and the basis upon which the respective Boards may make calls for the payment of those shares.

It is agreed between the parties as follows

1. GWRL shall issue and WRCHL shall subscribe for and accept the issue of the shares referred to in Background B. WRCHL agrees to those shares being issued otherwise that in accordance with sections 42, 44 and 45 of the Companies Act 1993 (**Act**), for the purposes of section 107 of the Act. The shares shall initially be unpaid, and the issue consideration shall be payable by way of calls under this agreement.

2. WRCHL shall issue and WRC shall subscribe for and accept the issue of the shares referred to in Background C. WRC agrees to those shares being issued otherwise that in accordance with sections 42, 44 and 45 of the Act, for the purposes of section 107 of the Act. The shares shall initially be unpaid, and the issue consideration shall be payable by way of calls under this agreement.

3. As GWRL is required to make payments to meet the Capital Expenditure, it shall be entitled to make a call on all or any of the issue consideration unpaid on the 155 million $1 shares issued to WRCHL, and within five business days of making that call WRCHL shall make payment. GWRL has authorised the Group Manager Finance and Risk of WRC to make such calls on its behalf and, when giving notice of any such call, the Group Manager Finance and Risk of WRC must certify that the amount being called will be used only to fund the Capital Expenditure and the amount of the call made does not exceed the amount certified which is due for payment in respect of such Capital Expenditure.

4. As WRCHL is required to make payments to meet a call made on the shares issued to it, WRCHL shall be entitled to make a call on all or any of the issue consideration unpaid on the 155 million $1 shares issued to WRC, and within five business days of making that call WRC shall make payment. WRCHL has authorised the Group Manager Finance and Risk of WRC to make such calls on its behalf, but when giving notice of any such call, the Group Manager Finance and Risk of WRC must certify that the amount being called will be used only to fund payment of sums unpaid in respect of the shares issued to WRC and that in turn, such sums will be used only by GWRL to meet GWRL's Capital Expenditure and the amount of the call made does not exceed the amount certified which is due for payment in respect of such Capital Expenditure.

Execution and date

Executed as an agreement.

Date:

Signed on behalf of
Wellington Regional Council

……..
Authorised officer

WRC Holdings Limited by**:**

……. ……

Signature of director Signature of director

……. ……

Name of director (print) Name of director (print)

Greater Wellington Rail Limited by:

…….	……
Signature of director	Signature of director
…….	……
Name of director (print)	Name of director (print)

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.396

For Information

FINANCE REPORT UPDATE – JUNE 2026

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To provide Council with Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) summary financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Te tāhū kōrero
Background

2. Council is responsible for overseeing and evaluating Greater Wellington's performance.
3. Regular review of financial results is needed for effective management enabling informed decision making, performance evaluation, and for compliance and accountability while highlighting potential risks to assets and services.
4. This report and **Attachment 1** provide a summary of the financial performance of Greater Wellington's activities for the year ended 30 June 2026. All amounts in this report and attachment are GST exclusive.
5. The financial report is unaudited and subject to change. Any material changes will be advised at the time of presenting the draft annual report at the Council meeting on 29 October 2026.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

Funding Position

6. For the 2025/26 financial year, Greater Wellington has achieved a general rates funding surplus position; however, it is not material enough to be transferred to the reserves.
7. Environment Group has achieved a targeted rate surplus of approximately $1.8 million, which has been transferred to reserves for future spending in the respective areas.
8. Metlink reported a funding deficit of $5.6 million, which has been offset through the application of Metlink targeted rate reserves, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 balanced budget requirements.

Operating Performance

9. The operating surplus is $5.4 million below budget. The key drivers of this variance are summarised below, with further detail provided in Attachment 1.

10. Operating revenue is $10.5 million below budget, primarily due to delays in the delivery of Metlink programmes including Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Programmes (LNIRIM), which resulted in lower capital funding recognised through grants and subsidies line. Revenue was also impacted by lower farebox income. This is partly offset by additional flood resilience funding and higher-than-budgeted subvention, dividend income and interest earned on prefunding capital expenditure.

11. Operating expenditure is $5.1 million below budget, reflecting the delayed delivery of programmes and projects across Metlink, Corporate Services and Water Supply. This is partially offset by cost pressures in public transport services and Riverlink properties compensation (debt-funded) being recognised as operating rather than capital.

Capital Programme and Rail

12. Capital expenditure is $127 million below budget, mainly due to delays in Metlink, Riverlink, and Water Supply programmes. Partially offset by higher costs for Flood Resilience programme, consistent with the additional funding received during the year.

13. Investment in Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) is also below budget, mainly due to agreed delays in LNIRIM and deferral of the Matangi mid-life refurbishment programme.

14. Further detail on these variances is provided in Attachment 1.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

15. Council adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 is scheduled for 29 October 2026.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Council Financial Report 30 June 2026

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Athirah Zaradi– Kaiāwhina Kaikaute | Assistant Reporting Accountant
Approvers	Ashwin Pai - Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Head of Finance Alison Trustrum-Rainey – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Pūtea me ngā Tūraru | Group Manager Finance and Risk

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference The Council has governance oversight of the robustness of the organisation's financial performance, while management remains responsible for preparing and delivering the financial plans and operating results.
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies The report reviews performance against the budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan.
Internal consultation No internal consultation was needed to prepare this report.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no risks arising from this report.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.396

Council Report June 2026

This report provides the financials for the year ended 30 June 2026:

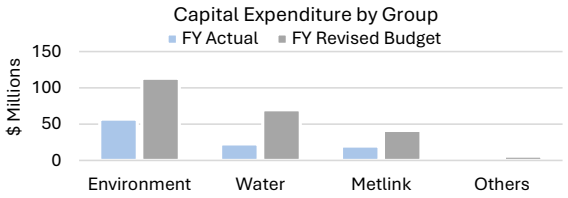
1. Comparisons are made against the budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan, including re-budgets approved by Council.
2. The numbers are unaudited and subject to change.
3. All figures in this report follow best accounting practices. Please note that the overall funding surplus or deficit may differ due to the inclusion of non-cash items and capital grants.

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Summarised Funding Impact Statement as at June 2026

Attachment 1 to Report 26.396

	Full Year			
	Actual	Revised Budget	$ Variance	% Variance
Operational Revenue	**$000s**	**$000s**	**$000s**	
Rates	357,770	355,735	2,035	1%
Grants & Subs	262,804	291,757	(28,953)	-10%
Fees Charges & Other	162,212	145,832	16,379	11%
Total Operating Revenue	**782,785**	**793,324**	**(10,539)**	-1%
Operational Expenditure				
Personnel	106,859	112,293	(5,434)	-5%
Contractor & Consultants	125,145	150,243	(25,098)	-17%
Grants & Subsidies Expenditure	323,965	302,334	21,631	7%
Interest	52,769	51,681	1,088	2%
Materials, Supplies, Services & Other	60,380	57,710	2,670	5%
Total Operating Expenditure	**669,118**	**674,262**	**(5,144)**	-1%
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)	**113,668**	**119,063**	**(5,395)**	-5%
Other Funding				
Net Capital Expenditure	103,098	230,093	(126,995)	-55%
NTS Prepayment	4,848	20,257	(15,409)	-76%
Investment in Greater Wellington Rail	86,855	143,374	(56,519)	-39%
Other Investments	(572)	5,023	(5,594)	-111%
Reserve Movements	10,371	(2,882)	13,253	-460%
Debt Movements	(90,987)	(276,528)	185,541	-67%
Total Other Funding	**113,613**	**119,337**	**(5,724)**	-5%
Funding Surplus/(Deficit)	**55**	**(275)**	**329**	-120%
Fair Value Movements	**(1,229)**	**1,846**	**(3,075)**	-167%
Depreciation	**40,105**	**33,762**	**6,344**	19%



- All amounts in this report are GST exclusive.

** Revised budget is budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan plus re-budgets approved by Council

GM Finance and Risk Overview

Economic and Financial Context

The New Zealand economy continues to face a challenging combination of elevated inflation and subdued growth. The Reserve Bank held the Official Cash Rate at 2.25% in May before increasing it to 2.50% in July. It has indicated that further increases may be required, although their timing remains uncertain. Inflation is forecast to peak at 4.3%, driven largely by higher fuel costs.

In the new financial year, Metlink continues to be affected by higher operating costs, including contract indexation and fuel surcharges. Metlink's reserves are now in deficit and will need to be restored during the year or, subject to Council approval, consolidated and debt-funded at year-end. Cost control in this part of the business is challenging but essential; without it, additional revenue or further funding will be required.

Against a backdrop of cost-of-living pressures and continued economic uncertainty, interest-rate hedging remains an important tool for managing Council's debt costs.

Inflation, economic growth and public-sector affordability are expected to be prominent national issues leading into the November election. Future policy changes affecting transport funding, infrastructure investment or local government financing could influence Greater Wellington's longer-term funding outlook.

Funding Position

The full-year funding result is a surplus of $0.06 million. Given the small overall surplus, no general rates surplus has been transferred to the General Reserve.

Environment recorded a surplus of approximately $1.8 million, which has been transferred to the relevant reserves to support future expenditure in those areas.

Metlink recorded a deficit of $5.6 million, primarily reflecting higher public transport operating costs, including increased contract indexation and fuel surcharges. This deficit has been fully funded from Metlink targeted rates reserves.

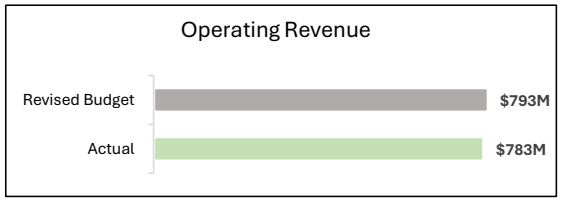
Capital Performance

Full-year capital expenditure was $127 million below budget. The principal drivers were delays and revised delivery timeframes across Water Supply programmes, RiverLink and Metlink's National Land Transport Programme activities, including projects affected by Wellington City Council decisions. Investment in Greater Wellington Rail was $56.5 million below budget. This was primarily due to delays in the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility programme, including the delivery of rolling-stock designs and depot procurement. The deferral of the Matangi mid-life refurbishment programme into the following financial year also contributed to the underspend.

Treasury Highlights

- Council remains fully compliant with the Treasury Risk Management Policy as at 30 June 2026.
- Council investments (excluding subsidiaries) decreased from $296 million to $295 million, comprising of pre-funding ($25 million), liquidity term deposits ($100 million), contingency investments for water, flood and properties ($82 million), investment in WRC Holdings ($44 million), LGFA borrower notes & shares ($40 million).
- Council's gross external debt is $1.23 billion, with net debt of $970 million. On the 1st July, we transferred $339 million debt to Tiaki Wai.

Key Variance Commentary



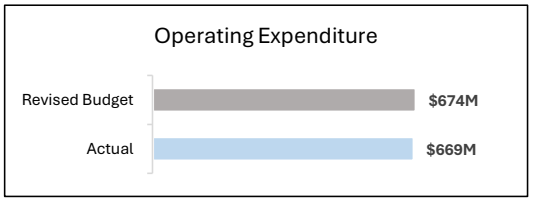
Operating revenue is **$10.0 million below budget**, driven mainly by lower Metlink revenue, and partly offset by a strong performance in Environment, Investment, and Finance:

Metlink – Operating revenue is **$38.1 million below budget,** mainly due to lower NZTA funding from project underspend (including LNIRIM, NTS, and rail projects). Fare revenue is $4.0 million below budget, largely from lower rail patronage, partially offset by stronger bus performance and favourable ferry revenue, including a $1.4 million benefit from the ferry gross contract model which was not included in the original budget.

Environment – Operating revenue is **$12.5 million above budget**, driven by unbudgeted Crown funding for flood resilience initiatives and higher fees and charges across regulatory, restoration, nursery, pest control, and rental activities..

Investment – Operating revenue is **$13.2 million above budget**, supported by higher subvention revenue, dividend income, and additional interest revenue from investing funds ahead of contractual repayments and prefunding of future CAPEX payments.

Finance – Operating revenue is **$2.1 million higher** due to higher rates penalties and new rates received.



Operating expenditure is **$5 million below budget,** with favourable results in Water Supply and Corporate Services partially offsetting variances in Metlink and Investment.

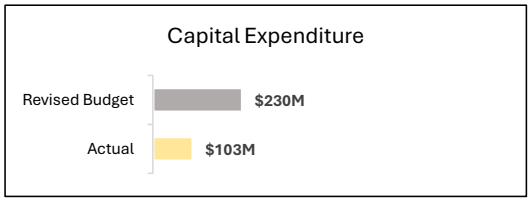
Metlink – Operating Expenditure is **$5.8 million higher than budget**, mainly due to higher bus contract costs from fuel indexation, overspend on the Wellington Network Agreement (KiwiRail), costs associated with timetable changes following the introduction of new electric double-decker buses, and early EMV payment technology and Snapper contract extension costs. This is partly offset by delays to bus corridor and accessibility projects.

Environment – Operating expenditure is **$0.9 million** above budget. Higher RiverLink property acquisition costs and programme expenditure were largely offset by underspends across flood operations, catchment, policy, knowledge, and parks restoration activities. Vacancy savings and lower interest costs from delayed capital delivery also contributed favourable variances.

Water Supply – Operating expenditure is **$9.7 million** below budget, driven by lower contractor and consultant costs, including underspend on ICT investment funding, lower Tiaki Wai transition costs, and lower operating expenditure. Lower interest costs arising from delayed capital projects also contributed to the favourable result.

Investment – Operating expenditure is **$3.3 million** above budget due to higher interest costs from prefunding capital expenditure, offset by higher interest revenue.

Corporate Services and Strategy – Operating expenditure is **$6.3 million** below budget, mainly due to the rescoping of ICT projects, lower Tiaki Wai project costs, vacancies, and underspend across regional transport planning and related programmes.



Capital expenditure is **$127 million below budget**, primarily due to delays in major infrastructure programmes across Environment, Water Supply and Metlink**.**

Environment – Capital expenditure is **$56.2 million below budget**, primarily due to delays in the RiverLink programme and unspent contingency, as well as some property acquisition costs being recorded as operating rather than capital expenditure. This was partially offset by higher spending on the Tranche 1 Flood Resilience programme, supported by Crown funding.

Most of the RiverLink underspend has been rebudgeted into future years.

Water Supply – Capital expenditure is **$47.0 million below budget**, reflecting delays associated with the transition to Tiaki Wai, revised delivery schedules, procurement timing, and project complexities. Key contributors include the GI and WL Wells Replacement Stage 2 project, Te Marua WTP Expansion Stage 1, and the Kaitoke Main on SH58 Bridge project.

Metlink – Capital expenditure is **$21.4 million below budget**, including $13.0 million of lower expenditure on NLTP projects affected by Wellington City Council decisions, such as the Golden Mile and bus shelter programmes. The remainder relates to delays across a range of smaller projects.

Corporate Services – Capital expenditure is $**2.1 million below budget**, mainly due to the rescoping of office upgrade projects in Upper Hutt and Mabey Road as part of Annual Plan savings.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.344

For Decision

FINANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT – AUGUST 2026

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose

1. To advise Council of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee's (the Committee) activities at its 18 August 2026 meeting and how they delivered on its specific responsibilities.

Whakarāpopototanga Matua
Executive Summary

2. The report outlines the Committee's activities at their 18 August 2026 meeting.
3. The Committee has asked the Chair to specifically highlight to Council:
    a Concerns that further delays to the National Ticketing System project, which are outside Greater Wellington's control, may have potential impact on Greater Wellington's ability to collect revenue and critical operational data.
    b That a workshop is planned for later this year which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and provide their views on the consideration, planning and management of scenarios that may arise from National Ticketing System project delays.

He tūtohu
Recommendations

That Council:

1 **Agrees** that the Committee's activities and decisions at its meeting on 18 August 2026 provide effective oversight and review of the matters within its specific responsibilities.

2 **Notes** concerns raised by the Committee that further delays to the National Ticketing System project may have potential to impact our ability to collect revenue and critical operational data.

3 **Notes** that a workshop is planned for later this year which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and provide their views on the consideration, planning and management of scenarios that may arise from National Ticketing System project delays.

Te horopaki
Context

4. On 11 December 2025, Council adopted Terms of Reference for the Committee (Terms of Reference for Committees and advisory bodies (including delegations to committees) for the 2025-28 triennium - Report 25.492). These Terms of Reference require the Committee to "after each meeting, provide a written report of the business conducted at that meeting to the next Council meeting."

5. The Committee Chair's report provides Council with the opportunity to understand the Committee's activities, raise questions, and provide feedback for the Committee's consideration.

Te tātaritanga
Analysis

Work programme

6. The Committee approved (Report 26.323) the proposed 12-month Forward Work Programme for August 2026 to May 2027 in **Attachment 1**.

7. The approved 12-month Forward Work Programme includes Officer proposed changes which have been outlined in **Attachment 2**.

8. The Committee notes that previous Health and Safety reporting was operational in nature with oversight already being provided at an ELT level and through quarterly reporting to Council. The Committee is considering changes to the Health and Safety reporting it receives which will better align to governance considerations and its terms of reference.

Finance

9. The quarterly finance update (Quarterly Finance Update – Quarter 4 2025/26 - Report 26.350) provided summary financial reports for the quarter ending 30 June 2026.

10. The Committee were advised on changes to Greater Wellington's financial management policies and how these changes improved systems and processes, and their alignment with our financial management strategies (Report 26.351).

Risk

11. The Committee agreed the latest ELT Risk Dashboard (July 2026) (Risk and Assurance Update – Report 26.46) and did not find any additional areas of risk that needed escalation to Council.

12. The Committee received an update on the National Ticketing System. The Committee has concerns that further delays, which are outside of Greater Wellington's control, may have potential to impact our ability to collect revenue and critical operational data.

13. The Committee notes that a workshop is planned for later this year which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and provide their views on the

consideration, planning and management of scenarios that may arise from National Ticketing System project delays.

14. The Committee reviewed the annual insurance update agreeing that Greater Wellington's insurances are aligned to the Council's insurance strategy and are appropriate (Annual Insurance Update - Report 26.324).

15. The Committee also noted that Council will be considering the updated insurance strategy at the time of receiving this report (Insurance Strategy - Report RPE26.361).

Audit

16. The Committee reviewed internal audit reports on Data and Analytics and Public Transport Ticketing Revenue Collection Controls (Risk and Assurance Update - Report 26.322) and Conflict of Interest (Conflict of Interest Internal Audit - Report 26.337).

17. Greater Wellington undertakes regular data and analytics reviews every 18 months which helps strengthen our management control environment by providing assurance that any unusual user activity or transactions are being reviewed. The review did not identify any instances of fraud, but it did identify process improvements and several undeclared conflicts of interest which aligns to findings from our Conflict of Interest (COI) internal audit below.

18. PwC has undertaken an internal audit of our revenue collection through Snapper (bus & rail) and cash collected by Transdev (rail). The review is undertaken annually to provide confidence to management that public transport revenue controls are effective, and for the Audit Office to support their external audit procedures. The results were positive with an uplift in the control environment across Snapper and Transdev. However, there are several new recommendations relating to Europay, Mastercard, and Visa (EMV) payments which Finance and Risk, Metlink and Snapper will work to improve.

19. The COI internal audit highlighted that our existing framework for identifying and managing COIs has a number of strengths, however several areas of improvement were identified to move from the current function-based approach to a more coordinated organisation-wide framework. Greater Wellington will work on an integrated approach for oversight and management of COIs.

Workshop

20. The Committee undertakes quarterly deep dives into areas of risks. The area explored was our ability to deliver the capital programme.

21. The workshop detailed challenges facing Greater Wellington in the delivery of its capital works programme, particularly focusing on its major projects. It identified process improvements, which were assigned to specific groups, and once implemented would enable improved planning, sequencing and financial management of its capital works programme.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

22. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

23. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into consideration Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that the matter is of low significance due to its administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

24. Due to the low level of significance, community engagement was not considered necessary.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	FRAC 12 month rolling work programme
2	Committee approved changes to the Forward Work Programme

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory

Writer	Councillor Yadana Saw – Chair Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga **Summary of considerations**
Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference The Committee's Terms of Reference require it to "after each meeting, provide a written report of the business conducted at that meeting to the next Council meeting."
Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies Greater Wellington makes decisions every day to deliver what it has committed to through the Long-Term Plan. The FRAC work programme includes several areas which provide oversight and monitoring on the delivery of the LTP, alongside implementation of key strategies and policies.
Internal consultation The Finance & Risk Group was consulted in preparing this report.
Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc. There are no known risks arising from this report.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.344

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme

FRAC 12 month rolling work programme

Note: all papers are "For Decision" unless otherwise stated.

Meeting	18 Aug 26	20 Oct 26	1 Dec 26	Feb 27	May 27
Work programme	Forward work programme	Skills assessment	Forward work programme	Forward work programme	Forward work programme
Financial Management	Q4 report	Annual Report FY2026	Q1 report	Q2 report	Q3 report
			Treasury Risk Management policy		
Risk Management	Health Safety and Wellbeing (Updated included in the Risk & Assurance paper)		Health Safety and Wellbeing	Health Safety and Wellbeing	Health Safety and Wellbeing
	Risk review and update		Risk review and update	Risk review and update	Risk review and update
	Annual insurance update		Legal Risk update (with complywith survey)	Security Governance Group Update (includes Cyber, Physical and Personal security)	Climate Change Risk – (includes update on ORCA and OCAP)

Attachment 1 to Report 26.344

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme

Meeting	18 Aug 26	20 Oct 26	1 Dec 26	Feb 27	May 27
Business Assurance	Assurance update including: • Assurance plan		Assurance update including: • Assurance plan	Assurance update including: • Assurance plan	Assurance update including: • Assurance plan
	Conflict of Interest Internal Audit		Warm Wellington	Review draft 2027-30 Assurance Plan	Approve 2027-30 Assurance Plan
			Rating Management		
Reporting and Accounting	Financial policy update			Audit report to Council on the Annual Report	**For information** External audit plans
					Fair Value Assessments
Workshops **(Information only)**	Risk Deep Dive – Ability to deliver the capital programme		Te Tiriti audit terms of reference (incl. previous audit progress, plus existing funding agreements)	Risk Deep Dive – Wastewater (incl. national wastewater standards)	Risk Deep Dive – Contaminated landfill sites
Out of cycle items					

Attachment 2 to Report 26.344

Attachment 2 – Committee approved changes to the Forward Work Programme

Committee approved changes to the 12-month Forward Work Programme for August 2026 to May 2027.

Proposed change	Supporting rationale
Delete	
Quarterly Health, Safety and Wellbeing reports	The Quarterly Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) report will no longer be tabled with the Committee, as it is operationally focused and related content is already addressed by: • HSW organisational risks in the quarterly risk assurance report • Reporting HSW system compliance in the annual legislative compliance report • Advising Council on related legislative reforms (as stated under its Terms of Reference). We will investigate a new report for the Committee which focuses on providing comfort to them that Greater Wellington has effective systems and processes in this space to manage HSW risk. As part of investigating this new report we will also consider its cadence – i.e., annual, similar to legal and security papers.
Risk Deep Dive – Impact of reform (18 August 2026)	Impact of reform paper and workshop no longer going to the Committee in August as legislative reforms form part of Council responsibilities.
Change	
Risk Deep Dive – ability to deliver the capital programme (move from 5 May to 18 August 2026)	Delayed due to the 5 May Committee workshop being swapped for a Council water workshop.
Annual insurance review (18 August 2026)	Renaming from 'Insurance Update' and now a 'For Decision' report to align with the Committee terms of reference.
Treasury Risk Management Policy (move from 18 August to 1 December 2026)	Paper moved to align with Treasury Risk Management Policy review timelines.
Warm Wellington (move from 18 August to 1 December 2026)	Paper moved to allowed for us to undertake analysis and report findings to the Committee.
Rating Management (move from 18 August to 1 December 2026)	Paper moved to align with the implementation of the new rating management system.

Attachment 2 to Report 26.344

Proposed change	**Supporting rationale**
Legal Risk update (with ComplyWith survey)	Now a 'For Decision' report to align with the Committee terms of reference.
Security Governance Group Update (includes Cyber, Physical and Personal Security) (February 2027)	Now a 'For Decision' report to align with the Committee terms of reference.
Risk Deep Dive - Te Tiriti audit terms of reference (including previous audit progress, plus existing funding agreements) (for 1 December 2026)	Risk Deep Dive moved to align with Te Tiriti Audit procurement and delivery timeline.
Risk Deep Dive – wastewater (including national wastewater standards) (move from 1 December 2026 to February 2027)	Risk Deep Dive moved to allow for the Risk Deep Dive into the Te Tiriti audit terms of reference.
Risk Deep Dive – contaminated landfill sites (move from February to May 2027)	Risk Deep Dive moved to allow for the Risk Deep Dive into the Te Tiriti audit terms of reference.
Add	
Conflict of Interest Audit (for 18 August 2026)	Normally internal audit reports are included within the Risk & Assurance update paper. A separate COI internal audit paper has been included due to sensitivities surrounding these processes and controls, and to allow for PwC to present on the paper to the Committee.
2027-30 Assurance Plan (February & May 2027)	We have added in review and approval papers for the 2027-30 assurance plan development process.

Council
3 September 2026
Report 26.403

For Decision

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

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

Public Transport land opportunity – Report PE26.302

WRC Holdings – director appointment – Report PE26.392

Insurance strategy – Report PE26.361

Chief Executive performance review for 2025/26 – Report PE26.319

Chief Executive remuneration review for 2025/2026 – Report PE26.320

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 grounds 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:

Public Transport land opportunity – Report PE26.302	
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 this report relates to an opportunity to purchase land in northern Wellington. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations (section 7(2)(i)) of the Act. 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.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act, to enable Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

WRC Holdings – director appointment - Report PE26.392	
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 information about the proposed candidate for appointment as director 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 a board member 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.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
Insurance strategy – Report PE26.361	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
The report contains information provided by insurers relating to pricing for the renewal of Greater Wellington's insurances. Release of this information would likely prejudice the insurers and Greater Wellington's commercial position in the market as it would reveal the related pricing (section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987). The report contains information provided by Centreport Limited relating to their insurance policies and position. Release of this information would likely prejudice Centreport Limited's commercial position in the market as it would reveal the level of coverage they hold (section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as it would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987). 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 this prejudice to the insurers' commercial position.	
Chief Executive performance review 2025/26 – Report PE26.319	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
This report contains information on the Chief Executive's performance agreement. 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 Regional Council 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.
Chief Executive remuneration review for 2025/2026 – Report PE26.320	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
This report contains information relating to the Chief Executive's employment agreement. 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 Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the	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.

meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.	

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.