Report 26.407

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on 3 September 2026

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington at 10.00am.

Members Present

Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free (from 10.29am)
Councillor Hart
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Tupou
Councillor Woolf

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

Councillor Connelly, Deputy Council Chair, presided at the meeting in the absence of Cr Ponter, Council Chair.

Karakia timatanga

Councillor Connelly opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Makarini

That the Council accepts the apologies for early departure from Councillor Johnstone, for lateness from Councillor Free, and for absence from Councillors Gaylor and Ponter.

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 Declaration by Councillor

Councillor Tupou welcomed Cr Hart with a mihi whakatau. Cr Makarini brought Cr Hart to the meeting table.

The Chair invited Councillor Hart to make his declaration in accordance with clause 14 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002. Councillor Hart made his declaration orally and signed the declaration certificate, which was subsequently signed by Nigel Corry, Chief Executive.

The meeting adjourned at10.08am and resumed at 10.29am.

Councillor Free arrived at the meeting at 10.29am.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 4 August 2026 - Report 26.347

Moved: Cr Free / Cr Rhodes

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 4 August 2026 - Report 26.347.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 4 August 2026 - Report 26.346

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Saw

That Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 4 August 2026 - Report 26.346.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan – Report 26.356

Angela Sutherland, Senior Advisor Climate Change and Adaptation, and Jake Roos, Manager Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Saw

That Council:

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

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

The motion was **carried**.

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

8 Electoral system for the Council's 2028 and 2031 triennial elections – Report 26.288

Oliver Greig, Democratic Services Advisor, and Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr James

That Council:

1 Notes the report (in which case the Single Transferable Vote electoral system continues for the Council's 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 Notes the statutory poll provisions.

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.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Discharge of the Wellington Water Committee – Report 26.321

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Saw

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.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Power of Attorney to sign deeds – Report 26.399

Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Tupou

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.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Delegation to affix the common seal– Report 26.400

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Hart

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.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (Riverlink) – Quarterly update: Q4 2025/26 (April – June 2026) – Report 26.311[For Information]

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, Tracy Berghan, Manager Projects and Programme, Jack Mace, Director Delivery, and Paul Tawharu, Senior Manager Operations, spoke to the report.

13 Issue of unpaid share capital to fund Greater Wellington Rail Limited capital expenditure for 2026/27– Report 26.374

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, and Rajesh Ratanjee, Financial Controller, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Free

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.

The motion was **carried**.

14 Finance Report update – June 2026 – Report 26.396 [For Information]

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

15 Finance, Risk and Audit Committee Chair's report – August 2026 – Report 26.344

Councillor Saw spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Free

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.

The motion was **carried**.

Resolution to exclude the public

16 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 26.403

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Woolf

That Council excludesthe 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 RPE26.319

Chief Executive remuneration review for 2025/2026 – Report RPE26.320

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 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 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 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.	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.
Chief Executive performance review 2025/26 – Report RPE26.319	
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	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.

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.	
Chief Executive remuneration review for 2025/2026 – Report RPE26.320	
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 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.

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

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.41am.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: 1/10/24.