


Minutes Infrastructure and Planning Committee 5 June 2025

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TŌTARA ROOM, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Councillors J Pullar (Chairperson), W James, G Dennis, J Jukes, Rangiaho and T Boynton <i>Via Teams:</i> Deputy Mayor Immink, and Councillors A Iles and T O'Brien
	In Attendance:	B Gray (General Manager Finance and Commercial Services), H Patrick (Kaihautu - Strategic Māori Partnership), W Vullings (Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams:</i> S Perdia (Chief Executive) and D Bewley (General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure)
	Visitors:	A Dalziel (Contractor), and public submitters
	Apologies:	Councillor N Tánczos

1 KARAKIA

The meeting opened with a Karakia by Councillor Rangiaho at 9:00 am.

2 MEETING NOTICES

Meeting participants were advised that the meeting was being live streamed. Attendees were also advised of Health and Safety procedures.

3 APOLOGIES

The Chairperson noted that Deputy Mayor Immink may join the meeting online.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Boynton

RESOLVED:

THAT the Infrastructure and Planning Committee **accept** an apology from Councillor Tánczos and a pre-empted apology from Deputy Mayor Immink.

CARRIED

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Councillor Dennis was congratulated on receiving the King's Service Medal for his dedication and community contributions.

Mitch Rees was acknowledged for his achievements in the Isle of Man, particularly as the fastest newcomer motorcyclist on the tracks.

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation had been advised.

7 REPORTS

7.1 Hearings and submissions for future water service delivery option

Refer to the following pages in the agenda in relation to this report.

- pages 10-12 of the agenda
- page 1 of Appendix 1: Hearings schedule of speakers
- pages 1-131 of Appendix 2

Attendance: Deputy Mayor Immink joined the meeting at 9:31 am.

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Councillor Jukes

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Infrastructure and Planning Committee **receives** the Hearings and submissions for future water service delivery options report; and
2. THAT the Infrastructure and Planning Committee **receives** the written and oral submissions. and
3. THAT the Infrastructure and Planning Committee **notes** that following this meeting a deliberations meeting is set for 26 June 2025 to consider the submissions and provide direction for the development of the Water Services Delivery Plan.

CARRIED

8 Hearing of Submissions

The schedule of Submitters was updated to reflect changes to that published in the agenda. The final Schedule was as follows:

Order	Appendix 2 Page Number	Submitter Name	Organisation or Individual
		Infrastructure & Planning Committee	Local Water Done Well Hearing
1	28	Peter Minten	Whakatāne Action Group
2	77	Peter Minten	Individual
3	116	Gerard van Beek	Rubia Farm Ltd
4	41	Reuben Cohen	Individual
5	39	Malcolm Whitaker	Individual
6	29	John Howard	Individual
7	122	Chris Sides	Individual
8	33	David Dowd	Individual
9	81	Dianne Wood	Individual

8.1 Additional Information presented

The following table itemises the tabled items presented during the meeting.

Submitter	Day Submitted	Tabled item	Page reference
Gerard van Beek	5 June 2025	Document	3 a-c
Rueben Cohen	5 June 2025	Document	4 a-d
Malcolm Whittiker	5 June 2025	Document	5 a

8.2 High Level summary

The two options for public consultation included the option of a Multi-Council CCO - being the preferred option, and the option of an Internal Council Business Unit. Verbal submitters strongly opposed the preferred option and raised the following points:

- Loss of local decision-making power over their water services.
- Potential for rates to increase under this model.
- Reduced influence from the local community on water management decisions.
- Preserve local knowledge about the area's specific water infrastructure needs.
- Retain the expertise of current council staff who already understand the local systems.
- Maintain direct accountability to the local community through elected members.
- Concerns were raised about the proposed equalisation of plains and urban water schemes and associated rates burden shifts.
- Median household income doesn't reflect that many households earn significantly less than the middle point. Using this figure might make costs appear more affordable than they actually are for lower-income households.
- Lobbying Central Government for financial support or grants.
- Developing different financing models for infrastructure projects.
- Risks of privatisation and performance records of CCOs in other jurisdictions were highlighted.

Attendance:

General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure left the meeting at 10:05 am.

Kaihautu - Strategic Māori Partnership entered the meeting at 10:24 am.

Councillor Jukes left the meeting at 10:33 am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:33 am and reconvened at 11:00 am.

The meeting was closed with a Karakia from Councillor Rangiaho at 11:21 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated
CHAIRPERSON