

**CONFIRMED MINUTES
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT
COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele (Deputy Chair), Cr Tim Blackler, Cr Brent Cowles, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr Guy Percival, Cr John McCone, Cr Rebecca Ryan, and Cr Jim Thomson

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Neale (Independent Chair of the Performance, Audit and Risk (PAR) Committee)
Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)
Lisa Baillie (Director, Community Engagement and Experience)
Roger Cook (Director, Natural and Built Environment)
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy Performance and Design)
Louise van der Voort (Interim Director, Strategy Performance and Design)
Mandy McIntosh (Strategy and Performance Manager)
Amanda Nicholls, (Chief Financial Officer)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.10pm and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for attendance.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 DECISION REPORTS

3.1 Resolution to Receive or Defer a Late Agenda Item

The report, as circulated, sought a formal resolution of Council on whether to accept or defer a late agenda item that was published outside of the required timeframe for agenda papers for consideration at the Extraordinary Meeting now scheduled for Monday 3 February 2025, pursuant to legislation and Council's Standing Orders.

The Chief Executive noted that if the report is not accepted, it will have implications for the LTP process.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/001

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr John McCone

That Council decides, pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (s46A (7)) and Council's Standing Orders (9.12), to accept the late report on the topic of "The Audit New Zealand audit report of the Waitaki District Council's Long Term Plan Consultation Document" as a late Public Excluded Agenda Item for consideration at this meeting.

**Carried
AGAINST: Cr Jim Hopkins**

3.2 2025 -2034 LONG TERM PLAN – READOPTION OF CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND RECEIPT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

A request was made for the letter from Audit NZ to be posted on the website. Once the final version is received, it will be made public, attached to the consultation document, and available on the website.

MOTION

The Chair moved the report’s recommendations, with an amendment to the third: “Resolves that it is financially prudent to adopt an initial unbalanced budget for each financial year of the term of the draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan, noting that during the deliberations the Governance Team and Officers will develop a balanced budget for the Long Term Plan”.

Cr Jim Hopkins seconded the motion.

Resolved WDC 2025/002

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Receives the Audit New Zealand audit report (Attachment 1 – Expected to be received Monday 3 February) on the Waitaki District Council 2025-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document and supporting information and notes that the Audit New Zealand audit report is to be included in the consultation document; and
2. Adopts, for public consultation purposes, the audited draft supporting information that is relied upon for the content of the consultation document, as follows: • Draft Financial Strategy (Attachment 2); and • Draft Waitaki District Council Infrastructure Strategy 2025-34 (Attachment 3); and • Draft Significant Forecasting Assumptions (Attachment 4); and
3. Resolves that it is financially prudent to adopt an initial unbalanced budget for each financial year of the term of the draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan, noting that during the deliberations the Governance Team and Officers will develop a balanced budget for the Long Term Plan; and
4. Adopts for consultation purposes, subject to the inclusion of changes as directed by Audit New Zealand the audited Waitaki District Council 2025-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document (Attachment 5 – Expected to have final audited version on Monday 3 February); and
5. Notes that the formal public consultation period commences on Tuesday 4 February and concludes on Tuesday 4 March 2025.

**Carried
AGAINST Cr Tim Blackler**

MOTION

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Tim Blackler

To amend page 31 of the 2025-34 draft Long Term Plan consultation document by removing the word our preferred option and accompanying arrow from the option from the B column.

To amend page 31 of the 2025-34 draft Long Term Plan consultation document by adding the words *“People have strong views about this road, some say it must stay open, some say that it’s just too costly. We are looking at three options, which is your choice? We need to know so we can plan properly.”*

Discussion on the motion

According to the legislation, to consult on a specific issue, the Council must declare its preferred option. If amendments are made to the consultation document, it will need to be returned to Audit, and the consultation process cannot commence as initially resolved by the Council.

Cr Hopkins stated there is no preferred option. Auditors are imposing it, although at the Council meeting, where alternatives were discussed, Council indicated their preference to let the community express their preference. Cr Blackler endorsed the statement.

It was clarified that the Local Government Act mandates stating the preferred option and indicating to the reader the elements included in the budgets as well as all underlying assumptions.

The process must be initiated as mandated, with the intention of genuinely engaging the community. The best possible decision will be made once feedback from the community has been received.

Moved: Cr Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Blackler

That subject to endorsement from the audit office, that the Financial Strategy to be amended as per discussion.

Discussion on the motion

The Chief Financial Officer will consult with Audit to obtain their clearance.


There will be a future opportunity to change the Financial Strategy. The current draft of the Financial Strategy will not be finalised before the June 2025 meeting. The motion was then put.

DECLARED LOST

4 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.26pm

CONFIRMED at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025.


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CHAIRPERSON