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**CONFIRMED MINUTES  
OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT  
COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, ŌAMARU  
ON TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025 AT 9:00 AM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)  
Lisa Baillie (Deputy Chief Executive / Director, Community Engagement & Experience)  
Roger Cook (Director, Natural & Built Environment)  
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)  
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy, Performance & Design)  
Simon Neale (Independent Chair, Performance, Audit and Risk Committee)

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

David Campbell (Heritage & Planning Manager)  
Melanie Jones (Community & Economic Development Manager)  
Sonia Martinez (Strategic Communications & Engagement Manager)

**Meeting Livestream Recording**

This meeting was livestreamed on Council's YouTube page. A direct link to that livestream location is provided below.

[Council Meeting - 25 March 2025](#)

**MEETING OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at **9.00am** and welcomed everyone present.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/027**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That the apology received from Cr Brent Cowles (all day) be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

#### Ray Henderson

Mr Henderson spoke about the Long Term Plan consultation document and submission questionnaire. A range of observations and suggestions were provided for future consultation processes.

Mr Henderson also spoke about the 2025 Local Government Elections. Comments addressed matters relating to the method of voting including online voting, noting it is outside the purview of the Council, and Single Transferable Vote (STV).

Mayor Kircher and Mr Parmley responded to some of the points raised and noted the Council communications team will take onboard the suggestions.

#### Lisa Howard-Sullivan

Ms Howard-Sullivan spoke about the Long Term Plan consultation submission process and results.

Comments related to participation, the pre-set survey form, the templated format that submissions were presented for consideration, and the way results were interpreted and presented (charts). Specific comments related to the matter of Water Services Delivery and transferring debt.

Mr Parmley responded to some of the points raised. It was noted that there will be a separate consultation process regarding Water Services Delivery.

Note: Simon Neale arrived at 9.18am.

### **4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

#### **4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2024**

##### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/028**

Moved: Member Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Member Courtney Linwood

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 July 2024, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.2 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025**

It was noted that there were some minor typographical errors in the minutes that were presented, however the minutes could still be confirmed with those changes made.

Cr Thomson noted a correction to the public excluded minutes.

##### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/029**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025, with amendments as agreed, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

## **5 LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **5.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT MARCH 2025**

Mr Alex Parmley spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Minor numbering issues in the report were noted. Mr Parmley acknowledged it has been a particularly challenging period and thanked staff and the governance team. Comments were focused on Transformation, Local Water Done Well, Waitaki Sports Event Centre, Forrester Gallery construction, Ōhau Village Water Treatment Plant.

Discussion and questions related to Customer Satisfaction (feedback from customers on the new service model), Internal Communications for staff on Transformation, AI Chatbot, Citizen Central (online customer service portal), Customer Services Hub at the library, Residents Survey frequency.

Mayor Kircher noted the progress on the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs with 28 placements achieved.

Deputy Mayor Halalele acknowledged the significant programme and positive outcomes achieved.

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/030**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

## **6 DECISION REPORTS**

### **6.1 FORMAL RECEIPT OF PETITION: "REQUEST PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO WATER FLUORIDATION"**

Mayor Kircher noted that Petition sponsor Elizabeth Cadogan, registered for the Public Forum but unfortunately did not attend the meeting. The petition was received with 25 signatures.

Mr Parmley spoke to the report, noting the petition meets the requirements of a valid petition. It was acknowledged that this matter is contentious with parts of the community and the Council has received other petitions previously on fluoridation. Mr Parmley affirmed that the decision to fluoridate was not within Council's remit. It has implemented fluoridation in line with the direction of the Director-General of Health.

The recommendation was split with the agreement of the meeting.

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/031**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Agrees to formally receive the Petition from Ms Elizabeth Cadogan on the topic of “Request public inquiry into water fluoridation”, pursuant to Clauses 17.1 and 17.2 of Waitaki District Council Standing Orders; and
2. Acknowledges that the Petition as submitted on 18 March 2025 meets all requirements of Waitaki District Council Standing Orders Clause 17.1 (Form of petitions).

**CARRIED**

Discussion on Recommendation 3. Cr Hopkins tabled a motion.

**MOTION**

Moved: Member Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Member Rebecca Ryan

That Waitaki District Council to formally ask the Minister of Health, Simeon Brown, to initiate a public inquiry to analyse the conflicting evidence regarding the safety and efficacy of community water fluoridation.

**LOST**

Note: Item 6.6 was moved forward by the Chair, in line with Standing Orders.

**6.6 RATIFICATION OF WDC SUBMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WATER SERVICES) BILL TO FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE**

Mayor Kircher introduced the report noting his attendance via Zoom at the Select Committee to speak to the submission.

Clarification was sought on a number of matters: submission point 24 relating to stormwater systems including drainage channel; general feedback on the bill and how it pertains to a possible joint CCO; implications of consumer connection (including laterals) as drafted, irrespective of the form of water service provider; % contribution of agriculture to the Waitaki economy.

A response from officers was sought on the final point. The submission indicates “Agriculture and related secondary industries (e.g. meat processing) account for 15% of the region’s GDP...”. This differs from the Polis Consulting Group report which stated the rural sector accounted for 40% of GDP for the region. The difference pertains to definition used. Respectively “broad economic sector of primary industries” versus “agriculture and related secondary industries”.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/032**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That Council:

1. That Council formally ratifies Waitaki District Council’s submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, as submitted to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on 21 February 2025.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 RECEIPT OF THREE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS' HALF YEAR REPORTS AND DRAFT STATEMENTS OF INTENT FOR FY 2025-2026**

Note: Representatives from Whitestone Contracting Limited joined the meeting for item 6.2. George Kelcher (Director), Paul Bisset (Chief Executive), Tony Read (General Manager Corporate Services).

Mr Kelcher provided highlights from the half year report. Mr Kelcher and Mr Read responded to questions regarding operating revenue; profit; costs; maintenance contractor revenue; installation and construction contract revenue; services to Waitaki; contracts; and asphalt design as an asset.

Mr Tony Read spoke to the draft Statement of Intent (SOI).

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/033**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council:

1. Formally receives documents at this meeting from its Council Controlled Organisations as set out below:
  - a. the Whitestone Contracting Limited Half Year Report to 31 December 2024; and
  - b. the Whitestone Contracting Limited Draft Statement of Intent for 2025-2026.

**CARRIED**

Note: Representatives from Tourism Waitaki joined the meeting for item 6.2.

Mike McElhinney (Board Chair), Megan Crawford (Director), Rick Ramsay (Director), Janine Tulloch (Director) via Zoom, Philippa Agnew (TWL General Manager).

Mr McElhinney provided highlights to the half year report. Dr Agnew, Ms Crawford, Ms Tulloch responded to questions regarding success of collaboration with Southern RTOs; lunch and learns; reporting related tourism expenditure / revenue increase / domestic spend decline / international spend and guest nights increasing, and the results reported in Mr Parmley's Chief Executive report; social media engagement; penguin colony visitors increasing and group profit decline; key domestic markets and leveraging events; annual survey of operators; expansion of penguin colony scientific research work; cross-district partnerships with the DNPs/RTOs.

Councillors congratulated the Tourism Waitaki team on self-funding activities.

Mr McElhinney spoke to the draft Statement of Intent (SOI). Comments were provided on the vision.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/034**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council:

1. Formally receives documents at this meeting from its Council Controlled Organisations as set out below:
  - c. the Tourism Waitaki Limited Half Year Report to 31 December 2024; and
  - d. the Tourism Waitaki Limited Draft Statement of Intent for 2025-2026.

**CARRIED**

Note: Clive Geddes (Chair Ōmarama Airfield Ltd) joined the meeting, via Zoom, for item 6.2.

Mr Geddes spoke to the half year report acknowledging any confusion created by the inclusion of sales of sections into the operational financials and noted this will be separated in the future. Mr Geddes responded to questions regarding the operation and lease of the café.

Mr Geddes spoke to the draft SOI, noting this will be updated with a draft budget for the 2025/2026 financial year. Comments were provided on a typographical error.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/035**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council:

1. Formally receives documents at this meeting from its Council Controlled Organisations as set out below:
  - e. the Ōmarama Airfield Limited's Half Year Report to 31 December 2024; and
  - f. the Ōmarama Airfield Limited's Draft Statement of Intent for 2025-2026.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/036**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council:

2. Directs the Council's Shareholder Committee Members, with the Chief Executive and the Support Services Director, to actively engage with all CCOs on their respective Letters of Shareholder Expectation from Council and in relation to the completion of associated follow up actions.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2024**

Mr Roger Cook and Mr David Campbell spoke to the report and responded to questions regarding source of data collection; cost of producing the annual monitoring report; qualitative data that could be included in the metrics for analysis and the interface with the community housing strategy, building a case for housing opportunities.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/037**

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That Council approves for publication the attached National Policy Statement for Urban Development Annual Monitoring Report for 2024, pursuant to section 55(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Kircher left the meeting at 11:03am. Deputy Mayor Halalele assumed Chair of meeting.

Mayor Kircher returned to the meeting at 11:07am.

#### **6.4 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS**

Mr Parmley spoke to the report noting the recommendations regarding the method of voting and order of candidates.

Discussion related to a trial of in-person voting booths to increase voter participation; the use of in-person voting booths in addition to mailed ballots; increasing the number of drop off points for ballots; contractual arrangements with Electionz; the LGNZ Electoral Reform Working Group (ERWG).

Cr Hopkins tabled an amendment to recommendation 1.

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/038**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council:

1. Pursuant to Section 36 (2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, agrees to investigate the costs of a polling booth voting system, prior to determining it's preferred voting method, for the 2025 triennial elections.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/039**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council:

2. Pursuant to Clause 31(1) of the Local Electoral Act Regulations 2001, agrees that the names of the candidates at the 2025 and 2028 triennial council elections and any subsequent by-elections are to be arranged in random order of surname.

**CARRIED**

#### **6.5 ADOPTION OF THE REFRESHED WAITAKI IDENTITY**

Ms O'Neill introduced the report and Ms Jones spoke to the report. Ms Jones and Ms Martinez responded to questions.

Discussion related to town entrance signs and community feedback; budget and costs; community engagement; logo being representative of the features of the district; longevity of logo and associated identity and signage.

Cr Hopkins tabled a minor amendment to recommendation 1.

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/040**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele

That Council:

1. Adopts the refreshed Waitaki District brand logo, as identified in Option 1, as the foundational work to support branding and promotion of the district.

**CARRIED**  
Against: Percival

## **7 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/041**

MOVED: MEMBER JOHN MCCONE

SECONDED: MEMBER HANA HALALELE

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING.

THE GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 48 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
<b>8.1 - PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024</b>	S6(A) - THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF THE INFORMATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO PREJUDICE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LAW, INCLUDING THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND DETECTION OF OFFENCES, AND THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL	S48(1)(A)(I) - THE PUBLIC CONDUCT OF THE RELEVANT PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FOR WHICH GOOD REASON FOR WITHHOLDING WOULD EXIST UNDER SECTION 6 OR SECTION 7
<b>8.2 - PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025</b>	S6(A) - THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF THE INFORMATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO PREJUDICE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LAW, INCLUDING THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND DETECTION OF OFFENCES, AND THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL	S48(1)(A)(I) - THE PUBLIC CONDUCT OF THE RELEVANT PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FOR WHICH GOOD REASON FOR WITHHOLDING WOULD EXIST UNDER SECTION 6 OR SECTION 7
<b>8.3 - ŌAMARU AIRPORT – LEASE OF LAND AND SALE OF IMPROVEMENTS</b>	S7(2)(B)(II) - THE WITHHOLDING OF THE INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT INFORMATION WHERE THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF THE INFORMATION WOULD BE LIKELY UNREASONABLY TO	S48(1)(A)(I) - THE PUBLIC CONDUCT OF THE RELEVANT PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FOR WHICH

	PREJUDICE THE COMMERCIAL POSITION OF THE PERSON WHO SUPPLIED OR WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE INFORMATION  S7(2)(I) - THE WITHHOLDING OF THE INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE COUNCIL TO CARRY ON, WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR DISADVANTAGE, NEGOTIATIONS (INCLUDING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEGOTIATIONS)	GOOD REASON FOR WITHHOLDING WOULD EXIST UNDER SECTION 6 OR SECTION 7
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**CARRIED**

NOTE: THE MEETING WENT INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED AT 11.35AM.

**8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION**

**9 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/042**

MOVED: CR JIM THOMSON

SECONDED: CR TIM BLACKLER

THAT COUNCIL RESUMES IN OPEN MEETING AND DECISIONS MADE IN THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION ARE CONFIRMED AND MADE PUBLIC AS AND WHEN REQUIRED AND CONSIDERED.


**CARRIED**

**10 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION**

**11 MEETING CLOSE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.35pm.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 April 2025.



CHAIRPERSON