

**CONFIRMED MINUTES  
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT  
COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, ŌAMARU AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
ON FRIDAY, 4 APRIL 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)  
Lisa Baillie (Deputy Chief Executive / Director, Community Engagement & Experience)  
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services) (via Zoom)

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Andrew Strahan (Principal, GeoCo Consulting. Southern Water Project Manager)  
Sonia Gerken (Principal, Communications Ninja)  
Paul Edmondston (Accounting Manager)

**Meeting Livestream Recording**

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

[Extraordinary Council Meeting - 4 April 2025](#)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.07am and welcomed everyone present. Mayor Kircher provided some opening remarks regarding the item under consideration today, Water Services Delivery options for community consultation. Acknowledged was the complexity resulting from Central Government reform and the challenges this has created, the current program of work for water improving infrastructure to enable excellent water infrastructure across the Waitaki District, and the meetings and information sessions, including with the community, held previously.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/036**

Moved: Cr Courtney Linwood  
Seconded: Cr John McCone

That the apology received from Cr Jeremy Holding be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no registrations from the public therefore no Public Forum was held.

### **4 DECISION REPORTS**

#### **4.1 WATER SERVICES DELIVERY OPTION**

Mr Parmley introduced the report highlighting the purpose of today's decision: Council's preferred option for the future management of water services that will be included in the community consultation, which is planned to take place over the coming weeks.

It was noted that future decisions will be required on the consultation material and questions. And following the consultation, a final decision in July 2025 on the Water Services Delivery Plan including the chosen option for the management of water.

Mr Parmley provided context to today's decision, outlining the history of government water reform, the factors related to the legislation and standards that impact the choices available to Council, and the options to respond through the Water Services Delivery Plan that must be submitted to the government for approval by 3 September 2025.

The impacts of the available options were highlighted, particularly in relation to the in-house option and the debt limit. Mr Parmley outlined the details of the recommended option: a Joint CCO for the management of water services, while acknowledging the challenges of imperfect information and the timing constraints of this matter.

Discussion and questions canvased a range of matters including which proposed Joint CCO entity might be most suitable for Waitaki ratepayers and residents, the community consultation process, government indications regarding changing standards, the role of the regulator, assessing Water Services Delivery Plans and the consequences of having a plan rejected, timeframes for decision-making, and financial sustainability requirements.

Cr Blackler put an amendment to the officer recommendation. The motion was deliberated. During the discussion, an adjustment to the amendment was agreed by the mover and seconder.

Deputy Mayor Halalele left the meeting at 11.14am.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/037**

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler  
Seconded: Cr John McCone

That Council:

1. **Approves amended Option 3 - Joint Water Services CCO** as the preferred water services delivery model option for WDC to proceed to public consultation.
2. **Direct** the author to amend Option 3 'Summary Option' wording on page 13 of this report to include the proposal to form a potential CCO with either;
  - i. **Option 3a Northern (Waimate, Mackenzie, Timaru & Waitaki)**
  - ii. **Option 3b Southern (Central Otago, Clutha, Gore & Waitaki) [Preferred]**
3. **Approves** the following water service delivery model options to include in the public consultation as other practicable options;
  - i. **Option 1 - In-House Business Unit**
  - ii. **Option 2 - Standalone Council-Controlled Organisation**
4. **Request** the Chief Executive (or delegate) to engage with TMWW Project Group with a view to developing a proposal that matches the Southern group.
5. **Request** the Chief Executive make best endeavours to provide Elected Members with further requests for information and further modelling by the end of the consultation period to enable better decision making (to be provided in writing to the Chief Executive following this meeting).

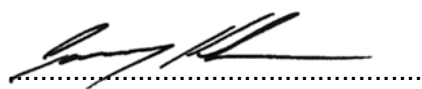
**CARRIED**

The Chair acknowledged the efforts of officers, members and the representatives of the Southern Water Project team for their attendance.

**5 MEETING CLOSE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.18am.

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



CHAIRPERSON