

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 THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 AT 9.00AM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Paul Hope (Director Support Services)
Arlene Goss (Governance Lead)
John Palethorpe (Media and Communications Specialist)

Visitors: Andrew Ashton from the Oamaru Mail and Otago Daily Times.

This meeting was livestreamed and can be viewed at
<https://www.youtube.com/live/jmOVfqd6RFI?si=QQUzA3ECwSdRF21J>

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.00am and welcomed everyone present in the chamber and online.

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED WDC 2025/051

Moved: Member Jim Hopkins
Seconded: Member John McCone

That the apology received from Cr Brent Cowles be accepted.

CARRIED

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests to speak in the public forum.

4 DECISION REPORTS

4.1 SOUTHERN WATER DONE WELL

The Chief Executive introduced this report and said it represented the next stage to meet the requirements of the government's Local Water Done Well initiative.

One of the messages to communicate to the community was that there isn't a status quo option due to changing legislation such as an economic regulator. Change needed to be made by every council, in the way it invests in water.

Mr Parmley outlined the consultation document. The document is comprehensive and responds to many of the issues already raised by the community. There will be a comprehensive communications campaign around this to engage with different people in different ways.

Questions from the councillors included:

Is it prudent to have the financial information on page 31 towards the end of the document? The document has a logical order to it. This is not just a discussion about the finances, but also about the impact on services and the quality of water services.

What if Waimate District Council want an in-house option and don't want to join the South Canterbury group? This is a challenge.

Regarding the South Canterbury councils, it's not clear whether they are willing to talk to Waitaki about partnering. Other councils are not being as explicit as we want them to be. Should we cross Waimate out? This reflects the complexity of the situation.

Waimate's preferred option was to go alone. The Mayor asked staff to communicate this in the document.

Communications project leader John Palethorpe noted that since the agenda for this meeting went out, both Mackenzie and Timaru councils had opted for a partnership coalition rather than an in-house solution. The final consultation document would be edited to reflect this.

A suggestion was made to change page 48 to a ranking system, rather than a tick box. Further discussion took place on data collection and whether this could be accommodated. Staff would look into this further.

A suggestion was made to add further information in support of option 4, and if this was available to insert it in the form of a table or illustration. Staff would look into this.

The Mayor said this was a decision Council was making with the best interests of the community at heart. Council was trying to do the best thing for their ratepayers.

Discussion followed on the need for the public to take part in the submission process. A councillor expressed concerns with the document and felt it had been written to please people in Wellington. He felt councillors had not been able to influence it enough. His concerns were noted.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/052

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council:

1. Approves the draft consultation document "Southern Water Done Well" (Attachment 1) with amendments as agreed.
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive and Mayor authority to make any minor editorial and design amendments to the Consultation Documents prior to publication.
3. Notes that consultation is planned to occur between 9 May and 6 June 2025 and will be in accordance with the alternative requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

CARRIED

5 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.45am.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 27 May 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON