

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT  
COUNCIL , 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU  
ON TUESDAY, 29 JULY 2025 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Kircher, Cr Hana Halalele, Cr Rebecca Ryan, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Tim Blackler Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Brent Cowles (online), Cr Guy Percival, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr Jim Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** PAR Committee Chair Simon Neale  
Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)  
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)  
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy, Performance & Design)  
Lisa Baillie (Director, Community Engagement and Experience)  
Amanda Nicholls (Finance Manager)  
Joshua Rendell (on behalf of Roger Cook, Natural and Built Environment)  
Jason Lilley (Livestream Support)  
Arlene Goss (Governance Lead/Minutes)

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Lucianne White and Sonia Marteniz (Communications and Community Engagement)  
Gary MacLeod (Corriedale Water Management Ltd)  
Andrew Bardsley (Regulatory and Compliance Manager)

The Chair declared the meeting open at **11am** and welcomed everyone present.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/070**

Moved: Member Jim Thomson

Seconded: Member Guy Percival

That the apology received from Cr John McCone be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC FORUM**

[1:37](#) Peter Plunket spoke on several issues. He showed an article from the Oamaru Mail regarding rates predictions under an in-house water delivery model. He said council was going to face these costs whether it went with a CCO or in-house delivery.

He then spoke about the Long Term Plan and asked Council to stretch out or postpone the items on the projects list to keep the rates similar to the rate of inflation.

He gave examples of council initiatives that he felt were not essential or should be delayed.

Mr Plunket also opposed the transformation plan. He wanted to know the benefit to the ratepayer for the expense. He asked Council to stay within the inflation rate and show economic restraint.

The Mayor responded to some of the points raised by Mr Plunket and gave examples of savings that had been made. He encouraged Mr Plunket to watch the recordings of previous workshops, when councillors discussed the budgets.

The chief executive explained that Council could remove all arts and community spending and would still not save enough money to fund water services and depreciation on water assets. Regarding the benefits of transformation, he pointed Mr Plunket to information on the website that explained this, and a link to this information was provided to Mr Plunket by email. The Mayor also offered to catch up with Mr Plunket if he wanted to discuss the issues further.

[18:17](#) Mike Sweeney then took the table. He gave the example of Waimakariri District Council as a council that had successfully proposed an in-house water delivery unit, and outlined the details of that situation and how it works. He said this established a precedence and he hoped Waitaki would learn from these lessons.

The Mayor noted there were significant differences between the situation in Waimakariri and Waitaki, including a higher number of water users, high growth and newer infrastructure in Waimakariri.

Cr Hopkins asked if staff had looked at the Waimakariri situation in planning. The chief executive said he was not considering a restructure or adding a water department like theirs, as this would add a lot of cost. He believed the most cost-effective way was to work with the existing structure and undertake a financial ring fencing.

Mr Sweeney was thanked for attending.

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

##### **4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2025**

###### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/071**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins  
Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30 June 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

##### **4.2 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2025**

###### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/072**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins  
Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 July 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

##### **4.3 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2025**

###### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/073**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting, with minor grammatical corrections.

**CARRIED**

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES REPORTS**

### **5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2025**

#### **5.1.1 HAMPDEN WASTEWATER INVESTIGATION FUNDING**

##### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/074**

Moved: Member Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Deputy Hana Halalele

That Council confirms the recommendation from the Waihemo Community Board:

- a) That the loan-funded amount of \$40,000 originally set aside for a study into a Hampden wastewater system be repaid.
- b) That staff communicate (or consult) with the Hampden community on the cost of developing a reticulated wastewater system.

**CARRIED**

#### **5.1.2 LINCOLN STREET RAIL CROSSING, HAMPDEN**

Cr Hopkins asked that the words “east of the railway lines” be added to clarify the location.

##### **RESOLVED WDC 2025/075**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council confirms the recommendation from the Waihemo Community Board and approves of making Lincoln Street one-way east of the rail lines to alleviate safety concerns.

**CARRIED**

## **6 DECISION REPORTS**

### **6.1 ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY INCLUDING ENDORSEMENT OF NEW COUNCIL BRAND**

[32:19](#) Lisa Baillie introduced the report and said the new strategy was a key tool in engaging with communities. Staff were looking forward to taking this forward.

It was noted that the strategy included the comment that the community wanted to see Council as “good at listening”, however members of the public defined this as Council agreeing to do what individual members of the public wanted. Discussion took place on how to communicate that good listening and consultation always resulted in a number of people being disappointed.

It was exciting to have a modern guiding document. Credit was given to staff for their work creating the new brand in-house.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/076**

Moved: Cr Rebecca Ryan

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council:

1. Adopts the new Communications and Engagement Strategy as attached.
2. Endorses the new Waitaki District Council logo.

**CARRIED**

*The Mayor brought Item 6.4 forward in the schedule.*

**6.4 RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE MATTER OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (SMALL STAND-ALONE DWELLINGS) AMENDMENT BILL**

[55:33](#) The purpose of this report was to retrospectively ratify Waitaki District Council's submission on Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill as submitted to the Committee Secretariat, Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 23 June 2025. Several questions were asked by the councillors and were answered by staff.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/077**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council:

Formally ratifies Waitaki District Council's submission on Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12pm and reconvened at 12.45pm.*

**6.2 WAITAKI DOG CONTROL BYLAW**

[1:46:06](#) This paper asked Council to adopt into the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy following a 6-month trial allowing dogs on-lead in the Ōamaru CBD, Harbour Street and Ōamaru North CBD areas.

Josh Rendell introduced this report and said the feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive, hence the recommendation from the staff to make this trial permanent.

Andrew Bardsley then provided background information about the consultation process. He noted the submission from the Penguin Colony as being especially helpful.

The councillors asked about the need for signage and communications to inform the public. They then debated whether dogs should be banned from the Harbour Street area to protect the penguins.

Cr Hopkins suggested an amendment to the bylaw regarding the situation of dogs on playing pitches and sportsgrounds. It was important to keep dogs off playing areas. Staff were asked to fine-tune this to make it clear in the bylaw that dogs were not allowed on marked pitches.

Cr Blackler suggested that recommendation 1(b) be removed and replaced with an alternative motion to say dogs are prohibited on Harbour Street. This was seconded by Cr Hopkins and debated.

Cr Ryan preferred to keep the proposed recommendations with the knowledge this could be reversed if a problem was discovered in the future. She had received feedback that people had enjoyed sitting outside cafes on Harbour Street with their dogs. The Mayor agreed.

Cr Hopkins supported Cr Blackler's amendment to be consistent with the situation at Beach Road, where dogs are prohibited. He also asked for an amendment to the wording in the Dog Control Policy, which was added to the resolutions below.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/078**

Moved: Cr Rebecca Ryan

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That Council permanently adds to the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024, the following change:

- a) Dogs allowed on-lead Thames Street & Thames Highway, Ōamaru.

That Council amends the reference to section 3(1)(g) and replaces the words "all marked pitches" wherever they appear, with the words "all marked playing areas".

**CARRIED**

**AMENDMENT**

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That dogs be forbidden from Harbour Street.

**LOST**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/079**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That Council permanently adds to the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024, the following change.

- b) Dogs allowed on-lead from sunrise to sunset & prohibited from sunset to sunrise Harbour Street, Ōamaru, with the commitment to further review if evidence from the Oamaru Penguin Colony supports the need for this.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/080**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That Council approves minor wording changes to the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH CORRIEDALE WATER MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR OPERATION OF CORRIEDALE WATER SUPPLIES**

[2:18:29](#) The purpose of this report was to establish a formal agreement between Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited (CWML) that clearly outlines the requirements for CWML's ongoing operational management of the Corriedale water supplies.

The draft agreement is acceptable to both parties and outlines the expectations of the two parties. Staff were seeking approval from Council to allow the chief executive to sign the agreement.

The Mayor noted that Gary MacLeod, who manages the water services, was in the chambers and invited him to join the table. Mr MacLeod answered questions and further discussion took place on various issues. The Mayor thanked Mr MacLeod and Corriedale Water Management for their work, and also thanked staff for putting the agreement together.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/081**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council:

1. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign the new agreement for operational management of the Corriedale water supplies by Corriedale Water Management Limited, on behalf of Council.

**CARRIED**

**6.5 EXEMPT COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

[2:28:09](#) The purpose of this report was to grant an exemption by resolution of the Council, in line with section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, that Omarama Airfield Limited, Waitaki District Health Services Limited, and Waitaki District Health Services Trust are no longer legislatively bound by the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations.

An exemption must be granted by resolution of Council and be renewed every three years thereafter. An exemption can be revoked at any time.

Cr Blackler asked regarding the legislative requirements for audit and this was answered by the finance manager.

The Mayor asked if the retirement village trust could be included in this. The Finance Manager said she would investigate this and speak to the auditor.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/082**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Tim Blackler

That Council:

1. Resolves to exempt the following entities from the Local Government Act 2002 requirements that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations:
  - a) Omarama Airfield Limited
  - b) Waitaki District Health Services Limited
  - c) Waitaki District Health Services Trust

**CARRIED**

**6.6 RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE WITH WAITAKI DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES LTD AS A CCO UNTIL A COMPLAINT IS RESOLVED**

[2:28:39](#) In a previous resolution the Council resolved to wind up Waitaki District Health Services Ltd (WDHSL) by 30 June 2005.

Since that resolution was passed, WDHSL have received a complaint from the Health and Disability Commissioner regarding the treatment of a patient in 2023. This impacts the ability for WDHSL to wind up while a complaint is live.

At the WDHSL Board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> external Legal Counsel recommended that Council retain WDHSL as an entity until the complaint is resolved. However, to simplify the accounting treatment and governance of WDHSL's property management obligations, it was advised to reduce WDHSL's asset book and management function, along with everything associated with it, to the bare minimum.

WDHSL chairman Simon Neale spoke summarised the contents of the report and then asked for questions. Councillors asked why the complaint was taking so long. Council had no control over that process, and it was common for complaints to the Health and Disability Commissioner to take up to two years to resolve.

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/083**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That Council:

1. Resolves to extend the timeframes of the resolution to wind up Waitaki District Health Services Ltd by 30 June 2025 and continue with WDHSL as a stripped-out council controlled organisation until the outstanding complaint is resolved with the Health and Disability Commissioner.

**CARRIED**

**7 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/084**

Moved: Cr Rebecca Ryan

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>8.1 - Asset Sales - LTP 2025/34</b>	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or	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

	disadvantage, commercial activities	reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
<b>8.2 - Recommendations from the Development Contributions Subcommittee PE</b>	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons  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 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)	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 - Public Excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025</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 prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	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

**CARRIED**

**8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION**

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

**RESOLVED WDC 2025/085**

Moved: Cr Rebecca Ryan

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele

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 MEETING CLOSE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.09pm.



TO BE CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26 August 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON