

MINUTES



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 22 May 2025
Time: 1.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Brian Carter
Cr Richard Lambert (Zoom)
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
Cr Coral Raukawa
Cr Jeff Wong
Cr Simon Loudon
Cr Greg Maughan
Cr Fi Dalgety (Zoom)
Cr Paul Sharland

In attendance

Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number **25/RDC/101**

That the apologies be received from Cr Duncan.

Cr B Carter/Cr P Sharland. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **25/RDC/102**

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 May 2025 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

7 Reports for Decision

7.1 Local Water Done Well: Deliberations on submissions to the Council's consultation document on its proposed model for delivering water services

The Mayor thanked submitters and highlighted that this a significant decision for Council.

The Mayor ruled, that in relation to this item, Standing Orders (Section 22) relating to the number of speakers for and against would be set aside to allow all members an opportunity to express their views.

Councillors highlighted that prior to consultation the opportunity to have a wider grouping with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council seemed unlikely. Since consultation Rangitikei, Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils have been asked by Palmerston North and Horowhenua councils to consider a wider grouping.

Officers advised that there has been regular communication between Te Rōpū Ahi Kā and Nga Wairiki Ngāti Apa throughout this process.

Councillors noted that the public liability of the CCO will mean that there is a personal liability for councillors, specifically those councils continuing a stand-alone model. It was noted that those councils with a stand- alone model are likely to be more scrutinised by the economic regulator, the Commerce Commission.

Mrs Gordon advised that Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council timelines for decisions have been pushed out.

Councillors referred to the need for 50,000 connections for scale and the wide Horizons Region grouping allows for further connections. Councillors were positive about their relationship with Palmerston North and Horowhenua councils and highlighted that Whanganui and Ruapehu have been offered the opportunity to join the grouping as well. It was noted that if council were to wait for Ruapehu and Whanganui to decide there is a potential risk that Rangitikei is without any partners.

Councillors acknowledged that there was further information and decisions to come during the delivery plans for Local Water Done Well.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/103

That Rangitikei District Council **receives** the report 'Deliberations on submissions to the Consultation Document *Where's Water @ Rangitikei?*'.

Cr B Carter/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/104

That Rangitikei District Council **receives** the submissions made to the Consultation Document *Where's Water @ Rangitikei*, and **expresses** its appreciation to those people who provided these.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/105

That Rangitikei District Council **notes** that Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils have consulted with their communities on the same model for delivering water services.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/106

That Rangitikei District Council **notes**

- a) the considerable divergence of views expressed by submitters to Consultation Document Where's Water @ Rangitikei?
- b) the majority preference for the establishment of a joint Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) with Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils rather than continuing to provide water services directly.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/107

That Rangitikei District Council **resolves** to continue discussion with the District's iwi and hapū, in collaboration with our regions councils, on how best to combine iwi and hapū responsibilities as kaitiaki of the waterways and land with the Council's responsibilities for a safe and efficient provision of water services.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/108

That, having regard for sections 61 and 62 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Rangitikei District Council –

- a) **agrees** to continue discussions with Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils in establishing a WS-CCO,
- b) **agrees** to continue discussion with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council about establishing a WS-CCO with them and other councils,
- c) Council has a **preferred** position to work with Palmerston North City, Horowhenua, Ruapehu and Whanganui district councils to establish a WS-CCO **subject to** -
 - meeting the Government's requirements for financial sustainability.
 - delivering savings compared with the in-house model for Rangitikei, and
 - Palmerston North and Horowhenua confirming (for each by Council resolution) that they intend to join a WS-CCO with Rangitikei.
- d) **notes** the continued work in preparing a joint water services plan containing an implementation plan for a joint WS-CCO to the Secretary for Local Government on or before the prescribed date, 3 September 2025, and
- e) **resolves** that the shareholding councils for the joint WS-CCO invite the participation of our iwi and hapū in the WS-CCO design process to the extent that the legislation allows.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr D Wilson. Carried Unanimous.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/109

That Rangitīkei District Council **notes** that Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Committee is not due to report on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill until 17 June 2025, with enactment probably in August/September 2025, which means the outcome of the Council’s submission will not be known until then, i.e. after the intended adoption of the water services delivery plan.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/110

That Rangitīkei District Council **resolves** to accept expert technical advice that the intention behind clause 10 in the Local Government (Water Services) Bill prohibiting transport corridor stormwater infrastructure from being transferred outside the Council’s direct control is confined to a very small number of assets and does not materially affect the ability for the Council to transfer stormwater assets to the WS-CCO, and that the Council **resolves** to do this.

LEFT TO LIE ON THE TABLE

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/111

That Rangitīkei District Council **notes** the advantages and disadvantages of transferring the three ‘mixed-use’ rural water supply schemes (Erewhon, Hunterville and Omatane) to the Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) and the outcome of discussion with the chairs of these three schemes and **resolves** to not include the three ‘mixed-use’ rural water supply schemes in the list of water assets to be transferred to the WS-CCO, and to signal the Council’s intention for a discussion about a service arrangement with the WS-CCO Board within the first two years of its establishment for any scheme which requests this.

Cr G Maughan/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

The meeting closed at 2.29pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 May 2025.

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Chairperson