
IAWAI – Flowing Waters, Board Meeting

[UNCONFIRMED] OPEN MINUTES

28 August 2025, 9.30am

Minutes of a meeting of the IAWAI – Flowing Waters, Board held in Committee Room, Waikato District Council, Ngaaruwaahia on Thursday 28 August 2025 at 9.30am

PRESENT

Chairperson Kevin Lavery

Members Dave Chambers

 Tim Manukau

2. Apologies

None

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes from previous meeting

Confirmed

5. Public Forum

John McDonald: shared his personal analysis of differences between the financials presented in the December 2024 joint HCC/WDC Local Water Done Well business case and June 2025 HCC/WDC Water Services Delivery Plan. He expressed concern about lack of financial transparency, public consultation on affordability measures, and was of the view that Hamiltonians were sold one thing and getting something different. He considered that an in-house business unit should be re-considered.

Raymond Mudford and Colin Jones: cited their views of lack of public consultation on the process to create a joint CCO. They noted the importance of engagement with new Councils following the local body election, to ensure they are fully informed of the risks and benefits of the proposals. They suggested that any implementation is delayed for 12 months. They considered HCC track record of projects running over cost and over time. They expressed concern around affordability, noting the importance of considering alternative solutions.

Stop the Stink – represented by Shelly Wilson: expressed opposition to the proposed location for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant. They considered the selection process is flawed and sought transparency, consultation, and relocation. They outlined their concerns regarding

environmental and cultural impacts of the plant at the site. They had an alternative site in mind that they propose be considered.

The Board noted they would respond to submitters in writing within 7 days.

6. Chairs report

Kevin Lavery presented his Chair's report and provided an update on the six areas of focus for the Board – and the importance of working together.

He noted the overriding objective of a successful, smooth transition to go live.

The Water Services Strategy – and associated financials was a priority. He asserted the importance of striking the right balance looking at full life cost, maintenance requirements of our plant and network, the opportunities for efficiencies, ensuring a tight, deliverable and affordable capital programme and ensuring that growth pays for growth.

He also mentioned the CEO recruitment process which was about to be underway.

7. Establish IAWAI Programme Update

Peter Winder spoke to the work being undertaken on behalf of shareholder Councils to set up IAWAI. Overall the programme was on track, although the workload was heavy. Risks were being monitored and mitigated.

The Board commented on the importance of a comprehensive briefing to incoming Councils following the local body elections.

Resolved

The Board received the report.

8. Water Services Strategy

Vishal Ramduny presented this report. He noted the Water Services Strategy as the primary strategic, financial, and infrastructure planning and accountability document for water service providers. Progress was underway across both Councils to develop the WSS. A draft was expected in November but was highly dependent on outcomes from others.

The Board would receive monthly reports on progress, risks, issues.

A comprehensive approach to engagement was being developed. This included with Waikato Tainui, mana whenua, shareholding Councils and communities. Formal consultation was expected in March / April.

The Board expressed key areas of interest including:

- A flexible financial model
- Are we appropriately funding growth
- Any shortfalls in renewals compliance that need to be addressed
- At what level are we going to deliver
- Any new regulatory requirements we need to take on board
- What levels of efficiencies can we expect
- Vision and what this means for investment
- Key performance measures to ensure we're on track

- Noted the financials will drive affordability.

Resolved

that the Board:

- Received the update on the development of the Water Services Strategy 2026-2036.
- Approved the high-level project plan set out in attachment 1.

9. Strategic Investment Portfolio

Jackie Colliar presented this report, which outlines the major transformational projects IAWAI has been contracted to manage. Projects are reliant on existing staff and finances to deliver. She noted a project by project introduction will take place through induction meetings. Monthly reporting on the status of the projects will be presented to future Board meetings.

The Board noted interest in reporting cover:

- Any major risks the Board should be aware of
- Whether the projects meet benefits intended at different gateway points.
- Staff bring solutions with mitigations, and what the Board needs to do to get well on projects.

Resolved

that the Board:

- Receives the report.
- Notes that an introduction to each programme/project in the portfolio will occur as part of the Board's induction.
- Endorses proposed Portfolio Programmes approach.

10. Water network (water metering and management service)

Lisa Inglis presented this paper. She outlined the requirement under legislation to transition away from charging for waters using capital value rating (Hamilton's current model) within 5 years.

She noted universal water metering as a key tool for managing water demand and method of charging based on usage. There is a strong expectation from Government that water meters be rolled out where they are not already.

The paper sought the Board's agreement to a pilot project. The pilot project would not change how or what customers are charged, it will simply allow IAWAI to trial and assess possible metering solutions.

Resolved

That the Board:

- Receives the report;
- Receives the first stage of the Investment Case (**public excluded**);
- Approves that staff progress to the second stage of procurement for the water network – a Request for Tender (RFT), with scope confined to a pilot of technology (software and meters), plus implementation services;

- d. Notes that, subject to the outcomes of (c), a third stage be undertaken with a larger pilot;
- e. Requests staff to update shareholders via the next IAWAI – Flowing Waters Forum, including on engagement with the community on the pilot;
- f. Notes the commencement of field surveys for Hamilton City Council, to inform programme costs;
- g. Requests staff to report back to IAWAI following the analysis of pilot outcomes and options.

11. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject 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(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.
Water network (water metering and management service) Investment Case	To enable IAWAI to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage; to enable IAWAI to carry out negotiations to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)
Development Agreement Negotiations – Te Kowhai	To enable WDC and IAWAI to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage; to enable WDC and IAWAI to carry out negotiations to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)

The meeting was declared closed at 11.00am