

**HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

**WELLINGTON WATER COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held in the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Shed 39,  
2 Fryatt Quay, Pipitea, Wellington on  
**Thursday 16 June 2016 commencing at 4.00pm**

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**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor D Bassett (Chair)  
Mayor N Leggett  
Cr I Pannett  
Cr J Brash  
Cr D Rabbitt (from 4.10pm)

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Mayor W Guppy and Cr C Laidlaw.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr J Strahl, Chair, Wellington Water Ltd  
Mr C Crampton, Chief Executive, Wellington Water Ltd  
Ms J Bryan, Principal Advisor, Wellington Water Ltd  
Mr A Wilson, City Engineer, Wellington City Council  
Ms W Walker, Chief Executive Officer, Porirua City Council  
Mr C Upton, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council  
Ms K Stannard, Divisional Manager Secretariat Services, Hutt City Council  
Mrs H Clegg, Minute Taker, Hutt City Council

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. WWC 16301**

*"That the apologies received from Mayor W Guppy and Cr C Laidlaw be accepted and leave of absence be granted and the apology for lateness from Cr D Rabbitt be received."*

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

#### 4. MINUTES

In response to a question from a member, the Chair informed members that Kapiti Coast District Council, at this stage, did not wish to be part of the Wellington Water Committee. He noted that discussions would continue following the local body elections in October.

With regard to the Wairarapa Councils, the Chair advised that they would prefer a representative from each Council to be a member of the Wellington Water Committee as each Council had their own community issues. The Chair further advised that discussions would resume with the Wairarapa Councils after the local body elections in October.

RESOLVED:

**Minute No. WWC 16302**

*"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Water Committee held on Tuesday, 10 March 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record."*

#### 5. FINAL STATEMENT OF INTENT 2016-19 FOR APPROVAL (16/575)

Memorandum dated 20 May 2016 by the Divisional Manager, Secretariat Services

The Chief Executive of Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) elaborated on the report.

There was general discussion concerning the wording of the Statement of Intent. Members agreed that the meaning of certain words was defensive and needed to be placed with positive words eg 'enhancement, restoring, improving', rather than 'maintaining'. The Chief Executive of WWL agreed to send a final, updated version of the document to all members.

Cr Rabbitt highlighted that the page numbering listed for the appendices in the table of contents needed amending.

RESOLVED:

**Minute No. WWC 16303**

*"That the Committee:*

- (i) notes that the Board for Wellington Water Limited approved the Statement of Intent; and*
- (ii) approves the final Wellington Water Limited Statement of Intent 2016-19, subject to minor amendments agreed at the meeting."*

6. **COMPANY UPDATE REPORT** (16/576)

Report No. WWC2016/2/38 by the Wellington Water Limited

The Chief Executive, Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) elaborated on the report. He explained WWL had met with all Councils to discuss the levels of service on resilience, with general agreement that the levels were correct. He advised there was now an opportunity for WWL to increase community knowledge and understanding of the levels of service and what they meant, including clarification of what "Days Without Water" actually meant. He added that it also needed to be incorporated in Councils Long Term Plans.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive of WWL agreed that by investing in the future (with regard to levels of service), the capabilities of the infrastructure were also enhanced for the present, leading to improved levels of service overall. He agreed the wording of the document needed to be amended to reflect this. He added that it was necessary that WWL provide budgetary advice to Councils for both keeping the levels of service as they were and for increasing the levels.

The Chief Executive of WWL further agreed that it was prudent WWL increased the amount of funds allocated for advertising and marketing to enable a better uptake of water tanks within the community.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive of WWL agreed there may be numerous reasons the uptake of private water tanks was slow including cost, lack of understanding, properties not being suitable for installation of tanks and that the term "Service Levels" was not easily understood. Also some areas of the region were more at risk than others and that this needed to be more clearly explained. He also agreed that community understanding was going to require a comprehensive approach and that a strategy would be reported to the Committee in due course.

In response to further questions from members, the Chief Executive of WWL, advised the levels of service were not intended to be communicated with the public. He highlighted that the public would be educated on risk reduction versus recovery after an event and the matters WWL could do to assist. He agreed that there may be mixed messages happening in the community, especially with a dry summer when residents were asked to conserve water by using self- stored rain water for gardens.

With regard to the Water Restriction Policy, the Chief Executive of WWL, advised that care would be taken that mixed messages were not provided, especially if there were differences across the region. He further advised that the intent of the alignment between Councils was to influence overall consumption.

With regard to the aquifer, the Chief Executive of WWL, advised that a comprehensive report would be available next week.

The Chair of WWL elaborated on WWL's long term planning ideal concerning the composition of funding to WWL. He explained that currently WWL received its funding for four different budget areas - overheads, operational expenses, capital projects and consultants, all on an annual and city basis. He explained that this led to an ambiguity as to who was responsible for each budget, adding that WWL was only responsible for the

company overheads with all Councils responsible for the other budgets. He believed that efficiencies would be made if WWL could take additional accountability for all four budgets, which would also enable a greater level of integration of the budgets. He noted that it would be preferable for longer term budgets to be set for WWL. He cited the flexibility would enable WWL to better manage in-house and external consultancy expenditure, allow the operational and overheads budgets to be combined and give greater flexibility with day to day expenditure and planning. He added that this proposal could become operational in 2018.

There was general discussion concerning the proposal. The Chair asked for a report outlining all the details and implications to be reported back to the Wellington Water Committee. Members expressed concern at the transparency of such a proposal and questioned the need for it when Councils already had Long Term Plans in place.

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. WWC 16304**

*"That the Committee:*

- (i) *receives and notes the updates and*
- (ii) *seeks a detailed report from Wellington Water Limited in terms of its proposal for future funding of the company as soon as possible."*

**7. BETTER LOCAL SERVICE REFORMS (16/609)**

Memorandum dated 20 May 2016 by the Chief Executive, HCC

The Principal Advisor of WWL explained WWL's position on the Local Government Amendment Bill ('the Bill'). She advised the Bill was designed to provide more powers for the Local Government Commission. She also advised that the spirit of the Bill was to encourage natural collaboration and co-ordination between Councils with a greater ability to transfer functions between Regional and City Councils especially with regard to transport and water.

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. WWC 16305**

*"That the Committee notes the information."*

**8. LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE CHAIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION REGARDING ANALYSIS OF THREE WATERS (16/579)**

Report No. WWC2016/2/90 by the Divisional Manager, Secretariat Services

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. WWC 16306**

*"That the information be received and noted."*

**9. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:00pm.

Deputy Mayor D Bassett  
CHAIR

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record**  
**Dated this 31st day of August 2016**