

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO. CL25-3
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1484 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025 AT 9.30AM**

1 KARAKIA

Whakatau mai te wairua	Settle the spirit
Whakawātea mai te hinengaro	Clear the mind
Whakarite mai te tinana	Prepare the body
Kia ea ai ngā mahi	To achieve what needs to be achieved.
Āe	Yes

2 PRESENT

Mayor J Denyer, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Cr T Coxhead, Cr G Dally, Cr M Grainger, Cr R Joyce, Cr M Murray-Benge, Cr L Rae, Cr A Sole, Cr D Thwaites and Cr A Wichers.

3 IN ATTENDANCE

J Holyoake (Chief Executive), R Davie (Deputy CEO/General Manager Strategy and Community), A Henderson (General Manager Corporate Services), A Curtis (General Manager Regulatory Services), C Crow (General Manager Infrastructure Services), L Balvert (Communications Manager), R Garrett (Governance Manager), A King (Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects), H Wi Repa (Governance Systems Advisor) and P Osborne (Senior Governance Advisor).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

1 Member of the Media

VIA ZOOM

Sam Broughton (President - LGNZ) and Ranjani Ponnuchetty (Chief Advisor - LGNZ)

4 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION CL25-3.1

Moved: Cr A Sole
Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

That the apology for lateness from Cr Joyce and apology for absence from Cr Henry be accepted.

CARRIED

5 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Nil

8 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

9 REPORTS

9.1 SUBMISSION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WATER SERVICES) BILL

Council considered a report dated 18 March 2025 from the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects, who provided an overview of the submission and noted that the Bill was due to be enacted in June/July 2025.

RESOLUTION CL25-3.2

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr G Dally

1. That the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects' report dated 18 March 2025 titled 'Submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, be received.
2. That the submission, shown as **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2** to this report, is received by the Council and the information is noted.

CARRIED

9.40am Cr Joyce entered the hui.

9.2 LOCAL WATERS DONE WELL – APPROVAL OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FOR THE WATER SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL CONSULTATION

Council considered a report dated 18 March 2025 from the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects, who provided an overview of the report, changes made following feedback, and the recommendations therein.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Staff would ensure that the relationship point between reserves and other facilities, and stormwater was made stronger, to show how the intertwined nature made it different from wastewater and drinking water.
- In relation to ‘population growth’ being part of the rationale for the water charge increasing (regardless of which option was chosen), it was noted that there would be an increase in cost of infrastructure due to an increase in people. Regardless of the mechanism, the charging for infrastructure development would be something that happened through a potential new entity. The language in relation to this on page 34 could be softened.
- One of the changes highlighted at the beginning related to softening the language around the ‘biggest decision’, acknowledging that the consultation document was around informing and engaging with the community on how Council would do things.
- Another change that was proposed regarding Tangata Whenua was to remove the word ‘expertise’, having it read ‘the value of Māori in delivering sustainable, future-focused water solutions’.
- During the design and implementation phase of a CCO it was important that Council maintained an active role. It was noted that this role included being a shareholder and maintaining influence through the Statement of Expectations. This highlighted the importance of the key foundation documents for Council within the next phase.

RESOLUTION CL25-3.3

Moved: Cr D Thwaites

Seconded: Cr R Joyce

1. That the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects’ report dated 18 March 2025 titled ‘Local Waters Done Well – Approval of the consultation document for the water service delivery model consultation’ be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of **low** significance in terms of Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council approves the consultation document for the water service delivery model consultation with the community from 24 March to 24 April 2025 (**Attachment 1** of this report).

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4. That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor to make amendments to the draft consultation document as requested and to make any minor editorial changes as required.

CARRIED

9.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND (LGNZ) MEMBERSHIP

Council considered a report dated 18 March 2025 from the Chief Executive Officer.

Sam Broughton (President) and Ranjani Ponnuchetty (Chief Advisor) were in attendance via Zoom on behalf of LGNZ to respond to pātai where appropriate.

As Councillor Coxhead put forward the original Notice of Motion requesting this report, the Mayor asked her to provide a brief introduction including the rationale.

The Mayor, staff and LGNZ representatives responded to pātai as follows:

- The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs funding for the 2024/25 financial year was \$120,000. It was noted that for the 2025/26 financial year this would increase to \$180,000, which Council had applied for.
- The subscription cost for the next year was just under a 10% cost increase on the current year's subscription cost. This meant Council was looking at around \$80,000 for the coming financial year, for the basic subscription, noting that this would be slightly higher to include Community Boards.
- The travel costs for Community Boards were not necessarily appropriate to include due to these being funded from the Community Board budgets.
- LGNZ tried to take into account the broad perspectives they received from members, noting that these needed to be deciphered prior to supporting government in developing their policies.
- As part of the work undertaken through 'Future for Local Government' there was a Special General Meeting where every member voted on what was important for LGNZ to undertake. It was noted that, like every member body, they had to make decisions based on majority support. It was noted that any submissions to Central Government regarding legislation were circulated to Chairs, Mayors and Chief Executives for comment to ensure that the majority views had been captured.
- The amount that Council paid in relation to administration costs was covered within the report.
- The funding for Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs was acquired from Ministry of Social Development (MSD), which then went to individual Councils, noting that for Western Bay of Plenty District Council, this went through a coordinator who worked through CoLab in Te Puke.
- LGNZ's role with Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs included:
 - Media Support;

- Financial Support;
 - Government Relations Support;
 - Marketing Support; and
 - Secretariat Support.
- Membership of LGNZ was more than access to Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, especially regarding government relations. This included meeting with the Prime Minister, Local Government Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, and was an opportunity for LGNZ to raise issues that were important to Local Government, specifically around financing of Local Government.
 - The funding for Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs would be lost if Western Bay of Plenty District Council decided to cease its membership from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).
 - The funding received for Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs went to them directly for their own purposes, whereas the cost of the LGNZ membership included the support role that LGNZ played in the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs. It was noted that LGNZ and Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs worked in the same building, with the same teams, using the same people, therefore maximising the partnership that they had.
 - LGNZ staff in attendance understood that the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs had always had a relationship with LGNZ in regard to the contract it had with MSD, noting that when it first started as a Community Employment Programme it was a contract between MSD and LGNZ.

MOTION CL25-3.4

Moved: Mayor J Denyer

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

1. That the Chief Executive Officer's report dated 18 March 2025 titled 'Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Membership', be received.
2. That Council:
 - a. Confirms its continued membership of LGNZ

The motion was voted on and a division was called and recorded as follows:

For: Mayor Denyer, Deputy Mayor Scrimgeour, Cr Joyce, Cr Thwaites and Cr Rae

Against: Cr Coxhead, Cr Sole, Cr Murray-Benge, Cr Dally, Cr Wichers and Cr Grainger

LOST 5/6

As the motion to retain membership was lost, Council would cease its membership to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), as of 1 April 2025.

11.15am The hui adjourned.

11.30am The hui reconvened.

9.4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Council considered a report dated 18 March 2025 from the Governance Manager. The report was taken as read.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- It was clarified that the delegations for interim CEO Miriam Taris were the same as the delegations for current CEO John Holyoake.
- There were emergencies where the CEO required the delegation for unbudgeted expenditure, noting that this was just a provision. It was requested that this be included in the reporting to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.

RESOLUTION CL25-3.5

Moved: Cr M Grainger

Seconded: Cr A Sole

1. That the Governance Manager's report dated 18 March 2025 titled 'Chief Executive Officer Delegations and Appointments' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council approves the appointment of the incoming interim Chief Executive Officer, Miriam Taris, as Council's representative to Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited.
4. That Council approves the appointment of the incoming interim Chief Executive Officer, Miriam Taris, as an Executive Board Member of Priority One.
5. That Council resolves that John Holyoake ceases being Chief Executive and Council's representative on Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited, Co-LAB and Executive Board Member of Priority One, effective 31 March 2025.

CARRIED

10 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT

Nil

11 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION CL25-3.4

Moved: Cr D Thwaites

Seconded: Cr L Rae

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
11.1 - Affordable housing in Katikati	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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

The Meeting closed at 12.04pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record at the Council meeting held 8 April 2025.

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 Mayor J Denyer
CHAIRPERSON / MAYOR