

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LEVEL 1, 67 HOROMĀTANGI STREET, TAUPŌ**  
**ON THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026 AT 1.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Mr Brian Hanna (in the Chair), Cr Kevin Taylor, Cr Rachel Cameron, Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Ngāhuia Foreman, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Steve Manunui, Mayor John Funnell

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Yvonne Westerman (via MS Teams), Cr Hope Woodward (via MS Teams), Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services (T Hale), General Manager Organisation Performance (S Matthews), Three Waters Manager (S Lealand), Asset Manager Water (T Swindells), Asset Manager Wastewater and SCADA (M Cordell), Asset Manager Stormwater (P Burt), Compliance and Monitoring Lead (N Hancock via MS Teams), Manager Asset Information (F Valentine via MS Teams), Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode), Programme Manager (J Walton), Communications Specialist (A Taylor), Governance Quality Manager (S James), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** Water Services Authority-Taumata Arowai Engagement Specialist Mr Tim Cadogan, North Island Manager Mr Neil Shaw and Water Services Officer Ms Tammy Valler (all via MS Teams)

Two members of the public

- Note:
- (i) *This meeting was livestreamed and is available to view on Taupō District Council's YouTube channel.*
  - (ii) *All present recited Taupō District Council's opening karakia, led by Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor.*
  - (iii) *The committee completed introductions at the beginning of the meeting.*
  - (iv) *Chair Mr Brian Hanna acknowledged Taupō District Council for the Water Services Delivery Plan put forward to the Department of Internal Affairs and noted there were not many councils going out on their own. He was looking forward to working with Council.*

**1 KARAKIA**

**2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES**

Nil

**3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Chair Mr Brian Hanna declared his previous role with Taumata Arowai and the 3 Waters reform process.

**4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Nil

**5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS**

**5.1 PRESENTATION - WATER SERVICES AUTHORITY-TAUMATA AROWAI**

Mr Tim Cadogan shared his screen to show a PowerPoint presentation (A3906785) and explained that the Water Services Authority-Taumata Arowai was formed as a consequence of the Havelock North disaster. He explained they were there to regulate and stop incidents of contaminated drinking water leading to people being sick. The previous week there had been 19 water supply notifications of faecal matter in the water with some of these notifications being from four different councils.

He explained that it was important to have the basics in place, this included source water protection, filtration, disinfection and secure distribution.

A multi-barrier protection approach ensured that nasty bugs were stopped and ensured the water was clean so people did not get sick. He explained that their standards of clean drinking water ensures that no one gets sick.

Suppliers can expect Taumata Arowai to work with them to ensure that the drinking water is safe. He explained that they are there to assist private water supplies reach the standard. He asked the Committee to let Council staff or Taumata Arowai know if they hear any issues with private water supplies so they could help, they would contact the scheme owner and help them figure out ways to fix it. If a scheme is supplying to over 25 people, they need to be registered with them by 2028 and compliant by 2030.

Acceptable solutions were updated in September 2025 and were often used in small rural schemes, changes include lower cost and clearer responsibilities.

The discharge of wastewater standard was now in effect and it included a standard set of rules for New Zealand.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- If a council decided to not meet the water standards, Taumata Arowai would use compliance tools they had available including compliance orders and prosecution would be the last resort.
- In the case of an emergency, Taumata Arowai provide a supporting role and ensured people have access to safe drinking water.
- The current regulations are what they are and show acceptable safe drinking water.
- The number 25 in relation to number of people that a water supply is providing with drinking water is an arbitrary number but it was risk based. It was possible to be flexible in instances where this number might be extended for a period of time within the year for example during summer.
- The cost of the kits to ensure clean drinking water has significantly decreased.
- The kits did not remove arsenic, they were not built for it.
- In terms of the cost for Marae or papakainga, the kits were quite expensive for end point treatment units. There was a successful programme with the Department of Internal Affairs to put these kits in. This programme has since ended.

#### **TDWSC202603/01 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Ngāhuia Foreman

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee receives the information presented by Mr Tim Cadogan from the Water Services Authority-Taumata Arowai.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202603/01 above.*

#### **5.2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services summarised the report.

#### **TDWSC202603/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Rachel Cameron

Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee:

1. confirms that System B will be used to determine the election process for the Deputy Chairperson; and
2. elects Cr Kevin Taylor as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee for the 2025-28 Triennium.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202603/02 above.*

### **5.3 WELCOME TO THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Programme Manager shared her screen to show a PowerPoint presentation (A3911459). The Three Waters Manager introduced herself. She explained that Taupō District Council had in-house delivery for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services. Strategic delivery and asset management, legislation and operation of treatment services were all delivered in-house; and network operations contracted. The Three Waters Manager introduced the three Asset Managers, Compliance and Monitoring Lead and Asset Information Manager and their roles.

The Programme Manager introduced herself and explained she had been working through the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) reform process for the past two and a half years. She was now looking after the implementation of the Water Services Plan.

Programme timeline was shown and it was explained that the last two years was spent working through LWDW reforms and following which Council decided to keep services in-house. A Water Services Delivery Plan was developed and preparation had begun to work under a regulated environment. Financial separation needed to be set up for the 2026-2027 financial year (as of 1 July 2026) as the first annual report was required for November 2027. Community Drinking Water Assessment was required to be completed by June. By June 2027 a Water Services Strategy would be developed. Council was also a part of the Waikato Waters Group as a minor position and had made a commitment to review this. First Commerce Commission disclosures will be required by the middle of next year. July 2028 was when the first financial sustainability must be met but Council were in that position now.

She explained the content of the Water Services Delivery Plan.

The Department of Internal Affairs would be monitoring Council's Water Services Delivery Plan.

In answer to a question, it was explained that Council had had some conversations with the Commerce Commission and were working towards strengthening that relationship.

Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor acknowledged the General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services, Three Waters Manager, Programme Manager and all staff involved in the LWDW reforms, explaining it has been a pleasure to work with the team to get us to this point.

### **TDWSC202603/03 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee receives the information provided to support members in their role for the 2025-28 Triennium.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202603/03 above.*

### **5.4 WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Programme Manager summarised the report.

The following points were explained:

- The development of the Water Services Strategy will sit as part of the wider programme for the Council alongside the Long-term Plan.
- Omori Treatment Plant upgrade was in the commissioning phase, Motuoapoa was well underway with construction and Hatepe was in the design phase.
- The purpose of the Committee was to provide strategic direction of the water services rather than

debate the regulations set by central government.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- Tūrangi had a different water source, it was not a lake source for the water supply.
- The new treatment plants would treat both arsenic and protozoa. Treatment plants were not being upgraded if they did not need to be.
- Council would do a review of private water schemes in the district but it was not Council's role to monitor the schemes.
- Currently there were some areas with high water usage.
- The 50% water loss in Tūrangi was on the private side of the supply.
- The cost to install water meters on the boundary would be a cost to Council.

#### **TDWSC202603/04 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Rachel Cameron

Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee receives the Water Services Performance Report attached to the agenda.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202603/04 above.*

#### **6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

The meeting closed at 2.36pm with a karakia recited by all present.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō District Water Services Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2026.

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**CHAIRPERSON**