

**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, 14 MAY 2026 AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT: Mr Brian Hanna (in the Chair), Cr Rachel Cameron, Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Ngāhuia Foreman, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Steve Manunui

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services (T Hale), Three Waters Manager (S Lealand), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Asset Manager Water (T Swindells), Compliance and Monitoring Lead (N Hancock), Asset Manager Stormwater (P Burt), Programme Manager (J Walton), Communications Specialist (A Taylor), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: One member of the public

Notes: (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.*

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TDWSC202605/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Steve Manunui

That apologies from Mayor John Funnell and Cr Kevin Taylor be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: *All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/01 above.*

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 TAUPŌ DISTRICT WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING - 9 APRIL 2026

TDWSC202605/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Cr Rachel Cameron

That the minutes of the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 April 2026 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: *All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/02 above.*

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Item **withdrawn**.

5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - STRENGTHENING DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK FOR WATER SERVICES INVESTMENTS

The Chair explained the process to be followed regarding the notice of motion.

Cr Campbell shared a powerpoint presentation (A3941199) and stressed that the intent of the motion was to ensure savings were made and that the public was being communicated the affordability of water. He drew attention to how costs had escalated in traffic management over time with safety compliance standards added to again and again resulting in a new industry of road cones.

Members agreed with the intent of the motion and noted that a lot of it was already evident in the Water Services Delivery Plan. It would also be overseen by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Commerce Commission. However they were concerned that unnecessary extra work and reporting should not be added to council officers which would also come at an additional cost. It was also important that the committee operated in the correct manner as governor and observed the boundary between governance and management.

TDWSC202605/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Water Services Committee:

1. Requests that future reports relating to significant water services capital or strategic investment decisions include, where appropriate, a consistent options analysis framework; and
2. Notes that such a framework should, where practicable, include:
 - i. Identification of a minimum compliance option and any alternative or enhanced options;
 - ii. Estimated capital and whole-of-life costs for each option;
 - iii. Indicative cost per household or ratepayer impact, where relevant;
 - iv. A description of the level of service, risk reduction, and regulatory compliance outcomes associated with each option; and
 - v. An explanation of how the preferred option represents the most cost-effective solution over the life of the asset, consistent with legislative requirements.
3. Requests that this approach be applied, where appropriate, to work informing the Water Services Strategy and Long-Term Plan.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/03 above except for Cr Ngāhuia Foreman who voted against the resolution.

5.3 PRESENTATION FROM COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING LEAD

The Three Waters Manager and Compliance and Monitoring Lead shared a powerpoint presentation (A3941268).

The Three Waters Manager explained that Council officers needed to be across a significant amount of data and were legally required to comply with standards. This was to protect public health, Council's reputation, and long-term affordability. Governance accountability had increased and Council was required to disclose

all of its performance against legislative requirements to Taumata Arowai.

The Compliance and Monitoring Lead explained that compliance was a tool for governance of three waters because by regularly reporting, there was early visibility of issues. The legislative requirements, resource consents and national standards were aligned to one goal which was not to cause harm to people or the environment.

She went through the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and how they related to Taupō District Council's 15 schemes. She explained the non-compliance levels and advised that level 1 was fairly common whereas level 3 was very serious. Most failures started small and escalated which is why it was important to constantly monitor and report.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- Granny flats with a toilet and shower would be monitored for compliance by the building team and was not led by the Three Waters teams. When Water Treatment Plants were being built, growth of communities was considered and resource consents required these plants to accommodate growth in population.
- Council's focus was on community water schemes. Taumata Arowai were working through regulations for private water schemes.
- Taupō District Council held consents for bore water for Atiamuri, Whakamaru and Whareroa.
- The trout on stormwater drains was a great visual to remind people to think about what is going down the drain. The communications team was also working on videos and other online education content to help people to understand.
- If any issues were found regarding the drinking water, they would be found on the same day of sampling and dealt with.
- Each water treatment plant had their own Business Continuity Plan so in a Civil Defence incident, these would be followed and escalated appropriately. Included in these plans were processes for communicating with the community e.g. a boil water notice.

TDWSC202605/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ngāhuia Foreman
Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee receives the information presented by Taupō District Council's Compliance and Monitoring Lead.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/04 above.

5.4 PRESENTATION FROM ASSET MANAGER WATER

The Asset Manager Water shared a presentation (A3941210) covering two key areas which were drinking water compliance and the water conservation plan.

The drinking water compliance slides showed the journey that Taupō District Council had taken to upgrade the 15 schemes across the district.

In response to questions, the following was clarified:

- The longer networks of pipes were monitored to check if additional chlorine treatments were required. Funding had been allowed for in the Long-term Plan (LTP) for additional dosing of chlorine but had not been required to date.
- Water treatment plants were designed to a high seismic standard to last 50-100 years and beyond. However, renewals were required for some of the equipment over time.

The remainder of the slides were regarding the Water Conservation Programme. Taupō District Council needed to improve water use by reducing consumption and leaks. Ten times the size of the recent water

reservoir built at the Taupō Botanical Gardens would be required in the future.

Part of this project was looking into water meters so that customers paid more if they used over a certain amount. Currently all ratepayers paid the same targeted rate for water so the meters were intended to balance usage and hopefully reduce the targeted water rate. The Asset Manager Water showed examples of different water meters:

- Drive by water meter
- Manual meter
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

The drive by meter allowed data to be read from the vehicle within a close range and saved time for the monitoring person who did not need to exit their vehicle.

The manual meter was as it sounded, a meter that was required to be read manually.

The AMI talked to radio or cell networks.

The team was going to tender an AMI meter to trial it across Acacia Bay and Mapara. This would be a trial period for a year to test which meter worked better out of the three.

Following discussion, the following was clarified:

- Communications would include the word “treated” when informing the public so that they were aware it was treated water that needed to be conserved.
- The committee and Council would be required to decide on the targeted rate for water going forward, even if meters were in place.
- Meters varied in cost, a typical AMI meter was valued at \$230 but there were also software charges on top of that.
- The water conservation programme would include multiple benefits including reducing wastewater if people were taking shorter showers as an example.
- Mechanisms for those facing hardships would be used so that they still had access to water.

TDWSC202605/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rachel Cameron
Seconded: Cr Ngāhuia Foreman

That the Taupō District Water Services Committee receives the information presented by Taupō District Council's Asset Manager Water.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/05 above.

5.5 WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Programme Manager highlighted the following from the report:

- The workplan had been updated and all was tracking well for financial separation by 1 July 2026.
- The Asset Management Policy was adopted by Council at the April meeting with some changes. A tracked changes version was attached to the agenda for the committee to see.
- The report noted what had been before Council and what had not.
- The report included an infographic of a snapshot of the current state.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- The water scheme for the Motutere campground did not currently meet the drinking water standards so Council officers were working with Taumata Arowai. The Property team was working on the lease and part of this would ensure that the water supply was compliant.
- The emerging issues identified regarding the economic regulation preparation were being managed.

The budgeting system could be corrected for the Annual Plan and would not be an issue in the future. Staff capacity was an ongoing risk that was being monitored and managed.

TDWSC202605/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Ngāhuia Foreman

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

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō District Water Services Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TDWSC202605/06 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 2.53pm with a karakia from all present.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō District Water Services Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON