

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

File Reference ECM 9541891

Meeting Date 22 July 2025 at 9am

Venue Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Liardet Street, New Plymouth

Members Present

Mayor Neil Holdom, Councillors Tony Bedford, Max Brough, Gordon Brown, David Bublitz, Anneka Carlson Matthews, Murray Chong, Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, Harry Duynhoven, Bali Haque, Te Waka McLeod, Dinnie Moeahu, Marie Pearce, Bryan Vickery and Sam Bennett (via Zoom from 9.25am until 10.16am and in Chamber from 10.30am).

Non-Members Present

Mike Baker (Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board member) Christine Fabish (Inglewood Community Board Chair) and Sarah Lucas (Inglewood Community Board member) (via Zoom from 9.30am to 10.16am and in Chamber from 10.30am).

Staff in Attendance

Gareth Green, Carol Allen, Julie Straka, Sarah Downs, Jacqueline Baker, Helena Williams, Damien Clark, Annabel Dennett, Helen Gray, Yin Shan Welton, Mark Hall, Amy Quattlebaum, Jaco Beeslaar, Mark James, Andrea Humphries, Nancy Powers, Lucy Rock, Kobie Tarasiewicz, Jess Battaerd, Bernie O'Donnell, and David Taylor (Waters specialist, Technical Working Group).

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Apologies

C/2025/087

Council Resolution

Cr Brown)

Mayor Holdom)

That the apologies for the lateness of Councillor Bennett be accepted.

Carried

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Local Water Done Well Report back on Consultation and Recommended Water Service Delivery Option

C/2025/088

ECM 9527370

The matter for consideration by the Council is to review community feedback on proposed water service delivery options and decide the most suitable water service delivery option to adopt.

Council Resolution

Mayor Holdom)

Cr Bublitz)

That having considered all matters raised in the report, Council:

- a) Approve the establishment of a New Plymouth District Council-only Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (NPDC WSCCO).
- b) Approve that stormwater management and asset ownership will remain in-house under Council control.
- c) Agree that while it is considered improbable, NPDC recognises the advantages of regional collaboration and remains open to a two or three Council partnership with Stratford or South Taranaki should they decide, or be compelled, to pursue a regional model in the future.
- d) Note that the NPDC WSCCO model meets the statutory requirements of the LWDW framework and supports the development of a financially sustainable Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP).
- e) Note that a NPDC WSCCO is projected to deliver approximately \$17 million in savings over 30 years, while also offering enhanced borrowing capacity and a dedicated governance structure focused solely on water service delivery.
- f) Note the risks associated with a single-council model, including limited economies of scale, reduced regional collaboration, and potential financial vulnerability due to reliance on NPDC's revenue base. These risks are acknowledged and mitigated through the model's design and future flexibility.
- g) Note that the NPDC WSCCO model provides a scalable and adaptable platform, enabling future collaboration with other councils within or beyond the Taranaki region. NPDC retains the ability to recover establishment and transition costs by charging a joining fee to any council that opts to participate in the WSCCO at a later date.
- h) Direct Officers to finalise the WSDP based on this model for adoption at the 12 August 2025 Council meeting.
- i) Recognises that there are considerable savings that could be achieved through collaboration through other water service providers including in the area of procurement and supports efforts to achieve further savings through working with neighboring Councils and water service providers.
- j) Ringfence establishment costs for the NPDC WSCCO and ensure any future Council choosing to join pays its fair share of those establishment costs.

A Division was called (ECM 9542271)

Those voting for the motion were Mayor Holdom, Councillors Duynhoven, Bedford, Pearce, Bubnitz, McLeod, Bennett, Clinton-Gohdes, Haque and Carlson Mathews.

Those voting against were Councillors Brown, Chong, Vickery, Brough and Moeahu.

The motion was Carried

Governance Advisers note

An adjournment was called at 10.15am, prior to debate on the above matter. The meeting reconvened at 10.25am.

Cr Bennett joined the meeting via Zoom at 9.25am until 10.16am. Cr Bennett attended the meeting in Council Chamber from 10.30am.

The hui closed at 11.26am.