



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Council

Thursday, 19 February 2026, 10.00am

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: *Seven Councillors*

Members

Councillors

Daran Ponter (Chair)

Adrienne Staples (Deputy Chair)

Ros Connelly

Quentin Duthie

Nigel Elder

Sarah Free

Penny Gaylor

Tom James

Claire Johnstone

Shamia Makarini

Phil Rhodes

Yadana Saw

Gabriel Tupou

Simon Woolf

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Council

Thursday 19 February 2026, 10.00am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington.

Public Business

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Public Excluded Business

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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 19 February 2026.

Report 25.532

Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 11 December 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 10.00am.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Tupou (until 11.21am and from 11.27am)
Councillor Woolf (until 11.34am)

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Tupou

That Council accepts the apology for early departure from Councillor Woolf.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting for the 2025-2028 triennium on 30 October 2025, and as reconvened on 27 November 2025 - Report 25.499

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Woolf

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting for the 2025-2028 triennium on 30 October 2025, and as reconvened on 27 November 2025 - Report 25.499

The motion was **carried**.

The Council Chair accorded priority to agenda item 8. Resource Management Reform submission process - Report 25.520

5 Resource Management Reform submission process – Report 25.520

Fathima Iftikar, Director, Strategy, Policy and Regulation; Matt Hickman, Principal Advisor, Strategy, Policy and Regulation; and Carl Chenery, Principal Advisor, Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, spoke to the report. A presentation was tabled.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Duthie

That the Council:

- 1 Agrees to make a submission to the Resource Management Reform select committee process.
- 2 Agrees the basis of the submission are the principles set out in paragraph 15.
- 3 Agrees to a councillor working group comprising Councillors Duthie, Elder, Free, Johnstone, Makarini, Rhodes, Staples and Woolf.
- 4 Notes that the proposed reform work risks the continued diminishment of Treaty settlement obligations; while not all of our partnerships are established through settlement legislation, it will impact iwi environmental governance and Māori decision-making.
- 5 Notes that there will be a separate process for responding to the Government's Simplifying Local Government draft proposal and any exposure drafts of new National Direction

The motion was **carried**.

6 Terms of Reference for committees and advisory bodies (including delegations to committees) for the 2025-2028 triennium – Report 25.492

Councillor Ponter spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That the Council:

- 1 Approves changing the name of the Waiōhine Flood Management Group to the Waiōhine Advisory Group.
- 2 Adopts the proposed Terms of Reference for Committees and Advisory Bodies (including Delegations to Committees) for the 2025—28 triennium (Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

7 Adoption of the 2026 meeting schedule – Report 25.495

Moved: Cr Woolf / Cr Saw

That the Council:

- 1 Adopts the meeting schedule for Council and its committees for the 2026 calendar year, as outlined in Attachment 1.
- 2 Notes the 2026 meeting schedule for the joint committees of which Council is a member (Attachment 2).
- 3 Authorises the Head of Governance and Democracy to circulate the adopted meeting schedule to key stakeholders and to modify the meeting schedule as and when required.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Tiaki Wai Metrowater Limited – Approval of establishment arrangements – Report 25.511

Amanda Cox, Programme Director – Local Water Done Well, spoke to the report. Amanda Cox advised that since the report was written the name of the water company has been changed; the company's name is now Tiaki Wai Limited.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Rhodes

That the Council:

- 1 Approves the Enduring Constitution for Tiaki Wai Limited (Tiaki Wai) (Attachment 1).
- 2 Approves the Tiaki Wai Limited Partners Agreement (Attachment 2).
- 3 Authorises the Council Chair to:
 - a Agree jointly (with the other Shareholder Councils, being Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, and Wellington City Council) to any minor amendments to the Tiaki Wai

- Limited Partners Agreement (Partners Agreement) prior to its execution; and
- b Execute, on Council's behalf, the Partners Agreement.
- 4 Establishes the Tiaki Wai Limited Partners Committee (Partners Committee) as a joint committee under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 on the terms set out in the Partners Agreement and with effect from the date it is signed by all the Shareholder Councils.
 - 5 Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Partners Committee as stated in Schedule 3 to the Partners Agreement (Attachment 2).
 - 6 Appoints to the Partners Committee:
 - a Councillor Ros Connelly as Council's Representative; and
 - b Councillor Simon Woolf as Council's Alternate.
 - 7 Delegates to the Council's Representative on the Partners Committee the power to confirm the Representatives and Alternates, and any replacements, nominated by the Mana Whenua Partners to the Partners Committee (under section 6.3 of the Partners Agreement).
 - 8 Notes that the:
 - a Advisory Oversight Group appointed the interim directors of the MetroWater Establishment Board on 26 August 2025;
 - b Chief Executive, acting under Council's delegated authority (Delegation to Chief Executive - Local Water Done Well Delivery Model - Report 25.458), approved jointly with the chief executives of the other Shareholder Councils (and following consultation with Councillor Connelly and engagement with Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners), the draft principles and interim Statement of Expectations for Tiaki Wai;
 - c Draft principles and interim Statement of Expectations for Tiaki Wai were forwarded to the MetroWater Establishment Board for feedback, and then to Shareholder Councils for final comments; and
 - d The further revised draft SOE, intended for approval by the Partners Committee on 18 December 2025, is attached for Council's reference (Attachment 3).
 - 9 Ratifies, as required under Council's delegation, the Chief Executive's approval as noted in recommendation 8b.

The motion was taken in parts: Parts 1, 2, 4 and 5 were put together and were **carried**. Parts 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were put together and were **carried**.

Councillors Elder and Free requested that their votes against Parts 1, 2, 4 and 5 be recorded.

Councillor Tupou left the meeting at 11.21am during questions on the above item and returned at 11.27am during questions on the above item.

Councillor Woolf left the meeting at 11.34am during debate on the above item and did not return.

The meeting adjourned at 11.55am and resumed at 12.06pm.

9 Statement of Expectations for Council Controlled Organisations 2026/27 – Report 25.518

Jan de Bruin, Senior Advisor Company Portfolio and Economic Development, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr James

That the Council:

- 1 Approves the key themes for the Statements of Expectations, for the following Council Controlled Organisations:
 - a WRC Holdings Limited
 - b Wellington Regional Stadium Trust
 - c Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency
- 2 Delegates to the Council Chair authority to sign off the final Statements of Expectation for delivery to each Council Organisation.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Greater Wellington’s Quarter One Summary Report 2025-26 – Report 25.522

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Elder

That the Council:

- 1 Accepts Greater Wellington’s 2025/26 Quarter One Performance Summary Report as at 30 September 2025 (Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

11 Finance report update – October 2025 – Report 25.519 [For Information]

Alison Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, and Darryl Joyce, Manager Accounting Services, spoke to the report.

Resolution to exclude the public

12 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.529

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Ponter

That the Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Statutory performance review of the Chief Executive – Report RPE25.513

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific ground/s under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Statutory performance review of the Chief Executive – Report RPE25.513	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>This report contains information relating to the Chief Executive’s statutory performance review. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive’s privacy.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).</p>

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 12.49am.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 19 February 2026.

The matters referred to in these minutes were considered by Council in Restricted Public Excluded business. These minutes do not require confidentiality and may be considered in the public part of the meeting.

Report RPE25.535

Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 11 December 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 12.49pm

Members Present

Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Staples
Councillor Tupou

Restricted Public Excluded Business

1 Statutory performance review of the Chief Executive – Report RPE25.513

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Rhodes

That Council approves the timing and proposed approach for the statutory performance review of the Chief Executive.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The Restricted Public Excluded part of the meeting closed at 1.01pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 19 February 2026.

Report 26.62

Public minutes of the Council meeting on 12 February 2026

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 1.02pm.

Members Present

Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Saw
Councillor Tupou
Councillor Woolf

Cr Staples, Deputy Chair, presided at the meeting.

Karakia timatanga

The Deputy Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Saw

That the Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Ponter.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

On the invitation of the Deputy Chair, Cr Tupou acknowledged the death of John Terris QSO, and spoke to Mr Terris' contribution as a Member of Parliament, Lower Hutt City Councillor and Mayor of Lower Hutt.

4 Resource Management Reform Submission – Report 26.29

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation; Matt Hickman, Principal Advisor Strategy, Policy and Regulation; Richard Shield, Project Lead Policy; and Carl Chenery, Principal Advisor Tiriti, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr James

That the Council:

- 1 Notes that the Environment Select Committee has called for submissions on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill.
- 2 Notes that this proposed reform represents the largest change to resource management in a generation.
- 3 Notes that this reform is connected to many other pieces of reform impacting local government and regional councils, including the Simplifying Local Government draft proposal.
- 4 Agrees to the substantive content of the draft submission as set out in Attachment 1.
- 5 Authorises the Council Deputy Chair and Chair of the Environment and Climate Committee to make minor editorial changes to the submission prior to the lodging with Select Committee.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date:

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.54



For Decision

GREATER WELLINGTON'S SUBMISSION ON THE SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise Council on the proposed submission on the Government's Simplifying Local Government Proposal.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Approves** its submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal (Attachment 1).
- 2 **Delegates** to the Council Chair authority to approve minor editorial changes for the purpose of finalising the submission.

Te horopaki

Context

2. In November 2025 the Government announced the Simplifying Local Government draft proposal¹ (the Proposal). At a high-level, the Proposal recommends:
 - a Removal of regional councillors
 - b Establishment of Combined Territories Boards (CTBs), formed of Mayors from across a region, to:
 - i pick up all regional councillor roles including governance of all regional council functions
 - ii develop a regional reorganisation plan (RRP)
 - iii be the decision-making body for the new spatial plan and natural environment chapters (RM reform), with ministerial right to appoint one member to the CTB.

¹ [https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Local-Government-2025/\\$file/Simplifying-Local-Government-a-draft-proposal-27-November-2025.pdf](https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Local-Government-2025/$file/Simplifying-Local-Government-a-draft-proposal-27-November-2025.pdf)

- c Before RRP's are required, the Government will review the functions of regional councils to see if any should be reallocated to another agency or delivery model (e.g. where national consistency is needed) or are no longer necessary. The results of this review will guide future decisions and help CTBs prepare their RRP's.
3. In early December 2025 the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives' Forum (which include Greater Wellington's Chair and Chief Executive respectively), met and discussed the Proposal. A media release was issued by the Mayoral Forum on 11 December 2025 which acknowledged that local government needs review and that as a region the Mayors and Chair have agreed to work together, and with mana whenua and community, to advance options for the future structure of local government in the Wellington Region.
4. A separate report is for consideration by Council at this meeting to adopt the 2025-28 Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement and consider establishing and contributing to a Regional Joint Working Group to develop options for future governance arrangements for the region (Report 26.43).
5. On 11 December 2025 Councillors discussed the Proposal in a workshop and provided their views to assist the drafting of a submission. The key positions for the submission are outlined in the Analysis section below (paragraph 11).
6. A draft submission was prepared by officers, ensuring connection and consistency across the other submissions being prepared at the same time to respond to the Emergency Management Bill, Rates Capping Proposal, and Natural Environment and Planning Bills (replacing the Resource Management Act).
7. Councillors reviewed the draft submission at their workshop on 3 February 2026, providing feedback which has been incorporated into the final draft submission presented in this report for approval ([Attachment 1](#)).
8. The submissions are being received by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) who have indicated that they will be using AI analysis tools to process all submissions. As such, Greater Wellington's submission has been prepared using DIA's Question and Answer format and our submission has been drafted to be 'AI Friendly'² for maximum impact.
9. Submissions are due to the Department of Internal Affairs by 20 February 2026.
10. It is understood that a final proposal should be confirmed by March 2026 with a Bill expected to be drafted sometime before the Parliamentary elections later this year and implemented in 2027.

² What does 'AI Friendly' mean? State positions clearly in headings; use bulleted lists; use consistent language and phrasing, repetition lands well; summarise arguments with an "in conclusion" section.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

11. Greater Wellington's submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal ([Attachment 1](#)), takes the following positions:
 - a Local Government requires reform
 - i We agree there is a need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local government system. The current local government system is complex, fragmented, and under increasing financial pressure.
 - b We do not support Stage One – Combined Territories Boards (CTBs)
 - i Regional Councillors have been democratically elected to govern functions that are delivered at a regional scale, such as public transport, flood protection, biosecurity, environment management, maritime safety, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management, and climate adaptation planning. These functions are complex in nature, different to those of Territorial Authorities, and require specialist understanding and a regional perspective.
 - ii Introducing CTBs would create material risk, including: loss of democratic legitimacy; loss of institutional knowledge; and operational risk.
 - c We therefore do not support CTBs as a decision-making body for a region-wide spatial plan chapter and natural environment plan chapter under the proposed Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill
 - i As per our feedback on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill, we recommend that the new resource management legislation: Outlines the minimum requirements for memberships on Spatial Plan Committees to include balanced representation from regional councils, territorial authorities, iwi and hapū, and central government agencies where relevant. This helps ensure that regional priorities, mana whenua representation including what is provided for through binding Treaty settlements, and local needs are appropriately reflected in the strategic direction of growth and environmental planning.
 - d We recommend proceeding directly with Stage Two – regional reorganisation plans
 - i We recommend that local government reorganisation is delivered through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua. Regional councillors must be kept in place until a new permanent governance structure is established through a regional reorganisation plan.

- ii The Wellington region has already begun a process, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation (see Report 26.43 – *Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 and Establishing a Joint Working Group on Regional Amalgamation Options*).
- e Māori rights and interests, Treaty partnerships and Māori representation must be protected and strengthened
 - i The proposal is not Te Tiriti consistent and is expected to limit the ability of our partners to achieve their priorities for their taiao, people and communities and create considerable Treaty and legal risk for the Crown. This will result in costs, complexity and uncertainty for our partners and for local government. We recommend that the proposal, including the process for regional reorganisation plans, is strengthened to align with Tribunal findings and Te Tiriti/the Treaty.
 - ii Future local government arrangements for the region should: be designed in partnership with whānau, hapū, iwi and interested Māori groups; provide for meaningful mana whenua representation within or alongside any new structure/s, and, retain Māori Constituency seats.
- f The Government’s signalled review of regional council functions needs to draw on the experience and expertise of the local government sector and consider the appropriate scale for delivery of services
 - i Regional Councils currently perform important functions for their communities including public transport services, flood protection, biosecurity, environmental management, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management, climate adaptation, maritime navigation and regional parks and recreation facilities. Reviews have demonstrated that the most effective scale for delivery of many of these activities is regional.
 - ii The Government’s upcoming review of the delivery model for these functions needs to consider communities of interest, the need for local variability of outcomes, capability, efficiency and accountability. Assessments must draw on the expertise of regional councils and sector-wide experts to establish system settings that will provide the best outcomes for our communities. Without drawing on this knowledge base, the review risks overlooking critical insights about what works, what doesn’t, and what communities genuinely need.
- g The Government’s wider reform programme needs to be integrated.
 - i The Government’s various legislative reforms need to be designed alongside each other to achieve integration, clarity and improved outcomes for communities. Misalignment across the reform program could lead to significant risks including: Treaty breaches and associated litigation risk; delays to reform implementation and desired outcomes (e.g. the volume of change will impact local government’s ability to implement the reforms); new legislation requiring re-work as a result of

subsequent legislative and system changes (e.g. the resource management reform bills create specific roles and responsibilities for regional councils. These roles will need to be reassigned through local government reorganisation); wider system issues unresolved by reform (e.g. financial impacts of stranded assets, outstanding funding issues within the transport system).

12. Throughout the submission, we have provided regional council-specific examples and context to back-up each of these positions.
13. These positions are also largely in line with what the local councils in our region are covering in their own submissions on this Proposal. It is also consistent with the position being taken by other regional councils across the country.

Crossovers with other pieces of reform

14. The Government's push for greater efficiencies in local government is unfolding against a backdrop of wider national reforms. These include:
 - a the upcoming consolidation of water service delivery into new regional entities from 1 July 2026
 - b the Emergency Management Bill (No.2) which is being reviewed by the Governance and Administration Select Committee at present (an officer-level technical submission was made on 3 February 2026)
 - c the Resource Management Act reforms – proposed Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill being reviewed by the Environment Select Committee at present (Greater Wellington's submission was endorsed by Council at their meeting on 12 February 2026 – Report 26.29 – and submitted on 13 February 2026).
15. The Resource Management Act reforms introduce significantly greater prescription and mandates much higher levels of consistency in consenting and planning processes across neighbouring councils.
16. Alongside the proposed introduction of rates-capping requirements (Council submitted to DIA on this proposal on 4 February 2026), these reforms collectively signal a clear direction from central government: reduce duplication, streamline decision-making, and ensure councils operate within tighter financial, regulatory, and service-delivery parameters.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

17. There are no financial implications associated with the Council making a submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

18. As detailed above, Greater Wellington's submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal notes 'Māori rights and interests, Treaty partnerships and Māori representation must be protected and strengthened' as one of our key positions.
19. Our draft submission has been shared with our mana whenua partners.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

20. There is no impact on Council's Climate Emergency Response programme associated with the Council making a submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

21. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002, as described in the Context section of this report. We also considered the decision-making requirements, as appropriate, of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga

Significance

22. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the decision, considering Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that this decision is of low significance, as the matter for decision is administrative in nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

23. Council has not undertaken engagement with the public with regards to the Submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal.
24. Council has engaged with other councils in the region through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, who have shaped up consistent messaging across all council's submissions on this Proposal.
25. The draft submission was shared with our mana whenua partners.
26. Our draft submission was also shared with the local councils in our region and with regional councils across New Zealand.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

27. A media release has been prepared for when the submission is lodged.
28. The submission will be finalised and lodged with DIA on 20 February 2026.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Greater Wellington submission on Simplifying Local Government Proposal

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance
Approvers	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy Nigel Corry – Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Council has responsibility to approve submissions to external organisations on matters relating to Greater Wellington's statutory roles and responsibilities.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The Proposal that this submission is responding to relates to reorganising local government, alongside other Government reform proposal currently under consideration, there is potential for direct impact on how the 2027-37 Long Term Plan is prepared.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Submission was prepared with input from across all areas of the organisation and was reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no risks associated with Council adopting this submission.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.54

**Attachment 1 - FINAL Submission on the 'Simplification of
Local Government' proposal**

DIA question	GW response				
BACKGROUND					
1. Do you agree there is a need to simplify local government?	Strongly agree	Agree ✓	Neither agree not disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
2. What do you think of the proposed approach overall?	<p>Local Government requires reform</p> <p>We, and all the councils within the Greater Wellington region, agree there is a need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local government system. The current local government system is complex, fragmented, and under increasing pressure from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the significant costs and complexity of adapting to climate change, • the costs of managing growth including core infrastructure, • emergency responses and recovery needs, • increasing regulatory compliance costs, • funding constraints and a lack of funding sources, and • workforce shortages. <p>We support the intent of this proposal to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and be responsive to local needs. Multiple reviews of governance and delivery structures in the Wellington region¹²³ have identified that improvements are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarify roles across local, regional and national levels, • strengthen regional coordination, • improve sustainability of funding, and • strengthen consistency with Treaty of Waitangi obligations including Māori representation 				

¹ PriceWaterhouseCooper (2010) Wellington Region Council Governance Review

² Working Party on Local Government Reform (2013) [Realising the potential of the Wellington region](#)

³ Local Government Commission (2014) [Draft Proposal for Reorganisation of Local Government in Wellington](#)


	<p>We do not support Stage One Combined Territories Boards (CTBs)</p> <p>Regional councillors are elected with a clear democratic mandate to govern regional functions such as public transport services, flood protection, biosecurity, environmental management, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management and climate adaptation. These functions are complex in nature, different to those of Territorial Authorities and require continuity, specialist understanding, and long-term accountability.</p> <p>Introducing a temporary CTB would create material risk, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of democratic legitimacy, trust and institutional knowledge • inconsistency with Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi including impacts on settlements • high transition costs, workforce and governance capacity pressures, and operational risk <p>We therefore do not support the use of CTBs as a decision-making body for a region-wide spatial plan chapter and natural environment plan chapter under the resource management reforms.</p> <p>As per our feedback on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill, we recommend that the new resource management legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the minimum requirements for memberships on Spatial Plan Committees to include balanced representation from regional councils, territorial authorities, iwi and hapū, and central government agencies where relevant. This helps ensure that regional priorities, mana whenua representation including what is provided for through binding Treaty settlements, and local needs are appropriately reflected in the strategic direction of growth and environmental planning. • Specifically allows for alternative structures agreed with mana whenua to fulfil the Spatial Planning Committee Role in order to uphold the equivalent effect of settlements until such time as the Crown renegotiates the redress with willing partners. These may include but are not limited to leveraging existing partnerships such as Te Ūpoko Taiao or Urban Growth Partnerships (for example the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee). <p>We recommend proceeding directly with the Stage Two regional re-organisation plans</p> <p>We recommend that local government reorganisation is delivered through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically</p>
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	<p>elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua. Regional councillors must be kept in place until a new permanent governance structure is established through a regional reorganisation plan.</p> <p>The Wellington region is unified, organised and ready to develop a regional plan more efficiently and effectively than through a CTB model. We are well positioned to design a reorganisation plan that is enduring, integrates with other national reforms underway, and supports effective service delivery. This work is already progressing, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, and in partnership with mana whenua, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation.</p> <p>We support the use of criteria to assess reorganisation plans if they are strengthened</p> <p>We recommend the Government’s proposed assessment criteria are strengthened through the inclusion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upholding Te Tiriti including but not limited to Treaty settlements and partnership obligations, • appropriate scale and function fit, • efficiency and effectiveness, • democratic accountability, • evidence based assessment, including of transition costs & operational continuity, • alignment with existing local government processes, • alignment with wider reforms, and • workforce capability and capacity <p>Māori rights and interests, Treaty partnerships and Māori representation must be protected and strengthened</p> <p>The proposal is not Te Tiriti consistent and is expected to limit the ability of our partners to achieve their priorities for their taiao, people and communities and create considerable Treaty and legal risk for the Crown. This will result in costs, complexity and uncertainty for our partners and for local government. We recommend that the proposal, including the process for regional reorganisation plans, is strengthened to align with Tribunal findings and Te Tiriti/the Treaty. The proposal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be designed in partnership with whānau, hapū, iwi and interested Māori groups, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ protect and strengthen Māori representation and Treaty based arrangements
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ensure that the equivalent effect of settlement redress is fully upheld • retain Māori constituency seats <p>The Government’s signalled review of regional council functions needs to draw on the experience and expertise of the local government sector and consider the appropriate scale for delivery of services</p> <p>Regional Councils currently perform important functions for their communities including public transport services, flood protection, biosecurity, environmental management, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management, climate adaptation, maritime navigation and regional parks and recreation facilities. Reviews have demonstrated that the most effective scale for delivery of many of these activities is regional.</p> <p>The Government’s upcoming review of the delivery model for these functions needs to consider communities of interest, the need for local variability of outcomes, capability, efficiency and accountability⁴. Assessments must draw on the expertise of regional councils and sector-wide experts to establish system settings that will provide the best outcomes for our communities. Without drawing on this knowledge base, the review risks overlooking critical insights about what works, what doesn’t, and what communities genuinely need.</p> <p>The Government’s wider reform program needs to be integrated</p> <p>The Government’s various legislative reforms need to be designed alongside each other to achieve integration, clarity and improved outcomes for communities. Misalignment across the reform program could lead to significant risks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty breaches and associated litigation risk (as detailed in question 11) • delays to reform implementation and desired outcomes (e.g. the volume of change will impact local government’s ability to implement the reforms). • new legislation requiring re-work as a result of subsequent legislative and system changes (e.g. the resource management reform bills create specific roles and responsibilities for regional councils. These roles will need to be reassigned through local government reorganisation) • wider system issues unresolved by reform (e.g. financial impacts of stranded assets, outstanding funding issues within the transport system).
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⁴ Castalia (2025) [Functions of Regional and Unitary Authorities in New Zealand. Report to Te Uru Kahika](#)

SIMPLIFYING REGIONAL GOVERNANCE					
3. Do you agree with replacing regional councillors with a CTB?	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree not disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree 
4. What do you like or dislike about the proposal to replace regional councillors with a CTB?	<p>We do not support replacing regional councillors with a Combined Territories Board (CTB).</p> <p>Regional councillors are elected with a clear democratic mandate to govern regional functions such as public transport, flood protection, biosecurity, environmental management, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management and climate adaptation. These functions are complex in nature, different to those of Territorial Authorities and require continuity, specialist understanding, and long-term accountability.</p> <p>Introducing a temporary CTB would create material risk, including:</p> <p>1. Loss of democratic legitimacy, trust, and institutional knowledge</p> <p>The proposed reform timeline is not aligned with democratic cycles. The Councilors are elected for three-year terms and replacing them mid-term with unelected CTB members undermines public trust and democratic accountability. The Productivity Commission’s inquiry into local government funding and financing highlighted the importance of predictable, transparent decision-making frameworks and warned against institutional churn that erodes public trust. Regional governance should be stable, enduring, and democratically grounded. Replacement with a short-term transitional body will undermine these outcomes.</p> <p>A lot of detail would need to be worked through to ensure a regional perspective is maintained across the various bodies that regional council has involvement in and consideration given to how the regional council voice is able to be taken account of in the decision-making process. For example, established statutory committee arrangements (i.e. the Regional Transport Committee and the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group), council companies (e.g. WRC Holdings Limited) and other bodies (e.g. the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust).</p> <p>Mayors on CTBs face conflicts of interest because their declaration on assuming office requires them to prioritise their own districts, not regional outcomes. Mayors participating in a CTB would need to make a separate declaration that they are acting in the interests of the region and submit separate disclosures of interest.</p>				

	<p>2. Inconsistency with Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi including impacts on settlements</p> <p>As a regional council, we value our 30+ year partnerships with mana whenua and we also have a range of important Treaty settlement commitments. CTBs and the proposed approach to the regional reorganisation plans risk sidelining or destabilising these commitments and the partnership arrangements that were designed to be durable and enduring. CTBs could also undermine binding Treaty settlements in our region, for example, by assuming responsibility for spatial planning and natural environment decisions in a forum without Māori representation, whereas Te Ūpoko Taiao which was made permanent through the Kahungunu ki Wairarapa settlement provides for 50/50 Māori–Crown representation on planning matters.</p> <p>Removing Māori constituency councillors risks undermining Māori political representation and may breach Treaty principles, as highlighted by the December 2025 Wai 1040 findings relating to local government.</p> <p>3. High transition costs, workforce and governance capacity pressures, and operational risk</p> <p>Temporary governance bodies create significant transition costs which are often underestimated. Past reforms, such as Auckland amalgamation in 2010, show that transitions require duplicated induction and training, and often fail to deliver promised efficiencies.</p> <p>Mayors already have a very full workload and additional governance workload for regional council issues will be impractical and unworkable. There simply isn't enough capacity for mayors to govern all regional work programmes.</p> <p>The local government sector already faces shortages in engineering, planning, environmental science and transport. Supporting a CTB while also responding to multiple reforms and maintaining core services would stretch capacity beyond safe operational limits.</p> <p>Emergency management reviews, including those following the Canterbury and Kaikōura earthquakes and Cyclone Gabrielle, consistently emphasise the need for stable regional leadership. Introducing CTBs would divert attention from essential service delivery at a time when regional resilience and preparedness are increasingly critical.</p> <p>We recommend that local government reorganisation is delivered through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua, with regional councillors remaining in place until a new permanent governance structure is established. The Wellington region is</p>
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	<p>unified, organised and ready to develop a regional plan more efficiently and effectively than through a CTB model. We are well positioned to design a reorganisation plan that is enduring, integrates with other national reforms underway, and supports effective service delivery. This work is already progressing, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, and in partnership with mana whenua, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation.</p> <p>In conclusion, we do not support the introduction of a Combined Territories Board (the CTB). We recommend moving straight to stage two, with regional councillors continuing their existing role and functions and with a Tiriti consistent approach</p> <p>We have not answered question five because we do not support the establishment of CTBs.</p>				
<p>5. What level of Crown participation in regional decision-making do you prefer?</p>	<p>None – only mayors on the CTB</p>	<p>Crown Commissioner on CTB (non-voting)</p>	<p>Crown Commissioner on CTB (with veto power)</p>	<p>Crown Commissioner on CTB (with majority vote)</p>	<p>Crown Commissioners instead of a CTB</p>
ALLOCATING VOTING POWER					
<p>6. Do you agree that mayors on the CTB should have a proportional vote adjusted for effective representation?</p>	<p>Strongly agree</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Neither agree not disagree</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">Disagree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p>Strongly disagree</p>
<p>7. What do you like or dislike about the voting proposal for the CTB?</p>	<p>As we do not support CTBs, we do not support their use as a decision-making body for a region-wide spatial plan chapter and natural environment plan chapter under the resource management reforms. As per our feedback on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill, we recommend that the new resource management legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the minimum requirements for memberships on Spatial Plan Committees to include balanced representation from regional councils, territorial authorities, iwi and hapū, and central government agencies where relevant. This helps ensure that regional priorities, mana whenua representation including what is provided for through binding Treaty settlements, and local needs, are appropriately reflected in the strategic direction of growth and environmental planning. • Specifically allows for alternative structures agreed with mana whenua to fulfil the Spatial Planning Committee Role in order to uphold the equivalent effect of settlements until such time as the Crown renegotiates the redress with willing partners. These may include but are not limited to leveraging existing 				

	<p>partnerships such as Te Ūpoko Taiao or Urban Growth Partnerships (for example the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee).</p> <p>Proportional voting raises the following issues:</p> <p>1. Weakens regional perspective</p> <p>CTB members should be statutorily required to act in the interests of the region as a whole in exercising their decision-making responsibilities; weighted voting would work against that regional perspective.</p> <p>2. It creates inequity between territorial authorities</p> <p>Population based weighting risks marginalising smaller councils, even when they share equally in regional issues such as flood protection, public transport, climate adaptation and emergency management.</p> <p>3. It is inconsistent with Te Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi obligations</p> <p>Weighted mayoral voting does not reflect the role of mana whenua as Treaty partners. In addition, removal of the Māori constituency seats constitutes a potential Treaty breach.</p> <p>The voting proposal does not include Māori representation, even though CTBs would be making decisions in areas where settlement deeds and acts of Parliament have confirmed that Māori should have 50/50 representation on key decision-making bodies for planning matters. We also note that inserting spatial plans ‘over the top’ of regional planning instruments will undermine the intent of those arrangements (by reducing the discretion of the relevant decisions makers). Further, even if Māori representation is provided for, the proposed RMA replacement legislation constrains our ability to provide equivalency in the new system, including because it no longer prioritises te Tiriti.</p> <p>We support the principles of democratic legitimacy, upholding the honour of the Crown in giving effect to Te Tiriti/the Treaty, effective representation, and effective governance, and recommend this is achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving directly to Stage Two by developing regional reorganisation plans, while keeping regional councilors in place until the new permanent governance structure is established • co-design with mana whenua – whānau, hapū, iwi and interested Māori groups • durable structures • transparent accountability <p>In conclusion, we do not support the proposed CTB voting model. Weighted mayoral voting risks weakening the regional perspective, creating inequity between territorial authorities, and undermining Te Tiriti/Treaty obligations</p>
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	<p>including settlements. We recommend that local government reorganisation is delivered through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua, with regional councillors remaining in place until a new permanent governance structure is established. The Wellington region is unified, organised and ready to develop a regional plan more efficiently and effectively than through a CTB model. We are well positioned to design a reorganisation plan that is enduring, integrates with other national reforms underway, and supports effective service delivery. This work is already progressing, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, and in partnership with mana whenua, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation.</p>
<p>CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES</p>	
<p>8. What do you think about the ways that communities crossing regional boundaries could be represented?</p>	<p>We agree that communities do not always align neatly with regional and other administrative boundaries, and that representation arrangements must reflect how people live, travel, work and access services. However, the proposal’s current approach, including through CTBs, does not provide a durable or effective way to represent cross boundary communities.</p> <p>1. CTBs are not the right mechanism for cross boundary representation</p> <p>CTBs are temporary, transitional bodies with unclear mandates and short timeframes. They are not well suited to representing communities whose interests span multiple regions because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their membership is not directly elected, • their accountability is unclear, • they would exist only briefly before being replaced, and • communities would need to re-establish relationships twice. <p>This is inconsistent with the widely recognised need for long term, stable representation for cross boundary communities.</p> <p>2. Regional councils already manage many cross boundary issues effectively</p> <p>Evidence from Castalia (2025) shows that many regional functions, such as public transport, flood protection, biosecurity, environmental science and emergency management, inherently operate across territorial boundaries. Regional councils already collaborate extensively with neighbouring regions, territorial authorities, and to varying extents hapū and iwi Māori, to manage these shared issues. Regional councils</p>

work collaboratively together through Te Uru Kahika and share best practice approaches. Strengthening these existing mechanisms is more effective than creating temporary new governance bodies without relevant expertise.

3. A well designed Stage Two model can better support cross boundary communities

We consider that the enduring Stage Two governance model (as a result of regional reorganisation plans), not CTBs, is the appropriate place to address cross boundary representation. Flexible, durable and proven approaches include:

- joint committees or shared governance arrangements for specific cross boundary issues,
- shared services or CCOs (e.g., for public transport or hazard management),
- strengthened regional collaboration frameworks,
- formalised partnerships with mana whenua whose rohe span multiple regions.

4. Representation must align with how communities experience services

Communities crossing regional boundaries often share:

- transport networks,
- river catchments and hazard zones,
- economic and labour markets,
- hapū and iwi Māori relationships,
- environmental systems,
- emergency response and recovery outcomes, and
- built infrastructure.

Many cross boundary communities are also linked through iwi rohe and Treaty settlement arrangements that guarantee Māori representation in planning and environmental governance. CTBs do not reflect these arrangements and would weaken Māori decision making rights in cross boundary decision-making.

These are long term, structural realities. Representation arrangements must therefore be reflected in and/or alongside long term governance structures – not transitional bodies.

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	<p>In conclusion, the proposal does not provide a durable or effective approach to representing communities on issues that cross regional boundaries. We recommend that local government reorganisation be delivered through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua, with regional councillors remaining in place until a new permanent governance structure is established. Regional re-organisation plans should consider proven mechanisms such as joint committees, shared services, CCOs and strengthened regional collaboration frameworks.</p> <p>The Wellington region is unified, organised and ready to develop a regional plan more efficiently and effectively than through a CTB model. We are well positioned to design a reorganisation plan that is enduring, integrates with other national reforms underway, and supports effective service delivery. This work is already progressing, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, and in partnership with mana whenua, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation.</p>				
IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT					
<p>9. Do you support the proposal to require CTBs to develop regional reorganisation plans?</p>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree not disagree	Disagree	<p>Strongly disagree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>
<p>10. What do you think about the criteria proposed for assessing regional reorganisation plans?</p>	<p>We do not support the proposal to require CTBs to develop regional reorganisation plans because we do not support the establishment of CTBs. We recommend that local government reorganisation is achieved through a single, well-designed Stage Two model. This would involve moving directly to the development of regional reorganisation plans, led by democratically elected territorial and regional authority members working in partnership with mana whenua. Regional councillors must be kept in place until a new permanent governance structure is established through a regional reorganisation plan.</p> <p>The Wellington region is unified, organised and ready to develop a regional plan more efficiently and effectively than through a CTB model. We are well positioned to design a reorganisation plan that is enduring, integrates with other national reforms underway, and supports effective service delivery. This work is already progressing, led through the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum, and in partnership with mana whenua, to develop and assess options for regional reorganisation.</p>				

	<p>Our support for the criteria proposed for assessing regional reorganisation plans is conditional on them being strengthened by including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholding Te Tiriti including but not limited to Treaty settlements and partnership obligations Reorganisation plans must explicitly protect and strengthen Tiriti/Treaty protections including Māori representation and decision-making rights, upholding Treaty settlements and existing partnership arrangements. Temporary bodies like CTBs, along with the proposed approach to regional reorganisations plans which only require consultation with Māori are not Tiriti consistent and raise legal and reputational risks for the Crown • Appropriate scale and function fit consistent with Castalia’s findings that many critical services (flood protection, public transport, biosecurity, environmental science) are most effective when delivered regionally. • Efficiency and effectiveness including the ability to adopt shared services or CCOs where appropriate. • Democratic accountability Reorganisaition must maintain clear mandates, transparent decision making and accountability. • Evidence based assessment, including of transition costs & operational continuity Past local government reforms show transition costs are often underestimated. Criteria should require realistic, independently tested costings. Criteria should require demonstration that essential services, especially flood protection, emergency management, public transport and climate adaptation, will not be disrupted. This aligns with lessons from emergency management reviews. • Alignment with existing local government processes Reorganisation plans must align with electoral cycles to strengthen democratic legitimacy and trust. Consideration must be given to Long Term Plan requirements. Introducing CTBs and then replacing them midcycle would require substantial rework of statutory plans, potentially twice. This would generate avoidable cost, confuse communities, and reduce transparency and investment certainty. • Alignment with wider reforms Reorganisation plans must align with other Government reform programmes and support their successful delivery, including
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Management reform • Local Water Done Well reform • Local Government Act amendments (including rates capping) • Civil Defence Emergency Management Act reforms • Proposed transport funding reforms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce capability and capacity <p>Plans must show how specialist skills will be retained and strengthened. Workforce shortages are a major constraint across the sector.</p> <p>In conclusion, we support the use of criteria to assess reorganisation plans subject to the following inclusions: Upholding Te Tiriti including but not limited to Treaty settlements and partnership obligations, Regional scale and function fit, Efficiency and effectiveness, democratic accountability, evidence based assessment of transition costs & operational continuity, alignment with statutory planning cycles, alignment with wider reforms, and workforce capability and capacity.</p>
TREATY OF WAITANGI AND MĀORI REPRESENTATION	
<p>11. What do you think about how the proposal provides for iwi/Māori interests and Treaty arrangements?</p>	<p>The proposal does not adequately provide for iwi/Māori interests and Treaty arrangements. Māori rights and interests, Treaty partnerships and Māori representation must be protected and strengthened in the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal is not Tiriti consistent. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removes democratically elected Māori constituency seats. • narrows consideration of a broader set of Māori rights and interests to upholding settlements. For example, it does not sufficiently provide for Māori participation in the design of the new local government system, or Māori representation in the new system. • requires CTBs to implement Treaty settlement redress agreed between the Crown and Māori in a new planning system that impacts on equivalency of that redress; and, <p>Read in conjunction with clause 10 of the proposed Planning Bill and clause 10 of the Natural Environment Bill, delegates to CTBs the responsibility to interpret the intent of Treaty settlement redress agreed between the Crown and Māori, assess its equivalency in the new planning system and then possibly substitute alternatives in regional reorganisation plans (without any requirement for agreement beyond consultation) until such time as the Crown concludes negotiations with willing PSGEs . The Crown is the party to a settlement not local government, and we question whether the Crown could or should delegate this.</p>

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	<p>Even if the proposals are changed such that equivalent Māori representation is assured, under the proposed RMA reforms cultural considerations are not given the same weight as under the RMA. In addition, there are no clear cultural or environmental bottom lines. This means that CTBs, or Te Ūpoko Taiao will not have the scope and discretion to protect the environment and cultural values to the extent that they currently can. There may be limited value for Māori in being represented on decision-making bodies that cannot legally apply Māori priorities and deliver desired outcomes. This means local government may be required to implement potential Treaty breaches.</p> <p>Taken together, we consider the above factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limit the ability for our partners to achieve their aspirations for their people, • diminish decades of progress developing partnerships to recognise the customary rights of whanau, hapu and iwi • impact on the mātauranga of whānau, hapū and iwi and the skills and time vested to ensure that they can provide the right level of advice and engagement with local government • fail to recognise and incorporate customary lore and the responsibilities of kaitiaki, as expressed through the principle of kaitiakitanga, and • create considerable Treaty and legal risk for the Crown, which will create costs, complexity and uncertainty for our partners and for local government in implementing reforms. <p>The findings and recommendations of the Wai 1040 Paparahi o Te Raki Stage 2 Inquiry issued on 17 December 2025 are instructive. The Tribunal has found that failing to provide for Māori representation in local government in Northland constitutes a breach of the Treaty and these findings have broader relevance. Accordingly, the Tribunal findings confirm that any process to simplify local government should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed in partnership with mana whenua and interested Māori groups • Ensure that the equivalent effect of settlement redress is fully upheld • Protect and strengthen Māori representation and Treaty based arrangements <p>The Paparahi findings build on relevant findings in our region in the Wai 863 Wairarapa ki Tararua Report (Vol 3). The Wairarapa Tribunal found that through the LGA 2002, the Crown delegated its Treaty responsibilities to local government without the corresponding obligations (e.g. to provide for Māori participation in decision-making), in breach of Te Tiriti/the Treaty. The Tribunal recommended the concentration of functions in fewer local authorities to</p>
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	<p>lessen the relationship burden for hapū and iwi, in addition to other recommendations including providing for iwi representation on all authorities and sharing power and delegation in all appropriate circumstances.⁵</p> <p>The reorganisation of local government should recognise Māori rights as broader than ‘upholding settlements’ or a right to be consulted and retain Māori constituency councillors. We recommend that the Crown takes a Tiriti-consistent approach to designing and implementing the Simplifying Local Government proposal which would involve the Crown alongside local government, having conversations with hapū, iwi and interested Māori groups around how they wish to: 1) be involved in the design of any new system and 2) represented within or alongside that new system</p>
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⁵ Wai 863 Wairarapa ki Tararua Tribunal Report, Vol.3, p. 1062.

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.30



For Decision

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES: ANNUAL FARES REVIEW

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise:
 - a Public transport fare levels for financial year 2026/27
 - b The approach to phasing out on-board cash payments
 - c The fare pricing approach for the EMV payment on Snapper devices
 - d The fare pricing approach for rail replacement services (BRT).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that the policy in Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 provides that fare levels will be adjusted annually with inflation, subject to Council decision through the annual fares review and the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.
- 2 **Notes** that the current draft budget intended for the Annual Plan 2026/27 is expected to require a combination of fare revenue increases and cost savings to reduce pressure on rates and debt funding.
- 3 **Notes** that Councillors have indicated that they would consider an increase in fare revenue in the vicinity of \$3 million above the original budget assumption for the FY 2026/27.
- 4 **Notes** that due to an emerging fares shortfall, FY 2026/27 could have up to \$5 million less revenue than originally assumed in the current Annual Plan (i.e. resulting in a net shortfall of \$2 million if fare revenue increases by \$3 million).
- 5 **Notes** that officers will report back to Council with further analysis on the emerging revenue shortfall for FY 2026/27 and mitigation options.
- 6 **Agrees** to increase fares for FY 2026/27 through:
[either]

- a A combination of a general fare increase of 3.1% (current inflation) and reduction in off-peak discount from the current 30% to 20%. (Noting that this option has an estimated revenue impact of \$2.9 million.)

[or]

- b A combination of a general fare increase of 4% and reduction in off-peak discount from the current 30% to 20%. (Noting that this option has an estimated revenue impact of \$3.3 million.)

[or]

- c A combination of a general fare increase of 2% (as current budget assumption) and reduction in off-peak discount from the current 30% to 15%. (Noting that this option has an estimated impact of \$3.2 million.)

[or]

- d applying a combination of general fare increase and reduction of off-peak discount as outlined in [The blue shaded area identifies the options that are estimated to have moderate patronage effects within -1% to 1% variance from the current budget forecast for patronage growth of 2.6%. The estimated values within the red boxes identify the options with modest revenue impact relative to budget.](#)

[e Table 1](#) in paragraph [37](#).

- 7 **Agrees** that the fares increase will come into effect from 1 July 2026.
- 8 **Notes** that on 18 September 2025, Council agreed to introduce the capability for full fare-paying adults to pay fares using contactless bank-issued debit and credit cards ('EMV'¹) through the existing Snapper ticketing hardware from early-2026.
- 9 **Agrees** that the fares applicable for payment when using EMV:
 - a on all bus and rail services (excluding the Airport Express) be the same as the standard adult Snapper fare for the journey, with an additional 1.5% card fee applied to the value of each EMV transaction.
 - b on Airport Express bus services, be the same as the fare payable when using the existing contactless debit and credit card system (which is inclusive of transaction fee).
- 10 **Notes** that on 16 May 2024, Council agreed on an approach to phase out cash on board trains once rail ticket vending machines are fully operational in the region through the National Ticketing Solution, followed by a progressive phase out of cash on board buses on a route-by-route basis.
- 11 **Agrees** to advance the timing for the phase out of cash on-board buses and trains within the next 12 months as a result of implementation of EMV.

¹ EMV = Europay, Mastercard and Visa, the global standard for secure payment transactions made with contactless bank cards.

- 12 **Notes** that until the launch of the National Ticketing Solution in the region, the pricing for rail replacement services remains approximately one zone cheaper than the standard Snapper fares for the train journey, to avoid customers being charged one zone extra for journeys that involve connections between partial rail replacement buses and train services.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

Policy context

2. The Annual Fares Review (AFR) is a means to adjust the contribution of one of the three main sources of public transport funding (fares, rates and national funding). This is to ensure costs are shared in a manner that is equitable and sustainable over the long term.
3. The AFR looks at the expectations of costs and revenue and determines the extent of any fare adjustments required to balance user contribution with public funding.
4. The requirements and assumptions related to the AFR are set out in the policies and plans outlined in the following paragraphs.

Private Share

5. As part of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS), the government signalled an expectation that Public Transport Authorities (PTAs) “actively work towards increasing the public transport private revenue share by 30 June 2027”.
6. The stated aim of this national policy is to “increase private share to support increased levels of public transport expenditure and reduce pressure on ratepayers and taxpayers”. Private share is a measure of cost recovery and represents the proportion of public transport operating expenditure funded from private revenue sources.
7. In giving effect to this policy NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) required Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to adopt interim Public Transport Private Share targets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and an indicative target for 2026/27 by the end of March 2025
8. The Private Share, as defined by NZTA, has a cost and revenue structure which is fundamentally different from how the fares share of funding is defined and measured in the Council’s Revenue and Financing Policy (see below) and used for allocation of funding between rate payers, national funding and users of public transport services in the region.
9. On 10 April 2025, Council agreed with interim targets of 23.9% for financial year (FY) 2024/25 and 25.1% for FY 2025/26, and an indicative target of 25.7% for FY 2026/27. The interim targets are set consistent with the long term and annual plan budgets. (refer Report 25.34 - Interim Public Transport Private Share Targets).

Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035

10. Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui | Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 (RPTP 2025-2035) is structured around Objectives, Policies and Actions
11. One of the stated Objectives in the RPTP 2025-2035 is to “*Balance user contribution with public funding*”.
12. Policy 9 a. of the RPTP 2025-2035, which fits under the Objective set out above, is “*Ensure public transport users make a sustainable and equitable contribution towards funding of the network*”
13. Actions set out in relation to Policy 9 a. relevant to the AFR are as follows:
 - i. *Review fares annually through the Annual or Long-Term planning process to determine adjustments required to balance user contributions with public funding, and to align with Private Share policy requirements*
 - ii. *Amend fare levels annually with inflation, subject to reviews and Council decisions*
 - iii. *Consider the impacts of fare adjustments on patronage, affordability, travel choice, and the overall integrity of the fare structure within a broader policy and operational context*

Revenue and Financing Policy 2024

14. Ko te Kaupapa Here Moni Whiwhi me Ahumoni Revenue and Financing Policy 2024 (Revenue and Financing Policy 2024) states that:

“Approx. 30 percent of total operating revenue from fares and other user charges over the years of the Long-Term Plan. To maintain the fares share of funding, fares will be adjusted annually with inflation within three percent, subject to Council decisions through annual fares and budget review.”
15. This Policy was adopted by Council before the RPTP 2025-2035 (which includes reference to alignment with Private Share policy requirements) and the Government policy on Private Share. As a result, the approach to fares share of funding (as set out in the Revenue and Financing Policy 2024) differ from the approach in the Private Share policy as follows:
 - a Under the Revenue and Financing Policy 2024, Crown funding of SuperGold Card and Community Services Card schemes are accounted for as fare substitutes, which means that they are accounted as ‘fare revenue’.
 - b Under the Government’s Private Share Policy, Crown funding of SuperGold Card and Community Services Card schemes are defined as public funding and hence do not contribute to the total revenue defined as ‘private share’.
16. The Revenue and Financing Policy will be updated as part of its next review to reflect the Private Share policy.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Annual fares review process

17. The Annual Fares Review (AFR) looks at the expectations of fare revenue and costs and determines the extent of any fare adjustments needed to meet the budget requirements for the next year.
18. The review also involves checking whether any aspect of the fare structure or policy needs review and any adjustments to tickets or ticketing operations required to ensure they are fit for purpose and deliver the expected fares policy outcomes.
19. The AFR has been undertaken as part of the annual planning for the financial year 2026/27. The AFR specifically takes into consideration:
 - a The continuous patronage decline (and consequential lower fare revenue),
 - b The budget expectations of operating costs and Council's threshold on rates,
 - c Limited allocation of funding for public transport under the National Land Transport Programme for the 2024-27 triennium; and
 - d The Government's direction for Private Share funding for public transport.

Actual fare revenue and costs in financial year 2024/25

20. The actual public transport operating expenditure in the financial year 2024/25 was approximately 9% higher than the year before.
21. Fare revenue in FY 2024/25 was approximately \$15 million lower than the fare revenue originally budgeted for the year primarily due to the significant decline in rail patronage, to less than 80% of pre-COVID patronage levels.
22. In FY 2024/25, fares and advertising revenue contributed to 23.1% of operating expenditure as defined under the Government Private Share Policy (slightly lower than the target of 23.9% for the financial year).
23. Structural changes to travel behaviour and lower patronage levels after COVID-19, the Government withdrawal of funding for age-based concessions and living cost pressure are understood to be the main drivers for lower-than-expected contribution of fare revenue to the operating expenditure.

Forecast fare revenue and costs for the current financial year 2025/26

24. Following Council decision on 27 February 2025 (Report 25.33 Annual Fares Review), a combination of 2.2% general fare increase and reduction of off-peak discount from 50% to 30% came into effect on 1 July 2025. The fare changes along with cost saving measures were part of the budget review through the annual planning process for FY 2025/26.
25. By the end of December 2025, fare revenue (excluding Government funding of national concession schemes) was approximately \$1.5 million lower than the Annual Plan budget expectation for the current financial year 2025/26.
26. A combination of factors has affected the lower-than-expected fare revenue recovery including persistent and continued decline in rail patronage and an emerging decline in bus patronage. Unlike rail, bus reliability remains high which would indicate that socio-economic changes related to travel behaviour across the region is likely. These are currently being analysed but flexible or hybrid work

arrangements, and continuation of slow economic recovery, unemployment and spending pressure are likely to be contributing.

27. Assuming that the ongoing patronage decline continues at its current pace to the end of the financial year 2025/26, bus patronage is likely to be approximately 2% lower than the previous year; while rail patronage is likely to remain 30% below the pre-pandemic levels and 5% to 6% lower than the previous year.
28. At the current levels, the forecast fare revenue is estimated to be \$3 million lower than the \$89.5 million budgeted for the current full financial year 2025/26.
29. Considering the actual year-to-date revenue shortfall against the budget, the private share of operating expenditure, as defined under the Government Private Share Policy, is likely to be below the 25.1% targeted for the year. NZTA and Greater Wellington officers have noted this shortfall and will look to potentially reset targets for financial year 2026/27

Expectations of fare revenue and costs (2026/27)

30. A 2% fare increase in line with the forecast inflation is included in the current Long Term Plan 2024-34 budget for the financial year 2026/27.
31. With the current budget assumption for fares (2% increase by inflation) and a forecast patronage growth of approximately 2.5% across the network, the baseline fares and advertising revenue in 2026/27 (excluding Crown funding of Community Services Card and SuperGold card concession schemes) is forecast to be in the vicinity of \$94 million. This accounts for approximately 25.9% of the total operating expenditure for public transport budgeted for the year as defined under the Government Private Share Policy.
32. The ongoing decline in patronage combined with unfavourable forecast employment and economic outlook for the year of the plan means that the fare revenue budgeted for in the current Long Term Plan is unlikely to be achievable.
33. With the current budget assumption of 2% fare increase and assuming the patronage decline will continue into FY 2026/27, a further fare revenue deficit of approximately \$5 million is estimated for FY 2026/27 (prior to any additional adjustment Council may choose to make).
34. The budget setting for FY 2026/27 is currently underway and will be confirmed through the Annual Plan process. To address the adverse revenue impact of ongoing patronage decline and maintain the rates increase at an affordable level within the limits of national funding, the draft annual budget for FY 2026/27 includes measures to partially offset the revenue deficit through cost savings.
35. In addition to cost saving options, balancing the budget would require fares to rise over and above the level of 2% inflation assumed in the current Long Term Plan budget for FY 2026/27. Notably, inflation measured by consumer price index (CPI) was 3.1% in the 12 months to the December 2025 quarter.

Fare adjustment options and impacts

36. Possible combinations of general annual fare increase and changes to off-peak discount were presented as options to Councillors at a workshop on 3 February 2026.
37. The estimated annual impacts on patronage and revenue of the options are summarised in [The blue shaded area identifies the options that are estimated to have moderate patronage effects within -1% to 1% variance from the current budget forecast for patronage growth of 2.6%. The estimated values within the red boxes identify the options with modest revenue impact relative to budget.](#)

38. **Table 1** (below).

39. The values in the table are the estimated revenue impact of each combination of changes to fares and off-peak discount relative to the current budget fare revenue with the 2% fare increase as the baseline.
40. The colour shading in the table represents the grouping of the options based on their estimated patronage impact relative to budget forecast as follows:

Green:	Options with patronage impact of greater than +1% of the budget baseline
Blue:	Options with patronage impact of between -1% and +1% of the budget baseline
Amber:	Options with patronage impact of between -1% and -3% of the budget baseline
Red:	Options with patronage impact of less than -3% of the budget baseline

41. The blue shaded area identifies the options that are estimated to have moderate patronage effects within -1% to 1% variance from the current budget forecast for patronage growth of 2.6%. The estimated values within the red boxes identify the options with modest revenue impact relative to budget.

Table 1 Estimated revenue impact of fare change options for 2026-27

Discount Fare change	30% (current)	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%
0%	-\$1.2 m	-\$0.1 m	+\$1.0 m	+\$2.0 m	+\$3.0 m	+\$4.0 m	+\$5.0 m
2% (budget)	+\$0.0 m	+\$1.1 m	+\$2.2 m	+\$3.2 m	+\$4.2 m	+\$5.3 m	+\$6.2 m
3%	+\$0.6 m	+\$1.7 m	+\$2.8 m	+\$3.8 m	+\$4.8 m	+\$5.9 m	+\$6.9 m
4%	+\$1.1 m	+\$2.3 m	+\$3.3 m	+\$4.4 m	+\$5.4 m	+\$6.5 m	+\$7.5 m
5%	+\$1.7 m	+\$2.8 m	+\$3.9 m	+\$5.0 m	+\$6.0 m	+\$7.1 m	+\$8.1 m
6%	+\$2.3 m	+\$3.4 m	+\$4.5 m	+\$5.6 m	+\$6.6 m	+\$7.7 m	+\$8.7 m
8%	+\$3.4 m	+\$4.6 m	+\$5.7 m	+\$6.8 m	+\$7.8 m	+\$8.9 m	+\$9.9 m
10%	+\$4.5 m	+\$5.7 m	+\$6.8 m	+\$7.9 m	+\$9.0 m	+\$10.1 m	+\$11.1 m

Note:

- Ignores the recently identified shortfall of \$5m for FY 26/27
- Growth is relative to the original LTP budget baseline (which was a \$93m baseline fare revenue including Crown funding for CSC)
- Revenue includes the effect of users' response to real (inflation adjusted) fare changes
- The estimates represent the gross revenue impact. Subject to the net cost funding agreement with NZTA, any variation in fare revenue (positive or negative) is currently shared 51% NZTA and 49% Greater Wellington under the current Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) arrangement.

Proposed fare change options

42. The following three options would provide for a modest additional fare revenue with moderate patronage impacts:
- a Option A: 3.1% general fare increases (current inflation) and reducing off-peak discount from the current 30% to 20% from 1 July 2026 – this option provides less certainty as revenue uplift is estimated to be less than the minimum \$3 million required to balance the budget (\$2.9 million).
 - b Option B: 4% general fare increases reducing off-peak discount from the current 30% to 20% from 1 July 2026 – this option is estimated to have a slightly higher revenue uplift (\$3.3 million). However, a 4% general fare increase could potentially aggravate the current declining patronage trends and encourage a mode shift away from car specifically during peak hours.
 - c Option C: 2% general fare increases (as per the current budget assumption) and reducing off-peak discount from the current 30% to 15% from 1 July 2026 – this option is estimated to generate \$3.2 million additional revenue without affecting peak patronage, but with a slightly higher impact on off-peak patronage compared to Options B and C.
43. Council could consider other combinations; the estimated fare revenue impact of other combinations of general fare change and change to off-peak discount are shown in Table 1 (above).
44. Retaining the current fare levels (no fare increase) would require the Council to seek funding from rates to cover the additional cost pressures and an estimated \$1.2 million lower fare revenue.
45. Given that peak commuter journeys remain approximately 20% below the pre-COVID-19 levels, a higher general fare increase could drive peak patronage further down. Whereas a lower general fare increase will ensure that fares would remain competitive with the costs of non-active modes when accounting for inflationary increase to parking and fuel price especially for price sensitive commuters.

Potential impact on fares affordability

46. The general inflation measured by the Consumers Price Index (CPI) was 3.1% in the December 2025 quarter (an increase of 1.1% from the 2% inflation adjustment in the budget); inflation is currently forecast to remain within 2.5% to 3% for the remainder of 2026.
47. A general fare increase within the bounds of the current and forecast inflation levels would provide for maintaining affordability of fares.
48. The tables set out in [Attachment 1](#) to this report show examples of the impact of the Snapper fares for different journey lengths and passenger groups, of the options for fare changes outlined above.

Implementation of fare changes

49. Once approved, changes would be implemented from 1 July 2026 to align with the start of the 2026/27 financial year.

Current initiatives to mitigate effects of declining patronage and revenue

Crown funding of Community Services Card concession:

50. Under the currently agreed mechanism, NZTA reimburses the reduced portion of the fare for each journey on Community Services Card at 50% of average adult fare (referred to as Deemed Base Fare). Deemed Base Fares differ by mode (bus, rail and ferry) and are subject to review under the current agreement.
51. Greater Wellington officers have commenced discussions with NZTA to review the current reimbursement levels
52. The current Deemed Base Fares have remained unchanged since they were agreed in 2023, the review is expected to include a revision of the current Deemed Base Fares to more accurately reflect recent fare increases.

'Play Your Cards Right' campaign

53. Metlink has had a highly targeted campaign underway since early February 2026. The campaign is aimed at encouraging tertiary students and jobseekers to apply for and use Community Services Card to access and benefit from the 50% discount under the Community Connect Concession scheme.
54. While the Community Connect Concession is funded by NZTA, the current Tertiary Students concession and subsequent 25% discount, is not. Hence uptake of the community connect concession in preference to the tertiary concession is expected to increase overall funding once both the fare price and subsidy paid are considered.
55. By building awareness and uptake of the Community Services Card, the core intent of the targeted campaign is to extend access to affordable public transport to those who are most in need and encourage greater use of public transport which are the primary purposes of the Community Connect Concession scheme and the policies in the current Regional Public Transport Plan.
56. The campaign involves advertising in the student media as well as intensive face to face activity on campus during orientation week.
57. As part of the campaign, Metlink has been working with the tertiary education organisations and the Ministry of Social Development to make eligible students and jobseekers aware of their entitlement to the discounted travel on Public Transport that is available through Community Services Card.
58. Metlink is also taking a broader, regional, multi-channel media approach for the jobseekers and general youth cohort.

Extraordinary travel scheme

59. In 2023 Greater Wellington officers made a variety submissions to government and attended select hearings to recommend the removal of Fringe Benefit Tax from public transport. The intention was to enable the development of a business product that employers could use to offer their employees that enabled discounted or free use of public transport.
60. Through a combination of an amendment to the Income Tax Act 2007 and individual product rulings from Inland Revenue, employers can, through signing up with a

product provider, provide employees with the ability to purchase public transport fares and self-powered or low-powered vehicles at a reduced cost.

61. The cost reduction is achieved through enabling employees to salary sacrifice some of their pre-tax earnings to purchase these benefits. This could save employees over 30% as they do not need to pay income tax and ACC on the salary sacrifice. The employer also does not need to pay fringe benefit tax as these benefits are exempt.
62. There is currently one provider with an Inland Revenue product ruling - Extraordinary Pay Limited. Their product is a debit card (physical or digital) which can be locked down so it can only be used to make purchases from certain vendors (e.g. Snapper).
63. For the public transport commuter benefit, employees would, on their request, be signed up for an Extraordinary card through their employer. They would then salary sacrifice an agreed portion of their pre-tax salary each pay period, which would be loaded onto their Extraordinary card. The employee would link the Extraordinary card to their Snapper card (or Motu Move card in the future) and would use it to top up in the same way customers have a debit card linked to their Snapper to do this now. This ensures the salary sacrificed can only be used to pay for public transport.
64. Studies have shown that discounted public transport schemes offered through employers can be highly effective in influencing travel choice. This includes the ability to introduce new employees to the option of public transport prior to the establishment of commuting travel patterns
65. Greater Wellington is looking to proactively market the Extraordinary fare product through its advertising network with the support of advertising partner GO Media. While the product will enable more affordable journeys for its users, it is also expected to increase patronage. A recent study by Auckland Transport (AT) using a similar "Fare Share" product showed that, on average, patronage by existing public transport commuters increased by 30% when they used the scheme. This uplift would be over and above any non-public transport users that may be attracted to the scheme.
66. Extraordinary is already engaged by a number of large New Zealand Companies including Air New Zealand, Spark and Deloitte. Greater Wellington is expected to adopt the product for its own staff use later this year.

Enabling contactless payment through existing Snapper hardware

67. Following the Council decision on 18 September 2025 (refer Report RPE 25.376 National Ticketing Solution Update – Greater Wellington Approach to Project Delays), work has been underway to introduce the capability for full fare-paying adults to pay fares using contactless bank-issued debit and credit cards ('EMV'²) through the existing Snapper ticketing hardware from early-2026.

² EMV = Europay, Mastercard and Visa, the global standard for secure payment transactions made with contactless bank cards.

68. The Early EMV initiative enables contactless payment on Snapper bus and rail validators using debit or credit cards, including those loaded as tokens onto smartphones or watches.
69. Early EMV could support more than half of the Metlink's full adult fare paying customers, who account for 78% of Greater Wellington fare revenue, to continue to make payment through the certainty of always having the correct fare payment method as Snapper equipment is swapped out during the transition to the National Ticketing Solution (NTS).
70. Concessions or integrated fares, which require significant additional complexity to develop, are not included at this stage.
71. The Early EMV initiative supports the following objectives:
 - a Provide an additional modern payment method for customers in the lead up to NTS.
 - b Drive behaviour changes towards EMV usage ahead of NTS
 - c Simplify Greater Wellington's future NTS transition by enabling a significant proportion of customers to transition themselves off Snapper cards in their own time, and to prepare themselves for NTS which will also accept the same payment method.
 - d Reduce revenue loss during ticketing systems transition as customers would no longer need to carry both fare media and maintain multiple fare credit balances. Full fare paying adult customers could continue to use the same EMV capable payment method throughout the transition.
 - e Enable Greater Wellington to focus more closely on transitioning the significant number of concession-holders, estimated at approximately 200,000 children and adults, in the lead up to NTS.
 - f Support potential removal of cash on board train and bus services.
72. Fares payable using EMV are proposed to be the same as Snapper adult fares plus a 1.5% card processing surcharge, which is aligned with the Snapper top-up surcharge when using a credit card.
73. The Airport Express (AX) bus service is a premium service on which customers can currently pay by debit or credit card, with the fare being the same as the cash price. It is proposed that the fare payable using EMV is the same as current ticketing systems for debit or credit cards.
74. The implementation date for Early EMV will be confirmed over the next few weeks. Indicative planned dates are for an April 2026 launch.
75. Greater Wellington is also intending to inform the Commerce Commission of Council's decision in relation to passing on the 1.5% bank fee to customers.

Removal of on-board cash

76. Cash use has significantly reduced since COVID-19 and the introduction of Snapper on Rail to less than 2.5% of all trips, of which a large proportion are for off-

peak travel on buses and trains. Currently, less than 2% of bus trips and less than 5% of rail trips are paid with cash.

77. Cash payment has already been discontinued on express bus routes and is no longer available on ferry services.
78. Cash fares are 25% more expensive for customers than Snapper fares. This differential will be largely removed through using EMV which, similar to cash, does not require the customer to maintain a prepaid balance.
79. With the NTS expected in 2027 and EMV to be added in early 2026, there is an opportunity to remove cash from onboard all services, noting that retailers will still accept cash off network.

RPTP 20225-2035 Action:

80. The following RPTP 2025-2035 Actions are set to enable the phase out of cash payment on board the Metlink services:
 - a Actively target areas of high cash use to help facilitate adoptions of electronic alternatives including the NTS;
 - b Maximise use of electronic ticketing and minimise use of cash fares to prevent revenue loss.

Public engagement through consultation on draft RPTP 2025-2035

81. The phase out of on-board cash payment was included in the public consultation on RPTP 2025-2035. Feedback from submitters through the consultation process indicated that the phasing out of cash on selected services to date (e.g. express services) has been embraced by a large majority of passengers and has been successful in reducing dwell times and administrative costs.
82. Cash adds complexity and cost to the network through handling, reconciliation, security and banking. These costs are mostly incurred by Operators.
83. In addition, there are safety concerns with regular cashbox thefts being reported.
84. Operators (both train and bus) are supportive of cash removal and have noted the efficiencies of doing this may be shared. This is currently part of contractual discussions.
85. Cash also creates a revenue protection challenge on trains. During peak periods it is known that operational staff may not be able to get through all carriages to collect cash which typically requires the passenger to 'volunteer' the payment.
86. Removal of cash on trains will enable a more streamlined / enforceable revenue protection approach. Everyone onboard a train will be expected to tag on prior to boarding and asking commuters to volunteer any cash payments won't be needed.
87. The phasing out of cash payments has been signalled at a national level in the NZTA's Development Guidelines for Regional Public Transport Plans 2024: Use of cash PTAs should seek to minimise the use of cash over time and include their position for the use of cash in their fares and pricing policy.

Other regions

88. Auckland Transport do not accept cash on-board and Canterbury Regional Council have confirmed they will transition away from cash on-board with NTS which is expected to be this year.
89. The strategy for cash removal in the next 12 months will be shared with Council for feedback in second quarter of 2026.

Transitional pricing of buses replacing trains (BRT)

90. Currently, special fares are set for Snapper payment on buses that replace trains on Hutt Valley Line, Kāpiti Line and Wairarapa Line. On other lines (Johnsonville and Melling) standard Snapper fares are charged.
91. The need for special fares on buses that replace trains was identified through the implementation of the Snapper on Rail initiative in November 2022, when Snapper ticketing was extended to all rail lines and replaced legacy paper tickets.
92. The extension of Snapper ticketing to rail network was launched following a successful 12-month trial on the Johnsonville line between November 2021 and November 2022. The initiative was rolled out as an interim solution as part of the region's preparedness for transitioning to the National ticketing Solution.
93. The scope of the Interim Solution was limited to introducing electronic ticketing on an interim basis onto the rail network. As part of this implementation, integrated fares between buses and trains were deemed out of the scope due to the additional complexity and transitional nature of the project.
94. In the absence of integrated fares across bus and rail, passengers who needed to transfer between trains and buses that partially replace trains would be required to pay separate standard Snapper fares for each leg of their bus-rail journey.
95. On average, over 75% of the buses that replace trains are only partially bus replaced (so the majority of the times trains will be used on at least part of the journey along the line). Charging two separate, 'non-integrated' standard fares was expected to result in many over-charged customers by approximately 1 zone. Existing pricing logic was expected to generate high levels of manual refund requests by overcharging.
96. The current pricing approach was designed to address this issue by reducing the standard Snapper fares by approximately one zone for bus services that partially replace trains. This pricing approach ensures that the sum of fares charged separately for each trip of a journey that requires transfers between replacement buses and trains never exceeds the fare that would be otherwise charged if the same journey was made on a single train.
97. Applying a one-zone discount results in the fare being close to, or slightly below what they otherwise would have paid for a full rail journey. For the remainder of BRT services that don't connect to rail, the fare paid will be approximately 1 zone less than what they the commuter would have otherwise paid.
98. The current pricing approach is transitional and will no longer be needed as fares will be integrated across buses and trains with the NTS.

99. Until the launch of the NTS, the current pricing approach for rail replacement services need to remain approximately one zone cheaper than the standard Snapper fare to avoid charging passengers one zone extra for journeys that involve connections between partial rail replacement and train services. This would ensure consistent fare charging for similar journeys as far as practicable.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

100. Paragraphs [36](#) to 43 set out the financial implications of the fare change options.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

101. Public Transport allows Māori to travel affordably to places such as employment, social services, education, and culturally significant events. Public Transport also aims to decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the environment which appeals to the protection of the environment which is important in te ao Māori given a special connection to the whenua (land).

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

102. While a fare increase is likely to reduce patronage growth, the size of the impact is not expected to adversely affect greenhouse gas emissions to any significant degree by driving a material mode-shift away from public transport.
103. The fares matters set out in this report neither significantly contribute to nor are at odds with Council's and Greater Wellington's policies and commitments relating to climate change.
104. The fares matters set out in this report have no significant implications for greenhouse gas emissions and therefore does not require an approach to reduce them.
105. Climate change impacts will not have any direct effect upon the fares matters set out in this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

106. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

107. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matter, taking into account Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines.
108. Officers consider that the matters for decision in this report (raising fares in accordance with inflation and reducing the off-peak discount) is of medium significance, on the basis that a fare increase will have a financial impact on all users.
109. In the context of this decision, officers have considered separately the decision-making requirements as they relate to the impacts of a general fare increase by inflation from the impacts of reducing off-peak fare discount:
 - a When considering the impact of the general fare increase by inflation, officers note that the increase is in line with the current policies in the RPTP which was publicly consulted on.
 - b When considering the impact of the reduction to off-peak discount, officers note that:
 - i Off-peak fares at a reduced discount remain to be an affordable option especially for concession holders as it further reduces the concession fares during off-peak hours.
 - ii A reduced off-peak discount will still apply to all passengers including concession holders consistent with the current policy.
 - iii While the reduction to off-peak discount is likely to reduce some off-peak travel, keeping fares unchanged or lower than budget requirement is likely to have greater impact on rate payers in the region, or increase pressure on debt funding.
110. In addition, a higher general fare increase to peak fares is likely to have greater impact on travel choice to use public transport instead of car, which does not align with the fare policies that aim to encourage greater use of public transport.
111. Greater Wellington is the only region in New Zealand currently offering an off-peak discount.
112. Officers have taken into account the principles set out in section 14 of the Act and the need to manage the Council's resources prudently.
113. Officers have also considered the need to take account of the community's views and preferences in relation to the matter.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

114. The RPTP 2025-2035 sets out the Council's policies in relation to fare increases.
115. The RPTP 2025-2035 was adopted following a Special Consultative Process.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

116. Officers will undertake the steps necessary to implement the Council decision.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Fare increase impacts

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writers	Reza Chalabianlou – Senior Advisor - Strategy and Funding, Metlink Anske Janssen – Manager Integrated Fares and Ticketing, Metlink
Approvers	Tim Shackleton – Senior Manager Strategy and Investments, Metlink Samantha Gain – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Waka-ā-atea Group Manager, Metlink

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council or Committee's Terms of Reference</i> The Council has authority to make the decisions in relation to fares policies and funding fares initiatives for the Wellington Region.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of Public Transport aspects of the current Long Term Plan 2024-2034.
<i>Internal consultation</i> In preparing this report there has been consultation with officers in the Public Transport, Finance and Community Engagement departments.
<i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no identified legal or health and safety risks arising from the matters in this report.

Fare Increase Impacts

Option A. 3.1% general fare increase and reduction of off-peak discount to 20%

Peak Snapper fare change table (3.1% inflation increase only)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$2.06	\$2.12	06c (2.9%)	\$1.03	\$1.06	03c (2.9%)	\$1.55	\$1.59	04c (2.6%)
3	\$4.53	\$4.67	14c (3.1%)	\$2.27	\$2.34	07c (3.1%)	\$3.40	\$3.50	10c (2.9%)
5	\$6.20	\$6.39	19c (3.1%)	\$3.10	\$3.20	10c (3.2%)	\$4.65	\$4.79	14c (3.0%)
7	\$8.95	\$9.23	28c (3.1%)	\$4.48	\$4.62	14c (3.1%)	\$6.71	\$6.92	21c (3.1%)
10	\$12.40	\$12.78	38c (3.1%)	\$6.20	\$6.39	19c (3.1%)	\$9.30	\$9.59	29c (3.1%)
14	\$17.94	\$18.50	56c (3.1%)	\$8.97	\$9.25	28c (3.1%)	\$13.46	\$13.88	42c (3.1%)

Off-peak Snapper fare change table (3.1% inflation increase + 20% off-peak discount)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$1.44	\$1.70	26c (18.1%)	\$0.72	\$0.85	13c (18.1%)	\$1.09	\$1.27	18c (16.5%)
3	\$3.17	\$3.74	57c (18.0%)	\$1.59	\$1.87	28c (17.6%)	\$2.38	\$2.80	42c (17.6%)
5	\$4.34	\$5.11	77c (17.7%)	\$2.17	\$2.56	39c (18.0%)	\$3.26	\$3.83	57c (17.5%)
7	\$6.27	\$7.38	\$1.11 (17.7%)	\$3.14	\$3.70	56c (17.8%)	\$4.70	\$5.54	84c (17.9%)
10	\$8.68	\$10.22	\$1.54 (17.7%)	\$4.34	\$5.11	77c (17.7%)	\$6.51	\$7.67	\$1.16 (17.8%)
14	\$12.56	\$14.80	\$2.24 (17.8%)	\$6.28	\$7.40	\$1.12 (17.8%)	\$9.42	\$11.10	\$1.68 (17.8%)

Option B. 4% general fare increase and reduction of off-peak discount to 20%

Peak Snapper fare change table (4% increase only)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$2.06	\$2.14	08c (3.9%)	\$1.03	\$1.07	04c (3.9%)	\$1.55	\$1.61	06c (3.9%)
3	\$4.53	\$4.71	18c (4.0%)	\$2.27	\$2.36	09c (4.0%)	\$3.40	\$3.53	13c (3.8%)
5	\$6.20	\$6.45	25c (4.0%)	\$3.10	\$3.23	13c (4.2%)	\$4.65	\$4.84	19c (4.1%)
7	\$8.95	\$9.31	36c (4.0%)	\$4.48	\$4.66	18c (4.0%)	\$6.71	\$6.98	27c (4.0%)
10	\$12.40	\$12.90	50c (4.0%)	\$6.20	\$6.45	25c (4.0%)	\$9.30	\$9.68	38c (4.1%)
14	\$17.94	\$18.66	72c (4.0%)	\$8.97	\$9.33	36c (4.0%)	\$13.46	\$14.00	54c (4.0%)

Off-peak Snapper fare change table (4% increase + 20% off-peak discount)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$1.44	\$1.71	27c (18.8%)	\$0.72	\$0.86	14c (19.4%)	\$1.09	\$1.29	20c (18.3%)
3	\$3.17	\$3.77	60c (18.9%)	\$1.59	\$1.89	30c (18.9%)	\$2.38	\$2.82	44c (18.5%)
5	\$4.34	\$5.16	82c (18.9%)	\$2.17	\$2.58	41c (18.9%)	\$3.26	\$3.87	61c (18.7%)
7	\$6.27	\$7.45	\$1.18 (18.8%)	\$3.14	\$3.73	59c (18.8%)	\$4.70	\$5.58	88c (18.7%)
10	\$8.68	\$10.32	\$1.64 (18.9%)	\$4.34	\$5.16	82c (18.9%)	\$6.51	\$7.74	\$1.23 (18.9%)
14	\$12.56	\$14.93	\$2.37 (18.9%)	\$6.28	\$7.46	\$1.18 (18.8%)	\$9.42	\$11.20	\$1.78 (18.9%)

Option C. 2% general fare increase and reduction of off-peak discount to 15%

Peak Snapper fare change table (2% increase only)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$2.06	\$2.10	04c (1.9%)	\$1.03	\$1.05	02c (1.9%)	\$1.55	\$1.58	03c (1.9%)
3	\$4.53	\$4.62	09c (2.0%)	\$2.27	\$2.31	04c (1.8%)	\$3.40	\$3.47	07c (2.1%)
5	\$6.20	\$6.32	12c (1.9%)	\$3.10	\$3.16	06c (1.9%)	\$4.65	\$4.74	09c (1.9%)
7	\$8.95	\$9.13	18c (2.0%)	\$4.48	\$4.57	09c (2.0%)	\$6.71	\$6.85	14c (2.1%)
10	\$12.40	\$12.65	25c (2.0%)	\$6.20	\$6.33	13c (2.1%)	\$9.30	\$9.49	19c (2.0%)
14	\$17.94	\$18.30	36c (2.0%)	\$8.97	\$9.15	18c (2.0%)	\$13.46	\$13.73	27c (2.0%)

Off-peak Snapper fare change table (2% increase + 15% off-peak discount)

NUMBER OF ZONES	ADULT (BASE FARE)			CHILD, ACCESSIBLE AND CSC CONCESSION			TERTIARY CONCESSION		
	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase	Current	New	Increase
1	\$1.44	\$1.79	35c (24.3%)	\$0.72	\$0.89	17c (23.6%)	\$1.09	\$1.34	25c (22.9%)
3	\$3.17	\$3.93	76c (24.0%)	\$1.59	\$1.96	37c (23.3%)	\$2.38	\$2.95	57c (23.9%)
5	\$4.34	\$5.37	\$1.03 (23.7%)	\$2.17	\$2.69	52c (24.0%)	\$3.26	\$4.03	77c (23.6%)
7	\$6.27	\$7.76	\$1.49 (23.8%)	\$3.14	\$3.88	74c (23.6%)	\$4.70	\$5.82	\$1.12 (23.8%)
10	\$8.68	\$10.75	\$2.07 (23.8%)	\$4.34	\$5.38	\$1.04 (24.0%)	\$6.51	\$8.07	\$1.56 (24.0%)
14	\$12.56	\$15.56	\$3.00 (23.9%)	\$6.28	\$7.78	\$1.50 (23.9%)	\$9.42	\$11.67	\$2.25 (23.9%)

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.43



For Decision

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT 2025-2028 AND
ESTABLISHING A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL
GOVERNANCE OPTIONS**

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To present the Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 for Council approval.
2. To advise Council of the intention to proceed working with other councils to develop options for governance of local government in the Wellington Region.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Approves** the Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 (Attachment 1).
- 2 **Authorises** the Council Chair to sign the finalised Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28.
- 3 **Authorises** the Chief Executive and the Council Chair to make any minor amendments to the Triennial Agreement 2025-28 required as a result of changes requested by other local authorities in the Region as part of the adoption process.
- 4 **Agrees** to investigate future governance options for the Wellington Region, including amalgamation, in light of the government announcement to introduce legislative options for simplifying local government.
- 5 **Notes** the position that Council has taken in its submission on the Government's Simplifying Local Government Proposal (Report 26.54) in relation to retaining Regional Councillors in their current democratically elected roles, and ensuring they are able to participate in discussions around the future shape of local government in the region.
- 6 **Agrees** to establish a regional joint working group to develop next steps on information-gathering and public engagement to generate discussion and debate on options for future governance arrangements including amalgamation and effective service delivery.

- 7 **Agrees** to allocate resources from Greater Wellington to the regional joint working group, to enable cross-council information gathering and analysis and working with partners.
- 8 **Agrees** that mana whenua should be represented in all processes established to examine options for future governance arrangements including amalgamation in the region.
- 9 **Agrees** that following initial work of the regional joint working group, Officers will report back to the Council with an indicative work programme, which identifies decision-making points for elected members.
- 10 **Agrees** to a set of principles by which the work will be guided:
 - a improved effectiveness and efficiency in supporting population and economic growth and environmental protection
 - b effective local government representation
 - c ensure mana whenua is included in future local authority governance arrangements and representation is consistent with Treaty settlements and obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi
 - d promote and enhance region's reputation as a place of opportunity, creativity, and innovation
 - e ensuring affordability for ratepayers and long-term financial sustainability.
- 11 **Agrees** that the regional joint working group will regularly report back to all councils in the region in the working group during the information-gathering and service mapping phases.
- 12 **Agrees** that Council will approve a public engagement plan for any options to change regional governance and service delivery.
- 13 **Agrees** that the Council Chair will represent Greater Wellington in discussions with the mayors of the region and with the Minister for Local Government.
- 14 **Agrees** that Officers will report back with advice independent to the regional joint working group about the impacts of proposed changes to governance arrangements for Greater Wellington and its residents.

Te horopaki

Context

Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28

3. The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires that all local authorities in each region enter into a Triennial Agreement (the Agreement). The Agreement sets out how local authorities will work together for the good governance of their cities, districts and region.
4. Section 15 of the LGA requires all local authorities within a region to enter into an Agreement every triennium providing:
 - a Protocols for communication and coordination among the local authorities.

- b A statement of the process by which the local authorities will deal with proposals for new regional council activities.
 - c Processes and protocols through which all local authorities can participate in identifying, delivering, and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district.
5. The Agreement must be agreed by 1 March of the year after each local authority election (1 March 2026 for this triennium).
 6. The 2025-28 Agreement remains in force until it is replaced by another Agreement. The Agreement may be amended following review and approval by all parties to the Agreement.
 7. Greater Wellington is responsible for preparing and administering the 2025-28 Agreement.
 8. The Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 is attached ([Attachment 1](#)).

Simplification of Local Government Proposal

9. The Government has released a proposal signalling change in the shape of local government services. The process aims to create local proposals for reorganisation and realignment – “for simpler, clearer and more cost effective” service delivery.
10. It proposes that regional councillors are removed from their position and that a regional mayoral group of all the constituent councils, with the option of a Crown Observer, is established as a Combined Territories Board (CTB). For the Wellington region this would include eight territorial authorities ((TAs) - Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, Kāpiti, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Hutt City, and Wellington).
11. The CTB would:
 - a Take over governance of all the roles and functions of the Regional Council, and
 - b Develop a regional reorganisation plan, within two years, on how those councils can work together to deliver services more effectively and efficiently.
 - c In the absence of Crown agreements with Post Settlement Governance Entities, take on responsibilities to interpret and apply Treaty Settlements (particularly with elements at a regional level) within a new system.
12. The Government’s push for greater efficiencies in local government is unfolding against a backdrop of wider national reforms. These include the upcoming consolidation of water service delivery into new regional entities from 1 July 2026, and the Resource Management Act reforms currently before Parliament. The latter introduces significantly greater prescription and mandates much higher levels of consistency in consenting and planning processes across neighbouring councils. Alongside the proposed introduction of rates-capping requirements, these reforms collectively signal a clear direction from central government: reduce duplication, streamline decision-making, and ensure councils operate within tighter financial, regulatory, and service-delivery parameters.

13. The Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum (made up of the local council Mayors and Regional Council Chair) have met and agreed that the Wellington region should progress a Wellington region-specific approach that allows the community to decide the future shape of local government in the region rather than first establishing a CTB under the Simplifying Local Government Proposal and subsequently developing a reorganisation plan.
14. This approach would offer a more streamlined and cost-effective process that would aim to still achieve the objectives of the Government proposal and importantly would provide for regional council governance to inform and shape the proposals.
15. Greater Wellington's submission on the Government's Simplifying Local Government Proposal reinforces this position that we do not support the removal of Regional Councillors or the establishment of a CTB to replace them, that regional councillors should be involved in both the Government's review of regional council functions and the regional reorganisation planning process.
16. Regional Councillors have been democratically elected to govern functions that are delivered at a regional scale, such as public transport, flood protection, biosecurity, environment management, maritime safety, regional spatial and transport planning, emergency management, and climate adaptation planning. These functions are complex in nature, different to those of Territorial Authorities, and require specialist understanding and a regional perspective. The Council believes that regional councillors should be directly involved in the development of any regional reorganisation plan for the Wellington Region.
17. The Mayoral Forum's preferred approach (paragraphs 13-14) is subject to each Council formally agreeing to this approach so that steps can then be put in place to progress this. This would include engaging with Ministers and Central Government agencies.
18. Both Porirua and Hutt City Councils have already carried out non-binding referenda during last year's council elections that received majority support for exploring options for amalgamation which combine relevant services and functions, while keeping appropriate services and decision-making local. Both cities received about a 55% majority vote from this referendum.
19. Previous reviews of local governance arrangements, including amalgamation proposals and effective service delivery are noted for reference in [Attachment 2](#).

Change in the context of our Tiriti partnerships and Treaty Settlements

20. Greater Wellington has had partnerships spanning 30+ years with mana whenua in the region.
21. Greater Wellington and our six mana whenua partners work together through a partnership approach that reflects the enduring relationships between hapū, iwi and their ancestral lands. This partnership is important to us as it recognises and supports mana whenua in maintaining their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of their ancestral lands.

22. Māori have long-held, recognised roles and responsibilities in the care of natural resources, and through working with Greater Wellington, these responsibilities are reflected in a shared approach that supports our dual roles of sustainably managing and protecting natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.
23. These partnerships have included settlements for four iwi within the region, which interact with and shape the planning system, including regional plan development. Through these settlements, the Crown has also acknowledged past Treaty breaches related to local government functions and recommitted to new Tiriti-based relationships.
24. The findings for the Wairarapa ki Tararua Inquiry (Wai 863) for the Wairarapa, but also relevant for wider Wellington region and across Aotearoa, reviewed local government reforms and outlined an absence of mana whenua involvement in previous local government reform processes which have defined current local government structures and systems.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28

25. The Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement ([Attachment 1](#)) outlines an agreement to work collaboratively on matters of mutual interest with a set of protocols to assist region-wide cooperation for the duration of the triennium. It is important to note that decisions to enter any form of arrangement are the domain of each council. The Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement (Agreement) does not bind Greater Wellington to any decision or course of action.
26. The 2025-28 Agreement has been refreshed onto a new template. The structure of the Agreement has been reorganised to modernise it, and the language used has been simplified where appropriate, to improve readability.
27. The 2025-28 Agreement builds on the 2022-25 Agreement with changes to ensure relevance and specificity in areas where the region will work together over the next three years. Specific content changes include:
 - a Adding the Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Committee to the list of joint committees that enable regional collaboration (section 3A).
 - b Adding a statement to section 3A noting that Councils will seek greater alignment across the established forums and committees mentioned in that section via coordination of meeting dates and alignment of agendas, supported through the Chief Executives' Forum, and that the administration of the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum will be through the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Secretariat, funded by the Wellington Regional Council.
 - c Section 4 of the draft Agreement reflects the list of issues and opportunities that the Chief Executives' Forum and the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum

have identified as being the areas they would like to work collaboratively on. Specifically for the 2025-28 Triennium this is grouped under three subheadings: Shared Services and Governance Structures; Legislative Reforms; and Issues of Particular Regional Significance

- i *Shared Services and Governance Structures*: this relates to the councils working together to develop a preferred option for the form and function of local government in the region that delivers long term enduring outcomes, including consideration of opportunities for joint service delivery models.
 - ii *Legislative Reforms*: given the extensive reform programme underway the key areas of legislation that the region will coordinate their response to are: Local Water Done Well, the Resource Management Act Phase 3 Reforms (the proposed Natural Environment Act and Planning Act), Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, and the Emergency Management Bill.
 - iii *Issues of Particular Regional Significance*: climate adaptation planning and response, regional economic development, regional spatial planning, and cost efficiency in service delivery.
- d Changed the provision for the servicing of this agreement from passing the responsibility around from council to council each triennium, to being administered by the Wellington Regional Council on an ongoing basis.
28. The draft 2025-28 Agreement was reviewed by both the Chief Executives' Forum and the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum. It must be endorsed by each council named in the agreement and signed by their delegated representative, which for Greater Wellington will be the Council Chair (**Recommendations 1, 2 and 3**).

Simplifying Local Government in the Wellington region

29. The Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum (which includes the Regional Council Chair) has met and agreed that they should each seek support from their Councils to explore regional amalgamation options together.
30. This is reinforced in the Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 which includes agreement that the councils in the region will work together on issues including developing a preferred option for the form and function of local government in the region that delivers long term enduring outcomes; and identifying opportunities for joint service delivery models and support existing shared delivery of services.
31. There are three broad options available to councils to progress amalgamation proposals:
- a *Simplifying Local Government Proposal*:
 - i The draft proposal by the Government sets out a process where the elected regional councillors are removed and the 8 local councils form a CTB which would firstly take over the governance of the functions of the Greater Wellington Regional Council; then within 2 years develop a

reorganisation plan focused on more effective service delivery across the region.

- ii This reorganisation plan is expected to also include governance arrangements for the region and would be submitted to the Minister for approval. Having gained approval, it would then be implemented. The stated objective of this is for simpler, clearer and more cost-effective service delivery.
 - iii This proposal includes options such as a Crown Appointee, upholding Treaty settlements within the proposed CTB structure, and raises questions on how mayoral resources could be spread across a much broader portfolio while delivering on their existing elected roles.
 - iv This route is not preferred by local Mayors and the Chair of the Regional Council as it would likely result in structural changes being driven primarily through the new CTB rather than through locally initiated processes.
 - v Greater Wellington's submission on the Simplifying Local Government Proposal which is being adopted at this same meeting (see Report 26.54 – Greater Wellington's Simplifying Local Government Proposal Submission), states that the Council does not support the removal of elected regional councillors or the establishment of a CTB.
- b *Advocate for bespoke legislation for the region (Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum preferred option):*
- i The region can advocate for bespoke central government legislation (preferred). This would be on the basis of a proposal developed by the councils in the region and would include demonstrated community support.
 - ii Rather than relying on the Local Government Commission (LGC) framework (see Option C below), Parliament would then directly legislate a new governance model for the region – defining boundaries, representation arrangements, responsibilities, and transition mechanisms. This pathway enables reform to occur more rapidly, provides greater flexibility to design a custom model that may sit outside the LGC's statutory constraints. Councils could explore seeking resources for reorganisation through a regional deal.
 - iii Essentially the proposal for amalgamation provides an alternative to the Government proposal on the basis that:
 - Amalgamation has been comprehensively discussed previously.
 - It would allow the region to move more quickly to regional alignment and then consider service delivery effectiveness.
 - It would enable Regional Councillors to have a voice in the process.

- It would achieve the intent of the proposed changes by the Government but be driven more clearly by local and regional community voices and outcomes.
- c *The existing legislative process:*
- i The alternative option is to work within the existing LGC reorganisation process. Under the currently established statutory pathway, councils may jointly submit a draft reorganisation initiative outlining the case for amalgamation or other structural change, supported by evidence of engagement with their communities. The LGC then determines whether to undertake an investigation, assesses potential benefits and costs, considers alternative proposals, and consults publicly on a draft reorganisation plan. A final proposal only proceeds if it withstands public consultation and, where triggered, a binding referendum of electors. If endorsed, the Minister implements the proposal through an Order in Council, followed by a transition process.
 - ii This option is not preferred by local Mayors or the Regional Council Chair as it takes the reorganisation plan out of the hands of democratically elected councils and is distant from our long-standing partnerships with mana whenua. There is also currently very limited capacity within the Local Government Commission to manage these processes.
32. The preferred option is to progress development of structural reform options via bespoke legislation for the Wellington Region. To facilitate this a Regional Joint Working Group supporting the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum and mana whenua partners would be established to coordinate the work.
33. Wellington City Council have offered to take a leadership role in establishing and coordinating the Regional Joint Working Group, which Greater Wellington will be a part of, as they are the largest council in the region and have comparatively greater resources to support this work.
34. To support the Regional Joint Working Group, each participating council will need to allocate resources to enable cross-council information gathering and analysis. The working group will focus initially on defining the opportunities and trade-offs associated with potential reforms, rather than pre-determining a preferred structure.
35. Initial actions will include:
- a mapping the current services and functions of the regional, city, and district councils;
 - b undertaking a gap analysis to identify evidence gaps, modelling requirements, and updates needed to meet the expectations of the Government's Simplifying Local Government policy settings;
 - c identifying and collating existing amalgamation-related reports, advice, modelling, and insights from previous reform processes;

- d commissioning any additional technical, financial, or specialist policy advice required; and
 - e a public engagement plan to generate discussion and debate on regional amalgamation.
36. Once the Regional Joint Working Group has a view about the shape and size of the services at each council, then work will determine what might be needed to draw together a plan for looking at options for regional amalgamation. This work will determine what project team and further resource commitments will be needed.
37. Overarching principles to guide the Regional Joint Working Group (**Recommendation 10**) and guide decision-making include:
- a improved effectiveness and efficiency in achieving population and economic growth and environment protection
 - b effective local government representation
 - c ensure mana whenua is included in future local authority governance arrangements and representation is consistent with Treaty settlements and obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi
 - d promote and enhance region's reputation as a place of opportunity, creativity, and innovation
 - e ensuring affordability for ratepayers and long-term financial sustainability.
38. These principles align with the Simplifying Local Government criteria of:
- a Big Picture Fit (d) and (e)
 - b Affordable now and in the future (e)
 - c Better services (a)
 - d Clear leadership (d)
 - e Local say
 - f Treaty arrangements (c)
 - g Can it be done (a)
39. Engagement with Key Government Partners:
- a Relevant Ministers and the leaders and/or local government spokespersons of all parliamentary parties will be engaged early to confirm support for a locally driven process.
 - b The Council Chair will support discussions with the Minister for Local Government.

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

40. There are no direct financial implications arising from the matters for decision in relation to the 2025-28 Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement. Financial implications will be assessed as individual project/initiative decisions are made.

41. Involvement in the Regional Joint Working Group will require the council to provide staff and budget, along with other participating councils in the region, to support the work required to be undertaken. Any additional budget allocation required would be agreed to through the 2026/27 Annual Plan process.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

42. This Report is seeking Council agreement on a statutory procedural process (the approval of the Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28) which covers matters of significance to our region and to mana whenua and is administrative in nature.
43. The Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-28 and the other recommendations in this Report set out a process by which local authorities of the Wellington Region will work together on options for future governance arrangements including amalgamation.
44. Whilst this is not directly related to how individual councils work with mana whenua and Māori, providing for involvement of mana whenua early as part of the Regional Joint Working Group and Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum discussions, on options for future governance arrangements including amalgamation, will be important to help enable / evolve the relationship and role of mana whenua at governance, management and operational levels. There will also be opportunities for engagement with Māori as part of the wider community engagement processes.
45. One of the proposed overarching principles to guide the work of the proposed Regional Joint Working Group is to ensure mana whenua representation is consistent with Treaty settlements and obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi (as noted in paragraph 37 above).

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

46. The matters for decision are administrative in nature and do not have any direct climate implications.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

47. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002, as described in the Context section of this report. We also considered the decision-making requirements, as appropriate, of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

48. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the Agreement, considering Council's Significance and Engagement

Policy and Greater Wellington’s Decision-making Guidelines. Officers consider that this agreement is of low significance, as no new Greater Wellington activities are proposed through the Triennial Agreement, and the public will be engaged by all councils who agree to participate in the Regional Joint Working Group looking at options for future governance arrangements including amalgamation in due course.

**Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement**

- 49. This 2025-28 Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement has been reviewed by both the Chief Executives’ Forum and the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum.
- 50. No engagement has been undertaken on the Agreement with the wider community, and this is not required.
- 51. A communication and engagement plan will be a key component of the work delivered by the Regional Joint Working Group, to ensure that the public and ratepayers across the region are informed and engaged in the discussion on options to change regional governance and service delivery. This communication and engagement plan will come back to the Council for approval in due course.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps**

- 52. Once approved by Council, the Triennial Agreement will be available for the Council Chair to sign. Once all the Mayors and Chair have signed, this will complete the adoption process, and the signed Agreement will be published to Greater Wellington’s website.
- 53. If recommendations 4-14 are agreed to by the Council, we will inform the other councils in the region and take guidance from the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum and Chief Executive’s Forum on next steps. The Chief Executive will determine what resources are required to support this process and mobilise these. Regular reports on progress will be provided to Councillors by the Council Chair and Chief Executive.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2025-2028
2	Previous reviews of local governance arrangements

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Alice Brennan – Kaitohutohu Advisor, Strategy and Performance Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance
Approver	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager, Strategy Nigel Corry – Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> Under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to enter into a triennial agreement after each local authority election. Consideration and approval of the Triennial Agreement is consistent with Council's governance role.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> This report addresses a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act 2002.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Chief Executive, Group Manager Strategy, and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri have been involved with the development and review of this document.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no identified risks relating to the matters for decision.



Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement (2025–2028)

Carterton District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Masterton District Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council

1. Purpose

This agreement meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 to:

- Encourage cooperation between councils in the Wellington region.
- Support regional planning and community wellbeing.
- Promote effective consultation and coordination.
- Strengthen relationships between councils.

2. Parties to the Agreement

This agreement is between:

- Carterton District Council
 - Greater Wellington Regional Council
 - Hutt City Council
 - Kāpiti Coast District Council
 - Masterton District Council
 - Porirua City Council
 - South Wairarapa District Council
 - Upper Hutt City Council
 - Wellington City Council
-

3. Protocols

All councils agree to work collaboratively and in good faith for the effective governance and development of the region. To give effect to this the following Protocols are agreed.

A. Collaboration

Parties agree to collaborate and coordinate their activities with one another. Collaboration may be undertaken on a regional or sub-regional basis as appropriate to the issue.

The Chief Executives' Forum will provide guidance and direction on which collaborative mechanism is best placed to lead on any issue or opportunity, taking into account agreed terms of reference.

The following collaboration mechanisms will be maintained:

Regional and sub-regional forums:

- Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum
- Wairarapa Combined Council Forum
- LGNZ Zone Four (or equivalent sub-regional forums)

Joint Committees:

- Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC)
- Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM)
- Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Committee

Other collaborative Committees:

- Regional Transport Committee

Councils will seek greater alignment across these established forums and committees by:

- Coordinating meeting dates and aligning agendas
- Supporting the administration of the Wellington Regional Mayoral Forum through the WRLC Secretariat, to be funded by the Wellington Regional Council
- Supporting alignment of agendas through the Chief Executives' Forum.

B. Communication and Consultation

Parties agree to maintain open communication and trust, including through the following:

- Application of a 'no surprises' approach whereby early notification (prior to any public announcement) is given between parties concerning: (a) significant new policies or programmes; (b) potential disagreements; (c) actions likely to impact significantly on other Parties.
- Respecting each of the Parties' autonomy and accountability.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.43

- Representing dissenting views fairly when disagreements occur and refraining from publicly criticising other Parties.
- Communicating with central Government on collective regional issues through an agreed spokesperson and/or using a position agreed collectively.

Where possible collective regional decisions will be made on a consensus basis. Where this is not possible a majority vote will apply, with dissenting views clearly recorded.

C. Process for new Regional Council activities

The Regional Council will provide early advice to the Parties (via the Chief Executives Forum and Mayoral Forum) when proposing any significant new activity, in addition to other requirements specified in s16 of the Local Government Act.

D. Mana Whenua Partnerships

All Councils agree to work towards a genuine partnership with mana whenua based on Te Tiriti principles. Mana whenua will continue to be members of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and will meet as an iwi caucus with the Mayoral Forum as required to discuss issues of joint interest and seek alignment.

4. Areas of Joint Work

The Parties will work together on issues where it is agreed that the Region and the communities within it will benefit from a regionally collaborative approach. For this Triennium this will include the following:

Shared Services and Governance Structures

- Developing a preferred option for the form and function of local government in the region that delivers long-term enduring outcomes. Working with Government to enable its successful implementation.
- Identifying opportunities for joint service delivery models and support existing shared delivery of services

Legislative Reforms

- *Local Water Done Well Reforms* – putting in place the formal governance structures and foundation documents and establishing the new CCOs
- *Resource Management Act Phase 3 reform* – developing a shared regional view of how to implement the new planning framework
- *Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Bill* – responding to the proposed changes from an aligned regional perspective

Attachment 1 to Report 26.43

- *Emergency Management Bill* – developing a shared approach to new requirements to inform joint planning through Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)

Issues of particular regional significance

- Climate adaptation planning and response – developing a regional framework to guide local adaptation planning (through the WRLC) and respond to the National Adaptation Framework
- Regional economic development – reviewing the approach to regional economic development and how we maximise regional impact on job creation from collective action
- Regional spatial planning – developing an aligned regional response to the RMA Reform proposals for a regional spatial plan, including the option of sub-regional spatial planning elements and how we will build on the work already undertaken to develop a Future Development Strategy through the WRLC
- Cost efficiency in service delivery – opportunities to deliver high quality services to the community for less.

5. Servicing the Agreement

This Agreement will be administered by the Wellington Regional Council who will:

- Act as the administering authority
- Respond to any media enquiries on the Agreement
- Coordinate development and signing of the next Agreement.

This Agreement remains in force until it is replaced by another agreement.

6. Reviewing the Agreement

Any council may request a review of this agreement by writing to the administering authority. A review must begin within four weeks of the request.

7. Dispute with the Agreement

If a decision of a Party is significantly inconsistent or expected to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with this Agreement, that Party must clearly identify and provide reasons for the inconsistency in accordance with s.6 of the Act.

Attachment 1 to Report 26.43

All disputes that cannot be resolved, will be referred to non-binding arbitration. If councils cannot agree on an arbitrator, one will be appointed by the President of the Wellington Branch of the NZ Law Society.

This agreement is signed on this _____ day of _____, by the following on behalf of their respective councils:

Carterton District Council _____
Mayor

Greater Wellington Regional Council _____
Chair

Hutt City Council _____
Mayor

Kāpiti Coast District Council _____
Mayor

Masterton District Council _____
Mayor

Porirua City Council _____
Mayor

South Wairarapa District Council _____
Mayor

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Upper Hutt City Council

Mayor

Wellington City Council

Mayor

Attachment 2: Previous reviews of local governance arrangements

Amalgamation has previously been considered within the Wellington region, and details on these proposals and decisions are included on the Local Government Commission background page for the Wellington region¹.

1980	A directly elected Wellington Regional Council was formed in 1980 ² , with more limited functions than those of the Auckland Regional Authority. It has responsibility for regional planning, civil defence, regional parks and reserves, urban water supply, forestry, and urban public passenger transport planning.
1989	<p>Our current local government structure was put in place.</p> <p>The Local Government Commission led the reorganisation of local government across New Zealand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The distinction between regional and united councils was abolished and the whole of New Zealand was divided into 14 regions with directly-elected regional councils. - Around 850 local bodies were consolidated into 86 multi-purpose local authorities. - Boundaries of regions largely conformed to water catchment areas to ensure integrated management of water supply, rivers and related matters - Counties and boroughs were abolished. - The Local Government Commission also acquired an important new function as both an appeal authority and an arbitrator.
2010	Auckland amalgamates eight councils of the Auckland region and conversations start happening elsewhere in the country about the benefits of this kind of change – including Wellington.
2012	<p>Work begins in Wellington to develop principles for reorganisation, looking at different options and testing community sentiment through consultation and survey work. Initial results show sufficient support for some change.</p> <p>Support for including the Wairarapa is not strong. Results are good enough overall for the project to continue.</p> <p><i>Note; in December 2012 the Local Government Act 2002 was amended to include changes to the process for reorganisation of local authorities. The purpose of reorganization was defined as improving the effectiveness and efficiency of local government by: (a) Providing communities with the opportunity to initiate, and participate in considering, alternative local government arrangements for their area; and (b) Requiring the Local Government Commission, in consultation with communities, to identify, develop, and implement in a timely manner the option that best promotes good local government.</i></p>

¹ <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/our-work/local-government-reorganisation/previous-applications-for-reorganisation-2/2017-wellington-region-reorganisation/>

² <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/about-us/history/>

	<i>The 2012 changes allowed anyone to lodge a reorganisation application, and during the first full year of the new process, there were four applications, three of which were from local authorities. They were related to local government in Northland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and the Wairarapa.</i>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a Regional Governance Working Party which completed a report for the region. This was considered by Council in March 2013³. - Local Government Commission receives a reorganisation application from Wairarapa Councils in May who wish to amalgamate and become a unitary Wairarapa Council. - Wellington City Council is supportive as it favours an urban unitary Council. - Greater Wellington Regional Council makes an application to the Commission for a two tier unitary council that includes the Wairarapa in June (same model as Auckland)⁴. - In July Wellington City Council lodges an alternative reorganisation application with the Commission that excludes the Wairarapa and is a single tier model of governance.
2014	<p>The Commission publicly notifies a draft proposal for a single region-wide unitary two tier council (including the Wairarapa) and invites public submissions.</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council submitted on this in February 2015⁵.</p>
2015	In June 2015, the Commission withdraws that proposal due to low public support. It continues work on options as the results show support for smaller scale change.
2016	Commission works with Council's on areas of cooperation / smaller changes including options for transport, spatial planning, economic development and water shared services. Work draws to a close in 2017.
2017	<p>In March 2017 the Local Government Commission proposed a combined district council for the Wairarapa to be called the Wairarapa District Council. It fails due to lack of public support.</p> <p>The Commission issues a report on Strengthening the Wellington Region December 2017⁶.</p>
2021-24	<p>In April 2021 the Minister for Local Government established a Review into the Future for Local Government⁷. The scope of this review included roles, functions and partnerships; representation and governance; and funding and financing.</p> <p>A draft report was published in October 2022.</p> <p>Council submitted on this in February 2023⁸.</p> <p>A final report, containing recommendations was presented to the Minister and to Local Government New Zealand on 16 June 2023.</p>

³ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/council-248/>

⁴ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/council-250/>

⁵ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/council-289/>

⁶ <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Reorganisation-Files/Past-Reorganisation-Applications/2017-Wellington-Region-Reorganisation/Strengthening-the-Wellington-Region-2017-1.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Future-for-Local-Government-Review>

⁸ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2023/02/Council-23-February-2023-order-paper.pdf>

	<p>Reorganisation within the Wellington region remains on the agenda including discussion to build this into a Regional Deal with the new Coalition Government.</p>
<p>2025</p>	<p>Hutt City and Porirua held a non-binding referendum in the October 2025 local elections and gained majority support: <i>Should Hutt City Council explore amalgamation options with Wellington, Upper Hutt and Porirua City Councils, and the Greater Wellington Regional Council, which combine relevant services and functions, while keeping appropriate services and decision-making local?</i></p> <p>November 2025 Central Government release their Proposal to Simply Local Government⁹, which includes two steps: (Step 1) to replace elected Regional Councillors with a Combined Territories Board (CTB) made up of the Mayors of the region; (Step 2) Regional Reorganisation Plans to be developed by the CTB. Feedback to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is due 20 February 2026. DIA announces that all submissions will be analysed using Artificial Intelligence.</p>

⁹ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government>

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.6



For Decision

POLICY ON ELECTED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES – HOME SECURITY SYSTEM ALLOWANCES

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise Council on a draft revised *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* (the Policy) that applies the Remuneration Authority's home security system allowances.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Approves** the draft wording that applies the Remuneration Authority's home security system allowances (Attachment 1), for inclusion in Council's *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses*.
- 2 **Revokes** the current *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* 2025.
- 3 **Adopts** the revised *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* (Attachment 2), to take effect from 20 February 2026.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. The Remuneration Authority (the Authority) advises that, at the discretion of individual councils, elected members are entitled to receive the following allowances while working on council business:
 - a Vehicle-kilometre allowance;
 - b Travel time allowance;
 - c Information Communications and Technology (ICT) allowances;
 - d Childcare allowance; and
 - e Home security system allowances.
3. The Authority sets limits for these allowances and reviews these limits in its statutory annual Local Government Elected Members Determination. Council does not need the Authority's subsequent agreement to changes to its related policy (the

Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses) unless Council adopts a policy outside the Determination's related settings.

4. Council's standard practice is to review its *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* (the Policy) each triennium, which it last did on 10 April 2025 (Report 25.94 - Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses). The current Policy took effect from the date that Councillors of the 2025-28 triennium assumed office.

Home security system allowances

5. The Authority issued the Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) Determination 2025 (the Determination). This provides that, when recommended in a security threat and risk assessment, an elected member may be for home security system allowances, similar to those paid to members of Parliament, to cover the:
 - a Purchase and installation of, and
 - b Related monitoring, call outs, and repairs fora home security system at the elected member's primary place of residence.
6. The Authority considered that the significant increase in abuse, harassment and threatening behaviour that elected members have been experiencing is unacceptable and that the introduction of this allowance is an appropriate response to mitigate this harassment and intimidation.
7. The home security system allowances in the Determination:
 - a Apply to elected members based on a security threat and risk assessment authorised by the local authority;
 - b Cover the reimbursement of the expense of having a home security system installed and monitored at the elected member's primary place of residence within the Wellington Region;
 - c Provide for up to \$4,500 (GST exclusive) in reimbursement for purchasing and installing the home security system;
 - d Provide for up to \$1,000 (GST exclusive) in annual reimbursement for related monitoring, callouts, and repairs;
 - e Provide for the reimbursement of additional expenses due to providing supplementary security measures at that primary place of residence where:
 - i The authorised security threat and risk assessment recommends these measures; and
 - ii The Authority approves reimbursement of the additional expenses after the local authority applies for it.

8. The home security system allowances have been available for Council to apply since Councillors of the 2025-28 triennium assumed office. The Authority recently issued guidelines¹ to assist local authorities in implementing the allowances.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

9. This report proposes two decisions for Council:
 - a Whether to apply the Authority's home security system allowances – if so, it should revoke the existing Policy and adopt a revised Policy that includes related provisions; and
 - b How it wants to apply these allowances – see the draft wording ([Attachment 1](#)).
10. Officers' draft wording ([Attachment 1](#)) is based on the Determination, informed by other councils' related policies², and discussions with the Authority. The clauses of the draft wording are numbered for inclusion as a new section (clauses 30 to 38) to a draft revised *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* ([Attachment 2](#)).
11. The draft wording ([Attachment 1](#)) provides that:
 - a Where an elected member is concerned about threats to their personal safety and security, they may make a written request (setting out these concerns) to the Chief Executive to authorise a security threat and risk assessment;
 - b Once authorised, Greater Wellington will arrange and pay for one related assessment. Advice from a security threat and risk assessment provider indicates the assessment process may involve:
 - i Gathering related intelligence from the elected member, stakeholders (including Greater Wellington), and publicly available sources,
 - ii Understanding the threat environment, and
 - iii An in-person residential risk assessment that reviews existing and potential security measures at the elected member's primary place of residence, and includes face-to-face engagement with the elected member (and their family, if required);
 - c The assessment may recommend proportionate actions to address the threats, including a home security system; related monitoring, callouts, and repairs; and/or supplementary security measures for their primary place of residence:

¹ <https://www.remauthority.govt.nz/local-government-members/allowances/home-security-system-allowance>.

² These include the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Wellington City Council. Both councils indicate they are still developing their implementation arrangements and have yet to receive an application from an elected member.

- i Supplementary security measures and the related costs require the Authority's prior approval,
 - ii Where the elected member already has a home security system, an authorised assessment is still required to enable reimbursement of related monitoring, callouts, and repairs, and
 - iii The assessment may recommend other actions (e.g. changes to the elected member's engagement on social media);
 - d The elected member may then, as recommended:
 - i Complete the purchase and professional installation of any recommended home security system (e.g. self-installation is not covered), and
 - ii Purchase any recommended monitoring, callouts, and repairs (and any approved supplementary security measures);
 - e Claim for reimbursement, with receipted invoices for the related costs, from Greater Wellington.
12. Officers propose that the reimbursement amounts are set up to the maximum set in the Determination, and for the following frequencies:
- a Purchasing and installing the home security system and providing approved supplementary security measures – once only; and
 - b Purchasing related monitoring, callouts, and repairs – annually.
13. We consider that Greater Wellington paying the cost of one security threat and risk assessment, and once only eligibility for the reimbursements stated in paragraph 12a, are fair to Councillors and ratepayers. This approach assumes a full initial assessment to address foreseeable threats.
14. The Authority reviewed the draft wording ([Attachment 1](#)) and supporting rationale, and indicated that this proposal aligns with the Determination and does not therefore require the Authority's subsequent formal agreement (see paragraph 3).
15. The advantage of applying these allowances is to enable proportionate actions to support the security of elected members. The disadvantages are that the process requires a security threat and risk assessment, which may be intrusive; requires the elected member to first arrange and meet the related costs of implementing the assessment's recommendations; and adds additional costs for Council and ratepayers at a time of fiscal pressure.
16. If Council decides to adopt the draft revised Policy, officers consider that it should take effect from the next day.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

17. Advice from an external provider (listed in the All-of-Government Protective Security Services Sub-panel) indicates the potential cost of a security threat and risk assessment is up to three days' work or approximately \$5,500 (GST exclusive);

less if the threat level is low and there is no need to engage with stakeholders or conduct a residential assessment.

18. The maximum costs of providing the allowances for each elected member are:
 - a \$4,500 (GST exclusive) for purchase and installation (once only); and
 - b \$1,000 (GST exclusive) for monitoring, callouts, and repairs (annually).
19. Officers cannot estimate the cost of any supplementary security measures – this will depend on the recommendations of the specific security threat and risk assessment and the Authority’s decision.
20. Excluding the cost of any supplementary security measures, the estimated maximum cost for the 2025-28 triennium is \$13,000 (GST exclusive) for each eligible Councillor and \$182,000 (GST exclusive) if all Councillors access these allowances.
21. These costs are unbudgeted and will need to be met from reprioritisation within the related budget.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

22. There are no implications for Māori arising from this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

23. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

24. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of these matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington’s *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that these matters are of low significance, given their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

25. Given the low significance of the matters for decision and the related requirements, the only external consultation was with the Authority and several local authorities whose councils that have recently approved application of the allowances.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

26. If Council approves the draft revised Policy, a copy will be made available on Greater Wellington’s website. Officers will then develop implementation arrangements.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Draft wording applying the Remuneration Authority’s home security system allowances
2	Draft revised <i>Policy on Elected Members’ Allowances and Expenses</i>

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> Council's roles include updating its core policies to align with statutory requirements (e.g. the Determination) and related best practice.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The draft revised Policy does not directly contribute to the Council's plans, strategies and policies.
<i>Internal consultation</i> No internal consultation was considered necessary.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks and impacts.

Draft wording applying the Remuneration Authority's home security system allowances

Home security system allowances

30. Where an elected member is concerned about threats to their personal safety and security, they may make a written request to the Chief Executive to authorise a security threat and risk assessment.
31. This written request must set out the elected member's related concerns.
32. Where the Chief Executive is satisfied, prima facie, that the elected member's concerns warrant a security threat and risk assessment, the Chief Executive will authorise this assessment. Greater Wellington will arrange for that assessment and pay the related costs. Greater Wellington will pay for one security threat and risk assessment only for each elected member.
33. The security threat and risk assessment report may recommend (as appropriate and with related costs):
 - a A home security system;
 - b Related monitoring, callouts, and repairs; and
 - c Any supplementary security measuresfor the elected member's primary place of residence.
34. The assessment report will be provided to both Greater Wellington and the elected member.
35. Where the assessment report recommends any supplementary security measures, the Chief Executive must apply to, and obtain the approval of, the Authority to these supplementary security measures and the related additional expenses before those costs can be claimed by and reimbursed to the elected member.
36. Where the elected member, for their primary place of residence:
 - a Completes the purchase and professional installation of any recommended home security system;
 - b Purchases any recommended monitoring, callouts, and repairs and/or any approved supplementary security measures; and
 - c Pays the related coststhey may claim, for reimbursement by Greater Wellington, for:
 - d Purchasing and installing the home security system – up to the maximum amount set in the Determination (once only);
 - e Monitoring, callouts, and repairs related to that home security system – up to maximum amount set in the Determination (annually); and
 - f The additional expenses approved by the Authority for supplementary security measures (once only).

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37. Any claim must be supported by receipted invoices showing the related costs paid by the elected member.
38. When an elected member vacates office, is not re-elected, or changes their primary place of residence, Greater Wellington has no claim on the home security system for which it has paid any reimbursement.

Draft revised Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses

Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses

Adopted by Council <Insert date>, and effective from <date>.

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Introduction

1. In addition to determining the remuneration of local authority elected members, the Remuneration Authority determines the allowances framework for elected members.
2. Within the allowances framework provisions for the payment of any or all allowances and expenses are at the discretion of each local authority. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Council) provides for elected members' allowances and expenses through this policy, which is adopted by Council.
3. This policy should be read in conjunction with Council's *Sensitive Expenditure (Elected Members) Policy*, its *Code of Conduct for Councillors*, and any applicable Greater Wellington policies (as specified).
4. This policy takes effect on the day following adoption by Council.

Definitions

5. The following definitions are used throughout this policy:
 - a "Authority" refers to the Remuneration Authority
 - b "Chair" refers to the Council Chair
 - c "Council" refers to the governing body of the Wellington Regional Council
 - d "Council business" includes:
 - i Official meetings and workshops of Council, its committees, its subcommittees, its advisory bodies, and external bodies to which the elected member is appointed by Council
 - ii Statutory hearings and related meetings
 - iii Meetings of Council-owned companies
 - iv An external event or meeting where the elected member attends in an official Council capacity, including a meeting with community groups and members of the public
 - v Visits to, and tours of, facilities, sites or works for which Council is responsible for, or has involvement in, or which will be the subject of business to come before Council or any committee or subcommittee
 - vi Seminars, conferences and training courses
 - vii Constituency meetings
 - viii Discussions with committee, subcommittee and advisory group chairs and/or deputy chairs or with Greater Wellington officers
 - ix Consultation with mayors, territorial authority committee chairs, or other elected members
 - x Official briefings,

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and excludes events where the primary focus is on social activity or attendance is not in an official Council capacity (including electioneering).

- e “Determination” refers to the Remuneration Authority’s current Annual Local Government Members Determination
- f “Elected member” or “Councillor” refers to a member of Council elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001, and includes the Chair
- g “Event” includes a conference, course, seminar, event, function or meeting that an elected member is attending on Council business
- h “Greater Wellington” refers to the organisation, the Chief Executive appointed by Council, and staff members appointed under the authority of the Chief Executive
- i “Primary place of residence” is usually determined by the elected member’s address as recorded on the Electoral Roll.

Parking

- 6. Elected members will be provided with parking spaces near Greater Wellington’s Cuba Street offices for their use when on Council business.
- 7. Elected members who incur parking charges when on Council business at other locations are entitled to reimbursement of the actual cost. Evidence of the cost incurred should be provided when the elected member claims reimbursement.

Use of public transport

- 8. Elected members who travel by public transport for Council business are entitled to reimbursement of the actual cost. Evidence of the cost incurred should be provided when the elected member claims reimbursement.

Chair’s vehicle

- 9. The Chair will be eligible to be provided with a vehicle (which shall be a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle or an Electric Vehicle) for the Chair’s business and private use as part of the remuneration provided in the Determination. Use of the Chair’s vehicle for election campaign purposes is prohibited.
- 10. If the Chair elects to have this vehicle available for private use, a deduction (as set out in the Determination) will be made from their remuneration.
- 11. The Chair’s vehicle is eligible for replacement at the commencement of each council triennium. The Chair’s previous vehicle will be disposed of by Greater Wellington in accordance with its standard vehicle disposal process.
- 12. The Chair is liable for any parking fines or traffic offences incurred whilst using their vehicle. The Chair’s use of their vehicle is also subject to any applicable requirements of Greater Wellington’s *Vehicle Policy*.

Electric vehicle charging

13. Where an elected member, excluding the Chair when using the Chair's vehicle provided under the clause 9, is using their own Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle or Electric Vehicle for Council business, they may not charge that vehicle using Greater Wellington's electricity supply unless:
 - a That electricity supply is generally available to the public for the purpose of electric vehicle charging; and
 - b The elected member pays any applicable cost payable by the public for the use of that electricity supply.

Mileage allowance

14. Elected members, excluding the Chair when using the Chair's vehicle provided under clause 9, are entitled to a mileage allowance when using their own vehicle for Council business.
15. Eligibility for the mileage allowance commences from the elected member's primary place of residence until the conclusion of their travel on Council business.
16. The mileage allowance payable is at the maximum rate per kilometre set in the Determination.
17. Mileage may include travel to and from the elected member's primary place of residence, if the travel is:
 - a In the elected member's own vehicle;
 - b On Council business; and
 - c By the most direct route reasonable in the circumstances.
18. Where an elected member chooses, for personal reasons, to travel by private vehicle to an event outside of the Wellington Region, they will be entitled to a mileage payment that is the lesser of the cheapest equivalent air fares available for the day(s) of travel or the total applicable mileage allowance for the travel.

Travel time allowance

19. Elected members are entitled to a travel time allowance for travel undertaken for Council business. The travel time allowance payable will be the maximum set in the Determination.

Travel from additional place of residence

20. Where:
 - a An elected member has an additional place of residence (e.g. a holiday home);
 - b The elected member is travelling from that additional place of residence; and

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- c That travel involves a distance and/or duration greater than the elected member would travel if they were travelling from their primary place of residence,

then they will only be eligible to claim for the mileage and travel time that would have been incurred from their primary place of residence.

ICT allowances

- 21. Each elected member is provided with a Greater Wellington mobile-enabled tablet device and associated keyboard. The use of this loaned equipment by the elected member:
 - a Must be for Council business (use of the device for election campaign purposes is prohibited)
 - b Recognises that the loaned equipment remains Greater Wellington's property and must be returned when requested.
- 22. On request, an elected member may be provided with a standard specification Greater Wellington laptop instead of the mobile-enabled tablet device and associated keyboard referred to in clause 21, subject to the same conditions of use set out in that clause.
- 23. Each elected member having any of the following ICT equipment available for use for Council business is eligible to receive an ICT allowance in respect of each item:
 - a Printer
 - b Mobile phone
 - c Mobile phone service
 - d Internet service
 - e ICT consumables (for example, printer or photocopy paper and ink cartridges).
- 24. The ICT allowance payable in respect of each item will be the maximum set in the Determination.
- 25. The Chair may be provided with Greater Wellington mobile phone. Where this mobile phone is provided:
 - a Greater Wellington will cover all expenses associated with the use of that mobile phone for Council business (use of the mobile phone for election campaign purposes is prohibited)
 - b The mobile phone remains Greater Wellington's property and must be returned when requested
 - c The Chair will be ineligible to receive the ICT allowances payable in respect of a mobile phone and mobile phone service.
- 26. The Chair's office is equipped with a Greater Wellington laptop for the Chair's use for Council business.

Childcare allowance

27. An elected member who is responsible for one or more children under 14 years of age may claim a childcare allowance for each eligible child up to the annual maximum limit set in the Determination.
28. The childcare allowance is only payable if the:
 - a Elected member is a parent or guardian of the child, or is a person who usually has responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and
 - b Child is aged under 14 years of age;
 - c Childcare is provided by a person who:
 - i Is not a family member of the elected member¹, and
 - ii Does not ordinarily reside with the elected member; and
 - d Elected member provides satisfactory evidence to Greater Wellington of the amount paid for childcare.
29. Payment of the childcare allowance is made following the elected member's submission of a childcare allowance claim. This claim must set out the actual costs incurred and paid by the elected member, and must include a receipted invoice or other appropriate record of payment for the childcare services provided.

Home security system allowances

30. Where an elected member is concerned about threats to their personal safety and security, they may make a written request to the Chief Executive to authorise a security threat and risk assessment.
31. This written request must set out the elected member's related concerns.
32. Where the Chief Executive is satisfied, prima facie, that the elected member's concerns warrant a security threat and risk assessment, the Chief Executive will authorise this assessment. Greater Wellington will arrange for that assessment and pay the related costs. Greater Wellington will pay for one security threat and risk assessment only for each elected member.
33. The security threat and risk assessment report may recommend (as appropriate and with related costs):
 - a A home security system;
 - b Related monitoring, callouts, and repairs; and

¹ "Family member of the elected member" means:

- a A spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner
- b A relative, that is, another person connected with the member within two degrees of relationship, whether by blood relationship or by adoption.

Attachment 2 to Report 26.6

- c Any supplementary security measures for the elected member's primary place of residence.
34. The assessment report will be provided to both Greater Wellington and the elected member.
 35. Where the assessment report recommends any supplementary security measures, the Chief Executive must apply to, and obtain the approval of, the Authority to these supplementary security measures and the related additional expenses before those costs can be claimed by and reimbursed to the elected member.
 36. Where the elected member, for their primary place of residence:
 - a Completes the purchase and professional installation of any recommended home security system;
 - b Purchases any recommended monitoring, callouts, and repairs and/or any approved supplementary security measures; and
 - c Pays the related coststhey may claim, for reimbursement by Greater Wellington, for:
 - d Purchasing and installing the home security system – up to the maximum amount set in the Determination (once only);
 - e Monitoring, callouts, and repairs related to that home security system – up to maximum amount set in the Determination (annually); and
 - f The additional expenses approved by the Authority for supplementary security measures (once only).
 37. Any claim must be supported by receipted invoices showing the related costs paid by the elected member.
 38. When an elected member vacates office, is not re-elected, or changes their primary place of residence, Greater Wellington has no claim on the home security system for which it has paid any reimbursement.

Events

39. Elected members authorised to attend an event will have their attendance fees, travel, accommodation, and meals paid for by Greater Wellington. Unless otherwise agreed by the Chief Executive, all travel and accommodation will be booked by Greater Wellington.
40. Councillor professional development and training will be arranged by Greater Wellington.
41. Elected member and the Chair's attendance at a one-off event in New Zealand, or participation in an overseas event, will be subject to the approval processes stated in Council's *Sensitive Expenditure (Elected Members) Policy*.

Clothing

42. Elected members may be supplied with clothing items bearing Greater Wellington's branding for use on Council business. These clothing items remain Greater Wellington's property at all times.

Councillors' Lounge

43. Elected members are entitled to use the Councillors' Lounge in Greater Wellington's Cuba Street offices for Council business.

Travel insurance

44. Travel insurance will be provided to elected members for overseas travel on Council business (being travel approved by Council resolution, consistent with Council's *Sensitive Expenditure (Elected Members) Policy*).

Personal accident insurance

45. Greater Wellington's personal accident insurance includes cover for the death or bodily injury of an elected member.
46. Any payment received as a result of a claim made under this cover for an elected member is payable to Greater Wellington, and will be used for Greater Wellington's business purposes only (e.g. as a contribution to the costs of running an extraordinary election). No payment will be made to the elected member who is the subject of the claim.

Flu vaccination

47. Elected members are entitled to an annual flu vaccination:
 - a Through Greater Wellington's annual onsite vaccination clinics; or
 - b By the elected member's submission of a claim for reimbursement. This claim must set out the actual costs incurred and paid by the elected member, and must include a receipted invoice or other appropriate record of payment for the flu vaccination.

Personal and work-related support

48. Elected members are entitled to access Greater Wellington's Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which is a confidential counselling and advice service that can provide short-term support for personal or work-related issues that are impacting an elected member.

Attachment 2 to Report 26.6

Payment

49. Where applicable, allowances and expense claims will be paid fortnightly.
50. Elected members' claims for allowances and expenses should be made fortnightly, on the forms provided, no later than three months after the date the allowance or expense was incurred, and should include all relevant receipts.
51. Payment will be made by direct credit.

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.44



For Decision

REMUNERATION FOR EXTERNAL MEMBER OF THE FINANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise Council on the proposed remuneration for the external Chair of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee (the Committee).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference provide for the appointment of an external member to the committee.
- 2 **Resolves** that the remuneration for the external member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee is an annual taxable honorarium of \$13,000, a taxable daily meeting fee of \$1,300, and Greater Wellington Regional Council's standard vehicle mileage allowance.
- 3 **Resolves**, in the event the external member resides outside the Wellington Region, that travel-related costs for Committee business will be reimbursed on an actual and reasonable basis when the appointee utilises the most practicable means of transport.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. As the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference do not state the external member's remuneration, this is for Council to determine.
3. Setting the level of remuneration will provide relevant information for candidates and assist the related Nominations Evaluation Group during the selection and appointment process for the external member, which is currently under way.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Remuneration

4. Officers received comparative information from a range of other local authorities, and reviewed Cabinet's *Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest* CO(25)2¹, to enable us to consider an appropriate remuneration.
5. Officers used the same remuneration framework applied in determining the remuneration for the external Chair of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee (for the last two triennia):
 - a Remuneration is a combination of an annual taxable honorarium, a taxable meeting fee, and a vehicle mileage allowance;
 - b The taxable honorarium is set at \$13,000 each year and covers the workload expected of the external member outside of formal meetings;
 - c The taxable daily meeting fee is \$1,300 for each formal meeting and scheduled Committee workshop (maximum of one fee per day) and covers meeting attendance, reading time and related administrative work; and
 - d The vehicle mileage allowance is set at Greater Wellington's standard rate. The external member would also be eligible to seek reimbursement of relevant public transport costs.
6. As the Committee currently meets four to five times a year and expects the external member's additional workload to be 10 days a year, the proposed total annual remuneration totals \$18,200 to \$19,500 (excluding vehicle mileage and public transport costs, which officers do not anticipate as being significant).
7. The proposed total annual remuneration falls in the mid-range of the comparative information considered under paragraph 5.
8. If Council appoints an external member from outside the Wellington Region, it is proposed that the member will be eligible to claim for reimbursement of actual and reasonable travel-related costs, including meals and accommodation (when appropriate).

Statutory requirements for remuneration over \$25,000

9. Section 3(1) of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (the Act) provides, in effect, that a person cannot be appointed to a local authority committee if the local authority's total contract payments to that person exceed \$25,000 in any financial year. There is an exception if the local authority makes a

¹ Whilst Cabinet's Fees Framework does not apply to Council, it is a useful guide and applications are sought from a similar pool of candidates.

special case and obtains the prior approval of the Controller and Auditor-General (the Auditor-General)².

10. During a previous consideration, the Auditor-General advised us that “on balance” Council’s payment of honoraria, meeting fees, and vehicle mileage allowances to an external appointed member of a committee fall within the definition of “contract” under the Act.
11. The proposed total annual remuneration is below this \$25,000 threshold, whilst allowing flexibility for further Committee meetings or workshops in any year before Council needs to obtain the Auditor-General’s prior approval under the Act³.

Proposed remuneration

12. Officers recommend that Council approves the remuneration framework, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 8, for the external member of the Committee.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

13. The proposed additional remuneration will be met from existing budgets.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

14. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

15. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matter, taking into account Council’s *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington’s *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that the matter is of low significance due to its administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

16. Due to the low significance of the matters for decision, no external engagement was required.

² Section 3(3) of the Act.

³ We note that clause 137 of the Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Bill, currently before the Government and Administration Select Committee, proposes to increase this threshold to \$100,000 (GST exclusive) as the \$25,000 threshold has not been adjusted since 1982.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

17. If Council agrees to the proposed remuneration, officers will include this information in the relevant letters to the appointee as the external member of the Committee.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua Principal Advisor Democratic Services
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference</i> Council has the authority to set the remuneration for non-elected appointees to its committees.
<i>Implications for Māori</i> There are no known impacts for Māori.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The matter for decision does not directly contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies or policies.
<i>Internal consultation</i> There was consultation with the Nominations Evaluation Group for the Committee and the Finance & Risk Group in preparing this report.

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.60



For Decision

**CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S DELEGATIONS OF POWERS, FUNCTIONS,
AND DUTIES – FEBRUARY 2026**

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise Council on changes to the delegation of powers, functions, and duties for the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Notes** that Greater Wellington considers that amendments to Council's delegations to:
 - a The Chief Executive under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 are not needed to give effect to the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025; and
 - b Specified officers under the Resource Management Act 1991 are needed to give effect to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 and to reallocate some delegations to different specified officers.
- 2 **Confirms**, with effect from 19 February 2026, Council's delegations to the Chief Executive of the powers, functions, and duties under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.
- 3 **Revokes**, with effect from 20 February 2026, the delegations made by Council on 10 April 2025 to specified officers under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 4 **Delegates** its powers, functions, and duties under the Resource Management Act 1991 to the specified officers in Attachment 1, except those powers retained explicitly by Council, with effect from 20 February 2026.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Under Council's delegations framework, Council generally delegates its powers, functions, and duties to the Chief Executive, who can (usually) sub-delegate these matters to specified officers. Delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) follow a different process (see below).

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

3. On 27 February 2025, Council delegated to the Chief Executive all powers, functions, and duties under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (Report 25.48 - Impact of Legislative Changes on Council's Powers, Functions, and Duties – February 2025). The Chief Executive then subdelegated these powers, functions, and duties to specified officers.
4. The Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025, which generally took effect on 17 December 2025, amends the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) by:
 - a Enabling the government to create a Government Policy Statement (GPS) under new section 10A of the Act. Decision-makers must have regard to a GPS when deciding on a fast-track approval. As part of preparing a GPS, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) may consult the local authority (where the Minister thinks this is appropriate) – there is an implied power to respond to the Minister's request; and
 - b Adding new provisions, and altering the wording of existing provisions, to streamline the process of obtaining approvals under the Act.
5. In addition, officers consider that some of the existing sub-delegations should be reallocated to different positions to allow Greater Wellington to provide pre-application advice in a more responsive manner.

Resource Management Act 1991

6. Under the RMA, Council cannot delegate related powers, functions, and duties to the Chief Executive to sub-delegate¹. Accordingly, Council's practice is to:
 - a Adopt a full set of direct delegations that state any matters retained by Council, any matters not able to be delegated, and the matters delegated to the Chief Executive and specified officers; and
 - b For clarity, when officers propose updating these delegations, revoke the current set of direct delegations and adopt a new revised set of direct delegations.
7. On 10 April 2025, Council directly delegated to specified officers its powers, functions, and duties under the RMA (Report 25.142 - Changes to Council's delegation of powers, functions, and duties – April 2025).

¹ Under section 34A(1)(b) of the RMA, a local authority may delegate to an employee any powers, functions, and duties under the RMA except this power of delegation.

8. Greater Wellington proposes that Council revises these RMA delegations to:
 - a Enable officers to exercise new powers, functions, and duties provided under the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025, which took effect on 20 October 2025;
 - b Amend existing delegations to reflect changed position titles, include new positions in the Tiers, and ensure consistent allocation of similar powers, functions, and duties; and
 - c Add delegations for existing powers where these were identified in an internal review.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

9. Officers reviewed new section 10A of the Act and consider the power to respond to a Minister's request could be delegated appropriately to the Group Manager Environment and the Group Manager Metlink, rather than needing to be retained by Council. This approach is consistent with existing delegations to those positions to submit on the preparation of National Policy Statements under the RMA and aligns with Greater Wellington's *Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations*.
10. We consider that the other amendments to powers, functions, and duties under the Act streamline the existing process, rather than make any substantive changes, so the exercise of these matters do not need to be retained by Council.
11. In officers' view, the changes in the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025 are appropriately covered by the existing Council delegation to the Chief Executive (see paragraph 3). To provide clarity, we recommend that Council confirms the existing Council delegation.
12. The amendments to the Act and the reallocation of current sub-delegations to different positions can be addressed in revised sub-delegations by the Chief Executive.

Resource Management Act 1991

13. Officers have reviewed the new powers, functions, and duties provided under the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025. These matters are process-related - we do not consider any need to be retained by Council or the Chief Executive, and the proposed allocations are consistent with the approach taken for other RMA delegations. The same view applies to the proposed amendments to existing delegations and addition of delegations for existing powers (see paragraph 8).
14. We have reviewed the revised RMA delegations and propose that Council revokes the current delegations and adopts the revised delegations ([Attachment 1](#)).

Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

16. There are no known implications for mana whenua or Māori arising from this report.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

17. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga
Significance

18. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that the matters outlined in the report are of low significance because of their administrative nature.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

19. Given the significance of the matters for decision, no external engagement was considered necessary.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

20. If the recommendations are approved, officers will:
- a Advise the Chief Executive on appropriate changes needed to the sub-delegations under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024; and
 - b Update the delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991 in Greater Wellington's *Delegations Manual* and disseminate these to Greater Wellington.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment

Number	Title
1	Proposed delegations from Council to specified officers – Resource Management Act 1991

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Will Ogier – Kaitohutohu Matua Principal Advisor
Approvers	Francis Ryan – Kaiwhakahaere Mana Urungi, Manapori Head of Governance and Democracy Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>Under Council's delegations framework, Council can generally delegate to the Chief Executive of all powers, functions, and duties under an Act.</p> <p>However, under the Resource Management Act 1991, Council must delegate directly to specified officers any powers, functions, and duties under that Act.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The proposed delegations do not contribute to the Annual Plan, Long Term Plan, or Council's or Greater Wellington's key strategies, policies and plans.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>This report was prepared in consultation with the Strategy, Policy and Regulation business function.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no known risks or impacts arising from the matters for decision.</p>

Proposed delegations from Council to specified officers - Resource Management Act 1991

Resource Management Act 1991

No power to sub-delegate

Note that in accordance with section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991, the following delegations **may not** be sub-delegated.

General delegation to Chief Executive

Council delegates to the Chief Executive all the powers, functions, and duties under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) other than:

- (a) The powers to adopt policy statements and plans;
- (b) Those delegated to a Council Committee; and
- (c) Those identified in the following tables as being retained by Council.

In addition, if Council has any powers, functions, and duties under the RMA that are not specified in the following tables and those are of an enforcement, inspection, licensing, or administrative nature, then the Chief Executive is delegated those powers, functions, and duties as if the matter was specified in the following tables.

For the avoidance of doubt, any powers, functions, and duties in the RMA that are conferred on an enforcement officer or other specific position contained in the RMA do not form part of this delegation.

Specific delegations to the Chief Executive and specified positions

Key to RMA delegations

Tier	Specified position(s)
Tier 1	Chief Executive
Tier 2	Group Manager (as specified)
Tier 3 Regulation	Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation
Tier 4 Regulation	Manager Environmental Regulation
Tier 5 Regulation	Lead Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Investigator Lead Consenting Advisor Project Leader Team Leader Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Team Leader Consents and Compliance
Tier 6 Regulation	Senior Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Officer

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Tier	Specified position(s)
	Senior Environmental Technical Support Senior Resource Advisor
Tier 7 Regulation	Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Officer Environmental Technical Support Resource Advisor
Tier 3 Policy	Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation
Tier 4 Policy	Manager Policy ¹
Tier 5 Policy	Team Leader Policy Project Lead Policy
Tier 4 Knowledge	Manager Knowledge Manager Data and Monitoring
Tier 4 Delivery	Manager Ecosystems and Community Manager Environment Operations

* A contractor or consultant must be appointed to a Greater Wellington position to exercise the related powers, functions, and duties.

Delegations exercised by a Tier can be exercised by all those in the Tiers above (for example, a delegation to Tier 4 Regulation can be exercised by the Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, the Group Manager Environment, and the Chief Executive).

¹ In the Environmental Policy business function.

Functions, powers and responsibilities

Section	Description	Delegate(s)
Transfer of powers		
33	<i>Power to transfer functions, powers, or duties under this Act, except this power of transfer, to another public authority (and revoke or change any transfer made).</i>	Retained by Council
Resource consents		
Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Waivers		
37(1) and 37A	Power to extend a time period and to waive compliance, or failure to comply with service of document requirements as provided in sections 37(1) and 37A. <i>* Limitation</i> Authority relates to the extension of time periods and when the applicant requests or agrees.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i> <i>* Tier 6 Regulation</i>
37(2)	Power to direct the terms on which an omission or inaccuracy of information required, or a procedural requirement that was omitted, shall be rectified in accordance with section 37(2).	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
Section 42A reports		
42A	Powers regarding the preparation, commissioning and provision of reports (including waiving compliance with requirements in this section).	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Permitted activities		
87BB	Powers regarding activities deemed to be a permitted activity.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Direct referral		
87E	Power to determine Council position on a request for direct referral to the Environment Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
87F	Power to approve the content of a report prepared on an application that has been directly referred to the Environment Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Application for resource consent		
41B	Power to direct applicant to provide evidence. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies before hearing.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
41C	Power to make directions and requests. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies before hearing.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
41D	Power to strike out submissions. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies before hearing.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation</i>
88	Power to determine whether an application for resource consent is incomplete (and give reasons why).	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
88BA(2)	Power to extend a time period for no more than one year for processing consents for a specified energy activity or wood processing activity.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
91	Power to determine not to proceed with a resource consent application on certain grounds.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
91C	Power to determine whether to return an application for a resource consent that has been suspended.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
91D	Power to suspend the processing of a non-notified application when requested in accordance with this section.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
91E	Requirement to cease to suspend the processing of a non-notified application when certain grounds apply.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
Further information requests		
92	Power to request further information to be provided, or to commission a report before a decision on a consent application is made.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
92A	Power to set a time within which an applicant is to provide information.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
92AA	Power to determine whether an application for resource consent is incomplete (after	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	specified timeframes if no response is received).	
Notification		
95, 95A, 95B, 95C, 95D, and 127	<p>Powers to decide whether to publicly or limited notify an application for resource consent or change or cancellation of conditions.</p> <p>Power to determine whether the adverse effects on the environment of an application will be minor or whether special circumstances exist in relation to the application.</p>	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
95E	Power to determine which persons may be adversely affected by an application and to serve notice of the application on them if required.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
95F	Power to determine that a protected customary rights group is an affected group if the activity may have adverse effects on a protected customary right and written approval from the group has not been received.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
95G	Power to determine that a customary marine title group is an affected group if the activity may have adverse effects on customary marine title rights and written approval from the group has not been received.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
Submissions on applications, pre-hearing meetings and mediation		
96	Power to lodge a submission on a resource consent application.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
97	Power to adopt an earlier closing date for submissions in accordance with section 97.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
99(1) to (4)	Powers to call pre-hearing meetings and invite or require parties to attend and the duty to prepare a report of the meeting.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
99(8)	Power to decide whether to decline to process an application or submission if they fail to attend a pre-hearing meeting.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
99A(1) to (2)	Power to refer parties who have made a resource consent application or submissions on the application to mediation.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i> <i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i>
99A(3)	Power to appoint mediators when the Council is the applicant.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
Hearings		
100	Power to determine whether a hearing should be held in respect of any application for a resource consent and require that a hearing be held.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
101	Power to fix and notify the commencement date, time and place where a hearing is to be held.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
102(1)	Power to determine that applications to two or more consent authorities for the same proposal are sufficiently unrelated that a joint hearing is unnecessary.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
102(2)	If a joint hearing is held, power to agree that another authority should be responsible for notifying the hearing, setting the procedure, and providing administrative services.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
102(3)	Power to jointly or separately decide applications where those applications are heard jointly.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
103	Power to determine that a combined hearing on applications for resource consents need not be held (proposals must be sufficiently unrelated).	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
Decision making on resource consent applications		
104, 104A to D, 105, 106, 107, 108, 108A, and 108AA	Powers to determine or decline resource consent applications. Power to impose conditions on any consent granted, including the provision of a bond. <u>* Limitation</u>	* <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i> # <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	Applies to applications where no hearing required. <u># Limitation</u> Applies to applications which are non-notified and no hearing is required.	
107G(2)	Powers to provide draft conditions to applicant and to suspend the processing of a non-notified application when applicant and any submitters are considering draft conditions.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
109	Power, where conditions relating to bonds are not met, to enter land to ensure work for which bond is given is being completed.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
110	Duty to refund financial contribution to consent holder where consent has lapsed. Power to retain portion of financial contribution in certain circumstances.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
114	Power to serve consent applicant, submitters and determine other people that are considered appropriate with notice of the decision on an application.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
120	Power to lodge, withdraw or oppose appeal on Council's behalf in the Environment Court.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
Duration of consent		
123	Power to specify duration of consent.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
123A and 123B	Powers to decide duration of consent for aquaculture activities, renewable energy activity, or long-lived infrastructure activity.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
124	Power to allow a consent holder to continue to operate while applicant is seeking a new resource consent.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
124B	Duty to follow process when applications by existing holders received.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
124C	Duty to follow process when applications are received from persons who are not existing holders received.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
125	Power to grant extension of period after which a consent will lapse.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Cancellation and change of resource consents		
126	Power to cancel a resource consent by written notice and power to cancel notice of revocation.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
127	Power to determine non-notified applications for a change or cancellation of any condition of consent. Explanatory note: See <i>notification delegations above in relation to notification decisions on section 127 applications.</i>	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Review of consent conditions by consent authority		
128 and 129	Power to review resource consent conditions and to give notice of review.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
130	Power to determine whether notification of a review is required under section 130 and whether a hearing be held.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
131	Duty to consider certain matters during review of consent conditions and before changing the conditions of a discharge permit or a coastal permit. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies where no hearing is required.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
132(1) to (2)	Power to change the conditions of a resource consent on a review under section 128. <u>* Limitation</u> Power only applies where no hearing is required. <u># Limitation</u> Power applies to reviews where notification is not required and no hearing is required.	<i>* Tier 4 Regulation</i> <i># Tier 6 Regulation</i>
132(3) and (4)	Power to cancel resource consent.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Minor corrections of resource consents		
133A	Power to make minor changes or corrections to resource consent (within 20 working days of grant).	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Transfer of resource consents		
135	Power to approve the transfer of a coastal permit to another person.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
136(2)	Power to approve the transfer of a water permit to another site.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
137(3) and(4)	Power to approve the transfer of a discharge permit to another site.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Surrender of consents		
138	Powers to issue notice of acceptance of surrender of a resource consent, direct that person surrendering consent need not complete any work to give effect to the consent, and refuse acceptance of a part surrender of a resource consent.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
Coastal permits for dumping and incineration		
138A(1)	Power to request further information in relation to applications for coastal permits for dumping or incineration. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies where no hearing is required.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
138A(3)	Power to review coastal permits for dumping or incineration.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
Certificates of compliance or existing use		
139 and 139A	Power to determine and issue certificate of compliance and existing use certificates.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
(excluding 139(4))	Power to request further information before determining whether to issue certificates.	
139(4)	Power to require further information to be provided in order to determine if a certificate of compliance must be issued.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
Planning		
Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Officer reports		
42A	Powers regarding the preparation, commissioning and provision of reports	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	(including waiving compliance with requirements in this section).	
Combined documents		
80	<i>Power to determine whether Council wishes to prepare, implement, and administer the combined regional and district documents as set out in subsections 80(2) to (6).</i>	Retained by Council
Referral of disputes		
82	Power to refer a dispute relating to a policy statement, plan or order to the Environment Court for a decision.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Legal effect of rules		
86B	<i>Power to resolve that a rule in a proposed plan has legal effect only once the proposed plan becomes operative .</i>	Retained by Council
86D	<i>Power to apply to the Environment Court for a rule to have legal effect from date other than standard date .</i>	Retained by Council
Time limits		
37(1), 37A, and Schedule 1, Clause 1(2)	Power to extend any time limit set in Schedule 1 and to waive compliance, or failure to comply, with a requirement in accordance with sections 37(1) and 37A.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
37(2)	Power to direct the terms on which an omission or inaccuracy of any information required under the Resource Management Act 1991, regulation or plan, or a procedural requirement that was omitted, shall be rectified.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i> <i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i>
Consultation		
Schedule 1	Power to provide consultation comments on behalf of Council on a planning or recovery document of another authority.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i>
Schedule 1, Clause 3	Power to determine affected Ministers of the Crown, local authorities and other persons to consult with during the preparation of a proposed policy statement or plan.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Evaluation reports		
32 and Schedule 1, Clause 5 (excluding Clause 5(1)(a))	Power to direct the preparation of an evaluation report for a proposed policy statement or plan in accordance with section 32.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
165H(1A)	Duty to prepare a report summarising the matters required by section 165H(1) and make it available for inspection.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Notification		
Schedule 1, Clause 5(1C)	Power to determine whether a person is likely to be directly affected by the proposed policy statement or plan and determine what information to provide those persons.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Schedule 1, Clause 5(5)	Power to determine appropriate locations in the region to make any proposed policy statement or plan available.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Freshwater planning process		
80A(3)	<i>Duty to prepare a freshwater planning instrument.</i>	Retained by Council
80A(4)	<i>Duty to give public notice of a freshwater planning instrument.</i>	Retained by Council
80A(5)(d)	<i>Power to accept or reject a recommendation of the freshwater hearings panel.</i>	Retained by Council
Schedule 1, Clause 37(1)	Power to provide written notice of intention to submit specified documents and nominate for appointment to the freshwater hearing panel. Power to submit the specified documents to the Chief Freshwater Commissioner.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Schedule 1, Clause 52	<i>Powers to decide to accept or reject each recommendation of the freshwater hearings panel; decide on an alternative solution for each relevant rejected recommendation; and include a related</i>	Retained by Council

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	<p><i>assessment in the further evaluation report.</i></p> <p><i>Duties to give public notice of these decisions; comply with clause 11 as if the decisions were notified under clause 10(4)(b); and give public notice of the specified matters.</i></p>	
Schedule 1, Clause 53	<i>Duties to give written notice, and provide requested additional information, to the Chief Freshwater Commissioner of a needed variation to a freshwater planning instrument (including where this is recommended by the freshwater hearings panel).</i>	Retained by Council
Schedule 1, Clause 59(1)(b)	Power for relevant regional council to nominate two persons as members of each freshwater hearings panel.	<i>Chief Executive and Group Manager Environment (acting individually), following consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Climate Committee and Council Chair</i>
Submissions		
Schedule 1, Clauses 6 and 8	Power to make a submission or further submission.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
Schedule 1, Clause 7	Power to approve the public notification of the availability of a summary of decisions requested.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Resolution of disputes		
Schedule 1, Clause 8AA(1)	Power to invite persons to a meeting for the purpose of clarifying or facilitating the resolution of any matter relating to a proposed policy statement or plan.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Schedule 1, Clauses 8AA(3) and (4)	Power to refer to mediation the issues raised by persons who have made submissions on the proposed plan or policy statement and appoint a mediator.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Hearing, submissions and decisions		

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 8D</i>	<i>Power to withdraw a proposal to prepare, change, or vary a policy statement or plan.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 8B</i>	<i>Power to hold hearings into submissions on proposed policy statement or plan.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clauses 10 and 55</i>	<i>Power to make decisions on provisions and matters raised in submissions on proposed policy statement.</i>	Retained by Council
Appeals		
Schedule 1, Clause 14	Power to lodge or withdraw an appeal to the Environment Court.	<i>See below (Court Proceedings – Resource Management Act 1991)</i>
Amendments to proposed or operative policy statement or plan without using Schedule 1 process		
Schedule 1, Clauses 16(1), 16(2) and 20A	Power to amend a proposed or operative policy statement or plan in accordance with Clauses 16(1), 16(2) and 20A without using the Schedule 1 process.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
44A	Power to amend a plan or proposed plan to remove a duplication or conflict with a National Environmental Standard without using the process in Schedule 1.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
292	Duty to comply with an Environment Court direction to amend a regional plan.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
85(3A) and 293	Power to make an amendment directed by the Environment Court under sections 85(3) and 293 without using the process in Schedule 1.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Initiation of variations to policy statement or plan		
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 16A</i>	<i>Power to initiate variations (being alterations other than those under Schedule 1, Clause 16) to a proposed policy statement or plan, or to a change, at any time before the approval of the policy statement or plan.</i>	Retained by Council
Preparation of changes to policy statement or plan		
293	Powers to, by direction of the Environment Court under section 293, prepare changes to a proposed policy statement or plan that is before the Environment Court,	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	consult about the changes, and submit the changes to the Environment Court for confirmation.	
Approval and making operative of proposed plan and policy statement		
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 17</i>	<i>Power to approve Plan (other than regional coastal plan) and Policy Statement.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 18</i>	<i>Power to adopt proposed regional coastal plan and refer it to the Minister of Conservation for that Minister's approval.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 20</i>	<i>Duty to publicly notify a date on which a policy statement or plan becomes operative.</i>	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Private plan changes		
<i>Schedule 1, Clauses 21 and 28</i>	<i>Power to request a change (or withdraw a request) to a plan under Schedule 1, Clauses 21 and 28.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clauses 23(1) and 23(2)</i>	<i>Power to require by written notice, further or additional information in accordance with Schedule 1, Clause 23.</i>	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 23(3)</i>	<i>Powers to commission a report in relation to a request made under Schedule 1, Clause 21 and notify the person who made the request.</i>	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 23(6)</i>	<i>Power to reject a request made under Schedule 1, Clause 21 where there is insufficient information to enable the Council to consider the request.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 24</i>	<i>Power to modify a request made under Schedule 1, Clause 21 (with the agreement of the person who made the request).</i>	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 25</i>	<i>Power to decide under Schedule 1, Clause 25 how to deal with a request made under Schedule 1, Clause 21.</i>	Retained by Council
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 27</i>	<i>Power to lodge and withdraw an appeal to the Environment Court against a decision by a local authority in relation to a request under Schedule 1, Clause 21.</i>	<i>See below (Court Proceedings - Resource Management Act 1991)</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Schedule 1, Clause 28	Duty to give notice that request made under Schedule 1, Clause 21 will be deemed to be withdrawn if not advised of wish to continue with request.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
<i>Schedule 1, Clause 29</i>	<i>Power to decline, approve, or approve with modifications the plan or change requested under Schedule 1, Clause 21.</i>	Retained by Council
Incorporation of documents by reference		
Schedule 1, Clause 34	Duty to consult on proposal to incorporate material by reference in a proposed plan, variation or change in accordance with Schedule 1, Clause 34.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Administrative charges and cost recovery		
Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Administrative charges		
36(1)	<i>Power to fix administrative charges.</i>	Retained by Council
36(5)	Power to require additional charges under section 36.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
36AA(1)	Power to determine any discount under section 36AA on an administrative charge imposed under section 36.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
36AA(3)	<i>Power to adopt a policy for discounting administrative charges.</i>	Retained by Council
36AAB(1)	Power to remit the whole or part of a charge.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
36AAB(2)	Power to determine to not perform an action to which a charge applies until the charge has been paid in full.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Proposals of national significance		
149ZD	Power to recover costs incurred by Council from the applicant.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 3 Regulation</i>
Emergency works		
331	Power to seek reimbursement of Council's costs for emergency works.	<i>Group Manager Metlink</i> <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

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Proposals of national significance

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
142	<i>Power to request the Minister for the Environment to call in a matter that is or is part of a proposal of national significance.</i>	Retained by Council
149E	Power to make or withdraw a submission on behalf of Council on a matter of national importance.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy (See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
149F	Power to make or withdraw a further submission on a proposed plan, change or variation.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy (See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
149I	Power to withdraw a notified change or variation to a proposed plan subject to limits.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy</i>
149K	Power to make suggestions about who should be appointed to a board.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy</i>
149M	Duty to prepare a proposed plan or change as directed by the board of inquiry.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy</i>
149N	Power to prepare a proposed plan or change in consultation with the applicant and serve a copy on the Environmental Protection Agency.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy</i>
149T	Power to give notice on Council's behalf under section 274 of a matter referred directly to the Environment Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy</i>
149V	Power to lodge on Council's behalf an appeal to the High Court on a question of law.	<i>See below (Court Proceedings - Resource Management Act 1991)</i>
149ZD	Power to recover from the applicant costs incurred by Council.	<i>See above (Administrative charges and cost recovery)</i>

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National environmental standards

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
44	Power to make a submission on a proposed national environmental standard.	<i>Tier 4 Knowledge</i> <i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
44A	Power to amend a plan or proposed plan to remove a duplication or conflict with a National Environmental Standard without using the process in Schedule 1.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>

National policy statements

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
49	Powers to make or withdraw a submission to a Board of Inquiry on a proposed national policy statement.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
55(2)	Powers to make amendments in section 55(2) without using the process in Schedule 1, to give public notice of those amendments, and to make other amendments as required using the process in Schedule 1 as soon as practicable. <u>Limitation</u> Power does not include making amendments to a regional policy statement or plan.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
55(2)	<i>Power to make amendments in section 55(2) to a regional policy statement or plan without using the process in Schedule 1.</i>	Retained by Council
55(3)	<i>Duty to take any action directed by a national policy statement.</i>	Retained by Council

Water Conservation Orders

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Water Conservation Orders		
201	<i>Power to apply to the Minister for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order.</i>	Retained by Council
205	Power to make a submission to a tribunal concerning an application made under section 204.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Policy (See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
211	Power to represent Council at an inquiry conducted by the Environment Court under section 210.	<i>Tier 4 Policy Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Subdivision and reclamations		
Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
234	Power to apply to a territorial authority to vary or cancel instrument creating an esplanade strip on Council land.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation Group Manager Metlink</i>
237B	Power to acquire, on behalf of the Council, an easement over land.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation Group Manager Metlink</i>
237C	Power to close an esplanade strip or access strip to the public.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation Group Manager Metlink</i>
237D	Power to declare, subject to receiving agreement from the relevant territorial authority, that an esplanade reserve or bed of river or lake shall vest in the regional council.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation Group Manager Metlink</i>
245	Power to approve a plan of survey of a reclamation.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
355A	Power to grant a coastal permit consenting to reclamation of land that had been reclaimed from coastal marine area unlawfully.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
355B	Powers to seek an enforcement order against a person who unlawfully reclaimed land from the coastal marine area and take any necessary action to remove unlawfully reclaimed land from the coastal marine area.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

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Occupation of the common marine and coastal area

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
165D	Power to refuse to receive applications for coastal permits.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
165E	Power to grant a coastal permit authorising activity in aquaculture settlement area (to the extent authorised by section).	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
165I	Duty to, by public notice and in accordance with the regional coastal plan, offer authorisations for coastal permits for the occupation of space in the common marine and coastal area. Duty to give the Minister for the Environment notice before making an offer of authorisation.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
369(4)	Power to grant a discharge permit or coastal permit to do something that would otherwise contravene section 15 and does not meet the minimum standards of water quality in certain circumstances.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Ministerial approval of use of method of allocating authorisations		
165L	<i>Power to request the Minister for the Environment to approve a method for the allocation of authorisations for the space in the common marine and coastal area.</i>	Retained by Council
165N(8)(b)	If the request under section 165L is declined, duty to publicly notify that applications may be made for coastal permits to occupy the space that was the subject of the request by public tender of authorisations.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
165P	Duty to publicly notify authorisation method made by the Minister for the Environment under section 165N.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Authorisations		
165X	<i>Powers to accept, reject and call for offers for authorisations, negotiate with any person who made an offer, and give written notice of the decisions with reasons.</i>	Retained by Council

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
165Y	Duty to grant an authorisation if an offer is accepted or an agreement is reached under section 165X.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Ministerial powers in relation to applications for coastal permits to undertake aquaculture activities in common marine and coastal area		
<i>165ZB and 165ZD</i>	<i>Power to request the Minister of Aquaculture to suspend the receipt of applications for coastal permits to occupy space for the purpose of aquaculture activities.</i>	Retained by Council
165ZD and 165ZFA	Duty to provide further information on request of the Minister of Aquaculture.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Manager Knowledge</i>
Ministerial power to direct applications for coastal permits to undertake aquaculture activities in common marine and coastal area to be processed and heard together		
165ZF	Power to request the Minister of Aquaculture to direct Council to process and hear together applications for coastal permits to occupy the space for the purpose of aquaculture activities.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
165ZD and 165ZFA	Duty to provide further information on request of the Minister of Aquaculture.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Manager Knowledge</i>
Processing and hearing applications for coastal permits		
165ZFE(4)	Power to determine an applicant's request to have all affected applications determined by the Environment Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
165ZFE(6)	Duty to prepare a report under section 165ZFE(6) in accordance with sections 87F(4) to (6).	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Manager Knowledge</i>
165ZFE(11)	Power to cancel an applicant's affected application if applicant does not lodge a notice of motion.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Manager Knowledge</i>
165ZFG	Power to provide views to Minister of Aquaculture on whether Minister should call in an affected application.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Manager Knowledge</i>

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Designations

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Notice of Requirement		
168	Powers to give notice of requirement/s, and withdraw a requirement by notice, to the territorial authority.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
169	Powers to lodge or withdraw a submission.	<i>See below (Lodging submissions)</i>
172	Powers (as requiring authority) to accept, reject or modify a territorial authority's recommendations on requirements for a designation.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
174	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose an appeal to the Environment Court.	<i>See below (Court Proceedings – Resource Management Act 1991)</i>
176	Power to give written consent in relation to land subject to Council designation.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
176A	Power to submit an outline plan to the territorial authority. Power to determine whether to make changes requested by territorial authority.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
177	Power (as requiring authority) to do anything in respect of land subject to existing designation or heritage order.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
178	Power (as requiring authority) to give written consent to person wishing to conduct work on an area subject to a requirement for a designation.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
179	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose an appeal to the Environment Court against a refusal of consent by a requiring authority.	<i>See below (Court Proceedings – Resource Management Act 1991)</i>
180	Power (as requiring authority) to transfer rights and responsibilities for designations to another requiring authority.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
181	Power (as requiring authority) to give notice to the territorial authority of its requirement to alter the designation.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
182	Power (as requiring authority) to determine that it no longer wants a designation or part thereof.	<i>Group Manager Environment Group Manager Metlink</i>
184	Power (as requiring authority) to decide not to fix a longer period on a designation.	<i>Group Manager Environment Group Manager Metlink</i>

Enforcement and compliance

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Enforcement officers		
38	Power to appoint enforcement officers to carry out all or any of the functions and powers as an enforcement officer under the RMA.	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Enforcement orders		
316 and 320	Power to apply to the Environment Court for an enforcement order or an interim enforcement order.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
318	Power and duty to be heard in respect of application.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
321	Power, if directly affected, to apply to change or cancel an enforcement order.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
Abatement notices		
325	Duty to respond to an Environment Judge (if they so request) before a decision on an abatement notice appeal is made.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
325A	Powers to determine that an abatement notice be cancelled, changed or confirmed.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Other		
217J	Functions of regional council for the purposes of Part 9A (Freshwater farm plans).	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
217J	Duties to keep and maintain records in relation to each freshwater farm in the regional council's jurisdiction.	<i>Tier 7 Regulation</i>
217K	Power to appoint certifiers to certify freshwater farm plans.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
	Power to appoint auditors to audit freshwater farm plans.	
329	Power to issue a direction during a period of serious temporary shortage of water.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
330	Powers to action emergency works and/or other preventative measures to contain or minimise adverse effects on the environment.	<i>Group Manager Metlink Group Manager Environment</i>
334	Powers to apply to the District Court for a warrant for entry for search where there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence against the Resource Management Act 1991 has been or is suspected of having been committed that is punishable by imprisonment.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation Tier 4 Knowledge</i>
Offences		
338	Power to make the decision for Council to prosecute for offences against the RMA.	<i>Group Manager Environment and Tier 4 Regulation (acting jointly)</i>
338	Power to file a charging document on decisions to prosecute for offences provided that such ability shall only be exercised once the decision to prosecute has been approved.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
338	Power to withdraw a charging document that has been laid in relation to a prosecution.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
343C(4)	Powers to commence, withdraw or join proceedings in respect of an offence to which an infringement notice relates.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Objections		
Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
357D	Power to determine any objection made under sections 357, 357A and 357B. <u>Limitation</u> Power only applies where objection resolved and no hearing is required.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
357, 357A, and 357B	Power (as requiring authority) to object to certain decisions by territorial authorities.	<i>Group Manager Environment Group Manager Metlink</i>
357C	Power to agree to a resolution to an objection.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>

Approvals on behalf of the Council

Section	Description	Delegate(s)
General	Powers to give, or decline to give, written approval on behalf of Council to a resource consent application, and withdraw any written approval given.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
General	Powers to give, or decline to give, written approval on behalf of Council to a resource consent application, and to withdraw any written approval given as a landowner or neighbour.	<i>Group Manager Corporate Services Group Manager Environment Group Manager Metlink</i>

Acquisition

Section	Description	Delegate
86	<i>Power to acquire land by agreement under the Public Works Act 1981.</i>	<i>Group Manager Corporate Services</i>
415	<i>Powers to take, purchase, or acquire the whole or part of any deemed mining permit as a public work under the Public Works Act 1981 or by agreement or otherwise.</i>	Retained by Council

Lodging submissions

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
44	Power to make a submission on a proposed national environmental standard.	<i>Tier 3 Policy Tier 3 Regulation (See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>

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Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
49	Power to make a submission to a Board of Inquiry on a proposed national policy statement in accordance with section 49.	<i>Tier 3 Policy</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
96	Powers to lodge or withdraw a submission on behalf of Council.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
149E and 149F	Powers to lodge or withdraw a submission or further submission to the Environmental Protection Agency.	<i>Tier4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
169 and 190	Duty to provide further information requested on Notice of Requirement. Powers to lodge or withdraw a submission.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i> <i>Group Manager Metlink</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>
293	Powers, by direction of the Environment Court under section 293, to prepare changes to a proposed policy statement or plan that is before the Environment Court, consult about the changes, and submit the changes to the Environment Court for confirmation	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i> <i>Tier 4 Policy</i>
Schedule 1, Clauses 6 and 8	Powers on behalf of Council to lodge or withdraw a submission or further submission.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>(See Policy on Making Submissions to External Organisations)</i>

Court Proceedings - Resource Management Act 1991

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Environment Court		
120	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose an appeal to the Environment Court.	<i>Tier 3 Regulation</i>
174, 179, 192, 195, and	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose an appeal to the Environment Court.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Schedule 1, Clauses 14 and 27		<i>Group Manager Metlink</i>
267	Powers to represent Council at a conference and make decisions on matters that may reasonably be expected to arise at the conference.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
268	Powers to agree or disagree that a member of the Environment Court who conducts an alternative dispute resolution process is not disqualified from resuming his or her role to decide a matter.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
268A	Power to settle a dispute or issues at stake at alternative dispute resolution sessions. Power to make decisions on matters that may reasonably be expected to arise at the conference.	<i>Tier 5 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
272	Power to decide to appear at proceedings before the Environment Court and call evidence for the Council.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
274	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose a notice of intention to become an interested party to Environment Court proceedings under section 274. Power, as a section 274 party, oppose the withdrawal or abandonment of proceedings and step into the shoes of the appellant withdrawing the appeal.	<i>Tier 4 Policy</i> <i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
278 and 279	Powers to seek, withdraw or oppose orders in accordance with sections 278 and 279.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
280	Power to apply to an Environment Judge for leave to make an application for review of order made by an Environment Commissioner. If leave is granted, power to apply to the Environment Court for a review.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
281	Powers to lodge, withdraw or oppose an application for a waiver or direction in accordance with section 281.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
281B	Power to lodge an application to an Environment Judge to reconsider the exercise of a power by a Registrar.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
285	Power to approve an application for costs, respond to an application for costs, or waive the pursuit of costs in Environment Court proceedings.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
286	Power to file an order for costs in the District Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
291	Powers to lodge, oppose or withdraw a Notice of Motion (or originating application) with the Environment Court seeking an order and give or withdraw notice of a wish to be heard on an application.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
294	Power to apply to the Environment Court for a rehearing of proceedings.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
308G and 311	Powers to lodge, withdraw, join or oppose an application for declaration with the Environment Court.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
High Court		
149V	Power to lodge, on Council's behalf, an appeal to the High Court on a question of law.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
299 and 300	<p>Powers to lodge, withdraw, oppose or join an appeal to the High Court and any related applications or proceedings.</p> <p>Power to settle a dispute or issues at stake at mediation or other dispute resolution sessions.</p> <p>Powers to approve Consent Memoranda, draft Consent Orders, side agreements or other documents required to settle a matter.</p>	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
301	Powers to give or withdraw notice of intention to appear and be heard on appeal in High Court proceedings.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>
305	Powers to lodge, withdraw, oppose or join an appeal to the High Court.	<i>Tier 4 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
306	Powers to lodge, withdraw or respond to an application for an extension of time.	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>

Court of Appeal and Supreme Court

308 RMA and Subpart 8 of Part 6 Criminal Procedure Act 2011	<p>Powers to lodge, withdraw, join or otherwise respond to an application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeal or any related applications or proceedings and be heard in relation to any application or proceedings.</p> <p>Power to settle a dispute or issues at stake at mediation or other dispute resolution sessions.</p> <p>Powers to approve Consent Memoranda, draft Consent Orders, side agreements or other documents required to settle a matter.</p>	<i>Group Manager Environment</i>
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Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act 2009

Duty to determine applications or matters lodged before the commencement of this Act (1 October 2009) in line with the Resource Management Act 1991 in place at that time. This includes the powers, functions, and duties preliminary to determining matters or applications under the RMA in place at that time.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
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Resource Management Regulations

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010		
Clause 9	Power to approve permit holder to measure water taken each week (instead of each day).	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Clause 10	Power to approve permit holder to use device or system installed near (instead of at) location from which water taken.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
Clause 11	Power to revoke approval granted under clauses 9 or 10.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>

Attachment 1 to Report 26.60

Section(s)	Description	Delegate(s)
Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003		
Clause 10A(2)	Power (as consent authority) to require a notice to be affixed in a conspicuous place.	<i>Tier 5 Regulation</i>
Resource Management (Transitional, Fees, Rents and Royalties) Regulations 1991		
5	Power to require additional fees for the costs associated with a hearing committee considering application for a restricted coastal activity.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
6	Power to require administrative charges associated with monitoring and supervision of that resource consent.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>
7C	Power to fix an additional charge to recover actual or reasonable costs of administering, monitoring, and supervision of the permit, licence, or other authorisation.	<i>Tier 6 Regulation</i>

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.65



For Decision

POLICY ON THE APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS OF COUNCIL-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise Council on proposed updates and amendments to the Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Controlled Organisations (“the Policy”).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1 **Adopts** the updated Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Controlled Organisations ([Attachment 1](#)).
- 2 **Authorises** the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the Policy to address any typographical or presentational issues.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Section 57 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires Council to have a policy that sets out an objective and transparent process for the identification and consideration of the skills, knowledge and experience required of directors of council organisations, and for the appointment and remuneration of these directors.
3. The Policy should be reviewed each triennium, to ensure it reflects elected members priorities and views.
4. Council’s current policy was adopted on 30 March 2023 (Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations (Report 23.113)).

Te tātaritanga Analysis

5. The updated Policy has been renamed refer to Council Controlled Organisations¹ (CCOs) as the umbrella term for the organisations covered by this policy, instead of 'Council Organisations'. This is to ensure consistency of language across Greater Wellington's corporate documents and reporting.
6. The appointment of directors is one of Council's key accountability mechanisms for its CCOs. Directors are defined as either directors, trustees or office holders of a CCO (however described).²
7. The CCOs covered by this policy include:
 - Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd (WREDA);
 - WRC Holdings Group of companies;
 - Wellington Regional Stadium Trust².
8. There are two other organisations where Council has an interest but are not covered by this policy (CentrePort Limited and Tiaki Wai Limited). As a new organisation, Section 5 of the updated policy now refers to Tiaki Wai Limited (TWL), the water organisation responsible for delivering water services in the Wellington metropolitan area. Day One for Tiaki Wai Limited will be 1 July 2026, or any later date agreed to by all Partners. The appointment of directors of TWL is governed by Tiaki Wai Partnership and TWL's constitution. While not a CCO, as defined in the Policy, Greater Wellington Regional Council does have one elected member as representative on the Tiaki Wai Partners Committee.
9. Council has an established 'Nominations Group' to provide oversight and guidance to Councillors and staff on the appointment of directors (section 10 of the Policy). It is recommended that the name of this group change to the 'Appointments Panel' to better reflect their role. Membership of the Appointments Panel has been amended to provide more flexibility in the event of duplications of roles (currently the role of Council Chair and Chair of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti are held by the same person and the option of the Deputy Chair of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti joining the Appointments Panel is now provided for). Section 10 has also been clarified to set out the membership of the Appointments Panel for all CCO appointments and the role of the WRC Holdings Chair and Council's Trustee on the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust for specific appointments.
10. Section 12 of the Policy ('Remuneration') has been updated to more comprehensively outline the various considerations for the levels of remuneration set by Council, including the legal responsibilities and liabilities of board members of CCOs and ensuring fees are affordable for CCOs.

¹ A Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) is an organisation in which one or more local authorities control 50% or more of the votes or have the right to appoint 50% or more of the directors.

² While Wellington Regional Stadium Trust is not a CCO, it is treated as a CCO for the purpose of this policy. CIR v Wellington Regional Stadium Trust 6/9/05, CA164/04 provides that the provisions of the Wellington Regional Council (Stadium Empowering) Act 1996 are a self-containing statutory code.

11. The updated Policy has a new section on Conflicts of Interest (section 13) to provide additional emphasis and clarity on expectations relating to management of conflicts of interest (real or perceived), and also references updated guidance from the Auditor General on managing conflicts of interest (in section 4).
12. The remaining changes are amendments for clarity or typographical issues.
13. The final version of the updated Policy is contained in [Attachment 1](#), with a track changes version in [Attachment 2](#).
14. The updated Policy, if adopted, is proposed to become effective immediately.

Ngā kōwhiringa Options

- 13 Council can choose from the following options:
 - a Adopt the updated Policy and authorise the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the Policy to address any typographical or presentational issues: or
 - b Provide feedback and instruct officers to amend the policy to capture Council's feedback and authorise the Chair/Chief Executive to approve the amended Policy.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

15. There are no financial implications arising from approving the amended Policy.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

16. The Policy includes the expectation that all director of CCOs understand Council's obligation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and a commitment to improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori. All CCO boards should be able to demonstrate knowledge of tikanga Māori. Additionally, the Policy sets out the importance of diversity in board appointments and that this will be considered in all appointments to our CCOs.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

17. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington Regional Council's *Climate Change Consideration Guide*.
18. The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct climate change assessments.

Ngā tikanga whakatau
Decision-making process

19. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Act.

Te hiranga
Significance

20. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Act) of the matters, taking into account Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington’s Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter is of low significance as it is primarily implementing an administrative change.

Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement

21. Given the low significance of the matters for decision, no external engagement was undertaken.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

22. If Council adopts the updated Policy, it will become effective immediately.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Draft Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations (final version)
2	Draft Policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations (track changes version)

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory

Writer	Sarah Allen - Kaitohutohu Matua Head, Company Portfolio and Economic Development
Approver	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Rautaki General Manager, Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> It is Council's role to approve the Policy under section 57 of the Local Government Act 2002.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The amendments have no known impacts on the Annual Plan or 2021-31 Long Term Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The amended policy was prepared through consultation with Council officers.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks that arise from the amendments considered in this report.

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors of Council controlled organisations

Adopted by Council on <date>

DRAFT

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out, in accordance with section 57(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act), an objective and transparent process for the:

- Identification and consideration of the skills, knowledge and experience required of directors of council controlled organisations
- Appointment of directors to council controlled organisations
- Remuneration of directors to council controlled organisations.

2. Background

This policy has been determined with reference to:

- Local Government Act 2002:
 - Section 6: Meaning of council controlled organisation and council organisation
 - Section 57: Appointment of directors
- Auditor-General's Guidelines as set out in *Governance and accountability of council-controlled organisations* (September 2015).

3. Definitions

A **council-controlled organisation** (CCO) is an organisation in which one or more local authorities control 50% or more of the votes or have the right to appoint 50% or more of the directors.

Director includes trustees or office holders of a CCO (however described).

4. Principles

In all cases the appointment and remuneration processes for directors of CCOs will:

- Be objective and transparent, while protecting individual privacy;
- Manage conflicts of interest appropriately;¹
- Take into account the context in which Greater Wellington Regional Council (Council), as a publicly accountable body, must operate; and
- Be made on the basis of skills, knowledge and experience, having regard to the nature and scope of the CCO's activities and overall objectives.

¹ Refer to the guidance of the Auditor-General for *Managing conflicts of interest: A guide for the public sector* (June 2020).

5. Application of this policy

This policy sets out a **generic process** for the appointment to and remuneration of boards of CCOs. In addition to this policy, appointments and reappointments to the boards of CCOs are governed by their respective regulations (constitutions, trust deeds and, if enacted, legislation). Where ownership of a CCO is jointly or severally shared with other entities, governance requirements are established through shareholder agreements or equivalent documentation. CCOs that are companies are also subject to the Companies Act 1993. In the event of a conflict between this policy and those regulations, the regulations take precedence over this policy.

The appointment process elements of this policy do not apply to Greater Wellington elected members appointed to boards as directors by way of Council resolution.

The CCOs covered by this policy include:

- Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd (WREDA);
- WRC Holdings Group of companies;
- Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (WRST)².

There are two other organisations where Council has an interest but are not covered by this policy (CentrePort Limited and Tiaki Wai Limited). Council owns a majority shareholding in CentrePort Limited (the Port), with the shareholding held in WRC Holdings. The appointment of the directors of CentrePort is governed by the company's constitution and the provisions of the Port Companies Act 1988. Elected members and directors of WRC Holdings Limited will not generally be appointed as directors of CentrePort Limited.

Council owns a minority shareholding in Tiaki Wai Limited (TWL) (effective no earlier than 1 July 2026). The appointment of directors of TWL is governed by the Tiaki Wai Partnership and TWL's constitution. While not a CCO, as defined, Greater Wellington Regional Council does have one elected member as representative on the Tiaki Wai Partners Committee.

6. Tikanga Māori

In accordance with section 57 of the Act, Council considers knowledge of tikanga Māori is relevant to the governance of all council organisations.

7. Role of a director

The Act requires a local authority to appoint people to be directors only if the person has, in the opinion of the local authority, the skills, knowledge or experience to:

² While Wellington Regional Stadium Trust is not a CCO, it is treated as a CCO for the purpose of this policy. CIR v Wellington Regional Stadium Trust 6/9/05, CA164/04 provides that the provisions of the Wellington Regional Council (Stadium Empowering) Act 1996 are a self-containing statutory code.

- Guide the organisation, given the nature and scope of its activities; and
- Contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the organisation.

The required skills, knowledge and experience required of a CCO director will be identified and documented prior to each appointment process commencing, to ensure that the board overall comprises a balance of skills and experience that matches the strategic direction and needs of the CCO.

There are a number of general core competencies expected of directors which include:

- Governance, senior executive or similar experience
- Sound judgement and decision-making
- Public service ethos
- High standard of personal integrity
- An understanding of Council's obligation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and a commitment to improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori
- Good communicator
- Effective team worker and collaborator
- Understanding of the boundaries and roles of governance and management
- Strategic thinking.

8. Eligibility

While some CCOs may have specific eligibility criteria (such as residence in a certain geographic area) all potential directors will be required to disclose:

- Any conviction for which the maximum available sentence is imprisonment of two years or more (noting that required disclosures are subject to the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004)
- If they have been declared bankrupt at any point or been the director of a company at the time it was placed into receivership or involuntary liquidation
- Any potential conflicts of interest.

Employees of Greater Wellington Regional Council will not be appointed as directors of any of its CCOs.

9. Diversity and inclusion

Greater Wellington Regional Council values the benefits that diversity brings. Increasing the diversity of our boards is essential to ensuring we have high performing boards bringing together a wide range of experiences and views, and this will be considered in appointments of both elected members and independent directors to our CCOs.

10. Appointments Panel and process

The Appointments Panel for all CCO appointment processes consists of:

- Council Chair
- Council Deputy Chair
- Chair or Deputy Chair of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti
- Chief Executive
- Lead General Manager.

For appointments to WRC Holdings, the WRC Holdings Chair will be engaged in the appointment process.

For appointments to WRST, Council's Trustee will be engaged in the appointment process.

The Appointments Panel is supported by the Head of Company Portfolio and Economic Development.

When a director vacancy occurs or is upcoming the Appointments Panel will meet to agree the required skills, knowledge and experience for the role. This will include consideration of the current board skill composition, future skill requirements, and succession planning. Candidates will then be sought through advertising, use of a third party (such as the Institute of Directors or relevant Government Ministry), or any individual approaches, as determined by the Appointments Panel.

The Appointments Panel will assess candidates against the agreed selection criteria, conduct any interview process, and make recommendations as to appointment to Council.

Suitable Directors Pool

Council will maintain a pool list of potential directors whose names have been suggested, with the individual's prior consent, by elected members. These potential directors' details are to be kept for consideration of any vacant director or trustee roles that arise.

The potential directors may be assessed against a relevant skills matrix for any vacancy and the Appointments Panel will then consider whether to put any of these people forward for consideration for each available vacancy.

Elected members can propose names for the pool list at any point, but there will be an annual review of the list to ensure it is up to date and accurate.

11. Joint appointments

Some of the appointments covered by this policy are made alongside other shareholders or parties. This may lead to alterations to some of the processes in this policy.

The appointment process for WREDA is undertaken in accordance with Wellington City Council's policy, and led by Wellington City Council. Greater Wellington

Regional Council will provide any suitable names to be included in this process and will receive any prospective names for directors at least one month before a decision needs to be taken to enable any feedback to be provided.

Appointments to the WRST are made jointly by both settlor councils, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Council. The two settlor councils in collaboration with the Trust will agree a short-list of candidates for consideration as trustees. The Appointments Panel will support Council's Trustee to lead this process.

12. Remuneration

Greater Wellington Regional Council sets the remuneration level for directors at the start of each triennium. The level of remuneration is set by Council taking account of:

- The need to attract and retain appropriately qualified directors with the right skills and governance experience
- The level of remuneration paid by comparable organisations in New Zealand
- The nature and scope of the Council Controlled Organisation's role including risk, size and time demands
- Reflecting the legal responsibilities and liabilities of board members; and
- Ensuring fees are affordable for CCOs.

When considering remuneration levels independent advice on the current market situation will also be sought to support any decision-making.

Elected members are not eligible to receive remuneration for any CO directorships they hold, with the exception that if the Chair of WRC Holdings is a Greater Wellington elected member then they would be eligible to receive a director fee as Chair which brings their total remuneration (across their Councillor and WRC Holdings Chair roles) to be equivalent to the remuneration of a Chair of a Committee established by Greater Wellington³. Elected members are eligible to claim mileage or travel allowances in accordance with the current elected members' policy.

13. Conflicts of Interest

Council expects that directors of CCOs will avoid situations where their actions could give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest. Council expects directors to follow the guidance of the Office of the Auditor General and the New Zealand

³ If the Council has established remuneration tiers for its committee chairs, the relevant tier applicable would be the higher tier.

Institute of Directors' Code of Conduct relating to conflicts of interest, insofar as they apply to the CCO.

14. Term of appointment

A director will normally be appointed for a period of three years. Directors are eligible to offer themselves for re-appointment after the initial three year term if they so wish.

The maximum term for directors is six years. Any term that is greater than six years will be considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

15. Performance evaluation and review

It is our policy that all CCO boards undertake performance evaluations and reviews on an annual basis and report these to Council. Any evaluation is expected to include peer review and self-appraisal.

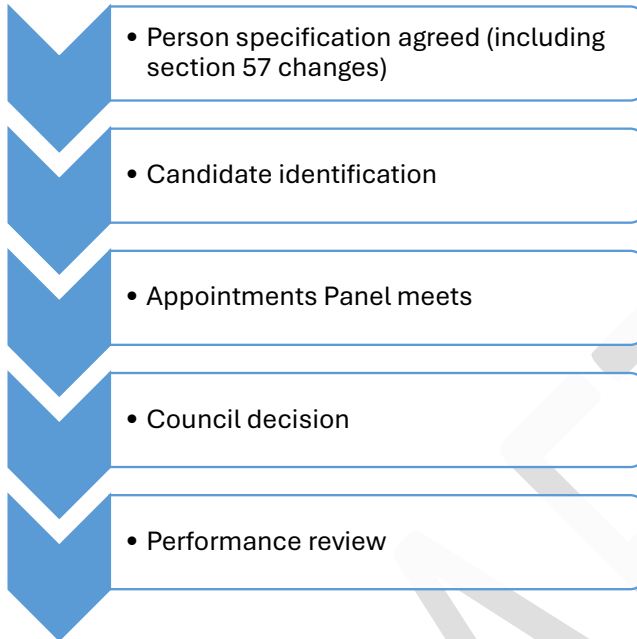
The Office of the Auditor-General has identified the following steps which boards are to follow⁴:

Steps in an *evaluation process* begin with the board assessing its own performance in relation to its key responsibilities. These responsibilities include:

- Communicating with shareholders and meeting their expectations;
- Managing relationships with stakeholders;
- Balancing the mix of skills on the board;
- Strategic planning;
- Discharging legal and ethical obligations;
- Monitoring company performance;
- Maintaining relationships with management; and
- Meeting regularly and ensuring the proper conduct of board meetings.

⁴ Refer to the Auditor-General's *Local Authority Governance of Subsidiary Entities* (2001).

16. Process summary



DRAFT

**Greater Wellington Regional
Council**

***Policy on the appointment and
remuneration of directors of
Council controlled organisations***

**Adopted by Council on ~~30 March~~
~~2023~~**

19 February 2026

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2. Background

This policy has been determined with reference to:

- Local Government Act 2002:
 - Section 6: Meaning of council controlled organisation and council organisation
 - Section 57: Appointment of directors
- Auditor-General's Guidelines as set out in *Governance and accountability of council-controlled organisations* (September 2015).

3. Definitions

A council-controlled organisation (CCO) is an organisation in which one or more local authorities control 50% or more of the votes or have the right to appoint 50% or more of the directors.

Council organisation (CO) is an organisation where the Council controls one or more of the votes or has the right to appoint one or more of the directors, trustees or managers.

The Act also creates two sub-categories of COs:

- A council-controlled organisation (CCO) is a CO in which one or more local authorities control 50% or more of the votes or have the right to appoint 50% or more of the directors.
- A council-controlled trading organisation (CCTO) is a CO that operates a trading undertaking for the purpose of making a profit.

Director includes trustees or office holders of a council-controlled organisation CCO (however described).

4. Principles

In all cases the appointment and remuneration processes for directors of CCOs will:

- Be objective and transparent, while protecting individual privacy;

- Manage conflicts of interest appropriately;¹
- Take into account the context in which ~~the Greater Wellington Regional Council~~ (Council), as a publicly accountable body, must operate; and
- Be made on the basis of skills, knowledge and experience, having regard to the nature and scope of the ~~council organisation-CCO's~~ activities and ~~the organisation's~~ overall objectives.

5. Application of this policy

This policy sets out a **generic process** for the appointment to and remuneration of boards of CCOs. In addition to this policy, appointments and reappointments to the boards of CCOs are governed by their respective regulations (constitutions, trust deeds and, if enacted, legislation). Where ownership of a CCO is jointly or severally shared with other entities, governance requirements are established through shareholder agreements or equivalent documentation. CCOs that are companies are also subject to the Companies Act 1993. In the event of a conflict between this policy and those regulations, the regulations take precedence over this policy.

The appointment process elements of this policy do not apply to Greater Wellington elected members appointed to boards as directors by way of Council resolution.

The CCOs covered by this policy include:

- Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd (WREDA);
- ~~Wellington Water Ltd (WW);~~
- WRC Holdings Group of companies;
- Wellington Regional Stadium Trust².

~~There are two other organisations where Council has an interest but are not covered by this policy (CentrePort Limited and Tiaki Wai Limited). Council owns a majority shareholding in CentrePort Limited (the Port), with the shareholding held in WRC Holdings. The appointment of the directors of CentrePort is governed by the company's constitution and the provisions of the Port Companies Act 1988. Elected members and directors of WRC Holdings Limited will not generally be appointed as directors of CentrePort Limited.~~

~~Council owns a minority shareholding in Tiaki Wai Limited (TWL) (effective no earlier than 1 July 2026). The appointment of directors of TWL is governed by the Tiaki Wai Partnership and TWL's constitution. While not a CCO, as defined, Greater~~

¹ ~~Refer to the guidance of the Auditor-General for Managing conflicts of interest: A guide for the public sector (June 2020). Refer to the Auditor-General's Guidance for members of local authorities about the law on conflicts of interest (June 2007).~~

² ~~While Wellington Regional Stadium Trust is not a CO, it is treated as a CO for the purpose of this policy. CIR v Wellington Regional Stadium Trust 6/9/05, CA164/04 provides that the provisions of the Wellington Regional Council (Stadium Empowering) Act 1996 are a self-containing statutory code.~~

[Wellington Regional Council does have one elected member as representative on the Tiaki Wai Partners Committee.](#)

6. Tikanga Māori

In accordance with section 57 of the Act, Council considers knowledge of tikanga Māori is relevant to the governance of all council organisations.

7. Role of a director

The Act requires a local authority to appoint people to be directors only if the person has, in the opinion of the local authority, the skills, knowledge or experience to:

- Guide the organisation, given the nature and scope of its activities; and
- Contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the organisation.

The required skills, knowledge and experience required of a CCO director will be identified and documented prior to each appointment process commencing, to ensure that the board overall comprises a balance of skills and experience that matches the strategic direction and needs of the CCO.

There are a number of general core competencies expected of directors which include:

- Governance, senior executive or similar experience
- Sound judgement and decision-making
- Public service ethos
- High standard of personal integrity
- An understanding of Council's obligation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and a commitment to improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori
- Good communicator
- Effective team worker and collaborator
- Understanding of the boundaries and roles of governance and management
- Strategic thinking.

8. Eligibility

While some CCOs may have specific eligibility criteria (such as residence in a certain geographic area) all potential directors will be required to disclose:

- Any conviction for which the maximum available sentence is imprisonment of two years or more (–noting that required disclosures are subject to the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004)

- If they have been declared bankrupt at any point or been the director of a company at the time it was placed into receivership or involuntary liquidation
- Any potential conflicts of interest.

Employees of Greater Wellington Regional Council will not be appointed as directors of any of its CCOs.

9. Diversity and inclusion

Greater Wellington Regional Council values the benefits that diversity brings. Increasing the diversity of our boards is essential to ensuring we have high performing boards bringing together a wide range of experiences and views, and this will be considered in appointments of both elected members and independent directors to our CCOs.

10. ~~Nominations Group~~ **Appointments Panel** and process

The ~~nominations group~~ **Appointments panel** for all CCO appointment processes consists of:

- Council Chair
- Council Deputy Chair
- Chair ~~or Deputy Chair~~ of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti
- ~~WRC Holdings Chair (For Holdings related appointments)~~
- ~~Council's Trustee on the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (for Trust related appointments)~~
- Chief Executive
- Lead General Manager.

~~For appointments to WRC Holdings, the WRC Holdings Chair will be engaged in the appointment process.~~

~~For appointments to WRST, Council's Trustee for WRST will be engaged in the appointment process.~~

The ~~group~~ **Appointments Panel** is supported by the ~~Principal Advisor Head,~~ Company Portfolio ~~and Economic Development.~~

When a director vacancy occurs or is upcoming the ~~Nominations Group~~ **Appointments Panel** will meet to agree the required skills, knowledge and experience for the role. This will include consideration of the current board skill composition, future skill requirements, and succession planning. Candidates will then be sought through advertising, use of a third party (such as the Institute of Directors or relevant Government Ministry), or any individual approaches, as determined by the ~~Nominations Group~~ **Appointments Panel**.

The ~~Nominations Group~~Appointments Panel will assess candidates against the agreed selection criteria, conduct any interview process, and make recommendations as to appointment to Council.

Suitable Directors Pool

Council will maintain a pool list of potential directors whose names have been suggested, with the individual's prior consent, by elected members. These potential directors' details are to be kept for consideration of any vacant director or trustee roles that arise.

The potential directors may be assessed against a relevant skills matrix for any vacancy and the ~~nominations group~~Appointments Panel will then consider whether to put any of these people forward for consideration for each available vacancy.

Elected members can propose names for the pool list at any point, but there will be an annual review of the list to ensure it is up to date and accurate.

11. Joint appointments

Some of the appointments covered by this policy are made alongside other shareholders or parties. This may lead to alterations to some of the processes in this policy.

The appointment process for WREDA is undertaken in accordance with Wellington City Council's policy, and led by Wellington City Council. ~~GWRC~~Greater Wellington Regional Council will provide any suitable names to be included in this process and will receive any prospective names for directors at least one month before a decision needs to be taken to enable any feedback to be provided.

Appointments to the ~~Wellington Regional Stadium Trust~~RST are made jointly by both settlor councils, ~~GWRC~~Greater Wellington Regional Council and ~~WCC~~Wellington City Council. The two settlor councils in collaboration with the Trust will agree a short-list of candidates for consideration as trustees. The ~~nominations group~~appointments panel will support Council's Trustee to lead this process.

12. Remuneration

Greater Wellington Regional Council sets the remuneration level for directors at the start of each triennium. The level of remuneration is set by Council taking account of:

- The need to attract and retain appropriately qualified directors with the right skills and governance experience
- The level of remuneration paid by comparable organisations in New Zealand
- The nature and scope of the Council Organisation's role including risk, size and time demands.
- Reflecting the legal responsibilities and liabilities of board members; and
- Ensuring fees are affordable for CCOs.

When considering remuneration levels independent advice on the current market situation will also be sought to support any decision-making.

Elected members are not eligible to receive remuneration for any CCO directorships they hold, with the exception that if the Chair of WRC Holdings is a Greater Wellington elected member then they would be eligible to receive a director fee as Chair which brings their total remuneration (across their Councillor and WRC Holdings Chair roles) to be equivalent to the remuneration of a Chair of a Committee established by Greater Wellington³. Elected members are eligible to claim mileage or travel allowances in accordance with the current elected members' policy.

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³ If the Council has established remuneration tiers for its committee chairs, the relevant tier applicable would be the higher tier.

13. Conflicts of Interest

Council expects that directors of CCOs will avoid situations where their actions could give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest. Council expects directors to follow the guidance of the Office of the Auditor General and the New Zealand Institute of Directors' Code of Conduct relating to conflicts of interest, insofar as they apply to the CCO.

13.14. Term of appointment

A director will normally be appointed for a period of three years. Directors are eligible to offer themselves for re-appointment after the initial three year term if they so wish.

The maximum term for directors is six years. Any term that is greater than six years will be considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

14.15. Performance evaluation and review

It is our policy that all CCO boards undertake performance evaluations and reviews on an annual basis and report these to Council. Any evaluation is expected to include peer review and self-appraisal.

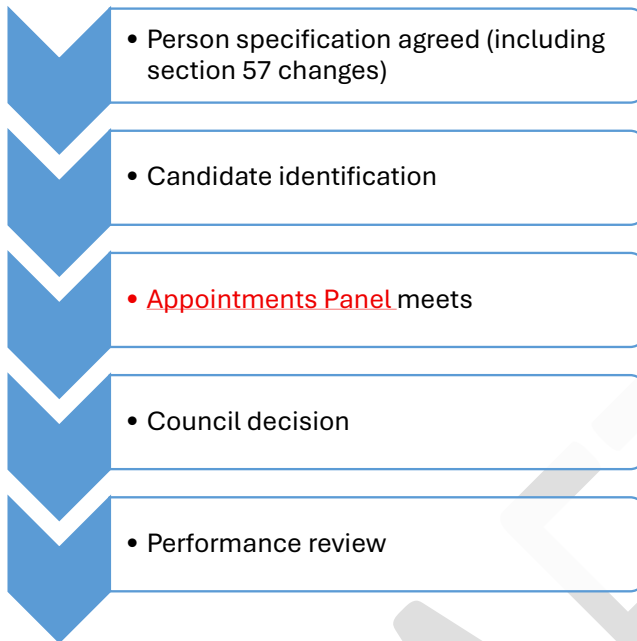
The Office of the Auditor-General has identified the following steps which boards are to follow⁴:

Steps in an *evaluation process* begin with the board assessing its own performance in relation to its key responsibilities. These responsibilities include:

- Communicating with shareholders and meeting their expectations;
- Managing relationships with stakeholders;
- Balancing the mix of skills on the board;
- Strategic planning;
- Discharging legal and ethical obligations;
- Monitoring company performance;
- Maintaining relationships with management; and
- Meeting regularly and ensuring the proper conduct of board meetings.

⁴ Refer to the Auditor-General's *Local Authority Governance of Subsidiary Entities* (2001).

15.16. Process summary



DRAFT



Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.61

For Decision

REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES OF JOINTLY CONTROLLED COUNCIL-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS (CCOs)

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. For Council to consider the level of remuneration for directors and trustees of the jointly controlled Council-controlled organisations (CCOs).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1) **Note** that Council is joint shareholder in Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd (WREDA) and joint settlor of Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (WRST) with Wellington City Council;
- 2) **Note** that Wellington City Council has agreed the proposed remuneration amounts and is awaiting our agreement before confirming any changes;
- 3) **Agree** to remuneration for jointly controlled Council-controlled organisation directors and trustees as follows:

CCO	Role	
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd [^]	Chair	\$60,000
	Director	\$30,000
Wellington Regional Stadium Trust [^]	Chair	\$45,000
	Trustee	\$25,000

[^]Amount recommended and agreed by Wellington City Council as joint shareholder or settlor.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. This report seeks Council’s consideration of the appropriate level of remuneration for directors and trustees of Council-controlled organisations (CCOs).
3. Council’s “Policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors of council organisations” (the Policy) notes that Council will sets the remuneration level for directors at the start of each triennium.

4. Any increase in remuneration will be funded by the CCOs themselves, from within their existing budgets.
5. The last adjustment to director remuneration was made in 2019 for WREDA, at the start of the 2019–2022 Council triennium. The last adjustment to trustee remuneration was made in 2013 for WRST, at the start of the 2013–2016 Council triennium.
6. In September 2022, the Institute of Directors in New Zealand (IoD) conducted a formal benchmarking review of appropriate board fees for Greater Wellington Regional Council's CCOs (Attachment 1 – circulated separately). The review found that remuneration had fallen below the low end of market rates for comparable board appointments.
7. The IoD recommended an increase in fees to better reflect the market for board appointments. However, due to financial pressures faced by both the Council and its CCOs, and because no directors or trustees had requested an increase, an increase to remuneration levels was not considered by Council at the beginning of the 2022–2025 triennium.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

8. Historically, Council has opted to set fees at the lower end of market ranges, recognising the public-good nature of these appointments and the nature of the organisations involved.
9. Determining director and trustee remuneration requires a careful balance:
 - The need to attract and retain appropriately qualified directors with the right skills and governance experience;
 - The level of remuneration paid by comparable organisations in New Zealand;
 - The nature and scope of the CCO's role including risk, size and time demands;
 - Reflecting the legal responsibilities and liabilities of board members; and
 - Ensuring fees are affordable for CCOs.
10. The 2022 Institute of Directors (IoD) review recommended increasing the remuneration of directors and trustees on CCO boards to better reflect market rates for board appointments. While a 2025 update would likely support further increases, at minimum to account for inflation, this report recommends aligning remuneration with the lower end of the 2022 IoD benchmarking ranges, in recognition of the current challenging financial environment.
11. Council officers have reviewed these benchmarking levels and proposed updated remuneration rates, as outlined in the table below. These proposed rates are consistent with the low end of the 2022 IoD recommendations.

CCO – Joint Control		Current	IoD Ranges 2022	Proposed
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd [^]	Chair	\$50,000	\$60,000-\$70,000	\$60,000
	Trustee	\$25,000	\$30,000-\$35,000	\$30,000
Wellington Regional Stadium Trust [^]	Chair	\$38,000	\$45,000-\$50,000	\$45,000
	Trustee	\$19,000	\$25,000-\$30,000	\$25,000

[^]Amount recommended and agreed by Wellington City Council as joint shareholder or settlor.

12. Both jointly controlled CCOs have indicated their support for the proposed remuneration adjustments.
13. Any increase in remuneration will be funded by the CCOs themselves, using their existing budgets.

Nga kōwhiringa Options

14. Council can choose from the following options:
 - Endorse and approve the recommended remuneration of directors and trustees for each CCO
 - Reject the recommended remuneration of directors and trustees for each CCO.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

15. There are no financial implications for Council as any increase in remuneration will be funded by the CCOs themselves, from within their existing budgets.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

16. There are no known implications for Māori arising from this report.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

17. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington’s *Climate Change Consideration Guide*.
18. The matters requiring decision in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct climate change assessments.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

19. Section 57 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to have a policy that sets out the appointment and remuneration of directors of a council organisation. This report

follows the remuneration review process in Council’s “Policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors of council organisations”.

**Te hiranga
Significance**

20. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Act) of the matters, taking into account Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington’s Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter is of low significance as it is primarily implementing an administrative change.

**Te whakatūtakitaki
Engagement**

21. The Chairs and Chief Executives of the respective CCOs have been consulted and are supportive of the proposed changes. Wellington City Council has agreed the proposed remuneration amounts and are awaiting our agreement before confirming any changes.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps**

22. If the proposed remuneration for CCO directors and trustees is agreed, Council Officers will notify Wellington City Council and the CCOs to make the appropriate changes.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1 (circulated separately)	Institute of Directors - Directors’ Fees Benchmarking Review (September 2022)

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory**

Writer	Sarah Allen - Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Company Portfolio and Economic Development
Approver	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Rautaki General Manager, Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations

<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>Council’s “Policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors of council organisations” provides for Council’s role in this matter.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The recommendations and advice process are in line with Council’s “Policy on the appointment and remuneration of directors of council organisations”.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>No internal consultation was considered necessary.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no risks arising from the matters for decision in this report.</p>

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.48



For Decision

GREATER WELLINGTON'S QUARTER TWO SUMMARY REPORT 2025/26

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Council on the financial and non-financial performance of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) for the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year (1 October – 31 December 2025).

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council **accepts** Greater Wellington's 2025/26 Quarter Two Performance Summary Report as at 31 December 2025 ([Attachment 1](#)).

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Quarterly reporting is an internal monitoring tool for tracking progress against Greater Wellington's work programme for 2025/26. This reporting reflects on what is going well, and indicates what issues and risks need to be managed to enable us to achieve what we have committed to in Year Two of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
3. A performance summary is presented to Council after the end of the related period (e.g. each quarter), and the Annual Report is presented as a full year wrap up in lieu of a fourth quarter report.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

4. Greater Wellington's Quarter Two Performance Summary Report as at 31 December 2025 (**Attachment 1**) provides an update on performance during the period of 1 October – 31 December 2025, including:
 - a A high-level summary of Greater Wellington's quarter two highlights and challenges;
 - b The current status of 2024-34 Long Term Plan non-financial performance measures and 2025/26 Chief Executive's KPIs;
 - c An overview of key highlights by Long Term Plan Activity Group;
 - d Examples of key highlights by Long Term Plan Focus Areas;

- e A summary of financial performance; and
- f A summary of status and key updates on major projects.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

- 5. There are no financial implications arising from the matter for decision in this report. Greater Wellington's financial performance for the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year is detailed in [Attachment 1](#).

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

- 6. 'Active mana whenua partnerships and participation for improved outcomes for Māori' is one of the four Focus Areas of Greater Wellington's strategic direction, agreed to in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Attachment 1 includes highlights of activities undertaken during the second quarter of 2025/26 working towards proactive partnerships with mana whenua, giving effect to our Te Tiriti obligations, and improving outcomes for Māori in our Region.
- 7. The matter for decision is administrative in nature, reporting on work already completed by the Council over the second quarter of 2025/26. As such no engagement has been undertaken with Māori on this matter.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

- 8. 'Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction' is one of the four Focus Areas of Greater Wellington's strategic direction, agreed to in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Attachment 1 includes highlights of relevant activities undertaken during the second quarter of 2025/26.
- 9. The matter for decision is administrative in nature, reporting on work already completed by the Council over the second quarter of 2025/26, and as such does not impact Council's climate change goals.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

- 10. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

- 11. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the LGA) of these matters, taking into account Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that the

matter for decision is of low significance as it is administrative in nature, reflecting activities already undertaken by the Council.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

12. Due to the low significance of the matter for decision, no engagement was considered necessary.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

13. No further action is required.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Wellington Quarter Two Summary Report as at 31 December 2025 Greater

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Sam Ripley – Kaitohutohu Matua Senior Advisor Planning and Reporting
Approvers	Tyler Dunkel – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Corporate Planning and Reporting Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy & Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> One of Council's key governance functions is to review the effectiveness of Greater Wellington's performance. It is also important for public transparency that this review occurs at a Council meeting.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Attachment 1 reports on how Greater Wellington is achieving against the expected results for the second quarter of Year Two of its 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> All Business Groups and the Executive Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of Attachment 1. The report was also reviewed by the Chief Executive.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no identified risks or impacts associated with the content or recommendation in this report.

Te Pane Matua Taiao
Greater Wellington Regional Council
Summary of 2025/26 Performance
Quarter Two: 1 October to 31 December 2025

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Purpose

To support a 'no surprises' reporting approach by providing Council with an overview of challenges, highlights, and progress made against key measures.

Content of this report

This report summarises Greater Wellington's progress from 1 October to 31 December 2025 – the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, and the second year of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP). The content of this report includes:

- Summary of highlights and challenges for Greater Wellington;
- Progress against our 2024-34 LTP non-financial performance measures, Chief Executive key performance indicators and status of major projects;
- An overview of the quarter's performance by LTP Activity Group;
- Progress against our 2024-34 LTP Focus Areas; and
- Financial performance for the period ending 30 September 2025.

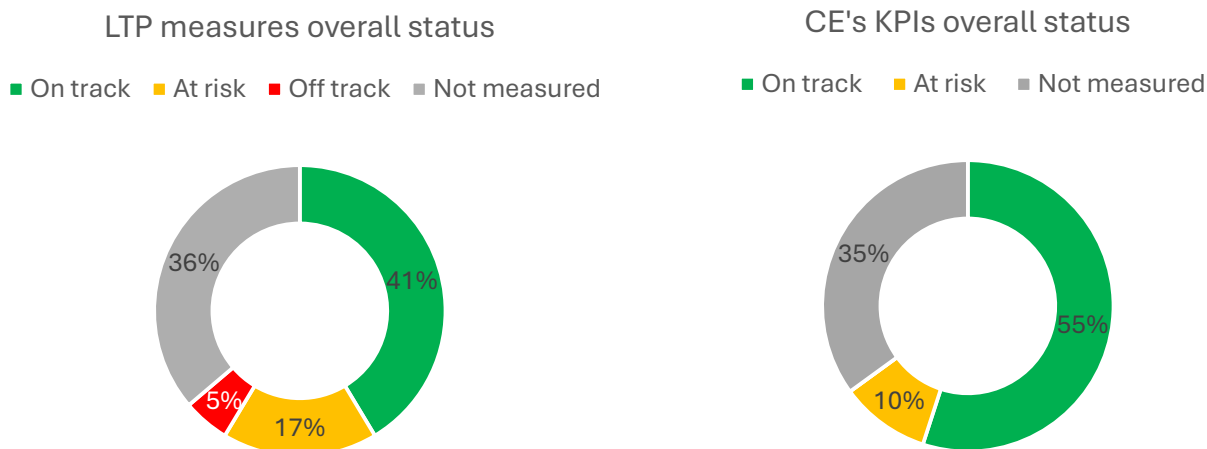
Overall highlights

This quarter we continued our commitments to improving environmental outcomes, strengthening climate resilience, and supporting accessible, reliable public transport. Partnerships with mana whenua continued to shape work on river management, wetland restoration, and climate adaptation planning, with iwi led approaches increasingly embedded in project design. On the transport side, major network improvement programmes continued to move forward particularly in relation to integrated rail services, and progressing work programmes to ensure accessible public transport services.

Overall challenges

The scale and pace of central government reforms continued to place pressure on our planning capacity, as we continue delivering our core services alongside the need to interpret and respond to new legislative and policy changes – particularly reforms to local government, resource management, and emergency management. Uncertainty around funding adds to complexity. Greater Wellington is working to find significant savings and efficiencies, without compromising the core services that communities rely on.

Non-financial Performance Indicators



As at 31 December 2025 the overall performance on Long Term Plan Non-Financial Performance Measures (LTP Measures) and Chief Executives Key Performance Indicators (CE KPI's) shows:

- An overall stable level of risk compared to Q1 of 25/26. Compared to Q2 of 24/25, there are more “at risk” measures, but fewer “off track” and “not measured” measures. Status of CE’s KPIs remains steady compared to Q1 of 25/26, but with proportionally more “not measured” compared to Q2 of 24/25 due to the addition of several new measures that are to be assessed end of year.
- Many LTP Measures and CE KPIs are not measured until Q4, as they are dependent on surveying and auditing completed at the end of the financial year. For example, the results of the Metlink passenger satisfaction survey (which is not conducted until May each year) accounts for approximately 15 percent of the LTP Measures
- Common themes for at-risk / off-track measures include
 - Disruptions or slowdowns related to physical infrastructure, such as speed reductions on Metlink services due to track maintenance by KiwiRail.
 - Delays in planned delivery as we ensure a balance between planned delivery timelines and strong regional coordination, such as pending consenting to perform gravel extraction for flood protection projects.

For more detailed information see:

- **Appendix One** for the LTP Non-Financial Performance Measures;
- **Appendix Two** for the Chief Executive KPIs; and
- **Appendix Three** for Major Projects.

Snapshot of our 2024-34 Long Term Plan Focus Areas

Greater Wellington identified four key overarching Focus Areas in our 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Below are some examples of our actions during Quarter Two that relate to these focus areas.

Active mana whenua partnerships and participation for improved outcomes for Māori

- Partnered with ĀRT to reshape the Ōtaki River channel and carry out fish rescue and relocation ahead of riverbed works.
- Participated in Ngāti Toa-led wānanga on the recent government reforms designed to strengthen and align councils and mana whenua priorities.
- Explored opportunities with Māori landowners for potential solar farms that would deliver shared benefits for both Māori landowners and Greater Wellington.

Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for Te Taiao

- Attended Carterton District Council's Rural Advisory Group to advise on the climate change scenarios and actions for the area.
- Partnered with Hura whenua to co-design a pekapeka (short tailed bat) strategy and monitoring plan.
- Repō (wetland) plan drafted with Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai to guide iwi-led restoration and reinforce kaitiakitanga and mātauranga outcomes.

Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction

- Climate Resilience Working Group (CRWG) established bringing together key staff from across Greater Wellington to create a single point of coordination and positioning for Greater Wellington's climate resilience response.
- An internal project looking at strengthening Greater Wellington's climate emergency response completed its analysis of climate change considerations in council decision-making and made recommendations to the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board. Recommendations were endorsed and improvements to current tools, guidance and training are now underway.

Improving access to services and equity of outcomes through participation with communities

- Enhanced user experience on the Greater Wellington website and HaveYourSay consultation platform.
- Accessibility related community engagement including customers with disabilities, adults with literacy and numeracy barriers, kaumātua and seniors, blind and low vision.

Overview of Long Term Plan Activity Group Performance

This section provides an overview of progress made by each Activity Group made during the quarter. See Appendix One for details on each LTP Non-Financial Performance Measure.

Te Taiao | Environment

Alongside Greater Wellington's work in restoring and enhancing te taiao, we also monitor and manage navigation safety in harbour and coastal waters. This ranges from commercial shipping to recreational users. Ahead of the summer boating season, we placed new safety signage and information at Castlepoint, and conducted on-water education and enforcement days. We also completed one of our two annual oil spill exercises, observed by Maritime New Zealand. The exercise tested our response to floating oil on the harbour, intentionally straining the limits of resources and equipment available in-region and offering insights to how we might respond to a real incident.

Ngā waka tūmatanui | Metlink Public Transport

We are taking a proactive approach to keeping customers informed about disruptions to public transport, planned or otherwise. This quarter we delivered a campaign advertising changes to summer services across the region, a successful trial of bus services that replace trains (BRT) tracking for BRT services on the Johnsonville Line, and development of alternative travel maps for customers during KiwiRail planned rail line maintenance. On our regular bus services, we prepared for increased activity as part of the planned march to parliament and national day of strike action on 23 October, making a dynamic change to managing a red-level severe weather warning on the day.

Ko te mahere ā-rohe me ngā rangapū | Regional Strategy & Partnerships

In November, Greater Wellington staff worked closely with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and partner agencies to test the region's response to a distant-source tsunami through Exercise Terremoto, strengthening how the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) coordinates with local council Emergency Operations Centres and national agencies.

We also progressed regional plans, including development of the Future Network Plan to support the next Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), and Wellington Regional Leadership Committee's Regional Adaptation Project, with scoping underway for a Geospatial Resilience Information Tool.

Following local elections in October 2025, we supported the newly elected Council to adopt its governance structure. We also connected with regional partners and other councils to advance submissions on Government reform proposals ahead of early 2026 deadlines.

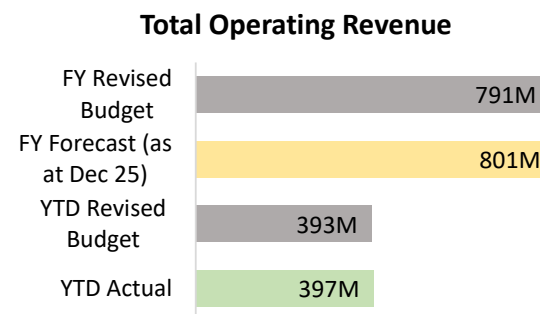
Ngā puna wai | Water Supply

We are continuing preparations ahead of the 1 July 2026 handover to Tiaki Wai, the new multi-council water services entity that will replace Wellington Water. Tiaki Wai was formally incorporated on 30 October 2025, with Greater Wellington as one of the five shareholding councils. As the establishment of Tiaki Wai progresses, work is on track to deliver higher water treatment capacity and more seismically resilient bulk water distribution via the Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Bridge and Te Marua Water Treatment Plant projects.

Financial Performance Summary as at 31 December 2025

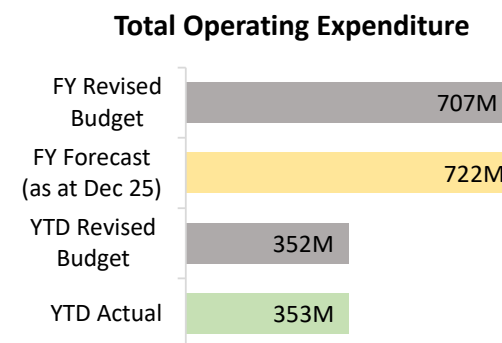
Operating revenue

- Grants and subsidies (G&S) revenue is \$2m above budget YTD, largely due to additional Crown funding for flood resilience CAPEX. This is partly offset by Metlink underspends. For the full-year, revenue is expected to be close to budget. Reduced revenue from LNIRIM, agreed delays to NTS, and ongoing Metlink CAPEX underspends are significantly offset by higher bus contract indexation, continued Crown funding for flood resilience, and a lower NZTA payment resulting from lower farebox revenue.
- Fees, charges, and other revenue are \$1m above budget YTD, driven by additional Environment initiative revenues and higher Treasury interest income, partially offset by weaker farebox returns. By year end, this category is forecast to be \$9m above budget, supported by additional subvention revenue, higher interest from prefunding, and internal revenue from Akura for plant supply to the Flood Resilience project. This is partially offset by lower rail farebox revenue.



Operating expenditure

- Contractor and consultant costs are \$16m below budget YTD, primarily due to delays in bus corridor and the Water ICT projects. These underspends are partly offset by RiverLink property compensation (debt funded), early EMV payment technology, and fees linked to the new Snapper contract (funded by NZTA and debt). These pressures are expected to persist through to year end, resulting in a \$7m overspend, partially mitigated by savings on the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) and Metro Water regional programme.
- G&S expenditure is \$14m above budget YTD, largely due to Wellington Network Agreement (WNA) contract costs, higher bus contract indexation, and a \$3m upfront stadium payment that had been budgeted to phase evenly. A portion of the WNA



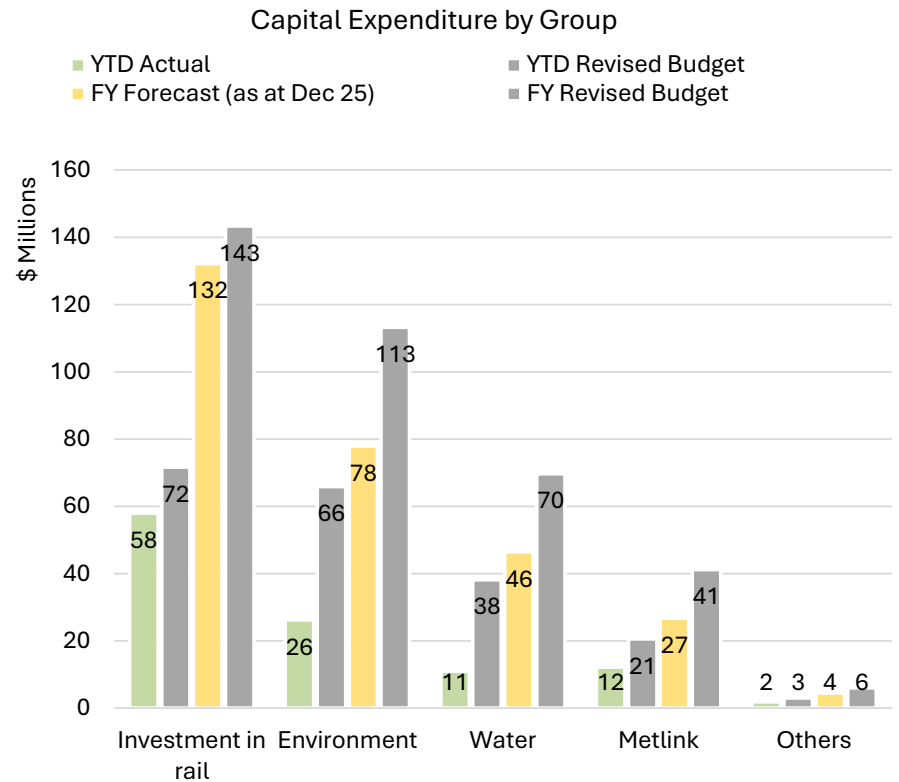
variance is expected to be recovered through Crown support. For the full-year, G&S expenditure is currently forecast to be \$7m above budget, mainly reflecting higher bus contract indexation and the impact of Transdev contract re negotiations.

Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM)

- YTD Investment in Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) is \$14m below budget, driven by lower spend across LNIRIM and other rail projects. In the full-year, we are expecting \$11m lower spend and \$10m lower revenue in LNIRIM, following revised milestones agreed in September 2025.

Capital expenditure

- YTD CAPEX is \$77m below budget, with the full-year forecast at \$75m below budget. This variance is mainly due to the following:
 - RiverLink projects are tracking \$39m below budget, driven by delays in work progress, savings from demolition and rock-line works, unspent contingency, and PWA property compensation costs recorded as OPEX. These factors are expected to continue through year end, resulting in an estimated \$40m underspend.
 - Wellington Water Limited advised changes across multiple projects have contributed to a \$27m variance, which is forecast to reduce to \$23m by year end.
 - Delays in NLTP and WCC joint CAPEX projects have resulted in a \$7m underspend, which is expected to increase to \$14m by year end.
 - Additional Crown funded flood resilience work is expected to partially offset the underspend by \$7m in the full year forecast.



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	Year to date				Full Year			
	Actual	Revised	Variance		Forecast	Revised	Variance	
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s		\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	
Operating Revenue								
Rates	178,248	177,486	762	0%	355,973	354,973	1,000	0%
Grants & Subs	148,712	146,266	2,446	2%	290,403	290,495	(92)	0%
Fees Charges & Other	69,805	68,851	953	1%	154,255	145,673	8,582	6%
Total Operating Revenue	396,764	392,604	4,161	1%	800,630	791,141	9,489	1%
Operating Expenditure								
Personnel	54,694	56,662	(1,968)	-3%	112,267	112,293	(26)	0%
Materials, Supplies & Services	23,320	23,944	(624)	-3%	48,639	48,309	330	1%
Contractor & Consultants	58,769	74,441	(15,671)	-21%	157,334	150,243	7,091	5%
Grants & Subsidies Expenditure	164,972	151,439	13,532	9%	309,491	302,334	7,157	2%
Interest	26,744	24,513	2,230	9%	52,555	51,727	827	2%
Depreciation	18,467	17,314	1,153	7%	33,762	33,762	-	0%
Other	5,997	3,781	2,216	59%	8,597	8,510	87	1%
Warm Wellington	(10)	(95)	85	-90%	(191)	(191)	-	0%
Total Operating Expenditure	352,953	351,999	954	0%	722,452	706,987	15,466	2%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before other items	43,811	40,605	3,206	8%	78,178	84,154	(5,977)	-7%
Fair Value Movements	2,329	(923)	3,252	-352%	(1,846)	(1,846)	-	0%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	46,140	39,682	6,458	16%	76,332	82,308	(5,977)	-7%
Net Capital Expenditure	51,240	128,361	(77,121)	-60%	155,523	230,093	(74,570)	-32%
Investment in Greater Wellington Rail	57,978	71,687	(13,709)	-19%	132,139	143,374	(11,235)	-8%

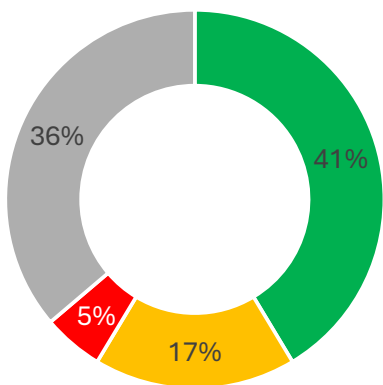
* All amounts in this report are GST exclusive

** Revised budget is budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan plus re-budgets approved by Council

Appendix One: Long Term Plan Non-Financial performance measures

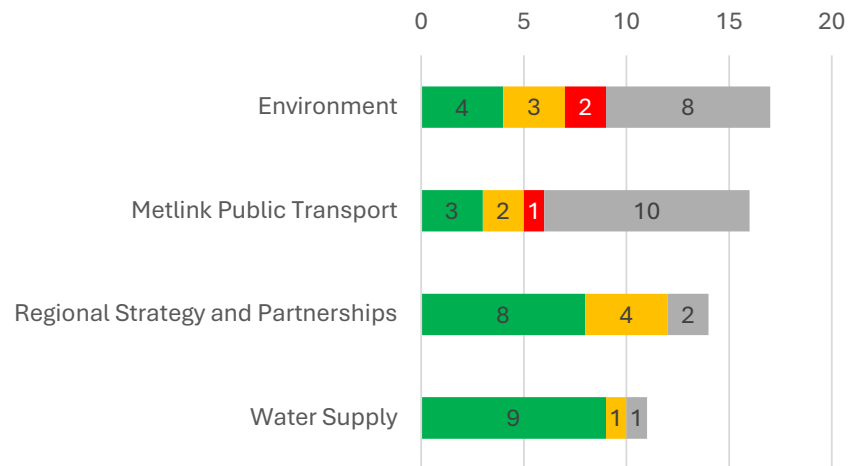
Overall status of LTP measures

■ On track ■ At risk ■ Off track ■ Not measured



Status of LTP measures by Activity Group

■ On track ■ At risk ■ Off track ■ Not measured



Te Taiao | Environment

Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
Thriving Environment	Water quality in the region is maintained or improved	ENV 1	Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) score is maintained or improved	Achieved	Maintain National Objective Framework State A=6 sites (13%) B=12 sites (27%) C=19 sites (42%) D=8 sites (18%)	Not measured		Measured in Q4
		ENV 2	Percentage of Greater Wellington incentive funding used to advance catchment context priorities or to enhance or protect threatened biodiversity, through completion of high impact actions on private land	94%	90%	Not measured		Measured in Q4
		ENV 3	Erosion-prone hill country treated	1,405 ha	650 ha	Not measured		Measured in Q4
		ENV 4	Stakeholders and communities are satisfied	New Measure	Achieved	Not measured		Greater Wellington is reviewing how we prepare and present environmental

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
	knowledge and information to stakeholders and communities		with the effectiveness of knowledge and information shared with them					information. Reporting to stakeholders and communities is the subject of group-wide review under the Place-based Knowledge Exchange work programme.
	Monitor high risk/priority resource consents	ENV 5	Percentage of active resource consents identified as high risk and high priority are checked for compliance and marked with a compliance rating	100%	100%	Not measured		Measured in Q4
	Customer satisfaction for the resource consent service	ENV 6	Level of overall satisfaction with consent processing services	4.2/5.0	>4.0	On track	4.375	
	Protect and care for the environment, landscape and heritage	ENV 7	Indigenous species planted	158,000	200,000	Off track	140,000	No further planting occurred in Q2, as the winter planting season ended in Q1. As reported in Q1, we will not meet the 25/26 end of year target of 200,000 plants due to historic contractual obligations and associated budget constraints. Budget is now back on track and planting will be increased in winter 2026, which overlaps Q4 of 25/26 and Q1 of 26/27.
Connected Community	Customer satisfaction and improved public access	ENV 8	Public satisfaction with experiences in Regional Parks	84%	86%	Not measured		Measured in Q4
Thriving Environment	Provide pest species control services across the region	ENV 9	Provide pest animal and plant management as per Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Operational Plans	Not Achieved	Achieved	On track		Pest Animal and Pest Plant species and site led work all underway and on mainly on schedule. The Pest Animal team experienced some challenges keeping to schedule due to bad weather and staff injuries, however this is unlikely to have

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
								significant impacts on annual work programmes.
		ENV 10	Provide pest species control services as agreed under Predator Free Wellington (PFW)	Achieved	Working towards absence of PFW predators in phase 3 of the project	At risk		Predator Free Wellington work continues, but we are behind schedule due to a significant incursion into Phase one of the project.
	Implement the objectives of the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy	ENV 11	Biodiversity Strategy objectives are being actively progressed by Greater Wellington	Achieved 15 objectives progressed	All 15 objectives progressed	Not measured		Measured in Q4
Connected Community	Collaboration at a catchment scale is increased	ENV 12	Total number of catchment scale collaborations for improving environmental outcomes	21	23	Not measured		Measured in Q4
Resilient Future	Progress towards completion of the RiverLink flood control works	ENV 13	Implement RiverLink in accordance with the Resource Consent Design and agreed Construction Programme	Construction started	Construction is progressed according to Programme	On track		Practical Completion of L3 and R3 rocklines (upstream of Melling Bridge) and enabling works commenced for L2 rockline (by Melling Bridge). Wellington Electricity Ltd (WELL) site investigations and construction work for WAI power cable relocation commenced on Connolly Street. Demolition works progressed on 4 Daly St.
	Provide the standard of flood protection agreed with communities	ENV 14	Major flood protection and control works are maintained, repaired and renewed to the key standards defined in	Not achieved	Achieved	At risk		Challenges noted in Q1 continue: All maintenance and capital works are proceeding; however, a lack of gravel extraction is compromising the Waikanae River Flood Protection scheme, and we are not providing the 1% AEP set in the Flood

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
			relevant planning documents					Management Plan. Global resource consent is needed to permit extraction. Discussions with mana whenua are progressing to enable this.
Provide information and understanding of flood risk in the community		ENV 15	Percentage of Greater Wellington-managed watercourses with current flood hazard mapping	29%	93%	Off track	63%	If all flood hazard modelling projects currently in progress are completed by June 2026, then 81% of mapping will be current. The gap from the intended target of 93% is due to some older flood models reaching the maximum 15-year age requirement.
Manage the safety of marine activities in the region's waters		ENV 16	Maintain and operate our navigation aids to the relevant international standard for reliability in accordance with the Asset Management Plan	98.1%	100%	On track		New navigation pile placed for new shipping routes on Falcon Shoal.
		ENV 17	Meet criteria and consider recommendations of the self-assessment in compliance to the Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code	Achieved	Receive positive feedback from 4-year external review	At risk		Day to day operations are in line with the Code intention, this includes our interactions with Centreport and other stakeholders. Support process and documentation is still overdue for review, and we are running short on time and resource to get this complied prior the external review in June.

Ngā waka tūmatanui | Metlink Public Transport

Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Results	Q2 Commentary
Connected Community	Provide a consistent and high quality customer experience across the public transport network	MPT 1	Passengers' overall satisfaction with the Metlink public transport (BUS)	Bus 92%	Bus 94%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 2	Passengers' overall satisfaction with the Metlink public transport (RAIL)	Rail 94%	Rail 96%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 3	Passengers' overall satisfaction with the Metlink public transport (FERRY)	Ferry 97%	Ferry 98%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 4	Passenger satisfaction with convenience of paying for Metlink public transport	87%	87%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 5	Passenger satisfaction with Metlink information currently available	75%	87%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 6	Passenger satisfaction with Metlink public transport being on time	69%	>82%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 7	Percentage of scheduled bus trips that depart their timetabled starting location	94.4%	95%	On track	95.4%	

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Results	Q2 Commentary
			on time (punctuality) – to 5 minutes					
		MPT 8	Percentage of scheduled bus services delivered (reliability)	92.4%	98%	On track	99.57%	
		MPT 9	Percentage of scheduled rail service delivered on-time (punctuality) – to 5 minutes	80%	95%	Off track	81.7%	Speed restrictions due to track maintenance needs continue to impact our passenger rail services. Most of the disruptions/delays experienced are due to speed restrictions, in particular on the Kāpiti and Hutt Valley Lines.
		MPT 10	Percentage of scheduled rail services delivered (reliability)	91.1%	99.5%	At risk	99.1%	Rail reliability has significantly improved since the start of year, resulting from improvements in operator staff availability and a significant reduced number of rail network issues.
Promote and encourage people to move from private vehicles to public transport		MPT 11	Annual Public Transport boardings per capita	61.9	66	On track	63.4	Per capita boardings are down slightly from Q1 due to the expected reduction in commuters that occurs in each December over the holiday period.
Provide fit-for-purpose vehicles, infrastructure and services to continually deliver a high quality core network that meets ongoing demand		MPT 12	Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with the condition of the station/stop/wharf	91%	89%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
		MPT 13	Percentage of passengers who are satisfied with the	94%	>94%	Not measured		This is an annual measure. Results are determined by way of an annual passenger

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Results	Q2 Commentary
			condition of the vehicles (fleet)					satisfaction survey undertaken in May each year.
Resilient Future	Gross emissions for Metlink’s public transport fleet will be minimised, reducing the offsets required to reach net carbon neutrality	MPT 14	Tonnes of CO2 emitted per year on Metlink Public Transport Services	21,019 tonnes *2021/22 verified result	17,900 tonnes	Not measured		Measured end of year as part of the overall audit of Greater Wellington’s emissions.
	Maintain and improve access to public transport for all	MPT 15	Percent of people within 500m of an all day, 7 day a week public transport service with minimum 60 minute daytime frequency	74.4%	Increase on baseline	Not measured		Measured in Q4
Connected Community	Increased patronage of PT by disabled people (people with an activity limitation)	MPT 16	Increased boardings by people that use the Accessible Concession (as a percent of total boardings)	New measure	1.5%	At risk	1.23% (98,688 out of 8,046,197)	While this quarter's result shows a slight increase compared to 24/25, it is tracking below the end of year target for 25/26. Work to implement the Accessibility Action Plan is ongoing. Driver Accessibility Training is scheduled to take place in Q4.

Ko te mahere ā-rohe me ngā rangapū | Regional Strategy & Partnerships

Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
Resilient Future	Reduction of Greater Wellington's gross organisational greenhouse gas emissions	RSP 1	The organisation's total tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions (gross)	48,438 *2021/22 verified result	31,700	Not measured		2025/26 emissions results will not be calculated until the end of financial year. The final verified result for 2024/25 was 32,438 tonnes, an increase on the previous year. To comply with LGFA's Climate Action Loan criteria, we are working to include more supplier emissions in the 2025-26 inventory. These will be spend-based estimations.
Greater Wellington as an organisation and as a Region has planned the steps they will take to adapt to climate change	RSP 2	Greater Wellington will deliver an Organisational Climate-related risk Assessment and an Organisational Adaptation Plan and will have worked with others to deliver a Regional Climate Adaptation Framework	New measure	Regional Adaptation Framework completed	Organisational Adaptation Plan completed	On track		The Organisational Climate Adaption Plan draft gap analysis was completed. The Geospatial Resilience Information Tool (GRIT) design contract was let.
Wellington Regional Leadership Committee provides a forum for regional alignment and shared work programmes	RSP 3	As the Administering Authority, Greater Wellington will ensure the Committee has an agreed annual work programme and regular progress reporting	Work programme agreed by January 2024	Work programme agreed by January 2025	Annual Report prepared by October 2025	On track		The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) work programme for 2026 was endorsed by the WRLC Senior Staff Group, and meetings were held with the region's mayors to share the work programme.
Maintain a state of readiness of the Emergency Coordination	RSP 4	Greater Wellington will meet the emergency management workforce	78 trained people ready to work in the ECC	82	At risk			While the number of staff completing training is on track, our ability to appropriately staff the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) when activated

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
	Centre (ECC) function that is appropriately staffed and equipped to respond to an emergency		capability and capacity targets.					is at risk due to availability staff when there is a need to deploy. This is due to a combination of factors, including underlying roadblocks to availability during emergencies. Work is underway with the Executive Leadership Team to address this, including prioritisation of ECC responses over BAU work when the ECC is activated.
		RSP 5	Greater Wellington will have fit for purpose response and recovery platforms including an ECC function, technology, and tools	100% of readiness checks completed	100% of readiness checks completed	On track		Readiness checks have been completed. In Q1 an issue was identified with the ECC mobile phone handsets, which have now been replaced and included in ECC kits.
	Greater Wellington (GW) will partner with the Councils in the Wellington Region to enable the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)	RSP 6	Greater Wellington will comply with their part of the WREMO Partnership Agreement	Ensure full compliance with the Partnership Agreement.	Ensure full compliance with the Partnership Agreement.	On track		Agreed roles and responsibilities in the joint services agreement are being met.
Connected Community	Regional transport, planning, leadership, advice, and coordination to guide development and delivery of an integrated, multi-modal regional transport network	RSP 7	Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan is prepared and updated in accordance with the LTMA and central government guidance	Achieved	Achieved	On track		The main focus in Q2 was the development of the Future Network Plan, which progressed well with corridor workshops, development of Māori perspectives using Te Tirohanga Whakamua, and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
		RSP 8	Increase in regional public and active transport mode share	34%	Increase	On track		Annual Monitoring Report for FY2024-25 has been prepared for the Regional Transport Committee. There has been no overall change during the period reported on.
Resilient Future	Timeliness of responses to requests for official information	RSP 9	Percentage of logged official information requests responded to in accordance with statutory deadlines	New measure	100%	At risk	95%	103 official information requests were responded to in Q2. Of these, two were late. One of these was not correctly logged on receipt. The other was automatically deleted as part of the system failure that affected a number of requests in Q1, which meant that officers were not aware of the request until the requestor complained that they had not received a response.
Connected Community	Effective Partnering with mana whenua	RSP 10	Mana whenua report evidence of strong partnership arrangements and progress towards positive outcomes	Success determined through annual partnership health check	Achieved	On track		Partnership in action continues through strategic and operations activities. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of a memorandum of partnership for the Lower Valley Development Scheme for partnership outcomes Coordination efforts with Mana whenua to support two way knowledge building of government reforms Continuation of collaboration for Kapiti Whaitua Implementation.
	Engagement for equitable outcomes	RSP 11	Greater Wellington complete the audit recommendations arising from independent Te Tiriti o Waitangi Audit	New Measure	66% of audit response actions are complete	At risk		We are unlikely to reach 66% completion by the end of the year, with 60% being a more attainable goal within this financial year. Part of this is due to prioritising the actions that are higher value for effort.

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
Supporting strong, prosperous and resilient Māori communities		RSP 12	Greater Wellington will increase its proportion of workforce that self-identify as Māori year-on-year	New measure	Achieved	At risk		5.74% of the workforce identified as Māori at the end of Q2 224/25. As at the end of Q2 25/26 its gone down slightly to 5.6%, so there is a risk we will not reach the targeted increase at year end.
		RSP 13	Greater Wellington will increase its proportion of spend with Māori businesses year-on-year	New measure	Achieved	On track	1.81% in Q2, overall average of 1.41% for 25/26	The percentage this quarter is 1.81% which is an increase over Q1 which was 1.08%. The year-to-date percentage for FY25-26 is 1.41%. The spend target with Māori suppliers sets in the Social Procurement Strategy is 2% of influenceable spend, however as an LIP measure this is considered on track as the target in the LIP is a year-on-year increase.
Support a capable workforce		RSP 14	Annual increase on % of staff who have completed Māori capability training modules	45%	75%	Not measured		Te iti kahurangi Māori capability training has been reviewed, and new training offerings are being scoped. Improvements our ability to monitoring and measure competency progression are currently being designed.

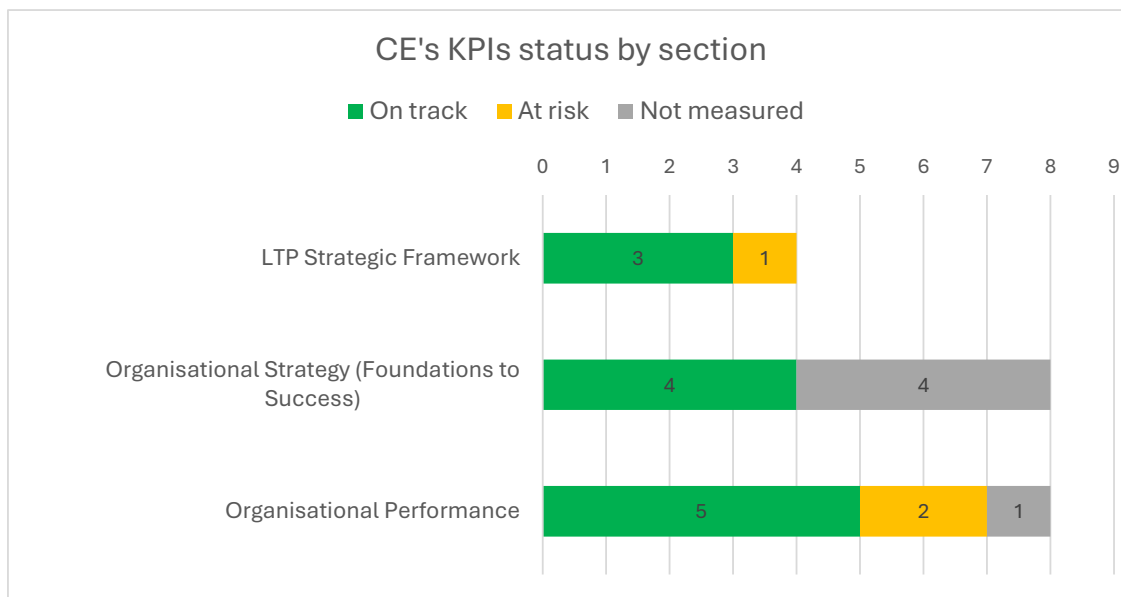
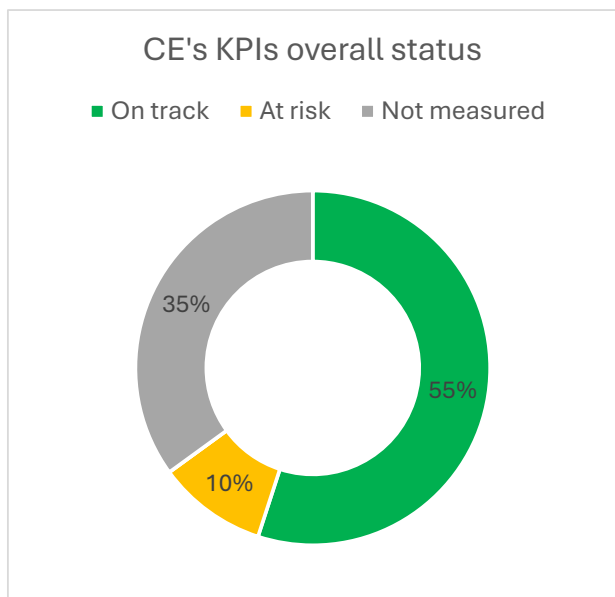
Ngā puna wai | Water Supply

Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 Target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
Thriving Environment	Provide water that is safe and pleasant to drink	WS 1	The extent to which the local authority's drinking water supply complies with bacteriological drinking water standards	Non-compliant	100%	At risk	Partially met for Waterloo (91.67%)	The Waterloo Water Treatment Plant remains non-compliant with the relevant treatment rules due to insufficient contact time with chlorine for approximately 800 households in Lower Hutt, closest to the Plant. Projects are underway to allow closure of cross connections which once complete will achieve 100% compliance.
		WS 2	The extent to which the local authority's drinking water supply complies with protozoa drinking water standards	Non-compliant	100%	On track	100%	
		WS 3	The total number of complaints received about drinking water taste, clarity, odour, water pressure or flow, continuity of supply or the response to any of these issues; expressed per 1000 connections	0	0	Not measured		While there were no complaints reported, at present we would not be able to distinguish complaints logged by Greater Wellington from complaints logged by other councils. Further system improvements are needed to be able to report where locations were logged from.
		WS 4	Number of waterborne disease outbreaks	0	0	On track	0	No outbreaks occurred.
Resilient Future	Provide a continuous and bulk water supply	WS 5	Average consumption of drinking water per day per resident within the TA districts	398L/d/p	<375L/d/p	On track	371 L/d/p	Significant demand reduction achieved in last 12 months thanks to increased investment from city councils in finding and fixing leaks.
		WS 6	The percentage of real water loss from the local authority's networked reticulation system	0.03%	+/-0.25%	On track	0.07%	
		WS 7	Response times to attend urgent call-outs in response to a fault or unplanned interruption to the network	Time to reach site: 0 min (no urgent callouts)	Time to reach site <90min	On track	0	No Event.

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Community Outcome	Level of Service	ID#	Performance Measure	Baseline 22/23	25/26 Target	Q2 Status	Q2 Result	Q2 Commentary
			reticulation system - time to reach site (minutes)					
		WS 8	Response times to attend urgent call-outs in response to a fault or unplanned interruption to the network reticulation system - time to confirm resolution (hours)	Time to confirm resolution: 0 hours (no urgent callouts)	Time to confirm resolution <8hours	On track	0	No Event.
		WS 9	Response times to attend non-urgent callouts in response to a fault or unplanned interruption to the network reticulation system	Time to reach site: 0 hours (no nonurgent callouts)	Time to reach site <72 hours	On track	0	No Event.
		WS 10	Number of events in the bulk water supply preventing the continuous supply of drinking water to consumers	0	0	On track	0	No Event.
		WS 11	Sufficient water is available to meet normal demand except in a drought with a severity of greater than or equal to 1 in 50 years	6.70%	<2%	On track	<1%	The Wellington metropolitan water supply has returned to achieving the water shortage level of service. This is due to a significant reduction in network water loss and an increase in supply capacity following completion of the Te Marua Water Treatment Plan Optimisation project. The risk is assessed as the likelihood of reaching Level 4 restrictions defined in the Water Shortage Risk Management Plan.

Appendix Two: Chief Executive’s KPIs



Section One: LTP Strategic Framework

Focus area	#	Performance indicator	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction	1	The CE enables Greater Wellington to take a consistent and proactive approach to the consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation in decision-making	Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal behaviour change framework implemented including tools, guidance, and training reviewed 	On track	The Strengthening Greater Wellington’s Climate Response project is moving to next stage with the analysis of the Climate Change Consideration process being completed, and recommendations concerning improvements to tools, guidance and training endorsed by the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board. New materials will be developed in Q3 and will include initiatives such as specialised online training modules and internal promotion of the new and updated guidance.

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Focus area	#	Performance indicator	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Active mana whenua partnerships and improved outcomes for Māori	2	The CE is enabling Greater Wellington to position itself to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi which creates the conditions for rangatiratanga and mana Motuhake	Te Hunga Whiriwhiri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wānanga • Te Tiriti audit implementation • Te Whāriki implementation 	On track	<p>An overview of our partnerships with Māna Whenua was included as a part of the councillor induction series, and two Māna Whenua hui were held on marae over the quarter, on 5 November at Waiwhetu marae hosted by Ātiawa Nui Tonu and 19 November at Takapuwhia Marae. Planning is well underway for a future wānanga with mana whenua to look at reforms, enduring partnerships and representation.</p> <p>ELT considered a report from Te Hunga Whiriwhiri on the Te Whāriki strategic plan including outlining accountabilities for audit recommendation implementation, settlements reporting and LIP approach. Actions resulting from this include GM acceptance of the accountabilities outlined, Tiriti Audit reporting by GW business groups for Q3, and bringing back a paper on LIP approach including how we will share and negotiate planning approach with our partners.</p> <p>Greater Wellington continues to support the work of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory board to deliver the settlement requirements, this includes supporting GW appointees, providing annual planning details (in relation to the Wairarapa Moana reserves) and supporting the secretariat to develop robust systems and processes.</p>
Improved access to services and equity of outcomes for communities	3	The CE is actively working toward ensuring equitable practices and actions are pursued by the organisation, leading to positive, equitable outcomes for the community	Metlink <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metlink's accessibility metrics • Developing a plan for a network of fully accessible public transport routes and accessible public transport hubs, aligned with the goals of the Accessibility Action Plan 	At risk	<p>Accessibility Metrics - boardings</p> <p>The accessibility measure is based on the percentage of boarding by people using an accessibility concession. While this quarter's result (1.23%) shows an increase on the 24/25 end of year result (1.12%), it does not yet meet the 25/26 end of year target (1.5%). Metlink continues to undertake accessibility an ongoing programme of accessibility improvements as part of the Accessibility Action Plan which is which will give disabled people more confidence to use public transport.</p>

Corporate Services

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Focus area	#	Performance indicator	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve at least 2% spend with Māori businesses across Greater Wellington 		<p>Development of plan for network of fully accessible public transport route</p> <p>Metlink has identified 10 stations (Wellington, Upper Hutt, Trentham, Paraparaumu, Plimmerton, Johnsonville, Ngaio, Masterton, Carterton, Featherston) targeted for accessibility improvements and is in the process of establishing accessibility standards and implementing improvements to the targeted stations in the 25/26 and 26/27 financial years using Accessibility Action Plan funding.</p> <p>Spend with Māori Suppliers</p> <p>The spend with Māori businesses for Q2 is 1.81% which is behind the target of 2%. The majority of this spend is with one supplier, for a large purchase of rocks for river management. Other spend includes specialty mowing, biosecurity services, legal services, and mātauranga consultancy. This quarter sees an increase in spend with Māori businesses over Q1 which was 1.08%. The year-to-date percentage from FY25-26 is 1.41%. Our focus in the next six months is supporting staff to try new suppliers when under our \$50k low risk threshold. We are supporting our mana whenua partners to access more contracts where possible either through Greater Wellington panels or non-panel work. In Metlink, work is happening to unbundle a major contract into more accessible pieces.</p>

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Focus area	#	Performance indicator	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for te Taiao	4	The CE will ensure that Rōpū Taiao is progressing the design and delivery of catchment approaches to enhance achievement of te taiao outcomes	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The six catchment-based focus areas achieve their key integrated catchment plan milestones** 	On track	<p>Te Awarua o Porirua: partners agreed outcomes and discussed measures for Te Wai Ora o Porirua and held two further successful prioritisation workshops. 15 priority actions agreed from the workshop that will form the basis of the Catchment Plan.</p> <p>Te Whanganui-a-Tara: Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa Ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Inc led a second successful Waiwhetū Wānanga with mana whenua, Greater Wellington, HCC, and WWL senior leadership staff to confirm commitment to developing an integrated catchment plan. Staff from each agency are contributing collaboratively to the project.</p> <p>Ruamāhanga: Annual planning and implementation for works around Wairarapa Moana is integrated across Environment Group teams. This information has been shared with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board. Work to support 3-year planning is underway now alongside consideration of inputs to the LIP process.</p> <p>Wairarapa Coast: GW, Mountains to Sea Wellington, MPI and the Wairarapa Catchment Collective are working with Catchment groups and communities along the coast to develop catchment action plans. There are currently four action plans under development. These cover 127,744 hectares out of 247,000 total hectares (50%)</p> <p>Kāpiti:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai: eight site-based projects have been identified to progress the action plan. Project planning for each site is underway. Monitoring workshops held to share what monitoring each partner is undertaking and when and where. A monitoring portal has been created.

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Focus area	#	Performance indicator	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
					<p>Work is underway on an approach for cutting Kapiti river mouths, with the goal of developing a joint operational plan between Greater Wellington and KCDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ōtaki: currently on pause until meeting with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to discuss Waipuke report can be confirmed.

Section Two: Organisational Strategy (Foundations to Success)

Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
<p>Strong and positive culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our leaders are visible, strategic, and empowering • Our values are clear and lived by our people • Our people feel they belong at Greater Wellington and our diversity is celebrated 	5	<p>Demonstrated leadership as the CE internally and externally, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> observed behaviours and visibility within the organisation sector leadership across the Greater Wellington rohe regional council/Te Uru Kahika sector leadership responsiveness and accessibility to Councillors. 	<p>CE's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As assessed by the Chair and the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee 	On track	<p>The CE has led all communications to staff and people leaders on the reform announcements and annual plan over the past quarter, as he continues to communicate in a timely, authentic and clear manner through stressful times of change. He visited every GW office and site before Christmas to thank staff for their hard work over the year. Live Teams chats with staff, in person coffee and chats and ongoing leader forums are planned for 2026.</p> <p>The CE has continued to focus on enduring relationships with CEs of TAs in Greater Wellington rohe, which is critical at this time of reform. As a result, GW, through the CE, is playing a key role in influencing the reform conversation and contributing to shaping the future for the Wellington region. The CE continues ongoing strong involvement in the Regional Council Chief Executives Group, as well as the local region's CEO network. The CE is a highly</p>

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
					active member of the regional council/Te Uru Kahika sector group with lead roles representing the sector in RM matters (including on MFE led local government reference groups liaising directly with the Minister/s), Transport Special Interest Group, the Navigational and Safety Special Interests Group, and associated MNZ led Navigational Safety Code Steering Group. The CE has led an effective induction programme for Councillors and made himself available for all Councillors to meet one on one. However, the overall success of this objective is best determined by Councillors themselves.
	6	Our new organisational values are known and understood by staff	People and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score above 4.0 for the engagement survey question: I have a good understanding of our organisational values 	On track	Our mid-year Pulse engagement survey score was 4.23. In December ELT approved phase 2 of the values implementation plan which will see ongoing communications and embedding of the values across a range of people systems. The four values are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manaakitanga - Care for people: We support everyone to be themselves and do their best. Auahatanga - Embrace ideas: We're curious, creative, and open-minded. Kōtuitui - Value relationships: We build genuine and enduring relationships, internally and externally. Pono ki te kaupapa - True to our purpose: We act with integrity and take responsibility in all we do, building trust with our communities and partners.
Successful people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our people are capable and supported to be successful Our people are highly engaged 	7	Our ethnicity and gender metrics increasingly reflect the region's communities.	People and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving upon the new ethnicity baseline data Continue to increase ethnic and gender diversity across the workforce 	Not measured	Will be reported at the end of Q4. Recruitment levels across Greater Wellington have reduced this financial year with lower turnover and active management of headcount, which may impact this KPI.

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, safety, and wellbeing are an active choice and instinctive in the way we work 	8	Our people feel that Greater Wellington is a place they belong	People and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain or increase the score of 4.10 for the engagement survey question: Greater Wellington is a place I feel I belong We have comparable engagement across gender groupings 	Not measured	Will be reported at the end of Q4. The annual Gallup Employee Engagement survey takes place in May.
	9	Chief Executive-driven Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) culture. Greater Wellington and Chief Executive HSW due diligence obligations are demonstrated.	People and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two ELT visits to field locations to review HSW processes and risks A high-level report on these field trips is included in a report to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee 	On track	ELT has agreed on a schedule of site visits for 2025/26.
	10	Gallup overall employee engagement index.	People and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement on the 2024/25 result of 4.17 	Not measured	Will be reported at the end of Q4. The annual Gallup Employee Engagement survey takes place in May.
Integrated and effective ways of working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our policies, processes, systems, support, and change management are effective and user centric Our thinking, information, planning and delivery is integrated Our decisions are well-informed and made at the right level 	11	ELT is enabling integrated decision-making by Council through the consistent provision of joined-up organisational advice.	CE's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As reported by Councillors 	Not measured	Pending – as reported by Councillors

Attachment 1 to Report 26.48

Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Purposeful and trusted relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our partnerships with mana whenua are strong We listen to our communities to better understand what they need Our key relationships are clear and we maximise potential We make it easy for stakeholders and communities to work and engage with us, and find our information 	12	Regular one-on-one meetings with CEs of selected territorial authorities in the region, iwi, the regional sector group and operators to build trust and explore partnership opportunities.	CE's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular scheduling and reporting on meetings 	On track	Meetings with CEs – both regional and city/district - are frequent and a mix of scheduled 1:1s, formal CE meetings of the whole, and ad-hoc, as required, catch ups. Regular informal meetings and catchups occur with multiple CEOs. Key relationships are maintained with CEs and senior management of key government departments such as NZTA, MFE, MoT, transport operators (including Auckland Transport) and Mana Whenua CEOs and senior staff. The focus is on relationship management, key issue and risk management and managing sector and system wide outcomes.

Section Three: Organisational Performance

Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Organisational excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Wellington fulfils its obligations fully to deliver value for money to its communities. Greater Wellington supports effective democratic participation and governance through a successful 2025 election awareness campaign – including the 	13	Proportion of 2024-34 Long Term Plan non-financial performance measures that are 'Achieved' is 80% or above.	Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% are 'Achieved' 	At risk	<p>As there are a substantial number of LTP measures that are measured only in Q4, this KPI also cannot be definitively measured until Q4. Based on previous year's results we are unlikely to hit the 80% mark, with previous final results of approximately 65% of our measures achieved.</p> <p>However, most of the measures not achieved are very close to target or show a consistent trend of improvement year-on-year. For example, most public transport metrics have shown year-on-year improvement. These additional achievements are highlighted in the Annual Report, published to the public in November each year.</p>

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Māori Constituency poll –and a comprehensive induction programme for elected members.	14	Percentage of major projects with an overall “green” rating (on track in terms of schedule, budget, managing risks and issues, health and safety, stakeholders, and resources) is 70% or above.	Corporate Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 70% are ‘green’ 	At Risk	<p>Of all Greater Wellington’s projects categorised as major, 7 out of 13 projects in delivery (54%) are green, 4 projects (30%) are amber and 2 (16%) are red. Two bulk water projects are to be completed just after Q2 in January 2026 [Whakawhirinaki - Silverstream Water Bridge and Shared Path and Te Marua Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade], two projects are anticipated to return to green in January 2026 [Regional Land Transport Plan and Transport Services Procurement Programme], and all other projects have mitigations in place. Key areas of concern relate to resource constraints which will require significant focus on prioritisation conversations to ensure we achieve these key outcomes this year. Status of major projects as follows:</p> <p>Red (2 / 16%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RiverLink National Ticketing Solution <p>Amber (4 / 30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPS Programme ICT Strategy Regional Land Transport Plan 2027 Kauri St Bus Depot <p>Green (7 / 54%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Resilience Tranche 1 Local Water Done Well Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Toitu Te Whenua Parks Network Plan Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Bridge and Shared Path <p>Shared Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Marua Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade Transport Services Procurement Programme.

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
	15	Identified significant uncertainties/risks are addressed through ELT and prioritised for action to reduce risk.	CE's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As reported by the CE 	On track	Risk is a regular item on ELT agenda and discussions, including risk reporting and risk appetite discussions.
	16	Compliance with Greater Wellington's statutory responsibilities and Council policies	Finance and Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Legal Compliance Survey 	On track	<p>The compliance survey recorded 72% full compliance and a 100% completion rate (up from 80% in FY2024), demonstrating strong engagement. The Legal team will review remaining partially or non-compliant obligations to ensure action plans are in place and progressing.</p> <p>The survey is completed by tier 3 managers. There were 66 responses, with 100% response rate for FY2025. The survey targets the manager's legislative responsibilities and their compliance with those responsibilities. If there is partial or noncompliance, Legal review to ensure an appropriate compliance management plan is put in place. This year there was two percent partial or noncompliance, and 21 action plans are now in place.</p>
	17	Financial performance of Council and major projects including the development and implementation of an ongoing programme, commencing in the 2025-2028 triennium of financial "deep dives" involving Councillors, into significant cost centres	Finance and Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly financial reports 	On track	The first Council reports and the 2024/25 Annual Report have now been delivered, providing an overview of Council's financial performance and major projects. Financial "deep dives" into significant cost centres will be arranged through upcoming FRAC workshops, supporting Councillor engagement and understanding. This will form part of the development and implementation of an ongoing programme of financial deep dives, for the 2025–2028 triennium.

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
	18	Aquantitative survey of candidates, and metrics on campaign reach demonstrate an effective election awareness campaign	Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acomprehensive awareness election campaign across the themes of“Enrol”, “Stand” and “Vote” is conducted 	On track	<p>The 2025 candidate survey had a 90% response rate (2022: 80%). One-third of candidates stated that they did not engage with the election awareness campaign website, whilst 62% stated they found the campaign website helpful, very helpful, or extremely helpful in providing the information they needed to stand in the Council elections.</p> <p>Thirty candidates stood for election (2022: 30) and all positions were filled. Voter turnout was 47.1% (2022: 43.4%).</p> <p>In terms of campaign metrics, the key online quantitative measures include impressions, reach, interactions and clicks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness: In comparison with the 2022 campaign, the increase in awareness measured through impressions was significant with a 30% increase in social and an outstanding increase of 371% in digital display ads; this correlates with our content having high relevance, content that resonates with an audience helps boost impressions. • Effectiveness: Our reach - the measure of unique people eyeballing our social had a 90% uplift reaching 1,166,480 people, this reinforces our organic strategy in which we tailored content for different audiences and platforms such as Facebook and Instagram; stretching our social license with unique content helped us reach our traditionally "hard to get" audiences such as rangatahi and Māori. • Engagement: The engagement with our social media strategy through likes, comments and shares reinforces our content relevance seeing 3,763 interactions an 87% increase from 2022; our active engagement is measured through

Attachment 1 to Report 26.48

Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
					clicks - where a user takes direct action increased in search and display banners.
	19	A survey of Councillors shows that Councillors feel well inducted into undertaking their Councillor responsibilities	<p>Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Councillors are provided with information necessary to assume their governance and representative responsibilities 	On track	<p>A comprehensive and coordinated Council Induction Programme was delivered during quarter two. It included a Strategic Briefings to the Incoming Council document and face-to-face Q&A session to enable the councillors to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and opportunities facing the council over the next triennium. There were also several induction sessions covering key topics of council roles and responsibilities such as Health and Safety, Emergency Management, Environmental Regulation, Finance, Cyber Security, CCOs, Public Transport, and Legal Frameworks and Legislative responsibilities. Mana whenua led sessions with Te Ātiawa Nui Tonu and Ngāti Toa Rangatira created an opportunity for councillors to hear directly from mana whenua about their priorities for relationships with Greater Wellington.</p> <p>There was also a field trip to Te Marua Water Treatment Plant, Kaitoke Regional Park, and RiverLink.</p> <p>In Quarter Three the focus will be on subject-specific induction and field trips relevant to specific council committees.</p> <p>A Survey of Councillors will be conducted in Quarter Three to receive their feedback on the induction programme.</p>

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Priority	#	Performance indicators	Measures will include	Status	Results and commentary
Reputation Enhance the reputation and relevance of Greater Wellington in the region.	20	Community perception of trust, leadership, fairness, and social responsibility as measured by the Verian brand tracker (Reputation Index)	Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve the overall reputation scores from 2024/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GW: 27% (F) 56/100 (R) ○ Metlink: 60% (F) 55/100 (R) 	Not measured	The annual community research survey will take place later in the year in May.

Appendix Three: Major Projects

Summary updates

- 7 out of 13 projects in delivery (54%) are green, indicating they are on track.
- 4 projects (31%) are amber, indicating that issues are being managed at project governance level
- 2 (15%) are red, indicating that issues are being managed at the CE / ELT level.

Metlink National Ticketing System: Integrated Fares and Ticketing programme for the design and delivery of an integrated electronic ticketing solution, the National Ticketing Solution (NTS), for Greater Wellington.

- The overall status remains Red status across the quarter. Full access to Cubic development environment is further delayed until January 2026. Limited GW back-office integration preparation has begun; timeline will need replanning once full access achieved and dates are confirmed. Key dependencies must be confirmed to reset Schedule to Green.
- The Budget status is Red while confirmation of increased budget is still pending. The programme Risk status remains Red, however mitigations are in place including NZTA working with Cubic to confirm development environment delivery dates and weekly technical management meetings across GW, NZTA, and Cubic.

RiverLink: RiverLink extends from Kennedy Good Bridge to Ewen Bridge, and it combines Greater Wellington led flood protection works with components of the Hutt City Council led Making Places Project and the NZTA led Melling Transport Improvements Project.

- The Riverlink programme, which is reporting Red as of Dec 25, and will remain Red until a funding bid is submitted in the next LTP round to address the current funding shortfall. This is a large material shortfall, if successful we anticipate this will move the programme back to overall Green status.

Green – On track (7 / 54%)
Flood Resilience Tranche 1
Local Water Done Well
Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility
Toitu Te Whenua Parks Network Plan
Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Bridge
Te Marua WTP Capacity Upgrade
Transport Services Procurement Programme
Amber – Issues being managed at project governance level (4 / 31%)
RPS Programme
ICT Strategy
Regional Land Transport Plan 2027
Kauri St Bus Depot
Red – Issues being managed at the CE / ELT level (2 / 15%)
Metlink - National Ticketing Solution
RiverLink

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Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.52



For Information

FINANCE REPORT UPDATE – DECEMBER 2025

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide Council with Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) summary financial reports for the period ended 31 December 2025.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Council is responsible for overseeing and evaluating Greater Wellington's performance.
3. Regular review of financial results is needed for effective management enabling informed decision making, performance evaluation, and for compliance and accountability while highlighting potential risks to assets and services.
4. This report and [Attachment 1](#) provide a summary of the financial performance of Greater Wellington's activities for the six months to 31 December 2025. All amounts in this report and attachment are GST exclusive.
5. Full-year forecast has been updated using the best available information following the end of Quarter 2.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

6. Greater Wellington reports an operating surplus of \$44 million for the period ending 31 December 2025, compared with a budgeted surplus of \$41 million. The full-year operating surplus is forecast to be \$78 million, against a budget of \$84 million. These results reflect operating performance before fair value movements. Further detail on the drivers of the operating variances is provided in the Operating Revenue and Operating Expenditure sections.
7. The General Rate surplus is forecasted to be positive by about \$2million to \$4million. The Metlink Group is forecasting a \$5 million deficit due to ongoing cost pressures and lower farebox revenue. This deficit may need to be funded through a combination of debt and reserve movements, if not rectified by year end.

Operating Revenue

8. Grants and subsidies revenue is \$2 million higher year-to-date, primarily due to additional Crown funding for flood resilience CAPEX, partially offset by underspends within Metlink, including Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM), the National Ticketing Solution (NTS), and other rail projects. For the full year, lower revenue from LNIRIM, agreed delays to NTS, and ongoing Metlink CAPEX underspends are largely offset by higher indexation revenue expected on bus contracts, further Crown funding for flood resilience CAPEX, and a lower amount payable to NZTA due to reduced farebox revenue, resulting in a full-year position close to budget.
9. Fees, charges, and other revenue is \$1 million above budget year-to-date, driven by revenue received ahead of schedule for various Environment initiatives and higher-than-budgeted Treasury interest income, partially offset by lower farebox revenue. By year-end, revenue is forecast to be \$9 million above budget, primarily due to interest earned from prefunding, additional subvention payments from CentrePort, and internal revenue from Akura for supplying plants to the Flood Resilience project. This is partially offset by a forecast \$3 million lower rail farebox revenue.

Operating expenditure

10. Contractor and consultant costs are \$16 million below budget, primarily due to delays in bus corridor projects and the Water ICT project. This is partially offset by overspends related to RiverLink property compensation (debt-funded), early EMV payment technology, and fees associated with signing the new Snapper contract (funded by NZTA and debt). Based on the current forecast, these items are expected to carry through to year-end, resulting in full-year expenditure of \$7 million above budget, partially offset by lower costs associated with the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) and savings within the Metro Water regional programme.
11. Grants and subsidies expenditure is \$14 million above budget year-to-date, primarily driven by Wellington Network Agreement (WNA) contract costs, higher bus contract indexation, prior-year wash-ups, and a full upfront stadium payment that was budgeted to be phased. A portion of the WNA variance is expected to be reimbursed through Crown support. For the full year, expenditure is currently forecast to be \$7 million above budget, mainly reflecting indexation above budgeted CPI assumptions and Transdev contract re-negotiations.
12. Interest is \$2 million above budget due to higher interest costs from prefunding. The variance is expected to reduce to \$1 million at year-end as prefunding reduces to align with a forecast lower full year CAPEX spend.

Capital Delivery

13. The year-to-date capital expenditure is \$77 million below budget, mainly due to the following:
 - a RiverLink projects are tracking \$39 million below budget, driven by delays in work progress, savings from demolition and rockline works, unspent contingency, and PWA property compensation costs recorded as OPEX

(loan-funded). These factors are expected to continue through year-end, resulting in an estimated \$40 million underspend.

- b Wellington Water Limited-advised changes across multiple projects have contributed a \$27 million variance, which is forecast to reduce to \$23 million by year-end.
 - c Delays in NLTP and WCC joint CAPEX projects mainly contributed to \$8 million underspend in Metlink, which is expected to increase to \$14.0 million by year-end.
 - d Additional Crown-funded flood resilience work is expected to partially offset the underspend by \$7 million in the full-year forecast.
14. Investment in Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL) is \$14 million below budget, driven by lower spend across LNIRIM and other rail projects. The full-year underspend is forecast to be \$11 million, following revised LNIRIM milestones agreed in September.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

- 15. The next finance update will be presented at the Council meeting on 2 April.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Council Financial Report – 31 December 2025

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Darryl Joyce – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Accounting Services
Approvers	Ashwin Pai - Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Finance Alison Trustrum-Rainey – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Pūtea me ngā Tūraru Group Manager Finance and Risk

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Council has governance oversight of the robustness of the organisation's financial performance.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The report reviews performance against the budget set in the 25-26 Annual Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> This report has been drafted following contributions from Manager of Treasury, as well as Finance Business Partners of Metlink, Environment and Corporate Services.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no risks arising from this report.

Council Report December 2025

This report presents the financial result for the period ended 31 December 2025 :

1. Comparisons are made against the budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan, including re-budgets approved by Council.
2. Full-year comparisons are based on the forecast updated using the best available information following the end of Quarter 2.
3. All figures in this report follow best accounting practices. Please note that the overall funding surplus or deficit may differ due to the inclusion of non-cash items and capital grants.

Summarised Profit and Loss as at December 2025

Attachment 1 to Report 26.52

	Year to date				Full Year			
	Actual \$000s	Revised \$000s	Variance \$000s		Forecast \$000s	Revised \$000s	Variance \$000s	
Operating Revenue								
Rates	178,248	177,486	762	0%	355,973	354,973	1,000	0%
Grants & Subs	148,712	146,266	2,446	2%	290,403	290,495	(92)	0%
Fees Charges & Other	69,805	68,851	953	1%	154,255	145,673	8,582	6%
Total Operating Revenue	396,764	392,604	4,161	1%	800,630	791,141	9,489	1%
Operating Expenditure								
Personnel	54,694	56,662	(1,968)	-3%	112,267	112,293	(26)	0%
Materials, Supplies & Services	23,320	23,944	(624)	-3%	48,639	48,309	330	1%
Contractor & Consultants	58,769	74,441	(15,671)	-21%	157,334	150,243	7,091	5%
Grants & Subsidies Expenditure	164,972	151,439	13,532	9%	309,491	302,334	7,157	2%
Interest	26,744	24,513	2,230	9%	52,555	51,727	827	2%
Depreciation	18,467	17,314	1,153	7%	33,762	33,762	-	0%
Other	5,997	3,781	2,216	59%	8,597	8,510	87	1%
Warm Wellington	(10)	(95)	85	-90%	(191)	(191)	-	0%
Total Operating Expenditure	352,953	351,999	954	0%	722,452	706,987	15,466	2%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before other items	43,811	40,605	3,206	8%	78,178	84,154	(5,977)	-7%
Fair Value Movements	2,329	(923)	3,252	-352%	(1,846)	(1,846)	-	0%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	46,140	39,682	6,458	16%	76,332	82,308	(5,977)	-7%
Net Capital Expenditure	51,240	128,361	(77,121)	-60%	155,523	230,093	(74,570)	-32%
Investment in Greater Wellington Rail	57,978	71,687	(13,709)	-19%	132,139	143,374	(11,235)	-8%

GM Finance and Risk Overview

Economic and Financial Overview

The New Zealand economy entered 2026 on a firmer footing, characterized by a cyclical recovery and rising business confidence despite annual inflation ticking up to 3.1% in January. While the Official Cash Rate (OCR) remains at 2.25%, financial markets are now weighing the possibility of a rate hike as early as September 2026 to ensure inflation returns to the 2% target midpoint.

Operational Surplus variance

YTD results show a \$3.2 million operating surplus variance, driven by Crown and environment-related revenue and prefunding interest, partly offset by lower farebox revenue. Expenditure is slightly over budget, driven mainly by RiverLink property compensation and Metlink cost pressures.

The full year is forecasting a \$6.0 m operating deficit, with higher investment and Crown flood-resilience revenue outweighed by continued RiverLink and Metlink cost pressures.

Capital Expenditure

YTD Capital spending was below the budget by \$77 million across the Greater Wellington, with main contributors being progress on Riverlink, NLTP and WCC-joint Metlink projects and Water supply programmes.

In the full year forecast, additional Crown-funded flood resilience work will partially offset the underspend, reducing the variance to \$75 million.

A more detailed breakdown of revenue drivers and expenditure movements is outlined on the next page.

Potential Risks and Funding Considerations

Rail patronage is currently expected to drive a farebox revenue shortfall of \$3 million for the full year in 25/26.

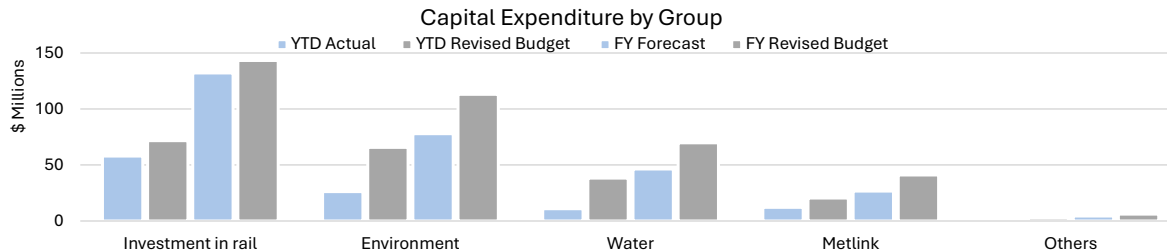
The second 2026/27 Annual Plan Council workshop was held on 3 February, with the draft budget currently retaining a 9.7% rates increase. Outcomes from this workshop will be presented at the 12 March Council Meeting, where Councillors will be asked to endorse the *inform and engage* material for public consultation. Community engagement is scheduled to run from 17 March to 16 April.

Treasury Highlights

Council's investments (excluding subsidiaries) increased from \$296 million at the start of the financial year to \$349 million, consisting of:

- Pre-funding: \$100 million
- Liquidity: \$85 million
- Water, Flood and Property contingency investments: \$80 million
- Investment in WRC Holdings: \$45 million
- LGFA: \$39 million

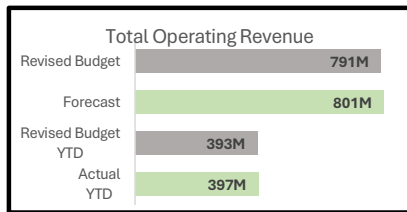
Council's gross external debt stands at \$1.24 billion, with a net debt position of \$880 million, including \$100 million in pre-funded debt.



* All amounts in this report are GST exclusive.

** Revised budget is budget set in the 2025/26 Annual Plan plus re-budgets approved by Council

Key Variance Commentary



Metlink PT – Year-to-date (YTD) operating revenue is **\$5.1 million** below budget, primarily driven by lower farebox revenue of \$2.8 million

This variance is expected to continue through to year-end, with the full-year forecast now **\$9.8 million** below budget. Farebox revenue is projected to be \$3 million lower than planned, and reduced crown funding claims aligned with the reduced LNIRIM full year forecast.

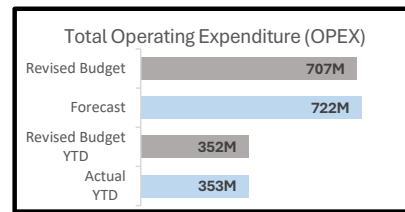
Environment – YTD operating revenue is **\$5.5 million** favourable, mainly driven by Crown funding for Flood Resilience CAPEX and environment initiatives being ahead of schedule.

Full-year revenue is expected to be **\$9.0 million** favourable, supported by continued Crown funding for Flood Resilience, higher Akura sales for environmental restoration work, and increased materials expenditure associated with the Flood Resilience.

Investment – YTD operating revenue is **\$2.4 million** favourable, supported by additional interest revenue from investing funds ahead of contractual repayments and prefunding of future CAPEX payments.

Full-year operating revenue is forecast to be **\$9.9 million** above budget from higher money market returns (\$2.7 million), subvention revenue (\$4.5 million), and dividend income (\$2.8 million). The subvention and dividend portion will be transferred to reserves at year-end.

Finance – YTD rates revenue is **\$0.8 million** favourable due to higher rates penalties. This is expected to increase to **\$1.0 million** favourable by year-end.



Metlink PT – YTD OPEX is **\$4.0 million** unfavourable, mainly due to overspends related to EMV payment technology fees, and fees associated with signing the new continuation Snapper contract (funded by NZTA and debt). Additional pressures come from Wellington Network Agreement (WNA) timing (partly recoverable through Crown support) and higher bus contract indexation. These impacts are offset by delays in bus corridor, new route, and accessibility projects.

Full-year expenditure is forecast to be **\$14.3 million** unfavourable, by the continuation of these YTD cost pressures as well as the additional impact of Transdev contract re-negotiations.

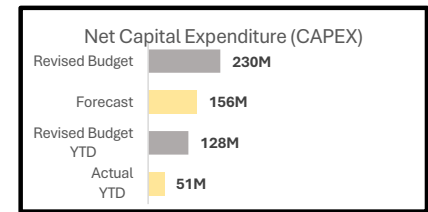
Environment – YTD OPEX is **\$1.8 million** unfavourable with RiverLink public works act (PWA) cost is above budget (loan-funded), timing of Environment restoration programme and Akura expenditure (aligned with increased revenue). These overspend partially offset by underspend in pest control, park restoration, flood operations, and policy works.

Full-year position is forecast to be **\$2.1 million** unfavourable, continuing the above trends, partially offset by savings from NRP Plan change and Pinehaven remaining on hold.

Water Supply – YTD OPEX is **\$7.6 million** favourable, contributed by timing of ICT investment funding to Wellington Water Limited (loan-funded), lower power charges and interest costs. Full-year costs are expected to be on budget.

Investment – YTD OPEX is **\$4.5 million** unfavourable, driven by higher interest costs from CAPEX prefunding and an upfront stadium grant payment. Full-year variance is expected to be **\$0.8 million** unfavourable, with interest costs partially offset by self-insurance funding. The self-insurance funding will be transferred to reserve at year-end.

Corporate Services and Strategy – YTD OPEX is **\$3.9 million** favourable, due to savings across ICT Strategy, Local Water Done Well, and WRLC projects. Full-year forecast is **\$2.4 million** favourable, with lower Metro Water/Tiaki Wai programme costs and personnel vacancy savings.



Metlink PT – YTD capital expenditure is **\$8.4 million** below budget, mainly due to delays in NLTP projects and WCC-dependent initiatives such as Golden Mile and bus shelters.

Full-year underspend is expected to increase to **\$14.4 million** from continuing trend.

Environment – YTD underspend of **\$39.6 million**, driven by Riverlink project delays partially, savings from demolition and rockline works, unspent contingency, and PWA property compensation costs recorded as OPEX.

Full-year spend is expected to be **\$35.2 million** under mainly from Riverlink above, partially offset by higher spend from Crown-funded Flood Resilience programme (\$6.6 million).

Water Supply – YTD spend is **\$27.2 million** below budget, driven by rephasing significant projects to the second half of the year.

Full-year underspend is expected to be **\$23.2 million** under budget, driven by changes to the Gear Island and Waterloo wells replacements, Silverstream Bridge, and Pakuratahi Lakes.

Corporate Services – YTD spend is **\$1.1 million** below budget, as office upgrades in Upper Hutt and Mabey Road were rescoped under Annual Plan savings. Full-year impact is expected to be **\$1.8 million**.

Council
19 February 2026
Report 26.63



For Decision

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Interim review of the Chief Executive’s performance 2025/26– Report RPE26.17

Statutory performance review of the Chief Executive – Report RPE26.18

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Interim review of the Chief Executive’s performance for 2025/26 – Report RPE26.17	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
The information contained in this report relates to the Chief Executive’s performance for 2025/26. Release of this information would prejudice the Chief Executive’s privacy by disclosing details of their performance. Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring the disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting would override the Chief Executive’s privacy.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons).

Statutory performance review of the Chief Executive – Report RPE26.18	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
This report contains information relating to the statutory performance review of the Chief Executive. Withholding this information is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons).

<p>information would disclose information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and Council. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
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This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.