



Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 18 June 2025 commencing at 1:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Cr K A Sutherland (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor) (via Teams), N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr C French	-	Relier Project and Strategy Limited (via Teams)
Mr B Nicholson	-	Chief Executive
Mr H Featonby	-	Group Manager - Operations
Mr M Dunn	-	Manager – Programmes and Projects
Mr E Priest	-	Senior Project Manager
Mr A Desmond	-	Network Manager – Tararua Alliance
Ms P O’Neale-Searancke	-	Project Manager
Mrs S Anthony	-	Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

- 2.1 ***That the apology for Councillor Mike Long and the apologies for early departure from Councillors Scott Gilmore and Steve Wallace be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.***

Collis/Wallace

Carried

3. Public Forum

Nil

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

- 4.1 Update on water services at Akitio

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

- 6.1 *That the minutes of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held on (date) (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Chase/Johns

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Infrastructure Management Report

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Group Manager – Infrastructure dated 09 June 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 11 May to 6 June 2025.

It was noted that the conditional approval of funding for the Lindauer Trail has now been fulfilled and funding has final approval. If access to the KiwiRail corridor is approved as part of the project, there would be additional costs over 9 years which Council will need to make a commitment decision on.

A question was asked regarding the level of service for the Saddle Road as detour route and it was advised that the original Memorandum of Understanding noting the level of service required for a highway will be the benchmark. The road will be open with consideration to narrowing the areas where there are passing lanes currently. The road should remain robust unless future extreme weather events hit the area.

Councillors Gilmore and Wallace left the meeting at 1.30pm.

It was advised that with the Dannevirke Impounded Supply failure of the sonar unit prompted investigation into the costs and use of a clarifier which could pump direct from the river, supporting current infrastructure and offering an alternative source and resilience.

Analysis was undertaken of ground water infiltration evidence in Eketāhuna wastewater, smoke testing was conducted and also manhole investigations were

carried out at 2am when waste water levels were at a minimum and showed significant evidence of infiltration, it was noted that Eketāhuna is an old network with multiple broken connections. A vendor is currently drawing up a proposal for manhole repairs in the area. Once this is completed then further discussions will be had with Tararua Alliance for future work. Water NZ KPI's provide an indicator of key considerations to weigh up and decide upon. Once upgraded, it is intended that the Eketāhuna model will be used in other towns. Work will be undertaken on the wetlands alongside the upgrade.

It was asked if an update could be provided in regards to water services in Akitio and noted that a positive response was anticipated from the Ratepayers' Committee for working towards compliance. The Three Waters Manager advised an update on this would be provided in the next report. A local community member had been gathering data on tank ownership in the area to assist with Council's analysis. Tanks are being delivered and installed and investigations are ongoing.

That the report from the Group Manager - Infrastructure dated 09 June 2025 concerning the Infrastructure Management Report be received.

Chase/Johns

Carried

Chris French joined the meeting at 2:28pm via Teams

7.2 **Universal Water Metering**

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Project Manager dated 23 April 2025 presenting the case for implementing Universal Water Metering (UWM) across the Tararua District, outlines the project scope, and provides information regarding the delivery and procurement approach. It supports the Council's long-term strategy to manage water demand, reduce wastage, and ensure sustainable infrastructure investment.

It was advised that Phase 1 would roll out in Dannevirke as the largest town in the district experiencing approximately 56% water loss, and community engagement will be undertaken prior. A third party will set water charge for usage. Option 4 is the preferred option. It was noted that water charging is emotive, there are very few higher water users and it can have an effect on revenue if the users decide to cut or reduce supply as a result of water metering charges; a suggestion was made to have a fixed charge for high users with cost rises incremental.

A concern was raised about how the water metering installation would interact with Local Water Done Well and it was advised that work programmes will overlap, however it will be important to avoid too many changes down the track. Completion of the bylaw will be critical to the process as this will carry through to the CCO once formed. It is an unknown stage of transition, with the set-up of the model being the main focus rather than the workplan. Providers will assess

multiple factors to determine the meter best suited to our area. Once a preferred meter is identified then TDC will consider approaching the other councils to discuss procurement.

Councillor Gilmore returned to the meeting at 3:03pm.

A question was asked regarding prioritisation and understanding of Norsewood water connections which are experiencing immediate issues; additional water consents have been applied for. It was advised that monitoring is currently limited, the monitoring of the health of the system is valuable with a new system. Norsewood is a consideration for aligning to the project and further conversations are yet to be had.

That the report from the Project Manager dated 23 April 2025 concerning the Universal Water Metering be received.

Johns/Wards

Carried

7.3 Portfolio Programme Project Report

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Three Waters Manager dated 4 June 2025 providing an update on the key portfolios, programmes and project statuses.

It was noted that the Group Manager – Infrastructure will take over as Project Sponsor for Pahiatua Pool.

That the report from the Three Waters Manager dated 04 June 2025 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.

Gilmore/Chase

Carried

8. Items not on the Agenda

- 8.1 **Update on water services at Akitio** – this item was discussed during the Infrastructure Management Report.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3:15pm.

Chairperson