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 17 September 2025 commencing at 11:00am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Mr M Alexander	-	Interim Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	-	Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	-	Group Manager - Operations
Ms T McDonald	-	Chief Financial Officer
Mr P Wimsett	-	Chief Advisor
Mr M Dunn	-	Manager – Programmes and Projects
Ms J Neilson	-	Solid Waste Manager
Mr P Sinclair	-	Emergency Management Officer
Mr D Erard	-	Alliance Manager
Mr A Desmond	-	Network Manager
Mrs S Anthony	-	Democracy Support Officer

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. Apologies

2.1 ***That the apology from Councillor Naioma Chase be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.***

Collis/Johns ***Carried***

4. Public Forum

Nil

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 ***That the minutes of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 17 September 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

Peeti-Webber/Johns ***Carried***

8. Reports

8.1 Infrastructure Management Report

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Group Manager – Operations dated 05 September 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 10 August 2025 to 4 September 2025.

A summary of the report was presented, it was noted that Tararua Alliance staff are developing a strategy for the current financial year to manage expenditure. Once finalised, this will be presented to the newly elected Council. Given the election period, care will be taken to ensure new members are fully informed, including background on the process to date.

An update was provided on the School Speed Zone consultation feedback received to date, which closes 18 September 2025.
Ruahine School:

- 12 support Option 1: Extend the permanent 70km/h zone further along Te Rehunga South Road and introduce a 30km/h variable speed zone sign within 150m of the school gate.
- 3 support Option 2: Seek NZTA approval to trial a new mechanical 'dual' speed sign that switches from a permanent 70km/h to a variable 30km/h during school drop-off and pick-up times. This option may incur higher maintenance costs compared to static signage.

- 2 Support Option 3: Revert the existing permanent 70km/h zone back to 100km/h and classify Ruahine School as a Category 2 school, with a 50km/h variable speed limit during school drop-off and pick-up times (consistent with other rural schools).

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Tamaki Nui A Rua:

- 7 support Option 1: Extend the existing 70km/hr permanent speed zone slightly further out to accommodate a variable 30km/hr variable speed zone sign within 150m from the school gate.
- 4 support Option 2: Seek approval from NZTA to trial a new mechanical 'dual' speed sign which reverts from 70km/hr permanent to 30km/hr variable during school drop off and pick up times. This sign is expected to have higher maintenance costs compared to static signs.
- 19 Support option 3**:** Extend the existing 70km/hr along the full stretch of Makirikiri Road to align with the adjoining State Highway and Miller Street and address safety concerns raised for this road. A 30km/hr variable speed zone will be introduced up to 150m from the school gate.

Council approval is required to progress with the proposed speed zone options. Urban schools are moving toward 30km/h variable limits, while 50km/h variable limits are proposed for rural areas. Once approved, the proposal will then be submitted to NZTA for approval. Funding is secured, and installation is planned for the Christmas school holidays subject to approvals.

Concerns were raised about delays in receiving a response from Kiwirail regarding the Lindauer Trail proposal. It was recommended that Tararua Alliance contact Her Worship the Mayor or the Chief Executive before escalating to the Minister of Transport. The Network Manager has escalated the matter to Kiwirail's National Corridor Manager and received a response. The escalation process remains available if further action is required.

It was noted that the workstream focus over the past 2-3 years has been on Cyclone Gabrielle recovery and improving cost efficiency. The current strategy prioritises doing the basics well and upskilling teams. Pothole repairs are recognised as temporary, with a shift toward more permanent, resilient solutions. Efforts are underway to better utilise budgets and ensure timely action.

A concern was raised regarding the stability of gum trees at the top of the Otanga Road work site. With the bridge now in place, Phase 2 will see the removal of the culvert and land stabilisation. While tree removal has been discussed, there are risks to land stability.

It was advised that Tararua Alliance has not yet implemented the new NZ Guide Temporary Traffic Management(NZGTTM) risk-based traffic management guidance. Discussions are ongoing around liability and the transition process for Tararua Alliance and third-party contractors. The team is exploring ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Road closures, particularly during the large reseal programme, offer operational and financial benefits. While the changes are not a major shift for the team, challenges remain with NZTA-managed corridors. Direction is still being clarified, with further discussions underway, including with Manawatū.

In response to a query, it was advised that the section of road between Weber and 10km south of Pongaroa is not currently scheduled for reseal due to site complexity and limited funding. The site is under speed restriction review.

It was also noted that a cambered corner in the area has undergone geometric design to suit a specific operating speed. Discussions are ongoing regarding the installation of guardrails or chevrons.

A query was raised regarding the change in dam safety classification from low to medium. This was attributed to updated regulations and classification criteria. The Three Waters Manager confirmed best practice was followed during construction and will investigate further. It was also asked whether Horizons had accepted and dated the submitted Dam Safety Assurance Programme (DSAP), which is required under the new regulations. The Manager agreed to follow up on this.

It was requested that the results from Intake line – Leak Detection review be publicised for understanding following confusion from initial communications. It was advised that another review was scheduled soon and local schools had been notified to offer the opportunity for students to participate.

An opportunity to review the Pongaroa Water Scheme alongside LWDW was raised. TDC has taken over multiple plants in this area and it was recommended to meet with the community to explain the current systems and LWDW. While there is no requirement for residents to have water tanks, a bylaw is under discussion. Council is responsible for treating incoming water only. Any alternative or hybrid system would need to be developed and brought to Council for consideration.

It was advised that Kerbside collection has been operating in Norsewood for some time. With the existing contract ending and a new truck available, the service will now be delivered in-house, aligning with other towns in the district.

Ormondville presents challenges for recycling services. The town hall site is unsuitable due to wind issues and fragile bitumen. The Domain was considered, but large historic trees pose health and safety risks, making it an unviable option.

That the report from the Group Manager - Operations dated 05 September 2025 concerning the Infrastructure Management Report be received.

Wards/Long ***Carried***

8.2 Emergency Management Report

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Emergency Management Advisor dated 04 September 2025 that provided an update on activities since the last report to the committee.

A high percentage of staff have completed formal emergency management training. Those yet to complete are either new or in roles (e.g. Solid Waste) that continue business as usual during emergencies. Three controllers are at various stages of training—one completed, one finishing in November, and one starting in the new year. Continued momentum was encouraged, and councillor support was acknowledged with appreciation.

That the report from the Emergency Management Advisor dated 04 September 2025 concerning the Emergency Management Report be received.

Wallace/Long ***Carried***

8.3 **Portfolio Programme Project Report**

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Three Waters Manager dated 02 September 2025 that provided an update on the key portfolios, programmes and project statues.

A query was raised regarding the integration of services in Woodville and the engagement of an architect for the building work at the service centre. It was noted that supporting structures and other design elements will need to be considered to maintain safety and integrity. Budget details are not yet confirmed

The Three Waters Manager will confirm whether contractors working on the Woodville Reservoir are local or from out of town. The same three contractors engaged for the Dannevirke Reservoir are delivering the Woodville project, which was included as part of the overall package following Dannevirke.

It was advised that the Pahiatua weighbridge project has been flagged with the Chair of Audit and Risk due to potential safety concerns. It was noted that selecting the correct location is critical before committing funding. Power installation alone is estimated at $200–300,000. As the proposed location has changed, further scoping and consultation will be required to inform decision-making.

Carnegie report due to be finalised end of this week, has been challenging to finalise options laid out. The resolution decision made by council in the past which was for a full or partial demo, part of consent process for the heritage building has to include what is intended to be built on the site, title of area has technicalities, consent and strategy associated with it and all options will be included in the report for consideration by council.

The final report for the Carnegie Building is expected by the end of the week. Previous Council resolution supported full or partial demolition. As part of the heritage consent process, the intended future use of the site must be included. Technical complexities related to the site title were identified. All information and options will be presented in the final report for Council's consideration.

A request was made for the Facilities Team to brief and engage with the

Eketāhuna Community Board regarding the cliff walk track upgrade. It was also noted that communications around Eketāhuna water metering were targeted to the Community Board, but further public communication is needed due to high community interest.

It was noted that misinformation about the backflow prevention policy has circulated on social media. Clear and targeted communications are recommended to address public concerns and clarify the policy.

Further commentary was requested to clarify the implementation of the District Wastewater Infiltration and Inflow Strategy. In addition to manhole repairs in Eketāhuna, a phased approach is being taken to deliver broader renewal works.

That the report from the Three Waters Manager dated 02 September 2025 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.

Wallace/Johns ***Carried***

9. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

10. Discussion Items

Pongaroa Water

This was discussed during the Infrastructure Management Report Item 8.1

11. Valedictory Address

The Chairperson acknowledged this as the final meeting of the committee for the triennium and his last as Chair. He reflected on the privilege of serving on Council over the past six years, noting the challenges faced, robust discussions held, and the significant progress made through the committee. He expressed appreciation for the respectful engagement between councillors and staff throughout his tenure.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12:41pm.

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Chairperson