
IAWAI – Flowing Waters, Board Meeting

[UNCONFIRMED] OPEN MINUTES

18 September 2025, 9.30am

Minutes of a meeting of the IAWAI – Flowing Waters, Board held in Committee Room 1, Hamilton City Council, on Thursday 18 September 2025 at 9.30am

PRESENT

Chairperson	Kevin Lavery
Members	Dave Chambers
	Tim Manukau

2. Apologies

None

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes from previous meeting

Approved, with the addition of the Board's responses to public submissions from that meeting.

5. Public Forum

None

6. Chair's report

Kevin Lavery presented his Chair's report. He noted the Board's continued focus on due diligence as it considers some of the big issues to be addressed through the Water Services Strategy.

The financial strategy, infrastructure deficit and the importance of accelerating renewals were key themes the Board was focused on. Kevin also noted the Board's interest in procurement, with a paper expected to the Board in November.

Dave Chambers added his expectations that accelerating renewals should reduce operating costs or unplanned maintenance, and this should show in the financials.

Kevin noted the Government's announcement to defer Development Levy legislation (which was due to replace the Development Contribution regime in 2027), meant that Iawai needs to reconsider timing for the development of its DC policy. The Board requested advice on options.

Kevin referenced ongoing conversations with Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty, whose contract with Watercare on their digital platform will end in 2026. *The Board noted a correction to the Chair's report which indicated a "withdraw" of Watercare's platform, which was not the case.*

Through conversations with Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty, the priority was establishing a common direction on a fit for purpose digital platform. Kevin expected that a direction of travel would be considered by the Board by the end of 2025.

7. Establish IAWAI Programme Update

Peter Winder spoke to work being undertaken on behalf of shareholder Councils to set up IAWAI for 1 July 2026.

There are 287 working days to go.

A priority was to work through issues that need to form part of the Transfer Agreement. There were a lot of complexities, including for example on land ownership. The transfer agreement will come back to the Board (and shareholder councils) for approval in the new year.

Shared services was another priority for the establishment team, including considering what is in scope vs out of scope. Shared services scoping was intertwined with legal questions. One example was the ability of council to bill on behalf of Iawai, and how we construct invoices – and therefore what the service was required from councils.

On the transfer of staff to Iawai, Peter noted an announcement was due at the end of September on the process, noting the importance of providing certainty to staff as soon as possible.

The Board welcomed the report and the ongoing work. They signalled an interest in seeing the following in future reports:

- Gantt chart, with traffic light, so the Board can clearly see how progress is tracking, celebrate achievements, and better understand risks/ delays.
- Key issues, including how the team is managing / fixing.

8. Water Services Strategy

Vishal Ramduny presented this report.

He noted ongoing work to progress the first draft of the Water Services Strategy, including:

- the recast of both the Hamilton City Council (HCC) and the Waikato District Council (WDC) capital works programmes, to inform financial modelling
- work on price path modelling
- financial sessions highlighting the potential value of outcomes based financial modelling.

Vishal noted the first draft of the WSS was expected around December. Engagement with shareholder councils, Waikato Tainui and hapuu, Futureproof, and the community was a priority.

Further updates would be provided to the Board in October.

Resolved

That the Board received the update.

9. IAWAI Financial Delegation to Officers Management Policy – Amendment

Becca Brooke presented the paper, seeking approval to the updated IAWAI Financial Delegations to Officers Management Policy.

The Policy incorporated minor amendments to clarify delegations to level 2 and level 3 officers, following its initial approval at the July 2025 IAWAI Board meeting,

The Board was supportive of the amendments, noting they are in line with existing Council delegations, but requested clarity around level 2 and level 3 roles be included in the policy.

Resolved

The Board

Approved the updated IAWAI Financial Delegations to Officers Management Policy taking effect between 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Noted that Chief Officers (L2) currently includes:

- Chief Strategy and Planning
- Chief Digital Officer
- Chief Financial Officer

Noted that Directors (L3) currently includes:

- Director Business Performance
- Director CE Office and Governance
- Director Communications
- Director Strategic Investments

Requested that staff provide advice on arrangements for the approval of Board Member expenses.

10. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason 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 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.
Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes	To enable IAWAI to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage; to enable IAWAI to carry out negotiations to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)

	improper gain or improper advantage.	
Commercial Agreement Updates- Fast Track and Plan Changes	To enable IAWAI to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage; to enable IAWAI to carry out negotiations to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)
Development Agreement Negotiations – Ohinewai	To enable WDC and IAWAI to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage; to enable WDC and IAWAI to carry out negotiations to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)

The meeting was declared closed at 11.00am