

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 16 April 2025, commencing at 9.03am

Members Present: Councillor Brent Barrett (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson and Karen Naylor.

Members Present Online: Councillors Roly Fitzgerald and Debi Marshall-Lobb.

Non Members: Councillors Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad.

Councillor Rachel Bowen left the meeting at 9.52am during consideration of clause 7. She was not present for clauses 7 to 11 inclusive.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 11.53am during consideration of clause 9. He was not present for clauses 6 to 8 inclusive.

Councillor Lew Findlay left the meeting at 12.10pm after consideration of clause 9. He was not present for clauses 10 and 11.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Brent Barrett opened the meeting with karakia.

6-25 Local Water Done Well - Hearing of Submissions

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Committee receive the submissions and hear submissions from presenters who indicated their wish to be heard in support of their submission.
2. That the Committee note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the procedure sheet.

Clause 6-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and

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Orphée Mickalad.

The Committee considered submissions on Local Water Done Well with supporting oral statements including additional tabled material.

The following persons appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submission and replied to questions from Elected Members.

Chris Teo-Sherrell (186)

Chris spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Strong concerns with the CCO model due to the potential difficulty in controlling a CCO, noting it is not directly accountable to the public. Potential difficulties are likely to be greater when there is more than one council involved.
- Why not have independent CCOs making joint purchases each year?
- The prospect of saving money in the short term seems to too strongly affect the thinking of councils and central government; the proposal to form joint water CCOs is a good example of this.
- Palmerston North City Council has not charged enough for water services over the years, knowing that one day major upgrades to infrastructure would be required. We have to be willing to pay what it costs to do water well locally.
- Submission 180 demonstrates real knowledge of the system. Its point about the problems likely to arise from the disconnection between water and roading infrastructure that occurs when either is taken out of Council's direct control is one Council should pay attention to.

Christine Staples (196)

Christine spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- With the Local Government Water Services Bill currently before Select Committee having not passed the final reading and uncertainty because options have yet to be negotiated and finalised, what are we actually consulting on?
- Lack of clarity on how a transfer of legal ownership of existing ratepayer funded water services assets would be made. Who actually owns the assets that ratepayers have paid for, for years?
- The community like to know where water comes from, it is important to them. There needs to be local input into the service. Options presented seem to decrease the public's say.
- Concerned about the increased costs that would be borne by councils and households. New separate entity would involve substantial set up costs and compliance with new and unattainable regulations under current conditions. Would create more administrative debt. Iwi involvement would likely add to

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that as demands for further restrictions, agreements and consultants would be required which would add to ratepayer burden.

- Water provision has to be a priority over other spending.

Ian Staples (281)

Ian spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Not enough information in the public arena to make an informed decision. The Bill is still in the Committee stages of Parliament.
- Would like to see rates capped at 2-3% annual increase and Council would need to cut its non-essential spending to do so.
- The proposal should not cost this much. LGNZ should be at the water bill committee lobbying for reduction in standards so an affordable situation can be obtained.
- All councils should lobby Parliament that the new legislation needs to be written to get the job done in a sustainable way over a longer period of time.

Malcolm Frith (283)

Malcolm spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Real concern about affordability of water for the general public. He noted Papaioea Park bore water and public toilets and was concerned about future free access.
- We all need water. If we lose control of our water, it will cost us to the advantage of those who do not live here.
- Our water has been paid for by the ratepayers of this city to be our asset, over many generations. We have good water here, the city has invested a lot of money in making sure that we do, we have a sewerage system which works well.
- \$480M price tag to discharge clean water into our river is over the top. Could power a plant which would generate electricity which could then evaporate the water.
- He does not think it is the intention of the government to price us all out of existence; it is to make councils accountable to their residents as to how they spend residents' money.

John Bent (188)

John spoke to his submission, providing additional material (appended to these Minutes) and made no additional comments.

Janet Darragh (195)

Janet spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- Water is a basic human need and people who struggle should

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not be penalised or lose services. She hopes the water bill payment system will include flexibility and compassion for those who struggle and may get behind with their payments.

- Given Option 3 is not viable, Option 1 is preferred as it is more affordable and more local, with a smaller number of representatives involved.

Brett Hill (252)

Brett spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- As many people are already struggling financially, they will be paying very close attention to what Elected Members prioritise spending on in the upcoming budget. Many people want Council spending only on absolute basics and anything else will have to wait.

7-25

Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls; Quarterly Update and Submission to Taumata Arowai on Draft Standards

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Manager 3 Waters and Anna Lewis, Project Manager – Wastewater Discharge Consent Programme.

Officers advised the budget update to the end of March is \$640,865.

Councillor Rachel Bowen left the meeting at 9.52am.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant – Nature Calls; Quarterly Update and Submission to Taumata Arowai on Draft Standards' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 April 2025.
2. That the Committee note the matters to be included in the submission on the Draft National Wastewater Standards.

Clause 7-25 above was carried 13 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

The meeting adjourned at 10.22am.

The meeting resumed at 10.42am.

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8-25 Local Water Done Well - Summary of Submissions

Memorandum, presented by Olivia Wix, Manager Communications, Mike Monaghan, Manager 3 Waters and Julie Keane, Transition Manager.

Officers tabled updated graphs for the report, which are appended to these Minutes.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Local Water Done Well – Summary of Submissions,' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 April 2025.
2. That the Committee note that deliberations will be referred to Council.

Clause 8-25 above was carried 13 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

9-25 Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatū

Memorandum, presented by Amy Viles, Community Development Advisor, Madz Batachei, ENM Coordinator and Jean Hera, Acting ENM Chairperson.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 11.53am.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatū' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 16 April 2025.

Clause 9-25 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

Councillor Lew Findlay left the meeting at 12.10pm.

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10-25 **Committee Work Schedule**

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated April 2025.

Clause 10-25 above was carried 13 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

11-25 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 19 February 2025 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 11-25 above was carried 11 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison and Orphée Mickalad.

Abstained:

Councillors Mark Arnott and Billy Meehan.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Brent Barrett closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 12.17pm.

Confirmed 18 June 2025

Chair