

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Cr Brian Deller (Acting Chair), Cr Rachel Round, Mayor Steve Cretney, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Simon Casey

IN ATTENDANCE: Staff

Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Jeet Kiran (Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer), Sara Renall (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor), Robyn Blue (Democratic Services Officer)

Mana whenua

Joel Ngātuere (Ngāti Kahukuraāwhitia), Horipo Rimene (Rangitāne o Wairarapa)

GWRC

Aaron Johnston, Anna Muspratt, Kristin Robinson, Jo Gillanders, Marlene Heinrich

National Public Health Service

Phil Vernon

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting opened with a karakia by all members.

2 APOLOGIES

MOVED

That an apology be accepted from Ray Craig (Mangatarere Restoration Society).

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

5 DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC FORUM

Not applicable.

6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025

MOVED

1. That the Minutes of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Advisory Group Meeting held on 12 March 2025 are true and correct.

Cr B Deller / Mayor S Cretney

CARRIED

7 REPORTS

4.1 WWTP RESERVOIR UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

To provide the WWTP Advisory Group with an update on the current status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant reservoirs.

NOTED

- The WWTP has been functioning well overall. In accordance with the consent conditions, monthly sampling of the treated effluent has been undertaken and all treated effluent quality parameters have complied with the applicable 95th percentile limits.
- Treated wastewater quality parameters remain well within consent requirements, with good compliance levels both upstream and downstream of the discharge points.
 - Ecological sampling of the Mangatarere Stream in April 2025 showed no adverse effects from the discharge of treated waste water i.e. no exceedances of periphyton thresholds, no significant change in macroinvertebrate community condition downstream, and no evidence of sewage fungus.
- Mudfish rehabilitation at the Plant is progressing, with newly developed drains showing improving ecology. Mudfish have also been found naturally entering the drains.
- In January a small number of deceased wild birds were identified in Oxidation Pond 2 and surrounding areas and MPI was notified. An algal event was found to have occurred in Pond 2, attributed to the hot weather conditions. During the same period other similar bird mortality events were identified, including at other WWTPs in New Zealand. This supported the conclusion that the prevailing environmental and seasonal conditions were likely to have been the primary drivers, rather than a site-specific or infectious issue.

MOVED

That the Advisory Group:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr B Deller

CARRIED

4.2 WASTEWATER OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

To update the advisory group on the operational matters at the wastewater treatment plant.

NOTED

- Infrastructure improvements from renewal of the Lincoln Road wastewater line have resulted in an estimated 18% reduction in inflows by eliminating stormwater infiltration.
- Total wastewater volumes discharge continue to decrease from 1,501,916m³ in 2022/23 to 774,493m³ in 23/24, and to 656,144m³ in 24/25.
- Discharge of treated wastewater to land increased to approximately 40% last year, up from prior years (20-25%).
- A resource consent will be needed for any future discharge of treated wastewater to Matarawa Farm.
- Joel raised the option of utilising adjacent hapū land (approximately 40 hectares) for additional wastewater irrigation. This has been discussed in the past with Ngāti Kahukuraāwhitia, but no decisions made. It was explained that CDC is not currently consented to discharge treated wastewater to land beyond the existing area.
- The Headworks Upgrade Project
 - This project is underway. The project's scope is to renew the inlet works over the next 18 months in order to improve the treated effluent before it feeds into the oxidation ponds.
- Sludge management
 - Options being explored for management of the sludge include composting trials. Once the results are known, the overall costs and the long-term viability of composting the sludge will be assessed.
- The Mānuka Trial
 - Field results showed low plant survivability due to insufficient weed control. ESR is still analysing samples from both the field and laboratory trials to draw conclusions on the potential for growing Mānuka plants.
- Te Uru ō Tane nursery development
 - Storm damage in October destroyed 900 metres of windbreak infrastructure, requiring insurance negotiations by GWRC.
 - Nursery planting phases 1 and 2 are complete. The first harvest is expected next year; rotations are currently planned on a three-year cycle.
 - The nursery's wastewater uptake fluctuates as plantings mature. Irrigation using treated waste water needs to be carefully balanced with the growth requirements of the trees, soil field capacity, and seasonable conditions.

- It is recommended that, if possible, a site visit to Te Uru o Tāne Nursery is held at the time of the next meeting, so the Advisory Group can see first-hand how both the WWTP and the Nursery operates.

MOVED

That the Advisory Group:

1. **Receives** the report.

CARRIED

Cr B Deller / V Brasell

4.3 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

This report is an information update for the Advisory Group on the Wairarapa-Tararua water establishment and transition programme.

NOTED

- The Wairarapa-Tararua Water organisation is progressing towards operational status by July 2027, with stakeholder interviews for board positions nearing completion.
- Asset transfer discussions include the treatment plant, associated land, and solar panel arrangements.

MOVED

That the Advisory Group:

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr R Round / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a karakia by all members.

The Meeting closed at 11.02 am

Minutes confirmed:

Date: