



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

CARTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

Water Race Committee meeting

Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Time: 1.30 pm

**Location: Carterton Events Centre
50 Holloway St
Carterton**

Cr B Deller (Chair)

J Booth (Deputy Chair)

Mayor S Cretney

Cr R Round

Cr S Gallon

J McFadzean (Member)

N Wadham (Member)

G Smith (Member)

Notice is hereby given that a Water Race Committee meeting of the Carterton District Council will be held in the Carterton Events Centre, 50 Holloway St, Carterton on:

Wednesday, 6 May 2026 at 1:30 pm

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Mai i te pae maunga, raro ki te tai

Mai i te awa tonga, raro ki te awa raki

Tēnei te hapori awahi ai e Taratahi.

Whano whano, haramai te toki

Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

4 PUBLIC FORUM

5 DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC FORUM

VIDEOCONFERENCE DETAILS

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 421 980 671 801 75

Passcode: Kp7Ft98f



6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES



6.1 MINUTES OF THE WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026

1. RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Minutes of the Water Race Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2026 are true and correct.

File Number: 510401

Author: Serah Pettigrew, Democratic Services Officer

Attachments: 1. Minutes of the Water Race Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2026

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Brian Deller (Chair), John Booth (Member - Deputy Chair), Mayor Steve Cretney, Cr Rachel Round, Cr Steve Gallon, John McFadzean (Member), Neil Wadham (Member), Grant Smith (Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Elected members in attendance

Cr Simon Casey

Staff

Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Jeet Kiran (Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer), Melvin Pike (Water Race Overseer), Jason Rose (Water Race Overseer 2IC), Serah Pettigrew (Democratic Services Officer)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting opened with a karakia by all members.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Geoff Hamilton.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

There were no conflicts on interest declared.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

5 DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC FORUM

Not applicable.

6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE WATER RACE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2025

MOVED

1. That the Minutes of the Water Race Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2025 are true and correct.

Mayor S Cretney / J Booth

CARRIED

7 REPORTS

7.1 WATER RACE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Water Race Committee with an update on the management of the Water Races.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

J Booth / N Wadham

CARRIED

MOVED

2. **Agreed** the following actions (after discussion at the Water Race Committee meeting on 12 November 2025 on the Water Race overflowing in Cobden Road):
 - (a) Schedule a site meeting on Cobden Road by the end of February 2026.
 - (b) Prepare costs for improvements at Cobden Road for the next Water Race Committee meeting

MOVED

Cr B Deller / N Wadham

CARRIED

7.2 WATER RACE WATER QUALITY REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For the Committee to be informed about water quality in the water races and water race consent applications.

NOTED

- Council officers to contact Christine Foster (consultant) and ask staff at SWDC/MDC for information on the process of making a submission to the Natural Environments Bill.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Jeet emailed members with an update that Council was not doing a submission.

MOVED

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

J Booth / G Smith

CARRIED

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a karakia by all members.

The Meeting closed at: 3:00pm

Minutes confirmed:

Date:

7 REPORTS



7.1 WATER RACE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Water Race Committee with an update on the management of the Water Races.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

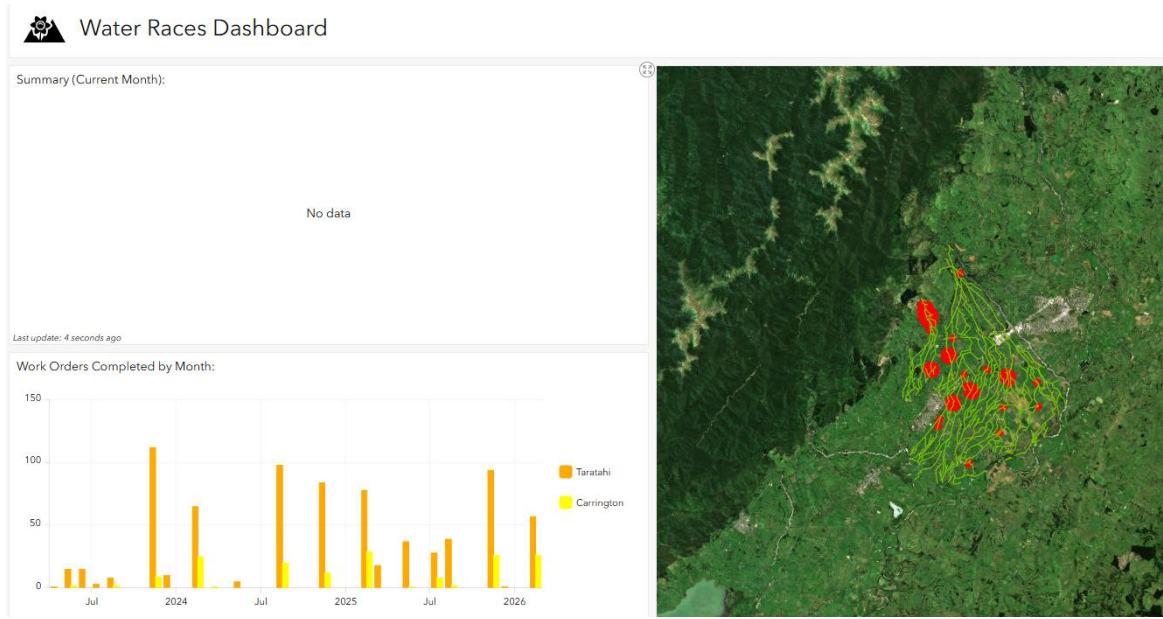
3. SUMMARY OF SERVICE REQUESTS, WATER RACE FLOWS AND MAINTENANCE

Service Requests – 1 Jan 2026 – 25 Apr 2026

Request Activity from 01/01/26 to 25/04/26

	opened with		received	completed	closed with	
	current	hold			current	hold
Referred to Rural Water						
Complaint	-	-	2	1	1	-
Other	2	-	4	4	2	-
Waterrace	8	-	24	18	14	-
Total for Rural Water	10	0	30	23	17	0

There are several requests that were held in the system for a while around the Kokotau branch of the Taratahi water race. These have been predominantly completed with the dry weather in March.



4. OVERSEER’S REPORT

Summer update

Cleaning is ongoing, though it is a challenge to keep up, as the weed growth in the water is the worst the water race overseer has seen. The more frequent rainfall events have kept the levels higher, but there have been occasions when the flow rates dropped.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Extract from the operating budget to the end of April 2026.

Rates income is under budget for the period, but this is related to the timing of the report, with the next rates instalment due in soon.

Expenditure for the period is \$104,847 over budget.

<i>Key Variances:</i>	2025/26 YTD Actuals April	2025/26 YTD Budgets April	2025/26 YTD Variance April	2025/26 Full Year Budget	2024/25 Full Year Actuals	2023/24 Full Year Actuals
Maintenance	290,069	242,380	(47,689)	272,850	355,909	399,265
Staffing	77,260	46,890	(30,370)	56,253	61,396	61,667
Support	32,174	34,120	1,946	40,946	83,745	171,506
Resource Consents	43,163	-	(43,163)	40,000	38,215	32,005
Health Monitoring	13,421	10,940	(2,481)	13,131	10,559	13,455
Other operating costs	15,120	8,810	(6,310)	10,560	25,896	18,982
Depreciation	27,762	50,980	23,218	61,170	36,227	50,768
	498,967	394,120	(104,847)	494,910	611,947	747,648

Maintenance costs are over budget by \$47,689 year to date. Maintenance costs are still under the full year budget. Overall, the 2025/26 full year maintenance budget is less than prior year expenditure and less than the long term average maintenance expenditure of around \$305,000 p.a.

Resource consents are shown as overbudget though this is related to timing. Invoices are usually received from GWRC for annual monitoring in May and we are on track for year end. Depreciation charges are less than anticipated, providing some budget relief.

Staff costs reflect Council decision to accept the Water Race Committee's recommendation to employ an Apprentice Overseer. This unfavourable variance to budget will not be charged to Water Race owners.

Officers propose to undertake a forecast of Water Race Expenditure (excluding staff costs) to address the budget line variations. This would likely see excess Depreciation budget moved into Maintenance, reducing imbalances in both budget lines. Any remaining shortfall in the maintenance budget for 2025/26 could be managed through:

- Reducing or stopping maintenance work until July 2026 when the budget is exhausted, or
- Continuing with maintenance work and funding work over budget through an additional 2026/27 targeted water race rate, or
- A mixture of both.

As the water race expenditure is a targeted rate, expenditure can only be funded by Water Race users. Taking into account the depreciation surplus, the anticipated shortfall in maintenance budget for this fiscal year is expected to be around \$30,000.

RURAL WATER April 2026	2025/26 YTD Actuals April	2025/26 YTD Budgets April	2025/26 YTD Variance April	2025/26 Full Year Budget	2024/25 Full Year Actuals	2023/24 Full Year Actuals
Income						
Rates Income - General	39,525	52,548	(13,023)	52,548	68,518	66,394
Rates Income - Water Races	358,860	472,931	(114,071)	472,931	530,431	740,876
Fees - Industrial Use	10,307	13,130	(2,823)	15,750	13,090	15,513
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	408,693	538,609	(129,916)	541,229	612,039	822,783
Expenditure						
Corporate Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operations Overhead	31,242	32,700	1,458	39,242	81,474	169,599
Garage	932	1,420	488	1,704	2,271	1,908
Consultancy - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefit Tax	4,474	-	(4,474)	-	3,759	4,295
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	540
Maintenance - General	1,110	-	(1,110)	-	27,854	1,745
Maintenance - Intake Gates	11,486	9,250	(2,236)	11,100	413	2,075
Maintenance - Water Races	266,790	220,630	(46,160)	246,750	302,537	388,053
Materials - General	10,683	12,500	1,817	15,000	25,105	7,393
Monitoring - Health	13,421	10,940	(2,481)	13,131	10,559	13,455
Plant & Machinery- minor purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resource Consent (GWRC annual monitoring)	43,163	-	(43,163)	40,000	38,215	32,005
Telephone & Tolls	643	1,710	1,067	2,040	524	3,498
Vehicle Expenses	4,621	2,930	(1,691)	3,520	5,455	1,232
Fuel Expenses	4,537	4,170	(367)	5,000	5,519	5,748
Wages Allocated	72,786	45,220	(27,566)	54,253	57,638	56,877
Staff Training	-	1,670	1,670	2,000	-	495
Depreciation	27,762	50,980	23,218	61,170	36,227	50,768
Interest expense	5,319	-	(5,319)	-	14,397	7,964
Total Expenditure	498,967	394,120	(104,847)	494,910	611,947	747,648
Operating Result surplus/(deficit)	(90,275)	144,489	(234,764)	46,319	91	75,135

6. WAITĪ WATERS

The three Wairarapa and Tararua Councils are creating a water organisation, Waitī Waters to manage their water services. The operation of the water races will not be transferred. It is planned at the next committee meeting on the 12 August that a separate report is brought to the committee outlining the effects of resources being transferred to Waiti.

The resources transferred will be staff such as the Water Compliance Officer, Environmental Technical Officer, Senior water operators and equipment such as sampling equipment, and diggers.

7. CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Climate change

There are no direct climate change issues relating to the decisions in this paper.

7.2 Tāngata whenua

There are no issues in this paper that impact on tāngata whenua.

7.3 Financial impact

The committee needs to consider how they propose to manage Maintenance costs given the anticipated budget shortfall of around \$30,000. Any recommendation to continue with unbudgeted maintenance work needs to be approved by Council prior to unbudgeted costs being incurred.

7.4 Community Engagement Requirements

There are no community engagement requirements relating to the decisions in this paper.

7.5 Risks

There are no risks associated with the decisions in this paper.

7.6 Wellbeing

Economic Wellbeing

- Quality, fit-for-purpose infrastructure, and services that are cost-effective and meet future needs.

Cultural Wellbeing

- Te Āo Māori/Māori aspirations and partnerships are valued and supported.

Social Wellbeing

- A strong and effective council providing trusted leadership.
- A caring community that is safe, healthy, happy and connected.

Environmental Wellbeing

- Safe and resilient water supply, wastewater, and stormwater systems.
- Healthy, sustainable waterways.

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Recommends** Council approve \$30,000 additional water race maintenance budget to be funded from an additional targeted water race rate in 2026/27.

File Number: 519929

Author: Lawrence Stephenson, Group Manager Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil



7.2 WATER RACE WATER QUALITY REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For the Committee to be informed about water quality in the water races and water race consent applications.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. WATER RACE RECONSENT APPLICATIONS

The consent application was submitted in May 2023, and the continued operation of the water race network was approved by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) under section 124 (continued use) while the application is being processed. New legislation is explained below, extending the expiry date to 31 December 2027.

Lawrence Stephenson last responded to GWRC in August 2023, outlining the following to address points in the further request for information:

- Further gauging started this summer to support the ecological assessment of the river environments
- The Council experts will review the further information request received.
- A 20-year consent is requested, but we have not yet received feedback from GWRC.
- Similar consent conditions have been suggested to the existing consent, and the results from the further sampling undertaken in the summer will be assessed.

The consent process is now being managed by Jeet Kiran, Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer, who has continued engagement with GWRC to progress the application.

Key recent developments include:

- Ongoing liaison with GWRC officers to clarify process options, including the ability under recent reform changes to extend the existing expired water race consents through to the end of 2027, should Council choose not to proceed with the current application.
- Initial discussions indicate that, based on the investigations and sampling completed to date, officers consider there is a sufficient basis to continue progressing the current application, noting that this will be reviewed internally and considered by the Water Race Committee.

- Confirmation that all required sampling has now been completed, with consultants currently finalising data analysis and preparing the outstanding Section 92 response, including assessment of cumulative effects.
- Continued coordination with the lead consultant who is overseeing the technical workstreams, with updates to be provided to GWRC as information becomes available.

GWRC has advised that there is no immediate deadline to decide whether to proceed with the current application or to rely on the consent extension pathway. This matter will be considered internally, including in the context of cost forecasting, long-term certainty, and oversight by the Water Race Committee.

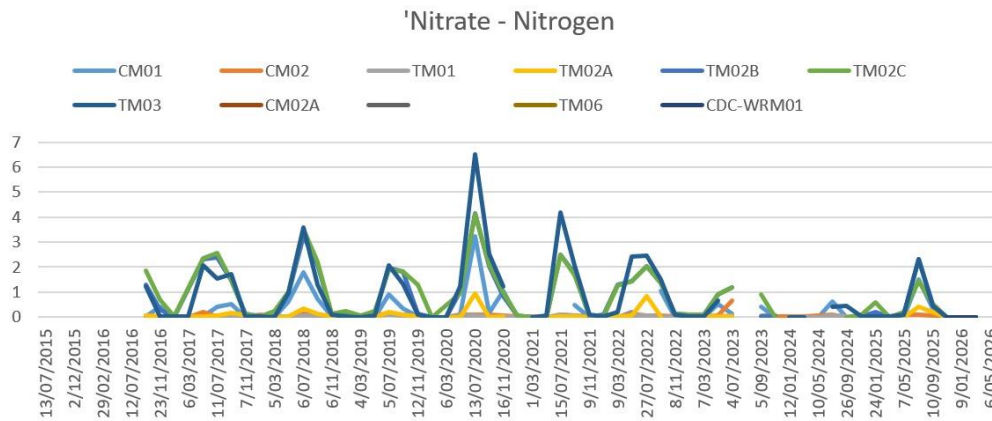
Highlights from subsequent correspondence received from GWRC between October and November 2024 are below, and also recent actions undertaken to address the requirements:

- GWRC confirmed that they reviewed the information submitted by the CDC as per the s92 request, but are seeking more information.
- CDC is currently addressing the s92 request and awaiting information from the consultants.
- An indication of the costs incurred by GWRC has been received. The team is collating these costs, planning the response to the s92 request, and assessing the additional costs that may arise during the consultation period. Officers will update the Committee on the final cost estimates once in due course.
- The Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer has coordinated with the consultant to complete all required field sampling to support the Section 92 response. The technical assessments, including peer review, have now been completed. Following discussions with GWRC (via Traverse), the current focus is on reviewing and refining the proposed monitoring programme for the new consents, which will be incorporated into the Section 92 response prior to submission.

4. UPDATED HISTORIC WATER QUALITY DATA

Nitrate concentrations across the monitored sites continue to exhibit a clear seasonal pattern, with higher values typically observed during wetter periods and increased flows. Results for the monitoring period up to 5 March 2026 remain consistent with this trend, with moderate increases observed at some sites, particularly within the TM02 catchment (e.g. TM02B and TM02C). However, all recorded concentrations remain well below the Drinking Water Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) of 11.3 mg/L.

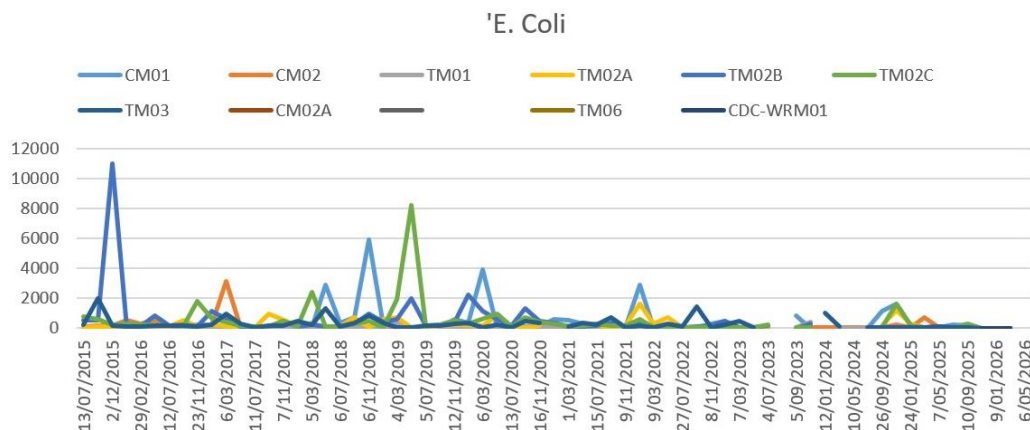
Overall, nitrate levels remain within the historical range and continue to reflect natural variability associated with rainfall, runoff, and nitrogen cycling within soils. There is no indication of a sustained upward trend or concern regarding drinking water standards.



E. coli concentrations show typical variability associated with surface water systems. For the monitoring period up to 5 March 2026, results were generally low to moderate across most sites, with the majority remaining below the 260 cfu/100 mL guideline for contact recreation (e.g. CM01: 28, CM02: 18, TM01: 5).

Elevated concentrations were observed at some TM02 sites (e.g. TM02C: 520 cfu/100 mL and TM02B: 400 cfu/100 mL), which are considered isolated and likely event-driven. These exceedances are consistent with historical patterns and are not persistent.

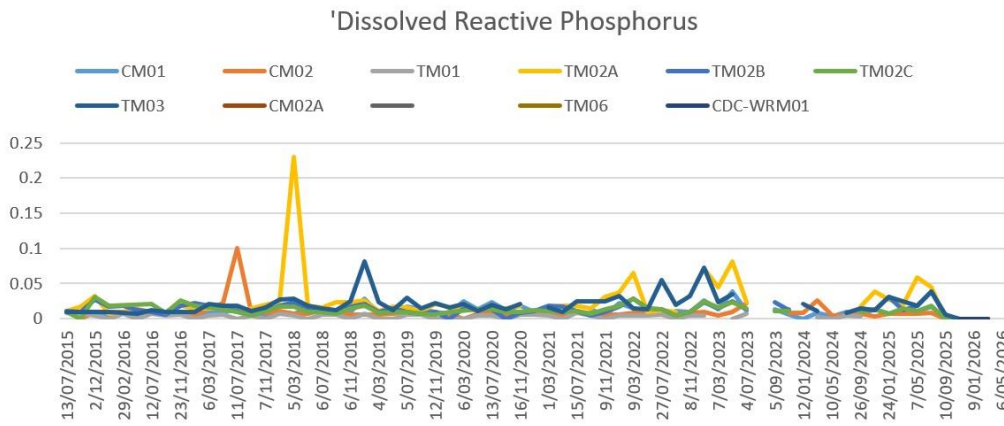
Overall, the data indicate stable microbiological water quality, with variability largely influenced by rainfall and catchment conditions rather than any systemic issue.



Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus concentrations for the monitoring period up to 5 March 2026 remain generally low across the monitoring network, with most sites continuing to record concentrations below or around the 0.05 mg/L freshwater target.

An elevated result was observed at TM02A (0.120 mg/L), along with a moderate concentration at TM03 (0.045 mg/L), indicating isolated peaks rather than a sustained trend. Other sites, including CM01, CM02, and TM01, recorded low concentrations (≤ 0.016 mg/L), indicating generally good nutrient status.

Overall, DRP concentrations remain consistent with historical patterns, characterised by low baseline levels with occasional site-specific spikes, and do not indicate any widespread or sustained exceedance of the applicable target.



Overall, water quality results for the monitoring period up to 5 March 2026 remain consistent with historical patterns. Seasonal variability is evident across all parameters, with no sustained exceedances or emerging trends that indicate deterioration in water quality or risk to relevant freshwater or drinking water standards.

5. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 519939

Author: Jeet Kiran, Waters Compliance and Monitoring Officer

Attachments: Nil

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē, hui ē, taiki ē