
MAYORAL TASKFORCE: THREE WATERS

Purpose

1. On 20 February 2020 the Mayor announced a Mayoral Taskforce on Three Waters (water services).
2. The purpose of Wellington City's Mayoral Taskforce is for the Council to conduct an inquiry into the nature and scale of issues facing the water services network and its management, to inform future decisions on how they can best be resolved.
3. The purpose of this report is to agree the terms of reference of the Mayoral Taskforce on water services. The terms of reference includes the scope of inquiry, and the membership of the Mayoral Taskforce.

Summary

4. A city cannot function effectively without reliable and fully functioning water services infrastructure. The three waters network of wastewater, stormwater, and water supply are crucial to Wellingtonians overall health and wellbeing, and disruptions can have a significant impact on communities and businesses.
5. The recent proliferation of large scale network failures have caused business and community disruption, and raised questions about the condition of the network and how it is being managed by Wellington Water Limited (WWL), and whether Wellington City Council has invested sufficiently in the infrastructure.
6. The scale of disruptions and the high public interest has meant that elected members are united in their desire to better understand the issues and ensure action plans are developed and implemented to address the issues as soon as possible.
7. On 20 February the Mayor announced a Mayoral Taskforce that will work in collaboration with WWL to understand issues facing water services in Wellington city, and what is required to be done to deliver a sustainable long term water services network that the community can have confidence in.
8. A Notice of Motion (from 12 of 15 elected members) to hold an inquiry into water services was also received by the Chief Executive on 20 February 2020. The objective of the Notice of Motion is the same as that of the Mayoral Taskforce, and this paper recommends a single collaborative process through the Mayoral Taskforce.
9. This report provides for that to happen and ensures the work of fully understanding the issues facing water services, and how they can best be resolved can be expedited without delay.
10. While Lower Hutt, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Wellington city councils, and South Wairarapa District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council are all shareholders of WWL, the focus of the Mayoral Taskforce is on Wellington City.
11. Shareholding Councils' have been notified of the Mayoral Taskforce objectives, and as part of a collaborative approach, any findings or recommendations by the Mayoral Taskforce will be communicated with shareholding councils in a pro-active and timely manner.

Recommendation/s

That the Council:

1. Receives the information.
2. Endorses the Terms of Reference of the Mayoral Taskforce (including scope and membership) as outlined in Attachment 1.
3. Delegates to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive to finalise the Mayoral Taskforce membership in terms of representation from the Wellington Water Ltd Board, the Wellington Water Committee, and Iwi mana whenua.
4. Notes that the Chief Executive of Wellington City Council is establishing an Advisory Group comprising of Council officers, WWL staff and independent experts to support the Mayoral Taskforce to carry out its functions.
5. Notes the Notice of Motion received by the Chief Executive on 20 February, as included in Attachment 2.
6. Notes that advisory and administrative support for the Mayoral Taskforce will largely be delivered from within existing resources where possible.

Background

12. WWL is responsible for managing Wellington city's stormwater, wastewater and water networks and providing specialist advice to the councils.
13. WWL is governed by a board of independent directors and a representative from each Council sits on the Wellington Water Committee that provides overall leadership and direction for the company.
14. Council formally monitors WWL service provision through a series of performance indicators that are reported on a quarterly and annual basis.
15. Quarter 1 results for the 2019/20 year showed an under achievement of those performance indicators. While work is underway to improve this, there is further work to do. Quarter 2 results (for consideration by Strategy and Policy Committee on 5 March 2020) also show that a number of performance indicators continue to not be met.
16. These results coincide with the increase of a number of high profile network failures in recent months that has caused significant disruption in the city and raised public questions about:
 - the overall condition of the network
 - how the network is managed
 - whether Council funding levels for maintenance and renewals are sufficient
 - the extent to which the magnitude 7.8 Kaikoura earthquake in 2016 has affected the condition of the underground infrastructure, and
 - how issues with the network (including water quality in streams and at beaches affected from network failures) are communicated with the community.

Discussion

17. Water services are crucial to Wellington's overall wellbeing. It is important wastewater and stormwater is disposed of in ways that protect public health and don't compromise natural ecosystems and the community's enjoyment of the natural environment. A

clean and reliable supply of water is also fundamental need. It is crucial to people's health and wellbeing, and city cannot function properly without a reliable network that delivers water services efficiently and effectively.

18. The recent spike of significant network failures has caused business and community disruption, and raised community concerns about the service and how it is managed.
19. Following a meeting between Wellington City Council and Wellington Water to discuss the issues, Councillors requested a review of water services through a Notice of Motion. This was received by the Acting Chief Executive on 20 February 2020, and the Mayor announced a Mayoral Taskforce to review water services in Wellington city on the same day.
20. Considering the scale and rising frequency of network failures in recent months, the importance of water services to overall health and community wellbeing, and the high public interest, a review of the network, its management, and the level of investment into the network, is required.
21. The objective of the Notice of Motion and the Mayoral Taskforce are the same, and this paper brings those together into a single process that can commence on adoption of this paper. The draft terms of reference reflect both the scope outlined in the Notice of Motion and that proposed for the Mayoral Taskforce.
22. The Mayoral Taskforce is a Wellington City inquiry, and the contractor model is used for service delivery across the region. It is therefore important to note that any recommendations from the Mayoral Taskforce relating to the contractor model need to be addressed through the Wellington Water Committee which has representation from all shareholding councils.

Terms of Reference of the Mayoral Taskforce

23. The Terms of Reference of the Mayoral Taskforce are wide ranging to ensure all relevant matters to understanding the issues with water services can be understood.
24. The Mayoral Taskforce is responsible for reporting back to Wellington City Council with recommendations on the way forward. Any findings or recommendations will look to inform the 2021 Three Waters Asset Management Plan, and the subsequent 2021 Long Term Plan budget processes. There is also an opportunity to include funding in the final 2020/21 Annual Plan.
25. The membership of the Taskforce includes the Mayor, Councillors, and representatives from Iwi mana whenua, the board of Wellington Water, and from the Wellington Water Committee.

Organisational support for the Mayoral Taskforce

26. The Chief Executive of the Wellington City Council is convening a Mayoral Taskforce Advisory Group comprising of Council officers, Wellington Water staff and independent experts.
27. It is anticipated that the costs associated with the Mayoral Taskforce and advisory support can largely be met from prioritising existing resources. The recommendations from the Mayoral Taskforce may however have funding impacts that will be considered through annual and long term plan processes.

Options

28. The following options are available to the Council:
- a) Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Mayoral Taskforce into water services as outlined in this report.
 - b) Amend the Terms of Reference for the Mayoral Taskforce into water services
 - c) Do not adopt the report and do not carry out a review into water services.

Next Actions

29. The next steps are for the Mayor and Chief Executive to finalise the membership of the Mayoral Taskforce. Once this is completed dates for meetings of the Taskforce will be set, and a schedule of work programmed.

Attachments

Attachment 1. Terms of Reference

Attachment 2. Notice of Motion

Author	Baz Kaufman, Manager Strategy
Authoriser	Stephen McArthur, Director, Strategy and Governance Barbara McKerrow, Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Engagement and Consultation

Wellington Water is owned by the Hutt, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Wellington city councils, South Wairarapa District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The shareholding councils' have been notified of the Mayoral Taskforce objectives.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Water issues are of high importance to Iwi mana whenua and representatives will be invited to be part of the Mayoral Taskforce.

Financial implications

It is anticipated that the work outlined in this report can largely be achieved by reprioritising existing resources from business as usual budgets. The findings of the Mayoral Taskforce may impact on future budgets and this will be considered as part of established annual and long term planning processes.

Policy and legislative implications

There are no implications

Risks / legal

There are no risks associated with the establishment of the Mayoral Taskforce.

Climate Change impact and considerations

NA

Communications Plan

A communications plan is in place.

Health and Safety Impact considered

NA

1.

Attachment 1:

**Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters
Terms of Reference**

Purpose

The purpose of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters is to inquire into specific problems relating to water issues in Wellington, and identify initiatives to address these issues by recommending an action plan to Wellington City Council.

Scope

The Scope of the Taskforce is to review matters within the boundaries of Wellington City as follows:

- a) Review the state of Wellington's water services infrastructure which includes:
 - The amount of water leakage along private connections and public networks prior to water reaching its destination.
 - The quality of drinking water within Wellington City
 - The amount of leakage from wastewater networks (and private connections) into stormwater networks and their impact on natural waterways and beaches.
- b) Review the current asset management plans for three waters and adequacy of the current renewals and maintenance programme.
- c) Investigate what is required to deliver a resilient and sustainable long term water services network including:
 - The nature of investment required and whether the current Long-term Plan and draft Annual Plan budgets are sufficient to meet the current and future needs of Wellington city.
- d) Review the adequacy of service level key performance indicators, including:
 - a. Timeframes for response and repair issues;
 - b. Reviewing the support available to residents in times of disruption.
- e) Review the use of the contractor model for the delivery of services by WWL.
- f) Review the Governance arrangements in place relating to water services infrastructure in Wellington (noting that it is a regional entity) including:
 - the governance arrangements between Wellington City Council and Wellington Water Limited;
 - Identifying whether improvements can be made to the way in which Wellington Water and Wellington City Council work together;
 - The relationship between Iwi mana whenua, Wellington City Council and Wellington Water in relation to water services issues in Wellington.
- g) Any other matters that relate to the Purpose and which arise during the Taskforce's operation.
- h) Implement a Communications and Engagement approach that keeps businesses, communities and interested parties well informed including:
 - Reviewing communication with residents including in times of disruption;

2.

- Reviewing the communication systems in place between Wellington City Council, residents and other bodies including Greater Wellington Regional Council and Regional Public Health including the determination of health warnings.
- i) Make recommendations to Wellington City Council on the issues above which may include recommended action plans, mitigation strategies and opportunities, while ensuring that any proposed solutions strengthens our communities, brings people together and builds a sustainable and resilient community.

Membership

- j) The Mayoral Taskforce shall be comprised as follows:
- The Mayor Andy Foster (Chairperson)
 - Chair of Council-Controlled Organisations Subcommittee
 - Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee
 - Portfolio Leader on Infrastructure – Three Waters
 - Up to two further Councillors (*names to be confirmed*);
 - One representative of the Wellington Water Ltd Board; (*name to be confirmed*);
 - One representative of the Wellington Water Committee (*name to be confirmed*);
- k) Two Iwi mana whenua representatives will be invited to join the Mayoral Taskforce (*names to be confirmed*).
- l) The Mayor may appoint a Deputy Chairperson.
- m) The Mayor has the power to co-opt members as required.

Administrative matters

Timing: The Taskforce will report back to the full Council. Regular progress reports will be provided by the Taskforce and made publicly available. The timing of the reports will allow for input into the final 2020/21 Annual Plan.

Support: The Taskforce shall be supported by Wellington City Council as designated and directed by the Chief Executive Officer. This shall include the provision of independent and specialist expertise.

Meetings: The Taskforce shall meet on an as required basis. Telephone conferences may be held in between these dates for the purpose of discussion or consultation on papers. The Taskforce can determine its meeting protocol and procedures, and invite any person or party to attend to assist the Taskforce with its inquiry.

Media: The Mayor of Wellington will be the spokesperson for all communication in relation to the Taskforce.

Conflict of interest: Members should discuss any potential conflict of interest with the Chairperson and may be required to remove themselves from the discussion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

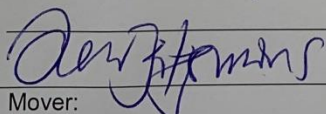
In accordance with Standing Order 3.14.1. it is proposed to move the following motion at the first available meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

That the Wellington City Council conduct an inquiry into the operation of Wellington Water including but not limited to the following:

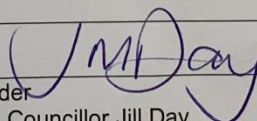
- a) The state of underground water infrastructure and the adequacy of the current renewals programme;
- b) The formal arrangements for determining who decides and on what basis whether public health warnings are required and when they can be removed;
- c) The approach to communication with residents when faults, repairs and disruption occurs in order to ensure it is consistent with the urgency of the situation and enables residents to take reasonable steps to prepare;
- d) The support available to residents when faults, repairs and disruption occurs, including the provision of drinking water, water tankers and alternative toilet and shower arrangements if required;
- e) The use of the contractor model for the delivery of services to Wellington Water including contractors being engaged to provide services on civil engineering, policy, communication, leaks, repairs and the adequacy of health and safety systems and policies;
- f) The number of leaks in Wellington City and whether the timeframes for response and repair when notified of issues are reasonable and within industry norms;
- g) The amount of network leakage along the network prior to water reaching its destination;
- h) The investment required in order to deliver a modern water infrastructure system and whether the current Long Term Plan and draft Annual Plan budgets are sufficient;
- i) The current enforcement, accountability and communication systems between Regional Public Health, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and Wellington Water;
- j) Whether the relationship with Mana Whenua and Wellington Water is consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- k) Any other matters that arise during the course of the inquiry.

Given the significance of water to Tangata Whenua, the inquiry should ensure that Mana Whenua are actively involved and updated as it develops.

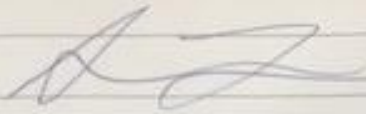



Councillors will be regularly updated as the inquiry progresses. The findings (including recommendations) of the inquiry are reported to Councillors by 31 August 2020.



Mover:
Name: Councillor Fleur Fitzsimons
Date: 20 February 2020



Seconder:
Name: Councillor Jill Day
Date: 20 February 2020

Mayor Foster	
Cr Calvert	
Cr Condie	JD Condie
Cr Day	Jim Day
Cr Fitzsimons	Ben Fitzsimons
Cr Foon	
Deputy Mayor Free	J. Free
Cr Matthews	
Cr O'Neill	Bob O'Neill
Cr Pannett	John Pannett
Cr Paul	
Cr Rush	
Cr Sparrow	
Cr Woolf	
Cr Young	