

---

# IAWAI – Flowing Waters, Board Meeting

## [UNCONFIRMED] OPEN MINUTES

### 18 December 2025, 9.30am

---

Minutes of a meeting of the IAWAI – Flowing Waters Board, held in the Committee Room, Waikato District Council, on Wednesday 18 December 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

#### **5. Public Forum**

Te Kopa King presented to the Iawai Board his opposition to the preferred location of the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant. He wasn't against the plant; however, he was concerned about environmental impacts of discharge at the proposed location. He considered this conflicted with parts of the Kiingitanga Accord and hadn't undergone proper consultation with mana whenua. His message to the Board was to find another location.

The Board thanked Te Kopa for his presentation. They asked if he had another location in mind. He referenced Site 2 at Penniket Road.

**[Post meeting note:** Iawai would like to acknowledge the critical role of Iwi and Mana Whenua in this project. Through a dedicated Kaitiaki Roopuu, they are represented at all levels of governance and have been instrumental in shaping the project to date, including the selection of the preferred site and the short-listing of discharge options.

Decisions have not been made yet on how or where the treated water will be discharged. At the heart of this work is a commitment to deliver 'Best for River' outcomes by giving effect to *Te Ture Whaimana*

*o te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.* This means treating wastewater to a very high standard and aiming to improve water quality, not just maintain it.

lawai is committed to ensuring that the project meets the expectations of the surrounding community, and that we are seen as a ‘good neighbour’. At the core of this is the commitment to ensuring that there are no unacceptable effects beyond the site that impact the environment as it is now, and as it evolves over time.]

## **6. Chair’s report**

Kevin Lavery presented his Chair’s report, which was taken as read.

He noted lawai is still progressing the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer. An announcement was expected soon.

He noted the good conversation with the lawai Forum, including discussions on future Board arrangements. A recruitment process will commence in the new year for remaining Board members.

## **7. Establish lawai Programme Report**

Gavin Ion presented this report. He noted that overall, the work programme is on track – although there are a few issues being worked through.

The stormwater workstream was particularly complex, and there were some issues being worked through on the Day 1 digital systems (being provided as a shared service). Progress was being made to bring these back on track.

The Draft Transfer Agreement is a significant undertaking. It’s expected to be received later today. This is the key document to transfer assets. Not everything will be transferred by 1 July 2026. There are challenges, for example, around some land on designated reserves. The aim is to work through what we can transfer on 1 July 2026, prioritise key assets by significance and size, and then ensure there is a licence to occupy until the transfer is complete.

The Board noted the scale and scope of the work. In reality, it will take time for the land to move across, and we will need to be pragmatic. At the same time, the land transfer is key for success.

The strong foundational documents ensure that we are well-placed for the transfer – with the key principles in place. The transfer itself is relatively mechanical.

Dave noted appreciation for the live tracker. He noted the 536 contracts that need to be transferred – and asked whether there were any issues to flag.

Dave welcomed the finance tool under development and offered any help drawing on his own experiences.

He asked about consideration of the retention plan and any slippage in reporting requirements, revenue collection and policies – which will be key.

Gavin responded that these were large streams of work, but overall, things were in hand.

## **8. Confirmation that lawai is a Water Services Organisation**

Natasha Yarrall presented this report.

The Local Government Water Services Act requires that the Board of Directors adopts a paper within 6 months of its establishment to confirm that it complies with the requirements set out in the Act.

Requirements include the incorporation of lawai under the Companies Act, its role as a water organisation, and the competency-based appointments of a Board of Directors.

The paper set out that lawai meets these requirements.

**Resolved**

*The Board:*

1. **Adopted the paper** as the formal document required under Clause 8 of Schedule 1 in order for lawai to continue to be taken as a water services organisation.

**9. Update on the Water Services Strategy**

Vishal Ramduny presented an update on the development of lawai's Water Services Strategy (WSS). He noted the focus in responding to shareholder feedback, in particular a savings programme to reduce the 22% average increase in water charges forecast in the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP).

Financial modelling was underway, informed by an assessment of the capital works programme for deliverability and affordability and a savings programme. A key risk was the delay of financial modelling and flow-on impacts, and the delay in government economic regulation guidelines.

The Board noted the WSS is the big decision for lawai. They expressed concern about the lateness of the financials. The Board agreed that it would be important to understand and communicate the shift from the WSDP to the WSS. They noted that some things may have to be tidied up through the second Water Services Strategy.

They emphasised the importance of preparing the community so that they are ready to provide any feedback on the WSS.

Vishal noted key documents to come back to the Board in the new year including the draft WSS and related policies (including the significance and engagement policy, waiver policy and investment and liability policy).

**10. Strategic investment portfolio**

Jackie Coliar presented this report.

She noted that progress continues on the transferred projects. This requires proactive management and oversight. There is a large programme of work – with possibly the largest number of Fast Track applications. Challenges include refining reporting and governance structures and resourcing the significant workload. The team is working to mitigate risks and ensure smooth transition to 1 July.

The Board noted how busy the programme was, as evidenced through the report. They reiterated the view that lawai is open for business. But we need to ensure we are realistic about delivery (i.e. under-promise and over-deliver).

The Board and staff discussed the staff time cost-recovery structure agreed across council and future proof. However, given the reactive nature, resourcing is challenging. They discussed staff looking at the overall resourcing in the new year – looking at who the team is to respond to new Fast Track proposals and the importance of strong expertise for commercial negotiations.

The Board requested that future portfolio reporting include health, safety and wellness reporting, as well as financial reporting, so the Board can track progress; and consideration of how we communicate what we are doing (including the why).

## 11. 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.
Strategic Investment Portfolio Update	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)
Known growth and Fast Track Consents	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)
Ohinewai Development Agreement Proposed Terms	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)
Te Kowhai Development Agreement Proposed Terms	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)

Water network (water metering and management service)	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)
Digital Foundations and Digital Water Service Operations Partnership Programme	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)
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 improper gain or improper advantage.	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) Section 7 (2) (j)
Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes (out-of-cycle)	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)

**Meeting ended 11:30am**