Minutes

Board meeting	Public session
Date	27 May 2026
Venue	Watercare House, Level 4 Boardroom, 73 Remuera Rd, Remuera and via Microsoft Teams
Time	10:00am

Attendance

Board of Directors	Watercare staff	Guests
Geoff Hunt (Chair) John Crawford Andrew Clark Graham Darlow Rukumoana Schaafhausen	Jamie Sinclair - Chief Executive Sarah Phillips - Chief People Officer Angela Neeson - Chief Financial Officer Mark Bourne - Chief Operations Officer Priyan Perera - Chief Strategy and Planning Officer Mark Crowle - Chief Programme Delivery Officer Richie Waiwai - Tumuaki Rautaki ā-Iwi me ngā Hononga Brent Evans - Acting Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Andrew Mercer - Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing (from start until end of item 6) Tere Ryan - Security Specialist Emma McBride - Head of Legal and Governance Grace Eliseeva - Legal Counsel	**Members from Auckland Council** Trudi Fava, Principal Advisor CCO Governance and External Partnerships **Members from the public** Steve Carne, Director at Taonga Water Advisory Limited

1.	**Opening karakia** John Crawford opened the meeting with a karakia.
2.	**Apologies** Karen Sherry and Julian Smith sent their apologies. Julian Smith was in attendance via Microsoft teams for the Board only and Board/CE sessions that occurred prior to the meeting.
3.	**Quorum** A quorum was established.
4.	**Declaration of any conflicts of interest** Andrew Clark noted his usual conflict of interest when it comes to tax issues, as he is the CFO of Ports of Auckland Limited.

	No other conflicts of interest were noted.
5.	**Minutes of the previous meeting of 29 April 2026 board meeting** *The Board **resolved** that the minutes of the public session of the board meeting held on 29 April 2026 be confirmed as true and correct.*
6.	**Public deputations** There were no public deputations. Steve Carne attended the meeting as an observer.
7.	**Health, safety, and wellness update** The CE introduced the report and Andrew Mercer took the report. The following key points were made: • The Board noted the ongoing programme of critical risk deep dives being undertaken by the Executive, aimed at strengthening understanding of key risks and associated controls. This was acknowledged as important and valuable work. • In June, Watercare will be bringing all of our contractors together to reinforce the organisation's commitment to health and safety. • Last week, a staff member was involved in a serious vehicle crash in the Waikato when an oncoming car crossed the centre line. While there were no fatalities, the incident was significant, and our vehicle safety features were noted as having likely prevented more serious harm. This incident underscores the importance of robust safety controls. A more detailed update will be provided at the next Board meeting. • The Board noted the value of having visibility of high severity incidents monthly, and suggested including this information as an appendix to the report from next month. • Andrew Mercer provided an update on a notifiable event relating to the entry into a chamber at the Khyber Pass reservoirs. While no injuries occurred and the actual risk of harm was assessed as low, the incident highlighted issues in the management of isolation processes. A review is currently underway. WorkSafe has been notified and has confirmed that no further follow-up with WorkSafe is required. *The Board **noted** the report.*
8.	**Chief Executive's report** The CE introduced the report, which was taken as read. The following key points were made. • We are entering winter in a strong position, with dam storage at 95.3%, above the typical seasonal low. Most dams are spilling except Waitākere, which we are keeping low. Usually, the dams are at their lowest point at this time of year, and we have a recharge over the next eight weeks. • Mark Bourne explained that our current focus is on next year, with a drought management plan to be presented next month. If the El Niño materialises, we will increase our reliance on the Waikato rather than the dams. • The Board noted the successful third Swiss bond issuance, strengthening the organisation's presence in debt capital markets and delivering material interest cost savings.

	• In relation to the Hillsborough boil-water notice, it was confirmed there was no risk to public health. Following discussions with Taumata Arowai, management confirmed that if there was another single adverse sample tomorrow, this should would not automatically trigger a boil water notice, as assessment would consider broader sampling context (i.e. multiple markers). • The Board requested greater granularity on the community trust score. Management noted this had previously been discussed with the Board and the score has remained relatively stable over the past five years. An update on the methodology will be provided at the June Board meeting. • Updated capacity maps will be released in June. *The Board **noted** the report.*
9.	**Draft Significance and Engagement Policy** Brent Evans introduced the report, which was taken as read. The following key points were made. • The Policy is currently out for public consultation. Once the Policy is in place, if Watercare does not follow it, then customers will be able to judicially review our decisions for not following the Policy. • The Board raised various concerns including the potential requirement to consult on operational matters, including the 10-year operational plan or projects, which could create delays and inefficiencies. The Board emphasised the importance of avoiding unnecessary consultation at the project level. • The Board noted the risk of creating unrealistic expectations among the public if consultation is applied too broadly. • The Board discussed challenges in meeting Commission timeframes if additional consultation is required (e.g. on the price-quality path), with a view that such requirements should be excluded. • It was agreed there is value in consulting on high-level principles, such as the investment delivery plan, rather than detailed operational, or pricing decisions which are regulated by the Commission. • The Board emphasised the need for flexibility to be included in the Policy, with appropriate Board and management discretion. • Potential conflicts with other legislation were noted and it was observed that the Watercare Policy is guided by different legislation to Council’s SEP. Watercare operates under a different statutory framework, which means the Watercare SEP cannot be identical to the Council SEP. • The Board discussed refining definitions, including “significant service level change” and “significant contract”, noting that pricing decisions and routine price changes should be excluded from consultation requirements. • Management advised that the proposed approach largely codifies existing practice rather than introducing substantive change. *The Board **noted** the report.*
10.	**Board planner** *The Board **noted** the board planner.*
11.	**Directors’ appointment terms, committee memberships and meeting attendances** *The Board **noted** the report.*

12.	**Disclosure of directors’ and executives’ interests** Geoff Hunt advised he had been appointed the Chair of Propellworks Limited. *The Board **noted** the report.*
13.	**General business** There was no other general business. The public session closed at 10:33am.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

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Geoff Hunt, Chair