

Manawatu Water Services Committee

Meeting of 12 August 2026

Business Unit: Infrastructure

Date Created: 3 August 2026

Manawatu Water Services Committee Workplan 2026-27

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present the Water Services Committee Workplan for 2026 and 2027 to the Committee for adoption. The Workplan will be updated as required, and an update provided to the Committee quarterly.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Committee Workplan for 2026 and 2027 be adopted without amendment.

OR

That the Committee Workplan for 2026 and 2027 be adopted with amendments.

Report prepared by:
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Approved for submission by:
Hamish Waugh
General Manager - Infrastructure

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Workplan has been developed to provide a structured forward view of the matters expected to come before the Manawātū Water Services Committee during 2026 and 2027. Its development began with the Committee's Terms of Reference and considered the information, decisions and oversight required to support the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities.
- 1.2 The proposed programme has been discussed with the Committee Chair, Committee members and the General Manager - Infrastructure. It brings together regular governance reporting, financial and programme performance, risk and compliance oversight, the Water Services Strategy and Long-term Plan cycle, and matters that may require timely Committee consideration.
- 1.3 The Workplan is intended to support disciplined agenda planning while retaining flexibility. Where there is no substantive business for a scheduled meeting, that meeting may be cancelled. This is preferable to attempting to arrange additional meetings at short notice when approvals or guidance are required.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The Workplan supports the Council priority "Infrastructure fit for future" by providing a clear governance pathway for oversight of water services performance, investment, compliance and planning. It also supports "Value for money and excellence in local government" by coordinating reporting and decision-making, reducing duplication and enabling the Committee to focus on the matters requiring governance attention.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The Workplan groups Committee business into the following areas: governance; finance and performance; programme reporting; risk management; compliance reporting; the Water Services Strategy and Long-term Plan planning cycle; and annual planning and reporting. It also identifies possible items that will be scheduled when required, including contract award recommendations, project completion reports, and updates following severe weather or civil defence emergencies.
- 3.2 The timing reflects known reporting cycles and current programme requirements. Quarterly financial and programme reporting is aligned where practical with Council's wider Finance and Performance reporting. Compliance reporting is scheduled regularly so that the Committee has visibility of issues before, or alongside, reporting to external regulators. The Workplan also maps the key Water Services Strategy, asset management, Long-term Plan and annual planning activities expected during the period.
- 3.3 The Workplan is necessarily indicative. The timing of individual items may change in response to legislative requirements, project progress, information availability, emerging risks or the need for timely approvals. A full Workplan update is proposed quarterly, with changes also able to be made between reviews where required.

- 3.4 Officers recommend adoption of the Workplan, subject to any amendments agreed by the Committee.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 The principal risk is that the Workplan becomes outdated or is treated as fixed despite changes in programme timing, regulatory requirements or emerging issues. This will be managed through quarterly review, ongoing coordination with the Chair and General Manager - Infrastructure, and the ability to add, defer or cancel items as required.
- 4.2 A clear Workplan reduces the risk of late reporting, missed governance decisions, duplicated reporting and insufficient Committee visibility of significant performance, compliance or delivery matters.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 No community engagement has been undertaken specifically on the Workplan. Any engagement required for the substantive matters included in the Workplan will be considered and reported separately.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 The Workplan will guide forward agenda planning and coordination across Infrastructure, Finance, Governance and Assurance, and other contributing teams. It will require regular review to confirm that reports are appropriately sequenced and that sufficient time is available for Committee workshops, decisions and statutory processes.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from adoption of the Workplan. Financial implications associated with individual items will be addressed in the relevant Committee reports.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 There is no specific statutory requirement for the Committee to adopt a Workplan. The Workplan supports the Committee to fulfil its delegated responsibilities and to schedule

reporting and decisions associated with water services legislation, regulatory compliance, financial performance and Council planning processes.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 Following adoption, the Workplan will be used to guide preparation of Committee and workshop agendas. Officers will maintain the Workplan, confirm proposed items with the Chair and General Manager - Infrastructure, and present a full update to the Committee quarterly. Any amendments agreed at the meeting will be incorporated into the final Workplan.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Water Services Committee Workplan 2026-2027