Manawatū Water Services Committee

Meeting of 12 November 2026

Business Unit: Infrastructure
Date Created: 28 October 2026

Manawatū Water Services Committee Workplan Review

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To seek acceptance of the revised Committee workplan for the remainder of 2026/27 and agreement to review the Terms of Reference before 1 July 2027.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Manawatū Water Services Committee:

1. Accepts the changes outlined in this report and the proposed workplan for the remainder of 2026/27.

2. Agrees to review its Terms of Reference before 1 July 2027, assessing coverage of its responsibilities through agenda and workshop items over the preceding 12 months and whether the Terms of Reference remain fit for purpose.

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1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

1.1 On 12 August 2026, the Committee adopted its 2026 and 2027 workplan without amendment (MWS 25-28/044). The minutes record that the workplan would be updated as required and reported to the Committee quarterly. This report presents the first quarterly review.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

2.1 The workplan supports effective oversight of water services planning, performance, compliance and risk, consistent with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

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

3.1 The following changes have already been agreed:

3.1.1 The agreed risk reporting approach is reflected through a consolidated risk register presented quarterly.

3.1.2 The first review of most planning documents moves to November 2026 (this meeting), with the Water Services Strategy shared in December 2026. This sequence recognises that the documents inform one another.

3.2 The following changes are proposed:

3.2.1 Compliance reporting moves from monthly to quarterly because the report is relatively static. Urgent matters and material changes will be escalated as they arise.

3.2.2 Quarterly Water Services Delivery Plan implementation reports to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport are added as standing information items.

3.2.3 The annual legislative compliance review moves from November to December 2026 this year only.

3.3 Accepting the revised workplan is recommended to reflect current reporting arrangements and planning needs. Retaining the original workplan would leave these changes unrecorded.

3.4 Scheduled meetings should be retained while the timing and scope of transitional requirements remain uncertain. Individual meetings can be cancelled if there is no business to consider. Any future reduction in meeting frequency should be considered alongside the Terms of Reference review.

3.5 Before the planned transition to a financially ringfenced in-house business unit on 1 July 2027, the Committee should review whether agenda and workshop items over the

preceding 12 months have adequately covered its responsibilities, and whether its Terms of Reference remain fit for purpose.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 Less frequent routine reporting of compliance matters could delay visibility of emerging issues. Prompt escalation of urgent matters and material changes to this Committee via other mechanisms, supported by quarterly reporting and workplan reviews, will help to maintain acceptable oversight.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

5.1 The proposed changes are of low significance: they concern internal governance scheduling and do not change service levels, budgets or delivery arrangements.

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 is required for these internal reporting arrangements.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 Quarterly compliance and consolidated risk reporting will focus staff effort on meaningful updates. Staff will maintain the workplan and bring forward matters requiring timely consideration.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 No additional funding is sought. Reporting and the proposed review will be managed within existing resources.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 The workplan supports the Committee's existing oversight responsibilities. Any proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference will be referred to Council for approval.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Update and implement the accepted workplan, continue quarterly progress reviews, and schedule the Terms of Reference review early enough for any Council decisions before 1 July 2027.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

1) Revised Manawatū Water Services Workplan for 2026
2) Revised Manawatū Water Services Workplan for Feb to June 2027
3) Revised Manawatū Water Services Workplan for Aug to Dec 2027