



# Briefing: Annual Plan 2025–26

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**12 February 2025 – 4.00pm**

## Attendees

**Elected Members:** Mayor Barry, Cr Barratt, Cr Brown (via audio-visual link), Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis (via audio-visual link), Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Karen Yung (Petone Community Board); L Bingley (Wainuiomata Community Board via audio-visual link) and M Fisher (Petone Community Board).

**Staff:** J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive; K Stannard, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive's Office; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office; B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor; D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance; N Twilton, Strategic Financial Advisor; A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager; H Singh, Advisor Strategic Planning and Business (via audio-visual link); W Botha, Corporate Planning Lead (via audio-visual link); K Riley, Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor (Via audio-visual link) and V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor.

## Apologies

Cr Briggs, Cr Tupou and Cr Morgan.

## **Presenters**

J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer;  
D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance;  
R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy;  
A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager; and  
P Dougherty, Chief Executive Wellington Water Limited (WWL).

## **Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing**

The purpose of this briefing is to provide Council with an update on the development of the Annual Plan 2025–26, including key financial considerations, budget decisions and strategic priorities.

The briefing outlines the timeline and approach, an overview of the budget process, projected financial position and savings initiatives. As well as addresses rating impacts, the voluntary targeted rate (VTR) for private Three Water Infrastructure repairs and proposed changes to rates instalments. It also seeks Council's direction on critical financial decisions, including savings measures, capital expenditure adjustments and the approach to public engagement, ensuring that fiscal sustainability is maintained while continuing to deliver essential services to the community.

The briefing also presents WWL's advice to Council on the 2025/26 Annual Plan, outlining the state of water infrastructure, key priorities and funding needs. It highlights necessary structural and process improvements, including accountability, risk management and financial controls. It details operational and capital budget adjustments, emphasising investment in leak repairs and the reprioritisation of major projects like the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. Additionally, WWL seeks Council's approval for a \$260K increase in the Management and Advisory Services fee to enhance capability.

**Presentation by:**

**Jenny Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager; and P Dougherty, Chief Executive Wellington Water Ltd (WWL)**

**Slide 1 – Annual Plan 2025–26.**

**Slide 2 – Content.**

**Slide 3 – High level timeline.**

**Slide 4 – High level approach.**

**Slide 5 – High level engagement overview.**

**Slide 6 – Key Council decisions on Annual Plan to date.**

**Slide 7 – Key decisions continued – water services.**

**Slide 8 – Key Council decisions 24 February 2024.**

**Slide 9 – Rate increases.**

**Slide 10 – 2025–26 indicative rating impact 13.4%.**

**Slide 11 – Savings initiatives through LTP.**

**Slide 12 – Savings DAP26.**

**Slide 13 – Key strategic risks.**

**Slide 14 – Capital Expenditure – AP26 versus LTP.**

**Slide 15 – Forecast net debt projections.**

**Slide 16 – Balanced operating budget.**

**Slide 17 – Indicative rates impact by rating category.**

**Slide 18 – Further details average residential property.**

**Slide 19 – Voluntary targeted rate (VTR) for private Three Waters Infrastructure Repairs.**

**Slide 20 – Proposal to reduce rates instalment.**

**Slide 21 – Appendix.**

**Slide 22 – Fees and charges.**

## **Wellington Water advice to Hutt City Council 2025/26 Annual Plan**

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**Slide 1 – WWL advice to HCC 2025/26 Annual Plan**

**Slide 2 – Agenda**

**Slide 3 – Priorities for improvements to Wellington Water**

**Slide 4 – Operating Budgets 2025/26**

**Slide 5 – Capital Budgets FY 2025/26**

**Slide 6 – WWL request to Council**

**Slide 7 – Questions?**

## Questions and discussion points

P Dougherty, WWL advised that if all councils rejected the proposed \$260K increase to the Management Advisory Services fee for urgent improvements, WWL would be unable to recruit for needed positions or would have to reassess its budget to identify alternative cost-cutting measures. He added that WWL did not receive the requested \$5–6M to accelerate the other organisational issues, resulting in continued staff shortages and operational challenges.

## Next steps

- 24 February 2025 – Council agrees decisions for final DAP26 and approves engagement approach
- 25 March 2025 – Council adopts DAP26 and engagement content
- April 2025 – Community engagement on draft plan
- 14–16 May 2025 – Council provides direction and progresses decisions to support plan being finalised post receiving the feedback analysis for engagement
- 4 June 2025 – Council meets to make final decisions
- 27 June 2025 – Council adopts Annual Plan 2025–26 and sets rates

## Briefing materials

**Attachment 1** – Presentation: [DAP 2025–26](#)

**Attachment 2** – Presentation: [WWL advice to HCC 2025/26 Annual Plan](#)

**The briefing closed at 4.40pm**