

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA
ON TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Mr Henare Mita, Ms Theresa Thornton (via teams), Ms Fiona Wairau, Cr Benita Cairns, Cr Roslyn Thomas, Ms Erena Hammond

IN ATTENDANCE: **Kitea Tipuna** (Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive), **Gary Borg** (Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support), **Te Aroha Cook** (Kaiarataki Whakaoranga | Recovery Manager), **Luke Knight** (Acting Group Manager Assets and Infrastructure), **Hinetaakoha Viriaere** (Pouwhakarae Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning & Regulatory), **Juanita Savage** (Pouwhakarae Rātonga Hapori me te Whakawhanake | Group Manager Community Services and Development), **Duane Culshaw** (Pouahurea Māori | Māori Relationships Manager), **Hinemoa Hubbard** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer), **Nathan Heath** (HBRC Māori Relationships Manager), **Tyler Trafford-Misson** (District Planner), **Lawrence Yule** (Crown Manager), **Mere Kokiri-Tamanui**

1 KARAKIA

The opening karakia was given by the Chair, Mr Henare Mita.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/254

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Erena Hammond

That the apologies received from Ms Whaiora Maindonald and Ms Amanda Reynolds be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To be declared as the agenda progresses.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**LATE ITEMS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/255**

Moved: Ms Fiona Wairau

Seconded: Ms Erena Hammond

That the verbal reports on the *'Annual Plan Development'*, *'Development Contributions Policy'* and the *'Road naming application'* be received as late items.

CARRIED

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**Flood Mitigation Project Update**

Mr Yule provided an update on the Flood mitigation project, noting ongoing engagement with affected residents and a scheduled Māori Land Court hui.

With 278 properties remaining in Category 2C, a viable mitigation solution is critical to avoid reclassification to Category 3 and loss of insurability. Initially 18 options were considered, with Option 1C identified as the most direct solution, though it impacted 16 homes and 17 parcels of whenua Māori.

A revised Option 1C Plus relocated the spillway, reducing affected homes to 6 and whenua Māori to 6. Hydraulic modelling confirmed its feasibility. Further investigation is required into a stream near the Takitimu urupā, including cultural significance and potential unmarked graves, with input sought from John Hovell.

Compensation will be based on pre-Cyclone Gabrielle valuations, with additional provisions under the Public Works Act. Landowners may retain ownership via an easement or receive a one-off payment.

The project aims to avoid acquiring any land, especially whenua Māori, through the Public Works Act. However, if the success of the project relies on acquiring a specific piece of general land and the landowner refuses to sell, the Public Works Act may be considered as a last resort to secure the necessary land.

A report has been commissioned on Kopu Road and the bar following the June flooding event. While \$70 million is allocated to North Clyde, Mr Yule is assessing a broader flood protection approach for Wairoa. The report suggests stop banks on Kopu Road and Ngamotu side, costing approximately \$18 million. This would prevent water ingress but require pump stations or an alternative solution for stormwater management.

Additionally, a groin design at Pilot's Hill, using eco-reef technology from QRS, has been independently reviewed. The structure aims to keep the bar open, with an estimated cost of \$10-\$12 million.

Late verbal report: Development Contributions Policy

The District Planner gave a verbal update on the proposed Development Contributions Policy. It was received for information only and was not formally moved or seconded.

He noted that:

- Council is currently engaging on a draft Development Contributions Policy.
- Government has indicated a shift from development contributions to a new development levies system.
- This change is not expected to take effect until late 2026 or 2027.
- Elected members have supported continuing with the full engagement process rather than pausing it.

Mere Kokiri-Tamanui

Mere introduced herself with her pepeha and spoke to the role and purpose of the Māori Standing Committee, highlighting its responsibility to provide a Māori perspective.

Key points from her kōrero:

- Raised concerns about quarry activity on Whakapūnake, which she believes is contributing to the destabilisation of the maunga.
- Questioned who granted resource consent for the quarrying activity.
- Emphasised the importance of bringing Māori lore alongside law in decision-making.
- Requested a review and redefinition of infrastructure policies that influence how the Council operates.

The committee acknowledged Mere's concerns and frustration regarding the quarrying and deforestation occurring on Whakapūnake. The committee expressed uncertainty about whether the activity is under Council control, and noted that the quarry may fall outside the jurisdiction of Council.

At 11:05 am, Ms Fiona Wairau left the meeting.

At 11:07 am, Ms Fiona Wairau returned to the meeting.

At 11:07 am, Cr Benita Cairns left the meeting.

At 11:07 am, Cr Roslyn Thomas left the meeting.

At 11:08 am, Cr Roslyn Thomas returned to the meeting.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/256

Moved: Ms Erena Hammond

Seconded: Cr Roslyn Thomas

That the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL ITEMS**8.1 MORTUARY WASTE UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/257**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Theresa Thornton

The Committee receives the report.

CARRIED

The Acting Group Manager of Assets & Infrastructure introduced the report.

He noted:

- The report was referred from the Infrastructure Committee.
- A draft design has been developed, in collaboration with the local funeral director, to carry out sampling and assess potential impacts on the land.
- Clarified that “MWWP” stands for the Māori Wastewater Working Party.

At 11:11 am, Cr Benita Cairns returned to the meeting.

8.3 HBRC MĀORI RELATIONSHIP MANAGER UPDATE**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/258**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Fiona Wairau

The Committee receives the report.

CARRIED

8.2 CHAIRMAN'S PŪRONGO Ā-TAKIWĀ (NUHAKA-RAKAIPAACA)**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/259**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Fiona Wairau

The Committee receives the report.

CARRIED

8.4 TĀ TE POUAHUREA MĀORI PŪRONGO**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/260**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Erena Hammond

The Committee receives the report, and provide any feedback relating to the road naming application.

CARRIED

The Māori Relationships manager introduced his report and included a late verbal update on a road naming application, which was incorporated into the original report for information purposes.

He advised the committee that late correspondence had been received from the developer of the Tihitihi Pā subdivision. An update was provided on the proposed road named submitted by the developer. Once officers have completed the necessary due diligence, a formal report will be brought back to the committee before being referred to Council for a final decision.

The committee sought clarification on the relevance and significance of the proposed names to the district, and requested that the developer provide context for the selection of the proposed names.

LATE ITEM – ANNUAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/261**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Cr Benita Cairns

The committee receives the verbal report.

CARRIED

The Group Manager of Finance and Corporate Support provided an update.

He noted:

- Council is currently holding weekly Annual Plan workshops.
- An engagement document is being prepared for Council's adoption.
- A draft version of the document will be shared informally with the committee for feedback prior to formal adoption.
- Efforts will be made to ensure the engagement material is culturally appropriate and accessible for all audiences.

His worship noted:

- That the current Long-Term Plan (LTP) is a three year plan.
- In its second year, a 15.5% rates increase had been proposed.
- Elected members requested the Chief Executive and staff work toward a reduced increase

of 5%, identifying potential cost savings to support this.

VERBAL TAKIWĀ UPDATES

Ms. Thornton (Pāhauwera):

- Raised a query regarding the fence at the Raupunga Recycling Centre. The Acting Group Manager of Assets and Infrastructure advised that there had been confusion with the contractor, but the matter has now been resolved.
- Raised concerns about safety and environmental risks along Putere Road, near the Mangawharangi Stream. Several accidents have occurred in the area, she requested that we install barriers or signage to improve safety. Public concern was noted due to vehicles being abandoned and leaking oil into the stream.

The committee queried whether Police are aware of the crashes, and recommended that the Hawkes Bay Regional Council be alerted through the pollution hotline about possible environmental impacts.

Ms. Wairau (Mahia Mai Tawhiti):

- Reported that there has been an increase in tagging incidents in Mahia.
- An update was requested on the progress of the Mahia Recycling Centre.

The committee noted that Council will be returning to the Māhia community to seek further feedback on potential locations for the recycling centre, and queried what the general Māhia community perspective is on the recycling centre proposal.

Ms. Hammond (Ruakituri):

- Ongoing frustration was expressed with delays at the Māori Land Court, as the Te Reinga Marae Trustees are still waiting official appointment.
- Concerns were raised about burnt-out vehicles along the side of the road to Te Reinga.

Henare Mita acknowledged the Chief Executive, Kitea Tipuna for his ongoing support to the Māori Standing Committee and noted that this support reflects positively on the future of the committee.

The meeting closed with a closing karakia by the Chair, Mr Henare Mita at 11:59am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Māori Standing Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON