

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA  
ON TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mr Henare Mita, Ms Theresa Thornton, Ms Fiona Wairau, Cr Roslyn Thomas, Ms Erena Hammond, Ms Amanda Reynolds, Ms Whaiora Maindonald

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **Te Aroha Cook** (Pouwhakarae Rātonga Hapori me te Whakawhanake | Kaiaarataki Whakaoranga Group Manager – Community Services and Development | Recovery Manager), **Langley Cavers** (Acting Group Manager Assets and Infrastructure), **Duane Culshaw** (Pouahurea Māori | Māori Relationships Manager), **Hinemoa Hubbard** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer), **Hira Campbell** (Transport Asset Manager), **Nathan Heath** (Hawkes Bay Regional Council Māori Relationships Manager)

**1 KARAKIA**

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

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**APOLOGIES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/268**

Moved: Ms Fiona Wairau

Seconded: Ms Whaiora Maindonald

That the apology received from Cr Benita Cairns, and His Worship the Mayor, Craig Little 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**

The Chair apologised for not attending the Ordinary Council Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

The Chair then invited the Pouahurea Māori to speak about the rāhiri for the incoming Chief Executive, Matthew Lawson.

**5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nil.

**7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/269**

Moved: Ms Erena Hammond

Seconded: Ms Fiona Wairau

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22 April 2025 be confirmed with amendments.

**CARRIED**

Item 8.1 was amended to:

- Add “Forest” at the beginning of the second bullet point, so it reads “Forest harvesting scheduled...”
- Note that no formal consent application had been submitted to Council regarding quarrying activity.

**8 GENERAL ITEMS****8.1 WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/270**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Fiona Wairau

The Committee receives the report for informational purposes.

**CARRIED**

The Acting Group manager of Assets & Infrastructure introduced himself to the committee.

The Transport Asset Manager then provided an overview of the strategy, noting that no funding had been approved by New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for walking and cycling strategies nationwide. NZTA recommended having an approved plan in place to enable future funding applications. It was also noted that the strategy is broad in scope, with detailed route planning to follow.

The Committee sought clarification on several points.

A query was raised about the definition of a pump track, which was explained by the Acting Group Manager of Assets & Infrastructure. Members asked whether a rail line cycle trail could be incorporated into the strategy; The Transport Asset Manager advised that part of the rail line in Nuhaka had been removed, and it hasn't been fully considered yet.

The Committee requested more detail on the makeup of the 'local community.' In response, The Transport Asset Manager noted that consultation had taken place with a broader health and fitness group, and individuals expected to use the walking and cycling network, and confirmed that he would include an explanation of how community input was considered in the strategy.

## **8.2 HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL - MONTHLY REPORT**

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/271**

Moved: Ms Whaiora Maindonald

Seconded: Ms Fiona Wairau

The Māori Standing Committee receives this report.

**CARRIED**

The Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) Māori Relationships Manager introduced the report, and noted:

- Collaborative planning discussions occurred between HBRC and Gisborne District Council, acknowledging the cross-boundary importance of this work. HBRC had paused all freshwater planning in response to the central government's decision to halt national freshwater planning.
- The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) had released three discussion papers in relation to the Resource Management Act reforms. From an iwi and mana whenua rights perspective, significant changes were proposed, including reduced council powers to apply restrictions on forestry, changes to aquaculture rules, and allowance for trials and research without engaging mana whenua or recognising claims. The freshwater paper discussed removing *Te Mana o te Wai* and introducing a rebalanced objective framework, potentially limiting flexibility under the National Objectives Framework. Submissions on the proposals close at the end of July, and the Manager encouraged making submissions given the significant implications for freshwater management.

## **8.3 MSC - RAKAIPAAKA TAKIWĀ REPORT**

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2025/272**

Moved: Mr Henare Mita

Seconded: Ms Erena Hammond

The Māori Standing Committee receives the report with amendment of the definition of MEC.

**CARRIED**

The Chairman clarified that MEC stands for the Māori Executive Committee, not the Mārae Executive Committee (as stated in the report.) The Committee inquired about the role of the MEC, and the Chairman explained that it serves as a conduit between Marae and Kahungunu Executive (KE.) The Māori Relationships Manager added that the MEC is a part of the Māori Development Act. The Committee also noted that KE offers an affordable dentistry option.

### **VERBAL TAKIWĀ UPDATES**

#### **Ms Reynolds (Te Wairoa Hōpūpū):**

- Advised she had discussed providing feedback with marae representatives.
- Sought clarity on compliance schedules for marae buildings and how completion is determined.
- Raised concerns about delays in CSR responses and uncertainty regarding the completion of lodged requests.

#### **Ms Maindonald (Te Wairoa):**

- Attended a māramataka wānanga at EIT and discussed the potential for planting fruit trees along Kopu Road post-flood mitigation works.
- Reported an increase in water rats along Marine Parade and queried if HBRC set traps. The HBRC Māori Relationships Manager confirmed trapping only occurs in predator-free zones.

#### **Ms Wairau (Mahia Mai Tawhiti):**

- Received correspondence from the Māhia Māori Committee Secretary requesting relevant documents and issues relating to the Māhia rohe.
- Noted Morere reopened on 26 May following a breakdown.
- Ahuwhenua Awards scheduled for June 6 in Palmerston North.
- Noted a hui was held at Te Rakato Marae regarding the Māhia Recycling Centre.

#### **Ms Thornton (Pāhauwera):**

- Queried the timeline for erecting a fence at the Raupunga Recycling Centre, noting a lack of separation from the neighbouring property.
- Raised concerns about poison spraying on land; the Māori Relationships Manager explained that Council has a spraying register and advised requests can be made to exclude specific areas.
- Highlighted ongoing illegal dumping, with rubbish at risk of entering the Mohaka River. The Māori Relationships Manager suggested reporting via the Council's CSR process.
- Requested signage for Putere Road near Kahungunu Marae, identifying it as a frequent accident site.

#### **Ms Hammond (Ruakituri):**

- Reported a successful working bee and hui a hapū at Te Reinga Marae, with positive progress in committee relationships since becoming formalised via the Māori Land Court.

- Attended the Ordinary Council hui on 29 April, where the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) document was presented. Requested it also be brought to the Māori Standing Committee (MSC) and expressed concern about decentralising waterway control. Cllr Thomas acknowledged the oversight.
- Noted her role as MSC representative on the Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development Committee. She noted the Interim Chief Executive clarified that the co-opted members had not been confirmed by Council resolution. The Group Manager of Community Services and Development confirmed this also applies to MSC representative attendance at Ordinary Council. The matter is being addressed with the Chief of Operations.

**The Meeting closed with a closing karakia at 11:15am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Māori Standing Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2025.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**