

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA
ON TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025 AT 1:30 PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Cr Jeremy Harker, Cr Melissa Kaimoana (online), Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke, Cr Benita Cairns, Cr Roslyn Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: **Matthew Lawson** (Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive), **Gary Borg** (Tumu Whakarae Tuarua | Deputy Chief Executive & Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager - Finance and Corporate Support), **Hinetaakoha Viriaere** (Pouwhakarae Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), **Langley Cavers** (Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau | Acting Group Manager - Assets and Infrastructure), **Juanita Savage** (Chief of Operations) **Te Aroha Cook** (Kaiarataki Whakaoranga | Recovery Manager & Group Manager - Community Services and Development), **Hinemoa Hubbard** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer), **Kate Standring** (Executive Principal), **Hira Campbell** (Transport Asset Manager),
HBREDA team: Meka Whaitiri (Director), **Richard Briggs** (Interim CEO)

1 KARAKIA

A karakia was held before the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nil.

3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To be declared as the agenda progresses.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

LATE ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2025/59

Moved: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Seconded: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

That the following reports be received as late items:

- Item 8.5 – *HBREDA Update*
- Item 10.2 – *Review of Climate Action Joint Committee Financial Commitments*

CARRIED**6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Rebecca Yend addressed Council regarding the smell of the river, suggesting it may be caused by sewage from Affco and noting that sewage could potentially be converted into fertiliser.
- Gordon Preston reiterated concerns about the river's smell and acknowledged the work undertaken by the dog rangers.

At 1:47 pm, Cr Jeremy Harker left the meeting.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLUTION 2025/60**

Moved: Cr Jeremy Harker

Seconded: Cr Roslyn Thomas

That the minutes and confidential minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22 July 2025 and the Reconvened Meeting held on 29 July 2025 be confirmed with amendments.

CARRIED**Amendments to the Minutes of the Reconvened Meeting held on 29 July 2025:**

An amendment was made to item 8.6, which was considered during the Public Excluded section of the meeting. The details of these amendments are recorded in the Public Excluded minutes.

8 GENERAL ITEMS**8.5 HBREDA UPDATE – ITEM DEFERRED**

Consideration of the item was deferred. This was moved by His Worship the Mayor, Craig Little and seconded by Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare.

A Hawkes Bay Regional Economic Development Agency (HBREDA) update and funding memorandum was circulated to Council prior to the meeting.

HBREDA presented:

- Outlined that the original board had five directors; the current interim board has three and will serve until 31 March 2026, seeking funding to cover operational costs.
- Key strategic projects were highlighted, with an emphasis on improving outcomes for Wairoa.
- The previous board's mandate focused on running an economic development agency, the current mandate is to develop a single entity to deliver regional priorities.
- Councils will be asked for feedback on how the new entity should be structured, including

representation considerations.

At 2:08 pm, Cr Jeremy Harker returned to the meeting.

Council spoke at length, and:

- Noted the previous board had not engaged with Council and acknowledged HBREDA representatives for attending.
- Queried the circumstances around the resignation of the former board.
- Expressed concern that HBREDA had not met financial objectives or provided reports, raising questions about performance and accountability for ratepayer funds.
- Noted the potential benefit of local representation on the HBREDA board.
- Questioned the value delivered to date by HBREDA and the Matariki Governance Group (MGG), noting a lack of support or feedback from MGG.

8.1 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2025/61

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Cr Roslyn Thomas

That Council receives the report.

CARRIED

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

Council:

- Queried the effectiveness of the Solid Waste Working Group. Cr Cairns highlighted a disconnect and stressed the need for clear timeframes and action on recommendations to maintain community engagement.
- Noted the impracticality of some of the designs presented for the Mahia Recycling Centre.

8.2 WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON RMA NATIONAL DIRECTION

RESOLUTION 2025/62

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That Council receives the report and Wairoa District Council submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the National Direction Packages 1-3 (Infrastructure & Development, Primary Sector and Freshwater) .

CARRIED

The Group Manager of Planning and Regulatory introduced the report.

The Chief Executive and Councillors commended the quality of the submission, noting its clarity and ease of understanding despite its extent.

8.3 NOTIFICATION OF DECISION OF TENDER EVALUATION PANEL ON CONTRACT 24/09 – FLOOD DAMAGE CONTRACT 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/63

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That Council receives the report.

CARRIED

8.4 WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY

RESOLUTION 2025/64

Moved: Cr Roslyn Thomas

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That Council receives the report and adopts the walking and cycling strategy as amended at the meeting.

CARRIED

Cr Thomas circulated an additional item highlighting four requested cycle trails for inclusion in the strategy, and noted the potential use of the railway as a cycleway.

At 3:19 pm, Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare left the meeting.

9 RECEIPT OF MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES/ACTION SHEETS

Nil

10 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2025/65

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting at 3:19pm.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
10.1 - Roothing Professional Services Procurement Plan	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
10.2 - REVIEW OF CLIMATE ACTION JOINT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025/66

Moved: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Seconded: Cr Roslyn Thomas

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 4:05pm.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed with a closing karakia by His Worship the Mayor Craig Little at 4:05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 September 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON