



MINUTES

Waiora Co-Governance Committee Meeting

Monday, 21 July 2025

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Waikato Regional Council
Waioira Co-Governance Committee Meeting

OPEN MINUTES

Date:	Monday 21 July 2025, 10.00am
Location:	Council Chambers Waikato Regional Council Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton
Members Present:	Trustee Maria Nepia – Committee Co-Chair – Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board Cr Noel Smith – Committee Deputy Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council Trustee Jackie Colliar – Waikato Raupatu River Trust Cr Robert Cookson – Waikato Regional Council Cr Mich’eal Downard – Waikato Regional Council Trustee Evelyn Forrest – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Cr Stuart Kneebone – Waikato Regional Council Cr Tipa Mahuta – Waikato Regional Council Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
In Attendance:	Cr Angela Strange – Waikato Regional Council Cr Pamela Storey – Waikato Regional Council
Staff Present:	Chris McLay – Chief Executive, Waikato Regional Council Jo Ireland – Chief Executive, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Mali Ahipene – Acting Director, Customer, Community and Services, Waikato Regional Council Anaru Begbie – Environment Group Manager, Raukawa Charitable Trust Billy Brough – Technical Advisor, River Iwi (virtually via Teams) Tracey May – Director, Science, Policy and Information, Waikato Regional Council Tramaine Murray – Group Taiao Manager, Te Nehenehenui Jason Nepia – Economic Manager, Te Nehenehenui Tuhoro Paki – Rights and Interest Advisor, Waikato Raupatu River Trust (virtually via Teams) Peter Shepherd – Manager Natural Resources, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board (virtually via Teams) Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy Services, Waikato Regional Council Jordan Metz – Democracy Advisor, Waikato Regional Council

The contents of these minutes meet all legal requirements and include a full set of decisions.

An audio-visual recording of the open session of the meeting is available on Waikato Regional Council’s public website.

Recording	Document ID #	YouTube Link
Meeting Recording 1	#32744473	https://youtu.be/V3PX1yQGf3k
Meeting Recording 2	#32743017	https://youtu.be/G-Vnu320GY

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

Cr Stuart Kneebone opened the meeting with a karakia.

The Democracy Advisor (Jordan Metz) summarised the *Health and Safety Statement*.

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in recording 1, at 9 minutes 44 seconds.

APOLOGY**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/01**

Moved: Cr Mich'eal Downard

Seconded: Cr Stuart Kneebone

That the apologies of Trustee Nachele Griffiths and Cr Bruce Clarkson for absence be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording 1, at 10 minutes 3 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/02

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Trustee Maria Nepia

- 1. That the agenda of the Waiora Co-Governance Committee Meeting of 21 July 2025, as circulated, be confirmed as the business of the meeting.**
- 2. That the order of items follows the order set out in the minutes.**
- 3. That the meeting may sit longer than two hours continuously and continue longer than six hours including adjournments.**

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Item commenced in recording 1, at 10 minutes 35 seconds.

No interests were disclosed pertaining to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

Item commenced in recording 1, at 11 minutes.

WAIORA CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - APRIL 2025**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/03****Moved: Cr Noel Smith****Seconded: Trustee Maria Nepia****That the minutes of the Waiora Co-Governance Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.****CARRIED****6 GENERAL ITEMS****6.1 WAIORA CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 11 minutes 7 seconds.

10.16am – The meeting adjourned to allow the members to caucus. Staff were not present.

11.10am – The meeting reconvened.

Item continued in recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Acting Director, Customer, Community and Services (Mali Ahipene). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/04**Moved: Cr Noel Smith****Seconded: Trustee Maria Nepia**

- 1. That the report *Waiora Co-Governance Committee - Terms of Reference* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.**
- 2. That the Committee endorses the amended *Terms of Reference* and recommends them to each partner organisation for formal approval through their respective governance processes.**
- 3. That the *Terms of Reference* be amended as follows:**
 - (a) Section 9.1, paragraph vi: *If, after exhausting all the steps above, the dispute remains unresolved, the matter will be escalated to the respective governing bodies of the parties for final consideration and resolution.***
 - (b) Section 4, paragraph c: *Discussing and Jointly deciding on Recommendations to Council.***
 - (c) Section 8, paragraph 6: *This process will also apply to the final draft of the Freshwater Policy Review for Notification. Acknowledging that council is the final decision maker.***
- 4. Further, that River Iwi representatives will confirm acceptance of the amendments to the *Terms of Reference* within 24 hours.**

5. That the Waiora Co-Governance committee requests that this recommendation be tabled at the Council meeting on Wednesday the 23rd of July, as a late item that cannot be delayed.

CARRIED

6.2 ENGAGEMENT UPDATE FOR THE FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 minute 4 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) and the Senior Social Scientist (Jacqueline Henry). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/05

Moved: Trustee Jackie Colliar

Seconded: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

That the report *Engagement update for the Freshwater Policy Review* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.3 MĀTAURANGA MĀORI IN THE FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 2, at 30 minutes 23 seconds.

Presented by the Scientist, Mātauranga Māori (Oliver McLeod) and the Kaitohutohu (Tutahanga Douglas). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/06

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the report *Mātauranga Māori in the Freshwater Policy Review* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.4 INTRODUCTION TO FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW TOPICS - FARMING LAND USE AND WATER QUANTITY

Item commenced in recording 2, at 44 minutes 14 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Environmental Science (Mike Scarsbrook) and Project Technical Advisor, Resource Management Consultant (Angela Fenemor). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/07

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Cr Robert Cookson

That the report *Introduction to Freshwater Policy Review topics - Farming Land Use and Water Quantity* (Waioira Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.5 INTRODUCTION TO THE ECONOMIC APPROACH - FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 50 seconds.

Presented by Economist (Femi Olubode). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/08

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Jackie Colliar

That the report *Introduction to the economic approach - Freshwater Policy Review* (Waioira Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.6 OVERVIEW OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REFORM

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 19 minutes 11 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Strategic Policy Implementation (Lisette Balsom). Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/09

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Trustee Evelyn Forrest

That the report *Overview of Resource Management System Reform* (Waioira Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.7 UPDATE ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 INTERIM DECISION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COURT

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 23 minutes 45 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) Refer Document # 32761403 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/10

Moved: Cr Mich'eal Downard

Seconded: Trustee Evelyn Forrest

That the report *Update on Proposed Plan Change 1 interim decision from the Environment Court (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 21 July 2025)* be received.

CARRIED

5 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 27 minutes.

Cr Stuart Kneebone closed the meeting with a karakia.

12.40pm – The meeting closed.