



AGENDA

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting

Date: Monday, 18 May 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Matawhaiora Office
49 Taupiri Street, Te Kūiti

Members: Trustee Wikitoria Tāne – Co-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Liz Stolwyk – Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Kim Hancy – Deputy Co-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Shannon Manawaiti – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Dion Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Jaimee Tamaki – Ōtorohanga District Council
Cr Tilly Tuner – Waikato District Council
Mayor Mike Pettit – Waipā District Council
Mayor John Robertson – Waitomo District Council

Alternates: Cr Tennille Kete – Ōtorohanga District Council
Cr Marlene Raumati – Waikato District Council
Cr Garry Reymer – Waikato Regional Council
Cr Dale-Maree Morgan – Waipā District Council
Deputy Mayor Eady Manawaiti – Waitomo District Council

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum

Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere | Terms of Reference

1. *Mana ā-Ture* | **Status**

The Forum was established by agreement, *under* Clauses 22–29 of a Joint Management Agreement dated 4 December 2023, between Te Nehenehenui, Ōtorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Waitomo District Council.

The Forum is not a joint committee for the purpose of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, and [Schedule 7](#) does not apply when the Forum exercises its powers set out in the Joint Management Agreement. Waikato Regional Council's operative *Standing Orders* were adopted at the first meeting of the forum on 20 March 2024 (TNCGF24/04, Doc #28836706).

Refer section 21-24 of the *Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012* and section 139-141 of the *Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022*.

2. *Ngā Haepapa* | **Responsibilities**

The Forum is tasked with regularly reviewing the agreement to ensure it is being implemented in a manner that satisfies all parties and aligns with the principles outlined in clauses 18 and 19.

3. *Ngā Apatono* | **Powers**

The Forum has all powers necessary to carry out its responsibilities, noting that:

- a. the Forum cannot bind member parties.
- b. any non-procedural decisions not authorised by the Joint Management Agreement must be recommended to the governing bodies of each of the parties for adoption.

4. *Te Mematanga* | **Membership**

4.1. *Ngā Mema* | **Members**

The Forum comprises ten members:

- a. Five members appointed by Te Nehenehenui.
- b. One member appointed by Ōtorohanga District Council.
- c. One member appointed by Waikato District Council.
- d. One member appointed by Waikato Regional Council.
- e. One member appointed by Waipā District Council.
- f. One member appointed by Waitomo District Council.

4.2. *Ūpoko me te Ūpoko Tuarua* | **Co-Chairs**

The Forum is co-chaired, with co-chairs appointed as follows:

- a. One Co-Chair and Deputy Co-Chair is appointed by Te Nehenehenui from its five members.
- b. One Co-Chair and Deputy Co-Chair is appointed by agreement among the five councils.

5. *Te Korama* | **Quorum**

Six members, being three members from Te Nehenehenui and three members from any of the councils.

6. *Te Pōtitanga* | **Voting**

- a. All decisions of the Committee are made by consensus.
- b. Members are expected to work together in good faith to reach shared agreement.

7. *Ngā Hui i te Tau* | **Frequency of Meetings**

As required to meet the responsibilities of the Forum, but no less than once annually.

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1 WHAKATAU

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be aware of maintaining a clear separation between personal interests and duties and their role as an elected member.

If any member has an interest that creates an actual, or could be perceived to create, a conflict in relation to any item on the agenda, it is recommended that this be disclosed.

5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting – 9 September 2025



MINUTES

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

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Waikato Regional Council

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting

OPEN MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 9 September 2025, 1.32pm
Location: Council Chambers
Waikato Regional Council
Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present: Cr Stuart Kneebone – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Ronnie Takerei – Committee Acting Co-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Jaimee Tamaki – Committee Deputy Co-Chair – Ōtorohanga District Council
Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Shannon Manawaiti – Te Nehenehenui
Mayor Susan O’Regan – Waipā District Council (virtually via Teams)
Cr Tilly Tuner – Waikato District Council (virtually via Teams)

Staff Present: Sam Mikaere – Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui
Steph O’Sullivan – Chief Executive, Waipā District Council
Ben Smit – Chief Executive, Waitomo District Council
Kirsty Downey – Group Manager Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive, Waipā District Council
Ngira Simmonds – Kaihautū, Strategic Māori Partnerships Director
Mali Ahipene – Pou Tuhono, Waikato Regional Council
Maehe Paki – Executive Manager Maaori Partnerships, Waikato District Council
Tramaine Murray – Settlement Protection Manager, Te Nehenehenui
Brooke Roebeck – Democracy Advisor
Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy

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	#33129399	https://youtu.be/9jxLhxxXWKg

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording, at start.

Trustee Gannin Ormsby opened the meeting with a mihi followed by a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in recording, at 3 minutes 35 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/01

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

That the apologies of Trustees Maria Maniapoto, Muiora Barry, and John Kaati; Mayor John Robertson and Cr Eady Manawaiti for absence be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording, at 4 minutes 24 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/02

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Ronnie Takerei

- 1. That the agenda of the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting of 9 September 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, at 4 minutes 35 seconds.

During item 7.4. *Waikato District Council Initiatives Update*, Trustee Gannin Ormsby declared that Waikato District Council was his employer.

UPDATE FROM TE NEHENEHENUI

Item commenced in recording, at 4 minutes 45 seconds.

The Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui (Sam Mikaere) provided an update to the committee.

5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

TE NEHENEHENUI CO-GOVERNANCE FORUM MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2024

Item commenced in recording, at 9 minutes 55 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/03

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the minutes of the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting held on 11 December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 TE NEHENEHENUI JMA SCHEDULES

Item commenced in recording, at 10 minutes 35 seconds.

Presented by the Settlement Protection Manager, Te Nehenehenui (Tramaine Murray) and Partner, Buddle Findlay (Paul Beverley).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/04

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

1. That the report *Te Nehenehenui Joint Management Agreement Schedules* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.
2. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum approves draft Schedules two through nine of the Joint Management Agreement between Te Nehenehenui and Waikato Regional Council, as presented in the report.
3. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum recommends that each partner organisation proceeds with their internal approval processes for the updated Joint Management Agreement, noting that the finalised agreement will be submitted to each organisation's governing body for approval.

CARRIED

6.2 UPDATE ON THE FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording, at 23 minutes, 35 seconds.

Presented by the Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/05

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

That the report *Update on the Freshwater Policy Review* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received

.CARRIED

6.3 2027-2037 LONG TERM PLAN TIMELINE

Item commenced in recording, at 29 minutes, 30 seconds.

Presented by the Senior Corporate Planner, Waikato Regional Council (Annika Hamilton).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/06

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the report *2027-2037 Long Term Plan timeline* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.4 WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVES UPDATE

Item commenced in recording, at 31 minutes 27 seconds.

Presented by Executive Manager Maaori Partnerships at Waikato District Council (Maehe Paki) and Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Coordinator (Alicia Sunnex), who requested that the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/07

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the report *Waikato District Council Initiatives Update* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.5 ŌTOROHANGA DC INITIATIVES UPDATE

Item commenced in recording, at 42 minutes 20 seconds.

Presented by the Group Manager, Regulatory and Growth Ōtorohanga District Council (Tony Quickfall) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/08

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the report *Ōtorohanga DC Initiatives Update* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.6 WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVES OF INTEREST

Item commenced in recording, at 43 minutes 40 seconds.

Presented by the Group Manager, Strategy / Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Waipā District Council (Kirsty Downey), Kaihautū, Strategic Māori Partnerships Director (Ngira Simmonds) and the Chief Executive, Waipā District Council (Steph O’Sullivan).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/09

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Ronnie Takerei

That the report *Waipā District Council Initiatives of Interest* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

6.7 WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVES UPDATE

Item commenced in recording, at 59 minutes 46 seconds.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Waitomo District Council (Ben Smit) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF25/10

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

That the report *Waitomo District Council Initiatives Update* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AT CONCLUSION OF TRIENNIUM

Item commenced in recording, at 1 hour 10 minutes and 50 seconds.

Co-Chair Councillor Stuart Kneebone expressed his appreciation to the committee for their contributions throughout the triennium. This was followed by acknowledgements from Trustee Gannin Ormsby, Councillor Tilly Turner, Councillor Jaimee Tamaki, Trustee Shannon Manawaiti, and Co-Chair Trustee Ronnie Takerei, each offering reflections and gratitude for the committee’s collective mahi and shared journey.

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording, at 1 hour 12 minutes and 12 seconds.

Trustee Gannin Ormsby closed the meeting with a karakia.

2.45pm – The meeting closed.

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES OF TE NEHENEHENUI CO-GOVERNANCE FORUM

Rā | Date: 11 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Jess Hood, Democracy Advisor

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To provide the members with an update on the status, membership and procedures of Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum (the Forum).

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Forum was established by agreement, refer clauses 22–29 of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) between Te Nehenehenui, Ōtorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Waitomo District Council. The agreement was updated and ratified in 2025.
3. The *Terms of Reference* were adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum on 20 March 2024, and a summarised version of the *Terms of Reference* are included with each meeting agenda.
4. The Forum adopted the Waikato Regional Council's operative *Standing Orders* at the first meeting of the forum on 20 March 2024 (TNCGF24/04, Doc #28836706).
5. The committee operates with two co-chairs (one appointed by Te Nehenehenui and one by agreement of the remaining Forum members). The local authority members have appointed Cr Liz Stolwyk as their co-chair, and Te Nehenehenui have appointed Trustee Wikitoria Tane.
6. Te Nehenehenui has appointed Trustee Kim Hancy as their Deputy co-chair. The local authority members are yet to make their appointment.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report *Membership and Procedures of Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum note the following members:
 - (a) Trustee Kim Hancy (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (b) Trustee Shannon Manawaiti (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (c) Trustee Gannin Ormsby (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (d) Trustee Dion Ormsby (Te Nehenehenui).

- (e) Trustee Wikitoria Tane (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (f) Cr Jaimee Tamaki (Ōtorohanga District Council).
 - (g) Cr Tilly Turner (Waikato District Council).
 - (h) Cr Liz Stolwyk (Waikato Regional Council).
 - (i) Mayor Mike Pettit (Waipā District Council).
 - (j) Mayor John Robertson (Waitomo District Council).
3. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following alternate members:
- (a) Cr Tennille Kete (Ōtorohanga District Council).
 - (b) Cr Marlene Raumati (Waikato District Council).
 - (c) Cr Garry Reymer (Waikato Regional Council).
 - (d) Cr Dale-Maree Morgan (Waipā District Council).
 - (e) Deputy Mayor Eady Manawaiti (Waitomo District Council).
4. That Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following co-chairs:
- (a) Cr Liz Stolwyk (Local Authorities).
 - (b) Trustee Wikitoria Tane (Te Nehenehenui).
5. That Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following deputy co-chair:
- (a) Trustee Kim Hancy (Te Nehenehenui).

TE TAKE | ISSUE

Purpose, functions and powers

7. The purpose of the Forum is to:
- (a) Meet the joint management agreement provisions in the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012 and the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022;
 - (b) and provide a constructive and effective basis for Te Nehenehenui and the councils to build partnerships and work together.

Membership

8. Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum consists of ten (10) members as follows:
- (a) Five members appointed by Te Nehenehenui.
 - (b) One member appointed by Ōtorohanga District Council.
 - (c) One member appointed by Waikato District Council.
 - (d) One member appointed by Waikato Regional Council.
 - (e) One member appointed by Waipā District Council.
 - (f) One member appointed by Waitomo District Council.
9. At the first meeting of each term, the partners confirm their respective members to be co-chairpersons and deputy co-chairpersons:

- (a) One co-chair and one deputy co-chair of whom must be appointed by Te Nehenehenui; and
 - (b) One co-chair and one deputy co-chair of whom must be appointed by agreement between Ōtorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waipā District Council, Waitomo District Council and Waikato Regional Council.
10. The procedures of the Forum are governed by the applicable provisions of the local government legislation and the standing orders.

NGĀ TOHUTORO | REFERENCES

- 11. [Te Nehenehenui, Ōtorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Waitomo District Council Joint Management Agreement](#)
- 12. [Waikato Regional Council, Standing Orders \(Doc # 25989465\)](#)

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.2 CONTEXT SETTING

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. This hui is the first collective governance hui between Te Nehenehenui and Councils in the new council triennium, providing an opportunity to
 - (a) Establish shared understanding,
 - (b) Confirm statutory context; and
 - (c) Reaffirm the relationship
2. Te Nehenehenui will provide a verbal presentation and contextual kōrero to the Forum.
3. Detailed background and reference material is included **as an attachment** to this report.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Context Setting* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Context and Background Material for Reference (Doc # 35892870)** [↓](#)

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR REFERENCE

MANIAPOTO

1. Te Nehenehenui is the post-settlement governance entity under the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022, which represents and acts on behalf of Maniapoto (inclusive of all within Te Nehenehenui).
2. The Maniapoto rohe incorporates the eastern boundary along the Rangitoto-o-Kahu and the Hurakia ranges; the western boundary with Aotea and Kāwhia harbours and extending 20 nautical miles out to sea; the northern boundary from Raukūmara to the Waipingao Stream; and the southern boundary of the Tūhua ranges. There are also shared boundaries with other Iwi along the Wharepūhunga, Hauhungaroa and Tūhua ranges. The rohe covers approximately 800,000 hectares. Within the rohe there are approximately 1,531 Māori land blocks, the remnants of the Maniapoto estate that collectively cover an area of 80,000 hectares (10 per cent of the Maniapoto rohe).

TREATY AND CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE WAIKATO AND WAIPĀ RIVERS

3. Councils' relationship with Te Nehenehenui is founded on Treaty settlement legislation enacted by Parliament.
4. Settlement legislation records the Crown's apology and recognises the need to restore and rebalance the relationship between iwi and the Crown, including through shared governance and comanagement mechanisms for the river system.

NGĀ WAI O MANIAPOTO (WAIPĀ RIVER) ACT 2012

5. The Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River Act) 2012 (Waipā River Act) formalised the enduring relationship of Maniapoto with the Waipā River.
6. The overarching purpose of the Waipā River Act is to restore and maintain the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into and form part of the Waipā River for present and future generations, and the care and protection of the mana tuku iho o Waiwaia.
 - (a) "mana tuku iho o Waiwaia" means the ancestral authority and prestige handed down from generation to generation in respect of Waiwaia;
 - (b) "Waiwaia" refers to the essence and wellbeing of the Waipā River; to Maniapoto, Waiwaia is the personification of the waters of the Waipā River, its ancient and enduring spiritual guardians.
7. The Waipā River Act:
 - Recognises Maniapoto authority over the Waipā River (s 7).
 - Extends the Waikato River Vision and Strategy framework to the Upper Waipā (s 8).
 - Mandates JMAs with WRC and territorial authorities (ss17-31).

MANIAPOTO CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT 2022

8. The Maniapoto Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Maniapoto resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992.
9. It extends co-management arrangements, including JMA requirements, across additional areas of the Waipā catchment not covered by the 2012 Act.

JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (JMA)

10. The JMA between Te Nehenehenui and councils is the core mechanism for giving effect to partnership and the settlement framework.
11. It is required under both the Waipā River Act (s17) and the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 (s135).
12. The JMA must address:
 - (a) Planning documents- joint processes for the preparation, review, change, or variation of regional and district planning documents, including early engagement and agreement on approach (Waipā River Act 22).
 - (b) Monitoring and enforcement- - agreed priorities, methods, information sharing, and coordination of compliance and enforcement activity (Waipā River Act s21)
 - (c) Resource consent processes- - early information sharing on consent applications, agreed engagement before notification, and participation through hearings and post decision stages (Waipā River Act s23)
 - (d) Good faith operating principles- commitments to act collaboratively, transparently, and efficiently, while respecting mana whakahaere and statutory timeframes (Waipā Act s20).
13. The Te Nehenehenui JMA is distinct in that it is a collective agreement between Maniapoto and multiple local authorities, including Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council, Ōtorohanga District Council, Waitomo District Council, and Waikato District Council. The collective nature of the agreement reflects Maniapoto aspirations for coherent, cross boundary governance, rather than fragmented, council by council engagement

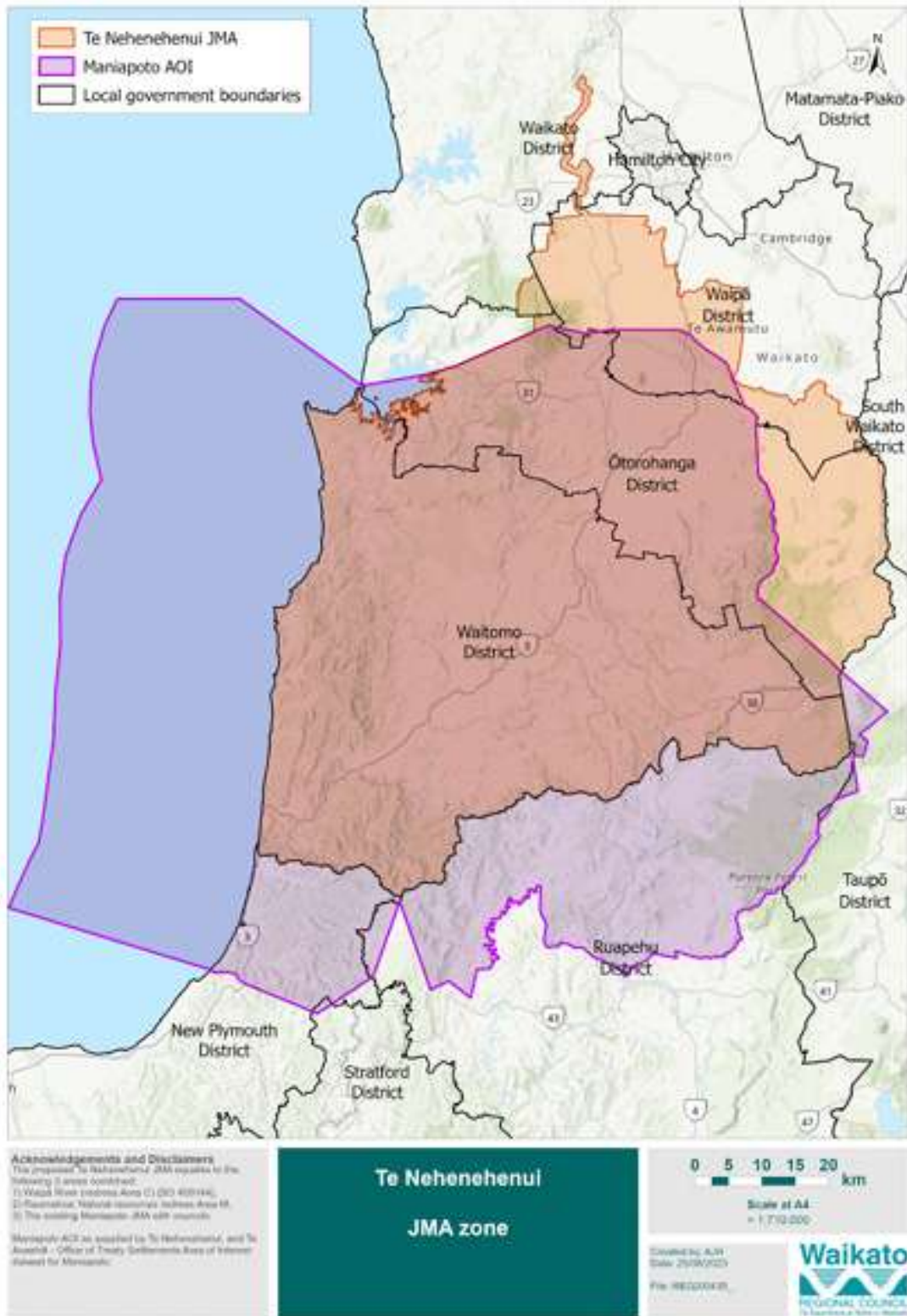


Image 1: Te Nehenehenui JMA Zone

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY AND TE TURE WHAIMANA

14. The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 establishes Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy) as the central constitutional and strategic instrument for the governance, management, and restoration of the Waikato River system. It expresses the shared commitment of the Crown and Waikato River iwi to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the river for present and future generations.
15. The Waikato River Authority (WRA) is the primary co-governance body established under the settlement legislation. It reflects the equal representation model agreed between the Crown and Waikato River iwi and provides a structured forum for shared strategic oversight of the river system.
16. Through Waikato River settlement arrangements, approximately \$220 million over 30 years was allocated to the Waikato River Clean-up Trust, administered by the WRA. This funding reflects the Crown's commitment to long-term restoration of the river system.
17. The WRA's statutory functions include:
 - Promoting the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River
 - Setting the strategic direction through Te Ture Whaimana
 - Monitoring progress toward achieving the Vision and Strategy
 - Allocating funding to projects that advance river restoration outcomes
 - Facilitating coordination across agencies and stakeholders with responsibilities affecting the river
18. The WRA does not duplicate the statutory functions of Waikato Regional Council or territorial authorities. Rather, it provides the strategic and constitutional oversight mechanism through which the Vision and Strategy is advanced and monitored
19. For the Upper Waipā, Te Ture Whaimana applies by incorporation through the Waipā River Act.
 - (a) Is the primary direction-setting document
 - (b) Prevails over inconsistent planning instruments (as provided by legislation)
 - (c) Must be given effect to across planning, consenting, and operational decisions
20. For the Upper Waipā, Te Ture Whaimana applies by incorporation through the Waipā River Act. This means Councils must exercise functions consistently with it in the Waipā context.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

21. When functioning effectively, the settlement framework and associated co-governance and co-management arrangements deliver tangible and practical benefits.
22. Examples
- (a) One benefit is early issue identification and coordinated response. For example, following the detection of freshwater gold clams (*Corbicula*) in the Bob's Landing area of the Waikato River near Lake Karāpiro in May 2023, Biosecurity New Zealand initiated a response in partnership with Waikato Regional Council, Waikato River iwi, the Department of Conservation, and other agencies. The ability to work quickly and in a coordinated manner across agencies and iwi leadership supported a more cohesive containment and management approach. This response continues and illustrates how established relationship pathways enable rapid alignment when new environmental risks emerge.
- (b) A second benefit is collaborative leadership in restoration and environmental improvement initiatives. Projects have included Upper Mangatutu Stream Restoration and Mangapū River Riparian Restoration. Collectively, these initiatives represent approximately \$178,000 in investment from the Waikato River Authority and demonstrate how the relationship enables practical, place-based restoration delivered in partnership.

WRA Application #	Project Description	Organisations Involved	WRA Investment (\$)
WRA14-050	Upper Mangatutu Stream Restoration	Maniapoto Māori Trust Board; Raukawa Charitable Trust; Mangatoatoa Marae; Hamilton Anglers Club; Department of Conservation; Otorohanga District Council; local landowners; Waikato Regional Council	\$132,663.00
WRA13-051	Mangapū River Riparian Restoration Project	Waikato Regional Council; Maniapoto Māori Trust Board	\$46,428.00

WHAT THIS MEANS IN A PERIOD OF REFORM

23. In the context of current legislative and system reform, the settlement framework:
- Continues to apply unless and until changed by Parliament.
 - Represents enduring constitutional commitments.
 - Provides stability, shared purpose, and relational continuity during change.

TE NEHENEHENUI ASPIRATIONS

24. Te Nehenehenui aspirations, as reflected through settlement legislation and Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao (Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan 2018) can be understood as seeking
- (a) Restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waipā and Waikato Rivers
 - (b) seeking to restore and exercise Maniapoto mana whakahaere over whenua and wai
 - (c) to embed Maniapoto values, priorities and mātauranga Māori into council decision-making
 - (d) Integrated whole-of-catchment approaches to governance; and
 - (e) to give effect to genuine partnership through early, ongoing, and structured involvement in planning, management, and governance processes affecting the Maniapoto rohe.

NGĀ TOHUTORO | REFERENCES

25. Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012: [Nga Wai o Maniapoto \(Waipa River\) Act 2012 | New Zealand Legislation](#)
26. Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022: [Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 | New Zealand Legislation](#)
27. Te Nehenehenui Joint Management Agreement: [TeNehenehenuiJMA.pdf](#)
28. Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao (Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan 2018): [Maniapoto-Environmental-Management-Plan.pdf](#)

6.3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Rā Date:	18 May 2026
Kaituhi Author:	Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite
Kaituku Authoriser:	Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono
Mana whakatau Delegation Status:	For recommendation to partner councils and Te Nehenehenui.

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper, authored by Te Nehenehenui, is to:
 - (a) Initiate formal discussions with partner local authorities on embedding mana whenua roles within emergency management and response protocols;
 - (b) Propose a principled and practical framework for incorporating iwi participation through existing Joint Management Agreements;
 - (c) Seek agreement to progress co-design of protocols that can be activated before, during, and after emergency events.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report *Emergency Management* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum recommends that partner councils and Te Nehenehenui:
 - (a) agree in principle to embed Te Nehenehenui specific roles within emergency response protocols.
 - (b) approve Council and Te Nehenehenui operations to develop a framework to include roles within the emergency response protocols.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Emergency Response Report (Doc#35931837)** [↓](#)

1. Background

Te Nehenehenui (TNN) have an enduring role in the protection of people, whenua, wai, and taiao within the Ngati Maniapoto rohe. During recent emergency events, iwi have been actively supporting whānau and communities—often responding rapidly and effectively through trusted networks and local knowledge. However, this response has largely occurred outside formal emergency management structures, resulting in inconsistencies, inefficiencies, and inequitable resourcing.

This paper proposes the formal incorporation of iwi participation into emergency management and response protocols through existing Joint Management Agreements JMAs between TNN and partner local territorial authorities. The intent is to move from ad hoc engagement to a clear, agreed, and operationalised framework that recognises iwi authority, capability, and responsibility within emergency response systems.

It seeks to implement emergency response protocols that:

- Recognise mana whenua authority within their rohe
- Improve outcomes for whānau and communities
- Give effect to Treaty principles and existing JMAs and
- Provide clarity, consistency, and accountability for all parties

2. Purpose of This Paper

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Initiate formal discussions with partner local authorities on embedding mana whenua roles within emergency management and response protocols;
- Propose a principled and practical framework for incorporating iwi participation through existing Joint Management Agreements;
- Seek agreement to progress co-design of protocols that can be activated before, during, and after emergency events.

3. Background and Context

Emergency Events and Observed Challenges

Recent emergency events within the Ngati Maniapoto rohe have highlighted both the critical role TNN play in supporting whānau and the limitations of current engagement mechanisms. While TNN have mobilised quickly—providing communication, welfare support, and local intelligence—this has often occurred without:

- Formal recognition within emergency coordination structures;
- Clear points of contact or activation;
- Appropriate resourcing or mandate.

Implications

The absence of formalised iwi integration within emergency response systems can result in:

- Delayed or inconsistent information flow to whānau;
- Duplication or gaps in response efforts;
- Increased strain on iwi capacity;
- Missed opportunities to utilise trusted relationships and local knowledge.

Policy and Legislative Alignment

The proposed approach aligns with:

- Civil Defence and emergency management frameworks that emphasise community resilience and local leadership;
- Local Government obligations to engage with and support Māori participation;
- National expectations for inclusive and culturally competent emergency response.

Formalising iwi roles strengthens, rather than complicates, existing emergency management systems.

4. Proposed Principles for Ngati Maniapoto Integration

The following principles are proposed to guide the development of emergency response protocols:

1. Recognition of TNN mandated authority within the rohe
2. Early and Proactive Engagement prior to and during emergency events
3. Clarity of Roles and Responsibilities
4. Consistency Across Events and Agencies
5. Resourcing Commensurate with Responsibility
6. Focus on Whānau and Community Outcomes

5. Proposed Iwi Roles in Emergency Response

Roles may include:

- Designated iwi representatives within emergency coordination centres;
- Formal communication pathways between councils and iwi during emergencies;
- Iwi-led whānau liaison and community engagement functions;
- Provision of local intelligence, cultural context, and trusted messaging;
- Participation in post-event recovery and review processes.

These roles are intended to complement, not duplicate, existing emergency management functions.

6. Enabling Through Joint Management Agreement Mechanisms

Emergency response integration may be achieved through:

- A dedicated emergency response schedule to existing JMAs;
- A jointly agreed emergency response protocol;
- Standing operating procedures triggered by defined emergency thresholds.

7. Resourcing and Capability Considerations

Effective emergency response requires appropriate resourcing. The formalisation of iwi roles must be accompanied by:

- Recognition that iwi capacity is finite;
- Pre-agreed funding and support mechanisms;
- Access to relevant emergency funding streams where appropriate.
- Status recognised of Marae (CLC or CDC) via the LTP and infrastructure requirements

The principle of **no unfunded mandates** is critical to sustainable partnership.

8. Risks of Maintaining the Status Quo

Failure to formalise iwi roles may result in:

- Continued inequitable outcomes for Māori communities;
- Strained relationships and capacity pressures;
- Reduced effectiveness of emergency response efforts;
- Reputational and governance risks for all parties.

9. Recommendations and Next Steps

It is recommended that partner councils and TNN

1. Agree in principle to embed Te Nehenehenui specific roles within emergency response protocols;
2. Approve Council and Te Nehenehenui operations to develop a framework to include roles within the emergency response protocols

DRAFT

6.4 WAIKATO DC INITIATIVES

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To receive a progress report summarising Waikato District Council (WDC) initiatives that are of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust (attached).

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. These initiatives are:
 - (a) Emergency Management

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Waikato DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Waikato DC Initiatives Report (Doc#35911013)** [↓](#)

Report

Date:	11 May 2026
Author:	Hiria Hetet, Strategic Lead – Marae Resilience
Authoriser:	Craig Hobbs, Chief Executive Officer
Subject:	Waikato District Council – Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Support.

Purpose

1. To receive a progress report summarising Waikato District Council (WDC) support that are of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust.

Executive Summary

2. Waikato District Council, as part of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group, provided significant support during the response and recovery phase of the severe weather event affecting the **Ōtorohanga and Waipā District in February 2026**. This included the deployment of **35 staff** to assist the local Emergency Operations Centre and the Group Emergency Management Office in Hamilton, consistent with regional mutual-aid arrangements between councils. Alongside this operational response, Council supported iwi coordination during the initial response phase by assisting the Iwi Advisor role to ensure effective connections between Council and iwi partners. This also includes progressing longer-term preparedness initiatives through first aid and AED training delivered in partnership with St John, Waikato-Tainui and Hato Hone across 33 hapuu and 68 identified marae, including marae within Te Nehenehenui, as a foundation for ongoing marae-based resilience and emergency preparedness mahi. Our marae resilience team has an ongoing relationship with the Emergency Management team in the Western Waikato and regularly collaborates to support shared kaupapa.

Background

3. WDC as a member of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group, provided significant operational, resourcing, and partnership support during the response and recovery phase of the severe weather event impacting **Ōtorohanga and the Waipā district in February 2026**. This support reflects WDC's statutory role within the regional CDEM system and its commitment to collaborative emergency management across councils and with iwi partners.

During the response and recovery, WDC deployed **35 staff at various times** to support both the **Emergency Operations Centre in Ōtorohanga** and the **Group Emergency Management Office in Hamilton**. While a specific breakdown by location was not available, the deployment demonstrates the scale of organisational support provided to the regional emergency response. This aligns with standard CDEM practice, whereby councils within the Waikato CDEM Group support each other through staff and resource deployment during emergencies.

From an iwi liaison and partnership perspective, WDC supported coordination between Council and iwi during the initial response phase, including assistance to the **Iwi Advisor role** to ensure appropriate connections and engagement with iwi partners. This contribution supported effective

communication and alignment between emergency management functions and iwi interests during the event.

Conclusion

4. Overall, WDC's support in the CDEM space demonstrates a strong and ongoing commitment to its regional emergency management responsibilities, combining timely operational assistance during the Ōtorohanga and Waipā severe weather response with sustained collaboration alongside iwi and marae partners to strengthen preparedness and resilience. This approach reflects both Council's statutory role within the Waikato CDEM Group and a deliberate focus on building trusted relationships and capability at a community and marae level to support more effective responses to future emergencies.

6.5 ŌTOROHANGA DC INITIATIVES

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To receive a progress report summarising Ōtorohanga District Council (ŌDC) initiatives that are of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust (attached).

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. These initiatives are:
 - (a) Long Term Plan 2027-2037
 - (b) February 13-14, 2026, Weather Event
 - (c) Ōtorohanga District Council – Elected Members Induction Programme
 - (d) Waikato Waters Ltd
 - (e) Legislative Reform
 - (f) Local Government Reform Announcements

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Ōtorohanga DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Ōtorohanga DC Initiatives Report (Doc # 35898199) [↓](#)
2. ŌDC Decision Report - LTP Community Outcomes 2027-2037 (Doc # 35892881) [↓](#)

Report to Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum – for information

Rā Date	8 May 2026
Kaituhi Author	Cassidy Temese – Kaitakawaenga – Iwi Relations Advisor, Ōtorohanga District Council
Kaituku Authoriser	Tanya Winter – Tumu Whakarae – Chief Executive, Ōtorohanga District Council
Kaupapa Subject	Update on Ōtorohanga District Council initiatives that are of Interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust

Te Aronga | Purpose

1. To receive a progress report summarising Ōtorohanga District Council (ŌDC) initiatives that are of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust.

Kōrero Whakataki | Executive Summary

2. These initiatives are:
 - a. Long Term Plan 2027-2037
 - b. February 13-14, 2026, Weather Event
 - c. Ōtorohanga District Council – Elected Members Induction Programme
 - d. Waikato Waters Ltd
 - e. Legislative Reform
 - f. Local Government Reform Announcements

Taunakitanga Kaimahi | Staff Recommendation:

That the report *Update on Ōtorohanga District Council Initiatives that are of Interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

Horopaki | Background

3. The key initiatives are strategically aligned to the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012 and its key guiding principles. These initiatives were identified by the Te Nehenehenui Trust as relevant to the Waipā River Catchment within the Ōtorohanga district.

Te Take | Issue

4. Please see the progress updates relating to each respective initiative:

5. Long Term Plan

ŌDC has started the process of developing the Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2027-2037. An LTP is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) that must describe the community outcomes of the district and identify how the groups of activities a council undertakes contributes to the fulfilment of these outcomes.

At the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2026, Council endorsed the Community Outcomes for the LTP 2027-2037. The endorsed Community Outcomes for the ŌDC LTP 2027-2037 are:

- People: Connected, empowered, engaged communities; Welcoming, proud, thriving district
- Place: Vibrant, diverse, empowered, liveable communities; Sustainable, resilient district
- Partnerships: Progressive, enduring, supportive, partnerships for district prosperity: Aspirational, united, responsible leadership

There is one amendment that changes the previous word 'wellbeing' to 'prosperity' as mentioned above. This amendment was made in alignment with anticipated changes to legislation that seeks to remove reference to economic, social, environmental and cultural 'wellbeing'. The decision report has been attached for your information (Attachment 1).

Having reviewed the Community Outcomes, ŌDC are currently considering the key direction for the 2027-2037 LTP. The Environmental Scan identified some big challenges ahead, to which ŌDC are keen to share with you along with initial thoughts on some of the 'big-ticket' items for this LTP. The aspirations and thoughts of Te Nehenehenui on these matters are imperative to ensuring their success and upholding our partnership. ŌDC are working to prepare for engagement with Te Nehenehenui in August/early September 2026 prior to the ŌDC staff developing detailed LTP budgets.

Formal consultation on the LTP will be through the LTP Consultation Document (LTPCD) and is scheduled to occur in April 2027. However, ŌDC are working to provide an opportunity to update Te Nehenehenui on the matters to be consulted on prior in February 2027.

6. February 13-14, 2026, Weather Event

The Ōtorohanga and Waipā districts were both impacted by the February 13-24 2026 weather event that resulted in flooding, roading and infrastructure damage and displaced households within the Ōtorohanga township and rural communities. Flooding impacted households, businesses, community facilities and one school in urban centres, with debris affecting many landowners along the Waipā and tributaries. Impacted infrastructure included bridges and water treatment facilities across both districts.

In response to the weather event, both Ōtorohanga and Waipā District Councils declared States of Emergencies early hours of Saturday 14 February. An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was established at Ōtorohanga District Council, with key staff being deployed from across the wider Waikato region and North Island to support the response. A number of marae activated to support displaced households during the event and in the weeks to follow. Support for these households were received from Te Nehenehenui, the Ōtorohanga Support House Whare Āwhina and many other local businesses.

The Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund was established for the Ōtorohanga District during the response. The fund is intended as a last-resort measure for impacted community members across the district where other sources of assistance such as insurance or government welfare have been exhausted. This fund currently remains open for applications. As at 7 May 2026, ŌDC have received 95 applications, with 54 granted, 27 automatically granted, 1 deferred and 13 declined. The total amount granted equals \$165,466.10.

Following the weather event, both Ōtorohanga and Waipā District Council transitioned from response to the recovery phase. This transition allowed for a stronger focus on actions including assessing damage, restoring essential services and coordinating support for those most affected. The Draft Recovery Action Plan has been shared with Te Nehenehenui. Updates continued to be provided to iwi partners across both the Ōtorohanga and Waipā districts as part of the recovery dashboard distribution. This dashboard is collated for monitoring by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and are distributed fortnightly. This may change moving forward in alignment with NEMA reporting.

This particular weather event highlighted the essential role that iwi and marae hold, emphasising the need for early iwi involvement and stronger connections for iwi into the Emergency Management framework. This is being actively worked on at operational and governance levels. The Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO) for the Waikato region is commissioning a formal After Action Review (ARR) for not only this event, but all events across the wider Waikato region that triggered emergency management activations or declarations from January to April 2026. The ARR will be undertaken by an independent consultant and will include a focus area around iwi involvement from marae through to post-settlement governance entities. ŌDC is conducting its own separate informal debrief focused on ŌDC internal process improvements and lessons learned.

7. Ōtorohanga District Council – Elected Members Induction Programme

ŌDC continues to deliver its induction programme for newly elected members following the 2025 local government elections. The Council consists of a new Mayor, Deputy Mayor and six Councillors that are new to local government. This induction programme is focused on ensuring that the newly elected members (including Community Boards) are introduced to local government well.

The programme spans local government legislation, the role of governors and a focus on key strategic documents such as the LTP and Annual Plan. Part of the induction programme also focuses on Māori partnerships and the Māori Engagement Framework that was adopted in 2025.

8. Waikato Waters Ltd

Waikato Waters Ltd is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) that is owned by Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Ōtorohanga, South Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo District Councils. This entity was established to continue delivering reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services for communities under Central Government's Local Water Done Well policy.

Recent key milestones included Waikato Waters Ltd becoming the first water CCO to join the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA), signing transfer agreements with the first three councils, and starting recruitment for its growing team.

Transfer agreements with Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Ōtorohanga District Councils will follow in the year 2027.

9. Legislative Reform

A range of legislative reforms are set to come into force regarding the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill. ŌDC will be designing implementation to transition to the new combined regional plans. ŌDC will partner with mana whenua and iwi authorities as well as neighbouring councils involved through the process to ensure implementation of the regional plans meet legislative requirements.

10. Local Government Reform Announcements

On 5 May Central Government announced more detail on local government reform. The announcement highlighted an opportunity for councils to use the 'Head Start' process to fast track reorganisation proposals across the country. ŌDC elected members are still considering the information around this announcement and have yet to take a position on a response.

Whakakapinga | Conclusion

11. ŌDC continues to make progress on the initiatives outlined in this report and are committed to upholding our partnership with Te Nehenehenui throughout the process.

Āpitianga | Attachments

1. Attachment 1 Ōtorohanga District Council Decision Report – LTP Community Outcomes 2027-2037

Item 39 Community Outcomes Review – 2027/37 Long Term Plan

To Ōtorohanga District Council

From Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

Type **DECISION REPORT**

Date 28 April 2028

**1. Purpose | Te kaupapa**

- 1.1. To endorse Ōtorohanga District Council's (ŌDC) community outcomes for inclusion in the 2027/37 Long Term Plan (LTP) and confirm an amendment to the wording of the outcomes.

2. Executive summary | Whakarāpopoto matua

- 2.1. A requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), LTPs must describe the community outcomes of the district or region and identify how the groups of activities a council undertakes contribute to the fulfilment of these outcomes.
- 2.2. ŌDC's current community outcomes are grouped under the headings of People, Place and Partnerships (refer Appendix 1). As part of the development of the 2027/37 Long Term Plan, ŌDC reviewed its outcomes at a workshop on 14 April 2026 to determine:
 - a) Alignment with current and pending legislation
 - b) Appropriateness considering the challenges and opportunities in ŌDC's forecast operating environment for the next three to ten years.
- 2.3. Overall, the review confirmed that the community outcomes were appropriate for 2027/37. However, it was agreed that the word 'wellbeing' used in one of the outcomes under the Partnership heading be replaced with the word 'prosperity' to better align with the proposed amendments to the LGA which are expected to be come into force later in 2026.

3. Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā kaimahi

That Ōtorohanga District Council **ENDORSE** the current community outcomes for 'People, Place and Partnerships' (refer Appendix 1) for inclusion in the 2027/37 LTP with the following amendment –

- a) Partnerships: Progressive, enduring, supportive partnerships for district ~~wellbeing~~ **prosperity**; ...

4. Context | Horopaki

- 4.1. All councils are required under the LGA 2002 to have an LTP (S. 93). The LTP describes the community outcomes wanted, the activities to be undertaken and funding mechanisms used to deliver services to districts or regions.
- 4.2. Community outcomes are defined under the LGA as *'the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of its district or region in the present and for the future'*.
- 4.3. The government is working on amendments to the LGA and in July 2025 introduced the Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Bill (Systems Improvement Bill) which is due for its second reading having been to Select Committee. A primary objective of the Systems Improvement Bill is to reduce pressure on council rates by refocusing the purpose of local government and prioritising council spending on core services. To this end, the term 'wellbeing' is to be removed from the legislation. (Refer to Appendix 2 for relevant sections of the current and proposed legislation.)
- 4.4. An important step in the development of an LTP is setting or reviewing ŌDC's community outcomes. This work needs to be done early in the process – usually after the Environmental Scan has been completed and the changes in ŌDC's operating environment are well understood. ŌDC reviewed its community outcomes at a workshop on 14 April 2026 to determine whether they remained 'fit for purpose' given the changes locally, nationally and internationally since the last LTP was prepared. The review also considered whether the outcomes were sufficiently aligned with the Government's proposed legislative amendments.

5. Discussion | He kōrerorero

- 5.1. Six years ago, ŌDC undertook an extensive review of its community outcomes as part of the process of developing its 2021/31 LTP. The engagement and consultation carried out at this time helped ŌDC to reach a broad understanding of what people wanted for the district.
- 5.2. The community outcomes developed at the time were further refined during the preparation of the 2024/34 LTP. Early engagement with the community was undertaken in tandem with the development of the Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau, and Rural concept plans. As part of this engagement people were invited to give feedback on the appropriateness of the refined wording of the outcomes.
- 5.3. Since the adoption of the 2024/34 LTP, the local government landscape has undergone a significant shift with more change to come. The Systems Improvements Bill (see 4.3 above) seeks to focus local government's attention firmly on the delivery of infrastructure and other public services that support local economic growth and development.
- 5.4. Given its small size and rural location, ŌDC and its community have a practical approach in both their expectations and delivery of local services. Roads are considered the district's backbone and infrastructure and other services that support ŌDC's placemaking role has always been a priority for spending. A deep respect for people and good relationships with one's partners are also central how 'things get done' in the district along with the philosophy that by working together we all prosper.

- 5.5. To this end, ŌDC's current community outcomes relating to People, Place and Partnerships remain fit for purpose for the forthcoming 2027/37 LTP. However, a minor wording change to better align ŌDC's outcomes with the pending legislative changes is recommended. The Systems Improvement Bill seeks to amend the LGA by removing references to economic, social, environmental and cultural 'wellbeing' from the legislation and effectively replaces the concept of wellbeing with that of economic growth. One of ŌDC's outcomes under the Partnership heading makes reference to 'wellbeing' but could be replaced by the word 'prosperity' which would retain the central intent of the outcome wanted and align with the anticipated legislative changes (see below).

*Partnerships: Progressive, enduring, supportive partnerships for district ~~wellbeing~~ **prosperity**;*

6. Strategic Considerations | Ngā whai whakaarotanga

Significance and engagement

- 6.1. ŌDC has engaged the community extensively in the past on its community outcomes. A minor amendment to the wording to better align the outcomes with the pending Systems Improvement Bill is considered low significance under ŌDC's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 6.2. Although ŌDC will not be formally consulting on the wording change as part of its LTP Consultation Document (CD), the community is at liberty to submit on any matter relating to the LTP as part of that process.

Mana whenua / Māori

- 6.3. Amendment to the wording of the community outcomes proposed in this report does not alter ŌDC's intent with respect to its partnerships with Iwi/Māori or relationships with the wider community.

Strategic alignment

- 6.4. The word change proposed for the community outcomes is minor and strategic alignment with ŌDC's other policies and plans is retained. Where the outcomes are specifically referenced, these can be updated at the respective review dates for these documents.

Legal

- 6.5. Assuming that the Systems Improvements Bill is enacted as expected, the word change provides for better alignment with the proposed legislation as it is currently worded.

Financial

- 6.6. There are no direct financial implications for ŌDC arising from the word change proposed in this report.

Risk analysis

- 6.7. The overall level of risk associated with this decision is assessed as low.

7. Options analysis | Tātari Kōwhiringa

Options summary of considerations

	Option 1	Option 2
Summary	Retain the wording of ŌDC's community outcomes as adopted in June 2024 as part of the 2024/34 LTP.	Endorse the wording of ŌDC's community outcomes as adopted in June 2024 as part of the 2024/34 LTP with the following amendment: <i>Partnerships: Progressive, enduring, supportive partnerships for district wellbeing prosperity;</i>
Advantages	Developed and tested with the community as part of both the 2021/31 and 2024/34 LTPs Aligns with existing documents Simple, memorable and reflective of ŌDC's direction and approach	Developed and tested with the community as part of both the 2021/31 and 2024/34 LTPs Aligns with existing documents Simple, memorable and reflective of ŌDC's direction and approach Is aligned with the Systems Improvement Bill in its current form
Disadvantages	The term 'wellbeing' is expected to be removed from the LGA and the continued use of the term may be seen as 'out of step' with the legislation	The word 'prosperity' may be seen as narrower than the term 'wellbeing'

Recommended option and rationale

- 7.1. It is recommended that ŌDC adopt option 2 as it retains the overall intent of the community outcomes while ensuring alignment with the anticipated changes to the legislation.

8. Appendices | Ngā āpitihanga

Number	Title
1	Community Outcomes 2024/34
2	Relevant Legislation

APPENDIX 1:

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES 2024/34



The community outcomes (what is wanted) are the threads woven through the priorities and activities funded in this long term plan and delivered through our work programmes.

APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Sections of the Local Government Act 2002 relating to Wellbeing and Community Outcomes

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities; and, to that end, this Act—

(a) ...

(d) provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.

5 Interpretation

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

...

Community outcomes means the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of its district or region in the present and for the future

93 Long-term plan

(1) A local authority must, at all times, have a long-term plan under this section. ...

(6) The purpose of a long-term plan is to—

(a) describe the activities of the local authority; and

(b) describe the community outcomes of the local authority's district or region; and ...

101 Financial management

(1) A local authority must manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and general financial dealings ...

(3) The funding needs of the local authority must be met from those sources that the local authority determines to be appropriate, following consideration of,—

(a) in relation to each activity to be funded,—

(i) the community outcomes to which the activity primarily contributes; and ...

Schedule 10: Long-term plans, annual plans, and annual reports

Part 1: Information to be included in long-term plans

1 Community outcomes

A long-term plan must, to the extent determined appropriate by the local authority, describe the community outcomes for the local authority's district or region.

2 Groups of activities

(1) A long-term plan must, in relation to each group of activities of the local authority,—

- (a) identify the activities within the group of activities:
- (b) identify the rationale for delivery of the group of activities (including the community outcomes to which the group of activities primarily contributes): ...

Sections of the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill relating to Wellbeing and Community Outcomes¹

4 Section 3 amended (Purpose)

Replace section 3(d) with:

(d) provides for local authorities to play a broad role in meeting the current and future needs of their communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local—

- (i) infrastructure; and
- (ii) public services; and
- (iii) performance of regulatory functions.

5 Section 5 amended (Interpretation)

(1) In section 5(1), replace the definition of **community outcomes** with:

community outcomes means the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in meeting the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local—

- (a) infrastructure; and
- (b) public services; and
- (c) performance of regulatory functions

11A Core services to be considered in performing role

(1) In performing its role, a local authority must have particular regard to the contribution that the following core services make to its communities:

- (a) network infrastructure:
- (b) public transport services:
- (c) waste management and minimisation:
- (d) civil defence emergency management:
- (e) libraries, museums, reserves, and other community and recreational facilities.

¹ NOTE: As per recommended changes from the Governance and Administration Select Committee. These changes have yet to be agreed by the House.

6.6 WHAT'S UPCOMING FROM WRC

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. For the Te Nehenehenui Joint Management Agreement Committee to receive the progress update on the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) initiatives of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust, including:
 - (a) River and Catchment works
 - (b) Regional Catchment Management Framework
 - (c) Biodiversity
 - (d) Long-Term Plan

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The update on each of the initiatives/projects is as follows:

(a) River and Catchment

- Catchment programmes deliver restoration works which protect productive soils, reduces the sedimentation of waterways, improves water quality, and protects or enhances biodiversity. These outcomes are delivered through soil erosion control and prevention, riparian protection through fencing and planting, lake and wetland protection and enhancement, bush fragment protection, and pest plant and animal control. Catchment maintenance programmes are put in place to maintain this work.
- River management programmes improve channel stability and capacity and provide for ongoing maintenance, including the removal of obstructions. These programmes also reduce the loss of productive soils and where possible seek to improve in-stream and riparian habitat via fencing, erosion control works, planting, and the installation of fish-friendly erosion control structures.
- Table 1 provides the River and Catchment Management Outputs across our three relevant Zone based programmes for the 2024/2025 financial year:

1. *Table 1: River and Catchment Management Outputs 2024/2025.*

Zone	Fencing (km)	Streambank protected (km)	Native plants (#)	Poplar & willow poles planted (#)	River management structures (#)	Area retired (ha)
Central Waikato	12.2	11.2	47,700	726	4	36
Waipā	34.3	14.8	100,168	1,885	93	90
West Coast	37.4	14.9	78,331	5,317	124	606
Total	105.9 km	47.3 km	310,515 plants	10,986 poles	294 river structures	866

- All three Zones have multi-year river and/or catchment management programs with external co-funding from several agencies. These agencies include Waikato River Authority, Ministry for Primary Industry through their Hill Country Erosion Fund, and Kanoa (MBIE).
- With respect to the 2025 WRA funding round, support was offered to a number of successful applications, including Te Tumu Paeroa, Aorere Glen 2026, NZ Landcare Trust, Pūniu River Care Incorporated, Wai Ora River Care Ltd and Trust Waiwaiā. All projects are focused on physical restoration activities to improve streams, rivers and wetlands.

(b) Regional Catchment Management Framework

- WRC is currently undertaking an internal review of catchment and river management programmes and preparing a catchment management framework to guide future work. External engagement to inform the framework has included surveys of iwi entities, landowners, and catchment groups, as well as interviews with funders and other regional councils.
- The iwi entity survey was undertaken over August and September 2025 and sought input from iwi, hapū and iwi enterprises regionally to better understand how WRC river and catchment programmes are valued, utilised, and understood; and where improvements may be possible in the way we partner with iwi in delivery of catchment projects.
- Twenty-six iwi entities participated in the regional survey. All respondents from the Lower and Central Waikato, Waipā and West Coast indicated they had previously worked with or received funding from WRC for a river or catchment management project. Feedback from iwi entities regionally was very positive on access to staff for advice, mechanisms, and timeliness of engagement, and understanding of iwi aspirations. There is room for improvement in co-design of initiatives and accessibility to funding support through discretionary or contestable funds, although respondents from the Lower and Central Waikato, Waipā and West Coast were more positive about accessibility to funding support than from other parts of the region
- When asked which outcomes they valued most from working with WRC on river and catchment management programmes, relationship-building featured strongly. The top outcomes included “partnerships developing projects together”, “improved trust in the relationship with WRC”, and “knowledge sharing between iwi and WRC”.
- The most common challenge identified by iwi entities undertaking river and catchment management projects was access to funding to undertake the project. Access to land to undertake projects and reporting requirements to funders were identified by about a quarter of respondents. A third of respondents indicated they didn’t currently have any significant challenges in project delivery.
- The survey results, alongside other input from iwi, and iwi environmental management plans, will help inform regional programme recommendations. Work programmes at a local level will still be engaged with locally with iwi as they are now.

(c) Mana Koiora Mana Whenua | Protecting Biodiversity on Shared Māori Whenua

- Waikato Regional Council has a role in managing biodiversity that includes protecting and restoring native ecosystems, addressing threats to biodiversity, including invasive species, habitat loss, and climate change. The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) requires councils to support tangata whenua in exercising kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity.
- Iwi across the Waikato region have expressed a desire for their people to undertake biodiversity and biosecurity initiatives on their land as a practical expression of kaitiakitanga, however the current structure of council's work programmes and their associated funding mechanisms, including the council's contestable funds, do not enable council to fund iwi/owners of shared Māori whenua in ways that meet their needs and are insufficient to meet their aspirations. While Jobs for Nature (central government funding), previously supported capacity building, that funding ended in June 2025.
- The Waikato Region contains significant areas of Māori-owned land with diverse indigenous vegetation crucial for native plants and animals. Funding obtained in the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan (LTP) is being used to scope support mechanisms for Māori landowners in maintaining biodiversity. Targeted interviews with a selection of Māori landowners, iwi organisations, and other regional councils are currently underway and a report outlining options and recommendations to support Māori landowners in preserving and restoring biodiversity on their land will be available mid-2026.

(d) Long-Term Plan

- WRC will develop its 2027-2037 LTP beginning in early 2026 for adoption in June 2027.
- The council's LTP will be guided by its [strategic direction 2026-2036](#), which includes the following priorities:
 - [Future-fit organisation](#)
 - [Productivity and prosperity](#)
 - [Building regional resilience](#)
 - [Sustaining natural resources](#)
 - [Optimised transport system](#)
- Regular updates, including further opportunities for participation, will be provided throughout LTP development

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *What's Upcoming from WRC* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.7 WAITOMO DC INITIATIVES

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE


1. The purpose of this memo is to provide the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Committee with an update on Waitomo District Council work streams

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Waitomo DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Waitomo DC Update (Doc#35775973) [↓](#)

Document No: 971181	
Report To:	Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum
	Meeting Date: 18 May 2026
	Subject: Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum
	Type: Information Only

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum on:
1. Waikato Waters Limited transition of asset and activities update for 1 July 2026
 2. The closure of the Waitomo District Landfill on 30 June 2026 and the facility going forward
 3. Update on the 2025/2026 Annual Plan
 4. 2027 – 2037 Long Term Plan
 5. Progress on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan
 6. Future focused re-organisation of the Waitomo District Council

Commentary

2.1 WAIKATO WATERS LIMITED TRANSITION OF ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES PROCESS UPDATE

Waitomo, Waipa and South Waikato District Councils transition their water and wastewater assets, liabilities, operations and staff to Waikato Waters Limited on 1 July 2026. The billing of water rates and charges and the customer services function with our communities will continue (probably for a year) from that date to be council's responsibility.

A three person Board is in place. Two other directors will be recruited shortly. Recruitment processes are in place for the Chief Executive, Senior Management team and roles that haven't been filled by transitioning council staff.

Matamata Piako, Hauraki and Otorohanga District Councils will transfer after that date.

A significant transition project has now been in place managed by a Transition Team from WWL and with significant input from council staff.

The project is progressing well and is on time for a 1 July 2026 transfer for WDC.

2.2 CLOSURE OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT LANDFILL AND USE OF THE FACILITY GOING FORWARD

The Long Term Plan 2024-34 and subsequent Annual Plans discussed the future of the closure or expansion of the Te Kuiti landfill. Council have decided because of the significant cost and risk of expanding the current landfill, the reducing volumes of waste coming in the landfill and the risk and operational costs of running the landfill to close the landfill on 30 June 2026. The landfill's current resource consent has nearly reached its capacity.

A new solid waste contractor (Evolve) will undertake the kerb side collection, transfer station and litter bin collection and solid waste transport and disposal contracts from 1 July 2026.

2.3 UPDATE ON THE 2026/2027 ANNUAL PLAN

We are currently consulting on our draft Annual Plan 2026/27. This AP has focused on delivering core services and keeping rate increases as low as possible. The increase in total rates revenue excluding water and wastewater, is 2.88%. (WDC rates) The increase in rates revenue including water and wastewater, is 3.79%. The main drivers for the rate increase are costs associated with solid waste management and collection costs, and Te Kūiti stormwater improvements. Our main consultation topic is the proposal to move the Awakino Transfer station to Mokau, this has been facilitated by a public meeting that was well attended.

2.4 2027 – 2037 LONG TERM PLAN

We are now in the early stage of the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan development. We will seek your feedback and comment through the course of its development.

2.5 PROGRESS ON THE PROPOSED WAITOMO DISTRICT PLAN

The majority of the Proposed Waitomo District Plan is now operative in accordance with section 86F of the Resource Management Act 1991. There are only four outstanding appeals, and one of those appeals we have reached an agreement in principle on and are currently preparing the consent order to be submitted to the environment court for approval.

We anticipate that the remaining appeals will be resolved this calendar year.

2.6 FUTURE FOCUSED RE-ORGANISATION OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

An organization restructuring has been completed and implemented focusing on simplifying our operation and aligning this to a post water and wastewater transition. It was important that the overheads recovered currently by the water and wastewater rates and revenue were not passed on to other council activity rates. This was achieved.

BEN SMIT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

30 April 2026

6.8 WAIPĀ DC INITIATIVES

Rā | Date: 18 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To receive a progress report summarising Waipā District Council initiatives that are of interest to Te Nehenehenui Trust (attached).

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. These initiatives are:
 - (a) Strategic Māori Partnerships
 - (b) Strategic Direction and Goals
 - (c) Annual Plan
 - (d) District Planning
 - (e) Waters Transition
 - (f) Emergency management

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Waipā DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Waipā DC Initiatives Report (Doc #35912712)** [↓](#)



MEMO

To: Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Committee

From: Waipā District Council
Ngira Simmonds, Kaihautū / Director Strategic Māori Partnerships
Kirsty Downey, Acting Deputy Chief Executive/Group Manager Strategy

Date: 18 May 2026

Subject: Waipā District Council - Key Work Programmes, Overview report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Committee with an update on key Council work streams. These work streams include:

- Strategic Māori Partnerships
- Strategic Direction and Goals
- Annual Plan
- District Planning
- Waters Transition
- Emergency management

RECOMMENDATION - TŪTOHU Ā-KAIMAHI

That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Committee receives the report of Kirsty Downey, Acting Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Strategy, titled 'Waipā District Council - Key Work Programmes, Overview report.'

STRATEGIC MĀORI PARTNERSHIPS

Ko te Atua tō tātou piringa, ka puta ka ora. Paimaarire.

E ngā mana nui o Te Nehenehenui, tēnā koutou katoa.

E mihi ana ki ngā hapū, ki ngā marae, ki ngā Whare katoa o te takiwā. Tae noa ki ngā uri o Maniapoto e pupuri nei i te mana o te whenua, te mana o te wai, me te mana o te tangata.

Whakahōnoretia Te Arikinui Kuīni Ngā Wai hono i te pō, me te Kāhui Ariki whānui.

Ka tangi ki ngā mate huhua o te wā; haere, haere, whakangaro atu rā. Ka hoki mai ki a tātou te hunga ora, tēnā tātou katoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this opening update as part of the wider report to the Te Nehenehenui JMA meeting. This section provides a brief update on Strategic Māori Partnerships matters for Waipā, noting that other Council teams will provide their own detailed updates separately.



MEMO

The **Tākina** team has now increased to three team members, strengthening our ability to support Council and our relationships with iwi, hapū, mana whenua and marae. Erin Wilson started in late 2025 as the Kaiūrungi. The Kaiūrungi role helps steer and shape Council's Māori partnership work, providing strategic advice, relationship support and guidance across priority kaupapa. This role is particularly important in helping Council move from reactive engagement to earlier, more consistent and better coordinated approaches.

We recently welcomed Marama Tahapehi who has joined the team as Kaiāwhina. The Kaiāwhina role supports the day-to-day coordination, administration and relationship infrastructure that allows the team to work effectively with our partners and across Council. It is a key enabling role, helping ensure actions are followed through, information is well managed, and our internal systems better support Māori engagement.

Tākina is Council's Māori strategic partnerships team. Our work is to uphold and strengthen Council's relationships with iwi, hapū, mana whenua and marae, while supporting staff to better understand and meet their obligations. We provide strategic advice, cultural guidance and practical support across Council so Māori perspectives are considered earlier, more consistently and with greater care.

The severe weather event that impacted the Ōtorohanga and Waipā districts has highlighted both the importance and the complexity of iwi and hapū participation in emergency response and recovery. We have worked closely with Ōtorohanga District Council to support iwi involvement and to ensure active and appropriate participation across the recovery kaupapa. There is much that can be improved in this space, particularly in how councils plan, resource and embed iwi participation before events occur; however, it has been a privilege to work alongside Te Nehenehenui, hapū and marae during this time. To witness first-hand the way our people activate in service of whānau, whenua and community is always a privilege.

Council was represented in strong numbers at the Poukai held at Parāwera Marae, with the Mayor, Councillors and senior management in attendance. This was a significant and positive expression of Council's commitment to being present in the rohe, and to continuing to build relationships through kano ki te kano engagement. We remain committed to attending poukai across our rohe, not as ceremonial attendance only, but as part of the ongoing work of strengthening trust, understanding and accountability.

Internally, we are progressing plans to support staff capability and capacity through a journey of continuous improvement. This includes establishing whakatau for new staff so that people are welcomed into the organisation in a way that reflects the place and relationships they are entering; supporting a staff waiata rōpū to build confidence, connection and shared practice; and continuing to grow Te Rōpū Māori, our internal Māori staff network and advisory/support space for Māori staff and kaupapa Māori across Council. These initiatives are small but important steps toward building a Council that is more culturally capable, relationally aware and confident in its responsibilities.



MEMO

We are also beginning the development of a Māori Engagement Framework and Strategy. This is a significant piece of work and will be treated with urgency. We are looking to councils such as Ōtorohanga District Council and Waikato District Council, as well as further afield to Rotorua and Whakatāne, where useful models may provide a starting point. At the same time, Waipā is unique: our rohe, relationships, responsibilities and history are shaped in particular ways, including by raupatu. For that reason, the framework must be grounded in Waipā, developed carefully, and capable of supporting a more consistent, mature and enduring approach to Māori engagement across Council.

I look forward to continuing to work with Te Nehenehenui and the JMA partners to strengthen this work over the coming period.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION – STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES


On 29 April, Council approved a set of new medium-term strategic goals and short-term priorities (provided below) that provide clear strategic direction for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan (LTP).

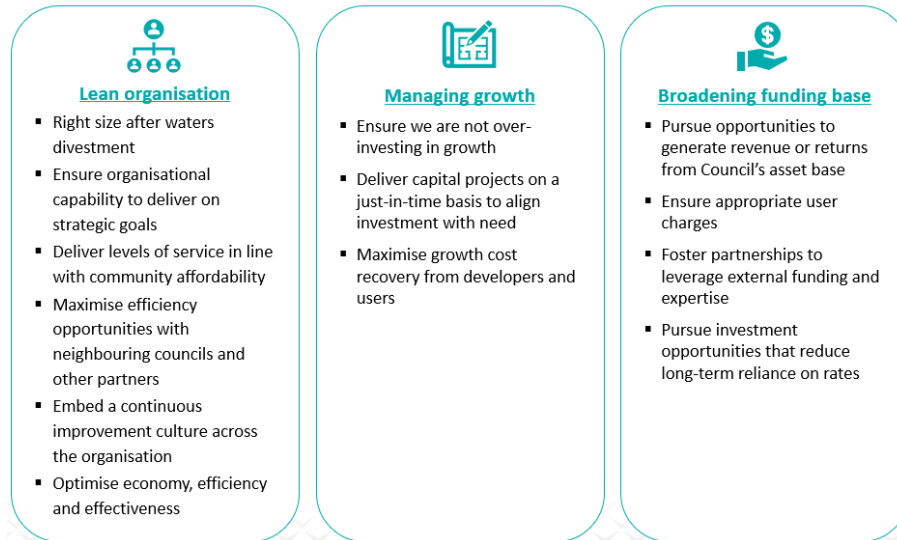
Elected Members shaped the goals and priorities by considering what is important to them, what they’ve heard from the community and iwi and mana whenua partners, including through engagement on Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan, and Council’s operating environment.

Setting this strategic direction is a key foundational step in the development of the 2027-37 LTP. The goals and priorities support decision making through the LTP process, ensuring Council’s activities align with what they have agreed to focus on.

Work is now underway on sharing the strategic goals and priorities and embedding them across the organisation, including what these look like in practice, to ensure they meaningfully guide Council’s mahi and the decisions we make.

Strategic goals (medium term; 10 years)

	Responsible financial management	Ensure prudent and sustainable financial management to deliver value for our community now and into the future
	Well-planned communities and great places	Enable well-planned growth, renewal and development that creates vibrant, connected, and liveable places and communities
	Shared outcomes through partnership	Foster partnerships to deliver better economic, community and environmental outcomes than we can achieve alone
	Trust and confidence in Council	Strengthen trust and confidence with our community through transparent decision-making, meaningful engagement and effective service delivery
	Community resilience	Position our communities to thrive in the face of economic, social and environmental change

MEMO**Strategic priorities (short term; 3 years)****DRAFT 2026/2027 ANNUAL PLAN**

The Draft 2026/27 Annual Plan represents Year 2 of the 2025-34 LTP, which provided for a 10.7% average rates increase (after growth). At this stage, no significant or material differences from the LTP are proposed. As such, in accordance with section 95A of the LGA, public consultation is not required. Council is scheduled to adopt the draft 2026/27 Annual Plan on 24 June 2026.

WATERS TRANSITION

Please refer to presentation **attached**.

DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE PROGRAMME**Council Plan Change 25**

- Shelterbelts and Artificial Crop Protection and Support Structures
 - o Summary of submissions to be notified 14 May with hearings likely July/August 2026

Private Plan Change 31

- Rezone T4 Growth Cell (Pokuru Road, Te Awamutu)
 - o Awaiting acceptance for processing
 - o Ensuring not impacted by Western Water issue before doing so under delegated authority

Private Plan Change 35

- Te Awamutu Retail Centre (aka Mitre10 development)
 - o Hearing is next step and subject to commissioner availability (possibly late June)



MEMO

ROAD TO RECOVERY

- An update on the Waipā 'Road to Recovery' is **attached**.
- On the 13-14 February 2026, an unpredicted severe weather system delivered over 170mm of rainfall, resulting in significant river and surface flooding across Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts
- A State of Emergency (SOE) was declared independently by both councils on 14 February 2026 – Ōtorohanga at 12.57am and Waipā at 3pm respectively. The SOE's were extended for a further 7 days, with an expiry on 28 February 2026.
- A Western Waikato Emergency Operations Centre was operated out of Ōtorohanga District Council in response to this event
- The EOC operated for 11 days including 6 nights and 3 days at 24 hour roster with over 180 staff from 12 different councils and partner agencies supported the EOC operations
- At 12pm on Wednesday 25 February, both councils ended the SOE declarations and started a Transition Period from response to recovery. The initial 28-day Transition Period was extended, with an expiry of 22 April 2026, however Waipā moved into Recovery on 16 April 2026.
- At the peak of the response, there were over 133 displaced, 23 roads closed, 3 state highways impacted, waterways reformed, significant landslips and multiple farms with limited access across the two districts
- Initially, the Recovery Office was jointly operated from Ōtorohanga District Council. On Monday, 9 March, the Waipā recovery office relocated to Waipā District Council office at Roche Street, Te Awamutu
- The Recovery teams have continued a collaborative approach working with shared communities impacted and partner agencies, despite separate locations for leading recovery operations
- Information from Recovery efforts have continued to be shared with the Te Rōpū Mahi distribution list.
- In Waipā, Ngāti Apakura and Ngāti Mahanga have supported karakia for the re-opening of areas closed or affected through the severe weather event.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Marae Preparedness

Marae were ready to support the response during the February 2026 weather event, and that contribution was greatly valued by the Ōtorohanga response teams.

The February weather event also brought greater focus to marae preparedness, both in supporting Emergency Management and in strengthening readiness for their own communities. Since then, several marae have taken steps to complete their draft plans, which is a positive and encouraging development.

The response also highlighted the importance of having clear arrangements in place for how an EOC would activate and support a marae if needed. To help guide this, a Use of Marae in an Emergency Policy is now being drafted.



MEMO

The Māori Wardens made a valued contribution to the welfare response and the evacuation of Corcoran Road residents. They played an important role in checking on isolated residents and supporting people who did not have access to a 4WD vehicle to attend medical appointments via private farm access. Their commitment and practical support were greatly appreciated and demonstrated the value they bring in times of need.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ngira Simmonds".

Ngira Simmonds
Kaihautū / Director Strategic Māori Partnerships

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsty Downey".

Kirsty Downey
Acting Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Strategy

The Road to Recovery:
Waipā District



Week ending 8 May 2026 | Status: ● Some risk apparent following weather event

What's changed

- Waikato Regional Council focus has shifted from debris clearance to erosion control and repair assessment/ planning
- NEMA have awareness and confirmed process to progress potential funding opportunities for the damaged to Te Tahī Water Treatment Plant
- Additional land subsidence identified on Kakepuku Track.

What has been done

- 30 Mayoral Relief applications granted funding totalling \$110,398
- Clearance of debris from Pirongia Forest (Sainsbury Road Block) by Waikato Regional Council completed
- Meeting with NEMA and FENZ to outline impacts of Te Tahī Water Treatment Plant on Waipā water supply
- Refining infrastructure repair requirements, timing and costings to support 26-27 Annual Plan discussions

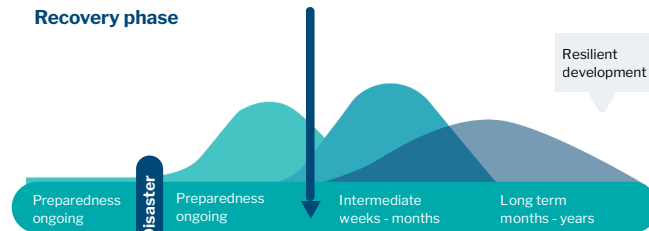
What is being done

- NEMA fortnightly reporting
- Clearance of debris from Pirongia Forestry (Te Tahī Block) by Waikato Regional Council
- Business resilience workshop for Pirongia businesses organised for 20 May
- Further geotech investigations for Kakepuku Track.

Current Priorities

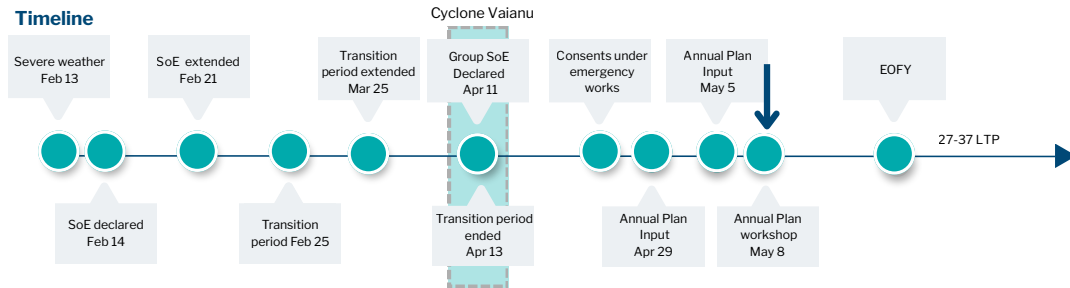
- Finalising Recovery Plan for Executive Group review
- Defining transition from Recovery to BAU
- Re-opening of Kakepuku and 205 Sainsbury Road Reserves.

Recovery phase



Document Set ID: 680880
Version 4, Version Date: 02/05/2022

Timeline



On the ground

Area	Status	Comment
🚧 Road closures	0 -	SH39 reopened (temp bridge)
⚠️ Restricted roads	1 -	Whatauri Rd
🚧 Bridges closed/restricted	2 -	Mangauika, Whatauri Rd
💧 Water supply	1 -	Te Tahī Water Treatment Plant inoperable, water restrictions in place
🌳 Natural areas closed	3 -	Pirongia Forest, Kakepuku & 205 Sainsbury Rd Reserves

Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation	Traffic light alert level
💧 Water supply	Capacity, restrictions	Mid-long term options; restrictions remain	🔴 🟡 🟢
☀️ Upcoming weather	Anxiety, debris movement	Monitor; partner agency coordination	🟡 🟢 🟠
🌳 Land stability & debris	Infrastructure & safety	Closures, inspections, staged debris collection	🟡 🟠 🟢
🏢 Business impacts	Revenue loss	Monitor post SH39 reopening	🟡 🟢 🟠

Bottom line

Recovery office continues to co-ordinate and connect with agencies and communities. Connections are strong and some infrastructure has been restored. Costs continue to be refined with transition to business as usual being defined.

The Road to Recovery:
Waipā District



Week ending 8 May 2026 | Status: ● Some risks

COMMUNITY

Key: **Bold** identifies current status

Key focus area	Outcome	Immediate	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Community connection and engagement	Communities feel supported, informed and connected	In person connection and welfare checks underway	Feedback informing recovery actions	Community-led initiatives embedded	Strong, resilient communities
Psychosocial wellbeing	Reduced anxiety and isolation	Emerging impacts identified	Targeted support pathways in place	Ongoing wellbeing support	Community confidence restored
Access and mobility (Corcoran/ Whatauri Roads)	Reduced frustration and isolation	Managed access and communications	Improved predictability	Long-term access solutions implemented	Normalised access

BUILT

Key focus area	Outcome	Immediate	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Water supply	Water supply secured	Reduced capacity of supply maintained	Rebuild options assessed	Upgrades progressed	Future proofed network
Roads and bridges	Safe transport connections	Temporary solutions in place	Permanent repair planning	Major works completed	Fully restored network
Consenting processes	Retrospective consents gained	Consent pathways clarified	Streamlined processing	Backlog cleared	Business as usual restored

NATURAL

Key focus area	Outcome	Immediate	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Land stability	Reduced risk to people and assets	Monitoring and risk identification	Remedial works identified	Stabilisation measures established	Resilient landscapes
Pirongia Forest and reserves	Safe public access	Closures maintained	Safety assessment to enable staged reopening planned	Works completed	All spaces are reopened to public
Debris and sediment	Reduced downstream risk	High risk areas managed	Clearance underway	Maintenance regime	Improved catchment resilience

ECONOMIC

Key focus area	Outcome	Immediate	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Business impacts	Business continuity	Impact monitoring	Targeted support	Resilience workshops delivered	Strong/resilient local economy
Transport disruption	Minimised economic disruption	Temporary access restored	Future closure planning understood	Major repair works completed	Economic confidence restored
Recovery costs	Financial sustainability	Initial cost overview	Funding pathways confirmed	Repair costs approved and managed	Sustainable recovery

Document Set ID: 11680880
Version 4 - Update Date: 02/05/2023

Waikato Waters Establishment Update

18 May 2026





Waikato Waters logo

Our logo features two 'W' shapes representing the name Waikato Waters drawing inspiration from traditional tāniko weaving patterns. The logo also references the region's many waterways – lakes, streams and rivers – journeying from source to sea.



Waikato Waters Limited

On July 1, 2026, Waipā DC will transfer its water assets and responsibilities for service delivery to Waikato Water Limited.

- A Council Controlled Organisation with a board of directors.
- Owned by six shareholding councils – Waipā, Waitomo, Ōtorohanga, Matamata-Piako, Hauraki, and South Waikato.
- Taupō has an option to become a shareholder if they wish





Waikato Waters Limited

Waikato Waters Ltd will be responsible for meeting the expectations of key partners around Treaty settlements (e.g. the Waikato River Settlement Act). This includes forming effective relationships with current and proposed entities (Waikato River Authority, Hauraki Gulf Forum and Waihou, Piako, Coromandel Catchment Authority).

The Board must include some who have a strong knowledge of relevant settlements within the relevant service area and specialist experience of integrating Te Ao Māori and Tikanga Māori in a professional board environment.

The Vision

Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Mana o Te Tangata

Healthy Water, Healthy People





About Waikato Waters Ltd

- Catchment-based approach opportunities
- Regional collaboration and leadership
- Customer focus and affordability
- Workforce availability and career development
- Certainty, consistency and smoother investment for civil contracting sector



Governance Structure



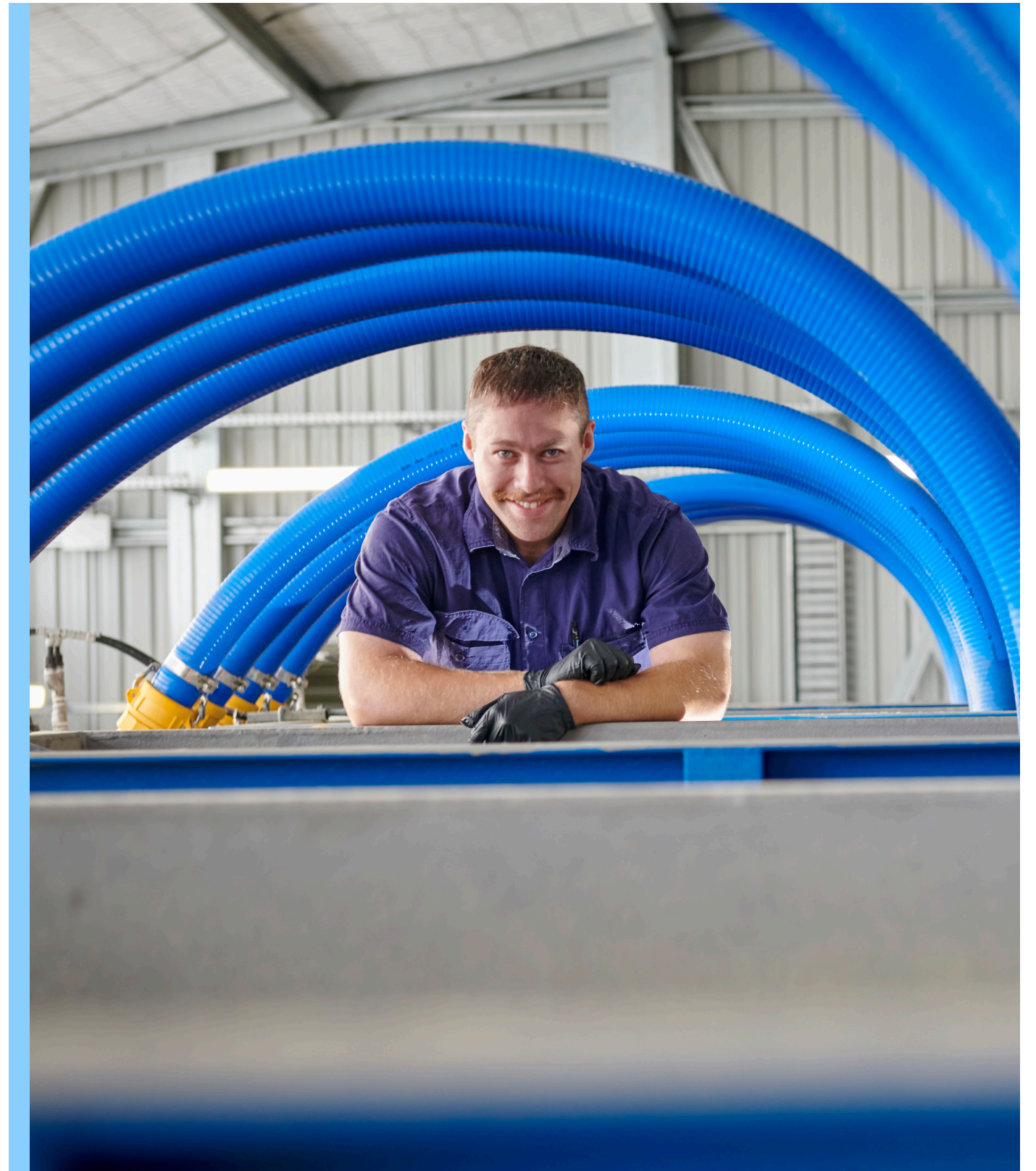


The Shareholders Representative Forum

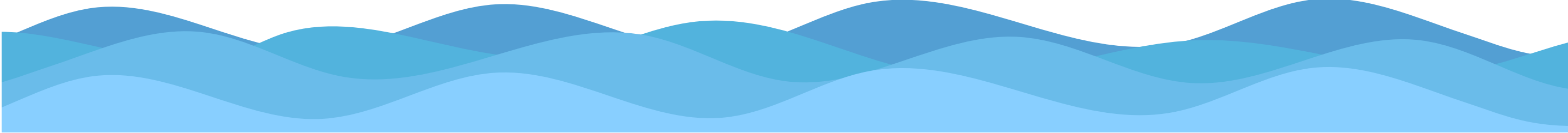
- The Shareholder Representative Forum (SRF) is where each council has a voice.
- The first SRF met on 28 July.
- This forum will be working with the Iwi Chairs regarding their role in shareholder decision-making for each council's approval.

Transition to the new entity

- Waikato Water has an establishment team
- Iwi engagement led by Vaughan Payne
- Responsibility for building strong relationships with mana whenua, iwi and co-governance entities
- Won't replace existing relationships
- Waipā transition team being established



Pātai



7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSE