



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday, 30 April 2026

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**Waikato Regional Council
Ordinary Council Meeting**

OPEN MINUTES

Date: Thursday 30 April 2026, 9.30am
Location: Council Chambers
 Waikato Regional Council
 Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present: Cr Warren Maher – Chair
 Cr Mich'eal Downard – Deputy Chair
 Cr Robert Cookson
 Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
 Cr Kataraina Hodge
 Cr Keith Holmes
 Cr Chris Hughes (until 10.54am, back at 11.15am)
 Cr Tipa Mahuta (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Gary McGuire
 Cr Jennifer Nickel
 Cr Garry Reymer
 Cr Noel Smith
 Cr Liz Stolwyk
 Cr Angela Strange

In Attendance: Cr Dion Swiggs – Chair, Environment Canterbury (virtually via Teams, for item 2.1. *Deputations*)

Staff Present: Chris McLay – Chief Executive
 Janine Becker – Director, Customer and Corporate Services
 Phil King – Director, Regional Transport Connections
 Tracey May – Director, Science, Policy and Information
 Greg Ryan – Director, Integrated Catchment Management
 Brent Sinclair – Director, Resource Use
 Mali Ahipene – Pou Tuhono
 Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executive’s Office
 Stuart Brown – Executive Manager, People and Capability
 Jordan Metz – Democracy Advisor
 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
Recording 1	Doc # 35772357	https://youtu.be/BZXSxRSHawg
Recording 2	Doc # 35769530	https://youtu.be/KAhDJ-wYss4

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

The Chief Executive (Chris McLay) opened the meeting with a karakia.

The Team Lead, Democracy (Dave Doggart) provided a Health and Safety statement.

2 PRELIMINARY ITEMS

2.1 DEPUTATIONS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND MEMBERSHIP

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 minute 10 seconds.

- a. Mr Brett Murphy opened his deputation with a prayer and spoke to his deputation.
- b. The Chief Executive, Local Government New Zealand (Mr Scott Necklan) and the Chair, Environment Canterbury and Chair, Regional Sector, Local Government New Zealand (Cr Dion Swiggs) spoke to the deputation. Mr Necklan acknowledged the sad passing of former Waikato Regional Council Chair, Alan Livingstone.

3 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in recording 1, at 38 minutes 42 seconds.

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording 1, at 38 minutes 47 seconds.

RESOLUTION WRC26/34

Moved: Cr Chris Hughes

Seconded: Cr Gary McGuire

1. That the agenda of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 30 April 2026, 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

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Item commenced in recording 1, at 39 minutes.

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

6 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 26 MARCH 2026

Item commenced in recording 1, at 39 minutes 12 seconds.

RESOLUTION WRC26/35

Moved: Cr Tipa Mahuta

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the open and public excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

6.1 MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2026

Item commenced in recording 1, at 39 minutes 42 seconds.

RESOLUTION WRC26/36

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 9 March 2026 be received.

CARRIED

6.2 MINUTES OF THE RTC PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION WRC26/37

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the RTC Public Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 9 March 2026 be received.

CARRIED

6.3 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

11 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION WRC26/38

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Environmental Performance Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

6.4 MINUTES OF THE RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION WRC26/39

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 16 March 2026 be received.

CARRIED

6.5 MINUTES OF THE INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION WRC26/40

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 18 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

6.6 MINUTES OF THE WAIKATO CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION WRC26/41

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on 30 March 2026 be received.

CARRIED

6.7 MINUTES OF THE WAIKATO RAUPATU RIVER TRUST AND WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2026**RESOLUTION WRC26/42****Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge****Seconded: Cr Angela Strange**

- 1. That the minutes of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee meeting held on 8 April 2026 be received.**
- 2. That the decisions made under delegated authority be noted.**
- 3. That the actions requested be noted.**

CARRIED**6 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT (RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION)****6.4 RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2026**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 40 minutes and 36 seconds.

Presented by the Deputy-Chair, Risk and Assurance Committee (Cr Chris Hughes).

RESOLUTION WRC26/43**Moved: Cr Chris Hughes****Seconded: Cr Tipa Mahuta**

- 1. That on the recommendation of the Risk and Assurance Committee the Council Chair (Cr Warren Maher) signs the Audit Engagement Letter and Audit Proposal for the annual report audit of Waikato Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2026.**
- 2. That on the recommendation of the Risk and Assurance Committee, Council adopts the updated *Procedural Delegations Manual* (Risk and Assurance Committee Agenda, 16 March 2026 at page 211).**
- 3. That on the recommendation of the Risk and Assurance Committee, Council adopts the updated *Protected Disclosures (Whistle-blower) Policy* (Risk and Assurance Committee Agenda, 16 March 2026 at page 303)**

.CARRIED**6.5 INTERGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2026**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 42 minutes and 5 seconds.

Presented by the Chair, Integrated Catchment Committee (Cr Robert Cookson).

RESOLUTION WRC26/44**Moved: Cr Robert Cookson**

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

That on the recommendation of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee, Council as standard practice, where a legal opinion is tabled as part of an agenda item, requests that the instructing letter and the engagement letter be included with the agenda papers.

CARRIED

6.6 WAIKATO CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP JOINT COMMITTEE – 30 MARCH 2026

Item commenced in recording 1, at 47 minutes 54 seconds.

RESOLUTION WRC26/45

Moved: Cr Gary McGuire

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

That the recommendation from the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee for Council to include regionally consistent Key Performance Indicators for Civil Defence Emergency Management in the Long Term Plan be included in the Planning process for consideration.

CARRIED

7 GENERAL ITEMS

7.1 HAURAKI GULF FORUM - MINUTES FOR RECEIPT

RESOLUTION WRC26/46

Moved: Cr Kataraina Hodge

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the minutes of the Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting held on 23 March 2026 be received.

CARRIED

7.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT - MARCH 2026

Item commenced in recording 1, at 48 minutes 47 seconds.

Presented by the Executive Manager, People and Capability (Stuart Brown).

Actions:

- a. That staff schedule some interactive Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) scenarios for governors, particularly within the catchment space.
- b. That a subsequent Health and Safety report contain data on trained emergency personnel.

RESOLUTION WRC26/47

Moved: Cr Noel Smith
Seconded: Cr Kataraina Hodge

That the *Health and Safety Report - March 2026 (Council, 30 April 2026)* be received.

CARRIED

7.3 WAIKATO REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Item commenced in recording 1, at 59 minutes 23 seconds.

The Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) introduced the Principal Strategic Advisor (Blair Dickie) and Senior Policy Advisor (Michelle White).

10.54am – Cr Chris Hughes left the meeting.

RESOLUTION WRC26/48

Moved: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
Seconded: Cr Tipa Mahuta

- 1. That the report *Waikato Regional Energy Strategy (Council, 30 April 2026)* be received.**
- 2. That the *Waikato Regional Energy Strategy* be adopted, subject to any amendments identified during discussion at the Council meeting.**

CARRIED

10.56am – The meeting adjourned. During the adjournment Cr Chris Hughes entered to the meeting.

11.15am – The meeting reconvened.

7.4 WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE 37 TO THE WAIPĀ DISTRICT PLAN

Item commenced in recording 2, at start.

The Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) introduced the Manager, Strategic Policy Implementation (Lisette Balsom) and Senior Policy Advisor (Katrina Andrews).

RESOLUTION WRC26/49

Moved: Cr Tipa Mahuta
Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

- 1. That the report *Waikato Regional Council Submission to Proposed Private Plan Change 37 to the Waipā District Plan (Council, 30 April 2026)* be received.**
- 2. That the Council delegates to the Chair (Cr Warren Maher) and the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) the approval for lodgement of the proposed *Waikato Regional Council submission to Proposed Private Plan Change 37 - Rider Park Structure Plan* to the *Waipā District Plan*, subject to amendments identified in discussion had at the council meeting.**

CARRIED

7.5 NOTICE OF MOTION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND MEMBERSHIP

Item commenced in recording 2, at 16 minutes 17 seconds.

Presented by Cr Noel Smith.

Action: That a regular monthly report be tabled at Council summarising Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) activities and that LGNZ appear quarterly to provide updates and answer questions.

RESOLUTION WRC26/50

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Chris Hughes

That Council revokes the resolution WRC25/114 (Council, 23 July 2025) and withdraw from Local Government New Zealand ending Council membership.

LOST 3/10

In putting the motion, a division was called and results were recorded as:

In Favour: Crs Chris Hughes, Garry Reymer and Noel Smith

Against: Crs Warren Maher, Mich'eal Downard, Robert Cookson, Ben Dunbar-Smith, Kataraina Hodge, Keith Holmes, Gary McGuire, Jennifer Nickel, Liz Stolwyk and Angela Strange

Did not respond: Cr Tipa Mahuta

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

There was no public excluded session. The minutes tabled in public excluded were confirmed as correct in the open session of the meeting.

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 5 minutes and 18 seconds.

The Chief Executive (Chris McLay) closed the meeting with a karakia.

12.21pm – The meeting closed.