



AGENDA

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, 15 June 2026

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Boardroom
1108 Fenton Street, Rotorua

Members: Trustee Evelyn Forrest – Committee Co-Chair – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Cr Tipa Mahuta – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Deliah Balle – Committee Deputy Co-Chair – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Cr Robert Cookson – Waikato Regional Council
Cr Keith Holmes – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Danielle Marks – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Cr Liz Stolwyk – Waikato Regional Council

Alternates: Cr Kataraina Hodge – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Jenny Kaka-Scott – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Trustee Mana Newton – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Trustee Lana Ngawhika – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee

Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere | Terms of Reference

1. *Mana ā-Ture* | **Status**

This Committee was established by agreement, under **clause 12** of the [Joint Management Agreement \(JMA\)](#) between the parties dated **28 August 2012** (refer Doc #4082962). The agreement was entered into pursuant to *section 43* of [the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010](#).

The Committee is exempt from the application of *Schedule 7* of the [Local Government Act 2002](#) and related *Standing Orders*. It's formal *Terms of Reference* and unique *Standing Orders* ([Doc #2556476](#)) were adopted by the Committee on 26 March 2013 (TACG13/2, Doc #2366740) and by Council on 28 February 2013 (WRC13/44, [Doc #2631103](#)).

2. *Kaupapa Matua* | **Purpose**

To give effect to the guardianship provisions outlined in clause 12 of the *Joint Management Agreement*, as established under the *Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010*.

3. *Ngā Kawenga* | **Responsibilities**

The role of the co-governance committee is to ensure that the Joint Management Agreement is being implemented to the satisfaction of both parties and in accordance with the principles set out in clause 4 of that agreement.

4. *Ngā Tūranga* | **Membership**

4.1. *Ngā Mema* | **Members**

The Committee comprises eight members:

- a. Four members (trustees) appointed by Te Arawa River Iwi Trust.
- b. Four members (councillors) appointed by Waikato Regional Council.

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

- a. The Committee is co-chaired, with one co-chair appointed by each organisation.
- b. Each organisation may appoint deputy co-chairs to preside if their co-chair cannot preside for any reason.
- c. Either of the co-chairs may preside at a meeting and they may be regarded as interchangeable throughout the meeting, although the presumption is that the host co-chair will initially convene the meeting.

5. *Tokamatua* | **Quorum**

Four members, being one co-chair (or their deputy) and one member from each organisation.

6. *Te Pōti* | **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 Tikanga Whakahaere Hui* | **Meeting Procedures**

- a. Meetings are conducted in accordance with the Co-Governance Committee Standing Orders agreed between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council.
- b. The venue for the meetings will alternate between the offices of the Waikato Regional Council and those provided by the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust.
- c. Minutes are approved by the co-chairs prior to circulation, within two weeks of the meeting
- d. The co-chairs are the spokespersons for the Committee

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

Meetings are held annually, or more frequently if agreed.

Order Of Business

1	Karakia Timatanga	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Confirmation of Agenda	4
4	Disclosures of Interest	4
5	Minutes for Confirmation or Receipt	4
	Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting – 1 September 2025	4
6	General Items	12
6.1	Start of Term: Committee Structure and Membership.....	12
6.2	Context Setting	26
6.3	Update on the Corbicula Fluminea (Gold Clam)	27
6.4	Strategic Work Programme	33
6.5	Local Government Reform	38
7	Karakia Whakamutunga	40

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

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 Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting
– 1 September 2025



MINUTES

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting

Monday, 1 September 2025

Order Of Business

1	Karakia Timatanga	4
5	Preliminary Items	4
5.1	Health and Safety Statement	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Confirmation of Agenda	4
4	Disclosures of Interest	5
6	Minutes for Confirmation or Receipt	5
	Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting - 6 June 2025	5
7	General Items	5
7.1	Update on Freshwater Policy Review.....	5
7.2	Update on the Corbicula fluminea (Gold Clam)	6
7.3	2027-2037 Long Term Plan timeline	6
7.4	JMA Implementation Report	6
7.5	Co-governance Wrap Up	6
8	Karakia Whakamutunga	7

Waikato Regional Council
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance
Committee Meeting

OPEN MINUTES

Date: Monday 1 September 2025, 10.02am

Location: Council Chambers
Waikato Regional Council
Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present: Trustee Evelyn Forrest – Committee Co-Chair – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Cr Pamela Storey – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Deliah Balle – Committee Deputy Chair– Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
Cr Bruce Clarkson – Committee Deputy Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Cr Mich'eal Downard – Waikato Regional Council (virtually via Teams)
Cr Stuart Kneebone – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Jenny Kaka-Scott - Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (acting member)

In Attendance: Cr Kataraina Hodge – Waikato Regional Council

Staff Present: Chris McLay – Chief Executive – Waikato Regional Council
Mali Ahipene – Pou Tuhono – Waikato Regional Council
Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executive’s Office – Waikato Regional Council
Jordan Metz – Democracy Advisor – Waikato Regional Council
Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy – Waikato Regional Council

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

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

Recording	Document ID #	YouTube Link
Meeting Recording #1	Doc # 33089467	https://youtu.be/o5r82VCLyB8
Meeting Recording #2	Doc # 33088863	https://youtu.be/Sp7bEBT2UuA

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

Cr Stuart Kneebone opened the meeting with a karakia.

5 PRELIMINARY ITEMS

5.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 minute.

The *Health and Safety Statement* was taken as read.

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in recording 1 at 1 minute 20 seconds.

It was noted that Trustee Jenny Kaka-Scott had been appointed by Te Arawa River Iwi Trust as a member for this meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/09

Moved: Cr Mich'eal Downard

Seconded: Cr Stuart Kneebone

That the apologies of Trustee Evelyn Forrest and Trustee Peri Marks for absence be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording 1, at 2 minutes 10 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/10

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Trustee Deliah Ball

1. That the agenda of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting of 1 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 1, at 3 minutes 3 seconds.

The interests of Jenny Kaka-Scott have been recorded by Te Arawa River Iwi Trust.

6 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

TE ARAWA RIVER IWI TRUST AND WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 6 JUNE 2025

Item commenced in recording 1, at 5 minutes 21 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/11

Moved: Cr Bruce Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Deliah Balle

That the minutes of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2025 be confirmed as a correct record, noting that the venue should read Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Boardroom, 1108 Fenton Street, Rotorua.

CARRIED

7 GENERAL ITEMS

7.1 UPDATE ON FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 1, at 7 minutes 1 second.

Presented by the Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/12

Moved: Cr Bruce Clarkson

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the report *Update on Freshwater Policy Review* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 1 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.2 UPDATE ON THE CORBICULA FLUMINEA (GOLD CLAM)

Item commenced in recording 1, at 13 minutes 54 seconds.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (Jo Ireland).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/13

Moved: Cr Pamela Storey

Seconded: Trustee Deliah Balle

That the report *Update on the Corbicula fluminea (Gold Clam)* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 1 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.3 2027-2037 LONG TERM PLAN TIMELINE

Item commenced in recording 1, at 38 minutes 18 seconds.

Presented by the Senior Corporate Planner (Annika Hamilton).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/14

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the report *2027-2037 Long Term Plan timeline* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 1 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.4 JMA IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Item commenced in recording 1, at 43 minutes 21 seconds.

Presented by the Kaiwhakarite (Ashley Eden).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/15

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Cr Bruce Clarkson

That the report *JMA Implementation Report* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 1 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.5 CO-GOVERNANCE WRAP UP

Item commenced in recording 1, at 50 minutes 4 seconds.

Presented by the Pou Tuhono (Mali Ahipene).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TACG25/16

Moved: Cr Mich'eal Downard

Seconded: Cr Pamela Storey

That the report *Co-governance Wrap Up* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 1 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 2, at start of recording

Cr Stuart Kneebone closed the meeting with a karakia.

11.18am – the meeting closed.

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 START OF TERM: COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

Rā | Date: 22 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Brooke Roebeck, Democracy Advisor

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To confirm the Committee membership and operating arrangements for the first meeting of the 2025–2028 triennium.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report provides an overview of the Committee’s membership and operating arrangements for the 2025–2028 triennium.
3. The Committee includes representatives from Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council. It is established under the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Joint Management Agreement (JMA).
4. The Committee oversees the implementation of the Joint Management Agreement and provides recommendations to both organisations. It does not make binding decisions.
5. It has equal representation from both organisations, is led by two co-chairs, and aims to reach decisions by consensus.
6. The Committee operates under its *Terms of Reference* (refer the front of each agenda) and *Standing Orders* (see attachment 1).

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report *Membership and procedures* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 15 June 2026) be received.
2. That the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee notes the following appointed members:
 - (a) Te Arawa River Iwi Trust:
 - (i) Trustee Evelyn Forrest
 - (ii) Trustee Deliah Balle
 - (iii) Trustee Danielle Marks
 - (b) Waikato Regional Council:
 - (i) Cr Robert Cookson
 - (ii) Cr Keith Holmes
 - (iii) Cr Tipa Mahuta
 - (iv) Cr Liz Stolwyk
3. That the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee notes the following alternate members:
 - (a) Te Arawa River Iwi Trust:
 - (i) Trustee Mana Newton
 - (ii) Trustee Jenny Kaka-Scott
 - (iii) Trustee Lana Ngawhika
 - (b) Waikato Regional Council:
 - (i) Cr Kataraina Hodge
4. That the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee notes the following co-chairs:
 - (a) Trustee Evelyn Forrest (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust)
 - (b) Cr Tipa Mahuta (Waikato Regional Council)
5. That the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee notes the deputy co-chairs:
 - (a) Trustee Deliah Balle (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust)

TE TAKE | ISSUE

7. This report is presented at the first meeting of the 2025–2028 triennium to formally record the Committee’s membership and operating arrangements.
8. As membership includes new members, this report provides clarity on how the Committee is structured and how it operates.

9. Members are appointed by each organisation in accordance with their respective processes.
10. The Committee is established under the Joint Management Agreement and operates in accordance with its Terms of Reference and Standing Orders (Attachment 1).

Committee Membership

11. The Committee has eight members:
 - (a) four appointed by Te Arawa River Iwi Trust
 - (b) four appointed by Waikato Regional Council

Meeting Arrangements

12. The Committee usually meets once each year, or more often if required.
13. Meeting conduct is set out in the Committee's *Standing Orders*.
14. Meeting locations alternate between the two organisations.
15. Waikato Regional Council provides administrative support to the Committee.
16. A quorum requires at least two members from each organisation, including a co-chair or deputy.
17. The Committee works towards decisions by consensus where possible.
18. The Committee makes recommendations to each organisation rather than binding decisions.
19. Recording these arrangements at the start of the term supports a shared understanding among members, including those new to the Committee.

NGĀ TOHUTORO | REFERENCES

20. [Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Joint Management Agreement](#)

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Standing Orders for Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-governance Committee – (Doc # 2320875) [↓](#)**

Appendix 1

CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS
BETWEEN
TE ARAWA RIVER IWI TRUST AND WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Standing Orders

Purpose: To provide a specific meeting protocol and structure that will jointly provide for the differing statutory reporting and information needs of a trust (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust) and a public body (the Waikato Regional Council). The Standing Orders give clarity as to what is expected of the members within the meeting, and the protocols governing the recording of minutes, the subsequent release of information and any reporting to the respective organisations.

Reasons for preparing Standing Orders:

The Standing Orders governing meetings of the Waikato Regional Council, including joint meetings under the Local Government Act 2002, are not relevant in these circumstances. The Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 provided for the exemption of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 when carrying out the duties and functions under the Joint Management Agreement and when exercising powers under sections 47((2)(4), 48(3) and 49(5) of (the Act). The Co-Governance Committee wishes to continue this exemption and have therefore developed and agreed on a unique set of Standing Orders.

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust acknowledges that the Waikato Regional Council has responsibilities under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

It is noted that the Co-Governance Committee does not make binding directives and its notices of motion are recommendations only to the two organisations.

1 Interpretation and definitions

Alternates are stand in members for Co-Governance Committee members, chosen from a list approved by the Co-Governance Committee at its first meeting and subsequently amended by the Co-Governance Committee as needed.

Appointments to the Co-Governance Committee are made in accordance with the legislation and/or documents governing each of the organisations.

Chairperson refers to the Chair of the meeting as confirmed at each meeting. Chairing duties within each meeting are considered interchangeable depending on the type of agenda and the collective wish of the members. The host Chairperson will initially convene the meeting, however may relinquish the Chair for all or part of the substantive meeting. Meetings may be jointly chaired.

Co-Chairperson refers to the member selected by each organisation to represent their organisation as leader of the delegation to the Co-Governance Committee, and able to act as Chairperson depending on the venue of the meeting (refer to Clause 2(c) of the Terms of Reference).

Committee support means the staff support provided from either or both organisations and can include observers as well as those who directly support the joint meetings through such services as secretarial works, recording of minutes and preparing agendas and meeting reports.

Deputations are presentations to the Co-Governance Committee from any person or interest group in the community.

Deputy Co-Chairperson refers to those members selected by each organisation; the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council respectively who would stand in for the Co-Chairperson in the event of the Co-Chairperson not being available to chair the meeting.

Excluded means those parts of the meeting or records of those parts that are agreed by the joint meetings, or the Co-Chairpersons (jointly, before or after the Meeting) to be excluded from public view, either permanently or temporarily. Exclusion is to occur for one or more of the following reasons that reflect the needs of both organisations – see also 'public excluded':

- (a) particular information is considered by the Co-Governance Committee or the Co-Chairpersons to be commercially sensitive or its release prior to a specified date would unduly affect the viability of a venture;
- (b) the release of the information or discussion in a public forum would affect the privacy of a person;
- (c) the release of information or public viewing would likely affect 'legal privilege' and/or, potentially the quality of present or future advice received from a legal practitioner;
- (d) The release of information or public viewing could constrain the ability of supporting staff, observers and Co-governance Committee members to freely discuss an issue or make a recommendation on an agenda item;
- (e) Particular information is considered to be culturally sensitive in that it relates to sensitive aspects of Mātauranga Māori; or
- (f) Release of a draft document and/or, public viewing of a discussion or record of a discussion are considered to be premature at that stage and finalisation or adoption or recommendation by the Co-Governance Committee or the Co-Chairpersons (jointly) is still considered necessary before it is considered fit for wider release.

Member is a person appointed to the Co-Governance Committee by either the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust or the Waikato Regional Council.

Membership is to be made up of an equal number of members appointed by each organisation. The members are members of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council respectively.

Minutes means the record of the meeting separately or jointly prepared by the organisations forming the Co-Governance Committee. The minutes are then provided to the both the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council for confirmation. The minutes will be made available to the public with the exception of public excluded items.

Observers are those persons who in the opinion of the Co-Governance Committee may or should attend because they have an ex officio reason to attend because of their position; eg, Councillors or members of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, or those that in the opinion of the Co-Governance Committee may potentially contribute to discussion of one or more agenda items. Observers, at the discretion of the Co-Chairpersons may be permitted to speak, however they do not have voting rights and are not part of the Co-Governance Committee.

Quorum is made up of a Co-Chairperson or deputy from each organisation, and no less than **one** other appointed members from each organisation.

Quotations from legislation in reports and minutes are to be shown in quotation marks and referenced (when preparing minutes for ratification by the Co-Chairpersons and/or public release this can occur following the meetings).

Voting members include only those members appointed to the Co-Governance Committee by the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council and present at the meeting.

Voting on a motion or recommendation requires consensus decision-making and members are to endeavour, at all times, to reach a consensus.

A **workshop** is an informal meeting convened to present, gather and assesses information.

2 Application of Standing Orders

These Standing Orders shall apply to all meetings of the Co-Governance Committee. These Standing Orders shall also apply, so far as applicable to publicly excluded sessions.

3 Committee

The committee is a Co-Governance Committee that includes equal number of members appointed from both the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council.

4 Membership

The membership ongoing shall consist of **four** representatives from each organisation.

5 Suspension of Standing Orders

The Co-Governance Committee may temporarily suspend the Standing Orders by consensus. If consensus is not reached the Co-Governance Committee may on a vote of at least 75% of the members present and voting temporarily suspends the Standing Orders.

6 Alteration of Standing Orders

After the adoption of the first Standing Orders the Co-Governance Committee may adopt, and/or alter Standing Orders by consensus. If consensus is not reached the Co-Governance Committee may on a vote of at least 75% of the members present and voting adopt, amend or alter Standing Orders.

7 Co-Chairpersons to preside at meetings

Either of the Co-Chairpersons may preside at a meeting and they may be regarded as interchangeable throughout the meeting, although the presumption is that the host Co-Chairperson will initially convene the meeting.

8 Appointment of Deputy Co-Chairpersons

Each organisation may appoint Deputy Co-Chairpersons to preside if their Co-Chairperson cannot preside for any reason. If neither a convening (host) Co-Chairperson nor their deputy presides the other Co-Chairperson may preside unless the host members wish to elect one of their members to act in their stead.

9 The Agenda

The Co-Governance Committee shall adopt an agenda, which shall normally apply at meetings. The business shall be considered in the order it appears on the agenda, unless the meeting determines otherwise.

10 Media

As a general principle media are allowed to be present during the public open sections of a Co-Governance Committee meeting.

11 Workshops

Standing Orders will not apply at workshops. Recommendations from workshops in the first instance shall be considered and or approved by the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and the Waikato Regional Council separately.

12 Additional business at meetings

Only business on the agenda shall be transacted at any meeting unless the presiding Chairperson determines that any other matter may be considered. This shall be ratified by consensus of the members.

13 Time limit at meetings

Unless pursuant to a motion to extend the meeting, no meeting shall sit beyond 6 hours at a time, although meetings may be adjourned and reconvened, or extend later than 10pm. Any business on the agenda not dealt with shall be listed for attention at the next meeting.

14 Apologies and leave of absence

The presiding Chairperson may receive apologies at the beginning of the meeting and grant leave of absence to any member upon application by the member. Apologies, any leave of absence as well as the arrival and departure times of members shall be recorded in the minutes.

15 Minutes of proceedings

The Co-Governance Committee shall cause minutes of all its proceedings to be kept and the minutes of proceedings to be duly entered and authenticated by the Co-Chairpersons or their deputies. Those minutes shall be prima facie evidence of proceedings. Only the minute secretary shall make a digital record of the discussion at the Co-Governance Committee meetings unless permission has been sought by the presiding Chairperson.

16 Deputations received by the Co-Governance Committee

- a) Deputations may be presented to the Co-Governance Committee providing that an outline of the presentation has been received and approved by the Co-Chairpersons before the meeting.
- b) The Co-Chairpersons may request a delay or changes to be made to the presentation to avoid repetition, nuisance, or to answer specific questions. The Co-Chairpersons may also agree to give the presentation priority on the agenda.
- c) The Co-Chairpersons or the presiding Chairperson may restrict the numbers of those speaking to a presentation. Unless otherwise determined by the meeting all speakers shall be limited to either the times provided for in an agenda.

17 Procedural motions (1)

Any member who has not spoken may move a procedural motion to terminate or adjourn debate. These motions may include the following:

- a) That the meeting be adjourned to the next meeting, unless an alternative time and place is set; or
- b) That the item of business being discussed be adjourned to a time and place to be stated; or
- c) That the motion under debate be now put (a closure motion); or
- d) That the meeting proceed to the next item of business and suspend the item until the end of the other business; or
- e) That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table and not be further discussed at the meeting; or
- f) That the item of business be referred back to each organisation, a committee, or a joint working party for further work and/or discussion.

18 Procedural motions (2)

- a) Procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate take precedence over all other motions, other than points of order, and shall if seconded, be subject to an immediate vote.
- b) All procedural motions shall be determined by consensus of those present and voting. If consensus cannot be reached procedural motions shall be determined by the majority of those present and voting.
- c) If lost, another procedural motion to terminate or adjourn may not be moved within 45 minutes of the lost motion.
- d) Notwithstanding the statement in 18(c), a motion to terminate or adjourn may be made at any time if no further speakers to the debate.
- e) When an amendment to a motion is under debate, a closure motion relates to the amendment and to the motion. If a closure motion is carried, the mover of the motion then under debate is entitled to a right of reply and then the motion or amendment under debate shall be put.

19 Returning to adjourned items

- a) The debate on the adjourned items of business shall be resumed with the mover of such adjournment being entitled to speak first in the resumed debate.
- b) Adjourned items shall be given higher priority in the next meeting, providing they are positioned to fit alongside related topics.
- c) Remaining business still to be transacted shall be postponed to the next meeting when a motion to adjourn a meeting as a whole is carried.
- d) Any item referred back or to a working party, committee or for further work shall be considered at the next Joint Meeting.

20 The right of a Co-Chairperson to direct

The Co-Chairperson presiding over the meeting may refuse a notice of motion, or direct that it be amended and re-put if it contains:

- a) Disrespectful or offensive language or statements considered to be frivolous and vexatious; or
- b) Is beyond the powers and scope of the Co-Governance Committee, and unrelated to the topics being dealt with; or
- c) Contains ambiguity, or a statement of opinion that by its phrasing cannot be part of a motion or effective resolution or recommendation.

21 Repeating procedural motions

- a) When a subject has been canvassed and a motion is not carried a repeat motion moved at the next meeting will require consensus. In the event that consensus is not reached the vote of a majority of members present and voting to be placed on the agenda.
- b) Unless determined by the meeting as a whole, when a notice of motion has been approved by the Co-Governance Committee, and in the opinion of the Co-Chairpersons, a further motion is presented to the same or similar effect, that second motion shall not be put.

22 Procedure for moving, seconding and proposing a motion for debate

- a) All motions shall have a mover and a seconder.
- b) Once moved and seconded and proposed by the presiding Chairperson for debate they cannot be withdrawn without the consensus of the members.
- c) A motion to which an amendment has been moved and seconded cannot be withdrawn until the amendment is first withdrawn or lost.
- d) When a motion has been seconded and proposed by the presiding Chairperson for discussion, an amendment may be moved and seconded by any member who has not yet spoken. All members may however speak to amendments moved and seconded by other members.
- e) The presiding Chairperson may require the mover of a motion or amendment to submit it in writing.
- f) Amendments that are proposed but not seconded shall not be placed in the minutes.
- g) No further amendments shall be proposed until any earlier amendment is disposed of; although members may give notice to the presiding Chairperson they intend to do so.
- h) If an amendment is lost another amendment may then be proposed by any member who has previously spoken to the motion.

- i) When an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion, and any member, other than previous movers and seconders in the debate, may then propose a further amendment.
- j) Unless determined by consensus of those voting and present a proposed amendment must be relevant to the motion under discussion and not be similar in effect to an amendment that was previously lost, unless determined
- k) No amendment is allowed, which if carried, would negate the substantive motion.
- l) The presiding Chairperson may, immediately prior to a vote request that the motion in question be restated.
- m) Once the presiding Chairperson has put the motion to a vote no member can then speak to the motion.

23 Revoking or altering a motion

- a) All or part of a resolution or recommendation that has been passed at a meeting, may be revoked or altered as follows –
 - (i) the notice of motion shall be written out and supplied to the Co-Governance Committee support staff and shall set out;
 - (ii) the part of the resolution or recommendation proposed to be revoked;
 - (iii) the meeting date when it was passed;
 - (iv) the wording of any substitute motion (if any).
- b) If, during the course of the meeting, fresh facts or information are received concerning a matter already subject to a resolution or recommendation, the resolution or recommendation may be revoked or altered by the consent of at least a 75% vote of those members present and voting.
- c) On a recommendation contained in a report by a Co-Chairperson or deputy, or the report of any working group, committee or delegated group, the members may revoke all or part of any previous resolution or recommendation, provided that written notification of such recommendation shall have been given to the Co-Chairpersons or their deputies and the members within the appropriate notice period.
- d) With respect to (c) above the appropriate notice period is no less than 2 working days prior to the meeting.

24 Rules of debate

- a) A member may second a motion or amendment without speaking to it, reserving the right to speak later in any debate.
- b) In speaking to any motion or amendment, members shall confine their remarks strictly to the motion or amendment and as far as is feasible not be repetitious.
- c) If three speakers have spoken in support of a motion or amendment, the presiding Chairperson may call for a speaker to the contrary. If no such speaker is forthcoming the presiding Chairperson may then call for the motion or amendment to be put.

- d) Speakers shall indicate whether they are in support or opposition or neutral in respect of the motion or amendment.
- e) Where any member objects to a statement they may request the presiding Chairperson to record their opposition to the statement(s) in the minutes, providing the objection is made immediately following the speaker whose words gave rise to the objection and not after others have spoken.
- f) Members may not read speeches, except with the permission of the presiding Chairperson, but may use notes or visual aids if these are relevant and considered to improve the debate.
- g) In speaking in debate no member may cast aspersions on a motion that has been passed except by a notice of motion to amend or revoke the resolution or recommendation – see Section 27 of these Standing Orders.

25 Debate time limits

- a) The following time limits shall apply unless extended by determination of the members present and voting:
 - (i) Movers of motions when speaking to the motion – 10 minutes
 - (ii) Movers of motions, when exercising their right of reply – 5 minutes
 - (iii) Other members – 5 minutes
- b) Subject to any right of reply, a speaker may not speak more than once to a motion.
- c) Members may request the presiding Chairperson to restate the motion for their information at any time during the debate.

26 Right of Reply

- a) The mover of an original motion shall have right of reply. After the mover has commenced such a reply, or has initiated the wish to forgo this right, or having spoken to an amendment to the motion no other speaker shall speak on the motion.
- b) Movers in reply shall not introduce any new matters for debate.
- c) Where no amendment has been moved, the mover may reply at the conclusion of the discussion on the motion.
- d) If there is an amendment, the mover of the original motion may make such reply at the conclusion of the debate on such amendment, and this reply shall exhaust the right of reply. The mover may however, take part in the discussion of any subsequent amendments.

27 Members right to speak

- a) Members may speak to any matter, motion, amendment, or upon a point of order arising out of debate.
- b) Notwithstanding the right of reply members may make a personal explanation with the permission of the presiding Chairperson, but such matters may not be debated.

- c) With the permission of the presiding Chairperson, an explanation, of some material part of the previous speech, may be given by a member who has already spoken, but a new matter may not be introduced.

28 Conduct of meetings and Points of Order

- a) Any member may be called upon to speak to a point of order upon any purported breach of these Standing Orders and the member previously speaking shall be seated and stop speaking.
- b) The member raising the point of order shall concisely state the subject matter of the point of order.
- c) No point of order shall be raised except with the permission of the presiding Chairperson.
- d) Where two or more members rise to speak, the presiding Chairperson shall decide on their speaking order of priority.
- e) Providing that a person raising the point of order to terminate or adjourn the debate; or raising a point of order that includes a request for a time extension for the previous speaker; or make a point of explanation; shall have precedence.
- f) The following are recognized as subjects for points of order:
 - (i) Discussion of a question not on the floor; or
 - (ii) Use of offensive or malicious language; or
 - (iii) The breach of any Standing Order; or
 - (iv) Apparent or actual misrepresentation by members of the Co-Governance Committee; or
 - (v) Factual corrections of reports and other written and verbal material concerning agenda items;
 - (vi) Objection to the wording in minutes or agendas
 - (vii) A request to record reservations as to the above in the minutes
- g) The presiding Chairperson shall decide on Points of Order after providing reasonable opportunity for members to speak to the Point of Order, providing the comment is not considered repetitious, frivolous or vexatious.
- h) When the presiding Chairperson rises during a debate any member speaking or offering to speak shall be seated and members silent to allow the Chairperson to speak.

29 Questions to the presiding Chairperson

- a) Any member may put a question to the presiding Chairperson to be discussed at the meeting, or through the presiding Chairperson to any officer of either organisation concerning any matter relevant to the agenda item.
- b) Where feasible the question should be asked of the presiding Chairperson or the supporting staff prior to the meeting.
- c) If the information is not provided at the next meeting, or where information was requested prior and is not satisfactory or requires clarifying then the member may raise the matter by way of a further question in the meeting, provided that the presiding Chairperson can refer that question to the appropriate officer supporting the meetings.

- d) Where appropriate such questions shall be in writing and handed to the presiding Chairperson prior to the commencement of the meeting or form part of the briefing material attached to the agenda.
- e) If the answer to the meeting cannot be given at the meeting it shall, at the discretion of the presiding Chairperson, be placed on the agenda of the next meeting or be supplied to members as a written briefing report.
- f) Questions and answers shall be provided as concisely as possible in the circumstances and technical material provided as an appendix or referred to in the reply to allow the member or members to request it if they consider it to be important.

30 Questions to officers during debate

- a) In the course of debate, any member may, at the presiding Chairperson's discretion, ask any question of the relevant officer on any matter under debate.
- b) Such questions shall be directed through the presiding Chairperson.

6.2 CONTEXT SETTING

Rā | Date: 15 June 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. This hui is the first co-governance committee meeting between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) and Waikato Regional Council in the new council triennium, providing an opportunity to:
 - (a) Establish shared understanding
 - (b) Confirm statutory context; and
 - (c) Reaffirm the relationship
2. TARIT will provide a verbal presentation and contextual kōrero to the Committee.
3. Detailed background and reference material are included as references to this report.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Context Setting* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 15 June 2026) be received.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR REFERENCE

4. [Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Submission on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill, February 2026](#)
5. [Joint Management Agreement between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council](#)

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.3 UPDATE ON THE CORBICULA FLUMINEA (GOLD CLAM)

Rā | Date: 15 June 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. This report provides the Committee with a high-level update on matters relating to the response to *Corbicula fluminea* (Gold Clam), from a Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) perspective.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The detection and management of Gold Clam continue to be a matter of shared interest for TARIT, Waikato Regional Council (WRC), and a range of central and local government agencies.
3. TARIT has continued to advocate for sustained attention and investment in the response, recognising the potential risks Gold Clam poses to the Waikato River and connected freshwater systems.
4. A **verbal update will be provided by TARIT** to the Committee on recent engagement, current response activities, and emerging matters of interest.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Update on the Corbicula Fluminea (Gold Clam)* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 15 June 2026) be received.

HOROPAKI | BACKGROUND

5. TARIT has maintained an active interest in the Gold Clam response and continues to engage with relevant agencies and stakeholders to ensure the issue remains visible and appropriately prioritised.
6. Recent discussions involving representatives from TARIT, Biosecurity New Zealand, Waikato Regional Council, Auckland Council, Watercare, Mercury, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, and central government have focused on the current response, funding arrangements, and longer-term management considerations. Discussions have highlighted the national significance of the issue and the importance of a coordinated response across affected and at-risk regions. Discussions have also identified ongoing questions regarding future funding requirements

and the extent to which costs should be shared across regions seeking to prevent the establishment of Gold Clam.

7. WRC continues to implement measures aimed at reducing the risk of further spread through Council operations. The attached WRC report notes substantial progress in embedding Check, Clean, Dry protocols across relevant activities. However, it also identifies that there remains a moderate to high risk of further spread within the Waikato region despite these measures.
8. The WRC report further notes that future funding requirements may need to be considered through upcoming Long Term Plan processes following implementation and assessment of current risk management measures.

ĀPITIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Report on reducing the risk of Corbicula spreading through council activities (ICM Meeting, 18 March 2026) – Doc #36220459** [↓](#)

6.2 MINIMISING THE RISK OF CORBICULA SPREAD THROUGH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Rā | Date: 5 March 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Patrick Whaley, Manager - Biosecurity And Biodiversity

Kaituku | Authoriser: Greg Ryan, Director, Integrated Catchment Management

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To update the Integrated Catchment Management Committee (ICMC) on the work completed to date to reduce the risk of Corbicula spreading through council operations, including an update on the budget and forecasted spend for the current financial year.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report outlines progress made following the approval of capital and operational expenditure to reduce the risk of Corbicula spread through council operations. This funding was approved to support the enhanced implementation of Check, Clean, Dry (CCD) procedures, provide dedicated training, equipment, gear and facilities for council staff, and strengthen compliance among contractors.
3. Following the approval of the 'Controlled Area Notice (CAN) plus' investment option in December 2024, the project is in the implementation phase, and the following milestones have been reached:
 - (a) consistent information sharing across all teams
 - (b) Securing of all relevant Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) permissions for specific council activities
 - (c) identification and mapping of high risk waterways and delineation of a CAN+ zone
 - (d) development of online training modules and materials
 - (e) integration of additional auditing contract clauses for contractors.
4. To date, actual spend of allocated funding has been less than anticipated, owing to the efficient modifications made by staff to their work programmes and effective contractor compliance under business-as-usual frameworks.
5. While actual spend is below forecasted levels due to environmental and operational variables, strategic investments in equipment, personnel, and compliance remain important to minimise the spread of Corbicula. Maintaining funding at the forecasted level will ensure that preparedness scenarios can be provided for and there is continued improvement in practices.
6. It is therefore recommended that the forecasted funding for the project remains in place and is reviewed as part of the next Long Term Plan (LTP) deliberations, following the staff completion of comprehensive online CCD training.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Minimising the risk of Corbicula spread through council activities* (Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 18 March 2026) be received.

HOROPAKI | BACKGROUND

7. Following extensive internal work to assess the risks associated with Corbicula spread resulting from council operations, a business case was developed in 2024 recommending the comprehensive Check Clean Dry (CCD) implementation within the geography (from the Whakamaru Dam to the outflow at Port Waikato) covered by the Controlled Area Notice (CAN) and all adjoining high risk waterways.
8. As a result of this analysis, in December 2024, the council approved:
 - (a) CAPEX: \$414,000 to purchase equipment and gear to meet CCD requirements
 - (b) OPEX: \$170,000 per year for three years (from 2025/26 to 2027/28) to support operational costs.
9. The funding was approved to enable:
 - (a) purchase of additional equipment and gear for council teams working in waterways throughout the region to meet CCD standards
 - (b) provision of space to house facilities for storing, cleaning and drying of gear and equipment
 - (c) provision of education and training for staff and contractors to embed consistent CCD practices across the organisation
 - (d) more frequent auditing of council operations and contractors to lift CCD standards and maintain compliance
 - (e) field research and development, enabling opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of CCD procedures through innovation over time.
 - (f) the deployment of additional staff and contractor resources to implement the above.
10. Since the approval of funding, significant progress has been made on establishing new internal processes/standard operating procedures, procuring necessary plant and equipment and completing the development of an online training programme to minimise the risk of WRC activities spreading Corbicula.
11. Specifically, the approved funding has been utilised for the following workstreams.
 - (a) Mapping – identify and map CAN and CAN+ (high flood risk areas). This task is complete and has been incorporated into OurMaps for staff to access. Defining the CAN+ area has been a complex and highly collaborative process and has been a key dependency for other tasks, including the confirmation of additional gear, equipment and vehicle requirements for key teams. With confirmation of the CAN+/high risk areas, teams have also been able to modify their activities to reduce the need for procuring additional gear, equipment and vehicles.
 - (b) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – develop SOPs for key teams to clearly set out the most practical CCD protocols to implement for specific gear and equipment. This task is currently in progress.
 - (c) Training – development of an eLearning module on CCD requirements. This has been made available to all staff and contractors to complete prior to undertaking work

within the Waikato River and high-risk waterways. The module has been completed and is being integrated into the Council’s online systems.

- (d) Plant and equipment – procurement of plant and equipment to improve team efficiencies with implementing CCD. This includes setting up a new drying area to help with storage of CAN gear. This task is ongoing.
- (e) Information sharing – establishing a central platform for staff to hold and communicate information and policy documentation relating to Corbicula. This task is ongoing.
- (f) MPI permissions – obtaining additional MPI permissions for several council activities. This has enabled cost efficiencies for some teams (such as a reduced dry/standdown time for harbourmaster vessels subject to applying a specific treatment).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 12. Table 1 presents the overall budget, actuals, and forecasted expenditure for CAPEX and OPEX in relation to key activities outlined above.

Table 1: Total spend against approved budget

Expenditure Type	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Remaining (\$)	Forecast (\$)
CAPEX	\$414,000.00	\$10,106.53	\$403,893.47	\$225,500.00
OPEX	\$170,000.00	\$121,454.63	\$48,545.37	\$48,600.00
TOTAL	\$584,000.00	\$131,561.16	\$452,438.84	\$274,100.00

- 13. Factors contributing to current expenditure profile are outlined below.

Actual

- (a) Staff have been able to reconfigure their work to commence at uninfected sites then move sequentially from high risk areas to infected areas, negating the need to implement some aspects of CCD when moving between sites.
- (b) The number of contractors and staff operating within the CAN has been limited, minimising the need for the purchase of additional gear and equipment. It is noted that the more substantial river management work programme that is enabled by the new vessel Te Iaroa is still to commence.
- (c) Some larger capital items, such as additional service vehicles, have not been required due to staff being able to limit operations either inside the CAN or outside the CAN.

Forecast

- (d) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for key teams and training modules are currently being finalised. As such there could be additional equipment required to support implementation of CCD in accordance with the SOPs.
- (e) Anticipated revisions to an MPI permission will extend the area within the Waikato River where CCD is required to be implemented for Councils prior to moving to other areas. Additional equipment may be needed to meet the permission requirements in addition to revisions to internal policy documents to communicate these changes.

Integrated Catchment Management Committee Meeting Agenda

18 March 2026

- (f) There is an ongoing risk of further Corbicula spread as a result of flood events resulting in further CCD requirements.
- (g) There will be ongoing additional cost for contractors operating within high risk and CAN areas. These include costs associated with education and training, cleaning and standdown time for gear and equipment used within CAN and CAN+ areas.
- (h) Additional plant and equipment have been identified across various Council locations. This includes the procurement of further plant and equipment to improve operational efficiency and support staff in the effective application of CCD.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- 14. Despite the progress made, the following strategic risks remain in relation to the ongoing management of Corbicula issues within the region.
- 15. There is a **high to moderate risk** that Corbicula will continue to spread through the Waikato region despite the level of investment into CCD best practice procedures by the council. This is because Corbicula may still be spread via flood events or other individuals/organisations (either knowingly or unknowingly). The impact of this risk on the council as a business is **HIGH** because of the scale of flooding and drainage infrastructure that could be potentially affected. This risk is outside the control of the project.
- 16. Given the likelihood of further CCD requirements, and the unpredictability of high rainfall events and their potential to escalate the risk of further Corbicula spread, staff consider it prudent to retain the approved funding profile through to 2027/28.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

- 17. Substantial progress has been made in embedding CCD protocols and preparing for future risks. Given the likelihood of further CCD requirements, and the unpredictability of high rainfall events and their potential to escalate risk, it is currently prudent to retain the approved funding profile through to 2027/28. This ensures that the council remains prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any emerging threats and continues to lead in biosecurity best practice.
- 18. It is however also recommended that funding needs for the project be reassessed as part of the next Long Term Plan deliberations, following the implementation of comprehensive CCD training.

NGĀ TOHUTORO | REFERENCES

- 19. Check, Clean, Dry Protocols | Ministry for Primary Industries

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.4 STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAMME

Rā | Date: 15 June 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Co-Governance Committee to provide clear direction on the strategic priorities, focus areas, and level of ambition to be reflected in a Strategic Work Programme between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) and Waikato Regional Council (WRC) for the current triennium.
2. This discussion is intended to guide the preparation of a draft Strategic Work Programme for subsequent Committee consideration and approval.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. The Joint Management Agreement between TARIT and WRC includes an explicit commitment for the Parties to develop and maintain a Strategic Work Programme to guide partnership activity.
4. Over recent years, the partnership has delivered a range of tangible outcomes, including collaborative restoration initiatives, coordinated responses to emerging biosecurity risks, and improved access to external funding through established relationship pathways
5. The proposed Strategic Work Programme is not intended to duplicate existing operational work programmes or statutory responsibilities. Rather, it is intended to identify a focused set of partnership-critical priorities where co-governance direction, oversight, and alignment can add the greatest strategic value.
6. The Committee is invited to consider which areas should be elevated into a strategic programme, the outcomes sought, and the appropriate role of co-governance in progressing those areas.
7. The outcome of this discussion will be used by staff to prepare a draft Strategic Work Programme for formal consideration.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Strategic Work Programme* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 15 June 2026) be received.

HOROPAKI | BACKGROUND

8. The partnership between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council has matured to a point where there is both the opportunity and expectation to take a more deliberate and strategic approach to joint work planning.
9. The Joint Management Agreement provides the mandate for this, including a commitment to develop a Strategic Work Programme that identifies collaborative priorities, implementation matters, and other agreed areas of focus, with provision for regular review and updating.

Figure 1: Extract from Joint Management Agreement

<p>19. Strategic Work Programme</p> <p>19.1 The parties will work together to develop and agree a work programme for the implementation of this Agreement ("Strategic Work Programme").</p> <p>19.2 The Strategic Work Programme will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) Collaborative projects between TARIT and Council;(b) Implementation of the matters outlined in this Agreement and its schedules;(c) Defined areas of focus for TARIT and the Council; and(d) Additional matters as mutually agreed. <p>19.3 The Strategic Work Programme will be reviewed and updated every three years, or as agreed by both parties, ensuring it remains a living document that can be adapted to future developments as necessary.</p> <p>19.4 To maintain oversight of activities, the Strategic Work Programme will be a standing item for Co-Governance meetings.</p>

10. To date, collaboration has largely occurred through operational programmes, statutory processes, and responsive engagement. While these mechanisms remain essential, they do not always provide a clear line of sight for co-governance over where effort is most needed, what success looks like, and how partnership value is being realised at a strategic level.
11. The development of a Strategic Work Programme is therefore intended to provide that line of sight, by identifying a small number of priority areas where coordinated leadership, visibility, and alignment will materially improve outcomes.

TE TAKE | ISSUE

12. The Committee is not being asked to confirm a draft programme at this stage. Instead, the focus of this agenda item is to guide a structured discussion that will inform its preparation.
13. The Strategic Work Programme is expressly not intended to replace existing operational work programmes, statutory obligations, or directorate delivery plans. It is also not intended to be an exhaustive record of all partnership activity. Its role is to elevate a limited number of partnership-critical initiatives where there is clear strategic value, a realistic opportunity

for progress within the triennium, and an appropriate role for co-governance leadership and oversight.

14. Based on previous Committee direction, delivery experience, and recent regional discussions, there are indications that several existing areas of focus may remain relevant. These include improving the accessibility and governance relevance of State of Environment monitoring, responding to emerging biosecurity threats such as freshwater gold clams, strengthening visibility of Te Ture Whaimana implementation, and enhancing oversight of significant collaborative projects and regional initiatives.
15. These areas are presented as examples to support discussion only. They are not proposed as predetermined components of the Strategic Work Programme

Initiative	Outcome	Key Actions	Delivery Assessment
State of Environment Monitoring	State of Environment information becomes more accessible and relevant for TARIT governance needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility of information • Improve visibility of who is undertaking monitoring and where 	Deliverable within existing programmes
Te Ture Whaimana Reporting	Improved visibility of how Te Ture Whaimana is being given effect to through council activity, alongside improved coordination of environmental monitoring activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue development of approaches that embed Te Ture Whaimana reporting into business-as-usual activity • Improve governance visibility of implementation and delivery 	Existing programme activity, although prioritisation of monitoring and reporting initiatives may be required over time
Collaborative Project Visibility and Insights	Improved governance visibility of significant collaborative projects and regional initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake site visits or presentations where appropriate to support governance understanding and partnership alignment 	Deliverable within existing governance and partnership functions
Freshwater Gold Clams (<i>Corbicula Fluminea</i>)	Improved alignment and visibility of investment opportunities to support priority actions to prevent the spread of <i>Corbicula</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Advocacy for Funding to prevent the spread of invasive <i>Corbicula</i>. 	Engagement at Ministerial level has already occurred, including direct discussions with iwi partners and stakeholders to explore opportunities to increase investment and identify priority initiatives. However, there is no confirmed pathway to new or expanded

			<p>Crown funding in the short term. Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) has signalled that its current programme budget is fully committed and will not increase within the current financial year, with available funding continuing to prioritise existing activities such as surveillance and behaviour change programmes. More broadly, the programme is operating within a constrained and fragmented funding environment, with contributions coming from multiple agencies, councils, iwi and sector partners, but without a consolidated investment framework or quantified understanding of total system spend. Work is underway (led by BNZ with input from programme partners), to scope longer-term financial requirements and develop a cost-benefit case to support future funding bids. This will underpin any coordinated advocacy position</p>
--	--	--	--

16. To support the development of a robust and targeted programme, the Committee’s discussion should provide direction on:
 - (a) which priority areas warrant inclusion at a strategic level
 - (b) the outcomes the Committee expects to see achieved over the triennium
 - (c) where co-governance involvement will add the greatest value (e.g. direction-setting, advocacy, visibility, coordination)
 - (d) the level of focus and number of initiatives that is realistic and manageable
17. This will ensure the resulting programme is both strategically meaningful and deliverable.
18. Following this session, staff will prepare a draft Strategic Work Programme that clearly reflects the Committee’s direction, including defined focus areas, intended outcomes, and indicative approaches to delivery. This draft will be brought back to the Committee for formal consideration and approval.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

19. The development of a Strategic Work Programme represents an opportunity to sharpen the focus of the partnership and strengthen the role of co-governance in shaping priority outcomes.
20. Clear direction from the Committee through this discussion will enable staff to prepare a targeted, practical, and strategically aligned draft programme for consideration.

REFERENCES

[Joint Management Agreement between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council \(signed 2012, amended 2025\)](#)

ĀPITIHINGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Rā | Date: 15 June 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

Kaituku | Authoriser: Mali Ahipene, Pou Tuhono

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To provide the Co-governance Committee with a high-level overview of local government reform and an opportunity to discuss Council's current thinking, including matters relevant to a possible single unitary authority for the Waikato.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 5 May 2026, the Government announced the Head Start pathway as a streamlined, voluntary process for territorial and unitary authorities that are ready to progress local government reorganisation ahead of wider reform from 2028.
3. Under this pathway, groups of territorial and/or unitary authorities may submit outline proposals to establish one or more new unitary authorities. Regional councils cannot submit a proposal or count toward the majority required, but they may contribute to the development of proposals.
4. Outline proposals are due by 9 August 2026. Government decisions on which proposals will proceed to detailed design are expected in September 2026, with final policy decisions on detailed proposals expected in 2027.
5. If councils do not progress through Head Start, they are expected to be addressed through a wider compulsory reform process following the 2028 local elections.
6. The policy also states that Treaty settlement arrangements must continue to be provided for. Councils will need to engage with relevant post-settlement governance entities to demonstrate how existing arrangements could transfer to any new unitary authority with equivalent effect.
7. For Waikato Regional Council, the reform context has implications for governance arrangements, regional functions, and relationships with iwi and post-settlement governance entities across the region.
8. This report is provided to support an initial discussion on those matters, including Council's current interest in exploring a possible single unitary authority model for the Waikato and its role in contributing to outline proposal development alongside territorial authorities.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Local Government Reform* (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council Co-Governance Committee, 15 June 2026) be received.

WHAKAKAPI | CONCLUSION

9. Local government reform is evolving quickly and is likely to have significant implications for governance arrangements in the Waikato, including how regional functions and Treaty settlement commitments are provided for in any future model. At this stage, the purpose of this report is to support early discussion and shared understanding. Further advice and updates can be provided as the reform pathway becomes clearer.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA