



# **MINUTES**

## **Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 20 August 2026**

## Order Of Business

|          |                                                                                    |          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Karakia Timatanga</b>                                                           | <b>4</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Apologies</b>                                                                   | <b>4</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Confirmation of Agenda</b>                                                      | <b>4</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Disclosures of Interest</b>                                                     | <b>4</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Minutes for Confirmation or Receipt</b>                                         | <b>4</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>General Items</b>                                                               | <b>4</b> |
| 6.1      | Insurance Council of New Zealand Presentation                                      | 4        |
| 6.2      | Frequency and Intensity of Extreme Rainfall in the Waikato Region                  | 5        |
| 6.3      | Waikato Regional Council Annual Organisational Climate Change Risk Assessment 2026 | 5        |
| 6.4      | How does economic development fit into Simplifying Local Government?               | 6        |
| 6.5      | Regional economic development strategy steering group and advisory panel           | 6        |
| 6.6      | AI Data Centres and the Waikato Region                                             | 7        |
| 6.7      | Chair's Report                                                                     | 7        |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Karakia Whakamutunga</b>                                                        | <b>7</b> |

**Waikato Regional Council**  
**Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting**  
**OPEN MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 20 August 2026, 9.29am  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
Waikato Regional Council  
Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

**Members Present:** Cr Keith Holmes – Committee Chair  
Cr Robert Cookson (from 10.22am until 10.22am. Back at 10.51am until 11.09am. Back at 11.24am)  
Cr Warren Maher (from 10.22am)  
Cr Gary McGuire  
Cr Garry Reymer

**Staff Present:** Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office  
Brooke Roebeck – Democracy Advisor

*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 | 38377242      | <a href="https://youtu.be/33l_S9SXPyl">https://youtu.be/33l_S9SXPyl</a> |
| Recording 2 | 38377725      | <a href="https://youtu.be/m-Orn0c8HBw">https://youtu.be/m-Orn0c8HBw</a> |

**1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 10 seconds.

The Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office (Karen Bennett) opened the meeting with a karakia.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 35 seconds.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/08**

**MOVED: CR GARY MCGUIRE**

**SECONDED: CR GARRY REYMER**

**THAT THE APOLOGIES OF CR BEN DUNBAR-SMITH, CR ANGELA STRANGE AND CR JENNIFER NICKEL FOR ABSENCE; AND CR WARREN MAHER AND CR ROBERT COOKSON FOR LATENESS BE ACCEPTED.**

**CARRIED**

**3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 1 minute7 seconds.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/09**

**Moved: Cr Garry Reymer**

**Seconded: Cr Gary McGuire**

- 1. That the agenda of the Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting of 20 August 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.**

**CARRIED**

**4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 1 minute 35 seconds.

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

**5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT**

Nil.

**6 GENERAL ITEMS****6.1 INSURANCE COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND PRESENTATION**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 1 minute 52 seconds.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Insurance Council of New Zealand (Kris Faafoi), Chief Executive, AA Insurance (Michelle James).and the Resilience Leader, Insurance Council of New Zealand (James Baigent). Refer Document # 38187145 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/10**

**Moved:** Cr Gary McGuire

**Seconded:** Cr Garry Reymer

**That the report *Presentation – Insurance Council of New Zealand (Strategy and Policy Committee, 19 May 2026)* be received.**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF EXTREME RAINFALL IN THE WAIKATO REGION**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 38 minutes 40 seconds.

Presented by the Senior Scientist, Water (Bevan Jenkins) and the Team Leader, Water and Hydrology (Thomas Wilding). Refer Document # 38199289 at pages 2-11 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

10.22am – Cr Warren Maher and Cr Robert Cookson entered the meeting.

10.22am – Cr Robert Cookson left the meeting.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/11**

**Moved:** Cr Keith Holmes

**Seconded:** Cr Gary McGuire

**That the report *Frequency and Intensity of Extreme Rainfall in the Waikato Region (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026)* be received.**

**CARRIED**

**6.3 WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL ORGANISATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT 2026**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 hour 1 minute and 18 seconds.

Presented by the Sustainability and Climate Change Senior Advisor (Joy Moir) and Principal Regional Resilience Advisor (Rick Leifing). Refer Document # 38199289 at pages 12-16 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/12**

**Moved:** Cr Keith Holmes

**Seconded:** Cr Gary McGuire

**That the report *Waikato Regional Council Annual Organisational Climate Change Risk Assessment 2026 (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026)* be received.**

**CARRIED****6.4 HOW DOES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FIT INTO SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT?**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 hour 19 minutes 50 seconds.

Presented by the Principal Economist (Blair Keenan) and Regional Economic Development Lead (Tariq Ashraf).

10.51am – Cr Robert Cookson entered the meeting.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/13**

**Moved:** Cr Keith Holmes

**Seconded:** Cr Garry Reymer

**That the report *How does economic development fit into Simplifying Local Government?* (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026) be received.**

**CARRIED**

11.09am – The meeting adjourned. During the adjournment Cr Robbie Cookson left the meeting.

11.18am – The meeting reconvened.

**6.5 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STEERING GROUP AND ADVISORY PANEL**

Item commenced in open recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Regional Economic Development Lead (Tariq Ashraf). Refer Document # 38199289 at pages 17-19 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

11.24am – Cr Robert Cookson entered the meeting .

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/14**

**Moved:** Cr Garry Reymer

**Seconded:** Cr Warren Maher

- 1. That the report *Regional economic development strategy steering group and advisory panel* (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026) be received.**
- 2. That the Committee endorses and recommends that Council establishes the Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy Implementation Plan Steering Group and adopts its *Terms of Reference* (refer *Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Agenda, 20 August 2026 at pages 41-42*).**
- 3. That the Committee endorses and recommends that Council establishes the Waikato Regional Council Economic Development Advisory Panel and adopts its *Terms of Reference* (refer *Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Agenda, 20 August 2026 at pages 43-44*).**
- 4. That the Committee notes that staff will recommend potential members of the Advisory Panel to a working group of councillors at the earliest opportunity.**

**CARRIED****6.6 AI DATA CENTRES AND THE WAIKATO REGION**

Item commenced in open recording 2, at 21 minutes 41 seconds.

Presented by the Regional Economic Development Lead (Tariq Ashraf) and the Sustainability and Climate Change Senior Advisor (Joy Moir). Refer Document # 38199289 at page 20-27 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/15**

**Moved:** Cr Garry Reymer

**Seconded:** Cr Gary McGuire

1. That the report *AI Data Centres and the Waikato Region* (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026) be received.
2. That the committee recommends to Council that staff prepare a draft position statement for the council's consideration.
3. That the committee notes that staff will report back to the Regional Growth and Resilience Committee with a draft position statement for the council to consider before it is shared for feedback from territorial authorities, the community and iwi.

**CARRIED****6.7 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Item commenced in open recording 2, at 43 minutes 50 seconds.

Presented by the Committee Chair (Cr Keith Holmes). Refer Document # 38390909 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/16**

**Moved:** Cr Keith Holmes

**Seconded:** Cr Gary McGuire

That the *Chair's Report* (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 20 August 2026) be received.

**CARRIED****7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Item commenced in open recording 2, at 47 minutes 36 seconds.

The Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office (Karen Bennett) closed the meeting with a karakia.

12.08pm – The meeting closed.