

Waikato



REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

MINUTES

**Waiora Co-Governance Committee
Meeting**

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

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Waikato Regional Council
Waiora Co-Governance Committee Meeting
OPEN MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 9 September 2025, 10.00am

Location: Council Chambers

Waikato Regional Council

Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present:

Trustee Maria Nepia – Committee Co-Chair – Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board

Cr Bruce Clarkson – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council

Cr Noel Smith – Committee Deputy Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council

Trustee Jackie Colliar – Waikato Raupatu River Trust

Cr Robert Cookson – Waikato Regional Council

Cr Mich'eal Downard – Waikato Regional Council

Trustee Evelyn Forrest – Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

Trustee Nachele Griffiths – Raukawa Charitable Trust (Interim)

Cr Stuart Kneebone – Waikato Regional Council

Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui (virtually via Teams)

In Attendance:

Cr Tipa Mahuta – Waikato Regional Council

Staff Present:

Jo Ireland – Chief Executive, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

Tracey May – Director, Science, Policy and Information, Waikato Regional Council

Tramaine Murray – Group Taiao Manager, Te Nehenehenui

Jason Nepia – Economic Manager, Te Nehenehenui

Peter Shepherd – Manager Natural Resources, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board

Billy Brough – Technical Advisor, River Iwi

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	33127440	https://youtu.be/wHnkrbn95v8
Meeting Recording 2	33128018	https://youtu.be/Tbld3wSrOWE

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

Cr Stuart Kneebone opened the meeting with a karakia.

10.01am – The meeting adjourned.

10.46am – The meeting reconvened.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording 2, at start.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/11

Moved: Cr Mich'eal Downard

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

1. That the agenda of the Waiora Co-Governance Committee 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 2, at 2 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**WAIORA CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 JULY 2025**

Item commenced in recording 2, at 2 minutes 3 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/12

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Trustee Evelyn Forrest

That the minutes of the Waiora Co-Governance Committee Meeting held on 21 July 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

7 GENERAL ITEMS

7.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONSENTING AND OTHER SYSTEM CHANGES) AMENDMENT ACT

Item commenced in recording 2, at 13 minutes 23 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe) and Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/13

Moved: Trustee Nachele Griffiths

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

- 1. That the report *Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025)* be received.**
- 2. The Waiora Co-Governance Committee noted that the Resource Management Act (RMA) includes specific protections that ensure planning instruments intended to give effect to Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation (settlement legislation), such as Te Ture Whaimana are safeguarded from procedural delays and ministerial override under s360 of the RMA:**
 - (a) s80T automatically exempts planning instruments that implement settlement legislation from the temporary halt on plan-making processes until 31 December 2027.**
 - (b) s360I(2)(c)(i) prohibits the Minister from recommending regulations that would modify or remove provisions in plans or policy statements that implement settlement legislation.**

CARRIED

7.2 ENGAGEMENT UPDATE FOR THE FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 2, at 43 minutes 3 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Social and Economic Science (Jacqueline Henry). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/14

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Bruce Clarkson

That the report *Engagement update for the Freshwater Policy Review* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.3 STRUCTURED REPORTING APPROACH FOR THE FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW

Item commenced in recording 2, at 46 minutes 18 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe) and Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/15

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Trustee Jackie Colliar

That the report *Structured reporting approach for the Freshwater Policy Review* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.4 POLICY UPDATE - IDENTIFICATION OF THREATENED SPECIES AND PROTECTION OF HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS FRESHWATER SPECIES

Item commenced in recording 2, at 52 minutes 53 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe) and Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/16

Moved: Cr Stuart Kneebone

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the report *Policy update - identification of threatened species and protection of habitats of indigenous freshwater species* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED

7.5 INTRODUCTION TO FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW TOPIC: FISH HABITAT AND PASSAGE

Item commenced in recording 2, at 59 minutes 11 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe) and Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/17**Moved:** Trustee Nachele Griffiths**Seconded:** Cr Stuart Kneebone

That the report *Introduction to Freshwater Policy Review topic: fish habitat and passage* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED**7.6 DRAFT APPROACH TO LAKE MANAGEMENT**

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 3 minutes 48 seconds.

Presented by the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe) and Team Leader, Water Policy (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 33100330 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WCGC25/18**Moved:** Trustee Jackie Colliar**Seconded:** Cr Mich'eal Downard

That the report *Draft approach to lake management* (Waiora Co-Governance Committee, 9 September 2025) be received.

CARRIED**8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 10 minutes 54 seconds.

Cr Stuart Kneebone closed the meeting with a karakia.

11.58am – The meeting closed.