



MINUTES

Integrated Catchment Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 27 May 2026

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Waikato Regional Council
Integrated Catchment Management Committee Meeting
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 27 May 2026, 1.00pm
Location: Council Chambers
 Waikato Regional Council
 Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present: Cr Robert Cookson – Chair
 Cr Noel Smith – Deputy-Chair (Chair for the duration of the meeting)
 Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
 Cr Kataraina Hodge
 Cr Keith Holmes
 Cr Chris Hughes (until 2.21pm)
 Cr Warren Maher
 Cr Tipa Mahuta (virtually via Teams, from 2.14pm).
 Cr Gary McGuire
 Cr Jennifer Nickel
 Cr Garry Reymer (virtually via Teams until 2.24pm)

In Attendance: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith

Staff Present: Chris McLay – Chief Executive
 Greg Ryan – Director, Integrated Catchment Management
 Patrick Whaley – Manager, Biosecurity and Biodiversity
 Jordan Metz – 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
Open Meeting Recording #1	36130664	https://youtu.be/w9a3ZKAYHTk
Public Excluded Recording	36043713	-
Open Meeting Recording #2	36133837	https://youtu.be/5vFDr3f8M
Open Meeting Recording #3	36127817	https://youtu.be/86vUdQ2OCmg

The Deputy-Chair (Cr Noel Smith) assumed the chair for the duration of the meeting.

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in open recording 1, at start.

The Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan) opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 37 seconds.

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/14

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Warren Maher

That the apologies of Cr Tipa Mahuta for lateness be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 1 minute 11 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/15

Moved: Cr Warren Maher

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

- 1. That the agenda of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee Meeting of 27 May 2026, as circulated, be confirmed as the business of the meeting, subject to:**
- 2. 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 open recording 1 at 2 minutes.

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

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 2 minutes 5 seconds.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/16

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Warren Maher

- That in accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (Act)* and the interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act, the public is excluded from the following parts of this meeting. The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public are set out below:

Meeting item no. and subject	Grounds for excluding the public	Reason for excluding the public
7.1 - Receipt of Legal Advice for Self-Administration	s7(2)(g) of the Act - To maintain legal professional privilege	section 48(1)(a)(i) of the Act - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

- That Mark Hammond and Megan Crocket (Thompkins Wake) remain in this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of the items to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because of its specialised nature and the benefit to be gained from expert advice.

CARRIED

1.03pm – The meeting moved into public excluded session.

7.1 RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE FOR SELF ADMINISTRATION

Item commenced in public excluded recording, at start.

Presented by the Senior Litigator, Tompkins Wake (Mark Hammond) and Senior Consultant, Tompkins Wake (Megan Crocket).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/17

Moved: Cr Robert Cookson

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

1. That the report *Receipt of Legal Advice for Self-Administration (Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 27 May 2026)* be received.
2. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee does not recommend any amendment to the Self Administration Policy and Agreement in response to the request from landowner Trevor Simpson.
3. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee recommends that a review of the Self Administration Policy and Agreement is completed to address recommendations included in this legal advice.
4. That the decision be released into the open session of the meeting.
5. That the legal advice be considered for release in due course (at the discretion of the Chief Executive (Chris McLay)).

CARRIED

Item commenced in public excluded recording, at 27 minutes 8 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/18

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Warren Maher

That the meeting return to the open session.

CARRIED

1.31pm – The meeting moved back to open session.

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 NATURAL HERITAGE FUND APPLICATIONS

Item commenced in open recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Manager, Biosecurity and Biodiversity (Patrick Whaley), Team Leader Biodiversity (Natasha Grainger) and the Senior Biodiversity Officer (Andrew Thomas). Refer Document # 36095000 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

Action: That the Natural Heritage Fund Policy (NHF) be reviewed at the next appropriate Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/19

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Warren Maher

1. That the report *Natural Heritage Fund Applications* (Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 27 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee approve a total distribution of \$1,899,116 to four applications, as follows:
 - (a) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$340,000 be granted to Thames Coast Kiwi Care Incorporated for the Mountains to sea: Thames Coast predator control and habitat protection project
 - (b) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$72,816 be granted to Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust for the Mokaihaha Predator Control and Kōkako Survey project
 - (c) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$346,000 be granted to New Zealand Landcare Trust for the Taiea te Taiao Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor project.
3. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee decline the following Natural Heritage Fund applications:
 - (a) Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust (\$477,185 for the Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao project)
 - (b) Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust (\$305,567 for the Wairere Mahi project).
4. That \$122,006 of unallocated funding be transferred into the Natural Heritage Fund reserve for distribution in the 2027/28 funding round.

CARRIED

Administrative Note: The Resolution ICM26/19 was amended at the meeting of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 18 June 2026. The corrected and amended resolution is as follows, noting that paragraph four (the transfer of \$122,006 of unallocated funding into the reserve) was revoked:

1. That the report *Natural Heritage Fund Applications* (Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 27 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee approve a total distribution of \$758,816 to three applications, as follows:
 - (a) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$340,000 be granted to Thames Coast Kiwi Care Incorporated for the Mountains to sea: Thames Coast predator control and habitat protection project
 - (b) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$72,816 be granted to Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust for the Mokaihaha Predator Control and Kōkako Survey project
 - (c) That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$346,000 be granted to New Zealand Landcare Trust for the Taiea te Taiao Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor project.
3. That the Integrated Catchment Management Committee decline the following Natural Heritage Fund applications:
 - (a) Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust (\$477,185 for the Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao project)

- (b) **Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust (\$305,567 for the Wairere Mahi project).**

MOTION

Moved: Cr Liz Stolwyk

Seconded: Cr Noel Smith

That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$1,140,300 be granted to Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the Maungatautari – the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being project.

AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/20

Moved: Cr Chris Hughes

Seconded: Cr Garry Reymer

That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$383,240 per annum for two years (inflation adjusted) be granted to Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the Maungatautari – the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being project.

CARRIED

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

Moved: Cr Chris Hughes

Seconded: Cr Garry Reymer

That a Natural Heritage Fund grant of \$383,240 per annum for two years (inflation adjusted) be granted to Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the Maungatautari – the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being project.

2.21pm – The meeting adjourned. During the adjournment Cr Chris Hughes and Cr Garry Reymer left the meeting.

2.25pm – The meeting reconvened.

The substantive motion was not put. During the adjournment Cr Chris Hughes and Cr Garry Reymer left the meeting, and consequently the motion lapsed. The chair requested that Council consider this matter at its meeting on 25 June 2026.

6.2 TRIAL OF THE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK IN THE MOTUKARAKA CATCHMENT

Item commenced in open recording 3, at 3 minutes 41 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ICM26/21

Moved: Cr Tipa Mahuta

Seconded: Cr Chris Hughes

1. That the report *Trial of the Sustainable Infrastructure Decision-making Framework in the Motukaraka catchment* (Integrated Catchment Management Committee, 27 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Committee acknowledge and thank catchment stakeholders for their commitment, time and effort to participate in the trial of the SIDF on the Motukaraka Catchment.
3. The Integrated Catchment Management Committee recommends to the Strategy and Policy Committee that the SIDF decision making framework Policy is reviewed urgently.

CARRIED

6 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in open recording 3, at 22 minutes5 seconds.

The Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan) closed the meeting with a Karakia.

2.47pm – The meeting closed.