



WORKSHOP MINUTES

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

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Waikato Regional Council

WORKSHOP MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 17 June 2026, 9.30am

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

Members Present: Cr Keith Holmes – Workshop Chair (until 11.08am)
 Cr Warren Maher – Workshop Chair (from 11.24am)
 Cr Robert Cookson
 Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
 Cr Kataraina Hodge
 Cr Chris Hughes
 Cr Tipa Mahuta
 Cr Gary McGuire
 Cr Jennifer Nickel (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Garry Reymer
 Cr Noel Smith
 Cr Liz Stolwyk
 Cr Angela Strange

Staff Present: Janine Becker – Director, Customer and Corporate Services
 Brent Sinclair – Director, Resource Use
 Greg Ryan – Director, Integrated Catchment Management
 Tracey May – Director, Science Policy and Information
 Phil King – Director, Regional Transport Connections
 Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executive’s Office
 Stuart Brown – Executive Manager, People and Capability
 Tariq Asraf – Regional Economic Development Lead
 Melissa Groen – Enterprise Portfolio Office Lead
 Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy (item 2.1)
 Jordan Metz – Democracy Advisor (item 2.2 and 3.1)

Apologies Received: Cr Mich’eal Downard for absence

The contents of these workshop minutes meet all legal requirements. Workshops are not official meetings and do not contain any decisions. They are for discussion purposes only.

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

Open Recording #1	36553645	https://youtu.be/-4Ava7IQVco
Open Recording #2	36559248	https://youtu.be/gfDluysWkxw

Cr Keith Holmes assumed the Chair

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

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

2 WORKSHOP PAPER(S)

2.1 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Item commenced in recording 1, at 26 seconds.

Presented by the Economic Development Lead (Tariq Asraf). Refer Document # 36557780 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

11.08am – The workshop adjourned. Cr Keith Holmes vacated the Chair.

11.24am – The workshop reconvened. Cr Warren Maher assumed the Chair.

2.2 2027-2037 LTP INITIATION AND APPROACH

Item commenced in recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 36566967 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

3 PUBLIC EXCLUDED WORKSHOP ITEMS

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY DUE DILLIGENCE

There was no public excluded session during this workshop, and this item has been deferred to the council workshop to be held on 4 August 2026.

3 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Cr Kataraina Hodge closed the meeting with a Karakia.

1.09pm – The workshop concluded.