



MINUTES

Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 5 August 2026

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Waikato Regional Council
Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 5 August 2026, 9.30am

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

Members Present: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith – Committee Chair
Cr Liz Stolwyk – Committee Deputy-Chair
Cr Robert Cookson (from 9.33am until 10.30am. Back at 10.37am)
Cr Mich'eal Downard (virtually via Teams, until 11.40am)
Cr Kataraina Hodge
Cr Keith Holmes
Cr Chris Hughes
Cr Warren Maher (from 9.44am)
Cr Tipa Mahuta (virtually via Teams, from 9.35am)
Cr Gary McGuire
Cr Jennifer Nickel
Cr Garry Reymer
Cr Noel Smith

Staff Present: Tracey May – Director, Science, Policy and Information
Brent Sinclair – Director, Resource Use
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
Open Recording 1	38119020	https://youtu.be/uwqkN9NSXdY
Open Recording 2	38116631	https://youtu.be/jwarhfnOChA
Public Excluded Recording	38117331	–
Open Recording 3	38118830	https://youtu.be/8P7hTsQYLBV

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 6 seconds.

The Committee Chair (Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith) opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

ITEM COMMENCED IN OPEN RECORDING 1, AT 1 MINUTE.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/52

MOVED: CR KATARAINA HODGE

SECONDED: CR KEITH HOLMES

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF CR ANGELA STRANGE FOR ABSENCE AND CR WARREN MAHER AND CR JENNIFER NICKEL FOR LATENESS BE ACCEPTED.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 2 minutes 25 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/53

Moved: Cr Liz Stolwyk

Seconded: Cr Garry Reymer

- 1. That the agenda of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 5 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

9.33am – Cr Robert Cookson entered the meeting.

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 2 minutes 50 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

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 2 minutes 59 seconds.

Nil

6 GENERAL ITEMS**6.1 SUBMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING AMENDMENT BILL**

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 3 minutes 10 seconds.

Presented by the Team Leader, Policy and Implementation (Naomi Crawford). Refer Document # 38105652 (at pages 2-4) for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

9.35am – Cr Tipa Mahuta entered the meeting.

9.44am – Cr Warren Maher entered the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/54

Moved: Cr Garry Reymer

Seconded: Cr Tipa Mahuta

1. That the report *Submission on the Environmental Reporting Amendment Bill* (Strategy and Policy Committee, 5 August 2026) be received.
2. That the Strategy and Policy Committee delegates to the Committee Chair (Cr Dunbar-Smith) and the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) approval for lodgement of the proposed Waikato Regional Council submission on the Environmental Reporting Amendment Bill subject to amendments identified in discussion had at the committee meeting.

CARRIED

6.2 WAIKATO REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY - UPDATE ON NEXT STEPS

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 24 minutes.

Presented by the Principal Strategic Advisor (Blair Dickie) and the Senior Policy Advisor (Michelle White). Refer Document # 38105652 (at pages 5-6) for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/55

Moved: Cr Warren Maher

Seconded: Cr Chris Hughes

That the motion under debate be now put.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/56

Moved: Cr Noel Smith

Seconded: Cr Chris Hughes

That the report *Waikato Regional Energy Strategy - update on next steps* (Strategy and Policy Committee, 5 August 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REFORM - ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT BACK ON BILLS

Item commenced in open recording 1, at 47 minutes 6 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May), Team Leader, Policy Implementation (Naomi Crawford) and the Team Leader, Strategic and Spatial Planning (Miffy Foley). Refer Document # 38105652 (at pages 7-21) for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

10.30am – Cr Robert Cookson left the meeting.

10.37am – Cr Robert Cookson entered the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/57

Moved: Cr Tipa Mahuta

Seconded: Cr Warren Maher

That the Resource Management System Reform - Environment Select Committee report back on Bills (Strategy and Policy Committee, 5 August 2026) be received.

CARRIED

11.11am – The meeting adjourned.

11.20am – The meeting reconvened.

6.4 SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY REPORT - AUGUST 2026

Item commenced in open recording 1, at start.

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

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/58

Moved: Cr Tipa Mahuta

Seconded: Cr Mich'eal Downard

- 1. That the Submissions Summary Report - August 2026 (Strategy and Policy Committee, 5 August 2026) be received.***
- 2. That the Committee notes the inclusion of Waikato Regional Council's submission to Waipā District Council Private Plan Change 31 – Te Awamutu T4 Growth Cell, that was lodged under delegated authority (Strategy and Policy Agenda, 5 August 2026 at page 46), and retrospectively receives the submission.***

CARRIED

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Item commenced in open recording 2, at 12 minutes 40 seconds.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/59**Moved:** Cr Ben Dunbar-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 - Update on Environment Court Proceedings for Proposed Plan Change 1 and Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Appeals	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

CARRIED

11.34am – The meeting moved into public excluded session.

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS**7.1 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENT COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 AND PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN APPEALS**

Item commenced in public excluded recording, at start.

The Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May) introduced the Manager, Resource Management Policy (Bruce McAuliffe).

11.40am – Cr Mich'ael Downard left the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/60**Moved:** Cr Tipa Mahuta**Seconded:** Cr Noel Smith

1. That the report *Update on Environment Court Proceedings for Proposed Plan Change 1 and Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Appeals* (Strategy and Policy Committee, 5 August 2026) be received.
2. That the decision be released into the open session of the meeting.

CARRIED

Item commenced in public excluded recording, at 15 minutes 50 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SP26/61

Moved: Cr Warren Maher

Seconded: Cr Kataraina Hodge

That the meeting return to the open session.

CARRIED

11.50am – The meeting moved back to open session.

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 3, at start.

The Committee Chair (Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith) closed the meeting with a karakia.

11.51am – The meeting closed.