



WORKSHOP MINUTES

Thursday, 3 September 2026

Contents

1 Karakia Timatanga.....4

2 Workshop Paper(s).....4

 2.1 2027 - 2037 Long Term Plan - Levels of Service review 4

3 Karakia Whakamutunga8

Waikato Regional Council

OPEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

Date: Thursday 3 September 2026, 9.30am

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

Members Present: Cr Warren Maher – Chair
Cr Mich'eal Downard – Deputy Chair (until 2.54pm)
Cr Robert Cookson (until 11.52am. Back at 11.58am)
Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
Cr Kataraina Hodge (until 2.45pm)
Cr Chris Hughes
Cr Gary McGuire
Cr Jennifer Nickel (until 2.39pm. Back virtually at 2.50pm)
Cr Garry Reymer
Cr Liz Stolwyk
Cr Angela Strange

Staff Present: Chris McLay – Chief Executive
Janine Becker – Director, Customer and Corporate Services
Phil King – Director, Regional Transport Connections
Tracey May – Director, Science, Policy and Information
Greg Ryan – Director, Integrated Catchment Management
Brent Sinclair – Director, Resource Use
Mali Ahipene – Pou Tuhono, Tai-Ranga-whenua
Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Stuart Brown – Executive Manager, People and Capability
Jane Apperley – Manager, Corporate Planning
Raj Suppiah – Chief Financial Officer
Jordan Metz – Democracy Advisor
Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy

Apologies Received: Cr Kataraina Hodge for early departure
Cr Keith Holmes for absence
Cr Tipa Mahuta for absence
Cr Noel Smith 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.

Recording	Document ID #	YouTube Link
Recording #1	38645539	https://youtu.be/Yigi5aiwHb4
Recording #2	38650361	https://youtu.be/qInW3R_g32c
Recording #3	38681477	https://youtu.be/GY4qWLEcsYA

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at the start of recording.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CHRIS MCLAY) OPENED THE WORKSHOP WITH A KARAKIA.

2 WORKSHOP PAPER(S)**2.1 2027 - 2037 LONG TERM PLAN - LEVELS OF SERVICE REVIEW**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 30 seconds.

The Chair (Cr Warren Maher) and Chief Executive (Chris McLay) introduced the Long-Term Plan process and provided an overview of the day ahead.

Item commenced in recording 1, at 4 minutes 10 seconds.

The Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker) began with an overview of the Long-Term Plan and the process – including an overview of the Directorate view of prioritised portfolio of Council's current work (as set out in attachment 1 of the agenda). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 1 to 17) or on the public website.

2024-2034 Long Term Plan Investment Case Updates (agenda page 106)

Item commenced in recording 1, at 49 minutes 13 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 18) or on the public website.

2024-2034 LTP Strategic Investment Proposals (agenda page 101-105)

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 hour 5 minutes and 31 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 19 to 20) or on the public website.

10.50am - The workshop adjourned.

11.02am - The workshop reconvened.

Mandatory investment under proposed Planning Act and National Environment Act (agenda page 15)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 5 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker) and Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 22 to 28) or on the public website.

Regional Combined Plan (2027 LTP) (agenda page 118)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 35 minutes 47 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 29) or on the public website.

Regional Spatial Plan Process (2027 LTP) (agenda page 131)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 36 minutes 45 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 30) or on the public website.

Regional Spatial Plan (2027 LTP) (agenda page 146)

Item commenced in recording 2, 38 minutes 20 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 31) or on the public website.

Land Use Plan for the Costal Marine Area (2027 LTP) (agenda page 159)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 43 minutes 18 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 32) or on the public website.

Natural Environment Plan and Transition Policies (2027 LTP) (agenda page 170)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 44 minutes 34 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 33) or on the public website.

Geothermal (2027 LTP) (agenda page 182)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 45 minutes.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 34) or on the public website.

11.52am - Cr Robert Cookson left the workshop.

Summary of Level of Service Change Proposals (agenda page 118)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 55 minutes 11 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 35) or on the public website.

11.58am - Cr Robert Cookson entered the workshop.

Hydro Lakes water quality investigation (2027 LTP) (agenda page 191)

Item commenced in recording 2, at 56 minutes 48 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Science, Policy and Information (Tracey May). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 36) or on the public website.

12.17pm – The workshop adjourned.

12.45pm– The workshop reconvened.

Regional economic development (2027 LTP) (agenda page 198)

Item commenced in recording 3, at the start of recording.

Presented by the Executive Manager, Chief Executive's office (Karen Bennett). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 33) or on the public website.

Management of flood protection infrastructure on private land (2027 LTP) (agenda page 211)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 24 minutes 42 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 34) or on the public website.

Consent Management (Potential Savings) (2027 LTP) (agenda page 222)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 40 minutes 18 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 35) or on the public website.

Lower Waikato Resourcing (2027 LTP) (agenda page 232)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 48 minutes 3 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 36) or on the public website.

Waihou Resourcing (2027 LTP) (agenda page 242)

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

Presented by the Director, Integrated Catchment Management (Greg Ryan). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 37) or on the public website.

How we Resource Public Events (2027 LTP) (agenda page 255)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 1 hour 10 minutes and 33 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Regional Transport Connections (Phil King). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 38) or on the public website.

MSP Rapid Transit Corridors (2027 LTP) (agenda page 261)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 1 hour 34 minutes 16 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Regional Transport Connections (Phil King). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 39) or on the public website.

Zero Emission Bus Depots - Next Phase (2027 LTP) (agenda page 269)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 1 hour 47 minutes 25 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Regional Transport Connections (Phil King). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 40) or on the public website.

Te Huia Rolling Stock (2027 LTP) (agenda page 275)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 1 hour 53 minutes 15 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Regional Transport Connections (Phil King). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 41) or on the public website.

2.39pm - Cr Jennifer Nickel left the workshop.

2.45pm - Cr Kataraina Hodge left the workshop.

2.50pm – Cr Jennifer Nickel entered the workshop (virtually via Teams).

Additional Transport Planning Resource (2027 LTP) (agenda page 288)

Trial - Pokeno - Drury (2027 LTP) (agenda page 296)

Trial Cambridge local (2027 LTP) (agenda page 303)

Trial Taumarunui to Hamilton (2027 LTP) (agenda page 310)

Items commenced in recording 3, at 2 hours, 8 minutes 45 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Regional Transport Connections (Phil King). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 42) or on the public website.

2.54pm - Cr Mich'eal Downard left the workshop.

Maritime Safety FTE (2027 LTP) (agenda page 317)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 2 hours 32 minutes 53 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Resource Use (Brent Sinclair). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (page 46) or on the public website.

Discretionary Cost Centres (agenda page 326)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 2 hours 43 minutes 57 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 47 to 48) or on the public website.

Discretionary funds - other (2027 LTP) (agenda page 331)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 2 hours 51 minutes 15 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 51 to 52) or on the public website.

Discretionary funds - RSF (2027 LTP) (agenda page 338)

Item commenced in recording 3, at 3 hours 7 minutes and 36 seconds.

Presented by the Director, Customer and Corporate Services (Janine Becker). Refer Document # 38597473 for the PowerPoint presentation (pages 51 to 52) or on the public website.

3 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 3, at 3 hours 12 minutes 50 seconds.

The Chief Executive (Chris McLay) closed the workshop with a Karakia.

3.59pm – The workshop concluded.

It was noted that the unfinished items from this workshop will be tabled at the subsequent workshop to be held on 16 September 2026.