



AGENDA

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting

Date: Monday, 7 September 2026

Time: 9:30 am

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

Members: Trustee Wikitoria Tāne – Committee Co-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Liz Stolwyk – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Kim Hancy – Committee Deputy-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Jaimee Tamaki – Committee Deputy-Chair – Ōtorohanga District Council
Trustee Shannon Manawaiti – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Dion Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Tilly Tuner – Waikato District Council
Mayor Mike Pettit – Waipā District Council
Mayor John Robertson – Waitomo District Council

Alternates: Cr Tennille Kete – Ōtorohanga District Council
Cr Marlene Raumati – Waikato District Council
Cr Garry Reymer – Waikato Regional Council
Cr Dale-Maree Morgan – Waipā District Council
Deputy Mayor Eady Manawaiti – Waitomo District Council

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum

Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere | Terms of Reference

1. Mana ā-Ture | Status

The Forum was established by agreement, *under* Clauses 22–29 of a Joint Management Agreement, between Te Nehenehenui, Ōtorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Waitomo District Council.

The Forum is not a joint committee for the purpose of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, and [Schedule 7](#) does not apply when the Forum exercises its powers set out in the Joint Management Agreement. Waikato Regional Council's operative *Standing Orders* were adopted at the first meeting of the forum on 20 March 2024 (TNCGF24/04, Doc #28836706).

Refer section 21-24 of the *Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012* and section 139-141 of the *Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022*.

2. Ngā Haepapa | Responsibilities

The Forum is tasked with regularly reviewing the agreement to ensure it is being implemented in a manner that satisfies all parties and aligns with the principles outlined in clauses 18 and 19.

3. Ngā Apatono | Powers

The Forum has all powers necessary to carry out its responsibilities, noting that:

- a. the Forum cannot bind member parties.
- b. any non-procedural decisions not authorised by the Joint Management Agreement must be recommended to the governing bodies of each of the parties for adoption.

4. Te Mematanga | Membership

4.1. Ngā Mema | Members

The Forum comprises ten members:

- a. Five members appointed by Te Nehenehenui.
- b. One member appointed by Ōtorohanga District Council.
- c. One member appointed by Waikato District Council.
- d. One member appointed by Waikato Regional Council.
- e. One member appointed by Waipā District Council.
- f. One member appointed by Waitomo District Council.

4.2. Ūpoko me te Ūpoko Tuarua | Co-Chairs

The Forum is co-chaired, with co-chairs appointed as follows:

- a. One Co-Chair and Deputy Co-Chair is appointed by Te Nehenehenui from its five members.
- b. One Co-Chair and Deputy Co-Chair is appointed by agreement among the five councils.

5. Te Korama | Quorum

Six members, being three members from Te Nehenehenui and three members from any of the councils.

6. Te Pōtitanga | Voting

- a. All decisions of the Committee are made by consensus.
- b. Members are expected to work together in good faith to reach shared agreement.

7. Ngā Hui i te Tau | Frequency of Meetings

As required to meet the responsibilities of the Forum, but no less than once annually.

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease o winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	Cease o winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Bring calm breezes over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Bring calm breezes over the sea
E hī ake ana te atakura	And let the red-tipped dawn come
He tio	With a touch of frost
He Huka	A sharpened air
He hau hū	And promise of a glorious day
Tīhei mauri ora!	Behold we live

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be aware of maintaining a clear separation between personal interests and duties and their role as an elected member.

If any member has an interest that creates an actual, or could be perceived to create, a conflict in relation to any item on the agenda, it is recommended that this be disclosed.

5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting – 18 May 2026



MINUTES

Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting

Monday, 18 May 2026

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Waikato Regional Council
Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting
OPEN MINUTES

Date: Monday 18 May 2026, 10.07am

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

Members Present: Cr Liz Stolwyk – Committee Co-Chair – Waikato Regional Council
Trustee Wikitoria Tāne – Committee Co-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Kim Hancy – Committee Deputy-Chair – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Jaimee Tamaki – Committee Deputy-Chair – Ōtorohanga District Council
Trustee Shannon Manawaiti – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Dale-Maree Morgan – Waipā District Council
Trustee Gannin Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Trustee Dion Ormsby – Te Nehenehenui
Cr Tilly Turner – Waikato District Council
Mayor Mike Pettit – Waipā District Council
Mayor John Robertson – Waitomo District Council

In Attendance: Cr Keith Holmes – Waikato Regional Council
Cr Tennille Kete – Ōtorohanga District Council (virtually via Teams from 11.04am until 11.59am)

Staff Present: Samuel Mikare – Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui
Ben Smit – Chief Executive, Waitomo District Council
Craig Hobbs – Chief Executive, Waikato District Council
Steph O’Sullivan – Chief Executive, Waipā District Council
Tramaine Murray – Settlement Protection, Rights and Interests Manager, Te Nehenehenui
Jason Nepia – Senior Advisor Settlement Protection, Te Nehenehenui
Leah Wyatt – Taiao Manager, Te Nehenehenui
Erin Wilson – Kaiurungi - Māori Cultural Capability Lead, Waipā District Council
Cassidy Temese – Iwi Relations Advisor, Ōtorohanga District Council
Kelly Newell – Resilience Manager, Waikato District Council
Kirsty Downey – Group Manager, Strategy and Deputy-Chief Executive, Waipā District Council
Paul Smith – Programme Lead, Waipā and West Coast – Waikato Regional Council
Ashley Eden – Kaiwhakarite – Waikato Regional Council
Dave Doggart – Team Lead, Democracy – Waikato Regional Council
Jess Hood – Democracy Advisor – 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	35940033	https://youtu.be/41P6AZS1rsk
Due to a technical error, the recording did not contain video until 10.34am.		

1 WHAKATAU / KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in meeting recording, at start.

The Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui (Samuel Mikare) opened the meeting with a karakia, which was followed by a whakawhanaungatanga with those present introducing themselves.

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 12 minutes 55 seconds.

APOLOGY

The apologies received from Tanya Winter (Chief Executive, Ōtorohanga District Council), Ngira Simmonds (Kaihautū – Strategic Māori Partnerships Director, Waipā District Council) and Mali Ahipene (Pou Tuhono, Waikato Regional Council) were noted.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/01

Moved: Cr Liz Stolwyk

Seconded: Trustee Wikitoria Tāne

That the apologies received from Trustee Dion Ormsby and Mayor Mike Pettit for absence be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 13 minutes 55 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/02

Moved: Cr Dale-Maree Morgan

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

1. That the agenda of the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting of 18 May 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.
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 meeting recording, at 15 minutes 15 seconds.

Trustee Gannin Ormsby declared that he was an employee of Waikato District Council.

5 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION OR RECEIPT

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 15 minutes 50 seconds.

TE NEHENEHENUI CO-GOVERNANCE FORUM MEETING – 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/03

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the minutes of the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum Meeting held on 9 September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES OF TE NEHENEHENUI CO-GOVERNANCE FORUM

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 16 minutes 27 seconds.

Presented by the Team Lead, Democracy, Waikato Regional Council (Dave Doggart) who requested the report be taken as read.

During discussion it was noted that the combined councils had appointed Cr Jaimee Tamaki (Ōtorohanga District Council) as their representative Deputy-Co-Chair.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/04

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Cr Liz Stolwyk

1. That the report *Membership and Procedures of Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum note the following members:
 - (a) Trustee Kim Hancy (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (b) Trustee Shannon Manawaiti (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (c) Trustee Gannin Ormsby (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (d) Trustee Dion Ormsby (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (e) Trustee Wikitoria Tane (Te Nehenehenui).
 - (f) Cr Jaimee Tamaki (Ōtorohanga District Council).
 - (g) Cr Tilly Turner (Waikato District Council).
 - (h) Cr Liz Stolwyk (Waikato Regional Council).
 - (i) Mayor Mike Pettit (Waipā District Council).
 - (j) Mayor John Robertson (Waitomo District Council).
3. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following alternate members:

- (a) Cr Tennille Kete (Ōtorohanga District Council).
- (b) Cr Marlene Raumati (Waikato District Council).
- (c) Cr Garry Reymer (Waikato Regional Council).
- (d) Cr Dale-Maree Morgan (Waipā District Council).
- (e) Deputy Mayor Eady Manawaiti (Waitomo District Council).

4. That Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following co-chairs:

- (a) Cr Liz Stolwyk (Local Authorities).
- (b) Trustee Wikitoria Tane (Te Nehenehenui).

5. That Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum notes the following deputy co-chair:

- (a) Trustee Kim Hancy (Te Nehenehenui).

CARRIED

6.2 CONTEXT SETTING

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 19 minutes 29 seconds.

The Settlement Protection, Rights and Interests Manager, Te Nehenehenui (Tramaine Murray) introduced the Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui (Samuel Mikare). Refer Document # 36145735 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/05

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

That the report *Context Setting* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 34 minutes.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Te Nehenehenui (Samuel Mikare).

11.04am – Cr Tennille Kete entered the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/06

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

1. That the report *Emergency Management* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.
2. That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum recommends that partner councils and Te Nehenehenui:

- (a) agree in principle to embed Te Nehenehenui specific roles within emergency response protocols.
- (b) approve Council and Te Nehenehenui operations to develop a framework to include roles within the emergency response protocols.

CARRIED

6.4 WAIKATO DC INITIATIVES

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 1 hour 3 minutes 57 seconds.

Presented by the Resilience Manager, Waikato District Council (Kelly Newell) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/07

Moved: Trustee Wikitoria Tāne

Seconded: Cr Dale-Maree Morgan

That the report *Waikato DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.5 ŌTOROHANGA DC INITIATIVES

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 1 hour 6 minutes 55 seconds.

Presented by the Iwi Relations Advisor, Ōtorohanga District Council (Cassidy Temese) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/08

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Trustee Shannon Manawaiti

That the report *Ōtorohanga DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.6 WHAT'S UPCOMING FROM WRC

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 1 hour 10 minutes 48 .

The Kaiwhakarite, Waikato Regional Council (Ashley Eden) introduced the Programme Lead, Waipā and West Coast, Waikato Regional Council (Paul Smith). Refer Document # 35772664 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/09

Moved: Trustee Wikitoria Tāne

Seconded: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

That the report *What's Upcoming from WRC* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.7 WAITOMO DC INITIATIVES

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 1 hour 34 minutes 35 seconds.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Waitomo District Council (Ben Smit) and Mayor John Robertson who requested the report be taken as read.

11.59am – Cr Tennille Kete left the meeting.

Action: That Te Nehenehenui be updated and included in the process of Local Government Reform.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/10

Moved: Cr Jaimee Tamaki

Seconded: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

That the report *Waitomo DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

6.8 WAIPĀ DC INITIATIVES

Item commenced in meeting recording, at 1 hour 56 minutes 47 seconds.

Presented by the Chief Executive, Waipā District Council (Steph O'Sullivan). Members were advised that the Waikato Waters Presentation was incorrect and an updated version would be circulated.

Action: That Te Nehenehenui be provided with a list of assets/properties that have been/are to be transferred to the Waikato Waters entity (or any other water entities within the catchment).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TNCGF26/11

Moved: Trustee Gannin Ormsby

Seconded: Trustee Kim Hancy

That the report *Waipā DC Initiatives* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 18 May 2026) be received.

CARRIED

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

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

Co-Chair (Trustee Wikitoria Tane) closed the meeting with a karakia.

12.10pm – The meeting closed.

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 RECORD OF MEETING ACTIONS

Rā | Date: 31 August 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Tutahanga Douglas, Kaitohutohu

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To present the Register of Meeting Actions for the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum and provide an update on the status of actions.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The attached Register records four actions arising from the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum meeting held on 18 May 2026.
3. The Register records three actions as **on track** and one action as **complete**. No actions are currently identified as requiring escalation.
 - (a) The actions recorded as on track relate to developing a framework to support Te Nehenehenui roles in emergency response, and ensuring Te Nehenehenui is involved in Local Government Reform processes.
 - (b) The completed action relates to Waipā District Council providing Te Nehenehenui with a list of assets or properties that have been, or are to be, transferred to the Waikato Waters entity or any other water entities within the catchment.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Record of Meeting Actions* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 7 September 2026) be received.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Register of Meeting Actions (Doc#38426692) [↓](#)

Record of Meeting Actions					
No	Date Recorded	Action/Deliverable	Responsible Leads	Status of action	Commentary
1	18-May-26	That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum recommends that partner councils and Te Nehenehenui: agree in principle to embed Te Nehenehenui specific roles within emergency response protocols.	All	On track	- Partner councils and Te Nehenehenui will progress the work at an operational level. - The Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO) for the Waikato region has commissioned a formal After Action Review (ARR) for the severe weather event on Feb 13-14 2026, and other events across the wider Waikato region from January to April 2026. The ARR is being undertaken by an independent consultant and will include a focus area around iwi involvement from marae through to post-settlement governance entities. ŌDC has also conducted its own separate informal debrief focused on ŌDC internal process improvements and lessons learned.
2	18-May-26	That the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum recommends that partner councils and Te Nehenehenui: approve Council and Te Nehenehenui operations to develop a framework to include roles within the emergency response protocols.	All	On track	- At a local level, TNN have been invited to attend ŌDC's regular Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Incident Management Team briefings as part of our commitment to strengthen iwi engagement emergency management. ŌDC is rolling out incremental system improvements as the opportunity arises including a 24/7 duty roster across ŌDC, Waipā District Council and WDC. - We also anticipate the new Emergency Management Act to be enacted soon and expect that this will mandate iwi authority involvement across the CDEM system.
3	18-May-26	That Te Nehenehenui be updated and included in the process of Local Government Reform.	All	On track	This action is progressing through a bespoke, council-by-council approach that reflects each council's role, timing and process within Local Government Reform. Te Nehenehenui's involvement is being considered in the relevant local context, with engagement and information-sharing continuing as reform progresses. A consolidated update will be presented to the September 2026 Co-Governance Committee meeting.
4	18-May-26	That Te Nehenehenui be provided with a list of assets/properties that have been/are to be transferred to the Waikato Waters entity (or any other water entities within the catchment).	Waipā DC	Complete	Complete. List provided

6.2 TE NEHENEHENUI UPDATE

Rā | Date: 1 September 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Jess Hood, Democracy Advisor

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper is to: initiate formal discussions with partner local authorities on Te Nehenehenui initiatives and priorities.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A verbal presentation will be delivered by Te Nehenehenui regarding initiatives and priorities.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Te Nehenehenui Update* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 7 September 2026) be received.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Rā | Date: 7 September 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Karen Bennett, Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To provide shared background information for the Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum on the Government's local government reform programme, including the Head Start pathway and its potential implications for existing Treaty settlement commitments, Joint Management Agreement obligations, statutory acknowledgements and future governance arrangements involving Te Nehenehenui and councils.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Government's Head Start pathway creates an early opportunity for parts of the Waikato region to move toward new unitary authority arrangements ahead of wider reform from 2028. For Te Nehenehenui and councils, the key issue is not only the shape of any future local government model, but how existing Treaty settlement commitments, including Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, Joint Management Agreement obligations, statutory acknowledgements and Maniapoto-specific arrangements are recognised and carried forward with equivalent effect.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *Local Government Reform* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 7 September 2026) be received.

HOROPAKI | CONTEXT

3. On 5 May 2026, the Government announced the Head Start pathway as a streamlined, voluntary process for territorial and unitary authorities that are ready to progress local government reorganisation ahead of wider reform from 2028.
4. Under this pathway, groups of territorial and/or unitary authorities may submit outline proposals to establish one or more new unitary authorities. Regional councils could not submit a proposal or count toward the majority required, but were able to contribute information, modelling and advice to support proposal development.
5. If a Head Start proposal is approved in principle by Cabinet, expected around September 2026, the region would move into a detailed design phase. That phase would include community consultation, final policy decisions in 2027 and implementation before the October 2028 local elections. Councils that do not opt in to this pathway would leave their restructuring to the Government's backstop process.

Head Start Proposals

6. A number of proposals have been submitted by councils through the Head Start process.
 - a. **King Country unitary:** Combining the Ōtorohanga and Waitomo districts, supported by Ōtorohanga and Waitomo district councils.
 - b. **Western Waikato unitary:** Combining Waikato, Hamilton, Waipā, South Waikato and Taupō districts. Supported by Waikato, Waipā and South Waikato district councils
7. Officials from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport will now assess submitted proposals against the agreed criteria – deliverability, supports the new planning system, simplifies local governance, economies of scale, and maintains local voice.



Te Nehenehenui Position

8. Te Nehenehenui has provided a letter of support acknowledging councils that are participating in the Head Start process. The letter supports exploration of governance models that may strengthen collaboration, improve service delivery, achieve efficiencies through shared services where appropriate, and deliver better long-term outcomes for communities.
9. The letter does not indicate support for a particular Head Start proposal. Rather, it recognises that there may be a range of proposals and differing perspectives across the region, and respects the role of each council in determining the approach it considers best reflects the aspirations of its communities.
10. The letter identifies Te Nehenehenui's primary interest as ensuring that any future governance arrangements continue to recognise and give full effect to Treaty settlement

commitments, statutory arrangements and enduring relationships with local government. This includes recognition of Ngā Wai o Maniapoto, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and other relevant settlement arrangements and statutory obligations. These matters are relevant for councils when considering how existing obligations, relationships and implementation responsibilities may be recognised, maintained or transferred with equivalent effect under any future local government model.

WHAKAKAPI | CONCLUSION

11. Local government reform is evolving quickly and is likely to have significant implications for governance arrangements, including how regional functions, Treaty settlement commitments, Te Ture Whaimana, JMA obligations and iwi relationships are provided for in any future model. The key focus for the co-governance hui is to build a shared understanding of matters that must be protected or carried forward with equivalent effect, and support ongoing dialogue as proposals develop.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.4 JMA IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Rā | Date: 31 August 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Ashley Eden, Kaiwhakarite

Kaituku | Authoriser: Tutahanga Douglas, Kaitohutohu

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. To present the implementation update of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) between Te Nehenehenui and Councils, and to identify areas that may benefit from future governance attention.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The JMA Obligation Dashboard has been developed to support oversight of the implementation of the JMA between Te Nehenehenui and the participating councils. The Dashboard tracks progress against all obligations contained within the agreement and its schedules.
3. The Dashboard identifies 66 obligations in total. Of these, most are incorporated into Business-as-usual (BAU).
4. There are 5 actions encountering delivery issues, which relate to:
 - (a) the development of an annual joint work programme;
 - (b) the future direction on identifying and recording sites of significance; and
 - (c) transfer of powers provisions, which remain affected by resource management reform.

TAUNAKITANGA KAIMAHI | STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the report *JMA Implementation Report* (Te Nehenehenui Co-Governance Forum, 7 September 2026) be received.

HOROPAKI | BACKGROUND

5. The JMA contains a range of relationship, governance, operational and statutory obligations relating to matters such as planning documents, resource consents, monitoring and enforcement, local government processes, and resourcing arrangements.
6. As kaitiaki of the agreement, the co-governance forum has an important role in overseeing implementation and ensuring that the intentions of the agreement continue to be reflected in practice. Regular reporting on implementation enables the parties to monitor progress, identify emerging issues, and focus attention on obligations requiring further action. The Dashboard has therefore been developed as a governance tool to provide visibility of the status of each obligation and support ongoing oversight of implementation.

TE TAKE | ISSUE

7. Most responsibilities under the JMA are either incorporated into workstreams or awaiting the appropriate time for activation. All responsibilities around enforcement, information sharing, meeting protocols, and communication have been embedded within business-as-usual, ensuring that they are continuously managed.
8. Four obligations are currently assessed as on track. These relate principally to future review requirements under the JMA and operational monitoring meetings that remain within agreed delivery timeframes.
9. Eleven obligations have not yet been triggered. These obligations generally depend on specific events occurring, such as disputes arising between the parties, private plan change requests being lodged, particular resource consent pathways being invoked, or prerequisite work being completed before subsequent obligations can commence.
10. The following obligations have been identified as experiencing delivery issues and may require prioritised attention by the parties.

Annual Joint Work Programme

11. The JMA requires the preparation of an annual joint work programme. A work programme has not yet been developed.
12. The purpose of an annual work programme would be to identify shared priorities requiring collective focus.
13. The Forum may wish to discuss: what types of issues would be most suitable for inclusion in a future work programme; what types of issues would be most suitable for inclusion in a future work programme; and whether there are emerging priorities that warrant collective oversight by the Forum.

Sites of Significance

14. The JMA includes a commitment for Te Nehenehenui and councils to discuss a strategy for identifying and recording sites of significance. The Parties have not commenced this work.
15. The Forum may wish to consider the relationship between this initiative and any future sites of significance spatial planning programme.

Transfer of Powers

16. The JMA includes commitments relating to the exploration of transfer of powers arrangements. These commitments were developed within the context of the Resource Management Act 1991. Given the ongoing resource management reform programme, the future legislative framework for such arrangements remains uncertain.
17. Staff continue to monitor national policy developments and will revisit the matter as greater clarity emerges regarding successor legislation.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

18. The JMA Obligation Dashboard demonstrates that implementation of JMA is well advanced. Of the 66 obligations identified, 50 are either complete, on track, or incorporated into business as usual, reflecting the implementation maturity of the JMA. The Dashboard will continue to be maintained and reported through governance channels to support oversight, accountability, and the ongoing implementation of the agreement.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. JMA Obligation Dashboard(Doc#34243863) [↓](#)

JMA Obligation Dashboard					
TOTAL OBLIGATIONS	COMPLETE	IN BAU	ON TRACK	DELIVERY ISSUES	YET TO TRIGGER
66	1	45	4	5	11
No	Clause	Action/Deliverable	Category	Status of action	Commentary
1	18	The parties commit to the relationship principles in working together (see 18(a)-(e))	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	The relationship principles underpin engagement between Te Nehenehenui and Councils
2	19	In relation to the Waipā River, the parties also acknowledge and commit to acting consistently with the guiding principles as set out in section 20 of the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	The principles underpin engagement between Te Nehenehenui and Councils. This obligation is delivered through embedded governance and operational practices.
3	21	The parties acknowledge that they will work together to explore how the scope of this agreement can be extended	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	In 2025, the scope of the JMA was extended to include additional matters and statutory functions beyond those originally provided for in the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 and Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012, including Schedule Nine (resourcing and capacity building). The Parties continue to treat scope extension as an ongoing matter for discussion.
4	22	A co-governance forum will be established to be the guardian of this agreement.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	The co-governance forum has been established and is functioning as the primary mechanism for oversight and stewardship of the agreement.
5	24	Unless otherwise agreed, the co-governance forum will be made up of equal numbers of representatives appointed by Te Nehenehenui and the councils	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	The co-governance forum is made up of equal numbers of representatives appointed by Te Nehenehenui and Councils, as required.
6	26	The co-governance forum will meet at least once each year, or more frequently if the co governance forum considers it necessary.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	It is standard practice for the co-governance forum to meet annually, with additional meetings held where agreed by the forum.
7	27	The parties will develop and agree a terms of reference for the co-governance forum and may agree to amend that document from time-to-time.	General/Relationship	Complete	The terms of reference

8	28	Staff members will attend the co-governance forum meetings to provide advice and technical support as required.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	Current practice
9	29	The parties will each appoint a senior staff member to be the key contact person and to oversee the implementation of this agreement.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
10	36	Each year the parties will work together to develop and agree an annual joint work programme for the implementation of this agreement.	General/Relationship	Delivery issues	•An annual joint work programme has not yet been developed between Te Nehenehenui and Councils. •Te Nehenehenui and the Councils collectively worked together to develop a JMA Implementation Plan in 2023, which focused on progressing Schedules 2–9 of the agreement. This work has now been completed, with the Schedules developed, formally adopted, and embedded. •The absence of a formal work programme does not preclude the parties from working together. It does not limit any party in undertaking additional actions to implement the JMA or commit any to a specific course of action.
11	38	The annual work programme will cover the following matters: implementation of the matters set out in this agreement and the Schedules; collaborative projects between Te Nehenehenui and the councils (collectively or individually) for that year; areas of focus between Te Nehenehenui and the councils (collectively or individually) for that year; if agreed, matters for Te Nehenehenui and individual (or collectives of) councils to work on; and other matters as agreed.	General/Relationship	Delivery issues	See comment above

12	42	The councils will make available to Te Nehenehenui all information held by the councils (subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) where that information is requested by Te Nehenehenui for the purposes of assisting it to exercise its mana in respect of the Maniapoto rohe and to enable Te Nehenehenui to exercise its rights fully under this agreement.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	Requests for information are managed through established council processes, consistent with LGOIMA obligations and routine information-sharing practices.
13	44	Te Nehenehenui and the councils will establish and maintain effective and efficient communication with each other on a continuing basis	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
14	45	Te Nehenehenui and the councils may at any time agree in writing to undertake a review of this agreement.	General/Relationship	On track	The Parties intend to undertake the first formal review once the schedules have been operating for a sufficient period to enable meaningful evaluation.
15	46	There will be a review undertaken no later than July 2027, and biennially after that.	General/Relationship	On track	The Parties intend to undertake the first formal review once the Schedules have been operating for a sufficient period to enable meaningful evaluation.
16	48	The resolution of issues between them must be addressed in a constructive, co-operative and timely manner that is consistent with the principles set out in clauses 18 and 19.	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	The dispute resolution provisions have not been invoked, reflecting the effectiveness of existing relationship and governance mechanisms.
17	50	Te Nehenehenui and the councils may, at any time, agree in writing to suspend, in whole or in part, the operation of this agreement.	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	This clause has not been triggered by the Parties.
18	55	A council may exercise or perform a statutory power or function that is affected by this agreement on its own account and not in accordance with this agreement: if the statutory time frame for the exercise or performance of that power or function cannot be complied with under this agreement; or in the event of an emergency. However, a council must use its best endeavours to work with Te Nehenehenui and comply with the agreement if practicable in the circumstances.	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	This clause has not been triggered by the Parties.

19	Schedule2 cl2	Te Nehenehenui and each council will meet [by 9 March 2026] to discuss a strategy to identify sites of significance on land within that council's boundary with the intention that this information can be collated and included in the regional or district plan.	General/Relationship	Delivery issues	This obligation is overdue. The Parties have not yet met to discuss or agree a strategy for identifying sites of significance within council boundaries.
20	Schedule2 cl3	Following the completion of the process identified in clause 2, Te Nehenehenui and each council will agree on an implementation plan and timetable to agree: (a) the process for the inclusion of the identified sites of significance in the regional or district plan; (b) the measures that Te Nehenehenui and each council will jointly undertake to provide for the protection of those sites; (c) a communication strategy to raise awareness about those sites on private land and how to identify and protect those sites; and (d) initiatives that will enhance and grow the skills and knowledge of Te Nehenehenui and each council in relation to those sites, their history and protection.	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	This obligation is dependent on completion of the identification process under Schedule 2, clause 2, and therefore has not yet been initiated.
21	Schedule2 cl4	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this Schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with Schedule nine.	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	This obligation is dependent on completion of the identification process under Schedule 2, clause 2, and therefore has not yet been initiated.
22	Schedule3 cl1	The councils agree to explore with Te Nehenehenui appropriate opportunities for the transfer of powers under section 33 of the RMA (and similar mechanisms under successor legislation).	General/Relationship	Delivery issues	While transfer of powers is currently available under the RMA, there is no direct equivalent under the proposed RMA replacement legislation. This matter is being monitored in the context of national reform.

23	Schedule3 cl2-cl3	Either Te Nehenehenui or a council may give notice to the other party of the intention to commence discussions on a potential transfer of powers. Where such a notice is given, Te Nehenehenui and the council will engage in good faith in those discussions to explore how to achieve the aspirations of Te Nehenehenui and the council under this agreement and Schedule.	General/Relationship	Delivery issues	While transfer of powers is currently available under the RMA, there is no direct equivalent under the proposed RMA replacement legislation. This matter is being monitored in the context of national reform.
24	Schedule4 cl3	In exercising functions referred to in this schedule, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; Te Ture Whaimana; this agreement; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
25	Schedule4 cl4	If, as a result of emerging issues, any one of the councils is prompted to consider the preparation, review, change or variation of an RMA planning document (including requests for private plan changes), key personnel from the council concerned will, as soon as reasonably practicable, contact key personnel from Te Nehenehenui	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	Early notification and engagement with Te Nehenehenui on emerging planning matters is standard practice.
26	Schedule4 cl5	Before beginning the process to prepare, review, change, or vary a planning document, the relevant council and Te Nehenehenui must convene a joint working party (JWP). The JWP must be convened and decisions must be made on the matters referred to in clause 5 before any substantive drafting on the planning document commences.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	Standard practice
27	Schedule4 cl6	To avoid doubt, the JWP must be convened and decisions must be made on the matters referred to in clause 5 before any substantive drafting on the planning document commences.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	Standard practice

28	Schedule4 cl7	Te Nehenehenui and the relevant council considering the preparation, review, change or variation of an RMA planning document will: (a) meet at an appropriate time to convene the JWP; determine the composition of the JWP; agree a terms of reference for the JWP; discuss whether to include other parties to this agreement in the JWP; and confirm how the parties to the JWP will work together and how they will resolve disputes.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	Standard practice
29	Schedule4 cl8	When working together, the JWP will adopt the principles as outlined in clauses 18 and 19 of this agreement.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
30	Schedule4 cl9	Te Nehenehenui and the relevant council must reach a joint decision on the final recommendation to the council on whether to commence a review of, or to amend, a planning document.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
31	Schedule4 cl10	Te Nehenehenui and the relevant council must reach a joint decision on the final recommendation to the council on the content of a planning document to be notified under clause 5 of Schedule 1 of the RMA.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
32	Schedule4 cl11	Te Nehenehenui and the relevant council must discuss the potential for Te Nehenehenui to participate in making decisions on the provisions and matters raised in submissions on a planning document under clause 10 of Schedule 1 of the RMA.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
33	Schedule4 cl15	If a request is made under clause 21 of Schedule 1 of the RMA (in relation to a private plan change) and relates to the area covered by this agreement, the relevant council will provide a copy of the request to key personnel from Te Nehenehenui as soon as practicable.	Policy	Yet to be triggered	

34	Schedule4 cl16	Te Nehenehenui will advise the relevant council whether it wishes to participate in the private plan change process and, if that is the case, that council will convene a meeting with Te Nehenehenui to discuss the statutory and internal processes for considering the request.	Policy	Yet to be triggered	
35	Schedule4 cl17	If Te Nehenehenui confirms it wishes to participate in considering a request for a private plan change, a JWP will be convened to develop and agree upon a process for Te Nehenehenui to be involved.	Policy	Yet to be triggered	
36	Schedule4 cl18	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this Schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with Schedule nine.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
37	Schedule4 cl19	Where a council is intending to respond to any proposed law reform or national policy direction which may affect the interests of Maniapoto, the council will first notify and engage with Te Nehenehenui where practicable, to discuss how those interests may be affected and whether there is an opportunity to make a co-ordinated response.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
38	Schedule5 cl3	In exercising functions referred to in this Schedule, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; this agreement; Te Ture Whaimana; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	Policy	Incorporated into BAU	
39	Schedule5 cl4	Te Nehenehenui and each Council will meet at least twice a year to discuss state of environment monitoring, compliance monitoring, and enforcement	State of Environment Monitoring, Compliance	On track	While the required operational meetings have not yet been Scheduled, the obligation is recognised and remains on track for delivery.

40	Schedule5 cl5	Te Nehenehenui and more than one council may agree to meet collectively to discuss the matters provided for in this Schedule.		On track	While the required operational meetings have not yet been Scheduled, the obligation is recognised and remains on track for delivery.
41	Schedule5 cl6	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this Schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with Schedule nine.	State of Environment Monitoring, Compliance	Incorporated into BAU	
42	Schedule6 cl3	In exercising functions referred to in this Schedule, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; Te Ture Whaimana; this agreement; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	State of Environment Monitoring, Compliance	Incorporated into BAU	
43	Schedule6 cl4	Each council will provide Te Nehenehenui with a summary of applications for resource consents received by the council.	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
44	Schedule6 cl6(a)	Te Nehenehenui and each council will continue to discuss and refine best practice for pre-application processes	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	Councils have limited direct visibility of pre-applicants; however, multiple mechanisms are in place to encourage early engagement with Te Nehenehenui, including website guidance, staff training, and advising pre-applicants to seek iwi approvals where relevant.
45	Schedule6 cl6(b)	Requirements for a cultural impact or similar assessment will be discussed with Te Nehenehenui on a case-by-case basis;	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
46	Schedule6 cl6(c)	Before forming a view under section 87D ((request that an application be determined by the Environment Court rather than the consent authority) each council will engage with Te Nehenehenui	Consents	Yet to be triggered	

47	Schedule6 cl6(d)	In making an assessment under section 88(3) (incomplete application for resource consent) (where relevant to the exercise of the council's functions) each council will consider whether the documents set out in clause 3 have been considered and reflected appropriately in the application;	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
48	Schedule6 cl6(e)	Deferral pending additional consents: Each council will consider the documents referred to in clause 3 (where relevant to the exercise of the council's functions) and the potential impacts on Maniapoto when making a decision as to whether additional consents are required;	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
49	Schedule6 cl6(f)	Requests for further information: each council will consider the documents referred to in clause 3 (where relevant to the exercise of the council's functions) and the potential impacts on Maniapoto when making a decision as to whether further information is required;	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
50	Schedule6 cl6(g)	Notification of applications for resource consent: each council will consider the documents referred to in clause 3 (where relevant to the exercise of the council's functions) and the potential impacts on Maniapoto when making a decision as to whether to publicly or limited notify the application and specifically consider whether notification is required under the statutory acknowledgements in the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
51	Schedule6 cl6(h)	Change, cancellation, or review of consent conditions: each council will consider the documents referred to in clause 3 (where relevant to the exercise of the council's functions) and the potential impacts on Maniapoto when making decisions in relation to the change, cancellation or review of consent conditions.	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	Councils may advance notice of high-priority consents approaching review and consider Maniapoto interests and advice in decision-making.

52	Schedule6 cl8	Where a council is acting in its capacity as a developer and applicant for a resource consent (council applicant) and where that application is relevant under this agreement, the council will follow the process set out in cl8(a)-(g)	Consents	Yet to be triggered	
53	Schedule6 cl10	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this Schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with Schedule nine.	Consents	Incorporated into BAU	
54	Schedule7 cl2	In exercising functions under the LGA, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; Te Ture Whaimana; this agreement; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
55	Schedule7 cl3	Each council will ensure that it engages as early as practicable with Te Nehenehenui on processes under the LGA that Te Nehenehenui has indicated are of particular interest, including by way of example the long term plan, annual plan and other matters of significance.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	Early engagement with Te Nehenehenui on LGA processes is standard practice. For example, Long Term Plan engagement commenced in September 2025, well in advance of formal consultation, with a focus on clarity of opportunities for input and alignment with Te Nehenehenui priorities.
56	Schedule7 cl4	Engagement will begin early in the process, before any substantive drafting, design, or decision-making occurs	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
57	Schedule7 cl5	In response to that engagement, Te Nehenehenui will identify which of those activities it wishes to engage on further and the parties will agree on clear processes and timeframes for that engagement.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	

58	Schedule7 cl7	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with schedule nine.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
59	Schedule8 cl2	In exercising functions referred to in this schedule, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; Te Ture Whaimana; this agreement; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
60	Schedule8 cl3	Each council will ensure that it engages as early as practicable with Te Nehenehenui on matters under other statutory processes that Te Nehenehenui has indicated are of particular interest.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
61	Schedule8 cl4	That engagement will begin early in the process, before any substantive drafting, design, or decision-making occurs.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
62	Schedule8 cl5	In response to that engagement, Te Nehenehenui will identify which of those activities it wishes to engage on further and the parties will agree on clear processes and timeframes for that engagement.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
63	Schedule8 cl7	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with schedule nine.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	

64	Schedule9 cl2	In exercising functions referred to in this schedule, where relevant to the exercise of a council's functions, each council will specifically consider: the Treaty settlement legislation and deeds; Te Ture Whaimana; this agreement; the Maniapoto environmental management plan; the Te Nehenehenui engagement strategy; and other documents notified to the council by Te Nehenehenui from time-to-time.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	
65	Schedule9 cl4	As part of the annual work programme provided for in clauses 36 to 38 of this agreement, each council will discuss with Te Nehenehenui the nature and scope of resourcing to be provided by that council. Those discussions will cover the potential for: funding to be provided to Te Nehenehenui in the following areas: Te Nehenehenui capacity building; Te Nehenehenui participation in council processes and projects; and provision of services from Te Nehenehenui to a council; and other opportunities, including through: internships; recruitment; professional development; joint training programmes; joint research or projects;	General/Relationship	Yet to be triggered	This obligation is dependent on the development of an annual work programme under clause 36, and therefore has not yet been initiated.
66	Schedule9 cl5	Te Nehenehenui and each council will each bear their own costs of the processes under this schedule unless alternative funding arrangements are agreed in accordance with this schedule.	General/Relationship	Incorporated into BAU	

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Unuhia, unuhia

Unuhia mai te uru tapu nui

kia wātea, kia mā mā,

te ngākau, te tinana, te hinengaro,

i te ara takatū

Koia rā e Rongo

e whakairia ake ki runga

kia tina! TINA!

Haumi ē, hui ē, TĀIKI ē!

Draw on, draw on,

Draw on to the supreme sacredness

To clear, to free

our heart, body and soul

Our pathway prepared

Lo, there is peace

suspended high above

manifest!

draw together!

Affirm!