



MINUTES

Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

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Waikato Regional Council
Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting

OPEN MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 12 May 2026, 9.31am

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

Members Present: Cr Keith Holmes – Chair
 Cr Tipa Mahuta – Deputy-Chair
 Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith
 Cr Gary McGuire (from 10.05am)
 Cr Jennifer Nickel
 Cr Garry Reymer
 Cr Angela Strange
 Cr Warren Maher (virtually via Teams from 11.12am, and in person from 11.23am)

In Attendance: Cr Micheal Downard (virtually via Teams until 11.04am)

Staff Present: Karen Bennett – Executive Manager, Chief Executives Office
 Greg Ryan – Director, Integrated Catchment Management
 Tariq Ashraf – Regional Economic Development Lead
 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
Recording 1	Doc # 35916686	https://youtu.be/ukt3eqYXSf0
Recording 2	Doc # 35921918	https://youtu.be/lQZevOE8-Xw

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

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

2 APOLOGIES

Item commenced in recording 1, at 30 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/01

Moved: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith

Seconded: Cr Angela Strange

That the apologies of Cr Robert Cookson for absence and Cr Gary McGuire for lateness be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 minute 10 seconds.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/02

Moved: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith

Seconded: Cr Tipa Mahuta

- 1. That the agenda of the Regional Growth and Resilience Committee Meeting of 12 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.**

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Item commenced in recording 1, at 1 minute 33 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

Nil

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 REGIONAL GROWTH AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE - COST OF ACTIVITIES

Item commenced in recording 1, at 2 minutes 22 seconds.

Presented by the Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office (Karen Bennett) who requested the report be taken as read.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/03

Moved: Cr Warren Maher

Seconded: Cr Ben Dunbar-Smith

That the report *Regional Growth and Resilience Committee - cost of activities (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 12 May 2026)* be received.

CARRIED

6.2 DRAFT WAIKATO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Item commenced in recording 1, at 7 minutes 58 seconds.

Presented by the Regional Economic Development Lead (Tariq Ashraf).

10.05am – Cr Gary McGuire entered the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/04

Moved: Cr Angela Strange

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Nickel

1. That the report *Draft Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 12 May 2026)* be received.
2. That the Regional Growth and Resilience Committee endorses:
 - (a) the *Draft Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy (Regional Growth and Resilience Agenda, 13 May 2026, at page 15-34)*.
 - (b) the release of the draft strategy for stakeholder feedback.
 - (c) staff to undertake targeted engagement with business stakeholders to test the feasibility and attractiveness of proposed initiatives.
 - (d) that staff confirm contributions and develop implementation plans for proposed 2026/27 initiatives.

CARRIED

6.3 CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Item commenced in recording 1, at 44 minutes 44 seconds.

Presented by the Committee Chair (Cr Keith Holmes). Refer Document # 35811572 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/05

Moved: Cr Keith Holmes

Seconded: Cr Garry Reymer

That the report *Chair's Commentary (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 12 May 2026)* be received.

CARRIED

6.4 UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Item commenced in recording 1, at 56 minutes 40 seconds.

The Chief Executive (Chris McLay) introduced the Vice Chancellor, University of Waikato (Professor Neil Quigley), Fundraising Director, University of Waikato (Dr Nicole Barrett) and Head of Engagement and Sponsorship, University of Waikato (Amanda Hema). Refer Document # 35910859 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

Following the presentation, Cr Angela Strange acknowledged and thanked the presenters for the work undertaken to date and their ongoing commitment.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/06

Moved: Cr Angela Strange

Seconded: Cr Gary McGuire

That the report *University of Waikato Economic Development Opportunity (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 12 May 2026)* be received.

CARRIED

11.03am – The meeting adjourned. During the adjournment, Cr Warren Maher left the meeting and continued attendance via Teams, and Cr Mich'eal Downard left the meeting.

11.12am – The meeting reconvened.

6.5 MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES INSIGHTS

Item commenced in recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Director, Sector Policy, Ministry of Primary Industries (Jarred Mair). Refer Document # 35938366 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

At the conclusion of the item, Cr Garry Reymer expressed his thanks to the presenter for his presentation.

11.23am – Cr Warren Maher entered the meeting in person.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RGRC26/07

Moved: Cr Garry Reymer

Seconded: Cr Tipa Mahuta

That the report *Ministry for Primary Industries insights (Regional Growth and Resilience Committee, 12 May 2026)* be received.

CARRIED

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording 2, at 1 hour 6 minutes and 32 seconds.

The Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office (Karen Bennett) closed the meeting with a karakia.

12.20pm – The meeting closed.