SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting

Wednesday, 25 November 2026

Date: Wednesday, 25 November 2026

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Moko Marae, 1332 Te Puke Highway, Te Puke, Bay of Plenty 3183

Gareth Green

Interim Chief Executive

Order of Business

9 Business 4

9.4 Cultural Recognition 7: Access to Water for Marae 4

9 BUSINESS

9.4 Cultural Recognition 7: Access to Water for Marae

File Number: **A21490927**

Author: **Quinn Tawaka, Governance Advisor**

Authoriser: **Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. Pathway proposal for consideration by the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG). Prepared by Hanita Dinsdale and Travis Moke, mokopuna o Tia me Hei, on behalf of the MoU working group

    (a) This proposal seeks WKAG's agreement to advise Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) directly, without a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), so that tangata whenua have clarity and certainty that:

        (i) Each council confirms how its existing arrangements for marae carry across to Tāheke – Bay Waters Limited. For WBOPDC, that is the water consumption waiver for the identified Waiāri marae and its funding. For TCC, it is the current remissions for Tauranga marae.

        (ii) Both councils consider referring a single request to Tāheke for free water for all marae across both districts, covering all ongoing water charges, and each council confirms whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its current approach.

        (iii) All marae have equitable access to reliable water supply, guided by the needs, aspirations and decisions of each marae.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

(a) Agree to advise TCC and WBOPDC directly on progressing Cultural Recognition 7: Access to Water for Marae, without developing a new MoU at this stage.

(b) Recognise existing water-charge waivers and remissions for marae, including WBOPDC's water consumption waiver for the identified Waiāri marae under the 2022 Letter of Commitment and TCC's current remissions for Tauranga marae, as the foundation for the proposed wider approach.

(c) Ask each council to confirm:

    (i) **TCC:** how its current remissions for marae carry across to Tāheke, consistent with its 24 March 2026 resolution; and whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its proposed referral to Tāheke.

    (ii) **WBOPDC:** how the Waiāri water consumption waiver and its funding carry across to Tāheke, confirming the same principle of existing commitments being retained or bettered; and whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its current approach, including referring the request for its marae to Tāheke alongside TCC.

(d) Advise both councils that the request to Tāheke should be for free water for all marae across both districts, covering all ongoing water charges, so it is considered once and consistently for both districts, while engagement continues with iwi and hapū not represented on WKAG.

(e) Support equitable access to reliable water supply for all marae, with options developed through WKAG and through engagement with each marae and its iwi and hapū, reflecting their needs, aspirations and decisions.

(f) Acknowledge the work already undertaken by both councils and ask them to report back to WKAG before the transfer to Tāheke on 1 July 2027, confirming how existing arrangements and their funding will be maintained, how the wider request for free water and equitable access to reliable supply is being progressed, the indicative cost of the full proposal, and the next steps, including the responsible decision-making processes and timeframes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Cultural Recognition 7 - Access to Water for Marae Report - A21491191

Cultural Recognition 7: Access to Water for Marae

22 November 2026

Pathway proposal for consideration by the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG)

Prepared by Hanita Dinsdale and Travis Moke, mokopuna o Tia me Hei, on behalf of the MoU working group

1. Recognising the relationship with wai

1.1 Access to water for marae is one of the initiatives of the Waiāri Cultural Recognition Programme. It recognises the relationship of iwi and hapū with the Waiāri, their responsibilities as kaitiaki, and the importance of wai in sustaining their people.

1.2 The kaupapa arose from tangata whenua concerns about the Waiāri water take and how its benefits could support iwi, hapū, marae and future generations.

1.3 Free water and reliable water supplies for marae are practical ways of giving effect to this recognition. They support the role of marae in upholding tikanga, manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, including providing for whānau and communities during emergencies.

1.4 This proposal builds on the mahi undertaken by tangata whenua, WKAG and both councils to give effect to Cultural Recognition 7.

2. Purpose

2.1 This proposal seeks WKAG's agreement to advise Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) directly, without a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), so that tangata whenua have clarity and certainty that:

(a) Each council confirms how its existing arrangements for marae carry across to Tāheke – Bay Waters Limited. For WBOPDC, that is the water consumption waiver for the identified Waiāri marae and its funding. For TCC, it is the current remissions for Tauranga marae.

(b) Both councils consider referring a single request to Tāheke for free water for all marae across both districts, covering all ongoing water charges, and each council confirms whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its current approach.

(c) All marae have equitable access to reliable water supply, guided by the needs, aspirations and decisions of each marae.

2.2 The proposal brings together existing commitments and work already underway. It sets out the outcomes sought through Cultural Recognition 7 while recognising that the councils will determine how to give effect to these within their respective arrangements.

3. Background and progression of the kaupapa

3.1 In 2021, tangata whenua representatives raised how the Waiāri water allocation could benefit iwi, hapū and marae. WKAG discussions considered access to water, a share of the water take and recognition of tangata whenua interests in the resource.

3.2 Access to water for marae subsequently became one of the Waiāri cultural recognition initiatives.

3.3 In November 2022, the chief executives of TCC and WBOPDC set out a Letter of Commitment responding to tangata whenua concerns, including the request to waive water consumption charges for marae of iwi and hapū represented on WKAG.

3.4 In that letter, WBOPDC confirmed that the identified marae would not pay water consumption charges while the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant is operating. This gives practical effect to part of that request, with the targeted rate for a water connection continuing to apply.

3.5 In June 2023, each council undertook to further investigate providing free water to the marae concerned. Further discussions through WKAG considered the scope, costs and practical requirements of access to water.

3.6 At WKAG's request, the councils carried out a desktop study of marae water use and charging across both districts. The report was presented to WKAG in March 2026, setting out the different approaches taken by TCC and WBOPDC.

3.7 In March 2026, WKAG resolved that tangata whenua members support and recommend to the councils that they remit all water charges for marae across both districts, through the 2026/27 Annual Plan and any other appropriate process, and set up a working group to draft an MoU to recognise and implement Cultural Recognition 7.

3.8 In June 2026, WKAG considered the purpose of the proposed MoU and the scope of marae covered by the kaupapa. Discussions referred to marae in the Waiāri catchment and TCC marae impacted by the water take. It was also recognised that recommendations could be made directly to the councils without developing a new MoU.

3.9 In November 2026, TCC brought forward its Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness paper. TCC already provides partial wastewater remission for marae and some relief from water base charges in certain circumstances. The November paper considers wider support for Tauranga marae, including WKAG's request to remit all water charges for Tauranga marae.

3.10 The paper proposes referring that request to Tāheke through its future Water Services Strategy and sets out, as an alternative, an ongoing council-funded subsidy for eligible marae drinking water charges. The outcome of TCC's consideration remains to be confirmed, and WKAG's advice through this paper can inform it.

3.11 The work undertaken by both councils provides a foundation for progressing Cultural Recognition 7. WBOPDC has an existing water consumption waiver, TCC has current remissions, and TCC's November paper responds to WKAG's request to remit all water charges.

3.12 The proposal now before WKAG builds on this work and seeks to extend the benefits of free water and equitable access to reliable supply to all marae across both council districts.

4. Why proceed without a new MoU?

4.1 WKAG considered an MoU as a way to support recognition and implementation of Cultural Recognition 7, including reciprocity and the responsibilities of the parties.

4.2 Subsequent discussions raised questions about its purpose and scope. WKAG also recognised that recommendations could be made directly to both councils.

4.3 The proposed approach is therefore to progress the kaupapa through direct advice to TCC and WBOPDC rather than delay further work while developing a new MoU. This provides a pathway for the outcomes sought through Cultural Recognition 7 while allowing the councils to consider how best to give effect to them.

4.4 It does not diminish existing commitments or prevent further agreements where they would provide greater certainty for tangata whenua.

5. What is proposed

Free water for all marae

5.1 The proposed outcome is that all marae across the TCC and WBOPDC districts benefit from relief from all ongoing water charges, consistent with WKAG's request (paragraph 3.7). This includes drinking water, wastewater and stormwater charges, whether charged as consumption charges, fixed supply and service charges, or targeted rates or equivalent charges.

5.2 This would build on existing waivers and remissions, and on TCC's November paper responding to WKAG's request.

5.3 The intention is a consistent outcome for marae across both districts, while allowing each council to determine the appropriate approach to implementation and funding within its own arrangements, including any reasonable-use provisions.

Equitable access to reliable water supply

5.4 Removing water charges does not resolve the needs of marae that are not connected to council water or that rely on bores, tanks or other supplies.

5.5 Council information identifies 16 of 24 WBOPDC marae as connected to council water and 10 of 11 TCC marae as connected. Tahuwhakatiki Marae is identified as not connected to TCC's reticulated supply.

5.6 The proposed outcome is for all marae to have the opportunity to access a reliable water supply.

5.7 Depending on the circumstances, this could involve a council connection, improvements to an existing supply or another suitable option.

5.8 Each marae should determine its own needs and whether it wishes to participate. A marae should not be required to connect to council water or lose the opportunity for future support because it chooses to retain its existing arrangements.

5.9 The intention is equitable access, not a single prescribed solution.

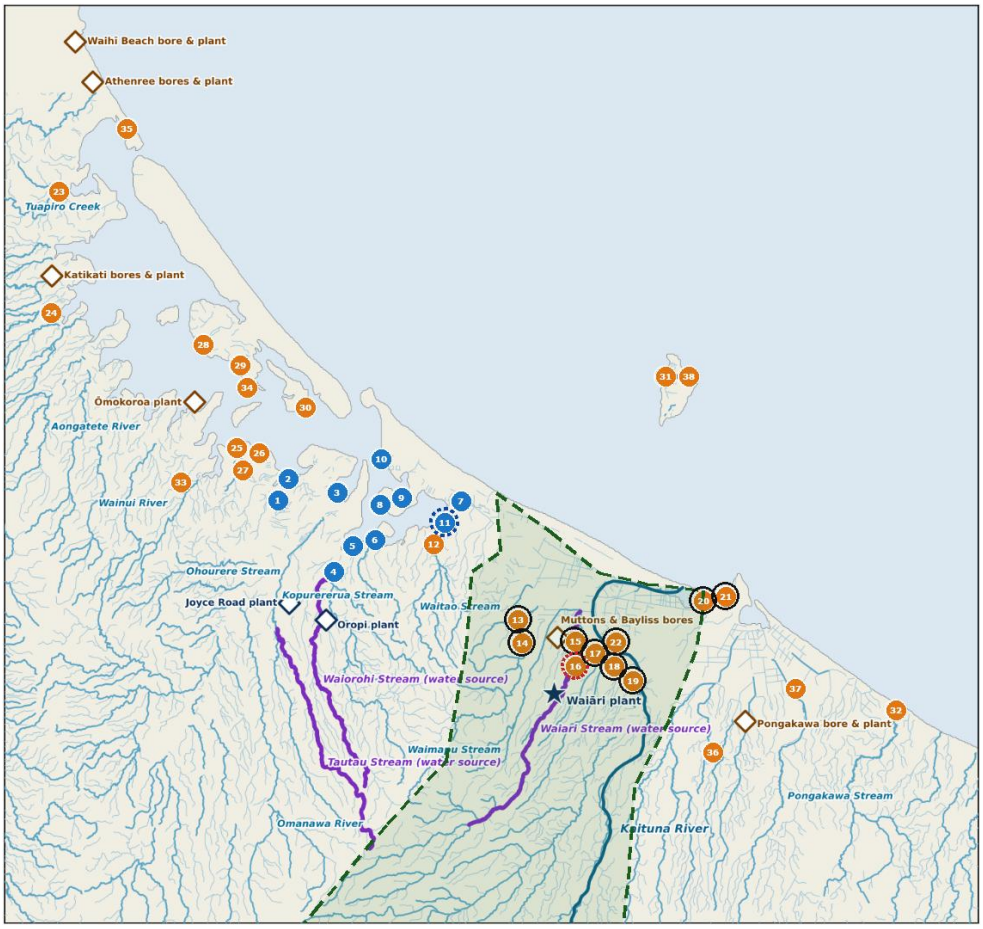
6. Marae covered by the proposed pathway

6.1 Existing arrangements and the wider proposal have different scopes.

6.2 The Waiāri commitment covers marae associated with iwi and hapū represented on WKAG, and TCC's current remissions apply to eligible marae in its district. The wider proposal seeks free water and equitable access to reliable supply for all marae across the TCC and WBOPDC districts.

6.3 This is wider than the scope discussed in June 2026 (paragraph 3.8), which referred to marae in the Waiāri catchment and TCC marae impacted by the water take. WKAG is asked to endorse the wider position. For marae of iwi and hapū not represented on WKAG, any arrangement would be progressed through engagement with those marae and their iwi and hapū. The wider position builds on the Waiāri commitment and seeks a consistent approach across both districts, while recognising that existing arrangements, responsibilities and circumstances differ.

6.4 The Waiāri commitment stands on its own and does not depend on the outcome of the wider proposal. Figure 1 shows the location of the marae listed below.



Tauranga City Council

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Water supply plants

- Waiāri plant (TCC)
- TCC plant (area level)
- WBOPDC bore or plant (area level)

Streams

- Named stream or river
- Unnamed stream, drain or canal
- Kaituna River (traced, approximate)
- Streams TCC takes water from

Tautau (Joyce Road plant), Waiorohi (Oropi plant) and Waiāri (Waiāri plant). WBOPDC uses groundwater bores, not streams.

Waivers and catchment

- Water consumption charges waived by WBOPDC
- Waiāri marae, not on WBOPDC's waiver list
- Lower Kaituna catchment (approximate)
- Not yet on council water supply (Tahuwhakatiki, TCC)

Larger named streams are labelled.

Lines join a marae to its position where markers have been spread apart.

Figure 1: Marae across the TCC and WBOPDC areas, with council water supply plants, bores, and waterways, and the lower Kaituna catchment. Marae with water consumption charges waived by WBOPDC are circled. Tahuwhakatiki (11) is marked as the one Tauranga marae not yet on council supply. The map is not a confirmed list of marae; it is intended to show where marae are. Marae positions and the catchment outline are indicative only, and the map does not show which WBOPDC marae are connected, eligibility, or the full water supply network.

Sources: Coastline: GSHHG via Basemap. Marae from Te Kāhui Māngai (Te Puni Kōkiri), Māori Maps and the Wikipedia marae list for the Bay of Plenty; positions from place records and Māori Maps. Council allocation is by location. Streams: NZ River Name Lines (Pilot), LINZ (Topo50 1:50k, December 2018 names). Sourced from the LINZ Data Service and licensed for reuse under CC BY 4.0. Waiāri plant position from place records; other plants and bores at area level from council zone maps and place names. Kaituna River traced from Figure 1 of EBOP Environmental Report 2007/16 and placed approximately.

Waiāri marae

6.5 The following 10 marae are identified as the Waiāri marae.

Map no.	Iwi or hapū	Marae	Wharenui
13	Te Kapu o Waitaha	Manoeka	Hei
14	Te Kapu o Waitaha	Haraki	Haraki
15	Tapuika	Makahae	Makahae
16	Tapuika	Tawakepito	Tawakepito
17	Tapuika	Moko	Mokotangatakotahi
18	Tapuika	Te Paamu	Tia
19	Tapuika	Te Matai	Tapuika
20	Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketū	Tapiti	Whakaue Kaipapa
21	Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Mākino and Ngāti Whakahemo (shared)	Maketū Pā (Te Awhe Marae)	Te Awhe o te Rangi
22	Tūhourangi	Tūhourangi	Tūhourangi

6.6 The March 2026 council report to WKAG records nine marae receiving the existing water consumption waiver. Tawakepito is included in the 10 Waiāri marae identified in paragraph 6.5, with its position under the existing waiver to be confirmed by WBOPDC.

Tauranga City marae

6.7 TCC's Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness paper lists 11 marae within its district. These are the Tauranga marae covered by WKAG's request to remit all water charges, to which the paper responds.

Map no.	Marae	Hapū	Iwi
1	Wairoa	Ngāti Kahu	Ngāti Ranginui
2	Hangarau	Ngāti Hangarau	Ngāti Ranginui
3	Huria	Ngāi Tamarawaho	Ngāti Ranginui
4	Waimapu	Ngāti Ruahine	Ngāti Ranginui
5	Hairini	Ngāi Te Ahi	Ngāti Ranginui
6	Maungatapu (Te Marae o Opōpōti)	Ngāti Hē	Ngāi Te Rangi
7	Mangatawa	Ngāti Kaahu ki Mangatawa	Ngā Pōtiki

Map no.	Marae	Hapū	Iwi
8	Waikari	Ngāti Tapu	Ngāi Te Rangi
9	Hungahungatoroa	Ngāi Tukairangi	Ngāi Te Rangi
10	Whareroa	Ngāti Kuku	Ngāi Te Rangi
11	Tahuwhakatiki	Ngā Pōtiki	Ngā Pōtiki

6.8 The paper also recognises Te Whetū-o-Te Rangi Marae (map no. 12), associated with Ngāti Pūkenga, as an additional marae. It sits just outside the Tauranga City boundary, in the WBOPDC district, but within iwi boundaries, and has supported the Tauranga community in recent emergencies.

Western Bay of Plenty marae (other than those identified as Waiāri marae)

6.9 The Waiāri marae are not a complete list of marae in the WBOPDC district.

6.10 The wider proposal includes other WBOPDC marae, including those relying on their own water supplies.

6.11 The proposed benefits are intended to be available equitably across both districts, rather than limited by existing remission arrangements or connection status.

6.12 The other WBOPDC marae shown on the map are listed below. This is not a confirmed list of marae; it is intended to show marae across the district. Together with the 10 Waiāri marae, the map shows 27 marae in the WBOPDC district. WBOPDC reports 24, and is asked to confirm which marae make up that number, including the two marked with an asterisk.

Map no.	Marae
12	Te Whetū-o-Te Rangi (see paragraph 6.8)
23	Tuapiro
24	Te Rereatukahia
25	Tutereinga
26	Poutūterangi
27	Paparoa
28	Te Rangihouhiri (Ōruarahi)
29	Te Kutaroa
30	Rangiwaea
31	Te Ruakopiha (Mōtītī)*
32	Ōtamarākau
33	Tawhitinui
34	Opureora
35	Ōtāwhiwhi

Map no.	Marae
36	Tokerau
37	Pukehina
38	Te Hihitaua (Mōtītī)*

7. Pathway forward

7.1 The proposed pathway brings together three connected outcomes set out in paragraph 2.1.

Confirming how existing waivers and remissions carry across

7.2 The Waiāri water consumption waiver is an established part of Cultural Recognition 7, and TCC provides current remissions for Tauranga marae. TCC's November paper notes that existing charging and remission arrangements would continue unless formally changed, and TCC has adopted the principle that existing tangata whenua commitments and practices are retained or bettered through the transition. Each council is asked to confirm how its existing arrangements carry across, as set out in paragraph 10.3.

7.3 WBOPDC currently administers the water consumption waiver, and TCC's remissions sit within its Rates Remission Policy. How each is funded after transfer, including whether WBOPDC meets the full cost of the waiver, is yet to be confirmed and remains an important matter for continuity.

Progressing free water across both districts

7.4 TCC's November paper proposes referring WKAG's request to remit all water charges to Tāheke. For a consistent outcome, the request to Tāheke should be for free water for all marae across both districts, covering all ongoing water charges. Each council is asked whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its current approach, including whether WBOPDC refers the request for its marae to Tāheke alongside TCC. Existing waivers and remissions are the starting point, while the approach to delivery and funding can reflect each council's circumstances.

Supporting reliable water supply

7.5 Access to water includes marae that are not connected to council supply. The pathway recognises opportunities for council connections, improvements to existing supplies and other suitable options, guided by the needs, aspirations and decisions of each marae.

8. Funding and costs

8.1 TCC and WBOPDC are joint holders of the Waiāri water take consent (RC 65637), with 75% and 25% of the consented allocation respectively. This may inform how the councils share the cost of any joint arrangements. Both councils are parties to the Waiāri cultural recognition commitment.

8.2 Extending water-charge relief and supporting reliable supply will involve different costs and practical considerations across the two districts. The March 2026 council report on marae water use and charging provides a starting point. Each council is asked to provide an indicative estimate of the cost of the full proposal, including fixed charges, targeted rates and supply for marae not connected, to inform its decision.

9. Transition to Tāheke

9.1 Water services are planned to transfer to Tāheke on 1 July 2027.

9.2 On 24 March 2026, TCC resolved to adopt the principle of maintaining tangata whenua participation, engagement and arrangements, with existing commitments and practices either retained or bettered during and following the transition to the water organisation. WBOPDC is asked to confirm the same.

9.3 For Cultural Recognition 7, this supports continuity of existing waivers and remissions for marae.

9.4 With TCC proposing to refer WKAG's request to remit all water charges to Tāheke, what is needed now is clarity on how each council's existing arrangements will continue and what goes to Tāheke. Each council's current arrangements differ, as set out in section 7.

9.5 The transition also presents an opportunity to build on the work already underway towards free water and equitable access to reliable water supply for all marae.

9.6 For tangata whenua, the priority is that existing waivers and remissions are maintained, with certainty on how they will apply under Tāheke, while the wider kaupapa continues to progress.

10. Recommendations

WKAG is asked to:

10.1 Agree to advise TCC and WBOPDC directly on progressing Cultural Recognition 7: Access to Water for Marae, without developing a new MoU at this stage.

10.2 Recognise existing water-charge waivers and remissions for marae, including WBOPDC's water consumption waiver for the identified Waiāri marae under the 2022 Letter of Commitment and TCC's current remissions for Tauranga marae, as the foundation for the proposed wider approach.

10.3 Ask each council to confirm:

(a) **TCC:** how its current remissions for marae carry across to Tāheke, consistent with its 24 March 2026 resolution; and whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its proposed referral to Tāheke.

(b) **WBOPDC:** how the Waiāri water consumption waiver and its funding carry across to Tāheke, confirming the same principle of existing commitments being retained or bettered; and whether WKAG's advice changes anything in its current approach, including referring the request for its marae to Tāheke alongside TCC.

10.4 Advise both councils that the request to Tāheke should be for free water for all marae across both districts, covering all ongoing water charges, so it is considered once and consistently for both districts, while engagement continues with iwi and hapū not represented on WKAG.

10.5 Support equitable access to reliable water supply for all marae, with options developed through WKAG and through engagement with each marae and its iwi and hapū, reflecting their needs, aspirations and decisions.

10.6 Acknowledge the work already undertaken by both councils, and ask them to report back to WKAG before the transfer to Tāheke on 1 July 2027, confirming how existing arrangements and their funding will be maintained, how the wider request for free water and equitable access to reliable supply is being progressed, the indicative cost of the full proposal, and the next steps, including the responsible decision-making processes and timeframes.