



MINUTES

Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting Thursday, 10 April 2025

Order of Business

1	Opening Karakia	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Declaration of conflicts of interest	3
4	Business.....	3
4.1	Jesse Hartley - Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner	3
4.2	Natalie Kennedy - Objection to Retention of Impounded Dogs	4
	Resolution to exclude the public	5
4	Public session Continued	6
4.1	Jesse Hartley – Objection to disqualification as dog owner	6
4.2	Natalie Kennedy – Objection to retention of impounded dog	6
5	Closing Karakia.....	6

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULATORY HEARINGS PANEL MEETING
HELD AT THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 1, 306 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2025 AT 2PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs Mary Dillon and Mr Alan Tate

APOLOGIES: Puhirake Ihaka and Terry Molloy

IN ATTENDANCE: Brent Lincoln (Team Leader: Animal Services), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor)

EXTERNAL: Natalie Kennedy and Bev Edwards.

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Ms Anahera Dinsdale opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/1

Moved: Mrs Mary Dillon

Seconded: Mr Alan Tate

That the apology for absence received from Mr Puhirake Ihaka and Mr Terry Molloy be accepted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 BUSINESS

4.1 Jesse Hartley - Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner

Staff Brent Lincoln, Team Leader: Animal Services

Key Points

- In the absence of Mr Hartley, the Panel continued with the hearing.
- Staff spoke to the report.

In response to questions

- No recent complaints for Mr Hartley's dog had been received for over five months.
- The first infringement dated back to June 2024, and it was assumed to have been processed by the court.
- If the qualification is confirmed, Mr Hartley would have 14 days to rehome the dog.

Discussion points raised

- It was noted that Mr Hartley had arrived late due to going to He Puna Manawa and not Tauranga City Council Cameron Road office. The Panel decided to leave the report to lay on the table to allow Mr Hartley time to speak to his objection at the next Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting.

4.2 Natalie Kennedy - Objection to Retention of Impounded Dogs

Staff Brent Lincoln, Team Leader: Animal Services

External Bev Edwards and Natalie Kennedy

Key Points

- Staff spoke to their report.

In response to questions

- The prosecution was underway, with a hearing date set for April 14 2025. The dogs were being held in the pound pending the outcome of this hearing.
- The panel could decide to release the dogs with conditions (such as being classified as menacing and requiring muzzles) or keep them in the pound.
- If convicted of the attack, the court must order the destruction of the dog unless there were exceptional circumstances. The court may also order destruction of a dog for a 'rushing' charge.

Discussion points raised

- Ms Edwards, who supported Ms Kennedy and spoke on her behalf, noted that they both did not agree with events and points in the staff report.
- Ms Edwards noted Ms Kennedy's situation and that she was very distressed by the situation.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/2

Moved: Mrs Mary Dillon

Seconded: Mr Alan Tate

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
4.1 – Objections deliberations – Jesse Hartley – Objection to disqualification as dog owner	To enable the Panel to deliberate in private on the objections heard.	s48(1)(d) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings before a Council where the Council is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings.
4.2 – Objections deliberations – Natalie Kennedy – Objection to retention of impounded dogs	To enable the Panel to deliberate in private on the objections heard.	s48(1)(d) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings before a Council where the Council is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings.

CARRIED

4 PUBLIC SESSION CONTINUED

4.1 Jesse Hartley – Objection to disqualification as dog owner

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/3

Moved: Mr Alan Tate

Seconded: Mrs Mary Dillon

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Defers consideration of the report until the next Regulatory Hearings Panel.

CARRIED

4.2 Natalie Kennedy – Objection to retention of impounded dog

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/4

Moved: Mrs Mary Dillon

Seconded: Mr Alan Tate

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Natalie Kennedy - Objection to Retention of Impounded Dogs".
- (b) Agrees to:
 - (i) Releases Taika from the pound on the understanding that the Team Leader: Animal Services puts the appropriate safe guards in place.
 - (ii) Retains Judah in the pound pending the outcome of the prosecution.

CARRIED

5 CLOSING KARAKIA

Ms Anahera Dinsdale closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 3:43pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on _____.

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Mary Dillon
CHAIRPERSON